

# District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart  
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February 28, 2018

## There's No Raincoat

I was about four and Mother's Day was approaching when my father came into my room holding a large shopping bag. Inside was a vibrant floral print raincoat with a matching hat and umbrella ... it was 1958, women used to wear that kind of stuff. He told me he was hiding my mother's present in my closet and asked me if I could keep it a secret. You bet I could!



A few days later my mother entered my room to vacuum. At first I thought nothing of this but as she steered the Hoover toward the closet door I feared that the secret might be revealed. I sprung from my bed, darted across the room, threw myself against the door and declared, "There's no raincoat in the closet!"

This was clearly a case of collusion followed by an emphatic denial, but I digress ...

Every now and then something pops into my head that I think illustrates a Masonic principle. I feel like this one might but I'm not sure. What do you think?

WB John Gebhart

## District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

March 1	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
March 6	Tuesday	West Gate #128	MM Degree
March 7	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
March 8	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
March 10	Saturday	Lakeside #258	Stated
March 10	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
March 12	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
March 15	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
March 19	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated

DDGM schedule at [more-out-there.blogspot.com](http://more-out-there.blogspot.com)

## Mercer Island #297

By WM Dan Taylor

Hard to believe we are past the midway point of February and our next stated meeting is just around the corner. Remember, it is a short month so circle Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendars. Don't let it sneak up on you.

Keeping with our first quarter theme of self-improvement as men and Brothers, we had an excellent session at our February stated on Mindfulness prior to opening Lodge conducted by Steven Smith. Steven led us through a guided meditation and shared the merits of a daily Body Scan ritual to reduce chronic pain and strengthen mental awareness. All the Brothers in attendance participated in a 20 minute Body Scan resting on the floor or in chairs ... and I think we only lost a couple to a restful catnap! Keeping one's body and mind in a good place is an important goal for preserving harmony in our daily lives at work, home, and Lodge. For those of you interested in pursuing this area, Steven provided the following link: [Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy](#)

The March 1 Lodge business meeting will be brief. Our very own District Deputy to the Grand Master, VWB Doug Stamper will be making his official visit to our

Lodge. Prior to his presentation on key Masonic happenings in Washington, we will have a 'Shrink the Lodge' on the topic of *Fostering Civility*. Your presence at Lodge is highly encouraged both to hear VWB Doug's remarks and to share your voice on our discussion topic.

I also want to highlight that the Senior Grand Warden from Grand Lodge of Washington, RW Charles "Woody" Wood will be paying a special visit to our Lodge in April to lead a discussion on the challenges and potential solutions to building masonic membership. Mark your calendars for April 5<sup>th</sup> to attend! It should be a great evening of discussion and debate.

As you can see, we have a lot going on in our humble Lodge. To me, one of the most meaningful and enduring aspects is our continued fellowship. It is an honor and privilege to be your Brother and I look forward to seeing each of you at least once a month. I especially appreciate and thank my Brothers who make the journey to Lodge from off island regularly to attend our meetings.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m., preceded by happy hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner (suggested contribution, \$20/pp). **RSVP for dinner to SW Carl Bronkema at [cbronkema@msn.com](mailto:cbronkema@msn.com).**

**West Gate #128**  
*By WM Earl Lara*

We have finalized date of the Master Mason degree for Brother Ray Walintukan, Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Eastside Masonic Center. We will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. (Lodge will be opened prior), and here will be a brief rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. We still need to fill some openings, please find them at the following link in red font. [March 6 MM Degree](#)

We will be doing a degree for two (possibly three) candidates with Fall City Lodge #66 and Myrtle Lodge #108. Let us fill the Lodge and raise these Brothers!

**Eastside Scottish Rite Club**  
*By WB Brian Thomas*

The Eastside Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month that has a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Meetings alternate between Myrtle Lodge in Issaquah and the Eastside Masonic Center in Redmond. The next meeting will be Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup> at Myrtle Lodge in Issaquah where we will be

discussing why Masonry was compelled to come out of the shadows in 1717 and why the ritual only mentions New Testament themes once. It will be an interesting history lesson. All Master Masons are invited. Dress is casual.

*"Education is lighting a fire, not filling a vessel"*  
~Socrates. Masonry needs to think about this concept.

