



## Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana

*The level*

MAY 2007

NO. 430

### FISCAL IMPACT TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION R-2007-03

In accordance with Section 470 of the Code. "All resolutions relating to expenditures of Grand Lodge funds must include an evaluation of the impact of the expenditure upon Grand Lodge finances and contain a recommendation relative to how it is to be paid for."

R-2007-03 proposed by Helena Lodge No. 3 seeks to provide a cap on the annual per capita assessment of Life Members.

The fiscal impact statement is contained in the Advance Proceedings and is part of the Grand Treasurer's Report on page 26. However, it is presented as follows:

An analysis of R-2007-03 to limit per capita on Pre-Paid Life Members to the amount generated by investments. The code requires an analysis of the effect of such a proposal on Grand Lodge finances. In conducting this analysis, it is not my intent to electioneer or advocate for one side of this issue or the other.

Section 6040 of the Constitution and Code states, in part:

*C. Each Grand Lodge budget shall be based upon the following:*

*1. The per capita sum to be collected for Master Masons carried on the rolls of each constituent lodge as of December 31 most immediately preceding the commencement of the fiscal year covered by such budget;*

*2. The expected income from the investment portfolio and any other source of income; and*

*3. The estimate of operating expenses, the cost of program activities and the amount of requests for charitable funding from the Montana Masonic Foundation Inc.*

*D. If the per capita sum and expected income is insufficient, the budget shall be based upon an increase in per capita to cover the insufficiency.*

It is my interpretation of §6040 that a proposal to limit the per capita on one class of Brothers will merely transfer the per capita cost on to other Brothers. Since the budget starts with the expected per capita from the previous year, incremented by other income and decremented by estimated expenses, an increase in per capita is mandated by Code §6040D to cover any budget shortfalls. It is my analysis

therefore, as Grand Treasurer, that while the proposal will likely have an effect on per capita paid by Pre-Paid Life Members and may have an effect on the per capita paid by non-Life Members, it will not generally affect Grand Lodge finances under the current Code provisions.

Bruce W. Lahti

RW Grand Treasurer

### RECEIPTS FOR MATCHED FUND BIKES FOR BOOKS

Remember in order to receive the match of funds from the Montana Masonic Foundation for the Bikes for Books program you must submit them to the Grand Secretary by June 1, 2007.

**Bike receipts due June 1st**

## THE LEVEL

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### May

- May 28 Mon Memorial Day
- May 31 Thu Montana Grand York Rite, Billings  
Grand Lodge of Arizona

#### June

- Jun 1 - 2 Grand York Rite, Billings  
Grand Lodge of Arizona  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba
- Jun 7 Thu Grand Lodge of Oregon
- Jun 8 - 9 Grand Lodge of Oregon  
Grand Lodge of Alberta
- Jun 9 -11 Job's Daughters Session, Billings
- Jun 11-13 Rainbow Grand Assembly – Helena
- Jun 14 -16 Grand Lodge of Washington
- Jun 15 – 16 OES Grand Chapter - Helena
- June 21-23 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Communication -  
Bozeman

#### July

- Jul 4 Wed Independence Day
- Jul 14 Sat Elbow Creek Rendezvous  
Eureka No. 93 – Installation
- Jul 19 -21 Rocky Mountain Masonic  
Conference – Boomtown, NV
- Jul 21 E-W Shrine Game – Great Falls
- Jul 21 Bro. Mel Tillis @ Rosebud County  
Fair – Forsyth
- Jul 27 Grand Lodge Officers Meeting- Helena
- Jul 28 Mullan Pass Historic Lodge  
No. 1862 Annual Meeting
- Jul 28 Masonic Home of Montana 100  
Year Picnic

### PRE REGISTRATION FOR SESSION SECURE YOUR MEAL TICKETS

Pre-registration for meals at Session are due prior to June 1st. If you do not get your meal tickets secured through pre-registration there is a very likely chance that you will not be able to purchase tickets.

The Local Arrangements Committee must provide the head count for all activities during the first week in June and so it is imperative that if you want to make sure you have a ticket for a meal and to the Master Masons Banquet that you send in request and payment.

Pre-registrations forms were mailed to each lodge, and to each member via the Montana Masonic News. The pre-registration form is also available online at our website.

### SCOTTISH RITE SECRETARIES AND SHRINE RECORDERS

Please be sure to share and distribute the information from the Bulletin with those within your organization who actually process this information and those who need to post or record specific related information.

If someone other than the Secretary of the Valley or the Recorder of the Shrine Center keeps track of deaths or other events please make sure that you share each copy of the Bulletin with them.



## APRONS FOR SESSION

Again this year all officers are encouraged to bring and wear the apron appropriate to their office or station within the lodge. Also, all Past Masters are encouraged wear their Past Master's Apron.

There will be a limited number of plain paper aprons available for use.

Within the Grand Jurisdiction of Montana Masons always wear their aprons outside of clothing; not under the coat or jacket.

