



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

Published by: Whatcom Lodge No. 151



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Volume 9 - Issue 5

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May 2008

Whatcom Lodge Report

The month of April has been very productive for Whatcom Lodge. On April 9th, we initiated Joel Douglas into our ranks. The degree was conferred by John Browne with the very able assistance of Whatcom and visiting brothers. This degree turned out to be an occasion when the flexibility and versatility of Masons shown brightly. Whatcom Lodge had several brothers unable to attend and we arranged for skilled replacements. Brother Jack Sprouls (Lynden #56) was set to be our SD, assisted by WB Thom Baughn to do the preparatory lecture and act as Chaplain. At the conclusion of the preparatory lecture, Bro. Jack was called away to attend to a family emergency. WB Thom continued on as the SD. VW Winton Smith, who was present to give the degree lecture, moved easily into the Chaplain's chair. The degree moved forward with hardly a bump along the way. I wish to give my thanks to the following brothers for filling other stations and places: Gary Pitcher (SW), Ron Exner (JW), Dick Decima (Mar), Monte Thompson (JD) and Bill Hall (Tyler).

At our stated meeting on April 20th it was announced that the By-Laws change, voted on at our March 20th, stated meeting, was approved by Grand Master Wayne I. Smith on 4/2/2008. Three petitions were read: two from Bro. Bill Hall and Bro. Monte Thompson for Plural Membership and one from Mr. Nathaniel Anderson for the Degrees of Masonry. We also voted Bro. Ron Exner to be a plural member of Whatcom Lodge, welcome aboard Brother Ron.

Next Stated Meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2008 // Fraternally, John Browne, Secretary

Brothers: our lodges have declined in attendance over the past number of years. This is due to a variety of circumstances. For some it is a matter of aging and not feeling up to the challenge of getting to lodge. I'm sure your lodge will help if a ride is what you need. There are others who have just gotten out of the habit, it being easier to simply sit at home. If you are one of these brothers then please read the summons below.

Fraternally, John Browne - *Editor*

The Silent Summons

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going.

After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave.

He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire.

Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

Author Unknown // Submitted by Bro. Ron Exner

Outdoor Fellowcraft Degree

San Jan Lodge #175

May 17th, 2008

Saturday, May 17 is San Juan Lodge No. 175's annual Fellow Craft Outdoor Degree and Salmon Barbecue on beautiful San Juan Island.

The degree will be conferred at the newly restored McMillen mausoleum at Roche Harbor Resort. This gathering has been active for 40 years and has been enjoyed by hundreds of Masons. The special setting, good food and brotherhood is something not to be missed.

The cost is \$15 for one or \$25 for two, includes dinner and transportation to Roche Harbor and back.



The ferry leaves Anacortes at 9:30 am to Friday Harbor. Walk the three blocks to the lodge or we will have transportation to pick you up. The salmon dinner will be served at 11 am and afterwards buses will take all the men out to Roche Harbor. Ladies may stay in town, plenty of shopping, stroll through town or wander down and visit the beautiful waterfront.

The ferry leaves Friday harbor at 4:20 pm and arrives Anacortes at 5:45 pm.

For more information

call

WM Edward Ashcraft,
San Juan Lodge #175

at

360-378-3167

or email:

etashcraft@rockisland.com

or,

check out our new website:

sanjuanmasons.com

Lynden Lodge on the move

Lynden Lodge calendar for May 2008

May 1 st	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
May 10 th	MLA hosted by Bellingham Bay in Ferndale	10 AM
May 15 th	Special Communication	7:30 PM
TBA	Presentation - Outstanding Educator at Lynden H.S.	
TBA	Presentation - Outstanding Educator at Meridian H.S.	

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

CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (CHIP)

The Child Identification Program (CHIP) is a volunteer effort to provide identification to families so that they have needed records and information on their children in the event a child becomes lost, missing or kidnapped. The program includes a video, fingerprints, a tooth impression and a DNA swab.

This worthwhile program has been undertaken by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Washington. A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit corporation has been established.

Lynden Lodge, in close cooperation with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and the Lynden Police Department, will be operating a booth at the Northwest Washington Fair during the week of August 11 - 16.

Last year, at the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe, Masons and other volunteers processed 1900 children during the 12 days of that Fair. They have successfully operated this program for several years and it continues to grow.

WB Howard Ballou, who many of you heard give an overview of CHIP at the Lynden Lodge *Hands Across the Border* dinner in March, is the Grand Lodge committeeman in charge of this program and will be with us during the entire week of the Northwest Washington Fair. At his suggestion we have set a target to process 400 children during this first year of the program.

While there is no cost to the children or their parents for participation in this program, there is a cost of \$5.00 for each child for various supplies, equipment and administration. Lynden Lodge has provided \$500 which will cover 100 children. Ferndale Lodge #264 has generously contributed \$250 to this program. All the other Lodges in District 10 have been requested to support this program. I know that other Lodges are considering to provide their support as well. All sponsors will be recognized on a sign at the booth at the Fair as well as in the media.

When the request to support this program is brought up in your Lodge, please endorse it. Thanks in advance for your help!

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



LYNDEN LODGE BIKES 4 BOOKS

Lynden Lodge delivered two new bikes to 10 Mile Creek Elementary School in the Meridian School District and two new bikes to Lynden Middle School in the Lynden School District. These bikes were delivered in February with the understanding that the schools would establish a reading program for their students. Each time a student completed a reading unit with report, their name was entered into a drawing. There was to be a drawing for boys and one for girls. Both schools have reported that the bikes have generated much interest in reading among the students and the teachers are also enthusiastic about the program. Both schools will hold their drawings in early June at an assembly and Lynden Lodge members will be present when the bikes are awarded.

The bikes were listed at \$80.00 each, but Bellingham Target gave us a discount on the price which was appreciated. Each bike winner will also receive a \$20.00 gift card from Target to cover the cost of a new bike helmet. This was the first time Lynden Lodge has tried the Bikes 4 Books program, but based on the results to date, there will be more programs in Lynden's future.

Dick Myhre SW,
Lynden Lodge No. 56

Ferndale Lodge No. 264

Brethren, Greetings from Ferndale Lodge.

Our calendar for the near future is getting quite busy! We will hold our Past Masters and Awards Night on the 28th of April beginning at 6pm with an all you can eat, no charge spaghetti dinner. Lodge will open at 7:30pm on the First Degree. All Masons are welcome!

We have another Petition for the Degrees to be read at our Stated on May 10th and we, depending on the report of the Investigating Committee, will confer a First Degree in June on a date to be determined. We will also be conferring second and third degrees on two Candidates who are already on their way to becoming full fledged Masons. We want to express our gratitude for the help we have already received in bringing our new Brothers along their Masonic Path and will be asking for your help again in the very near future.

We will hold our election of officers for the ensuing 12 months on July 14th. I would encourage our members who, in the past, have been unable to attend Lodge for various reasons, to please try to get back to attending. If you need a ride, you have brothers who are more than willing to pick you up and deliver you home. We will begin contacting our members on a regular basis so if you need a ride, please let the caller know.

In closing, if someone knows when spring is scheduled, could you let me know so I can get on with planning my garden!

Fraternally, Everett Thompson // Secretary, Ferndale Lodge 264.

*The world is moving so fast these days
that the man who says it can't be done
is generally interrupted by someone doing it.*

Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915) Writer & publisher

NW Shrine Club Hello Nobles & Ladies; on May 6, 2008 we will meet at the Jeckyl & Hyde Deli and Ale House for dinner. The menu for the evening will be: Beef Bourguignon, Mashed Red Potatoes, Vegetable (in season), Salad, Breadsticks, Coffee & Dessert. Cost is \$17.00 per person, Zem Zem @ 6:00 pm, Dinner @ 7:00 pm, Meeting @ 8:00 pm. Location is 709 W. Orchard Drive.

Call Noble Ron Fine for reservations at 360-676-5747 or E-mail me at RonFine2@aol.com. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THURSDAY MAY 1, 2008!!

This is our last dinner before the summer so let's have a big turnout. Saturday May 24, 2008 is our annual Hamburger Feed at the American Legion Post #7 after the Sea to Ski parade. Nobles and Ladies we need 18 raffle items for this event if you can help with a raffle prize let me know.

Sunshine committee has been hard at work, Lady Janett Burnett is home recovering from a stroke and doing well, Lady Lou Taylor & Noble Bill Taylor are recovering slowly but surely, Noble Warren Stewart Jr. is still at Bellingham Health Care room 33, I have not heard if Noble Gene Callen has been moved to Merrill Gardens assisted living yet or not. Noble Robert Holt is recovering slowly. It's with sadness that Lady Marge Davenport has passed. Her service was well attended. Please keep these Nobles & Ladies in your prayers.

Yours in Faith, Ron Fine, Secretary

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

Friday May 2nd stated meeting will be opened on the Entered Apprentice degree. Balloting on a candidate for the degrees and reviewing Grand Lodge Resolutions.

Saturday May 10th host the monthly MLA meeting at 10 AM at the Ferndale Masonic Center.

Friday May 16th special communication on the Entered Apprentice Degree to confer an Entered Apprentice degree.

Saturday May 17th attend the Open Air Fellowcraft degree at Friday Harbor.

Saturday May 24th walk in the Ski to Sea Parade at noon to accompany the Masonic Float.

WM Gary Pitcher

COME ONE, COME ALL

To the annual Hamburger feed, put on by the Northwest Shrine Club

When: Saturday May 24, 2008

Where: American legion Hall Post #7

Time: Starting around 1:30 p.m.

Raffle prizes, Action items, Fun for All!!!



KING'S QUOTE'S

What we love, we shall grow to resemble.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) Theologian

MLA Report On Saturday, April 19th, the Masonic Leadership Association held its meeting at San Juan Lodge #175 in Friday Harbor. WB Ed Ashcraft and the San Juan brothers were excellent hosts (they always are). They put on a great feed for lunch after which the visiting brethren caught the 1:30 ferry back to Anacortes. We thank them for their hospitality!

Bro. Jerry Mason presented an overview of the Child Identification Program (CHIP). Lynden Lodge #56, in conjunction with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and the Lynden Police Department, will process an estimated 400 children at the Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden in August. CHIP is endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Washington and has been very successful throughout the state.

The topics discussed at this meeting were:

Masonic Education Council. The MEC is well on the way to obtaining tax-exempt status. An EIN has been obtained and an application for 501(c)(3) status is being prepared. According to the filing instructions, the MEC will be able to function as a tax-exempt organization while approval of the application is pending.

Declining membership. One of the tools that can be used to develop interest in Masonry is advertising. Mount Zion Lodge #120 in Chilliwack recently placed two advertisements in their local newspaper which resulted in 9 petitions for the degrees and 4 petitions for affiliation. These ads were approved by the Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon. These Canadian ad slicks were obtained and sent to our Grand Secretary who presented them to Grand Master Wayne I. Smith for approval. He has given his approval in principal but requested that the ads be resubmitted in a U.S. format. Resubmission has been made and the Grand Master's approval should be forthcoming soon. The unapproved ad slicks were distributed at the meeting so that everyone could see the content and format.

Bro. George Washington's portrait in our public schools. Many of us remember when Bro. Washington's portrait hung in every classroom. This program is sanctioned by Grand Lodge. Lodges in District 10 as a group are purchasing portraits in order to get a significantly reduced price. The portraits will hang in the foyer or some other well-traveled area of each school. If your Lodge has not yet made the decision to participate in this worthwhile program, please do so soon as the order will be placed with the George Washington Memorial group sometime in May.

Proficiency in Lodge Management. The requirement for each incoming Worshipful Master to be proficient before he will be installed will be on the ballot at Grand Lodge in June. This motion was defeated last year. Grand Lodge is attempting to maintain a consistent standard for proficiency by the Master. Many Lodges are utilizing this program to enhance their proficiency regardless of whether or not this motion passes in Grand Lodge. This program is available on the Grand Lodge web site.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included: the seminar for the District 10 calendar on April 26th and the comparison of actual revenues and expenses to the MLA budget for the first quarter of 2008.

Announcements were made regarding upcoming events. In particular, see the front page Ad for the Annual Outdoor Fellowcraft Degree on Saturday, May 17th, 2008

The lucky winner of the door prize, of a vehicular ferry ticket from Anacortes to Friday Harbor and return, was Brother Jerry Mason.

Once again the meeting lasted just an hour and thirty minutes. Brothers, this is how Masons work!!!

The next MLA meeting will be on Saturday, ***May 10*** at 10 AM. It will NOT be held at the Maplewood Masonic Center as usual due to a scheduling conflict. Instead, we'll be meeting at the ***Ferndale Masonic Center.*** Bellingham Bay # 44 is the host Lodge. Oh, and there will be a ***Door Prize!!***

Your participation in these meetings is essential to the growth of Masonry in District #10. We would like you to be with us. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there.

Fraternally,
Dick Decima



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
<p>The human mind is like a parachute, It only works when open! Submitted by Bro. Ted McQuiston</p>				<p>1 L # 56 stated 7:30, OV - D of GM (FMC) Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7 p. (BMC)</p>	<p>2 BB # 44 stated 7:30 p (SRH)</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5 Hesperus Com- mandery No. 8 at din 6:30, meet 7:30 p. (BMC) F-OES #223 7:30 p.</p>	<p>6 ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.</p>	<p>7 SJ # 175 stated 7:30 p. (FHMC) V-Bellingham Scottish Rite: D-6:30; M_7:30</p>	<p>8 Bethel # 25 JDI, 7 p. (BMC)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 MFLA hosted by BB #44 10 am at the Ferndale Masonic Ctr.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12 F #264 stated 7:30 p. Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM at (BMC) din 6:30, meet 7:30 p.</p>	<p>13 F # 73 stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)</p>	<p>14 NV # 105 stated 7:30 p. (NMC)</p>	<p>15 W 151-stated lodge opens 6:30 pm. L # 56 Spl. Third Deg. at 7:30 pm.</p>	<p>16 BB 44 Spl. 7:30 p. EA Degree is planned (SRH)</p>	<p>17 Outdoor FC Deg, Roche Harbor Bethel #25 holds their Installation of Officers at 7 p. at (BMC) Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19 Bellingham Chap Royal Arch (din 6:30, meet 7:30 (BMC) F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)</p>	<p>20 Kl # 186-stated 7:30 p. ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC) NWSC Brd Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 W 151 - Ritual & Proficiency at 6 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Bethel #25 JDI, 7 p. (BMC) Ski to Sea Parade at 12 noon - walk with the Ma- sonic Float.</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day (observed)</p>	<p>27 F # 73-Spl. Com 7:30 p. (BMC)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day (for real)</p>	<p>31</p>

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Brother Henry Ford Submitted by WB Dick Decima

Next Highway Clean Up - Report

Saturday, April 5 was a great day for a Masonic highway clean up! We had a fine team of 9 Masons, the rain never showed, the highway roadside was still fairly clean from our thorough cleaning last month and we were launched with a satisfying Jobie breakfast under our belts, thanks to the B&B chefs Baughn & Brady. It took a little over an hour to get the job done, even though we had a little confusion in the ranks on what it means to "leap frog" clean up teams. Practice makes perfect. Next time - in June, date TBA - we will be awesome!

The great crew was composed of Ken Gass, Frank Morrow, Gary Pitcher & Byron Swedberg of 44; Dick Decima & Dick Myhre of 56; Gabe Rodriguez of 73; and Glenn Hutchings & Tim Johnson of 151.

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 20th day of each month, to:

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