

# District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart  
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February 15, 2018

## It Didn't Work ...

... and by now we should realize that it never will.

"It" is our no-recruiting policy. I understand where it came from; there's something to be said about admitting only those who seriously want to join. But it hasn't led to a sustained critical mass of members. And now we're in a membership crisis.

Men used to actively seek membership in our Fraternity, back when Eisenhower was President. We've heard why it's harder to get members these days: there used to be only three TV stations, today's mothers and wives work, and people are on the internet at all hours. So why is football much more popular than it was when there were only three channels? Even working mothers watch football.

How many times has someone told you that they assumed Masonic membership was by invitation? And why not invite (read: actively solicit) new members? Invitation to a select group is a very special thing ... country clubs do it all the time. And just because someone is invited doesn't mean they would be exempt from a thorough and rigorous investigation.

It should be obvious that we can no longer rely on the practices that haven't worked. We should aggressively recruit and we need training and resources to make these efforts successful. For starters we have to figure out how to talk to prospects, and to do this we have to stop talking to ourselves. Reminding ourselves why we're Masons isn't helpful. We need to know why everybody else isn't. One would need to understand psychology, marketing, sociology and pop culture to solve this.

I want Masonry to be here in 100 years, but it won't happen if we don't solve the membership problem. And we can't fix this if we keep doing the same thing.

*WB John Gebhart*

## District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

February 15	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
February 19	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
February 26	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated
March 1	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
March 7	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
March 8	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
March 10	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
March 12	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
March 15	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated

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

## WB John Hannaman Receives 45-year Pin



*WM Vincenzo Sainato of Lakeside #258 awards  
WB John Hannaman with his 45-Year Service pin*

## Membership By the Numbers

**By VWB Clint Brown, Asst. Grand Secretary**

Reprinted from *The Grand Lodge Messenger*, February 2018

Travelling through the Jurisdiction this year, I have heard about the struggles that the Lodges are having with membership and participation. Let me start by

saying that the institution of Masonry in Washington is strong. Our membership is unfortunately in freefall. The conundrum that we face is not unique to our Jurisdiction or to our Fraternity. For whatever reason, men today just aren't "joiners". We must find a way to change this mindset if we are going to continue to be a strong and viable organization in the future.

I am going to warn you up front, numbers are boring. But they do paint a picture. Let's start there. At the 2012 Grand Lodge it was reported that in 2011, we had 16,110 active Masons on the roles. At the time we had a net loss per year of between 300-500 members per year due to death, dimits and non-payment of dues. Based on these estimates, our membership numbers should be between 13,000 to 14,000 members today in 2018. Our membership number is actually 10,994. In other words, the estimates were wrong. In 2012 we had 183 Lodges. Today we are down to 166 Lodges. Additionally, there are at least five Lodges which are currently considering consolidation with other Lodges. If each of these consolidations occurs we would be down to 163 Lodges.

Next let's look at the demographic makeup of our active Master Masons. Of our current members, approximately 7,500 are over 65 years of age. Approximately 9,500 are over 55 years of age and approximately 10,500 are 45 years of age or older. According to an article from CNBC earlier this year, the current life expectancy for a male in the United States is 76.5 years. Statistically speaking, we could lose two thirds of our membership to death in the next 11.5 years.

But we are replacing the losses with new members, right? Unfortunately, the answer to that question is no. We currently have approximately 2,500 Masons who have been raised in the last 10 years **and** who are currently on the active roles. Assuming this trend stays static for the next 10 years, we will only replace one third of the potential membership lost in the next ten years with new Masons.

Again, this is not a problem that we are facing alone. In a recent online article in the Jewish World Review it was reported that "(t)he Elks have lost 35 percent of their members since 1980, when it peaked at 1.6 million. The Loyal Order of the Moose has 935,000 members, a third

fewer than there were in 1980. And some of the smaller groups, such as Odd Fellows and Red Men, have all but faded from view".

What does all of this mean for the future of the Fraternity? For one thing, we will likely see a reduction in the number of Lodges within the Jurisdiction. We will need to become more streamlined and more creative in raising revenues at the Lodge and Grand Lodge level.

This also means that we need to make a concerted effort to make sure that we are not only bringing new Brothers to light in the Craft, but also make efforts to retain those Brothers who we raise as Master Masons within our Lodges. Membership retention is a major issue. Maintaining the status quo is not an option. We spend an inordinate amount of time and effort bringing good men to light, only to lose them to either dimits or non-payment of dues. Doing business the way we have "always done things" is not the answer. Organizations must continue to innovate to survive. This is true for Masonry as well. How we respond to that membership decline in the next 20 years will determine what the future looks like for Freemasonry in this state.

## **Renaissance #312**

*By VWB Bill Werner*

Our WM has asked me to remind all of our next Stated Meeting Monday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to me or the PayPal site and choose Prime Rib or the fishy dish.

At the Festive Board we will have a topical discussion revolving around the Grand Lodge Media Awareness campaign--on both TV and Radio. Have you seen/heard either? What did you think? Was it effective to you or to a different audience? Why? And have you seen the new movie? Or read the new book by Brother Kyle Grafton?

ALSO: Our GM MWB Warren Schoeben will be gracing us with his presence. I believe he will enjoy our Renaissance Style, Flair, Dinner, Discussion and Fraternalism. I also understand that some Brothers from St. Johns and Lakeside may also attend. Come early, and do some meet and greet.

Brothers, a few of our members have had medical issues over the last several months; surgeries, sickness, and distress. Prayers and positive thoughts to them and their families please. And safe travels for Woody and

Kyoko as they travel to Dresden Germany and elsewhere over the next two weeks, back in time for Lodge of course!! Bonus Points: what book did many of us read in high school that featured Dresden?

