



# Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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Page 1

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January 2021

## Happy New Year Whatcom Brothers!

My Brothers, another year is over and despite the world's travails we're still here. Fewer in number yes, but the human spirit will solve the problems we face, and we'll do it together. Our Masonic teachings serve us well in times of tranquility but they shine most bright when they aid us during times of distress, pain, suffering and even death. They call on each of us to pull together as brothers and sisters, being tolerant of our differences and united in our belief in the brother/sisterhood of human kind.

I want to thank several Mason's in particular. First MWB Chris Coffman who helped Whatcom Lodge through a difficult time this past Summer and has lent strong leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Secondly I want to thank VW Kurt Gazow our Deputy for District Ten. VW Kurt has set up many zoom meetings to keep brothers informed and connected during this pandemic. He also facilitated an important Zoom meeting between Whatcom Lodge and members of Grand Lodge. Lastly I want to thank WB 'City' John Brown, our WM who has provided strong leadership during the past year and a half. The issues have been divisive at time and the pandemic has made resolution of some issues very challenging. WB John has helped us work through difficulties. He has had much wise council from lodge leadership but as we know, the buck stops in the East. My deepest thanks to these three fine Masons.

I also want to acknowledge a few other lodge members. WB Ted Schuman has been diligent in staying in contact with those men who have expressed interest in Masonry but who can't meet with us due to the pandemic restrictions. Bro. Bill Kappele has been in phone contact with Bro. Todd Conradson to do what he could to help Todd on his proficiency. And, WB Craig Bruner has kept a frequent eye on the Scottish Rite Temple. He's even removed graffiti from the sides of the building. WB Craig Bruner, WB Ken Peck and Bro. Jerry Hill have been on the phone to a number of brothers to check on them during our forced absence from Lodge. And my thanks to those who else have done so.

I apologize for the lack of a monthly newsletter, I just could not visualize enough content for one without our regular activities. I will endeavor to do better. Let us hope we're only a few months away from being able to meet, even if just in small groups.

Secretary — 'Country' John Browne, [contact info on page 4](#)



Whatcom Lodge 151 meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> (special) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (stated-business) Thursdays of each month.

Whatcom Lodge emphasizes Masonic heritage and ritual proficiency. We are proud to support our Masonic Youth organizations and encourage members to practice charity outside the lodge. It is our intention to promote individuals to build their own strong moral and spiritual temples.

## Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

All In-person Masonic Events are Dark until the Grand Master authorizes a return to Light.

## Up-coming Events

Our District Deputy Hosts a number of Masonic ZOOM castes and lets' us know about Grand Lodge sponsored internet programs. If you are not on his email list you can contact him at the email address noted below.

Kurt Gazow...[kegazow@comcast.net](mailto:kegazow@comcast.net)...

## IN MEMORIAM

In the month of December Whatcom Lodge had two members pass to the Celestial Lodge above. WB Bruce R. McGinnis and Bro. Karl F. Kern.

WB Robert "Bruce" McGinnis passed away on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. WB Bruce was a Mason for 44. 5 years. He began his Masonic journey as a brother in the Billings, Montana Chapter of DeMolay for boys. As an adult DeMolay Bro. Bruce joined a Masonic Lodge and went through the degrees:

Initiated 3/24/1976

Passed 4/14/1976

Raised 5/26/1976

WB Bruce served as Worshipful Master of Morningstar Lodge No. 5 in Helena, Montana.

WB Bruce was affiliated with Whatcom Lodge 151 on 9/18/2008.

Fraternally,  
VWB John F. Browne

## Holiday Greetings from WB Dane Glaze

Hi fellow brothers of Whatcom Lodge 151. This is WB Dane Glaze, residing in Alabama. At this festive Christmas time I want to let you know how much I miss you all and wish for you a...

Very Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!

### IN MEMORIAM

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of Bro Karl Forest Kern's passing to the Celestial Lodge on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He was just 5 days shy of his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He died from complications from having caught covid-19, brought into his nursing home.

Karl was elected to membership in Whatcom Lodge on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1950 and Initiated on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1950. He was Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 1951. Bro. Kern was then Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on Apr 12<sup>th</sup> of 1951. Bro. Karl completed his Master Mason Proficiency on May 17<sup>th</sup> of 1951.

