



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

*THE LEVEL*

September 2009

NO. 451

### **Proper Check Procedures**

Over the course of a year, Grand Lodge issues numerous checks to Lodges. The majority of these are generally from the annual Life Membership distribution or from the Pooled Lodge Investment account. Checks could also be issued to a Lodge for any number of other reasons. Because some Lodges don't meet as regularly as others we try to be accommodating in allowing these checks to remain outstanding.

During meetings with our auditors, Galusha, Higgins & Galusha, P.C. one item that was discussed was "stale" checks. These are checks that have been outstanding for more than a reasonable amount of time. In response to their comment we sent a follow up letter to all Lodges that had outstanding uncashed checks from Grand Lodge. After a reasonable period, we cancelled those outstanding checks.

To cover checks issued for either the Life Membership fund or the Pooled Lodge Investments, money needs to be transferred from those funds to the general account of Grand Lodge. Checks are then immediately issued to the applicable Lodges. Lodges that don't cash those checks promptly are losing out on the investment opportunity for those funds.

A new policy has been adopted to cancel all Grand Lodge checks that have been outstanding for over 90 days from the date of issuance. In the case of both the life Membership and Pooled Lodge Investment accounts, the amount of the cancelled check will be credited back to your Lodge account within those funds and will be added to the following year payment. Cancelled checks originally payable to Lodges will not be replaced without a request from the Master of the Lodge.

This policy has been adopted for all Grand Lodge disbursements and includes checks made payable to vendors, although we don't seem to have much of a problem with those checks. The same policy will also apply to checks issued by the Montana Masonic Foundation.

Please help us keep these outstanding checks to a minimum. If you receive a check from Grand Lodge or the Montana Masonic Foundation, please deposit it promptly. If you get a check that should be handled by someone else in your Lodge, please pass it on to them without delay. This benefits your Lodge and assists in Grand Lodge cash management.

Fraternally,  
Bruce W. Lahti, PM  
Grand Treasurer

## Montana Masonic Foundation Funding Changes

The Montana Masonic Foundation has suspended the availability and use of the Masonic Assistance Supporting our Neighbors (M.A.S.O.N.) program. However, individual requests for matching funds of the nature that were available from the M.A.S.O.N. program may still be submitted to the Foundation for consideration.

### Bikes for Books

For the 2009-2010 Masonic year the Montana Masonic Foundation will award a matching grant not to exceed \$750.00 per lodge. Matching grant funds must be spent on eligible expenses i.e., Bikes and Safety Helmets. All check must be provided to the vendor or deposited within 90 days of issue. **You cannot match the Montana Masonic Foundation funds with money from other grants, e.g. Wal-Mart Community Grant.**

This program is made available by the Montana Masonic Foundation as a public charity and awareness program promoting public education. The aim of this program is to encourage grade school children to learn to enjoy reading. This update contains a change in the process for how matching funds are processed.

If your Lodge is interested in participating please make plans now before the program start date of February 1st, 2010. The program should be completed by 31 May 2010, no requests for matching funds will be processed after May 31st. Be sure to coordinate the program with the school and ensure that they know the program dates. Because of the funding changes your lodge may need to change your process of bike acquisition and displays. Information is available at [www.grandlodgemontana.org](http://www.grandlodgemontana.org)

On request from the Lodge the Montana Masonic Foundation will provide Posters, bookmarkers, and a Masonic decal with a Serialized Number to be placed on the winner's bike. In order to receive the Posters, bookmarkers and serialized tags, the lodge must provide the number of schools, grade levels, number of classes and number of participating students, number of bikes to be awarded by each individual lodge prior to starting the program.

**Requests for all materials should be submitted to Grand Lodge prior to February 1, 2010.**

### 2009-2010 Directory and Code

Copies of the 2009-2010 Masonic Directory and the updated Constitution and Code have been mailed to each Lodge Secretary. These copies should be shared by the Master, Secretary and Instructor. If you haven't seen it yet check with your Secretary, additional copies may be ordered from the Grand Lodge Office.

**Keep current on your calendar of events and scheduling by checking the Grand Lodge Calendar at our website <http://www.grandlodgemontana.org>**

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## Obtaining a ROLLS Log-in

There are two things you need to know.

1) Each lodge now has an email address in the form of:

[LodgeNameNumber@grandlodgemontana.org](mailto:LodgeNameNumber@grandlodgemontana.org)

(for example [helena3@grandlodgemontana.org](mailto:helena3@grandlodgemontana.org)).

This will be the preferred address that the Grand Lodge will use to email lodges.

Email website: <http://mail.grandlodgemontana.org>

Email username: lodgenamenumber (e.g., **helena3**)

Email password: ***SEE BELOW***

2) Each lodge can have a secretary, an assistant secretary, and a master account for ROLLS. The secretary/assistant are full access; the master is view-only or read-only.

ROLLS website: <http://rolls.grandlodgemontana.org>

ROLLS username: Your full email address ([helena3@grandlodgemontana.org](mailto:helena3@grandlodgemontana.org))

ROLLS password: ***SEE BELOW***

To get your password, contact Andrew Gardiner, Assistant Grand Secretary with your name and lodge at: 406-442-7774 [Andrew@grandlodgemontana.org](mailto:Andrew@grandlodgemontana.org)

**Email password** is temporary; upon your first login, it will prompt you to change it. Set it to whatever you will remember, I do not need to know it. However if you do forget it, I can reset it for you.

**ROLLS password** will also be temporary. On logging in, go to the “My Settings” tab on the top right to change your password to something you can remember.

**Tutorial** and manual for ROLLS is available by logging in to ROLLS and going to “Info Center” tab on the top right.

### MT ROLLS Polo Shirts

Polo Shirts will be available for order with the ROLLS Logo for the Montana version logo. You can also have your name or and or Lodge added. Right now we believe the cost will be \$22.00. The shirts will be available in a variety of colors as well. If you are interested please contact us.



## Calendar of Events

### October 2009

- Oct 3 Al Bedoo & Algeria Ceremonial - Livingston
- Oct 4 Red Cross York Rite - Great Falls
- Oct 9- 10 Helena Valley Scottish Rite Reunion
- Oct 10 Red Cross York Rite - Billings
- Oct 10 Glacier District Lodge of Instruction - Plains
- Oct 10 York Rite Southeast District Meeting - Billings
- Oct 17 Livingston District Lodge of Instruction - Bozeman
- Oct 24 CMR District Lodge of Instruction - Lewistown
- Oct 24 York Rite Degree Work - Billings
- Oct 24 York Rite Northeast District Meeting - Conrad
- Oct 28 Grand Master at FT. Harrison VA Center
- Oct 28 Grand Master at Moring Star No.5
- Oct 30-31 Scottish Rite Honor Men - Valley of Helena

### November 2009

- Nov 5 Grand Master at Lafayette Lodge No. 241
- Nov 6-7 Western Montana Valley Scottish Rite - Missoula
- Nov 8-10 Grand Lodge of Nevada - Reno
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 19 Grand Master at Butte Area Lodges Dinner
- Nov 21 York Rite Council Degree - Billings
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day

### December 2009

- Dec 10 Helena Valley Scottish Rite Annual Meeting & Installation
- Dec 12 York Rite Commandry - Billings
- Dec 13 Chanters Concert - Billings
- Dec 15 York Rite Christmas Observance - Bozeman
- Dec 19 York Rite Christmas Observance - Billings

Brothers,

Some Brothers and Lodges are beginning to get requests for interviews and comments on Dan Browns new book "The Lost Symbol". I have in fact also received telephone calls and email from various lodges regarding how to handle requests from the news media on how to handle interviews.

It appears that the book shows a positive take on Masonry and may very well have a positive reflection on our future as an organization. We must remember however, that this is a book of fiction and no matter what the results of public opinion we must be accurate in our comments regarding the book.

As requests are received by the various lodges and the Grand Lodge Officers for interviews and comments regarding the book I ask that each of you refer your interviews to Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary who will attempt to answer questions and refer them as maybe be need to the Masonic Service Association and to the website [www.freemasonlostsymbol.com](http://www.freemasonlostsymbol.com) which will answer many questions regarding the book. This should give us some consistency in our response for information. Thank you Brothers! Lets hope that positive results will occur from this new book showing Masonry in a favorable light.

Fraternally,

Tom Lund, Grand Master

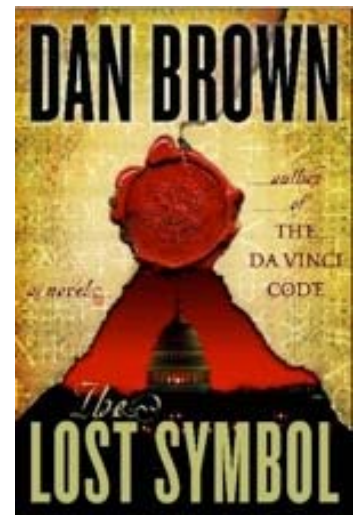
What is "The Lost Symbol?"