Contact WB Brian Thomas at [bjt@comcast.net](mailto:bjt@comcast.net) or **425-226-0463** if you're interested or would like to receive email notices

**Concordant Body Meetings at EMC**

<i>Lakeside OES</i>			
February 15	Thursday	Stated meeting	7:30 p.m.
February 24	Saturday	Wine Tasting & Auction*	7:00 p.m.
<i>Bellevue Rainbow Assembly</i>			
February 22	Thursday	Stated meeting	7:00 p.m.
February 24	Saturday	Membership event cookie making	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<i>Bellevue DeMolay Chapter</i>			
February 28	Wednesday	Stated meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Job's Daughters Bethel</i>			
February 18	Sunday	Stated meeting	2:00 p.m.
<i>Eastside Scottish Rite Club</i>			
May 30**	Wednesday	Stated meeting (at Myrtle Lodge)	7:00 p.m.

\* Tickets \$35 in advance. **Contact VWB Gene Ulrich at [gene@newsolutionsnw.com](mailto:gene@newsolutionsnw.com)**

**Letters to the Editor**

***It Didn't Work (February 15, 2018)***

*Dear Readers,*

*Perhaps my favorite thing about this Editor gig is the correspondence I receive from you ... I wish I got more. Reactions to the February 15 issue showed a particular level of concern and insight. WB Decker's comment about Brothers who collect Masonic "merit badges" and WB Thomas' observations about the real numbers both resonated with me. My reaction to their comments and those of the other respondents is this: I'll never be Grand Master but if I am (which I won't be) my pin (but I won't*

*have a pin) will say "Purge the roster, fill the funnel, deliver substance".*

*~Editor*

WB John,

Brave, honest, and I hope it gets legs. I agree we should aggressively attack this. Can you imagine had this policy been changed 20 years ago? What if every meeting we asked for a membership report? Every member was asked quarterly if there was anyone they wanted to invite to a public program? What if we felt OK to ask people to join?

Thank you for saying what needed to be said.

*~WB Paul Hoeffler*

WB John,

My thoughts about membership decline are we are not adhering to the basic principles of Masonry. Brothers do not support what they agreed to do while at the altar three times. How many Lodges keep track of widows, too much politics going around, too many new members brought in to make larger memberships, but they prove up and then they're abandoned. I brought in a guy I thought exemplified Masonic principles but his three degrees were poorly supported by Brothers and he demitted several months after being raised

This is a subject every Lodge should discuss, not every man can be a good Mason.

Whenever there is a Brother raised, at after Lodge refreshments, which many do not do, I always suggest the newly raised Brother be known by his Masonic actions, not by his jewelry. Too many Brothers are collecting merit badges, rather than learning Masonic principles.

I have noticed the Lodges offering a social program seem to be doing better.

A man wants to invite a good person to become a Brother should say "Are you a Mason? Why not?"

Fraternally,

*~WB Bob Decker*

WB John,

I appreciate the tearing of hair and rending of garments over the "decline" in membership. On the surface it

seems daunting and fatalistic. But, please allow me to offer a different point of view.

Having been Secretary of Myrtle Lodge for over six years, facing the vagaries of an outdated code and the fact that we passed Life memberships out like candy from their inception until about 2008 when we came to our senses I conclude the following:

We kept a huge number of "Masons" on the active roles that never should have been there. The only ways to remove a Life Member from the active role is death, dimit, non-payment of an assessment, suspension or expulsion. There is no such thing as an inactive Mason. Once a Mason, always a Mason. Even dimitted you are still a Mason, just unaffiliated.

The new Grand View member data system is now online and is forcing us to face the fact that we have a huge number of "members" who are inactive or expired. Myrtle Lodge has over 15 Life Members that are still on our active role who we have not corresponded with or been able to contact for over eight years. We can't remove them unless we declare them dead or the Grand Master suspends or expels them. We continue to pay the annual enrollment fee of \$28 for them and will continue to do so forever unless the records show that they are over 100 years old (our policy) and we can logically declare them passed on. Many Secretaries pay little attention to aged non-active members and the Lodge continues to pay the Grand Lodge enrollment fee (\$28/member) each year for them.

Because of the lack of any ability to put a Member on inactive status in WMC and the inattention of Lodges to track down their inactive members and determine their status we have kept numerous phantom members on the roles.

As a re-tread Secretary/Treasurer in Myrtle Lodge #108 I asked for members of the Lodge to reach out to inactive Life Members and ask if they want to continue to be involved with the Lodge or to dimit. Interesting enough, the most productive individual was one of our Entered Apprentices who went on-line and found contact information for five heretofore lost Life Members. The result was three had passed on, one was out of state and the other is considering coming back to Lodge.

So, what's my point? We are just now becoming aware of the Members we have lost over the last 30 years. I

dare say that every Lodge in this jurisdiction has done a lousy job of keeping track of their members, our Lodge not excluded. If we are, indeed Brothers, one lost soul should be a concern and a call to action. I ask all of you, how many of the “members” you are declaring active to Grand Lodge have you contacted or been active in the last three years?

The result is that the count of Masons should be dramatically lower. Let’s stop the fiction and really count “active” Masons. That’s not all bad because inactive members are a drag, active members are a lift. Let’s concentrate on the lift. Like my father use to say; “Don’t back into the future”. We are a captive of our past.

Myrtle Lodge has a new beginning with over half a dozen relatively new, smart, dedicated, presentable, seeking Brothers. Our job is to show them that Masonry is more than an empty shell of tradition but is a dynamic search for truth, hope and charity (love).

Some of us, as old encrusted members need to re-evaluate our approach to Masonry and ask if ritual is the most important facet or is the Why of Masonry more important than the Want, When and How.

Candidates expect substance and enlightenment. Are we responding? Can we really explain why we exist? Do we really understand the philosophical notions on which Masonry was constructed? Is that important?

Masonry has an important contribution to make to civilization. Perhaps it is the most critical lesson. Do we really know what it is? If not, let’s seek together and find it. – the Lost Word!

Your humble servant,  
~WB Brian Thomas 33°

WB John,

Good to read your lead article in the District 7 News.

I feel we are over-doing things. The whole thing should be treated as a two-way matter: it's no crime to indicate to a particular man that he might think of joining. But beware of "joiners".

~WB Helmuth Swobo

John,

We only want people to become Masons that will be good Masons. So with just a little exposure the good ones come and join. No desire for any big campaign that attracts the unwanted. That’s the way the Sufi does it and it's been going on that way since the beginning of time.

The good ones join and stay, causing no issues!

Love, hugs,

~Dad

## Deadline

Submissions for the March 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the **District 7 News** are due on **Saturday, Mar 10, 2018**.  
Early submission is encouraged.

## Change Section



## **Square Meals**

**Myrtle #108** welcomes Masons and friends to breakfast at the Gas Lamp in Issaquah every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

**Goose and Gridiron, Nest 0** meets Mondays for lunch at the Longhorn restaurant in Auburn.

**Falls City #66 Sticks & Stones** meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lit Cigar Bar in Snoqualmie Casino. Consumption of solid food at this “meal” is not customary.

**Fern Hill #80 Past Masters** welcome Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Angleas Restaurant just south of E. 72nd St on S. Portland Avenue (behind Safeway), Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

## District 7 Stated Communications

Lodge	Address	Meeting Times	Contacts
<b>Falls City #66</b>	4304 337th Place Southeast Fall City, WA 98024 <a href="http://www.fallcitylodge.com">www.fallcitylodge.com</a>	2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m.	WM: David Hisel <a href="mailto:davidhisel@outlook.com">davidhisel@outlook.com</a> Sec: Nick Michaud (contact WM Hisel)
<b>Myrtle #108</b>	Street Address: 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 Mailing Address: PO Box 766 Issaquah, WA 98027 <a href="http://www.myrtlelodge108.org">www.myrtlelodge108.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months)	WM: Chad Reece <a href="mailto:damnthings@gmail.com">damnthings@gmail.com</a> Sec: Brian Thomas <a href="mailto:bjt19@comcast.net">bjt19@comcast.net</a>
<b>West Gate #128</b>	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 <a href="http://westgatelodge.org">westgatelodge.org</a>	3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Earl Lara <a href="mailto:earllara@westgatelodge.org">earllara@westgatelodge.org</a> Sec: Donn Castro - <a href="mailto:donncastro@yahoo.com">donncastro@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Kirkland #150</b>	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 <a href="http://www.kirklandmasons.org">www.kirklandmasons.org</a>	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Brian Clubb <a href="mailto:bclubb@Outlook.com">bclubb@Outlook.com</a> Sec: David Pearson <a href="mailto:dpearson@gmail.com">dpearson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Unity #198</b>	119 North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 <a href="http://www.unity198.org">www.unity198.org</a>	1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Matt Roalkvam <a href="mailto:webmattr@hotmail.com">webmattr@hotmail.com</a> Sec :
<b>Lakeside #258</b>	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 <a href="http://www.lakeside258.org">www.lakeside258.org</a>	2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Vincenzo Sainato <a href="mailto:vsainato@me.com">vsainato@me.com</a> Sec: Dean Markley <a href="mailto:wdeanm@gmail.com">wdeanm@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mercer Island #297</b>	1836 72nd Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040 <a href="http://www.mercerislandmasons.org">www.mercerislandmasons.org</a>	1st Thursday; 2nd Thursday if Holiday or Grand Lodge, dark July & August  Open bar 6:00 p.m., catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$20.	WM: Dan Taylor <a href="mailto:dantaylor@msn.com">dantaylor@msn.com</a> Sec: Scott Anderson <a href="mailto:papabear120@hotmail.com">papabear120@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Renaissance #312</b>	11440 Avondale Road Northeast Redmond, WA 98052 <a href="http://www.renaissance312.org">www.renaissance312.org</a>	Last Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December; if holiday, next available Monday that is not a holiday.  Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Table Lodge at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$25.	WM: Joe Oates <a href="mailto:joates_48323@yahoo.com">joates_48323@yahoo.com</a> Sec: Bill Werner <a href="mailto:bigwer1@hotmail.com">bigwer1@hotmail.com</a>

## District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Doug Stamper [dstamper@outlook.com](mailto:dstamper@outlook.com),  @dstamper

	<b>Falls City #66</b>	<b>Myrtle #108</b>	<b>West Gate #128</b>	<b>Kirkland #150</b>	<b>Unity #198</b>	<b>Lakeside #258</b>	<b>Mercer Island #297*</b>	<b>Renaissance #312**</b>
<b>WM</b>	WB David Hisel	WB Chad Reece	WB Earl Lara	WB Brian Clubb	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Vincenzo Sainato	WB Dan Taylor	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
<b>SW</b>	Br Joshua Bushman	Br Laurence Lance	VWB Ray Lavidia	Br Bryan DeNosky	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Jim Groves	WB Thomas Aquino	WB Todd Pike.
<b>JW</b>	Br Robert Coats	Br Gerry O'Brien	VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Steve Preston	WB Ernest Jenner	WB Mike Campbell	Br Carl Bronkema	VWB Gene Ulrich
<b>Sec</b>	WB Nick Michaud	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB David Pearson		WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	VWB Bill Werner
<b>Treas</b>	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	Br David Bach	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Paul Hoeffler	VWB Bill Werner
<b>SD</b>	Br Noah Phillips	Br. Brett Meyer	Br Arjay Protacio	Br Ron Quartel		Br Dirk Benisch	Br Brent Fleckner	Br. Sheraz Malik
<b>JD</b>		WB Goeff Joosten	Br Karl Egts	Br Rod Beacham	Br David Bach	WB Todd Pike	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Brian Wheeler
<b>Chp</b>	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Jeff Craig	VWB Mark Williams	WB Dan Chadrow		Br Max Box	VWB Roger Barnstead	Br Mihai Manolache
<b>Mrsh</b>		Br Thomas Monds	WB Jim Nash	Br Gary Weber		VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Stephen Burns	
<b>Mu</b>			Br Bert Bertram				WB John Gebhart	
<b>SS</b>				Br Jorge Coronel		Br Kevin Ward		
<b>JS</b>				Br Zach Carpenter				
<b>T</b>	WB Frank Schumacher		WB Henry Castro					

\* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor

\*\* Br Andy Precious is Master of Ceremonies for the Festive Board