

District 7 News



Editor: VWB John Gebhart
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Augusts 31, 2019

Playing the Field

Before the season turns the corner to pennant races, the playoffs and the Fall Classic it's time once again for the **District 7 News Annual Baseball Issue**.

The checkerboard outfield is relatively new to our nation's pastime. Due to its resemblance to the Mosaic Pavement found in many lodges some believe it to be significantly Masonic. The Mosaic Pavement is referred to as the "Path of Life". Its contrasting black and white squares are emblematic of the duality of human life, checkered with good and evil.



You can have outfield-like grass, or a Masonic symbol if that's your thing, right on your own lawn. Admit it, you've thought about it before. Just follow these simple instructions: [Checkerboard Lawn](#). *(The D7N Editorial Board hasn't yet come up with a plausible explanation for your wife when she asks why you did this.)*

If indeed outfields are emblematic of human life it is represented there by contrasting squares of dark and light green. Some think there may be symbolic meaning in where the ball lands or is caught. I'm skeptical of this.

As a sportswriter's kid I've been to a lot of baseball parks, even a couple now long-gone parks, before checkerboard outfields became fashionable. My father, our good Brother Ed Gebhart, Jr., spent decades in MLB press boxes. Years ago I asked him for his insights on why they do checkerboard outfields. He said it's because it looks nice.

VWB John Gebhart

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

September 4	Wednesday	Unity #108	Stated
September 5	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated*
September 9	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated*#
September 12	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated*
September 14	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated*
September 19	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated

* DDGM Official Visit

MWGM informal visit

Myrtle Lodge EA Degree

On Saturday August 17th Myrtle Lodge did its part to keep the District's degree momentum going by conferring the Entered Apprentice degree for three new Brothers: Jim Singletary and Eric Quere of Myrtle Lodge, and Garrett Yee from Whitman Lodge #49.



Newly initiated Brothers (L to R), Jim Singletary (green shirt), Garrett Yee, and Eric Quere

Brother Gerry O'Brien conferred the degree, assisted by Brother Ian Melendez as Senior Deacon. The lecture was delivered by WB Chad Reece.

Lakeside Lodge #258

By VWB Bill Gene Ulrich

Lakeside Lodge will be having our traditional BBQ prior to our regular Stated meeting on Monday, September 9th. Social time starts around 6:00 p.m. and dinner

around 6:30 p.m. Another tradition that will continue is an informal visit of our Grand Master, MW Charles E. Wood. To make an excellent evening even better, we will welcome VW John Gebhart for his official visit. Proper attire is business casual or whatever you are wearing, but please no jeans, shorts or flip flops.

The Lodge room will be sporting some cosmetic upgrades thanks to the efforts of several dedicated Brothers over the last few weeks.

District 7 Degree Day (?)

By VWB Bill Werner

Myrtle Lodge is planning a Master Mason degree in mid-September, likely Saturday the 14th or Saturday the 21st. The Lodge currently has two candidates in waiting. It might be good/fun/interesting to do this as a District Wide event; kind of a Kick-Off into Fall/Return to Labor. Myrtle has opened their doors for this event, which could expand into a Day of District Degrees if there is interest in doing the EA and/or FC on the same day. We had these events for several years in District 7 and they were always very positive and enthusiastically received by all who participated, especially the new Brothers.

Please respond directly to me with your Lodge's interest: 425-894-4410 or bigwer1@hotmail.com

2020 Ritual Competition *Updated*

Previously known as the Senior Warden's Competition, the competition has been expanded to encourage greater ritual proficiency and now includes both individual and team categories:

- **Senior Wardens Competition** – Following the same format as in the past, open to first time Senior Wardens. Must open and close on degree chosen at time of competition, call down, resume, labor to refreshment, and refreshment to labor. If the 1st degree is chosen for the work, the call down and resume use the Fellowcraft for this portion.
- **Team Competition** – Three person teams of Master Masons from the same lodge who will perform as WM, SW and JW. Same rules as SW competition
- **Apron and Sacred Geometry Lectures** – Open to any Fellowcraft or Master Mason.

There are some inconsistencies with the Standard Work and the Clear Text, these will be taken into consideration and not counted against the competitor. Also, the WM should remove his hat anytime invoking the blessing of deity.

Competitions among the District 7 Lodges (*date to be determined*) will precede a regional competition in which our District will compete with lodges from Districts 4, 5, and 6. Regional competitions must be completed by March 13, 2020, with the winners advancing to the Grand Lodge competition in April.

For more information on the rules of the competition contact VWB Steve Martin at smartin160@gmail.com. For scheduling District or Regional competition contact VWB John Gebhart at john.e.gebhart@gmail.com

District 7 Meeting

Saturday, November 2nd, 5:00 p.m.

Save the date!

The District meeting will be held earlier than usual this year and will feature a different format than previous meetings. In addition to the customary presentation of awards and comments from and Q&A with the Grand Master the main event at this year's meeting will be a *Shrink the District* discussion.

Over the past year our District has enjoyed an unprecedented surge of new Masons. Therefore it is timely to pause and reflect on how we can work together to ensure that our newest members embark on a fulfilling and long lasting Masonic Journey. Please plan to attend so you can participate in this important discussion.

The meeting will take place at the Eastside Masonic Center. Since it's a Saturday night dress will be business casual and it is likely that this will be a Masons-only event. More details to come.

\$40K – GM Challenge

MWGM Wood has challenged our Grand Jurisdiction to raise \$40,000 for Masonic Charities this year. It's not a number picked out of the sky, there's logic to it: If every 10th Washington Mason donates \$40 (which

might go to a Grand Master tie in any other year) that will result in about \$40,000. It's an ask, not an edict.



