

# BREMERTON LODGE #117

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF WASHINGTON

February 2024 Edition

*From the West:*

*January 27, 2024*

Brethren, for this month's edition of our newsletter, I would like to start off by sharing a January 24 article written by MWB Cameron Bailey. A very good reminder for us all, here we go...

## **Let's Cause Disharmony In 2024 Or maybe not...**

The Iowa Caucuses were last week, and the New Hampshire Primary was yesterday. The Presidential election is officially underway.

That of course means that we in the United States will once again get to decide who will serve as our Head of State for a four year term.

But, it means a lot more than just that.

It means that as the spirit of Walter Cronkite is long dead, we will have partisan talking heads on 24/7 News channels screaming about how their guy is good and the other guy is evil, all day, every day, for months.

It means that talk shows on the radio and podcasts will be doing the same. Not to mention newsletter land, where Emeth lives, we'll surely have thousands of newsletter writers screaming their screeds across the page.

It means that massive technology companies, owned and directed by multi-billionaires will be putting their thumb on the scale, doing all they can to provoke emotional reactions in their users, holding their attention, while banning some truly horrible content and promoting other, equally horrible content.

We've all experienced this garbage before.

But, this year, 2024 is going to be worse than ever before. A lot worse.

Why?

First of all, because the perceived stakes are higher. We've now had eight solid years of unabashed, unashamed partisan hatred polluting our political discourse. None of the keyboard warriors, from anywhere on the political spectrum will want to give

up the vicious battle while they see a pathway to temporary victory.

Secondly, and more importantly, Artificial Intelligence. No matter what your personal political beliefs might be, this technology will figure it out, and it will drive emotion driven content straight to you, all in an attempt to reinforce some behavior and change other behavior. It will be emotional, driving sadness, anger, division, and rage.

And now, as it can be created at very little cost, at the speed of light, it will drown social media, the open web, and virtually every other large online surface that people use to interact.

We'll also have plenty of deep fake content driven our way. Just the other day I shared a video in Chat that showed a world leader giving a speech, displaying perfect English. It looked great and it sounded great; In English. But in the real world, when he gave that speech, he gave it in Spanish. We cannot believe what we see and hear online, unless we can otherwise prove it true.

The political discourse in 2024 is going to be bad. Really bad.

What does this mean to us, as Freemasons?

It means that we have to work to not get sucked into this insanity.

It means that we must use our Working Tools to help us subdue our passions.

It means that we should not believe, uncritically, everything we encounter online that confirms our own personal political perspective. And it certainly means that we shouldn't spread this stuff to others, unless we independently know for a fact that it is true.

It means that if we have the Square and Compasses on our social media feed, or post about Freemasonry on our feed, we must be judicious about anything remotely political we post on that feed, lest we offend half the population of our country and sully the reputation of our Craft.

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It means that if we cannot resist posting both Masonic things, and political propaganda, then we should maintain two, completely unrelated and unconnected social media feeds. One for Masonry, one for whatever political thing is making us mad or glad on any given day.

It means that we must force ourselves to use our reason and to think critically about what we encounter so that we can discern between legitimate political issues and political propaganda.

It means that we must remember that there are special interest groups, political action committees, policy organizations, and lots of dark money outfits that do nothing but spend all day, every day, creating divisive political content. Now they are aided by Ai, and they are funded by the billions.

Most importantly of all, it means that we keep this stuff out of the Lodge Room, out of the dining room, and out of our Masonic events.

There is a reason that Partisan Political Discussion has always been prohibited by all Regular Lodges in Masonic meetings, throughout the world.

We must preserve Masonic harmony within Freemasonry, and we can never make a Brother feel somehow less than, or unwelcome because we can't resist talking about the latest political outrage when we are supposed to be talking about Masonry.

The avalanche of garbage is coming towards us Brothers! Let's all do what we can to protect our Gentle Craft, our little Masonic oasis, from it.

*Thank you for reading!*

*MW Cameron M. Bailey, Past Grand Master*

*F&AM of Washington*

## *February Masonic Birthday:*

The following Brother(s) were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in the Month of February:

Bro. Manuel Gomez  
WB. Percy Peregrino

WB Jessie Galang  
VWB Chuck Compton

**These 4 Brothers have a combined 111 Masonic Years**

Happy Masonic Birthday to you Brothers and May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you with more Masonic Birthdays and Great Health.

## *District 12: FEBRUARY Calendar:*

02/01: Warren G Harding Lodge #260 Stated Meeting.  
Dinner at 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 pm.

02/05: Silverdale Lodge #311 Stated Meeting.  
Dinner at 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 pm.

02/06: Steadfast Lodge #216 Stated Meeting.  
Dinner at 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 pm.

02/07: Bremerton Valley Scottish Rite Stated Meeting /  
Dinner at 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 pm.

02/08: Bremerton Lodge #117: Stated Meeting.  
Dinner at 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 pm.

02/12: William Renton Lodge #29 Stated Meeting.  
Dinner @ 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 p.m.

\*\* Hamma Hamma Lodge #35 Stated Meeting @ 7 pm

02/15: Franklin Lodge #5 Stated Meeting.  
Dinner @ 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 p.m.

02/20: William H Upton / Naval & Military Lodge #206  
Stated Meeting. Dinner @ 6:30 pm / Labor at 7:30 p.m.

02/21: Knight of St. Andrews: Stated Meeting. Labor:  
6:30 - 7:30 pm.

02/24: District 3/12 LOA Breakfast. Time: 9 am

02/26: York Rite Stated Meeting. 6pm – 9pm

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## *Masonic Trivia:*

What Masonic reference can be used to help you learn to correctly pronounce word and names in the Lodge ritual?

1. TSW 5-8
2. TSW 5-6
3. TSW 5-1
4. TSW 5-9

Answer to previous Newsletter Trivia:

WMC Sec. 6.01 Constitution states:

1. Every Lodge shall practice the Standard Work.

**Congratulation Bremerton Lodge #117  
Ritual Competition Team  
For winning the District**

**Senior Warden Competition  
3-man Team Competition  
Lecture Competition**

**Bro. Norman Jimenez, Bro. Cliff Labelle, Bro. Will Lewis,  
Bro. Daryl Escano and Bro. Froiland Poblete**

**GOT COIN???**



## Conference of Grand Masters of North America

**When: February 17 – February 21, 2024**

**Where: Seattle, WA**

**Time: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> DEGREE CONFERRAL

**When: February 6, 2024**

**Where: Franklin Lodge #5**

**Time: Dinner @ 6 pm**

**Labor @ 7 pm**

## 1<sup>st</sup> DEGREE CONFERRAL

**When: February 15, 2024**

**Where: Warren G Harding #260**

**Time: Dinner @ 6 pm**

**Labor @ 7 pm**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> DEGREE CONFERRAL

**When: February 27, 2024**

**Where: Steadfast Lodge #216**

**Time: Dinner @ 6 pm**

**Labor @ 7 pm**

Keep Guarding the West Gate, my Brothers.

Fraternally,

**Bro. Norman C. Jimenez**

Senior Warden