



University Lodge 141 Trestleboard March 2026



FROM THE EAST

Salutations from the East-

The calendar turns another month older and we move from winter into Spring. Hopefully the sunbreaks start lasting a little longer between the rains as the hours of daylight continue to extend. Of a similar theme, this past month I was honored to initiate two Entered Apprentices and look forward to welcoming them into the fraternity to partake of our labors and privileges. Though my time in the East grows shorter by the day, I hope to have the opportunity to again confer this degree, and welcome more new brethren into our ranks.

We remain on the lookout for a few good men who seek to become better. And, in that spirit, we will be attending another prospect meet and greet this month and we will also be sending a small contingent to the Lodge Leadership Retreat in Wenatchee. Details of both events will be shared at the April meeting.

Our dinner this month will be classic St. Patrick's Day fare of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes (mashed, I believe), and bread pudding dessert. Please come prepared with a limerick for the entertainment of the brethren. Extra points for incorporating local place names and colorful innuendo (without being dirty). If we receive enough entries, we'll award a gift certificate. I hope to see you all there.

Fraternally,
WB John Bryan



Next Stated Meeting

March 2nd

Doors open at 6:00pm

Dinner served at 6:30pm

Lodge opens at 7:30pm



Upcoming dates:

March 14th – Food Bank

April 6th – Stated Meeting

In Seattle, at Lodge 141,
The St. Patrick's green has begun.
With a shamrock and square,
They meet without care,
For the feast and the frolic and

FUN!





**University
District
Food Bank**

Hello Brethren,

The lodge had our monthly Food Bank adventure on February 14. Brother Scott Bohart, newly minted brother Kokou Tighankpa and guest Camlin Blanton labored together in harmony with other volunteers. There was a lot to do and the Food Bank appreciated our participation as always.



Our next Food Bank will be March 14 from 12 to about 2 PM. Put it on your calendar and join us for pleasant labor amongst brothers and friends. Of course, let me know if you want to join us.

Scott Bohart, Junior Warden



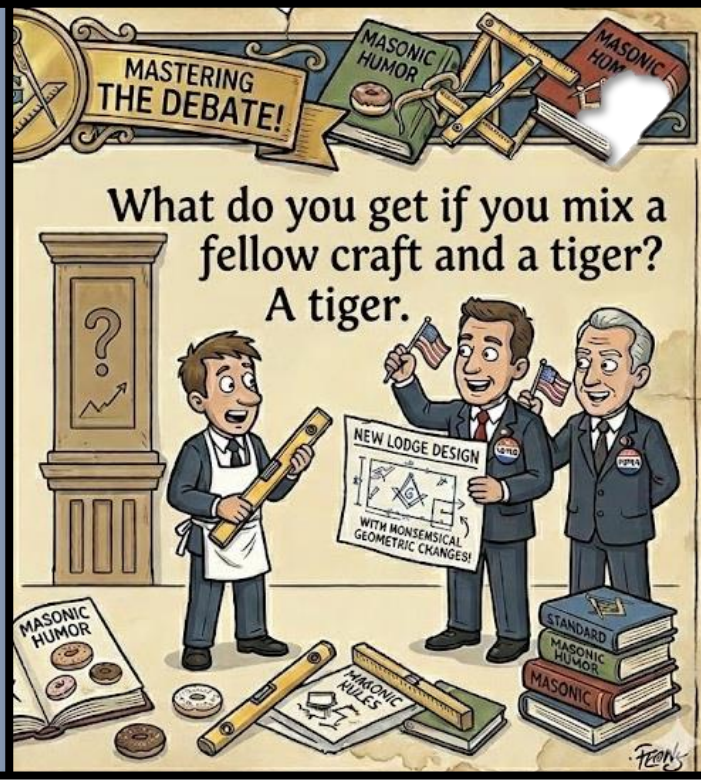
Congratulations to our new EA's Dustin Wooldridge and Kokou Tighankpa who were initiated on February 21st!





The University Lodge Building Association has made tentative plans for another Spring Cleaning for our Lodge building. This event will most likely be in April, but please stay tuned for further details, which will be announced both in Lodge and in an upcoming issue of the Trestleboard. In the meantime, the University Lodge Building Association is dealing with ongoing maintenance items, which we hope to have resolved soon.

Bro. Adam S. Alsobrook
Senior Warden



An Evening Prayer

At the conclusion of every lodge meeting at University Lodge, we link hands and sing the first verse of An Evening Prayer.