The Challenge is off to a good start, and that's great. But what we really need is a good finish.

What's our District's quota? Well, it's an ask so there isn't one. But if we follow the Grand Master's arithmetic the 374 Masons in our District could yield \$1,496. If we push that to \$50 per every 10th Mason we'd raise \$1,870. Personally, I like big numbers. I'd love to see our District raise \$2,000, however keeping in mind that no one should give beyond the length of their cable tow. And this isn't for bragging rights; we should heed one of the most enduring lessons from the Mark Master degree - no gift is too small.

Lodges may aggregate donations from their members for this campaign. You can also donate directly to Masonic Charities on this link [\\$40 - GM Challenge](#), or snail mail a check, indicating the \$40 GM Challenge, to:

Washington Masonic Charities
PO Box 65830
University Place, WA 98464

You may also give your donations directly to VWB John Gebhart as a few Brothers have already done, and these will be forwarded to Masonic Charities.

Thank you in advance for any amount you can share in support of this program.

Deadline

Submissions for the September 15th issue of the **District 7 News** are due **Tuesday September 10, 2019**. Early submission is encouraged.

Letters to the Editor

The Pot Farm (July 31, 2019)

John,
What is there to say, "Expect the unexpected."
love, hugs,
~ Dad

Tie Died (June 30, 2019)

VWB John:

I'd like to add another perspective on the team ties tradition that can get lost in a money discussion. After all, team ties are a fundraising tool as well. But more importantly, the team ties were an important part of the team uniform, which provides a shared identity for those working with the Grand Master for the Masonic year.

For many of us who have had the honor of serving the Craft for many years, these items live on as reminders of meetings and events that we shared with Brethren, Families and Friends. Although wearing a Past Grand Master's pin is generally not done (out of respect for the current GM), the same is not true of the tie, which can be worn on any occasion when not serving as a team member.

For example, last month I was at a meeting of one of the Concordant Bodies I belong to. I wore the Team tie I had from when I was a Grand Lodge Committeeman during MWB John D. McNab's term. A couple other members recognized the tie and we had a wonderful chat, sharing memories of MW McNab, and some of the things we had done together during that year.

So, while I understand the reasons why our MW Grand Master has chosen a different approach this year, I hope that the tradition of the Masonic Team Ties is not lost forever. I'd also like to challenge the other members of the District to wear one of their old Masonic ties at the meetings and events they go to this year, and share a story about how they, their Lodge, the

District and/or Masonry was during the year that the tie is from.

Fraternally,

~VWB Jim Scardelis

Dear VWB Scardelis,

All I own are Jerry Garcia ties. I suppose we could regard him as Grand Master of a different fraternity. Between happy memories of the many Grateful Dead concerts I attended and the enduring affection I have for my late mother-in-law, who gave almost all of them to me, the Garcia ties are my special memento. Close enough?

~Editor

The Pot Farm & Tied Died

VWB John:

The Pot Farm is the story of my young life. Never what the artist expected but the artist often finds the public has no idea what you intended. Things turn out.

Back to ties ... Years ago, a Brother was visiting a Lodge in Dawson City, BC.. He was wearing his usual Masonic attire: A blue jacket and a Loony Toons tie featuring the Tasmanian Devil. He was approached by a very old and proper Masonic brother who said to him in a frosty refined English accent "that's not a Masonic Tie"! The Alaskan brother replied "I am not wearing my Masonic Underoos either".

I guess you had to be there ...

Finally, I recently created a photo for the Glencannon Press <https://www.glencannon.com/>.



If you don't know Collin Glencannon you should. I will be bringing a bottle of Duggan's Drew O' Kirkintilloch for the bar at the next stated.

~VWB Roger Barnstead

VWB Barnstead,

My review of the official Underoos web site found nothing Masonic, but it turns out that Masonic underwear is a real thing ([Square & Compass Boxers](#)).



I hope this doesn't give our Grand Master or his successors any ideas.

~Editor

Sermon on the Mound



"Settle down and try to remember why we call you Lefty."

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
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 John Gebhart John.E.Gebhart@gmail.com

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312
WM	WB David Hisel	WB Laurence Lance	WB Bryan DeNosky	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Mike Campbell	WB Thomas Aquino	VWB Bill Werner
SW	WB Frank Schumacher	Br Gerry O'Brien	Br Steve Preston	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Todd Pike	Br Carl Bronkema	VWB Gene Ulrich
JW	Br Joshua Bushman	Br Mike Inman	Br Ron Quartel	WB Ernest Jenner	Br Derk Benisch	WB Paul Hoeffler	Br. Sheraz Malik
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Brian Thomas	WB Bill Reynar	WB Dean Markley	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Brian Thomas	WB Bill Reynar	Br David Bach	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Scott Anderson	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
SD	Br Guy Everett	Br Ian Frease	Br Rod Beacham		Br Malcolm Maciver	WB David Pearson	Br Mihai Manolache
JD		WB Chad Reece	Br Zach Carpenter		Br Jaime Speicher	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Brian Wheeler
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Jeff Craig	WB Dan Chadrow		Br. Max Box	VWB Roger Barnstead	VWB Homer Beathe
Mrsh		Br Thomas Mounds	Br Patrick Hevesi		Br. Kevin Ward		Br Randy Coggan
Mu						VWB John Gebhart	
SS					Br. Michael Cramer		
JS							
T			WB Brian Clubb				RWB Hellmutt Fisher

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor