



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

*THE LEVEL*

November/December 2008

NO. 443

### Holiday Message from the Grand Master

Brethren,

During this busy holiday season, let us all pause to reflect on the many wonderful blessings that the Great Architect of the Universe has bestowed upon us. As we make plans for family gatherings complete with food, fun, gifts, and reminiscing, let us remember to be thankful for the freedoms that we enjoy on a daily basis. May we all keep the protectors of these freedoms in the forefront of our thoughts. Be sure to include all the men and women in uniform in your prayers and especially those who cannot be with their families during the holidays.



I encourage you to make an extra effort to reach out to the widows, orphans, and others who are less fortunate than us to make their holiday season a little brighter this year.

Faye and I would like to wish each and everyone of you a joyous holiday season. May your hopes and dreams for the future come to pass and may you find many opportunities to give of yourself in the spirit of this festive season.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

There's always some tree ornament  
Of which we never tire...  
A shiny star, an angel,  
Or a graceful silver spire...  
Though others may be broken.  
This one's kept from year to year,  
And it always makes the Christmas tree  
More beautiful and dear-

And so it is with friendship,  
For each life is like a tree,  
And the ornaments that trim it  
Show how lovely it can be...  
Life's ornaments are blessings,  
And they may be great or small,  
But the blessing of true friendship  
Is the dearest one of all.

Unknown



## A Masonic Christmas Story

By Wor. Bro. C.S.L. (Laurie) Lund & V.W.Bro. R.G. (Ron) Dixon  
(With Apologies to Clement C. Moore)

Twas nigh afore Christmas at the Freemason's Hall  
the order was tall;  
Reams from Grand Lodge, a notice of motion,  
A ballot or two and a pause for devotion  
To brethren departed of the year '08,  
Plus a candidate who would soon walk the floor.

Our own Junior Warden, when faced with the crunch  
Said, "Let's all call off and go upstairs for lunch."  
The Master replied, as Masters all do,  
Intoned in a voice reserved for the few,  
"Before we partake of the fellowship there  
Is the summons to read and a ballot to clear.  
Not to mention the candidate, he's quaking with dread  
At the stories of whether the goat has been fed."

The Master, exhorting the brethren to work,  
A firm grip on the gavel, he turned with a jerk  
To the Secretary, putting a shine to each lens,  
Polished both to a luster and reached for his pens.

"It's half past the hour," the Master then winced  
At the stuff left to do and remained unconvinced  
That the evening would go as smooth as he'd hoped  
Since he'd gone to the trouble of feeding the goat.  
"Though the ballot's behind us, the notice is gone,  
Grand Lodge is finished, the work still goes on."

The Inner Guard knew as the Tyler did too  
That knock, knock and knock was the right thing to do.  
Sidebenchers slept soundly and were only stirred  
When the crack of the candidate's knuckles was heard  
The slight groan that penetrated lips that were pursed  
Appeared to the Deacon as just a light curse.

Onward they travel, the guide and the man  
Seeking truth and enlightenment wherever they can  
The secrets were given, the grip and the token,  
Obligation was offered, the words then were spoken.  
Though never, not once, was one heard to gloat  
As the Entered Apprentice never did meet the goat.

The evening now ended, the candidate clear  
Junior Warden entreats from the South us to hear  
The oath we look forward to right from the start,  
"Happy to meet and sorry to part."

Christmas had come to Lodge that night  
As men came together under the light  
Giving freely of time as a labor of love  
As we bent to the task of the Most High above.

To Stewards, to Deacons, the Tyler, the 'Guard  
The Wardens, the Master, who all work so hard,  
To Past Masters steady, Sidebenchers too  
To Treasurer, Chaplain, the D. of C. who  
Help carry the Lodge, year in and year out  
To your family extended, a warm Christmas time.  
Thank the G.A.O.T.U. we've run out of rhyme!

Reprinted Section 3, Officer's Guide  
of the Montana Masonic Manual  
now available



We now have a stock of Section 3, the Officer's Guide of the Montana Masonic Manual. The is was produced in a format similar to the Coaches Handbook (Sec 4) in a individual book format. These books have known corrections and updates included as well as amended and new sections. The new Section 3 can be ordered from the Grand Lodge Officer for \$8.50.

## 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.



### District Lodge of Instruction

- Dec 13 CMR District Lodge of Instruction—Lewistown. How to Open/Close on all three degrees
- Jan 31 Glacier District Lodge of Instruction-Kalispell. Masonic Funeral Service.

### Lodge Education Papers

The Committee on Research and Education has distributed sundry materials to all lodges. The series of papers were mailed to the Worshipful Master of each lodge. They are designed to:

- Assist Masters in the administration of their lodges;
- Give candidates and members insight by interpretations of the symbols and allegories, and Lectures that is not contained in the ritual itself or in the explanatory lectures;
- Encourage further reading, study and contemplation of the principles of Freemasonry; and Provide information about how to apply those principles to everyday life.

The Masonic information materials can be presented orally or in writing. They are valuable for inserts in bulletins, can be sent in letters or presented during lodge meetings.

The administrative guides have proven successful wherever used and should preclude difficulty of planning for a successful lodge year.

Education is the way by which we try to prepare ourselves to gainfully improve, which is what we came here to do. But education results only when individuals are induced to guide their thinking in compliance with established moral principles. The value of lessons taught in Freemasonry lies entirely in the thoughts and inspirations they stimulate in the minds of those receiving them. It is therefore essential for the good of Freemasonry and its members that Masonic information be made available.



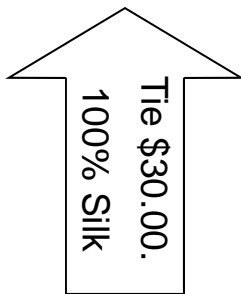
**Grand Master's Logo  
Hats and Ties**



**If you would like to order a hat and/or tie send checks to:**

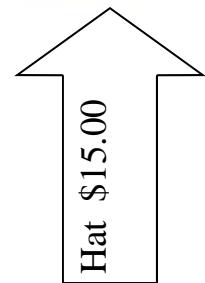
**Grand Master's Logo  
PO Box 1158  
Helena, Mt 59624-1158**

**Or call with Credit Card information to  
(406) 442-7774)**



Buffalo Skull with Square and Compass Crystals. We still have a supply of the Buffalo Skull crystals from last year available for \$20.00.

We also have some of the stainless steel



**Calendar of Events**

**December**

- Dec 13 CMR District Lodge of Instruction, Lewistown, 10 am
- Dec 15 Helena 3 Christmas party
- Dec 18 Eureka 93 Christmas party
- Dec 25 Christmas

**January**

- January Saints John Observance month
- Jan 13 GM @ Bigfork No. 150
- Jan 14 GM @ Morning Star No. 5
- Jan 19 MLK Day
- Jan 22-24 Grand Lodge of Colorado
- Jan 31 Glacier District Lodge of Instruction
- Jan 31 Robbie Burns Dinner, Kalispell
- Jan 30-31 Grand Lodge of Utah

**February**

- February Americanism Month
- Feb 1 Bikes for Books Kick-off
- Feb 4 Legislative Night—Helena
- Feb 6-8 Grand Lodge of Nebraska
- Feb 13-18 GM & GS Conference
- Feb 26 Proposed Resolutions due

**March**

- March 15 Annual Returns due prior to



To: Worshipful Masters and Secretaries  
From: Grand Historian

**RE: HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**

On the reverse side of this memorandum is an APPLICATION/NOMINATION FORM to be used to nominate a Master Mason to the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame, Nomination Forms are also contained within the Lodge Assistance Package, Volume I.

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 Hall 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 on the reverse side; 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 deceased they must have been in good standing at the time of death.

Mail nominations BEFORE APRIL 1 of the year nomination is to be considered:

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

1. April 1- Grand Historian will receive nominations only at the Grand Lodge Helena address.
2. April 10- Grand Historian transmits nominations to Hall of Fame Trustees for review, consideration and balloting.
3. June 1- Trustees' ballots returned to Grand Historian,
4. June 10- Grand Historian tabulates votes; submits results and name(s) of Brother(s) elected to the Most Worshipful Grand Master. *Note: Name(s) shall not be announced prior to Annual Communications and then only when instructed by M. W. Grand Master.*
5. Certificate(s) honoring the member(s) elected will be prepared by Grand Lodge and presented to the recipient, his Lodge and family.

(NEXT PAGE FOR THE APPLICATION/NOMINATION FORM)

**THE MONTANA MASONIC HALL OF FAME**

**APPLICATION – NOMINATION FORM**

Due: Before April 1 of the year the nomination is to be considered

To: Grand Historian; c/o Grand Lodge; PO Box 1158; Helena MT 59624-1158

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Montana

Hereby nominates the following Master Mason for membership in the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame:

**Full “given” Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

First	Middle	Last
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**Date of Birth:** Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**If Deceased,** Date of Death: Month \_\_\_\_\_, Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**On separate sheet(s) of paper (stapled to Application/Nomination Form), include a biography (typewritten of no more than 400 words) of the nominee citing in particular, but not necessarily limited to, the following;**

**Education;**

**Citizenship;**

**Character; and**

**Reasons why nominee should receive the honor of election to the Hail of Fame.**

**List achievements, both Masonic and in the world without the Lodge.**

Staple to this Application/Nomination Form substantiating evidence of worthiness as well as endorsements from Brothers and Citizens.

