



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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February 2012



Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

- Feb 1st San Juan Lodge - 7:30 pm
- Feb 2nd Lynden Lodge - 7:30 pm
- Feb 3rd Bellingham Bay - 7:30 pm
- Feb 8th Nooksack Valley Ldg - 6 pm
- Feb 13th Ferndale Lodge - 7:30 pm
- Feb 14th Fairhaven Lodge - 7 pm
- Feb 16th Whatcom Lodge - dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:30 pm.

Nooksack Valley Lodge No. 105

Brothers, we're about to return to Light in Masonry. Our next Stated Meeting is Wednesday, February 15th, 6 pm.

The keystone of Nooksack Lodge is Family Fellowship, wives, sons & daughters and friends are welcome to our stated meeting potluck dinners.

Our format:

We open lodge at 6 pm, go to refreshment and then enjoy a fine "potluck" dinner with our Ladies and guests. Labor is resumed at 7 pm, to take care of lodge business. We then close Lodge and retire for dessert.

Nooksack Lodge currently draws its member Masons from British Columbia, Whatcom and Snohomish Counties, and we greatly enjoy our diversity and the homey atmosphere of old lodge hall, which we have been slowly renovating.

The Welcome Mat is always out, so please feel free to come and check us out. We're confident you'll actually enjoy yourself.

WM Tim Springstead

Whatcom Lodge Report

Stated Meeting - Our stated meeting of January 19th, 2012 was cancelled due to inclement weather. (We hope to see you on Thursday, February 16th, 2012).

Special Communication - Our January 'Special' was held on the 5th and 24 Master Masons attended to witness Bro. Wade Balkman receive his MM Degree.

Proficiency: Prior to the degree, Bro. Balkman recited his FC Posting Lecture, it was very well done and it was obvious he had worked hard on it.

Degree: WM Monte Thompson conferred the MM Degree on Bro. Wade Balkman, with Bro. Tony Anton as SD, Chap. James McCullough recited the *circumambulation* part and Bro. Tony Anton presented the *Working Tools*. Brothers Glenn Hutchings and Jesse Petersen delivered the *Master's Lecture* and WB Claude Weadon, WM of Ferndale Lodge No. 264, gave the *Charge*.

Visitors: Visiting Whatcom Lodge at our Special on January 5th were: Bro. Arne Hanson of Bellingham Bay Lodge No.44, Bro. Quinn Boudle of Island Pond Lodge No. 44 located at Island Pond, Vermont. Both were given a hearty welcome. Our third visitor was WB Claude Weadon, WM of Ferndale Lodge No. 264, who was accorded the PGH's of Masonry.

Presentations: VW Glenn Hutchings was brought to the East. Secretary John Browne read a citation noting VW Bro. Glenn's long, devoted and dedicated service to Whatcom Lodge. WM Monte Thompson then presented VW Glenn Hutchings with a Hiram Award Certificate and pin. VW Hutchings was also accorded the PGHs of Masonry.

Bro. Ty Myers was brought to the altar and WM Monte Thompson presented him with his Monitor Degree Proficiency Certificate, to a deserving applause.

Executive-Finance Committee Meeting: The Exe/Fin committee met on Saturday, January 14th, at the residence of SW Terrell Goertz. *In attendance were*: Terrell Goertz (Chair), Monte Thompson, Tony Anton, Ted Schuman, Jesse Petersen, John Brown, Bill Hall and John Browne. SW Goertz reported on our Lodge investment portfolio and observed that the long-term outlook for the Lodge is favorable. Sec. Browne gave a report on this past year's general finances and noted that our lodge dinners are successfully paying for themselves, thanks to the active participation of our brothers. He noted too that most, but not all, Whatcom brothers are current with 2012 dues & fees. The next Exe/Fin committee meeting is set for June 14th, time & place TBA.

Upcoming Degree: Our next Degree is planned for Thursday, February 16th when Bro. Tom Hastings will be raised to the Sublime Degree of a MM.

MASONIC LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION

We Missed You!

