



# Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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Happy Valentine's Day



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February 2008

## Whatcom Lodge Report

Whatcom Lodge has several brothers working through the degrees and the chair of our Ritual Committee reports the following dates are planned for their next degrees.

<b>Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Third Degree for Bro. Scott Voss
<b>Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Third Degree for Bro. Tim Johnson
<b>Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Second Degree for Bro. Dan Brendible
<b>Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Third Degree for Bro. Warren McKenzie

We have a petition out and we hope the Investigation Committee will have it back in time for a vote at our Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting. At our proficiency practice session on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> we had a visit from Bro. John Ashley, who worked with one of our new members. Bro. Ashley is just about finished with school, he is attending EWU, and he hopes to find work in the Bellingham area in the near future. Bro. John is getting a degree in Health Care Administration.

Whatcom Brothers please be generous with your donations to the MEC Scholarship Program. Don't forget, our next stated meeting is Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, but please attend all our degrees noted above and support the new brothers in your lodge. *JFB*

## Masonic Leadership Association—Report

Brethren of District #10, on Saturday January 19th, the MLA held its first meeting of 2008 at the Bellingham Masonic Center on Maplewood Avenue.

Every Masonic Lodge in the District was represented with the exception of San Juan Lodge #175 who had a great distance to travel. The Master of each Lodge has been asked to appoint one brother who would bring news from the Lodge to the MLA and report key points from the MLA meeting back to the Lodge. Each Master has been requested to attend the MLA meetings along with the Senior and Junior Wardens as well as new Masons and anyone else interested in moving Masonry forward in our District.

It was a great turnout. We had more than double the number of Masons at this meeting compared to January 2007. Whatcom Lodge #151 was the host and provided coffee, soft drinks, pastries and fruit. We thank them for their hospitality!

Directories for 2008 were distributed. Any Mason who would like a directory should contact his Lodge Secretary.

On-going programs were discussed including the Masonic Education Council, Highway Clean Up, Traveling Light and Youth Groups.

Objectives for 2008, the budget, voluntary assessments, brochures, proposed By-law changes, Grand Lodge sanctioned workshops, the District #10 calendar and the trip to the Mariners game all were covered. All this in an hour and twenty minutes. This is how Masons work!!!

There was a lucky winner of the door prize of two tickets to the Mariners/Orioles game in August.

The next MLA meeting is on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Bellingham Masonic Center on Maplewood Avenue. There will be a Door Prize!! Ferndale Lodge #264 will be the host. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there. Your participation in these meetings is essential to the growth of Masonry in District #10. We would like you to be with us.

Fraternally, Dick Decima MLA President - 2008

## Stated Meeting Dates

of the

## District Ten Lodges

**Feb 1<sup>st</sup>** Bellingham Bay #44 - 7:30 p  
**Feb 6<sup>th</sup>** San Juan Lodge #175 - 7:30 p  
**Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** Lynden Lodge #56 - 7:30 p  
**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** Ferndale Lodge #264 - 7:30  
**Feb 12<sup>th</sup>** Fairhaven Lodge - 7:30  
**Feb 19<sup>th</sup>** Kulshan Int. Lodge - 7:30 p  
**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>** Nooksack Valley Ldg - 7:30  
**Feb 21<sup>st</sup>** Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

Education is an admirable thing,  
but it is well to remember  
from time to time  
that nothing  
that is worth knowing  
can be taught.

~ Oscar Wilde, 1856-1900

## Notice!

Nooksack Valley No.105  
and  
Ferndale Lodge No. 264

Are back into the Light, come visit us at our stated meetings, see the schedule above.



## KING'S QUOTE'S

A pollster speaking to a man standing in the doorway of his home....

"I'd like to get

your opinion, sir.

Is your wife at home?

## Lynden Lodge on the move

Lynden Lodge calendar for February 2008

Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Two Third Degrees	11:00 AM
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Official Visit to Ferndale Lodge	7:30 PM
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Set up for Rummage Sale	1:30 PM
Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	Special Communication	7:30 PM
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rummage Sale Fund-raiser	9:00 AM
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Special - EA Degree planned	7:30 PM
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for MEC applications	12 Noon

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

### LYNDEN LODGE NEEDS YOUR HELP

On Friday and Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Lynden Lodge will be holding a Rummage Sale at the Ferndale Masonic Center to raise funds for scholarships.

Lynden Lodge needs your help as we need more items to sell. Please prepare a box of items that you no longer want or use. We can use books, clothing, lamps, vases, collectibles, kitchenware, chairs, tables, glassware, dishes, bicycles, wagons, toys, Christmas decorations, radios, electronics, etc. etc.

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Just call me at **392-0145** and someone will pick up your box of items. Your generosity will help us to provide scholarships to deserving students! Thanks in advance for your assistance.

*Fraternally,*

*WB Dick Decima, WM Lynden Lodge No. 56*

## HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER

On Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Lynden Lodge #56 will be honoring RWB Douglas Tucker, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, F & AM of Washington and RWB R. Glenn Allen, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, AF & AM of British Columbia & Yukon, at our annual *Hands Across the Border* dinner. Following dinner we will hold our stated communication for March at the Ferndale Masonic Center.

Our evening begins with a social period, starting at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Lodge will be tiled and opens at 7:30 PM. The main course on the menu will be prime rib or baked salmon. The price of the dinner will be \$15.

Since the stated communication following the dinner will be a tiled meeting, the ladies have not been invited. However, the October *Hands Across the Border* dinner is a social event with fine entertainment and ladies, families and guests are most welcome.

*Hands Across the Border* is a very important event for Lynden Lodge and, although it still is several weeks away, I wanted to request the support of the Lodges and brothers in District #10.

If any Lodge was thinking about making an official visit to Lynden Lodge, March 6<sup>th</sup> might be a good time to do it. The Canadians always turn out large numbers for this event. We do not want them to outnumber the American brothers. Please mark this date on your calendar so that you can be there with us.

There will be more details about the dinner as we get a bit closer to the date.

Thank you in advance for your support!  
Dick Decima  
WM of Lynden Lodge No. 56

## Lodge Calendar Workshop

At the MFLA meeting on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, Bro. Ron Exner provided directions so that each Lodge could set up their calendar on Google which would be linked to a District #10 calendar. This will be a tremendous tool for coordinating events and avoiding conflicts.

Bro. Ron has advised me that he will conduct a workshop at which the calendar on Google will be set up with a brother from each Lodge. This will be much easier than each Lodge trying to figure it out on their own. Brother Ron requests that each Lodge should think about a USER NAME and PASSWORD for access to their lodges' calendar. If you have the USER NAME and PASSWORD before you come to the workshop, it will save some time.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 PM at the Scottish Rite Hall on State Street in Bellingham. I think that the workshop will last about an hour and will be time well spent. When this workshop is over that day, each Lodge will have a Google calendar which will be linked to the District #10 calendar.

Worshipful Masters, kindly let me know the name of the brother from your Lodge who will be attending this workshop.

WB Dick Decima  
MFLA - President

### *The Test : Author Unknown*

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip, when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This really is an almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

*Submitted by: WB John Sargent Westgate #128*

Here is what ***Bellingham Bay*** has going on.

***Friday February 1<sup>st</sup>*** stated meeting at 7:30 on the Master Mason degree. Vote on a petition for the degrees, proficiency examination on the Master Mason degree, and install two remaining officers. Dinner before at 6:30 PM. RSVP to JW Ron Exner at [synergy.ron@gmail.com](mailto:synergy.ron@gmail.com) or 510-3300 before Wed., January 30<sup>th</sup>.

***Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup>*** Practice at 7 PM for #44 Master Mason degree at Scottish Rite Hall.

***Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>*** travel to Lynden Lodge at 7:30 to deliver the district traveling light.

***Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>*** special communication at 7:30 to confer a Master Mason degree. Dinner before at 6:30 PM. RSVP to JW Ron Exner at [synergy.ron@gmail.com](mailto:synergy.ron@gmail.com) or 510-3300 before Wed., February 13<sup>th</sup>.

WM Gary Pitcher

***NW Shrine Club*** Come one come all! On Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the Northwest Shrine Club will hold their stated dinner meeting at "Our House Deli". ZEM ZEM @ 6:00 P.M., Dinner @ 7:00 P.M. and Meeting @ 8:00 P.M. Menu for the evening will be; Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Escalloped Apples, Baby peas / onions, Salad, Rolls, Coffee, & Dessert. All for the cost of just \$17.00 per person. Call Noble Ron Fine for your reservations at 360-676-5747 or Email me at [RonFine2@aol.com](mailto:RonFine2@aol.com). **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 2008!**

Thanks to everyone who attended the Installation. The food was good and the company was even better. Our cooks did an excellent job and the Rainbow Girls did a good job serving. Be sure you make this meeting and watch your new officers working, (of course we know it's the secretary who's working. LOL).

The sunshine committee has been hard at work sending out cards. Noble Gene Callen had a bad fall on Christmas Eve and broke his hip, he spent several days in the hospital and has been taken to Evergreen Health and Rehab center Room 206; Noble Sam Silverman is now home and seems to be coming along nicely; Noble John Burley is doing well and so is Lady Vivian. Noble Warren Stewart Jr. is still at Bellingham Health Care & Rehab room 39. I talked with Lady Lou Taylor and she said that Noble Bill is at the Mira Vista Rehab center 18th & Division in Mt. Vernon. He would like visitors. Please remember our Nobles and Ladies in your thoughts & prayers.

Ron Fine  
Secretary, NWSC



The best prize that life can offer is  
working hard at work worth doing.

*Bro. Theodore Roosevelt*

### ***Isn't That A Cult?***

Many times we have heard people say that Masonry is a cult. Why would someone think we are a cult? Different people no doubt have different reasons. Some are lack of knowledge, misunderstanding, mistrust of fraternal organizations in general, a negative experience and perhaps most commonly .... just because someone told them we are!

