



SCHEDULING GRAND MASTER'S VISITATIONS

If you wish to have MWGM David Nielsen conduct your installation of officers or for scheduling other Grand Masters Visitations or for some other event please contact him through the office of the Grand Secretary with suggested dates.

If you want to have RW Deputy Grand Master Robert Coleman, or your District Officer or any of the Grand Lodge Officers visit your lodge please contact them as soon as possible so that you can be added to the schedule.

For a current list of scheduled events visit the Grand Lodge website which can be found at

www.grandlodgemontana.org

And select the Events Calendar from the sidebar listing. Or enter

<http://www.plus.calendars.net/mtgrandlodge>

LODGE OFFICER ELECTION REPORTS

The following lodges have not yet submitted their Lodge Officer Election Form. This report was due 1 June.

Deer Lodge No. 14	Jordan No. 148
Golden Eagle No. 66	Troy No. 126
Kalispell No. 42	Havre No. 55
Galata No. 106	Friendship No. 37
Sheridan No. 20	Cascade No. 34

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION 2007—2008

September 15	Northern Lights District (EA Degree) – Scobey Rocky Mountain District (EA Degree) – Deer Lodge
October 6	Livingston District EA Degree) – Manhattan
October 13	Missoula & Glacier District (FC Degree) – Polson
December 8	Sagebrush District (FC Degree) – Terry CMR District (FC Degree) – Fort Benton Headwaters District (FC Degree) – Pony
January 19	Missoula & Glacier District (MM Degree) – Plains
January 26	Rocky Mountain District (FC Degree) – Butte
February 2	Beartooth District (MM Degree) – Billings
February 23	Rocky Mountain District (MM Degree) – Helena
March 1	Great Falls District (MM Degree) – Great Falls

THE LEVEL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 14 Elbow Creek Rendezvous
July 14 Eureka Lodge Installation
July 19-20 Rocky Mountain Masonic
Conference – Boomtown, NV
July 21 E-W Shrine Game –
Great Falls
July 21 Bro. Mel Tillis (No. 57)
Rosebud County Fair - Forsyth
July 28 Mullan Pass Historic Lodge
Annual Meeting
July 28 Montana Masonic Home

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.

MONTHLY REPORTS

28090. SECRETARY. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- Make monthly reports to the Grand Secretary at the end of each month.
- Monthly Reports shall be reported on the provided forms or by computer programs approved by the Grand Secretary.
- All Monthly Reports will include the Lodge Name and number, and shall be signed by the Lodge Secretary.
- Monthly reports shall include changes in member status taking place during the month, including rejections, suspensions, expulsions, deaths, dimits, reinstatements, members raised, affiliations, and Master Mason proficiencies.
- Address corrections shall be attached to and submitted with the Monthly Report.
- If there has been no membership activity for the month the report shall be submitted with the following statement: “No Membership Changes This Month”.
- The lodge Secretary shall also maintain a copy of each Monthly Report to assist in the preparation of the Annual Return.

HAT'S AND TIES OH MY

The following items are for sale for the year

- 1. Tie, blue with Grand Master's Logo (Buffalo Skull with Square and Compass). Price \$30.00 each, two sizes Regular and extra Long. (+shipping)
- 2. Hats, (Khaki with Grand Master's Logo (Buffalo Skull with Square and Compass). Price \$10.00 each. (+shipping)



INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008

If interested contact the Grand Master, District Officers or the Grand Lodge Office.

25030. INSTALLATION. Lodges shall hold their annual installation of officers after the annual communication of Grand Lodge, but no later than the first regular meeting in September, and hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed.



SUSPENDED NPD

James A. Cole, Jr	Kalispell No. 42	12/31/2006
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SUSPENDED SECTION 1050 W

Kyle Baughn	Eureka No. 93	05/01/2007
Nole E. Williams	Eureka No. 93	05/01/2007

THE LEVEL
CELESTIAL LODGE



Dale U. Fuehrer	Morning Star No. 5	04/05/2007
Sigholt H. Jacobsen	Gallatin No. 6	05/13/2007
Clarence B. Cutler	Livingston No. 32	05/10/2007
Paul K. Storlie	Kalispell No. 42	
Robert L. Woodahl	Choteau No. 44	05.25.2007
Lawson M. Lowe	North Star No. 46	07/14/2006
Victor C. Maichel	Mount Jefferson No. 56	06/30/2007
J. Clark McColly	Kyle No. 96	05/18/2007
George R. Mercer	Kyle No. 96	06/02/2007
Carl V. Winebrenner	Hot Springs No. 153	05/16/2007

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

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NO. 431

June –July

Note: The following is based upon 33% of the 100 Lodges having submitted the Monthly

RAISED

Damian R. Briggs	Morning Star No. 5	12/05/2006
Barry E. Platt	Missoula No. 13	06/05/2007
Adam T. Axelson	Butte No. 22	05/15/2007
Craig L. Christenson	Butte No. 22	05/18/2007
Andrew J. Busch	Livingston No. 32	06/12/2007
Gene Garrison	Kalispell No. 42	05/03/2007
James W. Bieber	Victor No. 43	06/28/2007
Craig M. Thompson	Pondera No. 80	05/09/2007
Mathew L. Myers	Treasure No. 95	04/21/2007
Aaron M.L. Myers	Treasure No. 95	04/21/2007
Daune A. Baier	Power River No. 135	05/08/2007

