



Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana

The level

JANUARY 2007

NO. 427

Grand Master's Americanism Observance Message

THE AMERICAN WAY – SOMETHING TO BE CHERISHED AND PROTECTED

A reporter took a ride in a taxi in Baghdad in an attempt to see first hand what life for Iraqi civilians was really like. Shortly after he left his secure hotel, he began having second thoughts. The taxi driver was weaving in and out of traffic like a crazy man, and the reporter began to fear for his safety. When the driver raced through a relatively busy intersection without stopping at a stop sign, the reporter had had enough. He asked the driver if he was driving so fast because of security reasons. The driver laughed and answered, "Oh no, it's safe in this area. But we have freedom in Iraq now. In Saddam's day, I would always follow the traffic laws. If I didn't, I would be arrested, taken to jail, and beaten. Now, they don't beat us any more, so why follow the laws? They just slow us down. Isn't democracy wonderful?" [*Taken from a blog on the internet.*]

I am not sure if the above story is true. But the next story is true. Three years ago, my wife and I vacationed in the Czech Republic. In Prague, our tour group passed through a once-beautiful neighborhood that was defaced by a lot of graffiti on the walls and trash strewn all over the sidewalk. Our tour guide apologized for the condition of the streets. She commented that one effect of the "Velvet Revolution", the bloodless overthrow of the communist government, was that many young people now believe that freedom means they are free from all laws and can do whatever they want, regardless of the result. The government, not wanting to be compared with its oppressive communist predecessor, refused to enforce "minor" laws. Thus, in Prague and other Czech cities, trash in the streets, graffiti and pickpockets in public places are common.

A characteristic of American society is that most of us realize that freedom cannot be

enjoyed without responsibility, and rights are always accompanied by corresponding duties. Yes, some American drivers are reckless. Yes, there is a lot of trash in some areas. But on the whole, Americans have much more respect for their responsibilities and duties. Freedom of speech is tempered with a responsibility to keep the contents of our speech truthful. Our right to practice our religion without restriction is accompanied by a duty to allow others who do not share our beliefs to practice their religion with the same freedom we have.

After the American presidential election in 2000, Al Gore appealed to both state and federal courts claiming alleged irregularities in the Florida vote count, to include miscounting the infamous "hanging chads", but after the courts ruled against him, Mr. Gore conceded the presidency to George W. Bush. Did Mr. Gore incite his supporters to riot in the streets? Of course not! After the 2006 elections, the Republicans peacefully turned over the power of the majority in Congress to the Democrats. Was there grumbling? Yes. Was there bickering? Yes. Did the supporters of the Republicans riot or use violent means to prevent the take over of power by the Democrats? Again, of course not! That is not the American way. Compare these transfers of power in the White House and Congress with the recent presidential election in Mexico. The losing candidate cried "Fraud", and called on his supporters to demonstrate (riot?) in the capital city in an attempt to disrupt the city and shut down the government, even after the courts ruled against him. The lesson here is that the vast majority of American citizens realize that our freedom to have differing political opinions is accompanied by a duty to respect the will of the majority and the rulings of established courts. What happened in Mexico would be unthinkable in the United States.

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Another extremely important American cultural and political principle is the principle of subordination of military forces to civilian control. As a result of this principle, the most powerful military force in the world has always subordinated itself to the elected civilian Commander-in-Chief. The coup, that military operation that seems so common in other countries of the world, has never threatened the American government. Unlike other militaries, the American Armed Forces are respected and honored, rather than feared, by the citizens of this great nation.

Freedoms and responsibilities, rights and duties are inseparable combinations in the American political tradition. We truly cannot have one without the other.

As we conduct our Americanism observances in our Lodges, we should all be proud that many of our American ideals and concepts are also Masonic ideals and concepts. When the Constitution of the United States was written in 1787, monarchs ruled all European governments. There may have been parliaments to advise the monarchs, but generally, the monarchs' powers were absolute. In addition, membership in almost all of the parliaments was at least partially, and often totally, hereditary.

Contrast the usual system of government in the 18th Century with our Lodges and Grand Lodges. The Masters and Wardens of a Lodge are elected by the membership. The Master and Wardens or their proxies, along with the Secretary, represent their Lodge as the voting power of Grand Lodge, both for passing legislation and electing Grand Lodge officers. The structure has the power flowing from the members of Lodge up to the Master and Wardens, and through them, to Grand Lodge. Power flowed from the bottom up, not from the top down as in the governments of Europe at that time. WHAT A NOVEL AND REVOLUTIONARY CONCEPT! The Grand Lodge system was first laid out in Anderson's Constitutions of 1723, 64 years before the US Constitution was written in 1787.

Under the US Constitution, we have states with republican forms of government. The citizens of the states elect congressmen and senators to represent us in Washington. The people elect Electors, who in turn elect the President. Thus, like a Masonic Lodge and Grand Lodge, power flows up from the people, not downward as in the governments of 18th Century Europe. The structure looks very much like that specified by Anderson's Constitutions. The fact that there were 13 Masons among the 39 signers of the Constitution, including Brothers George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, probably had something to do with the similarities.

Each of us should thank the Great Architect of the Universe every day for giving us the blessings of living in this great nation. We should be proud of our American heritage, and of the contribution Masons have made to that heritage. And finally, we should ever be mindful of the duties and responsibilities that we owe to our great nation so it may be protected and preserved.

Fraternally,



Grand Master

**Montana Masonic Hall of Fame
Nomination Due Prior to 1 April
2007**

(Nomination Forms are in you Lodge Assistance Package or call the Grand Lodge Office)



BIKES FOR BOOKS 2007

If you are planning to participate, remember that you will need to provide the following information to the Grand Secretary by US Mail, E-mail or Fax (please do not call by phone):

- number of Schools to be included, 50% matching funds up to \$600 to participating Lodges
- grade levels, number of classes
- approximate number of students
- number of bikes to be presented

Grand Lodge will provide Posters, bookmarkers, and a Serialized Masonic decal and number to be placed on the winner's bike.

The program has been well received in every school and all of them have requested that we continue the program. Grades 3,4 and 5 have been the most successful grade levels participating.

The optimum start date is 1 February 2007.

LODGES PARTICIPATING as of January 22nd

No.3, Helena	No. 64, Whitefish
No. 5, Morning Star	No. 65, Carbon
No. 6. Gallatin	No. 69, Belgrade
No. 13, Missoula	No. 82, Cut Bank
No. 18, Bozeman	No. 71, Unity
No.20, Sheridan	No. 72, Corinthian
No. 21, Valley	No. 86, Judith
No. 28, Stevensville	No. 92, Sts John
No. 29, Ashlar	No. 93, Eureka
No. 31, Glendive	No.95, Big Sandy
No. 33, Acacia	No. 96, Kyle
No. 36, Ruby	No. 101 Livina-Temple
No. 37, Friendship	No. 104 Western Star
No. 38, Ionic	No. 110, Mountain
No. 44, Choteau	No. 109, Scobey
No. 46, North Star	No. 113, Billings
No. 50, Chinook	No. 122, Rapelje
No. 52. Hiram	No. 126, Troy
No. 53, Doric	No. 135, Powder River
No. 55, Havre	No. 149, Rimrock
No. 56, Mt Jefferson	No. 150, BigFork
No. 57, Malta	No. 151, Pryor Mt
No. 61, Wisdom	No. 153, Hot Springs
No. 11. Flint Creek	

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CELESTIAL LODGE



Member	Lodge	Celestial Lodge Date
George O. Wong	Helena No. 3	11/27/2006
Dean E. Lockridge	Missoula No. 13	12/07/2006
James N. Shaw	Ashlar No. 29	12/01/2006
George Beadle	Livingston No. 32	11/13/2006
Leonard E. Johnson	Star In The West No. 40	12/11/2006
Frank M. Head	Harmony No. 49	12/11/2006
John A. Newell	Thompson Falls No.70	12/18/2006
Thomas V. Butcher	Thompson Falls No. 70	12/22/2006
Alton Ingraham	Mission Valley No. 78	01/05/2007
James V. Racicot	Libby No. 85	12/30/2006
George A. Breyer	Bigfork No. 150	01/14/2007
Richard R. Blakeley	Saints John No. 92	12/09/2006
Willis A. Stejer	Pryor Mountain No. 151	UNK
Harold L. Sampson	Trinity No. 152	11/02/2006
Tyler J. Jensen	Livina Temple No. 101	01/15/2007
	Ashlar NO. 29	
Calmer A. Ersness	Loyalty No. 121	01/08/2007
Ward T. Thompson	Morning Star No. 5	01/11/2007
Elton M. Andrew	Helena No. 3	01/11/2007

CELESTIAL LODGE

The members listed below may or may not have been reported and are now listed for record

Christian M. LaForce	Helena No. 3	09/18/2006
Delbert E. Long,	Star In The West No. 40	04/21/2006
Ray H. Judd	Star In The West No. 40	07/10/2006
Fergus M. Therrian, Jr	North Star No. 46	08/20/2006
Charles E. Olind	Mt. Jefferson No. 56	03/28/2006
George Benner	Mt. Jefferson No. 56	07.24.2006
William E. LaRue	Manhattan No. 59	03/10/2003
Roger B. Gwaltney	Hot Springs No. 153	04/19/2003
Irvin Pascoe	Butte No. 22	07/14/2006
Giles P. Fish	Cascade No. 34	11/20/2002
Samuel E. Denny	Saints John No. 92	UNK
Edwin V. Swanson	Kyle No. 96	09/26/2003
Richard D. Anderson	Mountain No. 110	04/26/2006
James H. Larson	Loyalty No. 121	06/01/2005
George E. Graves	Cut Bank No.82	07/23/2005

My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one more Master Mason has not answered to his name,

He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labors here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluties of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labors here by faith in God, and, confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the Celestial Lodge above.

Author unknown

THE LEVEL**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES****September/October****Note: The following is based upon 31% of the 100 Lodges having submitted the Monthly Report.****RAISED**

Robert L. DenHerder	11/04/2006	Helena No. 3
Damian R. Briggs	12/13/2006	Morning Star No. 5
David S. Keegan	11/09/2006	Ionic No. 38
Richard J. Felton	11/21/2006	Doric No. 53

Dimit To Non Affiliate

Todd A. Martens	12/19/2006	Hiram No. 52
Mark S. Knudsen	12/27/2006	Malta No. 57
Melvery Glen Barbion	01/10/2006	Bigfork No. 150
Charles Marak	12/01/2006	Pryor Mountain No. 151
Harry C. Croft	12/01/2006	Doric No. 53

Affiliations

Jerry W. Woodruff	11/02/2006	Montana No. 2	From GL Ohio
Darwin L. Simac	12/2006	Boulder Basin No. 41	From Morning Star 5
Phillip G. Angel	11/28/2006	Ashlar No. 29	From Billings No. 113
Roger N. Stewart	12/18/2006	Corinthian No. 72	From GL of the P.I.
Dennis L. Bell	11/15/2006	Flint Creek No. 11	Dual No. 164, GL Kansas

Withdrawal of Dual/Plural Membership

Hal Ostlund	12/31/2007	From Pryor Mt No. 151	Retain Livina Temple. 101
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Reinstatements

Curtis J. Reynolds	Malta No. 57	01/03/2007
David L. Skiff	Malta No. 57	01/17/2007

Suspended NPD as of 12/31/2006

William H. Howard	Helena No. 3	Ken Armstrong	Kalispell No. 42
Dennis B. Potter	Helena No. 3	James Froelich, II	Kalispell No. 42
Joshua T. Richards	Helena No. 3	Daniel W. Lynch	Kaliisell No. 42
Michael L. Sundine	Helena No. 3	Ashley Ingram	Kalispell No. 42
Samuel P. Stewart	Helena No. 3	Michael McGilvray	Kalispell No. 42
David L. Johnson	Butte No. 22	Travis Odell	Kalispell No. 42
Leon R. Cover	Ashlar No. 29	Bob Palmatier	Kalispell No. 42
Damon J. Kehler	Ashlar No. 29	Randy Seymore	Kalispell No. 42
Ricky A. Ketterling	Ashlar No. 29	Berton A. Cobban	Mt. Jefferson No. 56
Leonard A. Davis	Ashlar No.29	Andrew A. Strattman	Mt. Jefferson No. 56
Frank L. Duncan	Ashlar No. 29	Clifford D. Rustad	Malta No. 57
Mark E. Argenbright	Ashlar No. 29	Kevin T. Reid	Belgrade No. 68
Terry R. Glenney	Ashlar No. 29	William Jimmerson	Pondera No. 80
John B. Mayfield	Ashlar No. 29	Jim Printy	Cut Bank No.82
Irvin J. Michael	Ashlar No. 29	Tony Underwood	Cut Bank No. 82
Thomas S. Morris	Ashlar No. 29	Leslie O. Thompson	Powder River No. 135
Edward A. Newcombe	Ashlar No. 29	Joel R. Stokes	Shelby No. 143
Earl L. Rossell, Jr	Ashlar No.29	A. Bruce Gould	Victor No. 43
Daniel E. Sande	Ashlar No. 29	Gary W. Mason	Eureka No. 93
William A. Schack	Ashlar No. 29	Rodney James	Mystic Tie No. 17
Harold W. Stephens	Ashlar No. 29		
Theodore F. Walters	Ashlar No. 29		
Bruce D. Williams	Ashlar No. 29		
John G. Hekkel	Acacia No. 33		
Jeffery L. Young	Acacia No. 33		

