



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

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February 2024

Special Communication held on Thursday, January 4th

Lodge was opened on the 2nd Degree at 6:30 P.M. by WM Terrell Goertz who said that the purpose of this Special Communication was to share fraternalism.

Visitors: WM Edmond Lin, Bro. Anthony Gonzales and Bro. Marvin Zara of Lynden/Ferndale Int #56 were given a hearty welcome.

Tyler: The Tyler was invited to Tile the outer door and Tyle from the doorway of the Lodge room.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meetings were not read, having been previously approved.

Communications: This years Lodge Leadership Retreat will be taking place March 15th -17th, 2024 in Wenatchee, WA. For more information and to register, please go to the Grand Lodge website under News/Events, Leadership Retreat or you can go directly to <https://freemason-wa.org/leadership-retreat/Registration> will be open from January 1st to February 21st, 2024. Space is limited so please register early. Look forward to seeing you in March.

Finance Report: The WECU checking account is at \$41,824.95 as of 2:00 pm today and our Edward Jones Investment portfolio showed an amount of \$937,157.11 as of today, compared to \$935,143.13 on 12/20/2023 at 2:05 pm today.

Donation Jar: The food donation jar contained \$276.00.

Masonic Education: VW Terrell discussed the stock market history vs. future performance.

Bro. Frank Myers read from letter written by his wife's uncle; a Navy man present on the Battleship Oklahoma when Peral Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7th, 1941. It was a look of true heroism amidst the brutality of war.

Funeral Service: WB Ken Peck noted that he had been contacted a person whose father, a Mason, had recently passed he inquired about a Masonic Funeral Service. VW Terrell, WB Ken and Sec'y John are looking into the details.

WM Terrell raised the topic of requests for Charity generally and WB Ted noted that a Charity Committee had been formed but has not been active. Terrell said that he and the Wardens would review this matter.

Announcements: An opportunity for announcements was provided... District Ten Meeting Saturday, January 20th... arrive at 10:30. Suite and tie. Parking will be available at the Dentist building a half block to the East of the Scottish Rite Temple.

WB Tim Springstead reported on the Installation of officers for the Nile Shrine Temple which takes place on January 13th, at the Montlake Temple, in Montlake, Seattle.

WB Ken Peck reminded brothers that our sister lodge, Prince David No. 101 is hosting it's annual Robbie Burns Night on Tuesday.

WB Ted Schuman reminded brothers that the 3rd Tuesday Rusty Wagon lunch is on January 16th at 11:30 am.

Sickness and relief: WB Ted reported that our Sec'y was missing due to back pain, keeping him at home.

DDGM: VW Craig Bruner discussed the GL *Six Supports Program*, then gave an update the health of Bro. Chris Bonner. He may be headed for another surgery.

The purpose for which this Special Communication having been completed, Lodge was closed in Due Form by WM Terrell Goertz at **8:08 P.M.** / P. & H. P.

PS Note: There were **19** W-151 brothers, **3** visitor in attendance and **1** guest for dinner.

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

- Feb 2nd Bellingham Bay - 7 pm
- Feb 8th Lynden/Ferndale Int. Lodge opens at 7 pm.
- Feb 15th Whatcom Lodge - meeting opens at 6:30 pm.



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.

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January Stated Communication...Thursday, January 18st, 2023

Our Stated Communication for 1/18/2024 was cancelled by WM Terrell Goertz due to inclement weather.



Report of Whatcom Lodge Audit Committee for **Sept. 30, 2023**

Date of Audit: Jan. 16, 2024

Committee: WB Ted Schuman, VW John Browne and WB John Brown

Audit began at 12:20 p.m., and items audited were as follows:

- 1. Income Items** – 3 randomly selected checkbook deposit entries were compared with the appropriate bank statements – no discrepancies were found.
Items selected for review were:

Deposit - \$282.00 to WECU, dtd. 8-18-23, Comprised of: Food Jar (\$229) and partial dues payment from Scott Walsh (\$53)

Deposit - \$64.00 to WECU, dtd. 6-20-23, Comprised of: Dues - Boatright

Deposit - \$295.00 to WECU, dtd. 4-24-23, Comprised of: Food Jar

- 2. Expense Items** – 3 randomly chosen checks were compared with the warrants authorizing them; all data confirmed to be accurate. Items selected for review were:

Check # 1585 payable to Scottish Rite/rent in the amount of \$350.00, Dated 1-31-23, authorized by warrant # 3408.

Check # 1603 payable to Ken Peck in the amount of \$ 137.58, Dated 3-22-23, authorized by warrant # 3424.

Check # 1564 payable to Monte Thompson in the amount of \$ 80.02, Dated 10-26-22, authorized by warrant # 3385.

- 3. Dues Receipts** – Two receipts were reviewed; issued to Bros. Brainard and Kappele.

These were compared with the corresponding deposits; they were correct in all respects, as shown below.

a. Bro. Paul Brainard – ck. # 8690 for \$ 128.00 – deposited 12/5/22.

b. Bro. Bill Kappele – ck. # 4098 for \$ 128.00 – deposited 11/15/22.

- 4. Balance Sheet** – both bank and investment Statements were reviewed with the following results:

	Masonic year end 9/30/23	Prior Masonic Year 9/30/22
a. Checking Account Balance:	\$ 32,232.80	\$ 25,414.89
b. Savings Account Balance :	5.00	5.00
c. Edward Jones Investments:	<u>874,560.22</u>	<u>849,378.89</u>
Total Liquid Assets:	\$ 906,798.02	\$ 874,798.78

- 5. Prior Audit Review** – There were no carryover notes from the previous audit.

- 6. Form 990** – It was noted that the annual IRS Form 990 was filed by the secretary in a timely fashion on 4/27/23.

There being no further business the committee adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Fraternally submitted, WB Ted Schuman, Audit Chair

Attest:

Worshipful Master

Note...Due to inclement weather cancelling our Stated Communication this Report was unable to be presented in Lodge for the Worshipful Master's signature and members review. It is presented here for membership review and will be included in our *End of Year Report*, to be compliant.
VW John Browne, Sec'y of Whatcom Lodge 151

The *District Ten Annual Meeting* took place on Saturday morning January 20th. It was very well attended by the three Country Lodges, Grand Lodge Officers and guests. Grand Master MW Steve Martin, DGM RW James Norton Jr. and DDGM VW Criag Bruner presented the Grand Master's Achievement Award to Bro. *David Gehrcke* of Bellingham Bay Lodge No. 44 for his outstanding service to our Masonic Youth Groups and Masonry in general. A very well deserved honor!!


IN MEMORIAM

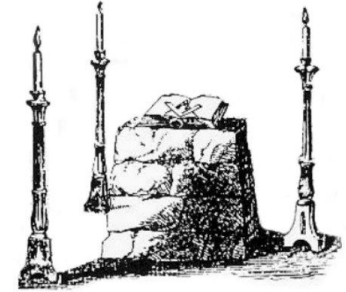
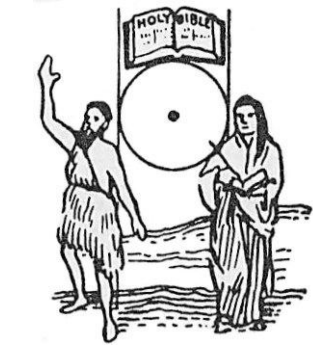
WB Frank A. Morrow, PM of Bellingham Bay in our centennial year 1984, died peacefully in his Bellingham home in the early morning hours of January 21. He turned 91 in December of last year. Frank was a retired attorney and WWU professor who served as the Whatcom County Juvenile Court Commissioner. He also served our Grand Lodge on the Jurisprudence Committee for many years.

Frank is survived by his wife Elizabeth, "Liz," whom he met in college in Greencastle, IN, and three adult children, all of whom were with him in his last weeks and days while under hospice care. For the past decade or two Frank and Liz spent half the year in Honolulu, HI, where they enjoyed the excellent public transit system that allowed him to attend the local Ko'olau Lodge F. & A.M. of Hawaii (read the brief and colorful history of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii here, <https://gwmemorial.org/blogs/gl-of-the-month/grand-lodge-of-hawaii>).

2023 was a difficult year for Frank and Liz as Frank had increasing difficulty walking and talking. In August of 2023, after developing aphasia, the inability to speak, an inoperable brain tumor was discovered. A course of radiation therapy to shrink the tumor and decrease his symptoms was ineffective. According to Liz, Frank will be cremated, and a celebration of his life will be held in Bellingham "when the weather warms up." Messages may be sent to Liz at their home address, 1467 Glencove Lane, Bellingham 98229.

On a personal note, WB Frank's connection to my hometown of Greencastle, IN, and his Masonic ring are the proximate reasons for me becoming a Mason, despite years of attending Masonic dinners with my parents and grandparents. On recognizing his square and compasses ring and discovering he had attended my father's lodge while in college, I asked the key question which led to petitioning Bellingham Bay #44 in 1984 and Frank's determination that I would be Raised during his service in the East that centennial year. Fraternaly,

 Ken Gass, PM
Bellingham Bay Lodge #44



Greetings Brother Nobles,

The first month of the new year has passed, have you done anything yet towards the betterment of mankind? Considering the weather of the past two weeks I have not done much, sadly. However our Shrine Club did travel to Nile in Mountlake Terrace for their Installation of Nile officers for 2024 and ours were installed as well. That being said, I will be reinstalled at our February meeting as I was not properly installed by a 2024 officer. The next meeting of The Northwest Shrine Club will be February 6th at the usual place and time. We will have in attendance Nobles from Nile who will let us know what is happening in the near future concerning our philanthropy. PNSA is coming later this month!

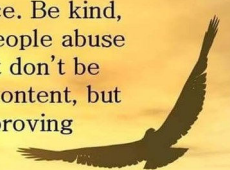
Also, an item to keep in the back of your mind; National is in Reno, Nevada this year. Judi and I are considering a trip south, maybe some of you will also consider going.

Remember The reason we joined the Shrine and the Hospitals that serve our children, yes; the children we serve at our hospitals are our children. They will always be Shriner's Kids!



Yours in the Faith,
George Edwards,
President
Northwest Shrine Club

Life...
is about balance. Be kind,
but don't let people abuse
you. Trust, but don't be
deceived. Be content, but
never stop improving
yourself.



lessonslearnedinlife.com

Bellingham Bay 44 & Whatcom 151 meet at the - Scottish Rite Hall
 Lynden/Ferndale Int 56 meets at the - Ferndale Masonic Center

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	31	1 W 151 spl Comm EA Degree, Dinner at 5:30 pm, mtg at 6:30 p	2 BB # 44 State Comm at 7 pm <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3
4	5 Hesperus Com-mandry #8 at 7:30pm	6 NWSC dinner at Rustlers in Lynden at 6 pm.	7 Scottish Rite V of B At 7 pm	8 Lyn/Frn Int # 56 at 7 pm	9	10 <i>Lunar New Year</i>
11	12	13	14 Bellingham Coun-cil #16 R&SM at 7:30 pm <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 W 151 Stated, dinner at 5:30 pm mtg at 6:30 pm. BB #44 plans to visit as their Special.	16 BB 44 visits W-151 on the 19th.	17 District Ten Mtg 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. At the Scottish Rite Temple.
18	19 <i>President's Day</i>	20 Masonic Lunch at Rusty Wagon at 11:30 am.	21	22	23	24
25	26 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch at 7:30 pm. Moving to Ana-cortes in March.	27	28	29	1	2

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



**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: sectreswof@gmail.com

WB John Brown - *President*,
 VW Craig Bruner - *Vice President*
 360-319-7163