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

The Monthly Bulletin is mailed to the Worshipful Master, Secretary and Instructor of each Lodge. Please make the contents of the bulletin available to your members at each lodge meeting.

## PRESENTATION OF LODGE BANNERS

Continuing with the long standing tradition Lodges are again requested to bring their Lodge Banner for presentation during the Annual Communication. The sitting Worshipful Master or his designee will be presented in public procession. The Banners will be posted about the Lodge room. Please make arrangements to ensure that your Lodge is represented with your banner.

## 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 quotation marks.

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

## MASTER BUILDER AWARD

Contact W. Bro. Paul Peterson for questions on the Master Builder program. Or call Bro. Paul at 585-7430.

THE LEVEL  
CELESTIAL LODGE



Robert O. Wood	Helena No. 3	03/06/2007
William B. Bessire	Missoula No. 13	04/25/2007
Clifford A. Watson	Bozeman No. 18	03/24/2007
Russel Leland	Cascade No. 34	04/14/2007
Lloyd J. Hodgshiss	Choteau No. 44	04/27/2007
Merlin L. Millsap	North Star No. 46	04/04/2007
James R. McKoy	Malta No. 57	04/17/2007
Jesse J. Shaw	Euclid No. 58	03/28/2007
Melvin W. McClahahan	Stillwater No. 62	/2005
Robert C. Graham	Stillwater No. 62	03/28/2007
Richard W. Jeffery	Unity No. 71	05/01/2007
William E. Knaub	Corinthian No. 72	04/16/2007
Alvin C. Myhre	Cut Bank No. 82	03/24/2007
William L. Wynn	Cut Bank No. 82	04/19/2007
Keith O. Trang	Billings No. 113	04./25/2007
Leslie T. Hudiburgh	Loyalty No. 121	03/17/2007
Arthur B. Downer	Rapelje No. 122	04/03/2007
Richard J. Brickley	Rapelje No. 122	05/02/2007
Charles A. Damm	Powder River No. 135	04.03.2007
Gordon H. Prescott	Lincoln No. 157	03/05/2007

*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 superfluities 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.*

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Page 5

**NO. 430**

**April/May**

Note: The following is based upon 31% of the 100 Lodges having submitted the Monthly

### RAISED

Timothy D. Johnson	Gallatin No.6	04/21/2007
Christopher M. Yeley	Gallatin No. 6	04/21/2007
Kyle J. McIntyre	Gallatin No. 6	04/21/2007
Aaron D. Blair	Diamond City No. 7	04/24/2007
Brian S. Edwards	Missoula No. 13	04/17/2007
William M. Jolly	Missoula No. 13	04/17/2007
Harry E. Smith	Valley No. 21	04/21/2007
Lyle H. Cusson, II	Butte No. 22	02/20/2007
Michael A. Walker	Cascade No. 34	04/21/2007
Albert J. Ferderer	Cascade No. 34	004/21/2007
Wesley S. Koss	Malta No. 57	04/21/2007
Cody L. Oxarat	Malta No. 57	04/21/2007
Donald W. Klinko	Malta No. 57	04/21/2007
Frederick Robinson	Malta No. 57	04/21/2007
Timothy U. Bullard	Malta No. 57	04/21/2007
Joshua M. Burnett	Euclid No.58	04/21/2007
Shahid J. Din	Euclid No. 58	05/01/2007
Robert J. Mack	Euclid No. 58	05/01/2007
Michael E. Renne	Euclid No. 58	05/01/2007
Paul C. Robinson	Euclid No.58	05/01/2007
Bradley S. Armstrong	Unity No. 71	04/04/2007
Thomas C. Norgaard	Unity No. 71	04/18/2007
John C. Sullivan	Unity No. 71	04/21/2007
Brint R. Compton	Cut Bank No. 82	04/21/2007
Joshua A. Larson	Cut Bank No. 82	04/21/2007
Michael S. Haynes	Cut Bank No. 82	04/21/2007
Wade M. Berkram	Cut Bank No.82	04/21/2007
William C. Sibra	Billings No. 113	04/21/2007
Travis K. Davidsen	Delta No. 128	04/21/2007
Leonard D. Reed	Delta No. 128	04/21/2007

## THE LEVEL Reinstatements

Robert K. Burns	Helena No. 3	01/01/2007	04/05/2007
Earnest R. Nunn, II	Helena No. 3	0/01/2007	04/01/2007
Gerald W. Yeager	Choteau No. 44	12/31/2006	03/04/2007
Robert F. Lesuer	Choteau No. 44	12/31/2006	04/18/2007

## Affiliations

Douglas E. Waldron	Missoula No. 13	04/2007	Retaining No. 151, NJ
Kyle J. James	Boulder Basin No. 41	05/05/2007	Retaining Trinity No. 152
Lynn D. Hunter	Hiram No. 52	05/01/2007	Retaining No. 38, AZ
Richard L. Robinson	Malta No. 57	04/04/2007	Retaining No. Co
Robert E. Davis	Euclid No. 58	04.17.2007	Retaining Aomori No. 10, Japan

**Did your lodge have any candidates that received their degrees in the Grand Master's Classes this year or previous years?**

**Have all of your candidates returned the required proficiencies?**

**REMINDER:** At every Grand Master's class or Occasional Lodge, the Grand Master, by dispensation, postponed the requirements of proficiency for advancement of each of the candidates. All candidates took an obligation to return satisfactory proficiencies in all of the degrees by a certain date.

