

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart
District7News@gmail.com

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Listen

If you haven't read the Lodge Officers Handbook I suggest that you do. There's page after page of useful "how-to" guidance, everything from how to set up the Lodge room to how to greet Grand Lodge officers. I'll save you the time it takes to find it: Click here: [LOHB](#)

There is one page, however, that you should skip: page 58, which provides suggestions for learning the ritual. Specifically, the advice is that all officers memorize the ritual. I'm more than a little offended by this guidance:

"... P.G.M. Conrad Hahn, (Connecticut) described it in this manner: *"No Brother should be elected or appointed to a Lodge office if he is unwilling or unable to memorize the ritual of the Three Degrees. Exceedingly few men are really unable to memorize."* Usually the inability to memorize is used as an excuse for unwillingness to make the effort to do so. Almost everyone can memorize if he applies himself..."

So I guess Brothers who don't memorize are inferior; they're lazy, lacking commitment, or both. If the handbook authors meant to phrase advice in the most friendly manner they failed. And the tone is hardly on the level, which is a serious lapse on someone's part.

I greatly admire Brothers who are able to memorize. But I think nothing less of those who can't, whether their brains just don't work that way or they have other priorities that keep them from studying. They're still good men that we should all be proud to call Brothers.

I think a better way to prepare for the the ritual is to learn what it means and then really think about it. Read it silently and then read it aloud. Consider making index cards that can be read, and read well, during Lodge without having to flip through the Standard Work.

There are many benefits of this more pragmatic approach. Here's just one: all of those past masters will no longer be listening for mistakes they can eagerly correct. Instead they'll just listen.

WB John Gebhart

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

March 5	Tuesday	371 NE Gilman Blvd. Suite 140 Issaquah WA 98027	LOMA
March 6	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
March 7	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
March 9	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
March 11	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
March 14	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
March 16	Saturday	Unity #198	EA Degree
March 18	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
March 22	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated

DDGM schedule at more-out-there.blogspot.com

Mercer Island #297

Please join the Brothers of Mercer Island Lodge at their next stated communication, Thursday, March 7th, when they will be visited by the Rainbow Girls of Bellevue Assembly #120 under the leadership of Worthy Advisor, Laura Lund.

The Rainbow Girls are preparing for their annual fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast to be held at Applebee's in Factoria on Saturday, March 23rd from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit Camp Erin. More information about this program and tickets to the breakfast (\$10/pp) will be available during a pre-lodge dinner discussion.

The Lodge program for the evening will feature WB David Hisel, WM of Falls City Lodge #66, who will lead a shrink the lodge discussion about *Sharing and Caring*.

Happy Hour starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner before Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m. **RSVP for dinner to SW Carl Bronkema at cbronkema@msn.com (\$20/per Mason, non-Mason guests are complimentary).**

Unity #198 Degrees

"The anti-loss-of-membership drive is on!"

~ *WM Jonathan Seaton*

North Bend, WA, home to Unity Lodge #198, has emerged from the State of Emergency declared by its mayor earlier this month following snow storms of historic proportion, and WM Seaton has organized both the core of the degree team and six candidates from Unity (4) and Myrtle (2) Lodges for an ***Entered Apprentice Degree on Saturday, March 16th at 10:00 a.m.***

A few volunteers are requested to fill the remaining roles:

- Two accompanying Senior Deacons
- Chaplain
- Senior Steward
- Tyler
- Someone to organize food (Costco, pizza, Chinese, etc. Unity will pay.)

It is also possible that there will be a Fellowcraft degree during the afternoon of March 16th with a rehearsal at 2:00 p.m. and the degree at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed and further details are pending.

To volunteer for the degree team or for more information contact WM Jonathan Seaton at jonathanseaton@gmail.com.

Falls City #66

Annual Masonic Chili Invitational

By WM David Hisel

The 2019 Masonic Chili invitational is right around the corner and YOU are invited to compete or just come out for the great fellowship and festivities. Last year we had a wide representation from the Lodges of District 7 and I encourage you to represent your Lodges again this year. The chili will be judged and the Lodge that enters the chili that is decided as the favorite will have their name inscribed on the "Ladel" trophy and will have the honor of having a \$50 donation made in the Lodge's name to a charity of its choice. Dress will be casual and your families are encouraged to participate. I look forward to seeing all of you.

Saturday, April 13th

Set up – 5:00 p.m.

Judging – 5:30 p.m.

Stated Meeting – 7:30 p.m., libations and cigars after

Unity Lodge #198

Laptops for Students

Our supply of 2009 or later Macintosh laptops has dried up and we are seeking donations of working MacBooks from members of District 7 Lodges. Because of browser requirements of the learning websites we can use only Macintosh models from 2009 or later.

The Lodge provides a free laptop computer to qualified families with school-age children who don't have a computer at home for schoolwork. This program focuses on schools in the Snoqualmie Valley School District and provides a reliable and easy-to-use Macintosh computer for computer-assisted learning.

Brother David Bach ensures that each laptop is fully functional and manages gifting to each student through counselors at the schools.

Unity Lodge's Laptops for Students program of gives youngsters a good start in learning and keeping up with technology for their school work - ultimately so that each will have their highest level of success in their education and beyond. Since the beginning of the program in 2016 Unity Lodge has gifted 95 laptops.

Contact treasurer@unity198.org

Washington to Host

2021 Conference of Grand Masters

By MWB Jim Mendoza

Since 1870 Grand Masters from throughout North America have gathered together "to know each other and to learn how others are meeting and handling the problems of the Fraternity in their Jurisdictions."

In 2021, they are coming to Seattle! Events will be held from February 20th – 23rd at the Westin Hotel in Seattle and at other venues throughout the area. This portends to be an exciting opportunity for us to show how we practice Freemasonry in Washington.

With a current membership consisting of the States of the United States of America, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; the Grand Lodges of the Provinces of Canada; the State of York, Mexico; and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany, the Grand Masters of these jurisdictions represent some two million Freemasons in North America. Additionally, Grand Masters outside of North America, heads of concordant bodies and Masonic organizations, as well as interested observers from many other affiliated groups attend.



The Conference has been the genesis of several programs that have made their way to our Jurisdiction: Long Range Planning, Bikes for Books, Six Steps to Initiation, and the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program come to mind. Additionally, ideas such as the Lodge Leadership Retreat, Outreach Services, and a photography archive have made their way from our Jurisdiction to other Jurisdictions by way of the Conference. The Conference has also been an outstanding forum of discussion for topics such as Millennials & Freemasonry, social media, and improved public relations.

Additionally, Freemasonry worldwide has benefited from the Associations/Committees of the Conference. These include the Child Identification Program (CHIP), Commission on Information for Recognition, George Washington National Masonic Memorial Association, Masonic Renewal Committee, Masonic Service Association of North America, and the National Masonic Foundation for Children.

To make this a successful and memorable event, we are seeking volunteers to be part of the organizing committee. There will be lots of things to do in the areas of greeting, transportation, hospitality, docent, and concierge services – and that’s just for openers. The

plan is to hold our first informational meeting on Saturday March 2nd, 3:00 p.m. at the Greenwood Masonic Temple (this will be prior to the District 4 & 5 Meeting).

As a bonus for volunteering, throughout the Conference, you will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from Masonic leaders throughout the world of Freemasonry – and we’ll even give you a special conference polo featuring the above logo. I hope that you are as excited to welcome the Brethren to our great state as I am. If you are interested in being part of the organizing committee, **please drop me a line at jim@mendozaline.net.**

Your consideration is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to seeing you on March 2nd.

Concordant Body Meetings at EMC

<i>Lakeside OES</i>			
Mar 21	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:30 p.m.
<i>Bellevue Rainbow Assembly</i>			
Mar 14	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar 28	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Bellevue DeMolay Chapter</i>			
Mar 13	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar 27	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Job's Daughters Bethel</i>			
Mar 4	Monday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Mar 16	Saturday	Stated Meeting	5:00 p.m.

