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March 2008

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

2008 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Annually Montana lodges are required to hold an observance for public schools. These mandatory observances have been in effect since 1934. Besides being a mandate of the Code of Statutes, honoring the public schools is paying homage to the Masonic beliefs and traditions manifested by the public schools.

The two word phrase "public schools" embodies two important Masonic principles—freedom of thought and citizenship. As Masons we believe in freedom of thought, which includes freedom of religion. We recognize that a person's freedom of thought is best attained by that person being educated. "Schools" of course are the main instrument for a person receiving an education.

Prior to the colonization of America, the masses in the Old World were expected to obey the ruling class. The rulers of course believed the masses had no need to learn to read and could best be controlled as an illiterate and non-thinking people. The

religious reformation led by men such as Calvin and Luther was an attack upon this type of domination of people through illiteracy. These religious reformers believed that the Bible was the guide of faith and that it was necessary for each person to be able to read it for a full understanding. So this progressive religion movement endorsed the need for learning to read.

America, however, was a government of people and not of kings. Our Founding Fathers realized

that democracy was only as good as the ability of its people to practice it. Citizen participation in this new democracy required an educated citizenry. The freedom of thought that is essential to sustain our democracy is grounded in an educated public.

The word "school" is modified by the adjective "public." Masons believe in human equality and equal educational opportunity. Public-supported schools guarantee that all children have this equal opportunity for learning. With public education, a student may achieve great accomplishments based upon that student's own talents and ability

to learn and not be disadvantaged because the student cannot afford private education.

Public education provides a national unity with a common education for all its children. In this country's "melting pot" a common education provides the flame and the ingot for bringing diverse racial and cultural peoples in unity. Public education is the common denominator for this unity among our citizens.

We advocate that public schools should be funded with public funds and public schools should not suffer because of diversion or diminution of public funding. Though Masons are generally prohibited from engaging in discussion of politics and political candidates within

a lodge, discussion of public schools and candidates for school boards is an express exception for this ban. This exception is of no surprise since Masonry provided the initial impetus for the establishment of public schools governed by citizen school boards. The public schools belong to the people. Our traditional support of this institution has been unwavering.

As was once said, we believe "that ignorance was the cause of nearly all evil and dangerous environments that afflict humanity; education dispelled this evil, set free the victim of its influence and put a smile where terror and despair had planted sorrow."

Join with me in celebrating Masonry's proud heritage in the creation and maintenance of public schools and in honoring the teachers and educational professionals who dedicate their careers in our public school system. Their work, with our support, is the bulwark for our country's greatness through promotion of equality in educational opportunities and unity of its citizens.

Fraternally yours,



David L. Nielsen, Grand Master



The two word phrase "public schools" embodies two important Masonic principles—freedom of thought and citizenship.

GRAND LODGE AND IMPERIAL SHRINE MEET

This photo was taken on February 19th, during the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries held in Louisville, Kentucky. Following a breakfast sponsored by the Shrine of North America for the DeMolay, a cordial informal but informative meeting was conducted between the Imperial Brothers and our Grand Lodge delegation.

L to R: Jack H. Jones, Imperial Recorder; Bernard J. Lemieux, Imperial Potentate; David L. Nielsen, Grand Master; Robert A. Coleman, Deputy Grand Master.



Photo by Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary

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

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WHITEFISH LODGE #64 AND COLUMBIA FALLS #89 CELEBRATE AMERICANISM NIGHT TOGETHER

Tuesday, February 26 was the night that these two Lodges came together to honor our country with a fine dinner followed by a program dedicated to Americanism.

Honored speaker for the evening was Brigadier General James Cash, USAF (Ret). General Cash elaborated on the many things that do make our country the greatest place in the world to live. He shared many stories having to do with the over thirty years that he spent in the US Air Force. He explained how lucky he was that nearly most of his time in the military he had the opportunity to fly many different airplanes, from the F-101, to the F-15 and F-16.

His service included time during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He further showed his concern for the world condition as it is today with the struggle for



power in the Middle East. In addition, he expressed concern that our country has to become self sufficient with our energy supply and not be dependent on the world oil sources.

Eight members of each Lodge were present with a total of 30. A great ham dinner with all of the trimmings was enjoyed by all.

Brigadier General James Cash, USAF (Ret)

GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO GALLATIN LODGE No. 6



Pictured from left: Brian Murphy, Tom Valente, PGM; Dave Nielsen, MWGM; Mike Kelly, Jack Levitt, PGM-CA, Dave Martinez, Ted Willams



*Front row: Harry Kenyon (PM, #32), John Davis, Mike Kelly (WM), David L. Nielsen (GM), Tom Valente (PGM), Doug Hallesy (PM)
Back Row: Tim Johnson (JS), Kyle McIntyre (JD), Gerry Erickson (JW), Jack Levitt (PGM, CA), David Martinez (Sec, PM), Chad Groth (PM)*

Montana Masonic News General Information and Submissions

The Montana Masonic News is an official publication of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana and the Montana Masonic Foundation Corporation. Unless otherwise noted, articles appearing in this publication express only the private opinion or assertions of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Grand Lodge. The jurisdiction speaks only through the Grand Master and the Executive Board, when attested to as official, in writing, by the Grand Secretary.