Brother Karl Kern had a distinguished career in Freemasonry. Bro Karl petitioned the Scottish Rite in 1952 and received his 14<sup>th</sup> Degree on Sep 10<sup>th</sup> of 1952. On Sep 10<sup>th</sup> of 1977 he received his 25 Year Certificate from the Scottish Rite. He took a Dimit from Scottish Rite in 2006. Bro. Karl was also a Life Member of the Nile Shrine Temple, which he joined in 1956. Bro. Karl was Initiated on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> of 1956. Bro. Karl served as Worthy Patron of Sehome Chapter #17 OES for the term of 1987-1988. He was also fond of serving Masonic youth, and was a board member of Bellingham Assembly #17 IORG and was awarded the Grand Cross of Color for outstanding service.

Perhaps Bro Karl's favorite activity was assisting the *Boy Scouts of America*. He spent many hours contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the Black Mt. Boy Scout Camp at Silver Lake in Whatcom Country. Sadly it was sold a few years ago.

I had several opportunities to visit with Bro. Karl at his Park St. residence in Bellingham. He was a friendly and congenial host and had many fascinating stories to tell. What I was most impressed with was his terrific hand carved front door, it was spectacular. I don't recall who he said the artist was, but having done some wood carving myself, I loved it. Bro. Karl Kern was a wonderful man and Mason, I miss him already!

Oh, and Brother Karl Kern was a 70-year Life-Member of Whatcom Lodge No. 151. His daughter Heather informed me that there will be a Masonic Funeral, hoping Whatcom Lodge will preside, some this Spring or Summer after the Governor declares it safe to congregate. Heather and I will remain in touch and I will pass on news as it becomes available. See'y John Browne

### Remembering Leo Hymas an American Hero

Brothers, some of you will remember during my tenure as worshipful master we had the opportunity to visit with Leo Hymas and Joe Mosier, also an American Hero.

I learned that within the last few years brother Leo had passed away. He will be truly missed amongst patriots and men of honor in our country for a long, long time.

The photograph is of the dagger that he showed us during his presentation where he discussed how the youth of Germany were Lourdes into their military obligation and service with the thought of receiving such a dagger. The dagger appears to be an Officers' Dagger.

Recently I happen to be looking at some of the gun auctions. Brother Leo was quite a collector of firearms. A couple of which were bring-backs. In looking I noticed a gold plated single action revolver for sale and the narrative said it belong to war hero Leo Hymas.

The firearm was too expensive, but I contacted the seller and inquired about how he came to be in possession of it. He indicated that brother Leo's widow had been moved to Colorado near their son and this gentleman was selling Leo's gun collection to help care for her.

I had mentioned how he had come to our lodge and given a presentation and he responded by saying "oh well I have the dagger he used to show people". After a brief discussion Of our friendship, he indicated he would like to send the dagger to me, and it is now in my possession. A memorable item and keepsake from a fine man, dedicated soldier, brave, heroic, and humble servant of God.

I hope you might be able to put a photograph of this dagger and this story in our January 21 newsletter to pass on that another one of America's heroes had moved on to the celestial kingdom. But his memory will remain in our hearts and minds having heard his story and scene with our own eyes the proof of his presence in the war to end all wars.

My Brothers, I hope you and your loved ones had a very Merry and Joyous Christmas & Happy New Year. And a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our brothers where so ever they may be scattered about the globe.

WBr. Boyd McEwen PM



Report of Whatcom Lodge Audit Committee  
for FYE Sept. 30, 2020  
Date of Audit: Dec. 11, 2020

Those participating included: WB Ted Schuman, VW John Browne and Bro. Bill Kappel.

Items audited were as follows:

**1. Income Items** – 4 randomly selected checkbook deposit entries were compared with the appropriate bank statements – no discrepancies were found.

Items selected for review were:

- Deposit - \$373.00 on 11/25/19. Comprised of: \$168.00 & \$205.00 (Food Jar).
- Deposit - \$134.00 on 10/8/19. Comprised of dues/lodge assessment for Bro. XXXXXXXX.
- Deposit - \$34.00 consisting of Lodge Assessment for WB XXXXX .
- Deposit for \$134.00 on 2/25/20. Deposit comprised of: \$134.00 check from WB XXXXXXXX for dues.

**2. Expense Items** – 4 randomly chosen checks were compared with the warrants authorizing them; all data confirmed to be accurate. In lieu of dates, note that the lodge received (ongoing authority to pay bills from GL due to Covid-19 Hiatus) Items selected were:

- Check # 1391 payable to Payne West Insurance, in the amount of \$446.00, authorized by warrant # 3218.
- Check # 1406 payable to J. P. Luther, in the amount of \$67.80, authorized by warrant # 3232.
- Check # 1404 payable to Barron Smith Daugert, in the amount of \$2,372.80, authorized by warrant # 3229.
- Check # 1399 payable to WB XXXXXXXX in the amount of \$350.37, authorized by warrant #3227.

