

# District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart  
[District7News@Gmail.com](mailto:District7News@Gmail.com)

April 15, 2018

## We've Been Here Before

Since 2011 our Grand Lodge has lost 32% of its members (not a misprint ... thirty-two percent). That's bad, but worse is that since 2011 our state's population has increased 9%. I'm hearing and reading more about our membership crisis lately and this is good; we can only solve the problems we put on the table. It's time to solve this one but we're coming up short.

This year there are new Grand Lodge radio and TV ads but I still haven't seen anything from Grand Lodge that suggests we do anything differently; we should do a better job of keeping members (*Editor - a vague insight* quality not quantity. At the Leadership Conference last month a speaker implored attendees to recognize the importance of wearing a suit. Really? Haven't we already done all of this? Please tell me how any of these measures differ from what we would have been told 20 or 30 ... or 50 years ago.

Operative Masons did something radical by admitting the first Speculative Mason. The medieval building boom was over and they were losing their elite status. Imagine the conflict that must have consumed their ranks; how could they possibly admit a man who wasn't a builder? But our Operative forbears struggled to redefine yet preserve the essence of our Fraternity. In doing so they gave Masonry a second wave and gave us a powerful example of the benefit that comes from embracing change. We owe them our thanks; without their actions none of us could call ourselves Masons.

RWB Charles Wood facilitated a discussion last week at Mercer Island #297. Some of the thoughts captured from that evening are reported in this newsletter. It's a start. We need more candid discussions on this topic.

It's time for us to change and our next step should be a lot less radical than what our Operative Brothers did. We can do this. Masons have been here before.

WB John Gebhart

## District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

April 16	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
April 19	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
April 21	Saturday	Lakeside #258	FC Degree
April 30	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated
May 2	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
May 3	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
May 10	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
May 12	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
May 14	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated

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

## On Membership

On April 5<sup>th</sup> Mercer Island Lodge welcomed RWB Charles "Woody" Wood to lead a discussion on membership. Starting over dinner and continuing during a Shrink-the-Lodge session, Brothers spoke their mind about their concerns: we've got to engage with the women in our lives like it's 2018; how can our Grand Lodge justify the recognition of Grand Lodges that don't recognize Prince Hall, or that expel Brothers on the basis of their sexual orientation?; we need to streamline the Washington Masonic Code so we can occupy ourselves with Masonic Light in favor of Masonic Code compliance; bring the dress code into the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and others. Below are the thoughts submitted by some of the Brothers in attendance for this discussion.

### **Brother David Bach – Unity Lodge #198**

I agree that substantial changes are appropriate for the strategy and policies of Grand Lodge as well as in individual lodges. I will advocate for significant changes.

My fundamental perspective and starting point for action are different - I believe that in Unity Lodge the recruitment of new members, the education of Brothers and the reinvigoration of inactive Brothers are the first steps to enlivening (and saving) Unity Lodge.

I believe that my lodge is part of its community. I seek to embed in Unity's community a perception its vitality, community service and leadership. I don't find that the idea of making good men better resonates with people, even though I do believe strongly that this is the function of Masonry and Unity Lodge. I believe that as Masons more clearly reflect the values of Masonry they will express them in ways that benefit the local community, create a positive perception of Masons and attract like-minded men.

SO, Unity submits publicity releases to the local paper of events of public interest. We present PR ads at the local movie theater. We focus on the local elementary schools with the Bikes 4 Books and Laptops for Students programs. Also, Unity contributes to a number of local charitable groups, as well as housing and supporting a community theater.

I see these activities as part of a consistent and concentrated effort to create positive awareness in our community of Unity Lodge and the character of its Masons.

#### ***WM Dan Taylor – Mercer Island Lodge #297***

Wouldn't life be simpler if we just lived the Charge? No wonder everyone is confused about where Masonry is headed and what it stands for.....just look back at the last 14 years of Grand Masters' slogans and themes:

- Change - Key to Our Future
- Great Expectations
- Walk the Talk
- Accentuate the Positive
- Pass it On
- Inform, Inspire and Involve
- Working Together
- Believe in the Power of Your Dreams
- The Courage of Excellence
- Building Bridges
- Freemasonry, Every Day – Every Way
- Learn and Change
- Be the Difference
- Communicate to Educate

What does any of this have to do with fostering and promoting our mission as Masons? If you were to ask a prospective candidate what organization is behind all these phrases hem might would say it ranged from Motivational Speaking to Construction to New Age Hare Krishna.