The editorial staff invites contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news and other timely information (of about 500 to 1000 words in length) that broadly relate to Montana Masonry, Masonic law, lore, customs, history, symbolism, philosophy, responsibility of membership, etiquette, current events, and/or general public interest. When possible, photographs that illustrate these informative articles should accompany the submission. Pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off) or via e-mail to: _mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org.

While we often state when articles are due for the next issue, in order to insure there is space available for your article please submit it well before the due date. We don't send out reminders or solicitations for articles.

Articles are subject to editing and, when published, become the property of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana. No compensation is allowed for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted for publication. Permission to reprint articles will be granted upon written request; to the Editor from recognized Masonic Publications and others. When reprinted the articles should note: "Reprinted with permission of the Montana Masonic News." Please direct all correspondence and changes of address to:

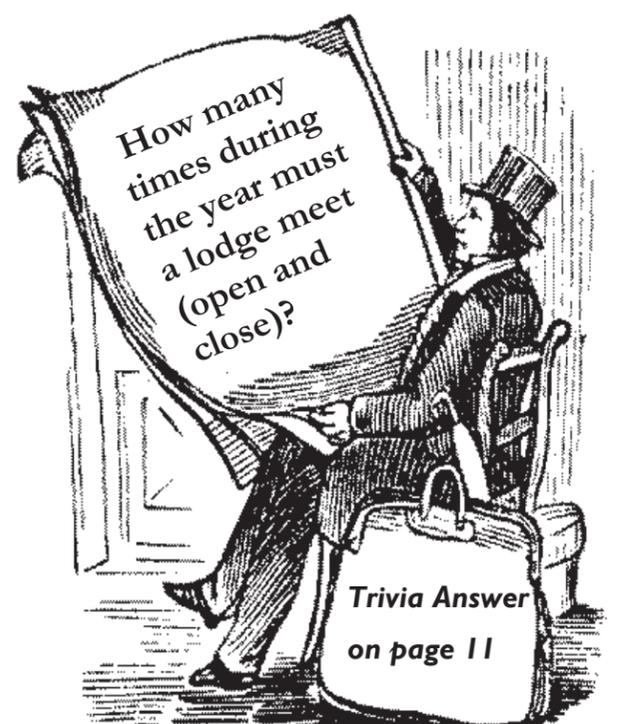
Editor: Montana Masonic News
PO Box 1158, Helena, Montana 59624
or e-mail to mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org
Please provide full given name, Lodge or affiliation and US Mailing address.

Article and Photo submissions:

Articles: pieces submitted should be typed, double-spaced and preferably accompanied by a computer disk in neutral PC format (MSWord preferred with formatting off.)

Photo: Black and White or color; preferably accompanied by a computer disk with photo image in .jpg, .bmp, or .tif. Include who took the photo, when and where. Include a note with permission to print the photo.

Sponsors: Anyone interested in sponsoring in the paper will need to contact the Editor.



SWEET RETREAT '08

In concordance with the earthly rites of Spring, over a hundred DeMolay boys, Jobs Daughters and Rainbow girls -from all corners of Montana convened on Saturday, March 1st for an annual event they germanely call "Sweet Retreat". Accompanied by their subsequent chaperons and advisors, this joyous occasion is an excellent opportunity for our Masonic families to revisit old friendships, make new ones, "dress to the nines" like high society debutants, dine in style like spoiled diplomats, and dance like there's no tomorrow.

Oh yes, and frolic like dolphins in the soothing, restorative waters of Fairmont Hot Springs.

The first order of business for the Montana DeMolay lads was to initiate six new members - two from Billings and four from Great Falls. Assisted by a supporting cast of very proficient performers, State Master Councilor, J.D. Olsen was spectacular in the East as the presiding officer.

Congratulations and welcome to our newest DeMolays. Please remember Brother J.D, his brother Josh and their dad Keith in your thoughts and prayers. Their beloved wife and mother, Becky Sue, passed away that very day.

After a refreshing swim, the beautiful and talented members of our youth organizations returned to their rooms to emerge at 6:00 pm , like metamorphic butterflies, -adorned in a

grand spectrum of formal attire for the Sweet Retreat Banquet. Beautiful, flowing formal gowns and neatly manicured suits and ties escort each other and parade about until it's time for dinner. Receiving lines of State Officers, Chapter Sweethearts and Honor Queens greet each attendee as they enter an elegantly decorated banquet hall. After everyone is seated and served, dignitaries make addresses while the patrons dine. The whole affair has the dignified demeanor of a reverent

monarch's feast; aristocrats all.