YOUR Masonic Leadership Association January 21st was the date. The time 10 AM. The Weather was fair depending on where you lived. So considering that most of you did not make it, you will be given another change. This is your lucky day and the new date will be the regular date and time: February 18th.... Doors open at 9:30AM.... The same location--2626 W Maplewood in Bellingham.

OPEN REQUEST

#1 -- If you are interested in assisting next year (this year now) in keeping this important organization flying high, please let me know.

#2 -- What type of program do you want? Let me know and I will take care of it. Wasn't that easy?

John Sleeth, Acting President
Masonic Leadership Association
jrsleeth@speedy-inc.com(360) 319-8706

**The Whatcom Brothers
send their wishes for
A Very Happy February Birthday! To:**
Bro. Scott Slagle - February 2nd
Bro. Marvin Wolff - February 3rd
WB Roy Nicholas - February 7th
Bro. Ron Bennett - February 12th
WB Ted Schuman - February 14th
Bro. Charles McCord - February 17th
WB Monte Thompson - February 19th
Bro. Frank Myers - February 20th
Bro. Tanvir Sihdu - February 21st
WB John Burley - February 27th

Whatcom Lodge Report
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Year End Report: Unfortunately I have to make a correction to our end of year membership numbers. Due, most likely, to current economic hard times, two of our brothers were dropped NPD, so our end of year membership fell to 84.

Audit Conducted: The annual lodge audit was conducted on Wednesday, January 4th, a report will be made at the next Stated Meeting.

The next Stated meeting is on February 16th, dinner at 5:30 pm & lodge at 6 30 and another degree just may take place, stay tuned.

Fraternally, John Browne - Secretary/Treasurer, contact information is at the bottom of column two on the back page.

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

Friday February 3rd Stated-7:30. Open on the MM degree appoint the audit committee, go off session to install Marshal and Sr. Steward, with VWB Winton Smith doing the installation. Following installation a celebration in honor of Russell Gran's 100 birthday. With some notes about Russell to be shared (MWB Wayne J. Deming shared one with me), some music by VWB John Sleeth and retire to the dining area for cake & ice cream.

Call back on session about 8:30, get reports on B4B and other announcements and hopefully be done by 9pm.

Friday January 17th Special-7:30. Discuss alternate to proving up in lodge.

WM Russ Weston



Evergreen No. 17 IORG

Feb. 14th is our Stated meeting -- Our Grand Worthy Advisor will be visiting us this evening. Please join us we'd love to have you.

Feb. 28th is our Stated Meeting.

Our girls are collecting books for the Agape house, if you have any books, please let us know, we will be delivering them on March 2nd, in honor of Dr. Seuss birthday.

Come support our newly installed Worthy Advisor and her Officers, we would love to see you!

Kristin Beal

Mother Advisor - Evergreen No 17

Klbeal4rainbow@gmail.com - ph. 253.326.2222

Words for Consideration

“Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save.”

~ Bro. Will Rogers, 1879 - 1935

The lame man who keeps the right road outstrips the runner who takes a wrong one.

Nay, it is obvious that the more active and swift the latter is the further he will go astray.

~ Francis Bacon, 1561 - 1626

The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is - that the same place isn't there the second time.

~ Willie Tyler

The Fall Holiday Season often has many interesting touching incidents, one of them took place in the presence of my wife while she waited in line a local Post Office. I submit her account of it for your reading pleasure—compassion is alive in our community.

Christmas at the Post Office (2011)

(an excerpt from the Blog of Susan Colleen Browne-author)

I was in the post office last week, to mail our Christmas package to John's kids—it's a small-town P.O., where you rarely have to wait. But on this day, there was only one counter open, with at least a dozen folks in line with parcels to ship. A little family stepped up to the counter, a thirty-something mom, a pretty young teen, and a little girl, all with the same shade of blond hair. The mother's soft voice was slightly accented—Russian, I guessed (there's a sizeable Russian immigrant community in our part of the county). They had a couple of bedraggled boxes to send out. The post office guy added up the postage, then affixed the stickers to the boxes. "Ready to go," he said. "That'll be \$27.53."

