



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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February 2018

Happy Valentine's Day!

Whatcom Lodge Report

Special Communication: Our Thursday, January 4th meeting was attended by 20 Whatcom Brothers and 3 visitors, WB Ken Gass, Bro. Dave Gehrcke and EA Bro. Tim Townsend, all of Bellingham Bay Lodge #44.

SW Ken Peck opened Lodge and conferred the EA Degree on Mr. Rodney Lonquist, a personal friend. SD VW Terrell Goertz escorted the candidate, the *Apron Lecture* was given by VW Don Higgerson and the *Working Tools* presented by WB Paul Brainard. The *Degree Lecture* was given by VWB's Terrell Goertz & John Browne and the *Charge* by JW WB John Brown. All in all it was a very fine degree for our new Brother.

Masonic Education: WM Craig Bruner presented some information from a Short Talk Bulletin on Proficiency, memorization & coaching.

Stated Communication: The January 18th Stated meeting was attended by 19 Whatcom Brothers. This was the Official Visit of the Deputy of the Grand Master VW Terrell Goertz. WB Ted Schuman reported that the Audit of WB Paul Brainard's term done and report submitted.

Presentation: JW WB John Brown gave a slide show of his recent vacation to Myanmar. The photos were gorgeous but John recommended that you not eat the street food. His commentary was interesting and fun.

Wardens Conference: The brethren of Whatcom Lodge approved a motion that the lodge cover the cost to send brothers Craig Bruner and Ken Peck to the Wardens Conference this Spring.

DDGM: VW Terrell Goertz gave fraternal greetings from our Grand Master MWB Warren Schoeben and spoke on this term's theme *Communicate to Educate*. VW Terrell also thanked the brethren for a good showing at the District Ten Meeting earlier this month. He rightly cautioned us not to get caught up in the naming, blaming and labelling currently plaguing our political system and to keep civility in mind at all times. Specifically to the Lodge he praised the ritual & floor work and in particular the welcoming fraternal atmosphere. VW Terrell did point out we have lots of work to do to keep our Lodge and the Brotherhood growing for the future.

Communication: was on February the 1st. The next Stated Communication will be on Thursday, February 15th. For both meetings Dinner is at 5:30 pm and Lodge opens at 6:30 pm.

Fraternally, John Browne, Secretary ... **Contact info is at bottom right corner, page 4**

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

- Feb 2th Bellingham Bay - 7:30 pm
- Feb 8th Lynden/Ferndale Int. Lodge
56 - 7 pm
- Feb 15th Whatcom Lodge - dinner at
5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

Up-coming Events

Official Visit DDGM....Lynden/Fernale Int. No 56 will host it's official visit by the DDGM VW Terrell Goertz on Thursday, February 8th. The Lodge tyles at 7 pm.

Masonic Monthly Luncheon.... Tuesday, Feb. 20th. 12 noon at Lee's Restaurant, at James & Alabama Streets.

IN MEMORIAM

The Memorial Service to WB William "Bill" Hall was held on Saturday Feb. 3rd at the First Congregational Church on Cornwall Ave. This was a very well attended ceremony and featured Dignitaries from the Bellingham Police Dept., Honor Guard from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, family, friends and some 30 local Masons and wives. All three of the Whatcom County Lodges were represented.

The **Officiant** was Rev. Cheryl Smith and WB Thom Baughn, VW Terrell Goertz and WB Ted Schuman presented the Masonic Service. Two Eulogies were given: Mr. Brad Williams (**family**) and WB Ted Schuman (**Whatcom Lodge**).

WB (and former Bellingham Chief of Police) Randy Carroll read an inspiring letter to Bill Hall From Col. Marty Daack.

Music: Three beautiful songs were performed by Jenaige Lane with Ralph Lane on piano. The bagpipes were finely played by Peter Rolstad.

Remembrances were given by Jim Darden and Rich Krebs.

VW Terrell Goertz, Deputy of the Grand Master in District Ten, gave an inspired reading of the poem "High Flight" by John G Magee Jr.

Notes from Lynden Lodge No. 56

Feb 11 th	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
Feb 25 th	Special Meeting	7:00 PM

Greetings Lynden Brethren:

Bikes 4 Books

On Friday, February 9th at 10:50-11:15, Nooksack Elementary School, at 3333 Breckenridge Road (just up the road from the Nooksack Lodge building), will be giving away their bikes for the 2018 year. This is the first Bikes 4 Books award for 2018 and will be kicking off a full year of reading and fun. 44 bikes at 22 schools will be given away in 2018 to young readers. Please plan on attending this event and lets get some great Masonic awareness and brotherly charity going for our local students! Be sure to bring your apron.

Widows & Widowers Luncheon

Our annual Widows & Widowers Luncheon will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 2:30 PM at the Raspberry Ridge Golf Club restaurant. Honored guests will be widowers and widows whose husbands were members of the Lodge. WB Glenn Boodey & Barb Arnett handle all the arrangements for this great event.

Hands Across the Border - 2018 Spring

Thursday, April 12, 2018 is the date that has been selected by the Deputy Grand Masters for 2018 Spring Hands Across the Border event. We will honor RWB Barry Burch, Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A.M. of British Columbia & Yukon, and RWB James Kendall, Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Washington. The social period will begin at 5:00; dinner will be served at 5:30. The choice of entrees is either prime rib or butterfly prawn. The Lodge will be tyled at 7:00. The meeting will be short on business and long on brotherhood. Masons are most welcome! Please make your reservations by contacting HAB Events chairman Dick Decima at rhdecima@aol.com.

WB Dick Decima,
Secretary....Ph. 392-0145

College Scholarships Sponsored by Masonic Organizations in Whatcom County and the State

Do you have children or grandchildren, or know of teens and young adults, who are high school juniors, seniors or graduates planning on getting post-secondary degrees and in need of financial assistance? Several scholarship programs sponsored by Masonic organizations in this Grand Jurisdiction are easy to access and under-used and four offer scholarships only for students with Masonic affiliation. Deadlines vary so get the word out now!

Continued in column 2

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

Friday February 2nd Stated Communication:

Friday February 19th Special Communication:

Continued from column 1

In Whatcom County there are three separate programs. Bellingham Bay #44 offers two Pierre B. Cornwall scholarships of \$250 each annually to a male and a female with a Whatcom County Masonic spouse, parent or grandparent or who are themselves members of a Whatcom County Lodge or Masonic youth organization, with no stipulation as to age of recipient, only that he or she be a high school graduate and use the funds for post-secondary education. Email Greg Cory, noblegregory@comcast.net, or Rick Kiene, rick-kiene@comcast.net, for an application.

Lynden Ferndale International Lodge #56 awards \$1,000 scholarships for one year to one senior each at Blaine, Ferndale, Lynden, Meridian, and Nooksack Valley High Schools. Applications are made available by the school counselors.

The Masonic Education Council of Whatcom County, MEC, has a new online application for its scholarship offered to juniors at all public high schools in Whatcom County, available at www.WhatcomMEC.org. Check it out! The awards are for one year, as sophomores, \$1,500 to the top boy and girl overall and \$600 to the top boy or girl from each of the other schools.

The Eastern Star, www.washingtonoes.org, and the Order of Amaranth, www.amaranthta.org, both offer \$1,000 scholarships for multiple years to children and grandchildren of Masons or members of their order, as well as members of Masonic youth organizations, the Star award starting in the second or later years of college or vocational school and Amaranth for two years only, starting the first or later years.

The WA Grand Lodge scholarships are administered by WA Masonic Charities through the common web portal for all scholarships offered by organizations in this state, www.washboard.org. Four kinds of scholarships are awarded to high school seniors living in Washington State: one Masonic legacy of \$2,000, for a child or grandchild of a Mason; one to a member of each of the three Masonic youth organizations of \$1,000; four to students planning to attend a 4-year or 2-year college, \$4,000 to the top boy or girl and three of \$2,000 to a mix of boys and girls; and one of \$2,000 to a boy or girl planning on a vocational-technical education. All the scholarship awards are heavily weighted on financial need. More information is available on line at www.wa-masoniccharities.org.

Lastly, the most generous awards are made by the Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation of Washington, totaling \$435,000 last year. These are scholarships of \$3,000 each year for juniors and seniors attending colleges in Washington State and \$6,000 for fellowships. More information about applications is available at www.srsfwa.org. Students from Whatcom County are particularly sought after!

Of all these scholarship programs, the MEC is unique with Federal 501(C)3 status where tax-deductible donations go 100% to the award program and scholarships. Contributions may be sent to MEC, 1101 N. State St., Ste. 103, Bellingham, 98225. For questions or comments contact Ken Gass, kbgass@gmail.com or 360-671-1993.

John Bizack, Ph.D. Lexington, Lodge No. 1,
Masonic History & Study Group, Rubicon Masonic Dinner Club

Let's get past all the usual oratory customarily devoted to outlining all the reasons Freemasonry is worthwhile, relevant and makes good men better if they practice the philosophies of the Craft. We all know that part.

This article is not about whether Freemasonry is worthwhile and relevant. It is not about whether Freemasonry evolved from Egyptian society, Templars, the Enlightenment, roots of the Invisible College, the first operative stone masons lodge in Scotland, and certainly not about any absurd theory that attempts to link our institution with ancient aliens.

In fact, there is nothing about conspiracies at all in this writing. So, if rah-rah writing, the kind that we often see telling us with heartening glee how Freemasonry is thriving in North America or how we are the most charitable of all fraternities, is what you are looking for, then stop here. If you seek romantic writings about famous Masons, this article will not be of much interest to you either.

If you are looking for material that speculates about the origin of the fraternity, you might consider looking elsewhere. And, if you are seeking outlandish conspiracy theories, there are generous sources on the Internet where, we all know, of course, that everything posted must be true.

No, this article might not be of interest to you unless you look at Freemasonry in North America in realistic context — as it is, not as you suppose it to be or hope it is. It will bore you if you choose to believe Freemasonry is universally thriving across the nation or that all brothers you meet from any jurisdiction is in possession of the same Light as you and can carry on an interesting conversation about Freemasonry beyond discussion of a few of the rote practices that have survived and remain somewhat collective.

Some may view this article as bashing Freemasonry. It's shallow to think that and certainly not incorrect. Truth can hurt and regrettably, nothing in this writing is imaginary. What follows might simply make you angry. None of it is soft-soaped. It could cause you to question your views and notions about what you do as a Mason and how Masonry is practiced in your respective lodge and jurisdiction. If, after reading, you are affected in a constructive manner and better understand the challenges before each of us as Masons, then your time devoted to reading it will be worthwhile.

How Easily We Become Deflected by that Which We Believe is True

A man, ignorant of astronomy may truthfully testify that the sun moves from east to west between morning and night if that is what he actually believes to be accurate. His testimony is the truth as he knows it. That the earth moves beneath the sun while the sun stands still, does not make him untruthful. And, therein lies a principal problem for our fraternity; our truths have been passed on for generations and many that are passed on are based on ignorance — not stupidity, but ignorance: ignorance about our factual history, lessons, lectures, and beautiful philosophies all designed to further enlighten men who practice them. Most all Masons believe that what they know (or think they know) about Freemasonry, its history, lectures, lessons and beautiful philosophies is the truth. This is particularly true especially of those who stop learning the moment they are raised — or worse, never received appropriate instruction in the first place or seek it through their own volition. What we pass on as knowledge and practices is not always accurate.

Truth in and about Freemasonry is more difficult to explain than most abstracts because Freemasonry means something different to every man, as it should. The problem is that every man is not getting the same basic information upon which to apply his personal meaning, and this problem can be traced as far back as the 1850s. Much of what has and continues to substitute for basic Masonic education is based on less than what is essential to begin to understand it. We have become easily deflected. The broad assumption and expectation that all men will at least grasp the fundamentals might work if there was genuine uniformity in our efforts to provide them — and then consistently administer the practices and mechanics that advance them.

Our Love of Action and Contempt for Thought

We like to think of our fraternity as cutting edge and Freemasonry as a philosophical entity that should just be — that it exists, and, therefore, good men should know about it and flock to its doors. In a perfect world, yes, that is what it should be, but we are far from that proverbial perfect world. There's always going to be more work to be done in the quarries of Freemasonry and perhaps considerably more than many Masons today prefer to think or recognize — or commit to.

Although Masonry moves slowly, as it should, we do love action, and sometimes our actions (or reactions) to issues that confront us are not as well thought out as they perhaps could have been.

For example, the over-fretting about the decline of membership over the past half-century and search for new and unique ways to enlist new members has led us down the road of remaining stuck in the haze of a paradigm shift that continues to cause many to believe there's no limits to what we need to do to keep the membership rolls in the millions. This hand-wringing is so deeply embedded we've watered down time honored standards and even entertained suggestions to rewrite our rituals so they are more easily understood instead of asking men to put in the effort to understand them.