REINSTATMENTS

Gerald M. VanCampen	Morning Star No. 5	From 12/31/01 to 05/09/07
Michael Parks	Mt. Moriah No. 24	From 12/31/06 to 05/07/07
Phillip L. Beger	Kalispell No. 42	To 05/03/07
Kent A. Gordon	Malta No. 57	To 04/22/07
Ronald V. Sills	Whitefish No.64	From 12/31/87 to 01/08/07
Matthew A. Larson	Billings No. 113	From 12/31/06 to 05/14/07

AFFILIATION (DUAL)

Bruce A. Luke	Morning Star No. 5 04/25/2007	Retaining Ottawa 51 & Pusan #1675
Walter K. Knighton, III	Gallatin No. 6 05/23/2007	Retaining West Chester 322,
David L. Nielsen	Bozeman No. 18 05/14/2007	Retaining Morning Star No. 5
Lonnie "Mel" Tillis	Hiram No. 52 06/05/2007	Retaining Branson NO. 597
Leo J. Depuydt	Malta No. 57 05/02/2007	Retaining Mystic Tie 17
W. Paul O'Gorman	Treasure No. 95 05/02/2007	From Ottawa No. 51

THE LEVEL

GRAND MASTER'S BLUE PRINT FOR THE 2007—2008 MASONIC YEAR

Greetings Brothers:

I want to take this opportunity to share with all of you my philosophy and direction for the 2007 – 2008 Masonic year. I am presenting my philosophy and analysis on Montana Masonry and the respective role of the constituent lodges, Grand Lodge and the appendant Masonic bodies. Using this philosophy as assumed goals, I proposed a plan toward achieving these goals, which after consultation with the other Grand Lodge Officers, is hereby adopted.

Philosophy - The main mission and function of Masonic lodges is to make Masons. Though lodges are encouraged to do charitable works and perform civic services, their primary function, which is the moral basis for their good works, is to make Masons.

Making Masons has two components: 1) initiating men into the fraternity; and 2) constantly educating members in the moral teachings and lessons of Masonry. In other words, making Masons means attracting new men to petition for membership and tending to the needs of our existing members. Making a man a Mason is not accomplished only through the conferral of degrees on a candidate but is a life-long endeavor of the lodge. Most of us are still making ourselves Masons.

To make Masons means the lodge must approve candidates worthy of the fraternity, confer meaningful degrees that inspire the new Mason to be a better man and continue Masonic education. The man we seek must be of exemplary character and moral qualifications. We are not seeking into membership a man whose moral character is marginal at best. We want the best because it attracts the best.

Until 1996, the individual lodges were responsible for the making of Masons—from petition through education. Since that time Grand Lodge sponsored group-initiation classes whereby a candidate could receive all three degrees in one day. Though this approach produced instant large numbers of members, some lodges to their long term detriment relied exclusively on these Grand Lodge-sponsored classes for all their degree work. As a result of over-reliance on the one-day classes, too many lodges lost their ability to confer degrees and make Masons. When a lodge can no longer perform its primary mission of making Masons through initiation, it loses its fundamental purpose for existence and is predictably destined for extinction.

There is a Chinese proverb that if you give a man a fish you feed him for a day; if you teach him how to fish you feed him for a lifetime. The mission of Grand Lodge is to help lodges perform their mission of making Masons. If Grand Lodge does all the work for the lodges, it makes Masons for a day; but if it teaches and empowers lodges to make Masons, Masons are made for a lifetime. The function of Grand Lodge therefore is to support, encourage, teach and excite lodges to make Masons. That is the key to the fraternity's long term survival.

However, the one-day classes had two positive features: setting a deadline for lodges to process petitions for new candidates; and providing fine exemplification of the degree work. As noted, the downside of one-day classes is that although it made members, it failed to always make Masons—men dedicated to and students of the lessons of Masonry. The one-day class candidates did not in many instances become enrolled spiritually and emotional with the lodge that processed their petition. They were Masons in the generic sense but did not share in the esprit de corps of a lodge.

The appendant bodies, particularly the Shrine, want potential candidates for their organization through an expeditious process. Quality Masons are the optimum type of candidate for both Masonry and the Shrine. The better the man is a Mason, the better he will be a Shriner. If the membership process is so expedient as to not make the member a good and loyal Mason, both organizations suffer. The immediately achieved gain in membership through an expedited process is offset by the noticeably high dropout rate of member of one-day classes.

The goals, therefore, are to:

- 1) Teach and instruct lodges and their officers and instructors in ritual proficiency and excellence, especially in conferral of degrees.
- 2) Provide education resources to lodges to continuing making Masons, both newly initiated and the established.
- 3) Provide opportunities for conferral of degrees for lodges that need assistance.

Blue Print - The plan to accomplish the three goals set forth above emphasizes proficiency in ritual and education in the lodge. The following elements of the blue print are as follows:

1. Use of district meetings: The district meetings will be district-sponsored lodges of instruction and are scheduled throughout the year rather in just the fall. Each district meeting as a lodge of instruction will instruct lodge officers and members in the ritual for opening and closing and conferral of a degree. If any lodge has a candidate in need of degree work, the degree can be conferred at the district lodge of instruction. At the conclusion of the degree conferral the new brother with his mentor will go to a separate room and start learning his proficiency. While proficiency instruction is ongoing, the other brothers would attend a lodge of instruction on other aspects of the ritual. If time permits the district officer may also present other matters to the brethren of the district. The district meetings must be prepared for the complete conferral of one of the three degrees.

The Committee on Work is responsible for developing a lesson plan with the content and presentation agenda for lodge of instruction. District officers in conjunction with qualified brothers whom they have selected are responsible for the conduct of the lodges of instruction. The district officer has the discretion in selecting the brethren who will participate in the presentation of the ritual. The district lodges of instruction are available for attendance by brothers from any Montana lodge.

The district lodge of instruction will be conducted under the charter of a lodge selected by the district officer. If the chosen lodge does not have its stated meetings at the site of the district meeting, that lodge must apply for dispensation to move its charter to that site for the district meeting. Except for the lodge with charter authority to meet at that site, other lodges desiring to bring candidates to the district meeting for degree conferred must request courtesy work from the lodge with charter authority in accordance with the Code requirements.

2. Instructors: Each lodge will have an instructor appointed. However, there will be a higher recognition of instructor—the “certified instructor.” For a lodge instructor to be certified, the instructor must meet the following criteria:

- a. Attend a lodge of instruction at one of the district meetings during 2007-2008;
- b. Complete and pass the Grand Lodge’s open book test on the Constitution and Code within the previous five (5) years; and
- c. Conduct a lodge of instruction.

Instructors must be Masons who exemplify the virtues of Masonry and are knowledgeable in the ritual and our Constitution and Code. During their appointment instructors must ensure their lodges do proper degree work. Instructors of course may not bring discredit on themselves, their lodges, the Grand Lodge or Masonry in general.

3. Unauthorized Copies of the Work: District officers and instructors must ensure that lodges do not use unauthorized rituals or materials in the lodges. The only materials that lodge officers may use in delivering ritual are the Mnemonics and Monitor. The instructor and district officer may have his copy of the written Secret Work in the Big Book. It is illegal to copy pages from the Big Book and thus machine or handwritten copies of the Big Book Secret Work may not be used by any person in lodge. Other written-out versions of the Secret Work regardless of the form are not allowed in lodge for use. When such materials are discovered the district officer or instructor after notification to the Master of the lodge shall request that the unauthorized materials be surrendered to that officer or instructor. Lodges failing to voluntarily turn over such materials must be reported to Grand Master for possible disciplinary action against the lodge, including suspension of charter. For explanatory lectures, extraneous written materials and copies are allowed for use by the lecturer or for prompting. The Montana ritual is the work that is to be used. Though not encouraged, explanatory lectures from other recognized jurisdictions are permitted if consistent with the Montana lectures. Unauthorized copies or materials are to be destroyed after confiscation.

4. Education: Each lodge is encouraged to either do conferral of degrees or presentation of Masonic education at every meeting. The Committee on Masonic Education and Research will produce at least 18 educational lessons for use by the lodges during the year. The lessons should be short (less than a page, double spaced) and include questions that presenter could ask to start a discussion. The Committee is encouraged to use existing materials and may adapt these materials for discussion purposes. The lessons are not intended to be just read as a lecture but to stimulate thought and discussion. So the lesson should utilize questions as catalyst to encourage group participation and discussion. The former alternative proficiency is an example of a fine source for lessons. Preferably the lodge should have a qualified brother other than the Master present the lesson and discussion. Since the lodge secretary is usually heavily involved in presenting administrative matters to the lodge, lodge secretaries should not be expected to present the lesson.

5. Specific Job Description for Committees:

- a. Committee on Work will prepare content and presentation of lodges of instructions. The district officer will coordinate with Committee on finding qualified brothers to do the instruction.
- b. Research and Education Committee will prepare at least 18 short educational lessons for lodge use. At least six (6) must be prepared and completed and distributed to lodges by July, 2007.

The remaining twelve (12) must be completed by September 1, 2007.

6. Master Builder: To qualify for the Builder or Master Builder, the following requirements must be met:

- a. The lodge instructor must be certified.
- b. The lodge must conduct either conferral of degree or Masonic education at every meeting, including and especially the Feast of Sts. John.
- c. At least three of the top five officers must attend a lodge of instruction.

. Supplemental District Degrees: A district officer may conduct more degrees on a district level than just the district lodge of instruction. The scheduling of supplemental district degree functions must be coordinated with the other district meetings. The Grand Master will be consulted prior to scheduling these degrees. The district degree may only confer one degree followed with proficiency instruction similar to the format at district lodge of instructions.

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MASTER BUILDER AWARD

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

Changes for the 2007—2008 Masonic Year

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