The mother swiped her debit card, and the reader emitted a sharp tone: a "no" in machine-speak. The postal worker, very polite, had her swipe her card again—same result: the machine wouldn't accept the card. Then he swiped it—nada. Next, he attempted the transaction go by entering her card number into his system. Still, the card was a no-go.

"I'm sorry," he said, sounding honestly sympathetic. "I'm going to have to tear the stickers off, unless you can come back in a few minutes with cash or check." Despite all the people lined up, the lobby was silent—you couldn't help but hear the mother's soft, embarrassed murmurs. Then all of a sudden, a woman stepped up to the counter. "I've got it."

The mother said, "Oh, no—I can't—"

"Random act of kindness," the woman said. "I've got it." She literally would not let the mother say no. The tension in the little family eased. The post office guy took the card and you could see him visibly relax too; in fact, everyone in the lobby relaxed. The guy next to me in line said, "There's been a lot of that lately—random acts of kindness. It's been on the news." In that moment, I felt the holiday spirit pervade the entire room. This generous woman I'd never seen before and would likely never see again totally made my Christmas.

Continued at bottom of column 2

Scottish Rite – Valley of Bellingham

18th Degree Rescheduled Scottish Rite Valley of Bellingham has rescheduled the 18th degree for Feb 15th. Same location: 1101 N State Street, Bellingham Time: 7:30pm

Members of the Valley will be attending the Leadership Conference in San Diego in March. This West Coast meeting will facilitate the review of current programs and allow members to Identify with members of the Supreme Council.

If you would like to join the Bellingham Valley Scottish Rite and want to get started, please submit your name no later than January 31st to the Secretary. This special fast class will be putting on the 4th and 14th degrees on a Saturday. Next class will be in September.

Our web site is up an operational, so come visit us at www.scottish-rite.com and download your application for membership. There is much more valuable information.

John Sleeth,
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Continued from column 1

A half hour later, still feeling a little teary from the kindness I'd witnessed, I was listening to the radio and Garrison Keillor and his "Writer's Almanac" came on the air. After reciting his usual notable birthdays, and a lovely poem, Keillor shared a final thought. A quote by Arthur C. Clarke, who said, "Think of how peaceful the world would be "if we all treated each other as if we were members of the same family."

There you have it, in a nutshell: Christmas at the post office. "...and on earth peace, good will toward men." Merry Christmas!

You can enjoy Susan's writing at her Little Farm in the Foothills Blog, the address is:

<http://littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com>

YORK RITE NEWS

On March 19th, the York Rite will be beginning a new class for those who want to continue the search for "more light". The Master Mason Degree is the final and last degree of Freemasonry, however, if you want "further light in Masonry", the degrees offered in the York Rite, will continue the story of Freemasonry.

To become a member, you need to contact a York Rite Mason for a petition. If he does not have one, I would be happy to supply one. York Rite Masonry is open to all Master Masons in good standing and will give the Mason a better understanding of the Third Degree Drama.

The dues for the York Rite are \$10 per year, we have a complimentary dinner before each meeting, where friends and wives are invited and we enjoy fellowship and good times.

Fraternally,
Thom Baughn



Save the date and make plans now...
...for the 2012 Spring...

Hands Across the Border Dinner and Stated Communication

The Spring Hands Across the Border event will be held on Thursday, May 3rd at the Bellingham Masonic Center. This year we are honoring RWB Murray Webster, Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A. F. & A.M. of B.C. & Yukon, and RWB Dean Heinemann, Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Washington.

The social period begins at 5:30 PM. Dinner is at 6:00 PM featuring prime rib or salmon prepared by Chef Extraordinaire WB George Edwards.

The cost is \$20. The Lodge will be tiled at 7:30 PM. The Spring event is for Masons only!

Reservations may be made by contacting WB Dick Decima at 360-392-0145 or at rhdecima@aol.com.

Please book early as seating will be limited to 100 guests.

