



Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana
425 N Park Ave

THE LEVEL

August 2008

NO. 440

Military Honor Roll

In the July issue of the Montana Masonic News is a request for information titled "Those Who Served". This is a request for names of current Montana Masons who served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please send the name of the brother, Lodge and the branch of Service, rank, rate, or MOS and theater of operation. These brothers will be recognized in an upcoming issue of the Montana Masonic news.

Please mail the information to:

Editor, Montana Masonic News
PO Box 1158
Helena, MT 59624-1158



Lodge Copies of the Constitution and Code

By the end of August each Lodge through the Lodge Secretary will be mailed two copies of the current Constitution and Code of Statutes. Please watch for this mailing and make sure that a copy is available or shared by the Worshipful Master, Secretary and Instructor. Additional copies can be purchased for \$5.00 each from the Grand Lodge Office.

Bikes for Books 2008-2009

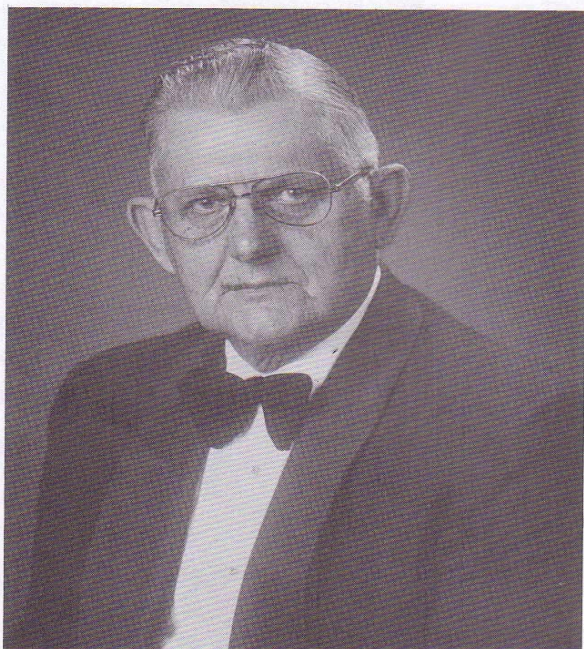
Copies of the 2008 Bikes for Books Program process and Application for Matching Funds is posted online at the Grand Lodge website, and are available on request. Copies will be mailed to each lodge.

In order to receive the matching funds your lodge must submit the Application for Matching Funds and a check with the lodge's portion of the purchase cost, the Montana Masonic Foundation will then return a check normally within two days with the combined match. **Requests for matching funds will not be processed after June 1st.**

If your lodge can not find your copy of the Application for Matching Funds you can download a copy from the Grand Lodge website or get one from your District Officer.

Code Test

Version 2 of the Test on the Constitution and Code of Statutes is now available. This is an open book test which requires completion of 99 questions. Completion of this test will enable you to have a better understanding of our Constitution and Code and you will have a better understanding of the layout of the Code and how and where to find specific sections. This is a must for all Lodge Officers and any member who would like an understanding of the governing law of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana.



Clarence E. Carter
 GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN MONTANA
 1993-1994

MWPGM Clarence E. Carter was called to the Celestial Lodge on August 11, 2008.

Services for PGM Carter will be Thursday, August 14th at 1 p.m. at the Central Bible Church, 902 1st Ave E. Kalispell, MT.

MW Bro. Carter was born in Summer, Washington on June 7, 1923. He married Ann Harsbarger in October of 1970. Bro. Carter served in World War II with the 82nd Airborne Division.

PGM Carter was raised to the degree of a Master Mason in Grand Coulee Dam Lodge 120 in 1960. He was a member of Columbia Falls Lodge No. 89.

Bannack Historic Lodge Lodge No. 3-7-77

Saturday September 13, 2008 Bannack State Park Bannack Montana

10:00 AM Eagle Rock Lodge No. 19 of Idaho Falls, Idaho to open their Lodge and do a Master Mason Degree (approval is pending a request for Dispensation).

12:30 PM Steak Fry in picnic area

1:30 PM Program "Join N.P. Langford and Other Early Settlers Come Alive in Bannack"

2:30 PM Stated Communication of Bannack Historic Lodge No. 3-7-77

4:00 PM Close Bannack Lodge

Events happening all day for Ladies and others to enjoy that day in Bannack Historic Tours of Town, Gold Panning, Mine Tours, Good Old Friendship and Fellowship and Campfire Cooking, if Fire Restrictions allow If you would like a Raffle Ticket or Tickets on one of the beautiful Bannack Clocks made and donated by W Bro. Chester Rogers and W Bro John Wilke please send me \$5 per ticket. If you would like your name put in the hat to become a Ceremonial Officer at the September 12, 2009 Annual Meeting, a fun time and great honor in serving the Lodge. Also if you can not attend please send a note so we can share with all on how you are doing!

Thomas E. Valente Jr. 8624 Panorama E. Bozeman, MT 59715 to share or if any questions Please call myself at 406-586-7882 or **Dave Prewett at 406-388-6372 or 406-539-6372**



50 YEAR MEMBERS

Norris	D	Nichols	43	27 Aug
Donald	L	Hedges	91	3 Sept
Jack	D	Waterfield	128	4 Sept
Robert	C.B.	Larsen	113	15 Sept
James	E	Baldwin	91	18 Sept
William	M	Kosola	41	20 Sept
Robert	D	Romers	16	25 Sept
Ronald	E	Paige	27	25 Sept
Melvin	C	Bruder	113	29 Sept



CELESTIAL LODGE

Murray G. Stowe, PGM-UT	Montana No. 2	7/30/2008
Delbert D. Lindstrom	Morning Star 5	6/30/2008
Charles F. Douglass	Morning Star 5	7/16/2008
Earl M. Pruyn	Missoula 13	6/11/2008
John C. Felton	Missoula 13	6/15/2008
William Yeoman	Acacia 33	6/30/2008
Charles E. Rymer	Corinthian 72	4/26/2008
Donald A. McBurney	Mission Valley 78	7/27/2008
Royce P. Robins, Jr	Powder River 135	7/14/2008
Donald M. Miller	Sentinel 155	6/27/2008

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**July/August 2008**

The following is based upon 30 of the 99 Lodges having submitted the required report

RAISED

Paul M. Marino, Sr	Treasure 95	7/10/2008
Michael J. Capra	Huntley Project 144	7/12/2008
Billy E. Revell, Jr	Ashlar 29	5/27/2008

REINSTATEMENT**From****To**

Christopher A. Tripp	Missoula 13	12/31/05	6/4/08
Douglas W. Harvey	Ashlar 29	12/31/96	5/19/08

AFFILIATIONS

Joseph E. Schultz	Stevensville 28	6/5/2008	Retaining: Ebenezer 33, Ohio
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DIMIT

William Daugherty	From: Pryor Mountain 151	To: Ashlar 29	6/30/2008
Randal Poyser	From: Pryor Mountain 151	To: Rimrock 149	6/30/2008
Gerald Christenson	From: Pryor Mountain 151	To: Ashlar 29	6/30/2008
Wallace Stadtfeld	From: Pryor Mountain 151	To: Billings 113	6/30/2008

**HAS YOUR LODGE BEEN SUBMITTING
THE REQUIRED MONTHLY REPORT ? Monthly
Reports are due each month even if the Lodge
is ""Dark". Members could be raised, change
address or die during any month. Please send in
your report.**

Calendar of Events

- Aug 16 Lincoln Lodge Annual Fish Fry
 Aug 16 Mt Jefferson Lodge Cow Pasture Golf
 Aug 16 Bozeman area Lodge Installation
 Aug 16 Whitefish & Columbia Falls Installation
 Aug 23 North Star Lodge Installation
 Aug 24 Livingston 32 Installation
 Aug 30 Great Falls area Lodges Installation
 Aug 31 Powder River Lodge Installation
- Sept 4 Loyalty No. 121 & OES Installation
 Sept 6 Thompson Falls No. 70, 100 Years
 Sept 7 DeMolay Installation—Bozeman
 Sept 10 Huntley Project No. 144 Installation
 Sept 13 Bannack Historic Lodge Meeting
 Sept 15 Helena No. 3 Installation
 Sept 16 GM @ Ft. Harrison VA Center (MSA)
 Sept 18-20 Grand Lodge of Idaho, Moscow
 Sept 20 Musselshell No. 69, 100 Years
 Sept 26 Grand Lodge of California (26-28)
 Sept 27 Northern Lights District Lodge of
 Instruction, Sidney
- Oct 4 York Rite, Red Cross, Helena
 Oct 8 GM Visit to Great Falls Lodges
 Oct 10 York Rite, Red Cross, Billings
 Oct 11 Missoula District Lodge of Instruction
 @ Missoula
- Nov 6 GM @ Lafayette Lodge
 Nov 9-11 Grand Lodge of Nevada
 Nov 15 Headwaters District Lodge of Instruction
 @ Virginia City
 Nov 22 Sagebrush District Lodge of Instruction
 @ Broadus

Postage Due and Returned Mail

Some of you have received notices from the mailing of the Montana Masonic News of address changes and/or the post office being unable to deliver to the address provided. The cost of this is becoming exceedingly high and is now being shared back with the lodge along with the notice of a new address or the notice of the mail being undeliverable. We base our initial member address on the information provided by the lodge, then updated by the US Post Office, the Lodge Secretary, member or family of the deceased.

There is no "mailing list" the mailing address are taken right from the Grand Lodge Member database. The only way to "remove" a name from mailings is to submit the following in writing or email from the lodge Secretary or the member, that the member: took a non-affiliate dimit, withdrew dual membership with a Montana lodge, is deceased, suspended NPD, or expelled.

If we can not establish a good US Mail address then the mail will be defaulted to the address of the Lodge or the Lodge Secretary. Remember these are your lodge brothers and the lodge has the responsibility to keep track of its membership. Most lodges have been very pro-active and have been working to locate our brothers who seem to have problem addresses.

Lodge Installations

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. Ref: Section 25030

If your Lodge would like the Grand Master or other Grand Lodge Officer to conduct the Installation of Officers for your Lodge please contact them now to make arrangements and be scheduled.

Pride & Excellence In Ritual Work

Grand Master's Plan for 2008 -2009



Introduction

Enclosed you will find my goals and objectives for the 2008-2009 Masonic Year. You will find direction for both Grand Lodge Officers and our constituent lodges. I propose the following as a guide toward achieving these goals, which after consultation with the other Grand Lodge Officers, will be adopted. The following goals are consistent with the direction provided during the two prior Masonic years:

- To strengthen our Masonic culture through education processes which develop Pride and Excellence in the delivery of the Montana Standard Ritual work.
- To strengthen our constituent lodges through the education processes of the Lodge Instructor Program and the Ritualist Program.
- To attract new candidates of exemplary character and moral qualifications.

Philosophy

As MWGM Nielsen stated, "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 our fraternity; and 2) constantly educating our brothers 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 only accomplished through the conferral of degrees on a candidate but a life-long endeavor for all brothers. Each of us is on that journey 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.

Both Grand Masters Valente and Nielsen helped build the foundation on which we will now proceed. Like many of you, I am a traditionally oriented Mason. We will continue with many of the same programs set into place over the prior two years. In the pursuit of Pride and Excellence, our overarching goals for the next year are:

- 1) Teach and instruct lodge brothers, officers, and instructors ritual proficiency and excellence in the conferral of degrees and in the opening and closing.
- 2) Provide educational resources and programs for lodges to continue making Masons, both newly initiated and established Brothers.
- 3) Provide assistance, when requested of the District Officer, to lodges in their conferral of degrees. Candidates will be conducted by the Lodge receiving the petition. The Grand Masters Classes program will be discontinued.

Grand Master's Direction and Goals

1. District Lodge of Instruction: The purpose for the District Lodge of Instruction is to develop and teach excellence in Ritual work to the Lodge officers and brethren. The district meetings will continue to be District Officer-sponsored Lodges of Instruction and will be scheduled throughout the year rather than just in the fall. Each district meeting is a Lodge of Instruction to instruct lodge officers and brothers in the ritual for the opening and closing and the conferral of a degree. No petitioning candidates will be conducted nor will any degree be conferred at the District Lodge of Instruction. If time permits the District Officer may also present other Masonic matters to the brethren of the district. Emphases will be on education, training, and execution of the work. District Officers may conduct up to three District Lodges of Instruction during the Masonic year. The Grand Master will be consulted prior to scheduling a District Lodge of Instruction.

2. Lodge Instructor Program: Each lodge will recommend a Brother to the District Officer who will be appointed by the Grand Master to serve as Lodge Instructor. Instructors must be Masons who exemplify the virtues of Masonry and are knowledgeable in the Ritual and the Constitution and Code. During their appointment Instructors ensure their lodges do proper degree work in accordance with the Montana Standard Work approved by the Grand Lodge of Montana and mentor and instruct Brothers in the Ritualist Program. The Lodge Instructor's duties are:
 - a. Attend a District Lodge of Instruction during 2008-2009;
 - b. Complete and pass the Grand Lodge's open book test on the Constitution and Code within the previous five (5) years;
 - c. Conduct ongoing Lodges of Instruction in his lodge utilizing the Ritualist Program to instruct and mentor brothers in learning and executing Ritual work.
 - d. Record and maintain each Brother's Progress Log for the Ritualist Program.

Upon completion of these criteria, the Lodge Instructor will be awarded the Certified Instructor Pin by the Grand Master.

3. Ritualist Program: The primary intent of the Ritualist Program is to create a culture for the Lodges to be self sufficient and proficient in the Montana Standard Work. The focus is to encourage the brothers to develop Pride and Excellence in delivering Ritual work. The Masters of the Lodges can promote this program as a means to strengthen their Lodge.

The Ritualist Program is based on the ritual and the lectures contained in the Montana Standard Work found in the Mnemonic and Monitor. The Ritualist Program is designed to encourage the Brethren to develop Pride and Excellence in opening, closing, and degree work. Upon completing each portion of the Ritualist Program a point value is awarded which will go toward a special recognition award for the participants.

The Ritualist Program has three levels of accomplishment that will be recognized:

Ritualist

Senior Ritualist

Master Ritualist

The participant will be awarded a different pin as they reach each higher level.

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4. Unauthorized Copies of the Work: District Officers and Lodge Instructors must ensure that lodges do not use unauthorized rituals or materials in the lodges. The only authorized materials that lodge officers may use in delivering ritual work are the Mnemonics and Monitor. The Lodge 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 Lodge 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 the 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 Standard Work is the only work that is authorized to be used. Unauthorized copies or materials are to be destroyed after confiscation.

5. Education: Each lodge is encouraged to work on Masonic Education at every meeting. This will be enhanced by the use of the District Lodge of Instruction, the Lodge Instructor Program, and the Ritualist program.

6. Master Builder and Fraternal Mother Programs: The Master Builder and the Fraternal Mother Programs will not be continued. All programs have a life cycle and it is time to retire these two programs. In doing so, lodges will be able to concentrate upon the two primary programs of education which are the Lodge Instructor program and the new Ritualist program.