



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

Published by: Whatcom Lodge No. 151...Chartered in 1906



Volume 26- Issue 3

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March 2026

Lodge was opened on the 2nd Degree at 6:30 P.M. by SW Jeff Roskelley who said that the purpose of this Special Communication was to confer the FC Degree on Bro. Daniel Lester-Liska

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

Visitors: WB Anthony Gonzales, WB Edmon Lim, WB Peter Balonggay all from LFI#56, VW David Gehrcke DDGM, WB Ken Gass and Bro. Simon Evans both of BB#44. All given a hearty welcome.

Mar 6th Bellingham Bay - 7 pm
Mar 12th Lynden/Ferndale Int. - 7 pm
Mar 19th Whatcom Lodge—Dinner at 5:30 pm—meeting opens at 6:30 pm.

Tyler: Was invited to Tyle from within.

Degree: WM Joe asked the brothers to take their positions for the Fellowcraft Degree.

Conferring Master....Luke Sullateskee, *SD*.... Thom Baughn

Apron SW Bruce Smith, *Working tools*.... Donald Higerson

Middle Chamber LectureSW Jeffery Roskelley, *Charge*....Sec'y John Browne

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting was not read, having been previously approved, but were available at the Sec'y desk for perusal if desired.

Communications: Note from Ferndale Food Bank was presented.

Finance Report: Secretary Browne gave a finance report which included the check book balance and the current market value of our investment portfolio at Edward Jones.

Food Payment Jar: The cash amount total, collected in the Food Payment Jar, was announced to the membership present.

Masonic Youth: WB Thom Baughn gave his usual fine report.

Announcements: The next Masonic Luncheon is on Tuesday, February 17th, 11.30 am at the Rusty Wagon.

We will be conferring the EA Degree on Mr. Joe Wargo at our February 19th Stated Communication.

On Thursday, March 5th, at our Special Communication we will confer the EA Degree on Mr. Todd Sharp.

Sickness & relief: VW Terrell Goertz reported that WB Dave Nelson passed to the Celestial Lodge above on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026. Sec'y Browne read *Psalm 23* and then a *Moment of Silence* for WB David.

DDGM: VW David Gehrcke gave brief comments and congratulated Whatcom Lodge on a well done degree.

The purpose for which this Special Communication having been completed, Lodge was closed in Due Form by SW Jeff Roskelley at **8:20 P.M.** / P. & H. P.

PS Note: There were **13** W-151 brothers in attendance, **7** visitors and **2** guests for dinner



This very cool patch is available by contacting Bro. Kelly Berg. He ordered a number of them. If you are interested here is Kelly's contact information: 360-319-9528 email = KellyBergMusic@gmail.com
This patch measures 3 inches X 3 inches.



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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The Stated Communication was held on Thursday February 19th.

Lodge was opened on the 1st Degree at 6:30 P.M. by WM Joe Hayes who said that the purpose of this Stated Communication was to conduct the business of the Lodge and confer the EA Degree on Mr. Joe Wargo.

Visitors: RW Mario Bulawit, RW Lawrence Balonggay. From LFI#56. They extended a hearty welcome>

The Tyler was invited to tyle from with the Lodge room

Minutes: The minutes of the previous communication having been approved were not Read but were available at the Secretary's desk for anyone who wished to read them.

Communications: MSA Short Talk and Notes Letters from Grand Lodge

Degree: WM Joe Hayes had the degree team take it's positions: Conferral JW Luke Sullateskee
Apron Lecture Thom Baughn....Working Tools Don Higgeson

Lecture & Charge: M Lecture - Winton Smith, Charge - John Browne,

After the degree our new EA Bro Joe Wargo was escorted west of the Altar where he was congratulated by the assembled Brothers. After congratulations of officers returned to their stations and places.

Food payment Jar: the amount collected was announced to the members present.

Finance Report: A finance report was given to the assembled members based on numbers Sec'y Browne obtained earlier this same day.

Bills: Two bills were described and it was moved by Don Higgeson, 2nd by Ted Schuman to pay the Bills, the motion was *approved*.

Pre authorized: The monthly on-going bills were provided to those present, the bills having ben previously approved.

Business: WB Fran Myers noted that a number of years ago we failed to provide a Past Master's apron and case to WB Boyd McEwen. It was moved by Frank Myers and 2nd by Ted Schuman to make that purchase now, the motion was *approved*.

Dimit: Sec'y Browne advised that he'd received a request for a Dimit from VW Philip Wade who is presently in Good Standing. The Dimit will be honored if no one present knows of a valid reason to deny the request. No one did.

Youth Report: WB Thom Baughn gave his usual excellent report on our Masonic Youth Groups. WB Boyd McEwen's daughter recently joined Evergreen Assembly #17 Rainbow for Girls.

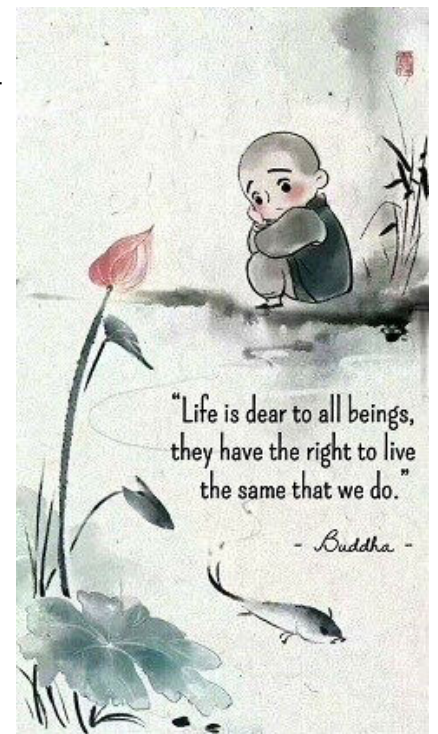
Announcements: An opportunity for announcements was provided. We have our next EA Degree on Thursday March 5th for Mr. Todd Sharp.