We, the undersigned Worshipful Master and Secretary of the above named Lodge attest to the nomination of the above named Brother to the Masonic Mali of Fame during a Stated Communication held on the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

(Lodge Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



## CELESTIAL LODGE

Ellis L. Fuhrman	Missoula No. 13	4/30/2008
Robert E. Evans	Deer Lodge No. 14	10/24/2008
Steve Palmer	Deer Lodge No. 14	09/30/2008
Raymond Jordan	Bozeman No. 18	10/22/2008
Robert Ellerd	Bozeman No. 18	11/06/2008
Fred C. Phippen	Butte No. 22	11/10/2008
Franklin D. Kneebone	Butte No. 22	08/01/2008
Sydney A. Saetre	Butte No. 22	10/30/2008
Sidney B. Peyton, Jr.	Butte No. 22	10/ /2008
Willis A. Woollett	Mount Moriah No. 24	10/31/2008
Leonel Lewis	Mount Moriah No. 24	11/02/2008
William R. Anderson	Benton No. 25	11/ /2008
Herbert R. Pasha	Benton No. 25	09/04/2008
Ian A. Elliot	Yellowstone No. 26	03/29/2008
Mark A. Forman	Yellowstone No. 26	03/02/2008
Wayne M. Olson	Yellowstone No. 26	07/24/2008
Floyd F. Sumner	Livingston No. 32	10/10/2008
Robert J. Vining	Cascade No. 34	11/15/2008
Neil S. Trosper	Cascade No. 34	11/26/2008
John C. Gilpatrick	Friendship No. 37	09/01/2008
John L. Brown	Victor No. 43	10/29/2008
Jack Flook	Ottawa No. 51	11/27/2008
Dean Curtis Sheehan	Hiram No. 52	09/28/2008
Jess C. Armitage	Montanan No. 2	11/25/2008



# CELESTIAL LODGE



Donald K. Vaupel	Havre No. 55	08/15/2005
Howard Elvrom	Havre No. 55	09/14/2008
Thomas W. Manaras	Havre No. 55	10/14/2008
Calvin F. Brown	Havre No. 55	UNK
Charles D. Frye	Havre No. 55	UNK
Gaylord R. Easton	Corinthian No. 72	01/01
M. Ray Finley	Corinthian No. 72	11/27/2008
Charles E. Fink	Corinthian No. 72	11/09/2008
Edgar D. Rexroat	Three Forks No. 73	10/21/2008
John E. Fulkerson	Lower Yellowstone No. 90	10/25/2008
Wayne E. Erfle	Rapelje No. 122	10/16/2008
Christopher Mangen	Powder River No. 135	11/22/2008
Leslie Dahl	Pryor Mountain No. 151	06/10/2008
Roy M. Duff	Whitefish No. 64	11/14/2008

## Military Honor Roll

**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 the May 2009 issue of the Montana Masonic news. This is voluntary as we understand there may be some who do not wish to participate. Remind your members do not assume their information has been sent in.

Please mail the information to:  
 Editor, Montana Masonic News  
 PO Box 1158  
 Helena, MT 59624-1158



The Grand Master will present the pin during his visit to your lodge. Remember to send in your request for his official visit to the Grand Lodge Office and allow time for proper scheduling.



**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES****September/October 2008**

The following is based upon 47 of the 99 Lodges having submitted the required report

**RAISED**

Mark V. Davis	Malta No. 57	09/17/2008
Rodney S. Walters	Belgrade No. 68	11/11/2008

**AFFILIATIONS**

Robert H. Foote	From: Libby No. 85	To: Valley No. 21	11/20/2008
Randall G. Becker	From: Greybull 34, WY	To: Ashlar No. 29	10/22/2008
Larry D. Fosse	Retain: Euclid No. 58	Affiliate: Cascade No. 34	10/28/2008
Jeffery S. McClanahan	Retain: Lebanon #98, TN	To: Ionic No. 38	10/29/2008
Richard E. Hill	Retain: Centralia #201, ILL	To: Pondera No. 80	09/26/2008
Melvin L. Summers	Retain: Rimrock No. 149	To: Pryor Mountain No. 151	11/14/2008
Lloyd Creek	From Pryor Mountain No. 151	To: Ashlar No. 29	09/30/2008
R. Bruce McGinnis	Retain: Morning Star No. 5	Affiliate: Whatcom NO. 151, WA	

**Withdrew Dual or Plural Membership**

Garland Young	Withdrew Helena No.3	Retain: Las Moras #444, Texas
Virgil Hicks	Transfer from: Bozeman No. 18	To: #123, Indiana 11/5/2008
Donald A. Stoner	Transfer from: Unity No. 71	To: Acacia No. 33 09/07/2008

**Dimit to Non Affiliate**

Robert Arrotta	Bozeman NO. 18	11/06/2008
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**Rejection**

Kelly G. McCann	Ashlar No. 29	10/14/2008
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**Reinstated**

Andy Lund	Ionic No. 38	To take remaining degrees 10/09/2008
Raymond L. Winkler	Unity No. 71	12/31/2007 to 11/14/2008
Jack Pawcett	Pryor Mountain No. 151	12/31/1980 to 04/01/2008

Freemasonry has tenets peculiar to itself. They serve as testimonials of character and qualifications, which are only conferred after due course of instruction and examination.

