



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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December 2008

Whatcom Lodge Report

Greetings brothers: We had a very special night at our Nov. stated meeting. Two petitions for the degrees of Masonry were balloted on and both were approved. Also a petition for affiliation was read. After the balloting the EA Degree was conferred on the candidates together. The degree was conducted well with able assistance from several brothers from Fairhaven & Bellingham Bay Lodges. It is my honor to present to you the newest members of our lodge: Bro. Leon L. Scott Jr. & Bro. Alex Bruner. The petition for affiliation was submitted by Bro. Boyd McEwen, formerly of Pima Lodge No. 39 in Arizona. His petition comes up for balloting at our Dec. 18th stated meeting.

The evening was also special because we had a surprise visit from Fairhaven Lodge. This actually was fortunate because we needed to press a few of them into action. WB Thom Baughn sat in as Treasurer, WB Blair Thisted Tyled the lodge and Bro. Joe Howell served as the Jr. Deacon. WB Gary Pitcher, WM of Bellingham Bay Lodge, gave the Charge to our two new EAMs. This evening was special for two more reasons. *First*, it marked the return to lodge, for some time, of Bro. Dan Brendible, who informed us that school was under control now and he wanted to get back to work on his degrees. We plan to confer his Third degree in December. *Second*, we had a visit from Bro. Dax Sheffield who recently moved to the Alger area from Texas. Bro. Dax's mother lodge is actually in Finland. It was very nice to have him in lodge and we hope he'll visit often.

Coming events: **Thursday, Dec. 4th** we will be holding a Third Degree practice at 6:30.

Saturday, Dec 13th Past Master's Brunch, 11:45 am - see our notice to the right.

Thursday, Dec 18th is our stated meeting. We plan to confer the MM Degree on Bro. Dan Brendible. Please attend and support this fine young Whatcom brother.

Just a few days ago I received a call from Bro. Warren McKenzie—school is going well at U of T. Bro. McKenzie will do a bit of traveling in late December but plans to visit us at our stated meeting on January 15th, 2009. He wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dues Notices: I want to thank all those brothers who have sent there dues, voluntary Grand Lodge Fee and/or voluntary newsletter fee. As I write this down, 44 of our 77 Master Mason brothers have responded to their Dues Notice—98% have donated the voluntary fees. In fact, several of you made additional donations. Your generosity is helping our lodge build a solid financial foundation. For those brothers who have yet to send in your Dues Notice response, there is no time like the present.

Fraternally, John Browne - Secretary/Treasurer

Report on the District Ten Meeting

Brethren, I wish to thank everyone who attended the District Meeting on Nov. 7th. We had an excellent turn out, the room was full. The food was fantastic, the Kitchen Staff superior, the service by Job's Daughters of Bethel No. 25 was, as always, very good and the Masonry was beyond compare.

Lynden Lodge #56 received the Pillar of Progress for Community Involvement. San Juan Lodge 175 received the Pillar of Progress for Technology. Worshipful Brother Dick Decima received the Grand Master's Achievement Award.

The Past Grand Masters offered some Masonic education. The Grand Wardens and Deputy Grand Master offered Masonic light and wisdom. The Grand Master presented all present with inspiration and encouragement for the foundation to build our Masonic future and wisdom upon.

Thank you again for making this District meeting a great success for without attendees there would be no meeting.

Fraternally, VWB James F. Brady III, D of GM District No. 10

Stated Meeting Dates

of the

District Ten Lodges

Dec 3rd San Juan Lodge - 7:30

Dec 4th Lynden Lodge - 7:30 pm

Dec 5th Bellingham Bay - 7:30 p

Dec 8th Ferndale Lodge - *Dark*

Dec 9th Fairhaven Lodge - 7:30 pm

Dec 10th Nooksack Valley Ldg - *Dark*

Dec 16th Kulshan Int. Lodge - 7:30 p

Dec 18th Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

Past Master's Brunch

You are cordially invited to attend the Whatcom Lodge Past Master's Brunch. It will be held on Sat. Dec. 13th. Please arrive around 11:45 am. At 12 noon the Bellingham High School Alumni 5-piece Brass assemble will entertain us with some Holiday music. Afterward we will enjoy brunch together.

Please RSVP to

John Browne - 599-3481,
PO Box 1895, Maple Falls, WA 98266,

Email: jbrowne@telcomplus.net,
or to

Glenn W. Hutchings - 671-8218

Email: ghutch103@aol.com



KING'S QUOTE'S

I do not want the peace
which passeth all understanding,

I want understanding
which bringeth peace!

Helen Keller, 1880-1968

Lynden Lodge on the move

Lynden Lodge calendar for December 2008

Thu.	Dec. 4	Lynden Lodge Stated Meeting,	7:30 PM
Sat.	Dec. 6	Leavenworth Bus Trip, Maplewood,	11:30 AM
Thu.	Dec.11	FC Degree for Bro. Bart Boeckholt,	7:30 PM
Sat.	Dec. 20	Third Degree is planned,	11:00 AM
Thu.	Dec. 25	Merry Christmas	

January, 2009

Thu.	Jan. 1	Happy New Year	
Thu.	Jan. 15	MM Degree for Bro. Bart Boeckholt,	7:30 PM

*All meetings are at the Ferndale Masonic Hall unless otherwise noted.

Bikes 4 Books

Fifteen Lynden Lodge brothers in Aprons attended a program at the Lynden Public Library on November 20, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Two bikes that were donated by Lynden Lodge, with financial support from Bellingham Wal-Mart Store, were awarded by drawing to two First Grade Students. This was part of a Library Program to encourage the students to apply for Library Cards and use the library facilities. There were about 90 persons present, including Masons, adults and children. Librarian, Ms. Bixby, reported that the availability of the bikes were a substantial incentive for the children to participate. Sergeant Boss of the Lynden Police Dept. gave a brief talk to the children on bike safety. Feel free to make editorial changes to fit these items in the available space.

Fraternally, WM Dick

Leavenworth Excursion: Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008

Only 12 Seats Remain!!
Purchase your tickets by Dec. 2nd!

Just added: A second pick-up location in Skagit County! (Park & Ride at George Hopper Road)

Tickets are selling fast for Lynden Lodge's chartered bus excursion to Leavenworth for the annual Christmas Lighting Festival.

We're departing from the Bellingham Masonic Center at 11:30 a.m. on Sat., Dec. 6th to enjoy a worry-free ride to Leavenworth, with lunch and beverages provided. Arrive in Leavenworth at 3:00 p.m. to enjoy the sights and sounds of this truly unique holiday destination until our departure at 7:00 p.m. Relax in the comfort of our chartered bus on the ride home. We will arrive in Bellingham at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Please make checks payable to **Lynden Masonic Lodge**.

Space is very limited – purchase your seats soon!

For questions or further details, please contact Travis Graddon at 961.2313 or tsgraddon1@comcast.net.



MLA Report

The November 15th meeting, hosted by Kulshan Lodge #186, was the last of 2008. Attendees recognized WB Dick Decima's contributions toward revitalizing MLA during the past year. A *Thank You*, departing message from Decima was read and well received. WB Decima and VWB John Browne were attending a Grand Lodge Secretaries conference that prevented MLA participation.

MEC: It was reported that documents are being finalized for State filing to obtain 501(c) (3) status

MEC Board of Directors: All Lodges, with the exception of one have made appointments. Timely action is needed to ensure all are represented.

Masonic Family Picnic: A motion was passed to support the MLA Picnic again next year. August 2, 2008 was selected as the date.

Highway Clean Up: Activity is completed for calendar year 2008. The anticipated schedule for 2009 will begin in either March or April.

Widows and Orphans: Updated organization of W & O was noted. VWB John Sleeth distributed new enrollment cards. Two new members signed. The stated Goal for the coming year is to achieve a 50% membership of Whatcom County Lodge members.

Youth Groups: Status updates were provided by WB George Edwards and Nadine Weatherby. Nadine informed the meeting of the December 9 Rainbow Installation date.

2009 Directory: Lodges were requested to have updated information to Vern Christianson by December 1, 2008.

List of Masters for Funeral Homes: WB Vern Christianson reported completion.

2009 Planning: A list of five Base Objectives was distributed by Jack Sprouls, who noted that the five Base Objectives would be used to develop a more comprehensive list for the ensuing year.

District 10 Meeting: A motion was passed for MLA to host the District 10 meeting. The primary objective is to support the District Deputy and at the same time involve all District Lodges in ownership of this activity.

Election and Installation of Officers for 2009: Jack Sprouls, President; Jeff Moisan, Vice President; Vern Christianson, Secretary Treasurer.

Attendance: Sixteen Masons, in addition to Nadine Weatherby, were present. We were also pleased to have representation from San Juan Lodge by WB Ed Ashcraft. Attendance total in 2008 was almost double that of 2007. A gentle reminder: All Masters are asked to name an MLA representative to attend meetings as well as attendance from Masters and their two principal officers.

Thanks: to VWB James F. Brady III for his participation, comments, set up help, making coffee and tear down. As usual, he was the first to arrive and last to leave.

The next meeting will be hosted by Whatcom 151 on January 17, 2009 at 10:00 AM. **VWB Charles Tupper** will present a program to facilitate Web site efforts and Community awareness of Masonic activities. Please bring your lap tops.

With your assistance and participation, 2009 will be a good year.

Bro. Jack Sprouls - President MLA

This is how Masons Worked!

Bethel No. 25 JDI

In case you missed it, the Nov. 8th meeting at Bethel No. 25 was very impressive and full of energy. The high point was the initiation of Miss Sara Engen into the Order. Her Grandfather almost burst with pride and he was happy to show it to everyone, for he is none other than WB Thom Baughn an un-abashed promoter of Masonic Youth groups. Welcome to the Bethel Sara!

The daughters held their election of officers for the next term at this November 8th meeting. The results of the voting is as follows:

Honored Queen	Marissa Morse
Senior Princess	Courtney Scheffler
Junior Princess	(to be filled - Pro Tem)
Guide	Amy Brady
Marshal	Mychal Smith

The appointed officer positions will be announced as soon the HQ has made her selections.

The installation of Officers is planned for 2 PM on Sat., December 27th, 2008 at the Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood Ave., in Bellingham, WA.

NW Shrine Club JOHN SHORTHILL WINS!!

Election results are in and Noble John Shorthill will be President of the Northwest Shrine Club for 2009. The following Nobles will be on his team: 1st V. President - Chuck Nelson, 2nd V. President - Tim Springstead, Treasurer - Al Jensen, Secretary - George Edwards III, Board of Directors: Bill Barquist, Ron Fine, Skip Metzger, Chuck Loney.

Our next dinner meeting will be on December 2, 2008 at Jeckyl & Hyde Deli and Ale House, 709 W. Orchard Drive. Menu for the evening will be: Roast Beef, Roasted Red Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, Rolls, Coffee & Dessert. All for the price of \$17.00 per person. To make reservations call Noble Ron Fine at 360-676-5747 or E-mail me at RonFine2@aol.com. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2008!

Would like to remind everyone that we need your help in selling our Raffle Tickets; use them as stocking stuffers, sell them to your friends family, co-workers. The cost is \$20.00 each and they are good for the entire 2009 year. Where else can you get a deal like that? Sales of raffle tickets will end at midnight December 31, 2008.

Sunshine committee has been busy, and the following Nobles and Ladies could use a card or call from you, John & Vivian Burley, Warren Stewart Jr. Gene Callen, Steve Cronkhite, Al Tomko, Walt Tanguy, Bill Taylor. Please keep them in your thought.

Lady Sharon & I wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. My time as secretary is getting down to the wire and I'm looking forward to several new projects that I will be taking on for myself.