Masons may be the last of the great minute-takers and recorders of every event that takes place during open lodge. We can go back in time and learn what was served at a meal and discussed at any meeting in about any lodge anywhere in the nation. However, while we attempt to research the dickens out of our origins, we don't seem to have a knack for creating, much less coordinating the necessary empirical research or keeping very good records on the demographics of our members; data that could illustrate, prove or disprove that all the quick fixes adopted over the decades to address the membership issue have either worked or have been disastrous. For an institution known for its search for truth, we seem to place extensive reliance on largely anecdotal data when it comes to our administration. If the medical field used research like Freemasonry has relied on such research, then physicians would still be using leeches.

So, with less than convincing evidence, but an abundance of emotionally-based, hand-wringing, sounds-like-a-good-idea notions, we've watched as many jurisdictions have come up with a number of quick-fixes designed to make it easier for men, especially for those men we think are just too busy today to find the time necessary to devote to all that used to be required to become a Freemason, and improve themselves.

We've lowered the age to 18 — yes, a perfect age for molding young minds if those inexperienced minds have the aptitude, commitment and propensity at that age to be molded in the first place.

We've watered down our strict adherence to investigation committee practices, and moved further away from the original design intended to allow only good men into our lodges.

We've siphoned off much of the formality of our gentlemanly etiquettes, protocols and dress out of our practices in favor of substituting it with a form of casualness that is not even befitting a PTA meeting.

Our dues... well, if anyone thinks, for example, that \$30 a year (or less) can be called purposeful dues and sustain a lodge of 30 or so members whose expenses are twice that revenue stream (that is if every brother actually pays their dues), then they might have a promising career in accounting with the government accounting office.

We heavily prompt those who deliver ritual, make excuses for mistakes, leave out parts of our lectures and rituals and then apologize as we lightheartedly continue to deliver many of our lectures and rituals in the same manner the next time. Some call this "exceptional."

—to be continued, so don't lose this part--

Shared by JW WB John Brown (city John of Whatcom Lodge 151)

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
28	29	30	31 V of B Scottish Rite: Dinner at 6:30 pm & Stated Mtg at 7:30 pm	1 W #151 - Special Dinner at 5:30 pm. Lodge opens at 6:30pm.	2 BB # 44 - stated 7:30 pm. <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 Memorial Service for WB Bill hall.
4	5 Hesperus Commandery No. 8 - 7:30	6 ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p	7 V of B Scottish Rite: Education Night at 7 pm Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7:30 pm	8 L # 56 Stated, 7:00 pm Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (BMC)	9 BB # 44 A Valentine Dinner RSVP to Sec'y Russ, see BB #44 page 2 for details	10
11 Lynden Int #56 hosts it's annual Windows lunch see page 2.	12 Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - 7:30 p F-OES # 223 7:30 p. (FMC)	13 Bethel # 25 at 6:25 pm	14 V of B Scottish Rite: Education Night at 7 pm <i>Ash Wednesday Day</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 W 151 - stated dinner at 5:30 lodge opens 6:30 pm.	16 BB 44 Spl Comm 7:30 p. Book presentation open to public, see page 2. (SRH)	17
18	19 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch - 7:30 p. <i>President's day</i>	20 ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC)	21 Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7:30 pm	22 L # 56 special meeting 7:00 pm Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (BMC)	23	24 Bethel #25 at 6:25 pm
25	26 F-OES # 223 7:30 p. (FMC)	27 Bellingham Temple Association meeting 7:30 PM	28	1	2	3

**Widows & Orphans Fund
for District No. 1**

If you would like to know more about the W & O Fund contact one of the officers listed below.

Bro. Ken Peck - *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Phone: 360-820-4752,
 Email: sectreaswof@gmail.com

WB John Brown - *President,*

WB Jesse Petersen - *Vice President*
 360-319-5556



Has your message missed this publication. Don't get left out. Please send your group's article, event information and/or calendar note by the 22nd of each month. In order to promote events occurring at the beginning of each month I try to send out the newsletter on or about the 25th of each month. Thanks,

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

John F. Browne, **9960 Stardust Lane,**
 Maple Falls, WA. 98266
 Ph. 360-599-3481
 e-mail: jbrowne.brf@gmail.com