

District 7 News



Editor: VWB John Gebhart

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September 15, 2019

Back to School, Part 1: *Inventive Spelling*

My kid wrote about six books more than 20 years ago when she was in second grade. While short, they were actually very interesting. I asked her how she wrote these books. She answered, very matter-of-factly, "Dad, it's very simple. First I introduce the characters, then I give one of them a problem, and then I spend the rest of the book solving the problem."

I was stunned, but still curious; the spelling in her books was all over the place. So I asked her about that and she said, "It's OK, I'm doing inventive spelling."

Inventive spelling empowered a class of second graders to stretch their thoughts, collect and organize them, and then express them. This was so different from my second grade. If I made that many spelling mistakes I might still be on a stool in the back of Mrs. McClure's classroom room staring at a windowless corner.

Eventually my kid learned how to spell and went on to greater academic achievements. The same was true for many of her classmates, and we see this every year when we review the Masonic scholarship applications. Today's students are remarkable. Today's education methods make my education look prehistoric.

How should Masonic education methods evolve to be relevant and engaging to Millennials. Much of our traditional teaching methods, and our success criteria, are rooted in methods used before there were printing presses. It's a nice tradition, but tradition is relevant only as long as it works. It might already be too late to figure out how to adapt to Millennials so we should start thinking, now, about how we might hope to someday teach the children of Millennials.

Yes, we should start now. We take forever to change. Maybe it's because we never learned how to change.

VWB John Gebhart

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

September 19	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
October 1	Tuesday	TBD	LOMA
October 2	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated *
October 3	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated #
October 10	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated*
October 12	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
October 14	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated

* DDGM Official Visit

Officer Installation

Mercer Island #297

Annual Installation of Officers

Taking a little pressure off of our District's annual holiday/installation crunch Mercer Island #297 has moved its installation up to its next Stated Communication, Thursday, October 3rd. You and your Lodge's members and guests are invited.

WB Scott Anderson will travel to the East for a third time (vowing this time to get it right) and will be installed by MWB Santy Lascano with the assistance of The District 7 All Star Installation Team of VWBs Bill Werner, Gene Ulrich, and Doug Stamper.

The open installation will start at 7:30 p.m. preceded by cocktails and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Masons please wear a coat and tie, all other guests business casual. Please bring your wife/partner/other family members for this fun evening.

We all know that Masons don't RSVP **but we really need an RSVP so our caterer can plan accordingly ...** dinner won't be a pot of spaghetti; it's a full blown catered meal! **RSVP to john.e.gebhart@gmail.com no later than Monday, September 30th.**

Myrtle Lodge #108

Myrtle Lodge has supported the yearly Experience Fitness Project in the past and now plans to participate annually. Six members are attending this Sunday, September 15th at 10:00 a.m. at Issaquah High School's track and field complex.

Experience Fitness Project is a day for children and young adults with physical disabilities to participate in competitive and non-competitive fitness events including adapted equipment, races, and group classes. The Experience Fitness Zone will have representatives from many different local recreational and fitness programs and organizations promoting opportunities for children with disabilities.

District 7 Degree Day (?)

Myrtle Lodge is attempting to plan a Master Mason degree, possibly on Saturday, September 28th. 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 ASAP with your Lodge's interest: 425-894-4410 or bigwer1@hotmail.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/Q&A with the Grand Master the main event at this year's meeting will be a ***Shrink the District*** discussion.

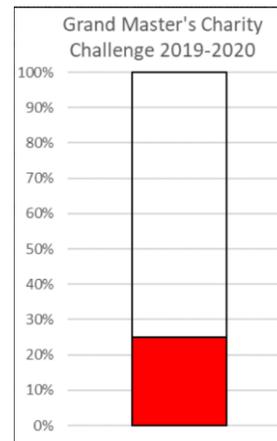
Over the past year our District has enjoyed an unprecedented surge of new Masons. Therefore it is timely to pause and reflect on how we can work together to ensure that our newest members embark

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 we'll give the women the night off and 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, more than \$10K through August and that's great. But what we really need is a good finish.

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.

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** – 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.
- **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

Deadline

Submissions for the September 30th issue of the *District 7 News* are due **Thursday September 26, 2019**.
Early submission is encouraged.

Letters to the Editor

Playing the Field (August 31, 2019)

VWB John:

Great article! Made me smile.

~WB Dan Taylor

WB Taylor,

Sometimes I hope the readers think, other times I hope they smile. This was one of those other times. Glad it worked.

~Editor

John:

Symbols mean to each of us what they were meant to mean, and then we realize their meaning comes from our past experiences.

Love, hugs,

~Dad

Inventive Spelling in the Community



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