The Lost Symbol is a novel written by Dan Brown and published by Doubleday. It is the sequel to his 2003 novel, The Da Vinci Code.

Dan Brown has stated in his novels Angels & Demons and The Da Vinci Code that the secret societies and organizations that appear in his novels are based on fact. For three centuries, almost immediately after its modern formation in 1717 in London, the fraternity of Freemasonry has been the subject of wild accusations and disinformation. Unfortunately, readers are not always aware of the difference between fact and fiction.

Brown has said for several years the story would take place in Washington D.C.. The wax seal features a double-headed eagle, resembling the seal of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the No. 33, and the Latin phrase, Ordo ab Chao ("Order from Chaos") The seal is set against a background of symbols of the zodiac and alchemy.

Overall the book is favorable toward Freemasonry, and by the way, it is entertaining to read.



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

**August/September 2009**

The following is based upon 34 of the 98 Lodges having submitted the required report

### RAISED

David P. Foster	Deer Lodge No. 14	7/21/2009
John W. Samouce	Ionic No. 38	8/25/2009

### AFFILIATIONS

Thomas E. Rudd	With: Victor No. 43	9/9/2009	Retain: Vegus No. 32, Nevada
Donald B. Stambaugh	With: Lower Yellowstone No. 90	9/2/2009	Retain: Bellaire 398, MI
Kyle J. McIntyre	With: Morning Star 5	9/10/2009	Retain: Gallatin No. 6
George W. Padbury, III	With: Morning Star 5	9/10/2009	Retain: Ottawa No. 51
Jerry Balschun	With: Libby No. 85	8/18/2009	Retain: Dillon No. 16
Jon C. Edwards	With: Choteau No. 44	9/5/2009	Retain: Cut Bank No. 82

### Reinstatement

Anthony Pflieger	Euclid No. 59	From: 12/31/2008	to: 9/1/2009
James R. Rice	Shelby No. 143	From: 12/31/1990	to: 9/16/2009

### Withdrawal of Dual or Plural Membership

Maurice M. Rademacher, III	From: Unity 71	9/2/2009	Retain: Hiram No. 52
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# CELESTIAL LODGE

William T. Trehwella	Helena No. 3	8/19/2009
William R. Crichton	Deer No. 14	9/19/2009
Kenneth Venner	Butte No. 22	8/27/2009
Laurence J. Conklin	Stevensville No. 28	2/5/2007
Albert F. Hofferber	Ashlar No. 29	2/1/2009
William T. Collins	Ashlar No. 29	11/3/2007
Kenneth J. Carr	Boulder Basin No. 41	8/9/2009
David R. Foscue	Euclid No. 58	6/16/2009
Gerald N. Cadman	Stillwater No. 62	8/28/2009
Magnus R. Swanson	Kyle No. 96	8/21/2009
Carl O. Westermark	Shelby No. 143	9/9/2009
Donald T. Moss	Bigfork No. 150	7/19/2009
Glenn G. Allen	Trinity No. 152	8/28/2009

The monthly bulletin should be shared in lodge with all the members of each lodge. Distribution is limited to the Worshipful Master, Secretary and Instructor, Grand Lodge Officers, PGM's, Committee Chairmen and the Secretary or Recorder of our Appendant Bodies.

Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana  
PO Box 1158  
Helena, MT 59624-1158



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## Programs in Focus for 2009-2010

The following programs are included in the Grand Master's Plan for the year, if you need assistance please contact your District Officer.

- **Instructor Certified Program:** for Lodge Instructors and other members of the lodge.
- **Ritualist Program:** 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.
- **Unauthorized Copies of the Work:** District Officers and Lodge Instructors must ensure that lodges do not use unauthorized rituals or materials in the lodges.
- **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. Materials have been mailed to the Master of each lodge.
- **Builder Award:** The Builder and Master Builder Award program. Contact W. Bro. Paul Peterson at 587-8791 or [paul.peterson@raymondjames.com](mailto:paul.peterson@raymondjames.com)
- **Chaplain Program:** This year an enhanced Lodge Chaplain program is in place. Contact, the Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. Jim Trowbridge at 961-3296 or [jimtrowbridge@grandlodgemontana.org](mailto:jimtrowbridge@grandlodgemontana.org)