In the 2007 Grand Master's classes, the deadlines for proficiencies were established as follows:

- Class of March 10, 2007, in Drummond. Proficiencies postponed until June 10, 2007.
- Class of April 21, 2007, in Lewistown. Proficiencies postponed until July 21, 2007, or to the date of the candidate's home lodge's second stated meeting after the summer recess, whichever is later.

Those dates are rapidly approaching. If there is a valid reason why proficiencies cannot be completed by the deadline dates, lodges should contact the Grand Secretary to request an extension of the time limit from the Grand Master, giving the reasons for not being able to meet the original deadline, and recommending new deadlines. If a brother has not returned satisfactory proficiencies by the deadline dates and has not received an extension from the Grand Master, he is to be suspended. The suspension will remain in effect until the brother returns satisfactory proficiencies before a committee of three elected officers or Past Masters of the Lodge.

**Continued page 7**

**NO. 430**

In the last several months, several lodges reported that they had members who had received their degrees in Grand Master's Classes or Occasional Lodges conducted by MW Grand Masters Prewett and Anderson, and who missed the deadline for proficiencies. These brothers had not returned proficiencies for degrees received over two years ago! When he was informed of this, Grand Master Valente extended the deadline for these candidates, and directed that if the brothers failed to return satisfactory proficiencies by the new deadline, the lodge was to suspend them. The suspensions were ordered using the power granted to the Grand Master by Section 1050.W of the Statutes of the Grand Lodge of Montana.

Why suspension? It is clear that the Code of Statutes and the approved Montana ritual work specify that the "normal" procedure for becoming a Master Mason consists of the following eight steps: (1) Petitioning, (2) Investigating, (3) Balloting, (4) Initiation, (5) Presenting a satisfactory Entered Apprentice proficiency, (6) Passing, (7) Presenting a satisfactory Fellowcraft proficiency, and (8) Raising, in that order. Any deviation from the above procedure is not normal and requires a dispensation from the Grand Master. When the Grand Master grants dispensations to expedite degree conferrals, these dispensations do not eliminate any of the requisite eight steps. They may shorten specified time periods, or they may postpone some of the steps, but they do not eliminate any of them. A brother who has not presented satisfactory proficiencies is not a complete Master Mason even though he has gone through the conferral ceremony of the third degree. He will become a complete Master Mason only after he has completed all eight steps. If he refuses to complete the eight steps, he should not enjoy the rights and privileges of Masonry.

Worshipful Masters and lodge Secretaries:

Please check your records to identify any members who received their degrees in a Grand Master's Class or Occasional Lodge, and have not returned the required proficiencies. Inform the Grand Secretary of their names, when they received their degrees, which proficiencies have not been returned, and your recommendation for new deadline dates. The records check should be accomplished by the end of June.

Once you have identified members who owe proficiencies, you must assist them. It is insufficient for a lodge to inform the new brothers that they have until a certain date to return their proficiencies and then leave them to their own devices. These are new Masons who probably are unfamiliar with our practices and requirements. **LODGES ARE OBLIGATED TO HELP THE BROTHERS.** The following suggestions are offered.

1. First, lodges need to establish classes or mentors to call the brothers and set up proficiency classes. During the Grand Master's classes, lodges were required to furnish a mentor for each candidate. The need for the mentor did not end at the close of the Class. The requirement continues until the new Masons are completely proficient. **THIS IS A LODGE RESPONSIBILITY.**
2. Lodges should establish a target date for each proficiency. For example, the EA proficiency must be returned by a first date, the FC by second, and finally MM at the end point. Once the dates are established, they should be transmitted to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master will use the lodges suggested dates to the extent possible when setting proficiency deadline extensions. Established deadline dates in this manner would take into account individual lodge circumstances rather than arbitrary dates being set by the Grand Master.

One fact cannot be avoided. These Masons received the degrees on the promise that they would return the required proficiencies, including the Master Mason proficiency. If any of them fail to return satisfactory proficiencies to the lodge, the only sanction that is available is suspension from all of the rights and privileges of Masonry. These members should be informed of this fact. They should also be informed that suspension from Masonry results in an automatic suspension from any Masonic appendant body.

Fraternally  
Thomas E. Valente  
Grand Master

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**

## **LODGE SECRETARY— REQUIRED FOR EACH NEW MASTER MASON**

Remember the Coaches Handbook and Monitor are required to be provided by the lodge to each new Master Mason. You can order these from the Grand Lodge office.