



# Washington Lodge No 4 Trestle Board March 2007

Founded in 1857  
Meeting on the Level  
Acting by the Plumb  
Parting on the Square

## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST.

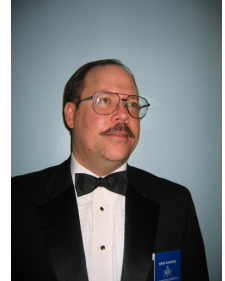
Brethren, you're probably wondering who I am or where I've been, since it has been so long since I've been able to contribute to the Trestle Board. I assure you I'm still the Brother you elected to the East, and I haven't moved away. I do need to apologize for seemingly not ever being able to get even a short article out lately. My reason (not excuse) is that I've been stretched very thin at work recently. So, finally, here is an article. Thank you for your patience.

Approximately 11.5 months ago (as of the time I'm writing this), Brother Reed Jones was raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason. At our Special Meeting in March he is planning to prove up on the MM Degree. Please come out and show your support for this if you can. Also at this meeting we will be touching on the "Proficiency in Lodge Management" program from Grand Lodge, and will be discussing final logistics for our annual pilgrimage to Capilano for our sister-Lodge's Installation of Officers. I am really hoping that I will not be called to Kentucky for work and that I can finally experience this event that I've heard so much about. I'm really looking forward to it!

Right around the corner will be our Easter Egg Hunt (or is that "slaughter"?) on Saturday 07-April (the day before Easter) at the VMC. We will be acquiring appropriate candy for stuffing Easter Eggs. I'm sure our Junior & Senior Wardens will share more details on those activities. It also won't be long before our newest Entered Apprentice Mason, Bro. Chris Finch, will be proving up on the EA Degree -- so look for news of his Fellow Craft conferral coming soon.'

Those of you who have been attending Lodge regularly have noticed that I have been publishing a "pocket calendar" on a 3x5 index card at each Stated Communication. I find these very useful and handy, as they fit inside a Monitor/Cipher book or your shirt pocket. If you know of events or announcements that would be appropriate for this calendar, please let any of the Officers know so that I can get it included.

The last thing I'm going to share are a couple of thoughts I've had while contemplating my own very busy and demanding schedule. Everyone always hears that "you get out of Freemasonry what you put into it" -- and that is very true. But with all the demands of daily life competing for time and energy, sometimes I don't give as much to my Lodge and other Masonic activities as I'd like. And, while I have (hopefully) many years to "catch up" on any shortcomings of "today", I have chosen to shift some of my personal and work priorities to devote a bit more to Freemasonry. Part of the reason I'm doing this is based on an email conversation I've been having over the last couple of months with another Brother. It really pointed out to me how important our "sacred retreat of friendship and virtue" can be -- and why, even when I may think it is okay to "skip out" on it one month or another, it **REALLY IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO ATTEND LODGE** -- both for my own benefit and for any benefit I may be able to provide



*Master's Message Continued from front page.*

others. Please think about this, and if you haven't been to Lodge in a while maybe it's time you did. (And, for those who might be embarrassed by not being current or especially proficient in the modes of recognition, we will be have a "Rusty Brother" night in the near future to help all us out -- it should be fun!).

I've rattled on long enough for one month, so I'll close with a genuine desire that you be safe and happy, and that you can share some of that happiness with your Brethren.

...parting on the square....

*Mark Sanders W.M*



**Washington Lodge No 4  
Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
Sat. April 7<sup>th</sup>. 10:00 AM  
at the Vancouver Masonic Center.**



## **Senior Wardens Message**

My Brother, I was thinking the other day what a pleasure it is seeing you, it doesn't happen often enough. I wish we could spend more time together; but job, family, life are all very time consuming. Thank goodness for the Lodge, for through it, over time, we can become closer and share a small part of this life together, I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

On the Level,  
*Pat Conroy, Senior Warden*

*P.S. A couple of things from the past for your edification and entertainment.*

*From the Manuscript of old charges circa 1680.*

*# (16) And also that every Mason shall receive and cherish strange Masons when they come to their country and sett them to work as the manner is (that is to say) if they have mould or stones in place he shall sett him a fortnights work at the least; and give him his pay; and if he has no stones, you shall refresh him with money to the next Lodge.*

*And from the Washington Masonic Code 1897 article XV.*

Officers' elections and Installations. #357

*It is eminently proper to refuse to install as S.W. of a new Lodge a brother who at the time of constituting the Lodge was too drunk to be present.*

*Decision G.M. Sohns: approved 1881*

*Scottish Rite Vancouver Valley is offering a one time good deal  
Pay two years dues (\$100) in advance and they will waive all initiation fees  
For more information Call  
Dick Flett 693-5159 or Mac Parker 696-8916*

# Observations from the South

Good day to all of our brethren from Washington 4, our brothers from supporting lodges and elsewhere, and our friends or neighbors that this may find. Upon some deliberation, for this, my first communication from the South, I personally, would like to thank my fellow lodge brothers for their vote of confidence and hail those brothers we have not seen over this past year to earn their support and brotherhood as well.

As February is already upon us, we find ourselves a quarter of the way into our year. We have had a fine quarter of work with much more ahead. Here we go...

October, once again, has proven to be a very busy month. On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> we visited our northern brethren at Steilacoom #2 for the annual Tri-Lodge rendezvous. A fine event filled with nostalgic history. We broke bread, shared ideas, and practiced age old brotherly fraternization. This brings to mind a question posed and mused over regarding faith and patriotism with ensuing harmonious debate. After some research, this excerpt, written under the tenets of tolerance seemed to bring some light: "No one mason has the right to measure for another, within the walls of a Masonic Temple, the degree of veneration which he shall feel for any Reformer, or the Founder of any religion. Masonry also has her mission to perform. With her traditions reaching back to the earliest times, and her symbols dating further back than even the monumental history of Egypt extends, she invites all men of all religions to enlist under her banners to war against evil, ignorance, and wrong." This, my brothers, may bring us back to the very foundations of our fraternity, where, when brought to light, we are thus taught basic conduct to guide us within due bounds of all mankind. Our initial obligation may be our purest and certainly most innocent from our newly obligated brother's perspective. The Rite of Destitution, amongst the most important of lessons in our first degree, speaks of charity. Not so much the donation of money, which any man may do, but more importantly ourselves. In order to fulfill this obligation we must reinvest individual effort for greater achievement. Our installation of officers on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> went smoothly and we certainly more than appreciate all attending brothers from Canada, Salem and local lodges! Thank you brothers! Worshipful Thom Taylor we thank you, brother, for your leadership and efforts over the past year. Additionally, we ended October with EA conferral work leading us into the next month.

November brought the holiday season upon us and our youngest brother proved up on the lodge floor with our Fellowcraft degree to follow bringing more light to our lodge. If you missed the shows, come out and see your new brethren as soon as you can.

December brought business as usual with more quality work and combined fraternal efforts in a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree conferral early in the month. Congratulations Hank Shaffer! We ended the year at our annual Christmas afternoon gathering with deep fried turkey, baked ham, potatoes and additional food stuffs with fun and games had by all attendees.

In conclusion, we have a new and exciting year before us. Please bring some and I'll see you in lodge. We'll sign off with an old prophet's adjuration: "Hope thou a little, fear not at all, and love as much as you can.

By the Plumb

*Don Houston* Junior Warden

Our Tyler Bro. Bob Hansen says that we need more humor. So if you have any jokes (suitable for publication) submit them to the TB editor prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and we will try to get them in the upcoming editions which hopefully will be published on a more regular basis