THE LEVEL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

February

- February is Americanism Observance Month**
- 1-3 Grand Lodge of Utah & Alaska & Nebraska
 - 16 - 20 GM & GS of North America Conference
 - 20 GM Class Drummond, Request Forms Due
 - 19 Candidate Registration for the GM Class of 10 March are Due
 - 24 Resolutions and Committee Reports due**

**Annual Returns Due Prior to 15 March
Resolutions and Committee Reports due
to Grand Lodge 24 Feb**

March

- 3 GL Idaho Degree exemplification
Portneuff NO. 18, Pocatello
- 10 GM Class—Drummond (FC & MM)
- 10 York Rite Chapter Degrees, Missoula
- 15 Grand Lodge New Mexico
- 16 Grand Lodge Japan
- 17 Fraternal Mother of the Year Nominations due to Committee Chairman
- 31 Grand Lodge Officers Meeting
—Wolf Point

April

- 2 Candidate Registration for GM Class of 14 April due
- 5 Maundy Thursday
- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter
- 14 York Rite Council Degrees - Hamilton
- 16 GM Visit to Valley 21
- 17 GM Visit to Hiram 52
- 21 GM Class—Lewistown (EA,FC,MM)
- 26 GM/GS Visit to Libby 85
- 28 International Night @ Creston BC & Bonners Ferry, ID
- 30 Candidate Registration for GM Class of 19 May due

THE MONTANA MASONIC NEWS

**Submission deadline for the
March issue of the Montana Masonic
News is *** prior to 23 February******

Lodges are encouraged to submit photos and articles about news and events. You are the news and we need you to make submissions of interest to our readers.

Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off) or via e-mail. Editor:

Montana Masonic News
c/o Grand Secretary
PO Box 1158

Helena, Montana 59624

or e-mail to mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org.

GRAND MASTER'S CLASSES FOR 2007

- February 10 - Cancelled
- March 10 - Drummond
- April 21 - Lewistown
- May 19 - Miles City

The "Request for Conferral of Degrees" form for each candidate must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary not later than twenty-one days prior to the scheduled class. If there are not twelve or more confirmed candidates by the deadline, the class will be cancelled.

1. All candidates must have received the Entered Apprentice degree in their lodge or in another lodge by courtesy work, and have passed proficiency in the first degree, prior to coming to the Grand Master's class. Only the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees will be conferred during the Grand Master's classes during February, March and May.
2. For the April Grand Master's Class the above restrictions are not applicable. The "Request for Conferral of Degrees" form still must be in the hands of the Grand Secretary not later than twenty-one days prior to the class.

However, there will be no minimum number of candidates for the April class; this class will be conducted regardless of the number of candidates. In addition, the Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred in this class.

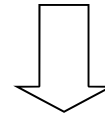
Worshipful Masters ensure that a mentor accompanies each of their candidates. The role of mentor is extremely important, and using a total stranger from another lodge as mentor takes away much of the bonding that is necessary for the candidate to feel welcome and at ease. Finally, please inform all members of your Lodge that appropriate attire for candidates, mentors, and sideliners is coat and tie.

DUE DATE FOR GRAND MASTER'S CLASSES

Request for Conferral of Degrees are due for each of the various GM Classes are listed below. Forms for each class must be received by the Grand Secretary by these dates:

<u>GM Class</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
10 February - CANCELLED	
10 March, Drummond	20 Feb
19 May, Miles City	30 April

10 February GM Class scheduled for Great Falls is cancelled, only two Request to Confer Degrees were received by the 22 January Due Date.



NAMES AND MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

When reporting any membership change to Grand Lodge; new Master Masons, Affiliations; Death or reinstatement, please include their current U.S. Mailing address with your report.

When reporting membership changes please use their full given name. If the brother also uses a nickname or his middle name add that in in quotation marks.

