



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

THE LEVEL

October 2009

NO. 452

Dues Cards for 2010

The 'new style' Dues Cards for 2010 have been mailed to each Lodge Secretary. The new Card is generated through ROLLS the bar code will enable us to speed up the registration process at Grand Lodge communication and will be of use for other functions in the future. This card is the only Dues Card that is approved and acceptable for use by members of the Grand Lodge of Montana. Next year we hope to produce the Cards so that 50 Year members will be identifiable. If you have questions on the cards or need to obtain a replacement please contact the Grand Lodge Office through your Lodge Secretary.

ROLLS Training

We conducted four ROLLS training sessions and currently 56 Lodges have secured access to ROLLS and there are 29 active users. The others are in various stages of use. Those Secretaries who are using ROLLS can attest to the ease and functionality of the system and that it is very user friendly.

If you live in an area where several Secretaries can get together and can schedule a time that will work for as many as possible we can come to almost any part of the State and conduct additional training. It is also possible that we can walk you through the process by a phone call or two if you can be online and talk on the phone at the same time.

If you have questions on user log in or how to initially navigate around please call the Grand Lodge Office (406) 442-7774.

2009 Annual Returns

You have the option to prepare your Annual Return by filling in a paper copy or by using a form-fill (Adobe) .pdf version of the Annual Return which will be available at the Grand Lodge Website.

If you plan to use the ROLLS version please let us know, you will have to review your records for the past year and make sure all gains and losses are recorded. Because ROLLS populates the Annual Return form based upon entries made into the system you will probably be better off to wait until the following year to use this feature.



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 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.

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

(for example 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)

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

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.

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.

Distribution of the Bulletin

These monthly bulletins 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.

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

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.

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.

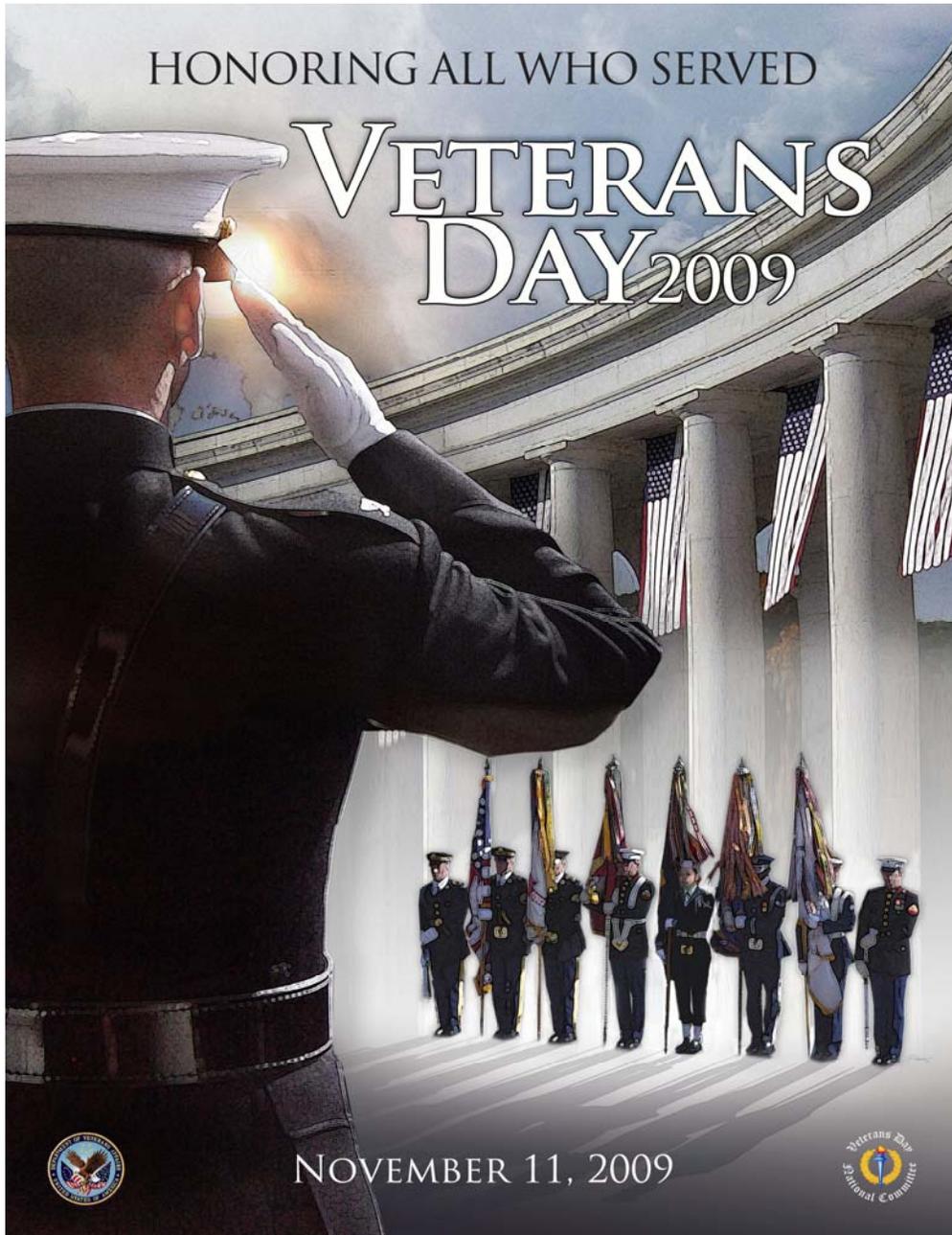
Instructor Certified Program: for Lodge Instructors and other members of the lodge. To obtain an application form go to the Grand Lodge website or contact the Grand Lodge office.

