

TRESTLEBOARD



January 2010

Greetings from the West!

This Thursday, Feb 4, is our official visitation by the Deputy of the Grand Master in District 9, VWB Marion Windell. Please come and help us welcome brother Marion to our lodge. There will be a dinner served at 6:30 and Lodge starts at 7:30. Since I have received no articles from the other officers I thought I would repeat a few articles from other publications. If anyone has an article to put in the Trestleboard, please send it to gfooster@eskimo.com or George Foster, 7173 State Route 9, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284. This is your publication, my brothers, and I welcome contributions from all members of articles relating to Masonry.

~ George W Foster, SW

Forwarded from David McCuiston!

Brethren:

I just got a phone call from a boiler room call center purporting to raise money for the Shrine Hospital. It was from Shrine Temple # 64 in Seattle (ain't one).

When pressed, she said it was Shrine Lodge #64 instead (ain't one)

I did get her name and phone number after much effort and it is ATS NorthWest 425-778-0345.

In talking to Ron Fine, I was assured that the Nile had nothing to do with this, so tell your friends and family to be aware.

Upcoming Events

Feb 2 Mt Baker 36 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 4 Burlington-United 93 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 DDGM OV 7:30 pm

Feb 9 Fidalgo 77 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 pm DDGM OV 7:30 pm

Feb 11 Camanio 19 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 16 Whidby Is 15 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 18 Garfield 41 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 23 Langley 218 Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30 pm

Feb 24 District 9 LOA at Anacortes Meeting 7:30 pm Host 218

Mar 19 Burlington-United 93 St Patrick's Dinner with Skagit Shrine Club 6:30 pm

In a State of Darkness

I cast my mind back to the evening of my Initiation, admittedly several decades ago but still well remembered. I was blindfolded! I was in room that I had never been in before! I was surrounded by people I had never seen before and all in a highly charged atmosphere! Then I was asked "Are you willing to take a solemn and binding obligation" to an organisation that I knew very little about. But in that state of darkness and confusion how could I make a reasoned decision? I'm sure that most of us have similar memories and most of us made the right decision but some did not. This perhaps explains why some of our Initiates, having taken that solemn and binding obligation quietly drift away after a few meetings - they discover, too late, that they have made a mistake and Freemasonry is not for them.

In the twenty first century our recruitment should be a great deal more open if these mistakes are to be avoided. When a man first expresses an interest in becoming a Mason, it is the responsibility of his Proposer and Secunder to explain what is required of him if he is to become a member of the Craft, and what he in turn can expect from the Craft in return. They must also ask themselves "Will he be happy with the members of our Lodge and will the members of our Lodge be happy with him?" rather than "That takes care of our next meeting but one!"

If the answer to all this is a firm "yes", then our candidate will appear before the Lodge Committee, with his eyes fully open and in a relaxed frame of mind. It is for the members to ask themselves "Does he fully understand the commitment that he is accepting?" "Is he a man we would be very happy to have in our Lodge?" If the answer to both of these questions is again a firm "Yes", then is the time to ask him to make the decision whether or not to become a member of our Order. He has a very good idea of what is involved and is able to make a reasoned and calm decision. At his Initiation, in darkness and strange surroundings, the answer to the question "Are you willing to take a solemn and binding obligation" is easy - the decision has already been made.