What is a cult? Cults may be religious, social, philosophical or political. In general, cults take everything to the extreme. Most experts agree that it takes more than just a different set of beliefs than the norm to make a cult. The most useful definitions of cults include the characteristic of excessive control over members and the existence of a charismatic and powerful leader. Group with these characteristics often do terrible damage to their members and families associated with their members and include some that we've all seen in the news like the infamous Charles Manson, "The Manson Family;" Rev. Jim Jones, "The Peoples Temple;" David Koresh, "The Branch Davidians;" and Marshall Applewhite, "Heavens Gate." These men were "control-freaks" and ruled by strength, fear and sometimes even violence. They required unquestionable loyalty, obedience and dependence from their members.

Freemasonry is not a cult because we encourage members to be actively involved in church, school and community. Cults trade on isolating their members from outside influences. Masons place tremendous emphasis on the importance of family while cults claim top authority for themselves, and often try to replace or supplant a member's family.

Masons make no claims to a unique or exclusive knowledge of truth. We encourage our members to pursue and grow in their own family's faith tradition. We teach religious tolerance, not religious pluralism. Cults always point inside the group to look for truth, and never out to other groups.

Masons work cooperatively with other community groups toward common goals and worthwhile services while cults operate on an "us versus them" mentality, and isolate members from the public.

Masons emphasize service to others through giving of time, talents and financial resources. Cults demand that service and investment of resources be only for the benefit of the group.

Masons encourage independent thinking, initiative and leadership. Good team members are co-leaders, not mindless followers. Cults seek unquestioning obedience to a domineering leader, not democratic, cooperative leadership among its members.

What can we do? We cannot change the minds of those who are rigidly, irrationally against the Mason fraternity. However, we can be comfortable defending Masonry. We can encourage those with doubts to talk with members of the fraternity. We can urge them to ask honest questions, express their concerns and be ready to listen openly to responses. We can encourage them to visit with their religious leaders to learn the official position of their faith on our organization. We can show respect for those who have differences with us. We should offer to help them identify people they trust and respect who are Masons.

Masonry is not for everyone but we should attempt to bridge between our members and non-Masons.

*Dick Decima*, WM Lynden Lodge No. 56

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
					<b>1</b> BB # 44 stated 7:30 p (SRH)	<b>2</b> Workshop for Lodge Calendars at 1:30 at (SRH)
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Hesperus Com-mandery No. 8 at din 6:30, meet 7:30 p. (BMC) F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	<b>5</b> ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	<b>6</b> SJ # 175 stated 7:30 p. (FHMC) V-Bellingham Scottish Rite: D-6:30; M_7:30	<b>7</b> L # 56 stated 7:30 Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7 p. (BMC)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> L # 56 has two Third Deg's at 11 am. (FMC)
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> F #264 stated 7:30 p. Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM at (BMC) din 6:30, meet 7:30 p.	<b>12</b> F # 73-stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	<b>13</b> W151 - Third Deg Dinner at 5:30 and lodge at 6:30 pm	<b>14</b> Bethel # 25 JDI, 7 p. (BMC)	<b>15</b> BB 44 Spl. 7:30 p. MM Degree is planned (SRH)	<b>16</b> MFLA hosted by Ferndale 264 at 10 am at (BMC) Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7 p. (BMC)
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Bellingham Chap Royal Arch (din 6:30, meet 7:30 (BMC) F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	<b>19</b> KI # 186-stated 7:30 p. ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC) NWSC Brd Meeting	<b>20</b> NV # 105 stated 7:30 p. (NMC)	<b>21</b> W 151-stated dinner 5:30 lodge opens 6:30 pm. A FC Degree is planned	<b>22</b> Lynden Lodge Rummage Sale 9 am at (FMC)	<b>23</b> Lynden Lodge Rummage Sale 9 am. (FMC) Bethel #25 JDI, 7 p. (BMC)
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> F # 73-Spl. Com 7:30 p. (BMC)	<b>27</b> L # 56 plans to confer an EA Deg 7:30 (FMC)	<b>28</b> W 151 - Spl Com Third Degree planned. Dinner at 5:30 Lodge at 6:30 pm.	<b>29</b>	

**Next Highway Clean Up**

Brethren, here is your early warning to put a little Masonic road work into your calendar for 2008:

- Saturday, March 1
- Saturday, April 5 (part of the statewide of Earth Day "Month" activities)

Be ready to leave from the backside of 2626 W. Maplewood by 9:00 a.m. for 90 minutes of cleaning, rain or shine.

This will be the start of our **18th** year in the Adopt-A-Highway program of the WA State Dept. of Transportation. That makes us one of the longest continuously active groups in the program. As such, the DOT hopes to get our picture for their publication.

Any questions? Give me a call or email. Talk it up in Lodge. With one to two representatives from each Lodge, the work is a snap!

Fraternally yours,

*Ken Gass, Secretary, Bellingham Bay Lodge No. 44*

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**John Sleeth (Ext 301)**

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

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