Masonic luncheon: The last Tuesday Rusty Wagon lunch was Feb 17th and we had 13 in attendance. The next luncheon is on Tuesday March 17th and the Rusty Wagon, we gather at 11.30 am.

A Lodge thank you: A round of applause was given to WB Paul Brainard for the beautiful wooden stand he constructed for the Low & High Noon Bell.

The purpose for which this Stated Communication having been completed, Lodge was closed in Due Form by WM Joe Hayes at 8:50 P.M. / P. & H. P.

Attendance: 17 Members and 3 Visitors 1 guest for dinner



Hi VWB Country,

I hope that you and Sue are adapting to all of this warm weather/ cold weather/ rain, (supposed) drought and impending time change. Oh yeah, don't forget the change of regime in Iran, which would suggest a bit of extra caution for us, especially since we're so close to an international border. I can't say that I'm sorry to see Khamenei leaving the world stage, but some elements of the old regime may be a bit testy about the whole thing.

I'm still moving along with the healing program, but it's definitely a work in progress. The latest wrinkle was a visit to the nice urologist a week ago Friday for a voiding test and the removal of the catheter (after only 11 months). The urologist's office said that the catheter could be permanently removed, so we smiled, they smiled, we went home and by about seven thirty that night, I was in the ER begging to have another catheter re-inserted. My opinion of the urologist is that I wouldn't trust him to work at a car wash. My GP finally had about enough and he said that he was giving me a referral to a competent urologist in Seattle. Stay tuned. Oh, my GP also gave me a referral to a physical therapist to possibly help with healing the compression fracture in my back. So much fun...

March is a month of renewal-time when light steadily overcomes darkness and new growth begins to emerge. It reminds us that progress, both in nature and in Masonry, comes through patience, preparation, and purposeful labor.

This month holds deep significance in our Masonic history. On March 6, 1775 in Boston, Prince Hall Masonry was founded. The legacy of Prince Hall and his brethren continues to remind us that Masonry is at its strongest when its whole in spirit and steadfast in its principles.


We also remember that on March 3, 1753, George Washington was advanced to the degree of Fellowcraft. His advancement serves as a reminder that leadership is built through discipline, self-improvement, and a commitment to moral growth.

As we move forward this month, let us reflect on how we continue that legacy, and our service to one another.


Fraternally, Manny Juarez
 Worshipful Master, Philipstown Lodge 236

A word from the Secretary: "No one could tell me where my soul might be; I searched for God but He eluded me; I sought my brother and found all three" --
Ernest Howard Crosby


So, there you are with that. For now, I'm off to a couple of little chores and then, hopefully, a nice little nap. It's the little things in life... Hi to Sue.
 City John




Lynden/Ferndale International Lodge No. 56, F. & A. M., Established 1889
 The northernmost Lodge of Freemasons in the contiguous 48 states.



Cordially invites you to
Hands Across the Border
 Honoring Deputy Grand Masters



RW Ron Cawthra
 Deputy Grand Master
 A.F. & A.M. of B.C. & Yukon



RW Chris Haynes
 Deputy Grand Master
 F. & A.M. of Washington

SPRING 2026 EVENT
Thursday, March 12, 2026
 Arrival: 5:00 pm
 Dinner: 5:30 pm
 Tyled Meeting: 7:00 pm

Please make a reservation to ensure we have enough food by sending an email to lfil56secretary@gmail.com.

"Hosted" by Lynden/Ferndale International Lodge No. 56 is not just an expression as the evening will be free of charge to all participants

live in the
 sunshine.
 swim in
 the sea.
 drink the
 wild air.
 -emerson

"It's impossible,"
 said pride.
 "It's risky,"
 said experience.
 "It's pointless,"
 said reason.
 "Give it a try,"
 whispered the heart.



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
1	2	3 NWSC dinner at Rustlers in Lynden at 6 pm.	4 Scottish Rite V of B At 7 pm	5 W 151 Spl. Dinner at 5:30, Lodge at 6:30 We have an EA Degree this evening for Mr Todd Sharp	6 BB# 44 at 7PM	7
8	9	10	11 Bellingham Council #16 R&SM at 7:30 pm	12 Lyn/Frn Int # 56 at 7 PM Hands Across the Border , <u>Tyled Mtg.</u>	13	14
15	16	17 Masonic Lunch at Rusty Wagon at 11:30 am. <i>St Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 W 151 Stated, dinner at 5:30 pm mtg at 6:30 pm.	20 BB# 44 at 7 PM	21
22	23 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch Dinner at 6:30 lodge at 7:30 pm. In Sedro Woolley	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

Widows & Orphans Fund for District No. 10

If you would like to know more about the W & O Fund contact one of the officers listed below.

WB Scott Walsh - *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Phone: 925-212-4243,
 Email: Scott43walsh@gmail.com

WB Chris Bonner- *President*,
 360-927-6482
 Bro. Luke Sullateskee- *Vice President*
 360- 739-3375