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master (and Sr. DeMolay), David L. Nielsen, gave a eloquent dissertation regarding the value and purposes of our Masonic Youth Organizations, which was acknowledged with an appropriate standing ovation.

Once the delectable desserts have disappeared, ties are loosened, dress shoes are removed and kicked into a corner, and the music and dancing begin. At first gander, young people dancing may not seem like anything

remarkable, but this is different. Where else in our society (and particularly in theirs') may a



Above left: "How Sweet It Is" - Past State Master Councilor, Rich Hurlocker.

Above: MWGM Dave Nielsen and Lady Judy dancing "the Macarena"

"You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth."
Kahlil Gibran

short, round, shy girl be asked to dance with the tallest, handsomest boy? And vise versa, with no divisiveness of age, class, status or station, the youngest, tubbiest, pimply boy smiles confidently as

he swings melodically with the most voluptuous young lady in the room.

It should be noted that the youngsters weren't the only ones to grace the dance floor. A few brave adult-advisors, along with the GM and

Lady Judy were spotted attempting to keep pace with The Macarena!

Folks, that's what our youth groups are all about. Dignified ritual. Unfettered fun. Mutual acceptance and consideration for all. A genuine family of Sisters and

MONTANA GRAND ASSEMBLY, IORG

I want to share with you some of the exciting things that are happening in Montana Grand Assembly. Our Year End Reports reflect that we are holding our own in membership numbers. We have made some changes that appeal to the younger girls. Therefore we have been blessed with a new class of young Rainbow Girls who are excited, enthusiastic, and anxious to help. Although they are too young to start through the line officer chairs, they are the future of Montana Grand Assembly.

Another new idea is being piloted in our Great Falls Faith Assembly. It is a Pledge Program that allows younger girls (age 7 – 10) to become involved with some Rainbow activities. The Pledge Group will meet an hour before the Rainbow Assembly, and have one activity or service project with the assembly and one independent activity each month. This program is in use in other jurisdictions, and those that have it feel that it reaches out to the younger girls before they get too involved with other activities, clubs or organizations. If it is successful in Great Falls, we'll be instituting it in other Assemblies. If you know of younger girls who might be

interested, please contact me and I will advise you of the nearest active Assembly, As you can see membership is still high on our priority list.

In addition to Grand Assembly, we hold two statewide meetings each year called Flings. One takes place in October, the other in March. These get-togethers are informal, with no ritualistic work, just fun and games, and service projects. The Flings are very popular, well attended and prospective members are also encouraged to attend. We are currently looking forward to a fun Spring Fling in Helena, March 14th and 15th.

Ashley Brester, Grand Worthy Advisor has been appointed to serve as a Supreme Page at Supreme Assembly coming up this July in Chicago. In addition, she has been asked to give the Tribute to the American Flag! This is a huge honor for Montana and we are all very proud of Ashley.

Grand Assembly will be at the Doubletree in Missoula, June 15th to 17th. Please know that you are all welcome at any of our meetings.

Diane Sherick, Supreme Deputy
406-452-1545, jackanddiane@q.com

60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Robert Danskin, Past Master Ashlar Lodge #29, in Billings Montana, was honored for having achieved his 60th year anniversary as a Master Mason. WM Christopher Rubich congratulates Worshipful Brother Robert for all of his contributions over the 60 years.

Worshipful Brother Robert quipped that he was glad to make it to his 60th anniversary and that he was honored to be a part of this great fraternity.

142ND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

HELENA CIVIC CENTER AUDITORIUM

JUNE 26, 27 & 28

It is time again to make plans to attend the 142nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana, to be held in Helena. Grand Master David L. Nielsen urges all Lodges to attend this historic session and there will be some breakout sessions that will prove most beneficial and important to all of our lodges. Besides the voting members of Grand Lodge all Master Masons in good standing are welcome to attend any and all events. Session information and Pre-registration form are included in this paper.

The tentative agenda is provided. There are some changes in the program this year starting on Thursday the 26th with a cornerstone ceremony for St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Vespers and the Public Opening and Introductions will be held following the cornerstone ceremony at St. Paul's Methodist church. The Grand Master's reception will be open to all members and guests who have a ticket for the event.

The session will start on Friday, June 27 at the Helena Civic Center, 340 Neill Ave in the auditorium. Registration and Credentials will be in the lobby of the Civic Center starting at 7 a.m. Formal opening of Grand Lodge will be at 9 am.

Shortly after the opening, the Master's of each lodge will be excused and then will carry in their Lodge Banner and be introduced. All members are encouraged to bring and wear their Lodge office apron or Past Master's Apron. Instructors who have completed the requirements for the Certified Instructor Pin must be present to receive their pin and certificate.

