



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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March 2021

Words from our Worshipful Master

Brethren,

As I'm sure you're aware, our Grand Master authorized virtual Stated Communications, with necessary limitations, starting next month. He also invited Lodge Executive Committees to submit requests for waivers if they so desired. Whatcom's elected officers, which include the Lodge's Executive Committee, considered the matter and strongly and unanimously were of the opinion that such Stated Communications were not in the best interest of the Lodge at this time. A request for a waiver was submitted to the Grand Master and he has graciously approved our request. You can read his response for yourselves. We, as a Lodge, are once again grateful to the GM for his understanding and concern for the welfare of our Lodge.

One of the hallmarks of Whatcom 151 is the nature of our personal relations. We're brothers, yes, but we're also friends and that sets us apart. These friendships are fostered by in-person, personal interactions. Physically shaking the hand of a brother, sharing a face to face conversation before dinner, enjoying a meal before our meetings, staying afterwards for coffee, a drink, or just visiting in person are things that we regularly enjoy. We do these things, because we're friends and we genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Over time, our perceptions and understandings change. I'll wager that you've heard, and probably felt, that you just heard something in our ritual that you understand in a new way or in a different light. That's certainly true for me. I've regularly attended and participated in Lodges under various grand jurisdictions and I've been an elected officer on two continents. How many times have I heard and delivered the ritual?

Something that's come into focus for me, however, is from our closing charge. We're admonished that as we leave, we'll be leaving a retreat of friendship and virtue. That word "Friendship" has taken on a deeper meaning for me in the context of Whatcom Lodge. It's personal, it's real and it's something that only face to face, real human interaction engenders. That personal quality is what makes Whatcom Lodge what it is and what makes us special in an already special fraternity. I'm sure that you, the Grand Master and I all look forward to the day when we can take a brother by the hand and greet him face to face. There really is no substitute.

In the meantime, stay safe and stay well, my brothers and my friends.

WM City John

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



Whatcom Lodge 151 meets on the 1st (special) and 3rd (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.

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.

VW Kurt Gazow

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

Notes from the Secretary

Hi brothers, spring is just around the corner and we have reason to hope for some kind of return to lodge in the not too distant future. Now that Federal, State and local governments are working together, along with large and small medical businesses we are steadily getting vaccines into arms. The rate of covid-19 infections have been dropping, the number of covid patients in hospitals is also dropping. The number of persons dying has dropped but its still unacceptably high. But, yes there is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel.

Membership

The situation at Whatcom Lodge is that even though we can't yet meet there has been a steady interest in membership with our lodge. Most of these men are finding us via our internet website. WB Ken Peck and WB Ted Schuman have been working on this situation together. WB Ted continues to reach out to these men and assure them they are not forgotten. As you know we have our own 6-step entry system, very much like the GL version. As soon as we get the ok for even a limited visitation, WB Ted will implement in-person Q&A over coffee sessions.

Reinstatement

I have received a Petition for Reinstatement from Bro. Morgan Bathory. He dropped out in 2015 for family health reasons. We had a brief conversation and I'm really excited for the day we can be in lodge to formally receive and then act on his petition. *Sec'y 'Country' Browne*



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF WASHINGTON

Chris J. Coffman
Grand Master
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University Place, WA 98467
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March 1, 2021

Whatcom Lodge No. 151
9960 Stardust Lane
Maple Falls, WA 98266-8112

Re: Waiver Request concerning Virtual Stated Communications

Very Worshipful John Browne, Secretary:

On February 11, 2021, I declared that all Lodges would be open in Ample Form for Stated Communications effective April 1, 2021. Such Communications would be over virtual platforms with some restrictions such as no ritualistic work. Further, I gave Lodges the opportunity to request that Stated Communications not be held.

I have received your request to allow your Lodge, to not hold Stated Communications over virtual platforms. While I may not agree that it is in the best interest of your Lodge or the Craft in general to not meet, I am granting your request.

The Executive Committee of Whatcom Lodge No. 151, shall continue to pay necessary expenses, including charitable contributions, of the Lodge. Further, the Secretary shall record those decisions and report all of them to the Lodge at the next Stated Communication.

I strongly encourage the Lodge to communicate with its members over whatever platform or vehicle is most efficient for your Lodge. Further, if you have inquiries about membership you should be in contact with these potential Brothers and engage them in a Six Step type process.

Remember the Past, Visualize the Future



Chris J. Coffman
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington

cc: Clinton M. Brown, Jr., Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge Elected Officers

Info from our District Deputy:

Most of you should have receive this in full in an email, as I believe VW Kurt has your email addresses. There is a lot of Masonry still to be engaged with on-line. VW Kurt's email address is on page.

Good morning Brothers,

It's an exciting week in our jurisdiction and in Freemasonry as we begin our first week of March. Later this evening we will have an opportunity to meet with our Grand Master as we make plans for upcoming Stated Communications. With a wealth of online Masonic opportunities in the days to come, from Masonic tours of our nation's capital to stories of the generosity of our Canadian brethren after the tragedy of 9/11, fun events are in store. Take a look at the events coming up in the next few weeks:

New Additions

- **TODAY: On-line Stated Meeting Waiver Deadline**
- **NEW:** Guidance on Lodge Meetings & Elections
- **NEW:** New edition of Fraternal Review available today
- Article: "A New Appreciation of Freemasonry"
- Mar 3 (5pm): Virtual Masonic Tour of D.C.
- Mar 5 (7pm): District 10 & Bellingham Bay 44 Meeting
- Mar 8 (7pm): 9/11, Gander, Newfoundland, and Freemasonry
- Mar 20 (10am): LLR - Ritual and Masonic Education (Masons Only)
- Mar 24 (12pm): The Origins and Customs of the Festive Board


Upcoming events

- **Mar 1 (7pm): Grand Master's Open Forum (Masons Only)**
- Mar 5 (6:30pm): District 20 Meeting
- Mar 6 (9am): Lodge Treasurer Training
- Mar 6 (10:30am): Temple Board Training
- Mar 6 (12pm): District 22 Meeting
- Mar 6 (3pm): District 21 Meeting


VW Kurt Gazow, DDGM for District Ten

What do Masons think and do, here are some answers.

www.FamousMasons.com




"If good manners were lost, it would be necessary for the next gentleman to rediscover them."




Brother Ralph
Waldo Emerson



www.FamousMasons.com




"If money is your hope for independence you will never have it. The only real security that a man will have in this world is a reserve of knowledge, experience, and ability."




Brother
Henry Ford

www.FamousMasons.com




"The highest of distinctions is service to others."




Brother
Albert Frederick
Arthur George,
King George VI

www.FamousMasons.com




"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."




Brother
Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe

www.FamousMasons.com




"No man, who continues to add something to the material, intellectual and moral well-being of the place in which he lives, is left long without proper reward."




Brother
Booker T.
Washington

www.FamousMasons.com



"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."



Brother
George Washington

FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	3 Bro. George Washington passed to Fellow Craft Mason, 1753	4 W#151 - Dark due to Covid-19	5 BB#44 - Dark due to Covid-19	6
7	8	9	10	11 LFI#56 - Dark due to Covid-19	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 W#151 - Dark due to Covid-19	19 BB#44 - Dark due to Covid-19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Passover begins</i>
28	29	30	31	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

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 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.

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