



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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May 2021

Yeh!!! Whatcom Brothers--May 6th

First In-person meeting!

Brethren,

I'm sure that you all know by now that the Grand Master has authorized resumption of in-person Lodge meetings, albeit with strict requirements and limitations. I think we'd all agree that at this point, we'll take what we can get and make the most of it.

Grand Lodge has determined that certain procedures are necessary for us to hold these meetings and we're going to do everything necessary to comply. Failure to do so could be considered a Masonic Offense and may subject both the officers and the Lodge to Masonic discipline. That's how seriously Grand Lodge is taking all of this. The specifics are detailed in the Grand Master's communication of March 26th and if you haven't seen it, you should be able to find it on the Grand Lodge website. Just as a quick recap, here are some of the more immediate items for everyone:

- Each brother must make his own determination whether it is advisable to attend Lodge in person; -- Only members of the Lodge, the Deputy of the Grand Master for the Lodge's District, and the elected Grand Lodge officers will be allowed to attend. No other visitors will be allowed;
- A brother will not be allowed to attend if he has COVID-19, is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, has been in close contact with someone who has, or has traveled outside of the US in the last 14 days;
- No brother shall enter the Lodge building or attend in-person meetings if he cannot self-certify that these conditions or symptoms do not exist.

We are not permitted to serve meals, beverages or refreshments. Social distancing (six feet of separation) will be maintained and physical contact is to be avoided. Everyone who enters the building must immediately either wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or apply hand sanitizer. Facial coverings over nose and mouth must be worn at all times.

Continued top of page 2

Sec'y John Browne...contact info page 4 , bottom right hand corner



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

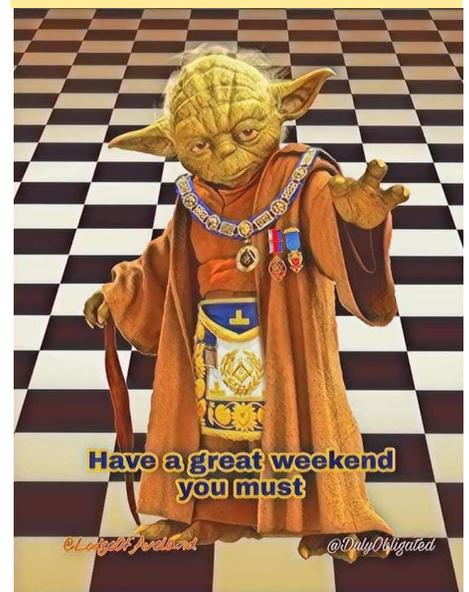
Whatcom Lodge emphasizes Masonic heritage and ritual proficiency. We are proud to support our Masonic Youth organizations and encourage members to practice charity outside the lodge. It is our intention to promote individuals to build their own strong moral and spiritual temples.



Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

- May 7th Bellingham Bay - zoom
- May 13th Lynden/Ferndale Int. Lodge
- May 20th Whatcom Lodge - meeting at 6:30 pm.

May the 4th Be with You!!



Modifications to the ritual will be necessary, so there will be no collection of the pass and there will be no escorting of brothers. Lodge paraphernalia will be kept to an absolute minimum. All touch points must be disinfected prior to and after the meeting and this includes loaner aprons which must be laundered before and after every meeting. That will be the responsibility of each brother using those aprons. Consequently, all officers and all brothers are strongly encouraged to bring and use their personal white leather, PM or PDDGM aprons as appropriate. There are other requirements to be met and the Lodge officers are making arrangements to do so. I've asked our Junior Warden, WB Craig, to be our designated COVID-19 Program Supervisor and he should be able to answer any other specific questions that you might have.

As you've probably guessed, this is currently a "work in progress" and we'll make necessary adjustments as we go along. It's going to take all of us working together to get all of this done and I'm confident that we're all going to pitch in and do what needs to be done. We're all counting on each other.

So, I'll look forward to seeing you in Lodge in May, even if it is at an appropriate social distance. Until then, stay well and stay safe.

WM 'City' John

Endowed Whatcom County

Masonic Scholar Citizen Scholarship

Brethren, for 54 years members of the Whatcom County Masonic Lodges supported the local version of the Grand Lodge Public School Recognition Program, our Masonic Scholar Citizen Award Program directed by the non-profit Masonic Education Council (MEC). In recognition of the long-time support of Whatcom County's Freemasons, the board of the MEC - Charles Cunningham (44), Ken Gass (44), Travis Graddon (44), Howard Hanna (56), Glenn Hutching, (44, 151), Gary Pitcher (44, 151), and Winton Smith (44, 151) - sends its sincere thanks and formally announces the plan for continuing this fine local scholarship program for high school students in perpetuity.

As of December 31, 2020, the non-profit MEC of Whatcom County was dissolved and all funds held in its accounts were transferred to a similar community non-profit scholarship program, the Whatcom County Dollars for Scholars under the administrative umbrella of the Whatcom Community Foundation. The total of \$96,188, less \$18,200 set aside to pay the committed scholarships for our 2019 and 2020 junior winners from all nine county public high schools, provides an endowed fund total of \$77,988 for a perpetual Masonic Scholar Citizen Scholarship. This endowed fund will be professionally administered to initially support two post-secondary scholarships annually for graduating high school seniors – for one boy and one girl – attending any one of the county's public high schools.

These Masonic scholarships will be "ours" and they will be unique in several ways. First by being open to students from any Whatcom County high school and second by having an application created and maintained by members of our fraternity. Third, Masons may volunteer to judge the applications as part of the annual judging teams overseen by Whatcom Dollars for Scholars, using a scoring key set by the fraternity. Fourth, as the endowment grows through judicious professional management, Masons will be able to direct how its annual award amounts will grow in size and number. Masons wishing to be involved in any of these ways may contact me, Ken Gass, at kgass@gmail.com or 360-393-2612.

Last, but not the least, any Mason may take personal action to increase the endowment of our scholarship fund by making an annual contribution or a bequest directed to the fund. This you may do either online via this unique link to the fund, https://wcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=2756, or by check made payable to Whatcom Community Foundation, with "Masonic Scholar-Citizen Scholarship" in the memo line and mailed to the WCF address, 1500 Cornwall Ave #202, Bellingham, WA 98225. One dedicated and enterprising MEC supporter has designated donations from his AmazonSmile purchases go to our endowed scholarship fund. To set up a similar automatic donation plan or to make a bequest to the endowed scholarship fund, please contact the WCF Gifts & Grants Administrator, Missy Belles, at mbelles@whatcomcf.org, or (360) 671-6463.

Ken Gass, for the MEC

WHATCOM LODGE ~ Secretary Report:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I get to report that we are meeting this month of May. What a fun way to spring into Spring.

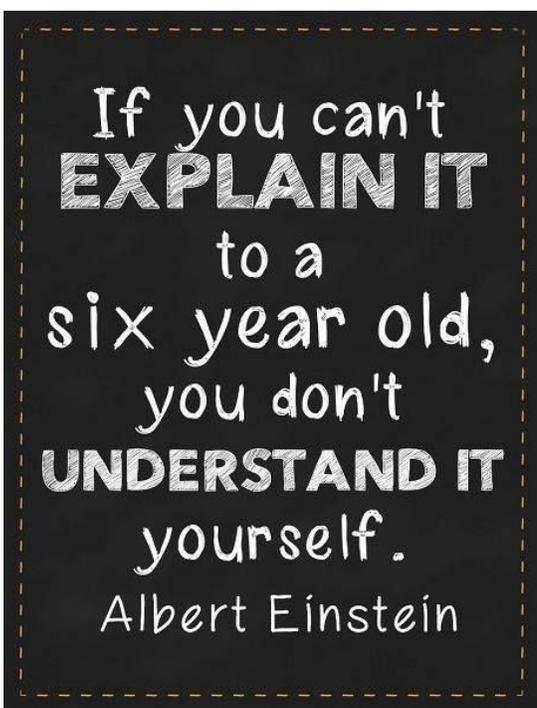
Yes, there will be some initial limitations as noted in the WM's article on page one. We're not sure just when we'll be able to get back to meals and/or basic refreshments. Once our population gets closer to 85% vaccinated, so we reach that goal of "herd immunity", then normal can return. My wife Sue and I got our covid-10 vaccination shots in April and it went just fine; sore arms like a flu shot and a little tired. But now we are clear to visit family and we're much less a risk for friends and the public at large. Both the former and current Presidents and vice Presidents and their spouses got vaccinated and are doing fine, so it is sort of a patriotic action one can take to help our country get back near normal.

During the past year your elected, appointed and most active members have stayed in touch and worked to kept our Lodge functioning, that is keeping afloat by treading water. WB Ted Schuman has been keeping in touch with prospective new members. WB Ken Peck has been keeping our website up to date and harassing fish whenever he can, WB Craig Bruner has frequently stopped in at the Hall to check on it, plus he stayed in shape skiing, WB Terrell Goertz has been minding our financial investments and reports that we are in good shape. I have been working with WM 'City' John and all the elected officers regarding the sale of the BMC (Bellingham Masonic Center) and with the potential tax implications it means for our 2020 Tax Return. We are having a professional Tax Accounting firm prepare our return; urged by our Grand Lodge and common sense.

Since we were unable to meet after the March 5th, 2020 Special Communication there have been only a few expenses: attorney fees related to the BMC sale, record keeping fees/expenses, end of year fee to Grand Lodge and monthly rent were the major ones. The up-coming Grand Lodge Annual Communication will be held in Wenatchee this year, in June. It will be strictly limited on attendance but Whatcom Lodge will be represented. If all goes well with vaccinating the public and the brotherhood, we may very likely return to a normal Annual Communication format for 2022; lets hope so.

Stated Communication: on Thursday, May 20th we have our first in-person business meeting since February 20th, 2020. Again, there will be no before meeting meal or refreshment, the lodge will begin to open at 6:30 pm and we'll need to social distance some, but, we will get to be in the same room together. JW Craig Bruner is the person to contact if you have questions or concerns; he is our lodge health & safety officer.

"Country' John ~ Sec'y 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
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4 <i>Stars War Day!</i>	5	6	7 Bellingham Bay Stated mtg.—zoom	8
9 <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13 Lynden/Ferndale stated mtg	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Whatcom stated mtg—no before mtg meal, opening at 6:30 pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	1	2	3	4	5

**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 publica-
tion. 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