

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart

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1865

In the span of world history 1865 wasn't that long ago. So it is still fresh in our minds that today, 152 years ago, a transformative event took place: the United States House of Representatives abolished slavery with the passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

We might think of it as one of those self-evident truths that the 13th Amendment would be passed. Actually, far from it. There was vigorous opposition from a large contingent of Union legislators, many arguing that the passage of the Amendment would embolden the Confederates and prolong the war. Others simply didn't want to upset the status quo, preferring instead to do things the way they had always been done.

But Lincoln could see beyond the horizon. He knew that a victorious end to the war alone would not restore the unity that the Civil War had shattered. And he knew that a fundamental change was needed for our nation to evolve. He persisted and today we're inspired by his vision and leadership.

I'm not comparing Lincoln to our current leader; this is a Masonic publication and I don't do politics. Instead I urge us to be inspired enough to look beyond the horizons of our Fraternity.

If the attrition among our ranks continues Masons might not be around in 152 years. Our Fraternity, with its rituals and traditions, would be forgotten. Can we make changes that will be essential to our evolution? To be clear, I don't know what they are. I just believe we need something that we don't yet have and I don't want us to wait 152 years to find out what should have been self-evident.

Being a Mason is great. Why aren't there many more good men banging on our doors?

WB John Gebhart

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

February 1	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
February 2	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
February 9	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
February 11	Saturday	Myrtle #108	EA Degree
February 11	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
February 13	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
February 16	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
February 20	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
February 27	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated

District 7 Installations

Myrtle Lodge #108 On January 7th WB Chad Reece traveled to the East for the first time in an installation presided over by VWB Bill Werner. VWB Gene Ulrich was Installing Marshall and Brothers from several other District Lodges rounded out the installation team.



WM Chad Reece taking his obligation of office

Installing Master Werner attempted to install himself into his appointed office of Senior Deacon. However, WM Reece reminded VWB Werner that distinctions

among men are necessary to preserve subordination, after which WM Reece performed this duty.

Falls City Lodge #66 WB David Hisel also traveled to the East for the first time when he was installed as Worshipful Master of Falls City Lodge #66 by VWB Bill Werner on the evening of January 14th, thus bringing the District 7 installation season to a close.



WM Hisel flanked by the Falls City #66 Officers

Mercer Island Lodge #297

At its Stated Communication on Thursday, February 2nd, Mercer Island #297 will initiate two candidates. The Brothers of Mercer Island #297 are proud to welcome MWB Santy Lascano, who will confer the degree.

Happy hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with a catered dinner served at 6:30 p.m. (\$20 donation suggested). The degree will get underway at 7:00 p.m. **Contact WM Dan Taylor to RSVP or for more information at Dantaylor@msn.com.**

Myrtle Lodge #108

At a Special Communication on Saturday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m. WM Chad Reece will confer the Entered Apprentice degree. Spots are available on the degree team. **Please volunteer at this link. [Myrtle EA Signup](#)**

District 7 Meeting Report

By WB Dan Taylor

Friday the 13th, regarded by many as unlucky (a superstition started by the Knights Templar a long time ago) turned out to be very good day this year in District 7 when VWB Gene Ulrich hosted our annual District meeting at the new home of Lakeside Lodge. The meeting was well attended and featured presentations

by the Masters (or his delegate) from each D7 Lodge as well as brief remarks by all members of the Grand Line.



The Grand Lodge Officers during the Q&A Session

In his report on the state of our District VWB Ulrich proudly reported that our Lodges raised more than \$20,000 in the last year to support the Grand Master's charities and other worthy causes. Keeping a good thing going an additional \$1,000 was raised in tip jar donations, tie and pin purchases, and silent auction proceeds during the meeting.

A highlight of the evening was a series of presentations specific to the challenges that all of our Lodges have faced over time, as well as how our Lodges can respond to some of these challenges. Brother David Bach, who was recently raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, offered very thoughtful remarks about his perceptions as a new member of Unity Lodge, which is working through a trend of declining membership and participation. VWB Bill Werner shared thoughts from



Brother David Bach

his experience as District Deputy when Mercer Island Lodge was suffering a membership cycle similar to what Unity Lodge is currently experiencing, but has since been able to reverse the trend. WB John Gebhart spoke about changes to the District 7 News schedule and appealed to the District Lodges to broaden participation and contributions to ensure the sustainability of its publication.

The presentation of the Grand Master's Achievement Award was reminiscent of Vice President Joe Biden's recent receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In his tribute to the Mr. Biden, President Barack Obama said, "To know Joe Biden is to know love without pretense, service without self-regard, and to live life fully" and referred to him as a "brother." He also spoke about Biden's ability to connect with anyone he meets, calling him "a resilient and loyal humble servant, a patriot and most of all a family man." The speech was lighthearted at times, with Mr. Obama referencing Joe's love of Amtrak and his overuse of the word "literally".

We have our own very worthy Brother and humble servant in WB John Gebhart, who is this year's recipient of the Grand Master's Achievement Award, presented by MWGM Jim Mendoza.



VWB Ulrich and WB Gebhart

In addition to the very kind remarks of MWGM Mendoza and VWB Ulrich I think there are some fitting parallels to the accolades given to Mr. Biden. Aside from the obvious of being a great Brother to all in our Fraternity, WB John is a very caring family man. This is evident by the numerous references in his D7 News

editorials about his fondness for and wonderful memories of his daughter, his wife, his Dad, and the many special occasions in his personal life. To say he gives selflessly to the craft is an understatement. Balancing the stress of being editor-in-chief of the D7 Newsletter, managing the finances of both a Blue Lodge and Royal Arch chapter, previously holding the top offices in both bodies, and volunteering on numerous committees makes me wonder where he finds the time to balance family, international work, and Masonry. That makes for one "resilient and loyal humble servant" in my book!

On the lighter side, while John may not love Amtrak like Joe Biden, I do know he loves his guitars and making beautiful music. And he does have a pretty killer original tune about a train, which we all enjoyed hearing at the D7 meeting! While I have rarely heard John use the word "literally", I always get a kick out of his frequent snappy one-liner comeback, "I'm just saying!..."

Congratulations on your award, WB John. Very well deserved! We thank you for your service!

Editor: Thank you for this kind submission WB Taylor. And thank you again MWGM Mendoza and VWB Ulrich, I will do my best to live up to this honor. But I have to say that the typesetters pitched a fit when they were setting up this piece.

Kirkland #150 Entered Apprentice degree

By WM Bill Reynar

On Thursday, January 19th, WM Bill Reynar conferred the Entered Apprentice degree upon Brother Jorge Coronel, of Kirkland #150.



The lecture was presented by VWB Cary Cope, of Skykomish Lodge #259 with the Charge being given by WB Dan Chadrow, of Kirkland Lodge. The candidate was conducted by SD Steve Preston.

D7 Secrets of the Chair

On the evening of Saturday, January 28th Unity Lodge hosted Secrets of the Chair under the leadership of WB Jonathan Seaton, Keeper of the Work. About a dozen of our District's Past Masters gathered to mentor our Worshipful Brothers who have made their first trip to the East this year.



(L to R) WBs Reece, Hisel, Taylor, Campbell and VWB Williams
(photobomb by VWB Quigley)

More than this cannot be reported. It's a secret.

Kirkland #150 Super Bowl Party

Come join the Brothers of Kirkland Masonic Lodge for its annual Super Bowl party.



The Lodge will provide chips, hotdogs and soft drinks. All other drinks are BYOB. Please bring a hot dish to share. Friends and family members are welcome.

Meet the District 7 Masters

WB Earl Lara, followed the inspiration of his father, WB Mario Lara, and will serve as Worship Master of West Gate Lodge this year.



When did you become a Mason and why?

I petitioned to become a Mason in February 2010 but wasn't raised until November 2011. I didn't know if I really wanted to be a Mason when I first petitioned because I was just doing it to keep a bond alive with my father. WB Jun Rigates was the first to reach out and welcome me into the fraternity. I then took a hiatus as life does that to you, and didn't really discover my drive until more brothers reached out to me. WB Donn Castro pulled me back in and as I got to talk more and more with my father's friends, I found the will within to want to be a better man... somehow, some way. Through time being around my father's friends (whom I now call my own Brothers), I could now personally attest why I became a Mason with a fuller meaning and confidence. It was because of my father, WB Mario Lara, and those around him that emulated his spirit, that I wanted to strive to be a better man.

Is this your first year as WM, if not, when and where previously?

This is my first year as Worshipful Master. I started in the line at Junior Deacon. I guess you can call it a fast track but I can definitely say for those following within the line that it is not ideal for a new Mason. A lot can come at you in such a short period of time when you

start this high in the line. My recommendation is know when you are ready and commit. What you put in is what you get out.

What do you like most about Freemasonry?

I love that no matter who I meet in the Fraternity, whether it's in Washington, California or overseas, I know they carry the same values as I do in regards to family and god(s). I know that they value something deeper than themselves, and that they will come to the aid of others within the length of their cabletow. I also love that when in heated debate, we can all come together despite our differences.

What do you like least about Freemasonry and what are you doing about it?

What I like least is the pressure to join the line. I think new Masons are getting burnt out when they join the lodge when they are immediately pressured to join the ranks. It makes it so difficult for new Brothers to find the actual fun amidst the pressures of the ritual work and traveling. You then find yourself with holes in the line and making it a little hard for long range plans. I think we should do more in Masonic education and ask more of our Grand Lodge to help find ways to retain membership (which I know they are already talking about.)

What goals do you have for your lodge in 2017 and how can the D7 Brethren help you accomplish this?

The goals I have for my lodge is to bring back the 'fun' aspect. While business is great to discuss during our meetings, Brotherly affection is what it's really all about. We want to help others and do it together. I want to be able to find ways to increase the amount of knowledge in Masonry. I would love D7 to help in this endeavor by not only traveling, but seeking out new brother Masons and share why they love being a Mason. Encourage them to travel to other lodges and make them feel that this journey is never ending. The attitude that VWB Bill Werner has with Lodge is very infectious and it's a goal of mine to emulate his work during Stated Meetings (and then some!)

Leadership Retreat

Registration is now open for the 2017 Leadership retreat to be held March 17 – 19 at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA. **Avoid late fees by registering before March 1, 2017.** Registration form information is available at this link [2017 Leadership Retreat](#).

Letters to the Editor

Special Bulletin, Retaining Masons (Jan 10, 2017)

WB Editor,

Lodges that are growing are targeting young guys and it is more of a social gathering. Is the face of Masonry changing? I have heard more than two Grands say we need to replace the old with new.

~ Br. Bob Decker

I Can Build A Robot (Jan 14, 2017)

WB John,

I never knew how to build a robot, but my job at Boeing allowed me to hire (and fire) people who did. One case was a great engineer who was assigned a MR&D (manufacturing research and development) project to develop a laser scanner to measure geometry of aircraft tubing. He was a wonderful young man and a brilliant engineer who lost himself into the project. Year one went by then 2 then 3 and we went back to the well for more money for the project. Year 4 there was still need for more money. Unfortunately the state of the art of the technology eclipsed his project and I could buy one on the open market for \$10K. I pulled the plug on his project and he was not happy. He told me you can't put a price on development and I told him I could put a value on it and bought the \$10K unit. My engineer became a Technical Fellow based on his research into laser technology and my operation was transformed by waiting for the right technology to emerge. It's funny how unforeseen circumstances and unintended consequences can be fortuitous.

Let me know when you master "Purple Haze."

Cheers.

~VWB Steve Pennington

VWB Steve,

Thank you so much for your very thoughtful reply. I've been playing guitar since 1965 and I still can't play all of Purple Haze, but I can play a piece of it.

~Editor

John,

Yes, slowly, piece by piece, our spirituality comes, shows. We balance hear and heart.

Love, hugs,

~Dad

Editor's Afterthought

Earlier this month I announced that my work-life balance was out of balance. In an attempt to fix that I decided to reduce the frequency of this newsletter to twice per month. We'll see if that works. I also requested more routine help from the Lodges to provide updates about Lodge current events, upcoming meetings and degrees, etc. We'll also see if that works. (The initial response is cause for optimism.)

When I announced the new schedule I don't think I did a good job of articulating the bigger picture. Here it is: Too often I've heard Brothers refer to this as *my newsletter*, and I never intended that. The purpose of this newsletter is to promote and facilitate exchange among the Brethren. This has to be the District's newsletter. I want the District to continue to enjoy this publication whether it's me tapping at the keyboard or somebody else.

Thank you for your kind compliments about me taking the District 7 News to the next level. Now it's time for another next level. Let's take it there together.

Deadline

Submissions for the February 15 issue of the District 7 News are due on **Saturday, February 11, 2017**. Early submission is encouraged.

Useless Clarification Advertising 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
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 dlh.mason@yahoo.com Sec: Nick Michaud (contact WM Hisel)
Myrtle #108	<i>Street Address:</i> 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 <i>Mailing Address:</i> 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: Chad Reece damnthings@gmail.com Sec: Jeff Swanson jeffswanson@platosnw.com
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: Les Snively - lsna761057@aol.com
Kirkland #150	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 www.kirklandmasons.org	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Bill Reynar wireynar@gmail.com Sec: Topher White topher.white@comcast.net
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: Matt Roalkvam webmattr@hotmail.com Sec : Jonathan Seaton jonathanrseaton@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: Dan Taylor dantaylor@msn.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, \$25.	WM: Bill Werner bigwer1@hotmail.com Sec: Craig Wood cwood1234@hotmail.com

District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Gene Ulrich nsnwinc@gmail.com

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	West Gate #128	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312**
WM	Br David Hisel	WB Chad Reece	WB Earl Lara	WB Bill Reynar	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Mike Campbell	WB Dan Taylor	VWB Bill Werner
SW	Br Robert Coats	WB Geoff Joosten	WB Phil Nylin	Br Brian Clubb	WB Mark Goodwin	Br Vincenzo Sainato	WB Paul Hoeffer	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
JW	Br Joshua Bushman	WB Jeff Craig	Br Vance Hill	Br Bryan DeNosky	WB Ernest Jenner	Br Phu Huynh	WB Thomas Aquino	Br JN
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Jeff Swanson	WB Les Snavely	WB Topher White	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	WB Craig Wood
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Mark Staveley	WB Les Snavely	WB Bob Wilson	WB Jonathan Seaton	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Scott Anderson	WB Craig Wood
SD	Br Noah Phillips	VWB Bill Werner	Br Kurt Egts	Br Steve Preston		Br Kevin French	Br Carl Bronkema	WB Todd Pike
JD	Br Norris Daltman	Br Gerry O'Brien	Br Arjay Protacio	Br MG	Br David Bach	WB Jim Groves	Br Denis Osmanbegovic	Br Sheraz Malik
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	Br Thomas Monds	VWB Mark Williams	WB Dan Chadrow		Br Steve Banin	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Doug Stamper
Mrsh	Br Warren Oltmann	Br Shane White	WB Jim Nash	Br Gary Weber		Br Derk Benish	VWB Roger Barnstead	Pending
Mu	Br Carlmer Sorensen		Br Bert Bertram			Br Praveen Sattaru	WB John Gebhart	
SS			Br Karl Egts			Br Pat Brennan	Br. Brent Fleckner	
JS			Br Ken Hill			Br Kevin Ward	Br. Stephen Burns	
T	WB Frank Schumacher	WB Brian Thomas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB David Pearson		WB Josh Rice	WB Steve Paige	Br Jeff Guthrie

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor

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