RSVP: [bigwer1@hotmail.com](mailto:bigwer1@hotmail.com)

## **Mercer Island #297**

At its next Stated Communication, Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Shrink the Lodge discussion topic will be Civility. And mark your calendar for Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication when RWB Charles "Woody" Wood will visit Mercer Island Lodge. RW Woody will lead a discussion on the growing concern about membership.

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).

Free parking!

## **Secrets of The Chair**

*By WB Jonathan Seaton, Keeper of the Work*

I just want to thank all the Past Masters that came to be a part of the Secrets of The Chair for our new Masters in District 7: Worshipful Brother Brian Clubb and Worshipful Brother Vincenzo Sainato. A special thanks to those who stepped in at the last minute. Your help made it a great night for our Candidate/Masters, and I simply couldn't have done it without you.

Worshipful Brothers, you have my respect and my thanks.

## **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

## **Meet the District 7 Masters**

*Five Questions for WM Vincenzo Sainato of Lakeside #258*



***When did you become a Mason and why?***

Well, strictly speaking, I was first prepared to be made a Mason in my heart... that said, I first joined as an EA in 2007. I was in New York City and one of my students (an older gentleman who was a Grand Lodge Officer from Peru) approached me and assumed I was a Mason. This eventually resulted in my discovery that I lived about 300 yards from the Grand Lodge of New York and I eventually initiated, passed, was raised in Washington #21, a venerable lodge in the 1<sup>st</sup> District of New York City. The reason why I joined was because Freemasonry is a critical continuation of the same combination of friendship and 'design' of purpose that I had experienced in college with my fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta. As many know, college fraternities were almost all founded by Masons and the underlying principles are unequivocally connected- in points, parts, and arts.

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

I was put up for the East in my lodge in New Orleans; however, I then found out that I could not guarantee I could complete the year because of my uncertainty with my move to Seattle. So, this is my first time.

### ***What do you like most about Freemasonry?***

There is not one aspect I like "most", per se... I enjoy the combination of historical connection to the founding and development of the US and the moral lessons. What I think many often refer to here (in WA) as the esoteric work. The opportunity to develop new friends and acquaintances from different walks and backgrounds- to collaborate on projects for the lodge and community and enjoy social events (a.k.a 'good times').

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

I don't have a, per se, "least"... but I have a point of view on the following: There is a generational shift in what the 20-45 year old age group is seeking. When I hear members, whether they are from Grand Lodge or elsewhere, lament the loss of numbers among new members across the craft I see a disconnect. I observe that people who are being attracted today are sincerely interested in the historical and esoteric (philosophical) as well as the friendship. But, too often, there is not enough of the former two.

I have a strong opinion on what I perceive is a certain lack of 'magic' and drama and craft to our esoteric work. Something that college fraternities do quite well. I don't mean, by this, a justification for hazing or esoteric for esoteric sake; however, the details for how we approach that work is, at times, too sanitized. I have been a brother in lodges in three (totally) different jurisdictions in the last 11 years. I had Masonically travelled A LOT when I was in New York and Louisiana and I have several points of reference on this topic. Lodges that don't find a way to consider this while keeping their identity will be challenged. People vote with their feet and if our fraternity doesn't have the meaning or intention of what they are seeking then they will seek it elsewhere. All I am saying is that we need to be who we say we are - not just a portion of it.

To the point of doing something about it... I have been researching and talking extensively in lodge and with others who are well informed on this subject. Without going into details in this forum all I can say is tangible steps are being made in our Lodge and in our work- both in our regular communications and elsewhere. I

have been very fortunate that VWBs, WBs, and others have been assisting and providing a lot of guidance and mentoring on these matters

### ***What goals to you have for our lodge in 2017 and how can the D7 Brethren help you accomplish this?***

In no particular order:

**Administrative:** To re-align particular functions and roles within and for the lodge to particular officers/chairs. In order to make regular order and activities predictable and the workload distributed appropriately. This is something that was lost as we had spent SO much of our effort over the last three years to sell our old location and move to our new one. Thus, most of everything had fallen to the WM, Secretary, and Treasurer. We need to get off of that model. Fortunately, we have an excellent line who is committed to this.

**'Fit and finish' of our lodge:** We have a great space and we are very close to having the finest space it can be... but, we need to get more of the regalia and decorations sorted-out- parts of the space feel cold and antiseptic. Then there are special projects involving the PA system and the lighting in the Lodge room which needs some adjustments that we had not foreseen when we built the space.

**'Community'**- Within the lodge and between the lodge and the concordant bodies and the general community. In short , we are actively traveling more and seeking opportunities to tie ourselves more closely in a way that furthers our social and other needs and wants. In our Lodge we have- another Lodge (Westgate)... Job's Daughters, OEC, Demolay, and Rainbows. This is a vibrant location. And we are already more actively working with those other groups. Also, we are sponsoring the awards ceremony for the Redmond Police - who will be having their ceremony in our Lodge in May (more on that later).

**Ritual/esoteric work:** To improve our Masonic work and ourselves through our Masonic work.

How can Brethren assist... I/we have been already getting a fair amount of involvement as I mentioned above; that said, I would be thrilled to have further chats with anyone who have a point of view on any of

the above whereby we can further 'move the ball' and improve- regardless of whether or not we agree, per se.

### 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

#### Can You Get Closer to the Goal (January 31, 2018)

John,

By asking, wondering can we do it, get closer to our goal, sure, by working with others who have been to where we wish to go. It's a matter of recognizing not only our goal or goals but the teachers.

Love, hugs,

~Dad

### Deadline

Submissions for the February 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the **District 7 News** are due on **Saturday, Feb 24, 2018**. Early submission is encouraged.

### More Cowprint 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