Doesn't our Charge succinctly and completely state our mission and purpose (with a few liberties) to make good men better?

- Meet upon the Level, Act by the Plumb, Part upon the Square
- Always diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet
- Befriend and relieve every brother who needs our assistance
- Remind a brother of his faults, aid a brother in his reformation, and defend his character
- Do good unto every human being
- Be of one mind and live in peace

Certainly we can update the wording and messaging to be current and relevant in this day and age and there are limits to our outreach to everyone, but the platform is solid. It has stood the test of time.

Imagine if we built our programs around this platform and purposely held to a 3-5 year plan, we could do wonders to move the needle on all fronts.

#### ***WB Dean Markley – Lakeside Lodge #258***

I see each of the MW's themes and slogans and was looking for a commonality in each. They were all to motivate the Craft in some fashion.

Here are some thoughts to help in that motivation:

Making more use of the Long Range Planning, Education, and Public Relations committees. The goals of Grand Lodge could make better use of these committees in its long range plans. These committees are basically the same from year to year. All of the elected Grand Lodge officers meet regularly with these committees to form wonderful goals. These goals then can be conveyed to Craft via technology, District Deputies.

I think even getting members to engage in conversation at stated meetings will help.

## **WM Enzo Sainato – Lakeside Lodge #258**

Grand Lodge and the terms of the Grand Master and the line is in one year increments where the “will and pleasure” of a single person are reflected in silly pins and slogans. This necessarily makes it impossible for a serious and strategic communications and outreach strategy to take root. That has got to change. Sorry, but, the apple cart needs to be reconsidered on this. Think in 5 year arcs not one one-year terms.

People vote with their feet. IF the lodge has nothing to offer after initiation then people won't stick around.

All the concerns about wearing suits and the esoteric language are not important- in my view- what IS important is that you have to stand for something and 'own' that experience. IF you want to show up on lodge in a hoodie or a Hawaiian shirt (as some did at Lakeside the other night) then go for it.

Younger folks - in 20s-40s are frequently driven and interested in the lessons of the Fraternity. They are infrequently getting them in other aspects of their lives. They have value and yes, that includes the language and aesthetics. Lodges that don't take their ritual work seriously and the lessons within undermine their credibility. In Lakeside we have added a fair amount of drama to how we do our ritual. Especially in the EA and we are still working through how to carry through what we did in the EA to the other degrees. But, it's cool. I would be happy to discuss that in another forum.

After the conversation with Mercer I re-channeled our lodge discussion at Lakeside the other day. My lodge tends to be a little more inhibited in open conversations. But, what occurred was a Brother presented his experiences of being out at Bainbridge and then the lodge in Tokyo- and how wildly different they were. And the point he was trying to get to is what kind of experience do you want to look forward to in your lodge. People had a hard time expressing that. I would encourage all Lodges to have a conversation around that question and figure out what that means to them and own that experience.

### **Editor**

*This conversation doesn't have to end here. Write to [District7News@gmail.com](mailto:District7News@gmail.com) and tell the Brethren about the changes that might fix the membership crisis.*

## **West Gate Lodge #128**

**By WM Earl Lara**

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of two of our Brothers to the Celestial Lodge.

Brother Romeo “Romie” Quinto del Feirro passed away on March 30, 2018 in Puyallup, WA. He was also an affiliate member of Verity Lodge #59 and a Life Member to West Gate Lodge #128.

Brother Romie was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on July 17, 2000, passed as a Fellowcraft Mason on October 3, 2000 and was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason October 27, 2000.



*Brother Romeo “Romie” Quinto del Feirro*

Brother Romie suffered from a brain tumor that confined him in to nursing home. I briefly spoke to his wife Josephine before his passing and was able to help her with some Masonic support from Grand Lodge. He was placed to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery, a place Where Heroes Lay.

Our good Brother Herb Bridge passed to the Celestial Lodge on April 2, 2018. Brother Herb's home lodge was West Gate Lodge #128 back when it was located in Seattle, WA. To just say he was the son of Ben Bridge (Also a member of our lodge) of Ben Bridge Jewelers wouldn't do his name justice. You can find a lot to read about Brother Herb (which i have shared below) but I would just like to share a small story.

I was invited to a Table Lodge before I became a Freemason, and VW Mark Williams invited Bro Herb as a Guest Speaker. I personally got to talk with Herb but I barely got to listen to him. Herb would take the time to

ask me questions about myself and my family and what I was interested in. This is the kind of person that Herb basically was. He wanted to sit and learn more about other people than talk about himself. I had no idea what a Rear Admiral was in the Navy as the only Admiral I know was David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs. Believe me, I know what a Rear Admiral is now.



Brother Herb Bridge

Over time i was able to share three phone calls with Bro Herb since the beginning of my time as Worshipful Master of West Gate Lodge and every time he was always at his office at Ben Bridge. He shared how much he missed coming to lodge and that he loved what Masonry was all about. I am sad to see him go, but a life of accomplishment such as his, makes me want to strive as a better person.

I just read one of the stories in the Seattle Times below that when he and his wife, Shirley, celebrated their 50th Anniversary, they gifted all of their guests a \$100 Check to the charity of their choosing. This is amazing!

USO: <http://www.usonw.org/bio.php?id=16>

HistoryLink: <http://www.historylink.org/File/7307>

Nile Shrine:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=120043492366&ca=a57e3988-58c6-4161-8106-141b34c034bc>

Seattle Times:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/herb-bridge-a-jeweler-navy-man-and-civic-leader-dead-at-93/>

## Traveling Gavel Update

By WB Dean Markley

Lakeside Lodge is in possession of the Traveling Gavel, and that will remain the case unless:

1. At least four members of a given Lodge must simultaneously visit at meeting at Lakeside.
2. The visitors must have signed the Tyler's register as such.
3. At least one of visitor's principal officers must be among the four or more visiting Brothers.
4. If more than one Lodge is represented by the required number of visiting Brothers the gavel shall be awarded to the Lodge with the higher percentage of Brothers in attendance in relation to their total membership.

*Editor: If the gavel is claimed WB Markley must submit a report to the District 7 News. Furthermore, if Mercer Island #297 earns the gavel it will be left at Lakeside since Mercer Island's closet at the VFW is already full.*

## Fraudulent Email Alert

If you receive an email that appears to be from MWB Jim Mendoza or "Jim V." asking you to purchase I-Tunes cards or other items, it is a fraudulent email.

## Concordant Body Meetings at EMC

<b>Lakeside OES</b>			
April 19	Thursday	Installation and Stated Meeting	6:30 p.m.
<b>Bellevue Rainbow Assembly</b>			
April 26	Thursday	Stated Meet	7:00 p.m.
<b>Bellevue DeMolay Chapter</b>			
April 25	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<b>Job's Daughters Bethel</b>			
April 15	Sunday	Stated meeting	2:00 p.m.
<b>Eastside Scottish Rite Club</b>			
May 30**	Wednesday	Stated meeting (at Myrtle Lodge)	7:00 p.m.

## 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.

### Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum

Videos of Daylight Lodge #232's recently held candidate forum are now available online at the links listed below:

You Tube Playlist (plays all of them, about 42 minutes).

#### [Candidate Forum](#)

1. [Introductions](#)
2. [Qualifications](#)
3. [Grand Treasurer](#)
4. [Board of Directors](#)
5. [Technology in Fraternity](#)
6. [Fighting Misinformation](#)
7. [Most Pressing Issue](#)
8. [Helping Struggling Lodges](#)
9. [Funding Sources](#)
10. [Improving Lives of Masons](#)
11. [Sunset Clause](#)
12. [Prince Hall](#)
13. [Closing Statements](#)

### Deadline

Submissions for the April 30<sup>th</sup> issue of the **District 7 News** are due **Wednesday, April 25, 2018**.  
Early submission is encouraged.

## Letters to the Editor

### *Keep the Power On (March 31, 2018)*

John,

An uplift from a good lecture supports the power staying on.

Love, hugs,

~Dad

## Relativity 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