All pre-registrations must be received or postmarked by 1 June 2008. No tickets will be available after the 1st of June. There is a registration fee of \$20.00 if registration is received prior to the June 1 deadline. After June 1st the registration fee will be \$25.00.

Aprons For Session

Again this year all officers are encouraged to bring and wear the apron appropriate to their office or station within the lodge. Also, all Past Masters are encouraged wear their Past Master's Apron. There will be a limited number of plain paper aprons available for use.

The lambskin apron is the prized possession of every Mason. In order to protect it from the deterioration of frequent use, it is customary to wear as a substitute a white cloth apron supplied by the lodge. Some lodges provide special aprons with blue trim and appropriate emblems for their officers, and most grand lodges have more elaborate aprons for their officers. To be "properly clothed", a Mason must wear the white apron in lodge unless, as an officer, he wears the appropriate apron supplied him by the lodge or grand lodge. Within the Grand Jurisdiction of Montana Masons always wear their aprons outside of clothing; not under the coat or jacket.

Presentation Of Lodge Banners

Continuing with the long standing tradition Lodges are again requested to bring their Lodge Banner for presentation during the Annual Communication.

The sitting Worshipful Master or his designee will be presented in public procession. The Banners will be posted about the Lodge room. Please make arrangements to ensure that your Lodge is represented with your banner.



Notice For Balloting On Grand Lodge Officers

During the 142nd Annual Communications the voting delegates will be voting for officers for the following: Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. The various duties of these officers is specified within the Constitution and Code of Statues.

Notice Of Balloting On Masonic Home Trustees

During the 142nd Annual Communications the voting delegates will be asked to vote for two members to serve on the Masonic Home Board of Trustees.

The Masonic Home Committee will present the names of the necessary nominees to fill the vacancies of members whose terms have expired and the name of the member to serve for the remainder of the term of the member he replaced because of resignation or death to be elected; further nominations may be made from the floor, although no member of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees shall serve for more than two full consecutive terms. The committee shall include the Deputy Grand Master and Senior Grand Warden.

Voting Members And Delegates To Grand Lodge

Within the Grand Lodge of Montana the voting members consist of the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Officers, and from each lodge in good standing the Worshipful Master, Senior

Cont'd next page

RULES OF ORDER FOR THE 142ND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

RULES OF ORDER. The following rules of order shall govern the deliberations at each Annual and Special Communication of Grand Lodge:

- A. The Grand Master shall take the chair every day precisely at the hour fixed for the meeting of Grand Lodge, when the journal shall be read, if called for;
- B. During the hours of business the members are to keep their seats and observe strict order and decorum, and no member shall leave the hall, or absent himself from the service of Grand Lodge unless he has permission, or is unable to attend;
- C. No member shall be permitted to speak more than twice upon any subject without permission of Grand Lodge, unless it is merely to explain, and if any member is twice called to order at any meeting for transgressing these rules, and is guilty of a third offense of the same nature, the presiding officer shall, without challenge, order him to leave Grand Lodge, and he may further be subject to reprimand, suspension or expulsion, as Grand Lodge may deem proper.
- D. When a question is put, it shall be the duty of each member present to vote, unless for good cause Grand Lodge shall excuse him, but no member shall vote upon any question in the event of which he is personally interested;
- E. No motion shall be entertained until it is seconded, and there shall be no debate thereon until it is stated by the chair;

F. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, with the name of the mover endorsed thereon, if the chair or Grand Secretary desire it;

G. When a question is under debate no motion shall be received but the following:

- 1. To adjourn;
- 2. To lay on the table;
- 3. To commit;
- 4. To substitute; and
- 5. To amend or to postpone indefinitely.

The motion to adjourn shall always be in order and be decided without debate. These motions shall have precedence in the order above listed;

H. When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member who voted with the majority to move for a reconsideration thereof, but this rule shall only be applicable to an original motion;

I. All questions shall be propounded in the order in which they were moved, except in filling up blanks, when the largest sum and longest time shall be put first;

J. There shall be no appeal from the rulings of the Grand Master as the presiding officer;

K. No report shall be received from any of the committees of Grand Lodge, unless the same shall be reduced in writing, and signed by at least a majority of the members thereof; and

L. No committee, without special leave, shall sit while Grand Lodge is at labor.

Cont'd from previous page

Warden, Junior Warden, and Secretary, and all Past Masters of chartered lodges. To help put that into perspective, currently there are over 1,700 voting members of Grand Lodge.

The following is taken from the Constitution and Code of Statutes of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana.

By Code the following shall each be entitled to one vote:

- Elective and appointive Grand Lodge Officers;
- Past Grand Officers;
- Masters, Wardens and Secretaries of chartered lodges; and
- Past Masters of chartered lodges.

Cumulative voting is prohibited. No member or delegate shall have more than one vote.