The tune was written by Charles H. Gabriel and has been sung by many artists, including Elvis Presley. Here are the lyrics to the verse:



Charles H. Gabriel



Elvis Presley

If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive!



Brethren Raised in March

Vollie Waggoner	1956	Kenneth Freeman	1989
Terrill Henderson	1964	Jerry Parton	1992
Frank Walters	1965	John Hayes	1996
Parker White	1967	Umit Eksioglu	2004
Robert Bodkin	1972	Chris Freeman	2007
James Burnett	1974	Matt Livingston	2010
Gene Budbill	1977	Michael Champion	2010
Raymond Murrell	1977	Jonathan D. Roger	2013
Peter DeSomma	1983	Brandon Rouge	2016
James Hall	1986	Harry Mittelholz	2018



From Working Tools to Working Keys: Brother Smathers and the Electric Typewriter

James Field Smathers was an American inventor whose work quietly transformed the modern office. In the early 20th century, when businesses relied on manual typewriters that required physical force with every keystroke, Smathers helped pioneer the **electric typewriter**. His design used an electric motor to power the typing mechanism, allowing for faster, more uniform keystrokes and significantly reducing operator fatigue.

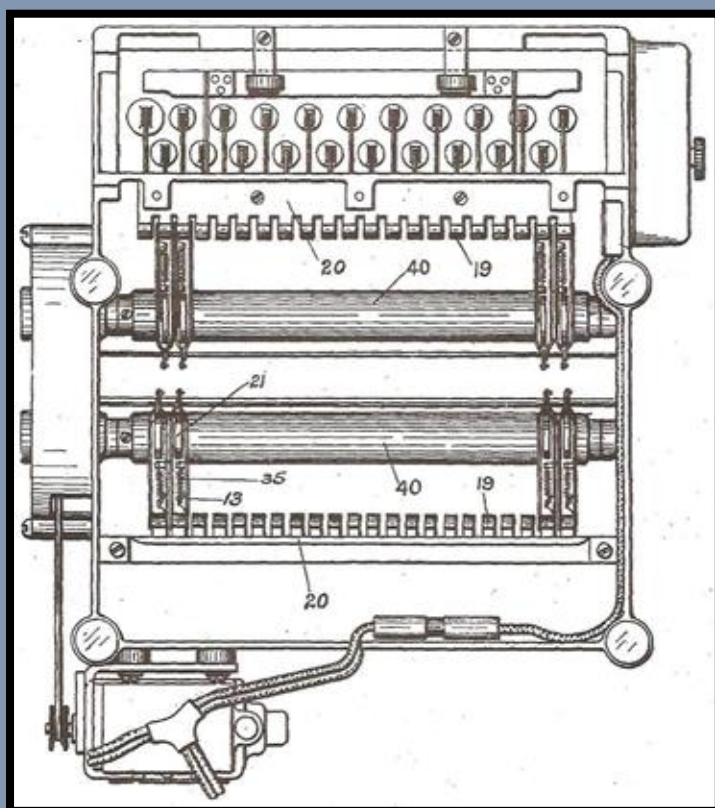
Around 1920, Smathers developed one of the first practical electric typewriters, later selling his patents to Remington. His innovation laid the groundwork for the widespread adoption of electric office machines in the decades that followed. By the mid-20th century, electric typewriters had become standard equipment in corporate America — a stepping stone toward modern word processing and computer keyboards.

Smathers was also a documented Freemason. He was a member of **Gate City Lodge No. 522** in Kansas City, Missouri. Lodge records indicate that he received his Masonic degrees in the late 19th century. His affiliation places him within the long tradition of craftsmen, engineers, and inventors who participated in Freemasonry during the industrial expansion of the United States.

Smathers' legacy reflects both innovation and fraternity — a blend of technical ingenuity and civic-minded association that characterized many professionals of his era. While not a household name today, his electric typewriter helped power the communications revolution of the 20th century.



Bro. James F. Smathers



University Lodge No. 141, like the institution that is its namesake, holds up the ideals of lifetime learning, self-improvement and service, both for the benefit of its members and the community at large. Nothing less than excellence in ritual is acceptable and jovial fellowship will be its counterbalance.

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2026 Officers

Worshipful Master John Bryan

Senior Warden	Adam Alsobrook	Junior Deacon	Daniel Shapiro
Junior Warden	Scott Bohart	Chaplain	WB KC Gates
Secretary	WB Matt Livingston	Marshal	Matthew Peck
Treasurer	WB Ren Hamil	Tyler	WB Evan Lobenstein
Senior Deacon	WB Bryan Baldwin	Musician	Jason Frazier