One address per person, if you have "snowbirds" they need to pick one address to use for Masonic Mailings.

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RESOLUTION FORMAT **RESOLUTION DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS**

These instructions provide the accepted protocol on formatting and styling to be used in drafting resolutions for Grand Lodge legislation for its deliberation at annual communications. Resolutions not submitted in accordance with these instructions will be returned to the submitting lodge for re-drafting, or reformatting by the Jurisprudence Committee.

The formatting and drafting requirements are as follows:

1. The heading is "Resolution No. _____."
2. A resolution may only contain one subject which is clearly stated in its title.
3. The title of the resolution is placed under the heading with a double spaced separation. The title must state concisely what the resolution proposes to do. If the resolution proposes amending a section of the Constitution or the Code, the section must be stated in the title.
4. The resolution may not contain any recitals or whereas clauses within the resolution. A detailed argument and explanation for the resolution may be set forth on a separate page attached to the resolution, which is entitled "Proponent's Explanation of Resolution for [title of Resolution]. The proponent's explanation may not exceed one page, single spaced, with no smaller than 11 point type. It may be written in outline or narrative form. It is recommended that the explanation briefly explain the present situation or status quo and should explain how the proposed resolution improves or corrects the present situation. If the explanation exceeds one page in length, additional pages beyond the first page will not be sent out to the lodges with the resolution and will be destroyed.
5. The resolution portion must read "Be it resolved that:" Each amended section will be in a sequentially numbered paragraph that reads: "Section ____ of the [Constitution or Code] be amended as follows:" Each new section will likewise be in a sequentially numbered paragraph that reads: "New Section of the [Constitution or Code] be enacted as follows:"
6. If a section is proposed to be amended, the entire section must be included in the body of the resolution. Additions of text to a section are shown by underline and if desired may be also in bold font or italicized. In any case additions must be underlined. Deletions of text are shown by strikethrough. Either single or double strike-through may be used, though single is preferable. Be sure to use underlines for added punctuation and strikethroughs to delete unnecessary punctuation. Also note that underlines and strikethroughs are used to add or delete paragraph letters or numbers.

7. When a new section is proposed, even though a new number may be proposed for the section, the Grand Secretary, as codifier, will assign a number to the section.

8. When a section is amended or a new section is proposed, check other sections in both the Code and Constitution that be affected by the amendment or new section. These sections must be amended in the resolution by setting forth the entire section, with additions by underline and deletions by strikethrough.

These Resolution Drafting Instructions were adopted 6 day of December 2003, by order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Montana, and are for use in submission of resolutions at the 2007 Annual Communication. Please include both a paper copy and an electronic copy of proposed legislation.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

APPLICATION/NOMINATION FORM to be used to nominate a Master Mason to the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame are contained within your Lodge Assistance Package or contact the Grand Secretary.

Section 10030 of the Code of Statutes states that Montana Master Masons who have performed eminent and outstanding service to Montana Masonry as well as having contributed to the growth of their community, state or the United States may be elected to the Montana Masonic Hail of Fame.

Membership shall be by nomination from constituent lodges. This award program shall be administered as provided for by Grand Lodge in 1986. See Administrative Procedures.

If your lodge is nominating a member to the Hall of Fame, complete the APPLICATION - NOMINATION FORM; use the completed form as the cover of your booklet of substantiating evidence of worthiness and endorsements by Brothers and Citizens.

Master Masons nominated may be living or deceased; if decease they must have been in good standing at the time of death.

Mail nominations BEFORE APRIL 1, 2006 of the year nomination

Grand Historian
c/o Grand Lodge of Montana
PO Box 1158
Helena MT 59624-1158.

Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana
425 N Park Ave
PO Box 1158
Helena, MT 59624-1158

US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 197
HELENA,
MONTANA
Non-Profit
Organization

MONTANA MASONIC LICENSE PLATE



The Masonic Family license plate is a must purchase new plates anyway for a cost of \$15.00 to the state when you renew. So please consider helping the Montana Masonic Foundation by buying a Masonic Family license plate and in doing so contributing an additional \$25.00 each year directly into the Foundation to be endowed forever.

MASTER BUILDER AWARD

Contact W. Bro. Paul Peterson for questions or for copies of the worksheets for the Master Builder program. You should have a copy of the form in your Lodge Assistance Package, the same form used last year. Or call Bro. Paul at 585-7430.