Proxies. Whenever the Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden cannot attend the annual communication he may grant a proxy in writing to some member of his lodge to act in his stead. The proxy must be issued by him at least two days prior to the annual communication and he must notify the other officers of granting the proxy. If either the Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden has died during his term of office or has

permanently moved from this jurisdiction the lodge may, at a regular meeting held at least two days prior to the annual communication, elect a proxy for such officer.

If the member designated as proxy does not use it, the credential cannot be used by anyone else.

Tie Vote. The Grand Master shall have a regular vote in all matters before Grand Lodge. In case of a tie vote, he may also cast the deciding vote.

Annual Communication In's And Out's

Grand Lodge shall hold an annual communication for the transaction of its regular business commencing on the fourth Friday in June each year.

The annual communication of Grand Lodge shall not be opened, nor shall any business be transacted therein, unless a majority of the chartered lodges of the jurisdiction be represented. A smaller number may meet and adjourn from day to day until a constitutional quorum shall be in attendance.

Any Master Mason who is a member of a constituent lodge (in Good Standing) in this Grand Lodge or other grand lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge may

be present during an annual, special or ceremonial communication.

Transaction of business in Grand Lodge at its annual communication shall be upon written resolutions sponsored and submitted by a constituent lodge of this jurisdiction and reports and Grand Master's recommendations and decisions.

Tyler's Register

All Master Masons and out-of-state guests are reminded to find the Check In Station and verify your status as a Voting or non-voting member and also remember to sign the Tyler's Register.

Session Courtesy

While you should be as comfortable as possible remember that you are attending the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and to dress appropriately. When entering or leaving the tyled lodge room remember to salute the east; you may do so from the door without approaching the altar. As a courtesy to the others in attendance please turn your cell phones and pagers to silent or vibrate.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008

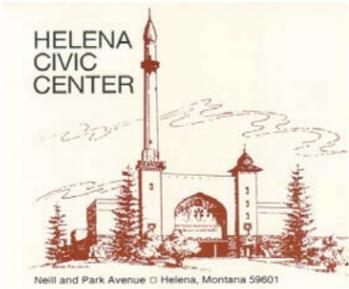
- 5:00 pm Cornerstone Ceremony for St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Cruse & Lawrence)
- 5:30 pm Vespers at St Paul's Methodist Church
- 6:00 pm Public Opening of Grand Lodge & Introduction of Visitors, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- 7:00 pm Reception, Great Northern Hotel

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008

- 9:15 am FORMAL OPENING OF GRAND LODGE
- 10:00 am Election of Grand Officers-
- 11:00 am COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 12 Noon Men's Luncheon –Great Northern Hotel
Ladies' Luncheon – Montana Club
- 1:15 pm Grand Lodge Refreshment to Labor
- 3:00 pm Grand Lodge call from Labor to Refreshment
- 3:10 pm Break Out Sessions: TBA
- 6:00 pm No Host Fellowship – Great Northern Hotel
- 7:00 pm Master Masons Banquet – Great Northern Hotel
Hall of Fame Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, Secretary of the Year Award, Special Entertainment

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008

- 7:00 am Breakfasts – Great Northern Hotel
- 8:30 am Call to Labor, Call to order
LEGISLATION
- 11:55am Grand Lodge call from Labor to Refreshment
- 12 Noon Men's Luncheon – Great Northern Hotel with Grand Masters Goals for the ensuing Masonic year
- 12 Noon PGM Association Lunch – Great Northern Hotel
- 12 Noon PGM Lunch – Great Northern Hotel
- 1:15 pm Grand Lodge Refreshment to Labor
- 3:00 pm Formal Closing of 142nd Annual Communication
- 4:00 p.m. Helena Civic Center -PUBLIC INSTALLATION
All Masons, Ladies, families and friends are invited.
Reception at the Grand Lodge Office Building, 425 N. Park Ave, for the new Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers will follow installation (**tickets required**).



GRAND LODGE AF & AM of MONTANA
David L. Nielsen, Most Worshipful Grand Master



PRE-REGISTRATION
142nd Annual Communication
June 26, 27, & 28, 2008 **Helena, Montana**

Mail this Form to
142nd Grand Communication
PO Box 1158
Helena, MT 59624-1158

Registration must be POSTMARKED prior to June 1, 2008

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT (Name Badge Will Be Completed From This Information)

NAME: _____
 (Full Given Name)

LODGE: _____ LODGE #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____ TITLE (Office, Station, i.e., WM,PM): _____

No Tickets Will Be Available After 1 June 2008

REGISTRATION FEE **\$20.00**

Thursday June 26, 2008
 Grand Master's Reception (No-Host Cocktails) No. ____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Friday June 27, 2008
 Men's Luncheon \$11.00 = \$ _____
 Ladies Luncheon No. ____ @ \$12.00 = \$ _____
 Delegates/Master Masons Banquet No. ____ @ \$26.00 = \$ _____
 Choice Prime Rib Baked Salmon

