



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 4 - Issue 8

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October 2003

The Master's Trestle-board

Brothers, we have just concluded elections for next year's officers and thus my second term as your Worshipful Master is nearing its conclusion. I look forward to it with relief but also with a bit of sadness. Sitting in the East is all these things: a great honor, a source of satisfaction for being able to lead and serve and its a humbling experience, where you see the vast amount of work you still have ahead of you.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as Master and I look forward to my new roll as lodge Chaplain. I want to extend my congratulations to those who you have chosen for the elected positions and to those members appointed by WM elect Glenn Hutchings. However, I still have a little time in the East and so I will attempt to provide further "good and wholesome instruction."

I hope you have all observed and appreciated the work put in by our secretary to keep us all informed on Whatcom Lodge goings on. I would appreciate it if you would take the time fill out and return the survey note included with this newsletter. Thanks!

Fraternally,
WM M. H. Strickland Jr.

Whatcom Lodge at the Theater Guild

The Whatcom lodge brothers decided to spend the October Special Communication away from the lodge room with a night out at the theater. Well actually we began at the W. Maplewood Masonic Hall with a very nice dinner cooked, assembled and otherwise organized by WB Glenn Hutchings; with able assistance from his son Danny.

After dinner the party met at the Bellingham Theater Guild and took in the guild's production of Arsenic & Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring. The audience was treated to a terrific performance by the actors and actresses.. The story moved forward at a good pace and the humor was delivered in well-timed lines and gestures by the cast. When the play was over the whole audience was abuzz with praise; the cast was given an enthusiastic ovation for its presentation. There is talk of returning again this Spring and perhaps of making this an annual event at least.

A poem for October

For rosy apples, juicy plums,

And yellow pears so sweet,

For hip and haws

On bush and hedge,

And flowers at our feet,

For ears of corn

All ripe and dry,

And colored leaves on trees,

We thank you,

Heavenly Father God,

For such good things

As these.

Anon.

Calendar of Events

Oct 25th The brothers will attend the home football game between WWU & CWU at Civic Field. This is the Special Communication for November.

Nov 6th Spl. Communication—see above.

Nov 15th MFLA, hosted by Kulshan Int. Lodge #186 at Ferndale Masonic Hall, begins at 10 AM. Election of Officers for 2004.

Nov 20th is our Stated Communication, lodge opens at 6:30 PM.

Dec 4th is our Spl. Communication no plan as yet has been set, stay tuned.

Dec. No MFLA meeting this month.

Dec 18th Installation of Worshipful Master at 6:30 PM. Family Holiday dinner at 7 PM.

Jan 1st date for our Spl. Communication, no plan is yet set, stay tuned.

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2nd Monday of each month, to:

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From:

Your Secretary

Yes brothers, the days have indeed grown shorter; we are in the autumn time of the year. In many ways it is the best time of the year. Most of the harvest is in and that means the produce stands contain the new crops. Autumn has been and still is a time for feasting and thanking the Great Architect for the bounty we enjoy. In our lodges it is time for the secretaries to send out dues notices and note corrections of addresses, phone numbers etc.

In last month's newsletter I mentioned a survey I would be sending out; here it is at last. One of the purposes of this survey is to collect information so we can be networked together effectively. Networking has been made easier by email, but letters can still be efficient. Most of you receive the Masonic Family News; the lodge takes care of the subscription cost, about \$9 per-member per-year. The Masonic Family News is now available on-line and that subscription rate will only be \$4 per-member per-year; the lodge thus can save \$5 per-member on those who choose to get the on-line version. The money saved can be applied to other activities. The survey gives each member a chance to switch from the mailed paper copy to the electronic one. A nice benefit of the on-line version of the MFN is that it is in color. For those brothers who do not have internet service, by all means, if you wish, check the box on the survey to continue receiving the Masonic Family News in its printed version.

It is important for you to return the survey, which is one reason I am sending along a stamped self-addressed envelope. A survey response will give me a more accurate account of the level of interest in the MFN & Whatcom Newsletter and it will ensure that those indicating interest will continue to receive these publications, in either the on-line or paper formats.

I hope that some of you will take the time to jot down a note, just to say Hi and to let us know what you're up to and if there is something we can do to make your experience as a brother more meaningful and/or enjoyable.

Sincerely & fraternally,
John F. Browne - Secretary



Election Results

The election of officers for next year took place at the October Stated Communication, Thursday 10/16/03. the results are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Worshipful Master | Glenn W. Hutchings |
| Senior Warden | Michael E. Johnston |
| Junior Warden | John C. Burley |
| Treasurer | Lawrence A. West |
| Secretary | John F. Browne |

WM elect Glenn Hutchings announced the following as appointed officers:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Chaplain | M.H. "Buck" Strickland Jr. |
| Marshal | Edwin N. Jungblom |
| Senior Deacon | Frank C. Myers |
| Junior Deacon | Alvia F. Goodwin |
| Tyler | Ted McQuiston |

The date for the installation is set tentatively for Thursday December 18th.



Dwarf figurine by Lenox

From your: **Worshipful Master Elect**

Brethren, I thank you for the opportunity to serve Whatcom Lodge as your master for 2004. Our lodge has been well served in the East, especially over the last two years. WB Strickland has been attentive to his duties and truly given of himself to help the lodge.

In my short tenure as a mason I can say that assuming the East even ten years ago was far easier than today. This is no slam on our past masters but rather a realization that Whatcom Lodge is in a desperate struggle today, as compared to even 10 years ago. Those brothers who are active in lodge functions need help in the form of participation. The officers for 2004 are willing to do whatever the membership would like, to make Whatcom Lodge membership relevant, enjoyable and something to be proud of.

I urge any brother who has ideas to improve lodge participation to contact me or any lodge officer. Also, as has been said many times in the past but worthy of repeating; contact any lodge officer if they could help you or any brother get to lodge. Nobody should come to lodge alone, carpooling and fellowship makes us a better lodge.

To help encourage the brothers to know what is planned please look over this tentative plan for the lodge for 2004:

Installation on December 18th—this will be a short installation ceremony followed by a family Holiday dinner.

January, a program on the George Washington Memorial in Virginia.

February Special sweethearts dinner and dance.

February Stated Tiled Past Master's Night—looking for a PM to chair this!

March Special program on Masons you might recognize.

March Stated, while at refreshment a youth group education

April Special will be either a night with Ballroom or Swing dancing.

I hope these events will give our membership some ideas as to what the lodge is doing. We also expect to confirm some degrees so if you have a candidate now is the time. Another program I hope to feature is educator recognition, this will be a simple yet sincere acknowledgement of a local area educator. If you'd like the lodge to consider any educator let your thoughts be known.

In closing, it is critical that Whatcom Lodge members provide some input as to what our lodge can do to become better, so please let me know.

Thank you Buck for your great service.

Fraternally yours, Glenn Hutchings Master Elect