These are of no small value; they speak a universal language, and act as a passport to the attentions and support of the initiated in all parts of the world. They cannot be lost as long as memory retains its power. Let the possessor them be expatriated, shipwrecked or imprisoned, let him be stripped of everything he has got in the world, still those credentials remain, and are available for use as circumstances require.

The good effects they have produced are established by the most incontestable facts of history. They have stayed the uplifted hand of the destroyer; they have softened the asperities of the tyrant; they have mitigated the horrors of captivity; they have subdued the rancor of malevolence; and broken down the barriers of political animosity and sectarian alienation.

On the field of battle, in the solitudes of the uncultivated forest, or in the busy haunts of the crowded city, they have made men of the most hostile feelings, the most distant regions, and diversified conditions, rush to the aid of each other, and feel a special joy and satisfaction that they have been able to afford the relief to a Brother Mason.

*- Benjamin Franklin*

### New Grand Jester Coroneted

On December 6, 2008 “His Utmost” M.W. G.M. Bob Coleman coroneted the new Grand Jester W. Brother Don Cerovski, a.k.a. the W. Grand Marshal.

Grand Jester Don is known to amuse the Grand Master and others with his antics and jokes. Most people associate jesters with medieval time, but in fact the practice of retaining a jester can still be found, although the official position of a grand jester is not often filled. You may even have one or more in your Lodge or community.

The classic uniform of a court jester includes a pointed floppy hat with bells, and brightly colored uniquely patterned clothing, the court jester often stands out, thanks to the distinctive hat and ringing of bells which accompanied every movement.

The position of the grand jester is actually very complicated. On the surface, a jester might be taken as a mere prankster known to be free with their opinions, since their words could be considered jokes. Some grand jesters were trained musicians, actors, or artists, and some of them even became trusted and valued confidants in the court. Many court jesters were extremely intelligent and sensitive to the political and social trends of their eras. Their skilled entertainments might have included clever or subtle gibes or purely entertain, of course, with acrobatics, music, silly songs.



## Got Shrimp?

The Daughters of the Nile band (Helena) are having their annual Shrimp Sale with orders being taken now. The cooked, easy-peel shrimp will be \$12.00 per pound, including homemade sauce. Orders will be available for pickup at the Shrine Center, 15 N. Jackson, on Monday, December 29th and Tuesday, December 30th between 3 and 6 p.m. Call 442-7572 or 442-7775.

## The Hi-Line In '09

### Consider Traveling by AMTRAK

With the current economic concerns a transportation option of AMTRAK may be a viable option for those Brothers who live along the Hi-Line or close to it. Online you can check times and cost at

<http://tickets.amtrak.com>.



## Bikes for Books

It's time to start thinking about the Bikes for Books program. Updated program information, procedures and forms have been mailed to each lodge and is posted at the Grand Lodge website.

As in the past, if you wish to request the Grand Lodge provided Bikes for Books Poster, Bookmarkers or Serialized Bike tags you will need to provide the following information: number of students participating, number of bikes to be awarded, number of schools and number of classes within each school. Please have this information when you request the materials or it will delay receiving the materials. Please plan ahead and request the materials in advance of when you will need them. Our printing and stock of posters, bookmarkers and tags is based upon the information from the lodges.

Remember that there is a change in process for receiving matched funds from the Montana Masonic Foundation and you will need to provide the lodge portion of the cost first. The Foundation will not provide a match if you do not follow the instructions and process. The program start date is 1 Feb.

## Grand Lodge Web Page

Yes we are aware that there are sections of the current Grand Lodge Web Page that are not up to date. The entire webpage is undergoing a complete overhaul. It will have a new look and will be easier to navigate. We will continue to host the current page until the update is completed but it will not get as much attention as it becomes a duplication of effort, time and money. We ask that you be patient and bear with us until this is completed. The new web page is being developed using Dreamweaver architecture and will be aesthetically pleasing and easy to use.

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



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**MONTANA**  
**Non-Profit**  
**Organization**



## **2008 Annual Return**

The 2008 Annual Return instruction and work package will be mailed to each Lodge Secretary during the Month of December.

This year we will also include an electronic copy in .pdf format. This will allow the worksheet to be completed in a form-fill environment and many of the entries will self-populate to other parts of the form.

You will still need to print the final and mail the paper copy with the required signatures and check.

Remember Monthly Report is used to report the membership changes not the Annual Return. **The Annual Return is a recapitulation of the activity through the year and should not be used to report something for the first time.**