Saturday June 28, 2008
 Buffet Breakfast (Everyone Welcome) No. ____ @ \$12.00 = \$ _____
 Men's Luncheon with GM-Elect \$11.00 = \$ _____
 Past Grand Masters Assoc. Lunch \$11.00 = \$ _____
 Reception for New Grand Master No. ____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL ACTIVITY AMOUNT: **\$ _____**

Payment for Activities:

Check Enclosed# _____

Please make checks payable to: 142nd Annual Communication

Credit Card (Master Card or Visa Only): _____ Expires: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

**Registration and Credentials will be at the Great Northern Hotel on Thursday Noon to 5 p.m.,
 and at the Helena Civic Center starting at 7 a.m. on Friday.**

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Session Location: Session events will be at the Helena Civic Center Auditorium, 340 Neill Ave and the Best Western Great Northern Hotel, 835 Great Northern Blvd

Hotel Reservations: Please make your reservations from one of the Hotels listed below, prior to 1 June 2008. **When making your reservations be sure to tell them you are with the Grand Lodge of Montana Group to get the special room rates.**

Best Western Great Northern

835 Great Northern Blvd
 406) 457-5500
 Room Rate: \$98.00 +tax single
 \$105.00 +tax King

Park Plaza Lodge

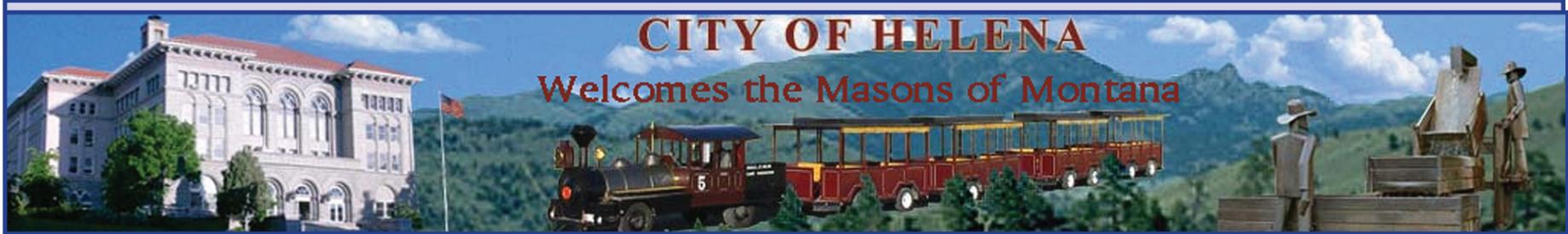
22 N Last Chance Gulch
 (406) 443-2200
 Room Rate: \$94.50

Days Inn

2001 Prospect Ave
 (406) 442-3280
 Room Rate: \$77.00 +tax

Red Lion Colonial Hotel

2301 Colonial Drive
 (406) 443-6702
 Room Rate: \$98.00



Helena welcomes the Masons of Montana to the 142nd Annual Communication. Downtown Helena offers several historic places to visit. From the Grand Lodge, the original Governor's Mansion, and Montana Historical Society to the Helena Cathedral and Archie Bray Foundation your weekend can be filled with activities for all. The Helena Civic Center will be the site of the Installation of Officers for the coming year.



HANDS OF THE WORKMEN

JAMES R. BOYCE

SEVENTH GRAND MASTER

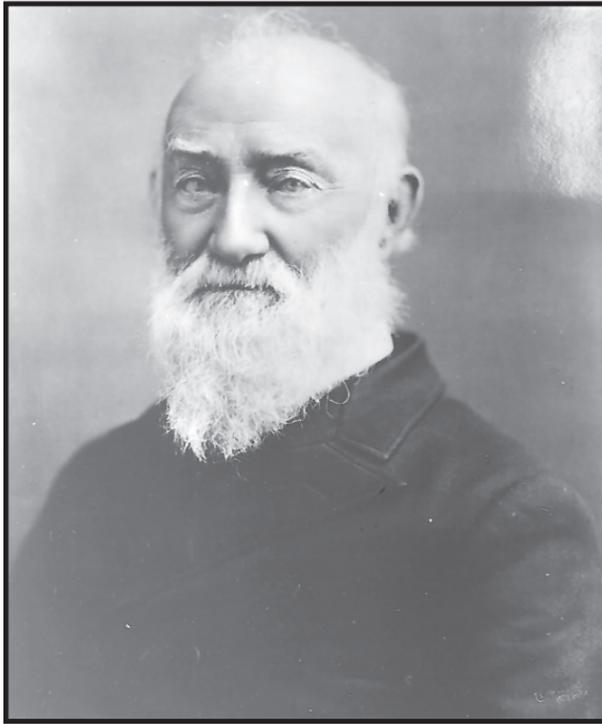
During the meeting which organized the Grand Lodge of Montana, James R. Boyce was a visitor at the meeting. A native of Kentucky, where he was born in 1817, he had moved to Columbia, MO, in 1842, and had served for 11 years as master of a Masonic Lodge. He emigrated to Denver, Colorado in 1863 and to Virginia City in 1864.

James is recorded in the Proceedings as having been among those present on the second session of the organization meeting and after the election of the first grand officers he was called upon to act as installing officer.

The Proceedings show that he attended Grand Lodge in October 1867, and was appointed temporarily as Grand Marshal. He next appears in 1869 as past master of Montana Lodge No. 2. At this session he was appointed Grand Historian.

In 1871, he was appointed by Grand Master Cornelius Hedges to be chairman of the committee on Constitution and By-Laws, and was quite active. At the close of the session he was appointed Grand Lecturer. When the next Grand Lodge convened, October 7, 1872, in Helena, he was chairman of several committees, made a detailed report on his activities as Grand

Lecturer, and was elected from the floor as Grand Master ahead of two line officers, Sol Star and E.S. Stackpole, both of whom later became Grand Masters.



As Grand Master, Boyce reported that he had suspended the master of a lodge for drunkenness, ordered the senior warden installed to succeed him, and then had heard a report that he was intoxicated upon installation. In Helena he had set aside a verdict of not guilty resulting from the trial of the senior

warden of a local lodge on a charge of gambling, after the officer had confessed in open lodge that he was guilty. The Grand Master ordered a new trial and reported with satisfaction that the offending officer had been convicted.

J. R. Boyce appears as a member of Morning Star

Lodge No. 5 during his term as Grand Master. James R. Boyce had also been active as a Senator in the State legislature.

The following was written about him: Montana mourns the death of Past Grand Master James R. Boyce, Sr., who died April 23, 1898. From early manhood a devoted Mason he was ever foremost in Masonic labors. A wise counselor, an impressive Ritualist, by precept and example a peacemaker and an inspirer of zeal in others, he ranked as one of the fathers of Masonry in Montana. After 58 years of labor in the Masonic vineyard the working tools of life dropped from his hands and he entered the upper sanctuary to receive from our Supreme Grand Master the reward of long and loving service and his commendation: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Our Vision

The Masons of Montana will be recognized as a relevant and respected Fraternity, committed to attracting, developing and retaining all men of high quality who strive for self improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community, and in the lives of those around them.

Our Mission

Freemasonry in Montana strives to satisfy our members as we teach moral standards, and support a way of life that promotes fellowship, brotherhood, and self-improvement through excellence in leadership, education, family, charity, and community involvement.



MWGM Dave Nielsen as King Solomon was at the Rocky Mountain Lodge of Instruction here in Helena on Saturday, Feb 23rd. Members from various lodges in the district conducted the Third Degree in full custom and raised three new Master Masons.



KT Church 12-16-07

(Photo submitted without names.)

MONTANA GRAND CHAPTER OES

To say that serving our MT Grand Jurisdiction of the Order of Eastern Star as Worthy Grand Matron has been an awesome experience would be a huge understatement! It has been exciting, challenging, educational but most of all rewarding.

To see our Sisters and Brothers come together in support of each other and our Order has caused my heart to swell in thankfulness and pride.

Membership efforts have been emphasized at every meeting by our WGP Brother Mo Veerkamp. This is a matter of great concern for both of us as sadly our membership is declining faster than we are receiving new members. But, we are not disheartened, as we have seen on three occasions four new members being initiated at one time and at other times two and three. This tells me that our members share our concerns and are also striving to keep our beautiful Order viable.

There have been many times of fun and fellowship starting with our Canadian Rockies Rail trip where we viewed God's beautiful creation in all of its splendor. We also had a great bus trip to Lethbridge for our Alberta / MT OES Exchange. Of course there was much laughter, fun and food shared throughout the trip. Every Chapter has extended themselves to me in an effort to make my visit with them enjoyable and memorable. I gratefully

appreciate all of their courtesies and kindnesses. They are the BEST!

We continue promoting our Youth Project (Key Rings) and the "BAGG" Raffle, Black Angus beef, Groceries and Gasoline. The drawing will be held during the Grand Chapter Session at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Billings June 18-21. I hope to see many of our sisters and brothers there as well as at our joint Homecoming to be held in Bozeman, MT, April 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gran Tree Inn. The Grand Officers will exemplify the ritualistic work on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bozeman Masonic Lodge.

My Official Visits to our subordinate Chapters are coming to an end...I look forward to the time I will

share with those Chapters and again thank all of our Sisters and Brothers for allowing my "Dream: to become a memorable reality.

Sisters, Brothers and Friends, "May your lives be blessed with the "Reflections of God's Love".