Please join us in honoring these two hard working leaders of our fraternity.

Dick Decima
Secretary
Lynden International Lodge No. 56

Notes from Lynden Lodge No. 56

February 5 th	Stated Meeting	7:30 PM
February 19 th	Special Meeting	7:30 PM

VW Charles Cunningham
Worshipful Master



NWSC Northwest Shrine will not be having a dinner meeting in February. But will start back in March.

Yours in Faith, Ron Fine, Secretary



On the road with *Whatcom Lodge*

Dinner & Lodge Visitation: A party of Whatcom Loge Brothers ventured North of the 49th on Tuesday, January 24th to attend Robert Burns Night at our sister Lodge, Prince David Lodge No. 101. The group was lead by WM Monte Thompson & JW Jesse Petersen and also consisted of WB Bill Hall, WB Ted Schuman, WB James Hawley, Bro. Tony Anton and Sec. John Browne.

Dinner: The evening began with a very nice dinner consisting of: Roast Baron of Beer & Gravy, Haggis, Creamed Potatoes and Bashed Neeps & Carrots, Tea, Coffee and Athole Brose. The Haggis was pipped in by Bro. Trevor Calldwell. RW Joe Freeman gave the Address to the Haggis and Bro. Stewart Drever gave the Selkirk Grace. The food was excellent and for many of us it was our first taste of haggis. Mixed with a bit of meat and gravy, the haggis was rather good. WB Hawley counted 60 brothers in attendance in the dinning room.

EA Degree: After dinner we retired to the lodge room where we were treated to a very well performed Entered Apprentice Degree, conferred upon (now) Bro. David Duncan. The lodge room being modest in size was packed, by the 60 brothers, to standing room only. There were several representatives of other British Columbia Lodges and also present was RW Bro. Ronald Smith, District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 28.

Dessert: After the degree and lodge was closed, we retired once more to the dinning room, for a very nice dessert. A number of traditional toasts were given and then RW Joe Freeman gave a brief history of and in memory of the Immortal Bro. Robert Burns. "The Star O' Rabbie Burns" was sung by Bro. James Munn.

Having a far distance to travel home, we gave our pardons and expressed our thanks and gratitude for the fine hospitality we received and departed for home.

In all, we had a very wonderful evening and we vowed to return for next year's celebration

VW John Browne, Secretary—Whatcom Lodge

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
29	30	31	1 SJ # 175 - stated 7:30 p. (FHMC) V of B Scottish Rite: Dinner at 6:30 pm & Stated Mtg at 7:30 pm.	2 L # 56 stated meeting 7:30 pm W #151 - Spl. Comm— Dinner at 5:30 pm. Lodge opens at 6:30 pm Groundhog Day	3 BB # 44 - stated 7:30 pm.	4
5	6 Hesperus Commandery No. 8 - 7:30 F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	7 ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	8 NV # 105 - 6 pm, dinner is potluck and our Ladies are welcome! V of B Scottish Rite: Education Night at 7 pm	9 Bethel # 25 at 6 pm.	10	11
12	13 F # 264 - stated Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - 7:30 p	14 F # 73-stated 7 pm. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC) Valentine's Day	15 SJ # 175 - Spl. 7:30 p. (FHMC) V of B Scottish Rite: Education Night at 7 pm	16 W 151 - stated... dinner at 5:30... lodge opens at 6:30 pm. we are planning a MM Degree.	17 BB 44 Spl Comm 7:30 p. (SRH)	18 MLA hosted at 9:45 am
19	20 Bellingham Chp Royal Arch - 7:30 p. F-OES # 223 7:30 p. (FMC) Washington's Birthday President's Day	21 ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC)	22 NV # 105 - V of B Scottish Rite: Corporation Mtg at 7 pm Executive Mtg at 8 pm Ash Wednesday	23 Bellingham Temple Association meeting 7:30 PM	24	25 Bethel #25 at 6 pm
26	27 F # 264 - 7:30 pm	28 F # 73-Spl. 7 pm. Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	29	1	2	3



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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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