**3. Dues Receipts** – Four receipts were reviewed; issued to Bro. XXXXXX and Bro. XXXXX, Bro. XXXXXXXX and Bro. XXXXXXXX were compared with the corresponding deposits; they were correct in all respects, as shown below.

- a. Bro. XXXXXXXXXX – ck. # 7859 for \$134.00 – deposited 11/19/19.
- b. Bro. XXXXXXXXXX – ck. # 7859 for \$134.00 – deposited 11/19/19. \*\* - Note that a single check paid for both dues.
- c. Bro. XXXXXXXXXX – ck. # 5575 for \$134.00 – deposited 10/18/19.
- e. Bro. XXXXXXXX – ck. # 926 for \$134.00 – deposited 11/19/19.

**4. Balance Sheet** – Fiscal year end Sept. 30, 2020 - both bank and investment statements were reviewed with the following results:

a. Checking Account Balance -	\$3,915.68
b. Savings Account Balance -	\$5.00
c. Edward Jones Investments -	<u>\$363,956.10</u>
Total Liquid Assets:	\$ 367,876.78

Fraternally submitted, Ted Schuman, Audit Chair

*Our Annual Whatcom Lodge Audit was devised by a W-151 PM who held a long career in the Banking Field.*

\*\*\* **Secretary’s Note:** Capital X’s have replaced the names of actual brothers, for their privacy, in this openly published newsletter.\*\*\* *John Browne—Sec’y*

## A Zoom OV.....at Whatcom Lodge.

In this time of social distancing Zooming is one of the best ways meetings to get done. Excellent social distancing and no need to wear a mask. Such was how Whatcom Lodge 151 received the Official Visit of VW Kurt Gazow on Wednesday, Dec.16<sup>th</sup>.

The primary focus of the OV was to let the Deputy observe that Whatcom Lodge was up to date on it’s books and preparation for the coming End of Year Annual Return. Whatcom Worshipful Master “City” John and Secretary “Country” John Browne met with VW Kurt Gazow for about half an hour. Sec’y Browne provided PDF copies of the requested information and documents. Those included minutes, recent Audit Report, 990 N Tax filing confirmation, and lodge officer proficiency information. Also available was the original copy of the Whatcom Lodge’s current By-Laws.

Deputy Gazow, WM Brown and Sec’y Browne had a good conversation. WB “City” John noted that WB Ted Schuman was in regular contact with our brothers & coaches working through their degrees and with some men who have expressed interest in joining the Lodge. It was agreed to keep open lines of communication between the Lodge and Deputy. VW Kurt noted that the District Ten Meeting would be held on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 12:30 pm via zoom. More details to follow by Lodge email.

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## Whatcom Lodge Information

Greetings Whatcom Brothers to the year 2021. As previously noted in other articles we lost two members in just last month and two more, possibly a third to NPD and one brother dimited. On the other hand we had two brothers reinstate earlier this year. At the beginning of 2020 we conferred two degrees and then covid-19 came along and changed the game. Still we have several men waiting for the pandemic to subside so we can get back to business in Masonry. However it appears we’ll end the year with around 97 Master Mason members.

The Dues/Assessment collection is mostly done with 68 members having made payments, including several 50+ year members, who are exempted. We have 20 members who are fully exempt from fees, 18 are 50+ year brothers and 2 are active-duty-Military. Of those 20, 7 made donations. We have 30 non-50-year life members, and 12 of those not only paid their assessment but gave a donation too. Lastly, 3 regular members paid their dues / assessments and also added a donation. Whatcom Lodge is blessed with generous brothers.

A Happy New Year to each of you and Loved Ones!

*“Country” John Browne, Sec’y*

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
27 3rd Day of Christmas	28 4th Day of Christmas	29 5th Day of Christmas	30 6th Day of Christmas	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 7th Day of Christmas	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 8th Day of Christmas	2 9th Day of Christmas
3 10th Day of Christmas	4 11th Day of Christmas	5 12th Day of Christmas	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8	9 District Ten Mtg via Zoom 11 am to 12:30 pm.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

**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](mailto:sectreaswof@gmail.com)

WB John Brown - *President,*

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

Whatcom Lodge 151

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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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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:

John F. Browne, 9960 Stardust Lane,  
Maple Falls, WA. 98266

Ph. 360-599-3481

e-mail: [jbrowne.brf@gmail.com](mailto:jbrowne.brf@gmail.com)