Ron Fine, Secretary NWSC

Here is what *Bellingham Bay* has going on.

Friday December 5th Bellingham Bay Lodge #44 will have its stated meeting on Friday December 5th at 7:30. Our agenda will include the election of officers, the annual holiday card signing for those who are unable to attend lodge and there will also be a special program concerning the stock market by Brother Dick Zagelow.

Saturday the 13th WB David Burn, a past master of #44, will be installed as the Master of Yancy C Blalock #265 at 2 PM. Carpool will leave the Scottish Rite Hall at noon.

Friday December 19th Bellingham Bay will **NOT** have a special communication on December 19th. We will be dark for the holiday season.

WM Gary Pitcher



Lodge Number One, the North Pole

'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the lodge
not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge.

Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savor the silence, most gladly divest

All metal and mineral, it mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot.

In the hearth of your home-place, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestle-boards danced in their head;

When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!

He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'

He answered the knocking with raps of his own,
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan

Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red
Except for one notable feature instead!

Upon his large finger he wore what we knew
Was compasses and square on a background of blue!

'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade,
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tyler relayed.

He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful Sir'

There's a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!
The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!

You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be

Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?

'I do beg your pardon,' ol' Santa said quick
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick

But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!

Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign
Of 'Lodge Number One, the North Pole' on one line!

'Now let this man enter,' the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,

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BMC = Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood ; FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center;
 FHMC = Friday Harbor Masonic Center; NMC = Nooksack Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Hesperus Com-mandery No. 8 - 7:30, F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	2 NWSC - Zem Zem 6, Dinner 7, Meeting 8 PM ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	3 SJ # 175 stated 7:30 p. (FHMC)	4 L # 56 7:30 pm Whatcom Lodge - Spl. Practice for a 3rd Deg. at 6:30 pm	5 BB # 44 stated, we will hold our annual election of officers. 7:30 p (SRH)	6 L #56 Bus trip to Leavenworth 11:30 SJ #175 Lodge holds its Installation of Officers for 2009 St. Nicholas Feast Day
7 <i>Pearl Harbor Day 1941</i>	8 F # 264 is Dark Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - 7:30 p	9 F # 73-stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p.	10 NV # 105 is Dark this month.	11 Bethel # 25 at 7 pm. L #56 FC Deg 7:30 p	12 <i>Full Moon</i>	13 Whatcom Lodge 151 - Past Masters Brunch, arrive by 11:45 am
14	15 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch - 7:30 p. F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	16 KI # 186 7:30 p. ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC) NWSC Brd . Meeting	17	18 W 151-stated dinner 5:30 lodge opens 6:30 pm A Third Deg is planned.	19 BB 44 Spl. - No meeting—Dark for the holidays.	20 MFLA Dark Lyn #56—Third Degree at 11 am
21 <i>Winter Begins</i>	22 Chanukah	23 F # 73-Spl. Com 7:30 p. (BMC)	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day First Day of Christmas	26 Boxing Day - Canada Second Day of Christmas	27 Bethel # 25 Instal-lation of Officers at 2 pm - <i>New Moon</i> Third Day of Christmas
28 Fourth Day of Christmas	29 Fifth Day of Christmas	30 Sixth Day of Christmas	31 New Year's Eve Seventh Day of Christmas	1 January New Year's Day Eight Day of Christmas	2 January Ninth Day of Christmas	3 January Tenth Day of Christmas

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For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
 For many a century - there in between
 The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar
 Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone line a dollar!
 'It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess
 'Are actually images brought from the West
 By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!
 And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled
 An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
 'My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast
 On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!
 A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,
 As presents and promises flew from his sack!
 This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack
 For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
 And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen
 On this very night only happiness reigned!
 This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained
 That only a Mason could be so inclined
 To make all kids happy, make all people find
 A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!
 Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Note: Please help out your lodge secretary!
 For those who have not yet done so,
 there is still time to send in your Dues & Fees.



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To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 20th day of each month, to:
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