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. Application forms are available for down load from the Grand Lodge website or contact the Grand Lodge office. Or contact PGM Tom Valente at 586-7882 or thomasvalente@grandlodgemontana.org for more information.

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. Or contact PGM Jack Levitt at 585-9711 or jklevitt@aol.com for more information.

Builder Program. The Builder and Master Builder Award program. Contact W. Bro. Paul Peterson at 587-8791 or 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



Obtaining Benefit from Membership

To obtain benefit from membership in the fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons one must contemplate the beautiful phrases of the ritual, ponder over their meaning, and discover the lessons for himself. No one becomes proficient at an art, science, profession or most activities without constant practice. So, no one can appreciate the beneficial aspects of the principles of Freemasonry without devoting oneself to read, study and contemplate them.

Consider the first time a Candidate is instructed to pray for himself after being reminded of the manner of prayer before such time. To be most effective, one must pray for oneself, but this instruction also signifies the necessity of individual and independent thought and interpretations.

Thus, Freemasonry's system of morals, being "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols", is an instruction to look for further meaning, and requires interpretation beyond those apparent to the casual observer.

After joining the fraternity, a Master Mason soon discovers the amazing wealth of additional opportunities to learn about and to participate in Freemasonry. While there is no Masonic degree more important than that of Master Mason, there are appendant Masonic organizations that you can consider membership in.

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is commonly known as the Scottish Rite. It is one of several appendant groups of the worldwide fraternity known as Freemasonry. The Scottish Rite is a Masonic organization that continues a Master Mason's education of the first three degrees.

Other examples of Masonic affiliated organizations are: The Shrine (Shriners); York Rite; and Eastern Star.



<http://www.scottishrite.org>



<http://www.yorkrite.org>



<http://www.shrinershq.org/>



<http://www.easternstar.org>

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

August/September 2009

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

RAISED

Matthew D. Widdekind	10/30/2009	Gallatin No. 6
Jamie J. Woods	10/20/2009	Butte No. 22
Christopher W. Channell	10/14/2009	Lavina Temple No. 101

AFFILIATIONS

Mark P. Dye	Libby No. 85	10/09/2009 form GL CA
Ronald L. Freese	Trinity No. 152	10/8/2009

Reinstatement

Ernest R. Nunn	9/17/2009	Valley No. 21
James E. Gonser	From 12/31/2002 to 9/21/2009	Mount Moriah No. 24
Jason Parish	From 12/31/2008 to 9/21/2009	Mount Moriah No. 24
Richard L. Johnson	From 12/31/1987 to 10/8/2009	Trinity No. 152

Withdrawal of Dual or Plural Membership

Ronald L. Freese	10/18/2009	Mountain No. 110
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Suspended NPD

Ryan K. Plum	Powder River No. 135	12/31/2008
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**Keep current on your calendar of events and scheduling by checking the Grand Lodge
Calendar at our website <http://www.grandlodgemontana.org>**



CELESTIAL LODGE

A. Douglas Ferris, Sr.	Helena No. 3	10/16/2009
Robert W. Holliday	Morning Star No. 5	9/10/2008
Gerald I. Erickson	Gallatin No. 6	10/28/2009
Richard A. Morris	Gallatin No. 6	10/17/2009
Robert E. Smith	Sheridan No. 20	10/26/2008
Andrew W. Kidd	Stevensville No. 28/Acacia 33	10/28/2009
Loyal M. Johnson	Acacia No. 33	9/23/2009
Omer A. Nelson	Ottawa No. 51	10/22/2009
Dan F. Stansbury	Euclid No. 58	10/3/2009
George M. Schweneker	Stillwater No. 62	9/30/2009
William H. Langford, Jr.	Stillwater NO. 62	10/6/2009
Daniel L. Kelley	Whitefish No. 64	10/13/2009
Ewing M. Micken	Belgrade No. 68	10/11/2009
Emil R. Zimmerman, Jr.	Unity No. 71/Capt Scott 98	10/24/2009
Edwin A. Falkenstern	Terry No. 74	10/6/2009
Gerald W. Leighton	Mission Valley No. 78	10/28/2009
Charles W. Reynolds, Jr.	Mission Valley No. 78	10/28/2009
Jack Young	Lavina Temple No. 101	10/31/2009
Mons L. Teigen	Jerusalem No. 115	10/24/2009



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



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Organization

Calendar of Events

November

- Nov 7 Scottish Rite Reunion Western Montana-Missoula
CMR District Lodge of Instruction - Havre - Havre Lodge 10 am
- Nov 8- 10 Grand Lodge of Nevada
- Nov 19 Butte Lodges Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 21 Billings Council YR & Degree Work
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day

December

- Dec 4 1pm – 3:30pmGM@Membership Mtg with SR, YR and Shrine
- Dec 5 8:30am – 4pmGLO QTRLY Meeting
- Dec 10 Helena SR Annul Mtg & Installation
- Dec 12 Ponemah 63 Christmas Party
Billings Commandry
- Dec 13 Chaters Concert - Billings
- Dec 15 Bozeman Christmas Observacne
- Dec 19 Eureka 93 Christmas Party
Billings Christmas Observacne
- Dec 25 Christmas Day