Deadline

Submissions for the March 15th issue of the *District 7 News* are due **Saturday, March 9, 2019**.
Early submission is encouraged.

Letters to the Editor

Where's the Story (February 15, 2019)

WB Editor,

I believe Masonry is changes its face. The younger Brother could be offered wisdom from older Masons, but the face of mankind in the U.S. is changing. A great

philosophizer of Greece said the next generation is going to hell in a basket. It is true today, but most of us are old enough to not be bothered.

~Bro. Bob Decker

WB John,

I don't think educational and philosophical discussion in lodge is a relatively new phenomenon. The period of Freemasonry that I consider its Golden Age took place during the Age of Enlightenment and a large part of its members were intellectuals, so though it may not be prescribed, I imagine that a "program" (or any non-business discussion) was not in short supply due to the then state of society. There was such a demand for an outlet for these thinkers that Masonic lodges were but one of many places they could discuss philosophy and ancient mysteries, as many of them likely belonged to several fraternities or clubs.

I agree that society has changed. I would like to know how important an educational program is to everyone, or how many get their education elsewhere. I'm probably one of the few who's fulfilled, as you say, "just following the rules," which I owe to my upbringing. If I wanted something more (e.g. an extra-curricular education), I wouldn't know how to request it as I'd always expected to get it myself, and I'm perfectly happy with that. I do a lot of self-study, which to me is often a personal endeavor. If I attend lodge just to witness opening, minutes, committee reports, and closing, I'd be fulfilled doing so among the Brethren. But as more of us who attend lodge have so much to share, I'm glad there's a trend in the District for more dissemination of light. Perhaps society is changing yet again and we've entered Freemasonry's Silver Age.

Fraternally,

~Bro. Phu Huynh

WB Editor,

"So our predecessors didn't say much about our Fraternity. Is it because they had nothing to say?"

I think this is the crux of it.

My son has an easy time recruiting boys in to scouts. Whenever he comes back from an outing he raves about it to his friends, and some have asked to join.

My daughter's friends in Girl Scouts never said anything good about it (I guess they did not enjoy it either) and as a result Kelly has zero interest in that group.

Oriental #19 RAM grew big quickly a few years ago because after every meeting we went back to our friends and Lodges and told everyone who would listen what a great time we had.

When was the last time you has such a great time at a Lodge meeting you raved about it to your colleagues and friends?

Nuff said...

~WB Paul Hoefffer

WB Paul,

Are we not talking about what a good time we had or are we not having a good time?

~Editor

John:

Perhaps they knew one had to be nudged into Principles of Inclusion, and speeches and the like didn't truly, in the long run, help.

"What needs to transpire cannot be put into words. This is where intuition comes into play, part of the plan."

Love, hugs,

~Dad

General Interest

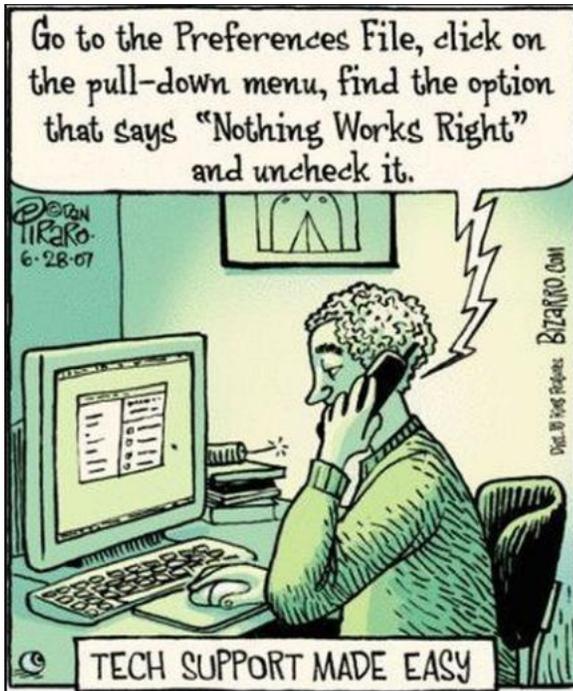
WB Editor,

I want to extend my appreciation to the Brothers at Mercer Island Lodge for their warm hospitality when I attended their stated meeting, last month. My son, Alex, attended the pre-function and dinner, and met interesting gentlemen, from a young petitioner to a 95 year old amateur comedian (you don't pay Dean for that 'penny' routine, do you?). We were so impressed by the amazing Moroccan meal - and then to learn that you always dine on such gourmet cuisine at the historic Keewaydin Clubhouse every first Thursday. Classy, friendly and generous - very Masonic.

Thanks!

~WB Craig 'Woody' Wood

What the IT Guys Really Do



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, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Oddfellas Pub, 102 West Main Street, Auburn, on the corner of Main and "A" Street SW.

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.

Lincoln Park Lodge #80 Past Masters welcomes Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Anglea's Restaurant, 7511 E. Portland Ave, Tacoma, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

District 7 Stated Communications

Lodge	Address	Meeting Times	Contacts
Falls City #66	4304 337th Place Southeast Fall City, WA 98024 www.fallcitylodge.com	2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m.	WM: David Hisel davidhisel@outlook.com Sec: Nick Michaud nickalan@comcast.net
Myrtle #108	Street Address: 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 Mailing Address: PO Box 766 Issaquah, WA 98027 www.myrtlelodge108.org	3 rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months)	WM: Laurence Lance laurence.lance@gmail.com Sec: Brian Thomas bjt19@comcast.net
West Gate #128	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 westgatelodge.org	3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Earl Lara earllara@westgatelodge.org Sec: Donn Castro - donncastro@yahoo.com
Kirkland #150	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 www.kirkland150.org	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Bryan DeNosky bryan@denosky.com Sec: Bill Reynar wjreynar@gmail.com
Unity #198	119 North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 www.unity198.org	1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Jonathan Seaton jonathanrseaton@gmail.com Sec : Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Lakeside #258	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 www.lakeside258.org	2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Mike Campbell mikecampbell_759@hotmail.com Sec: Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Mercer Island #297	1836 72nd Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040 www.mercerislandmasons.org	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: Tomas Aquino naraniag@yahoo.com Sec: Scott Anderson papabear120@hotmail.com
Renaissance #312	11440 Avondale Road Northeast Redmond, WA 98052 www.renaissance312.org	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, \$30.	WM: Bill Werner bigwer1@hotmail.com Sec: Joe Oates joates_48323@yahoo.com

District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Doug Stamper dstamper@outlook.com,  @dstamper

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	West Gate #128	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312
WM	WB David Hisel	WB Laurence Lance	WB Earl Lara	WB Bryan DeNosky	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Mike Campbell	WB Thomas Aquino	VWB Bill Werner
SW	WB Frank Schumacher	Br Gerry O'Brien	VWB Ray Lavidia	Br Steve Preston	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Todd Pike	Br Carl Bronkema	VWB Gene Ulrich
JW	Br Joshua Bushman	Br Mike Inman	VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Ron Quartel	WB Ernest Jenner	Br Derk Benisch	WB Paul Hoeffler	Br. Sheraz Malik
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	WB Dean Markley	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	Br David Bach	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Scott Anderson	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
SD	Br Guy Everett	Br Ian Frease	WB Nelson Aquino	Br Collin Visser			WB David Pearson	Br Mihai Manolache
JD		WB Chad Reece	WB Henry Castro	Br Rod Beacham			Br Dane Shaffer	WB Brian Wheeler
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Jeff Craig	MWB Santy Lascano	WB Dan Chadrow			VWB Roger Barnstead	VWB Homer Beathe
Mrsh		Br Thomas Mounds	Br Arjay Protacio	Br Zach Carpenter				Br Randy Coggan
Mu							WB John Gebhart	
SS								
JS								
T			WB Rolando Herrera	WB Brian Clubb				RWB Hellmutt Flsher

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor