



Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana  
425 N Park Ave  
Helena, MT 59601

## THE LEVEL

September 2008

NO. 441

### Military Honor Roll

Many of you have had the opportunity to receive the pin designed by MWGM Coleman for military veterans. We need you to send your names and branch of service into the Montana Masonic News.

Also 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



## 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.

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.

## Certified Lodge Instructors

Copies of the Certified Instructor program have been mailed to each Lodge Instructor including a copy of the Self-Certification worksheet. If you need another copy contact your District Officer or the Grand Lodge Office. Once you have completed the requirements for Instructor Certification you will need to submit the enclosed form to the Grand Lodge Office. The recognition awards will be presented during the 2009 Annual Communication in Glasgow.

### **Requirements for 2008-2009:**

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 2008-2009;
- 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 on two of the three degrees. This may be a District Lodge of Instruction or a Lodge of Instruction within your own lodge. If within your lodge it must be a new lodge of instruction conducted after June 30, 2008.

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.



## 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Robert M. Miller	Deer Lodge 14	7 Oct
Kenneth L. Davenport	Doric 53	7 Oct
Ivan Smail	Virginia City 1	9 Oct
George Zieg, Jr	Diamond City 7	9 Oct
Marvin Day	Acacia 33	10 Oct
Richard B. Haworth	Golden Eagle 66	13 Oct
Don A. Doyle	Whitefish 64	14 Oct
Robert W. McGhee	Glendive 31	21 Oct
Herbert Freier	Huntley Project 144	22 Oct
Thomas C. Drummond	Ashlar 29	24 Oct
Warren J. Roberts	Delta 128	25 Oct
D. Norman Wilson	Delta 128	25 Oct
Phillip Lyons	Butte 22	28 Oct
Elmer D. Hansen	Missoula 13	29 Oct
William J. Robinson	Unity 71	3 Nov
Glenn G. Osborne	Euclid 58	4 Nov
Lindy Ray	Treasure 95	4 Nov
Clyde F. Bowen	Troy 126	11 Nov
Leland L. Holstine	Benton 25	19 Nov
L. M. Neilson	Libby 85	20 Nov

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

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

July/August 2008

The following is based upon 43 of the 99 Lodges having submitted the required report

## RAISED

Missoula 13	Timothy L. Kennedy	8/5/2008
Boulder Basin 41	Walter E. Johnson	8/25/2008
Boulder Basin 41	Harry J. Haulley	8/25/2008
Huntley Project 144	Michael J. Capra	7/12/2008
Sentinel 155	Randall J. Haddick	8/19/2008
Sentinel 155	Terrence M. Nau	8/19/2008

## AFFILIATIONS

Grant Martin	Retain: Troy 126	Affiliate: Libby 85 8/12/2008
Carl Martin	Retain: Troy 126	Affiliate: Libby 85 8/12/2008

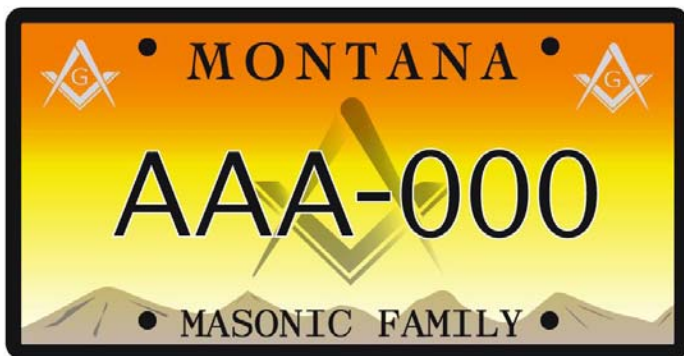
## DIMIT

Jonathan E. Coxwell	From: ? Pending more Info	To: Musselshell 69 9/2008
Casey H. Dubbs	From: Pryor Mt. 151	To: Judith 86 5/20/2008
Donald A. Stoner	From: Unity 71	To: Acacia 33 9/3/2008

## SUSPENDED NPD

Gerald Kirtley	Boulder Basin 41	12/31/07
Michael Marquis	Boulder Basin 41	12/31/07

## Montana Masonic License Plates Support the Montana Masonic Foundation



Montana Masonic license plates are still available. **We need to sell another 100 plates** so please consider this plate when you renew or license your vehicle.

Proceeds from this license plate go to support the Montana Masonic Foundation.



## CELESTIAL LODGE

Verle L. Rademacher	Diamond City 7	8/12/2008
Robert W. Heath	Missoula 13	7/19/2007
John Taylor	Bozeman 18	1/6/2008
Lawry Brekke	Bozeman 18	8/8/2008
Jack Knodle	Bozeman 18	10/6/2007
Sylvester J. Seidensticker	West Gate 27	8/14/2008
Fredrick P. Olsen	Ashlar 29	8/30/2008
Bert E. Emswiler	Ashlar 29	8/24/2008
Pierre L. Bacheller	Ashlar 29	8/14/2008
James S. Slosson	Acacia 33	7/24/2008
Larno W. Gay	Cascade 34	4/1/2007
Lawrence B. Jones	Star In The West 40	6/20/2008
Oliver J. Luoma	Star In The West 40	8/8/2008
Charles L. Stoddard	Hiram 52	7/24/2008
Kenneth H. Kittams	Euclid 58	2/19/2008
Warren Jones	Musselshell 69	8/31/2008
Roy E. Hillman, Jr	Kyle 96	9/12/2008
W. Dudley James	Delta 128	8/4/2008
Robert Howard	Powder River 135	8/27/2008
David K. Shaules	Huntley Project 144	6/17/2008

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**Glasgow**  
**“The Hi-Line in ‘09”**



**143rd Annual Communication**

The 143 Annual Communication, as you all know, will be held on June 25, 26 and 27 2009 in Glasgow the hospitality town of eastern Montana. The Glasgow session is going to be a stupendous event! The main session hotel is the Cottonwood Inn. Their facilities are wonderful and the staff gracious and accommodating. The Cottonwood Inn also has several RV spots adjacent to the hotel. Ninety percent of the hotel will be dedicated to the Masons of Montana. At this time the Vesper service is planned to be conducted outdoors on the terrace. The hotel is two floors and does not have an elevator. However it is handicapped accessible. This is a non-smoking hotel.

The actual session will be held at the Glasgow High School (go Scotties) which is about a mile from the hotel. The lunches will be served at the High School cafeteria and will require that tickets are presold. The High School is one floor and is handicapped accessible. The Glasgow High School and grounds are designated as No Smoking areas.

Food – a favorite subject of mine and most other Masons is going to be a culinary delight. All meals will be served or catered by the Cottonwood Inn and the owner is going to personally oversee the food preparation and assured us that there will be ample staffing to handle us. Tickets are a must and we really need to stress the presale of tickets. There will be a breakfast buffet Friday and Saturday morning. The lunches on Friday and Saturday will be prepared meals and will be served in the High School cafeteria which is located just a few feet from the auditorium. The Grand Master’s banquet (Thursday by invitation only) and the Master Masons banquet on Friday will be held in the convention center at the Cottonwood Inn.

And yes, there are things to do and see in Glasgow and the immediate area. The local arrangements team will have information in the welcome bags. Watch the Montana Masonic News and the Monthly Bulletin for more information.



## LODGE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM SELF REPORT FOR 2008-2009

I have completed the requirements to be recognized as a Certified Instructor consisting of having: Attend a lodge of instruction at one of the district meetings during 2008-2009; Completion of and passing the Grand Lodge's open book test on the Constitution and Code within the previous five (5) years; and Conduct a lodge of instruction on at least two of the three degrees.

Name of Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Number of Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Place and Date of District Lodge of Instruction: \_\_\_\_\_

Completion Date of Code Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Lodge of Instruction Conducted and  
degree demonstrated or conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Lodge Ritualist Program

Copies of the Ritualist program brochure and worksheet have been provided to each lodge and additional copies can be obtained by contacting your District Officer or the Grand Lodge Office.

As a Master Mason, you are challenged to select, memorize and perform parts and lectures from the various degrees and the funeral service. These parts provide you the opportunity to take an active and important role in your lodge's rituals. Your lodge will be rewarded by having active members who are able to present exemplary Montana authorized ritual work. Participation in the Ritualist Program should promote lodge attendance, encourage visitation and render assistance to other lodges by providing superior degree work.



## News Papers for Fort Harrison VA Medical Center

As you may recall during the last Session, one of the Ties was auctioned off and the high bidder was Donald Coleman at \$150.00. The money was designated to go to charity and the charity identified was supporting the MSA Hospital program at Ft. Harrison. The specific need was for hometown newspapers. The funds have allowed subscriptions for the following newspapers to be delivered to the FT. Harrison VA Medical Center:

Roundup Record Tribune and Winnett Times – Roundup  
 Meagher County News – White Sulphur Springs  
 Choteau Acantha – Choteau  
 Independent Observer – Conrad  
 Bitterroot Star - Stevensville

There is an ongoing need for subscriptions for hometown newspapers at the VA Medical Center. If you Lodge would like to provide a subscription please contact the Grand Lodge Office for details and information.

## Calendar of Events

Sept 27 Northern Lights District Lodge of Instruction, Sidney	Nov 6 GM @ Lafayette Lodge
Sept 28 Grand Lodge of California	Nov 9-11 Grand Lodge of Nevada
Oct 3 Scottish Rite Reunion-Billings	Nov 15 Headwaters District Lodge of Instruction @ Virginia City
Oct 4 York Rite, Red Cross, Helena	Nov 22 Sagebrush District Lodge of Instruction @ Broadus
Oct 8 GM Visit to Great Falls Lodges	Nov 24 GM @ Western Star No. 104
Oct 10 York Rite, Red Cross, Billings	Dec 6 GLO Meeting - Helena
Oct 11 Missoula District Lodge of Instruction @ Missoula	
Oct 11 GM @ OES - Wolf Point	
Oct 11 York Rite Red Cross - Billings	

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