Star love and Blessings,

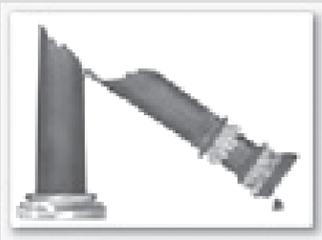
Gayle E. Holland

Worthy Grand Matron

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings. -William Hodding Carter, Jr.

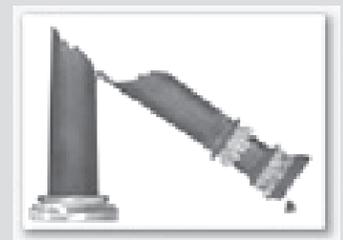


*Valier Spell B winners
(Photo submitted without names.)*



CELESTIAL LODGE

December, January, February, March



My Brethren, the roll of the workmen has been called, and one more Master Mason has not answered to his name, He has laid down the working tools of the Craft and with them he has left that mortal part for which he no longer has use.

His labours here below have taught him to divest his heart and conscience of the vices and superfluities of life, thereby fitting his mind as a living stone for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Strengthened in his labours hereby faith in God, and, confident of expectation of immortality, he has sought admission to the

Celestial Lodge above. Author unknown

Thomas R. Page	Flint Creek No. 11	12/10/2007	Dale C. Wilson	Lower Yellowstone No. 90	01/11/2008	Lawrence N. Christie	Kalispell No. 42	07/12/2006
Keith H. Logan	Missoula No. 13	12/12/2007	Lowell E. McGhie	Cut Bank No.82	02/12/2007	Walter A. Reinart	Ottawa 51, Boulder Basin 41	03/01/2008
Edwin R. Cummer	Missoula No. 13	01/10/2008	Thomas C. Ross	Chinook No. 50	12/24/2007	Frederic S. Robinson	Malta No. 57	01/25/2008
Robert E. Brown	Missoula No. 13	01/11/2008	Oliver H. Halingstad	Chinook No. 50	11/24/2007	James A. Lawson	Stillwater No. 62	12/29/2007
Earl L. Sample	Missoula No. 13	04/ /2007	David S. Remy	Havre No. 55	03/2007	Marvin W. Pelo	Golden Eagle No. 66	01/14/2008
Louis F. Kinney	Missoula No. 13	07.01/2006	Gustavus A. Loberg	Judith No. 86	UNK	Lawrence K. Parke	Corinthian No.72	02/09/2005
Arnold G. Holding	Missoula No. 13	10/22/2007	Eugene T. Reiner	Mount Moriah NO. 24	04/28/2007	Clyde Hawks	Sts John No. 92	01/28/2008
Roy Forrester, Jr	Dillon No. 16	12/15/2007	Logan W. Morgan	Pryor Mountain No. 151	10/01/2007	Kenneth Boggs	Pilgrim No. 102	07/08/2007
John W. Fullerton	Bozeman No. 18	11/29/2007	Ralph K. Parker	Kalispell No. 42	11/26/2007	Harley C. Berry	Circle No. 136	02/07/2008
Orville W. McCarver	Bozeman No. 18	12/24/2007	Harry C. Harlen, Jr.	Helena No. 3	03/7/2007	Charles F. Hunkins	Rimrock No. 149	01/01/2008
Clarence Curdy	Bozeman No. 18	12/14/2007	Richard A. Wilkinson	Helena No. 3	01/20/2008	Joseph Harvilak	Rimrock No. 149	08/29/2007
Jamie Patterson	Mount Moriah No. 24	09/26/2007	Earl Conver	Morning Star No. 5	01/24/2008	C. David Burgess	Morning Star 5/Gallatin 6	02/03.2008
Everett V. Kapptie	Cascade No. 34	12/21/2007	Kenneth A. Morrison	Morning Star No. 5	07/13/2007	Harry M. Henricksen	Kalispell No. 42	02/05/2008
Robert E. Buecheler	Ionic No. 38	12/33/2007	Marvin W. Tschudin	Missoula No. 13	02/20/2008	Robert Soontag	Kalsipell No. 42	12/06/2007
Gene P. DeBree	1,3,5,41,51,157	01/01/208	Edwin C. Minster	Missoula No. 13	2005	James Pool	Helena No. 3	02/20/2008
James A. Cox	Ottawa No.51	12/02/2007	Sherman V. Lohn	Missoula No. 13	12/2007	Stanley Thurston	Ottawa No. 51	12/31/2007
Palmer A. Hoovestal	Hiram No. 52	1/05/2008	Dana H. Myrick	Bozeman No. 18	01/06/2007	Kenneth W. Vincent	Eureka No. 93	01/30/2008
Floyd L.Johnson	Euclid No. 58	05/18/2007	Duane H. Hallett	Cascade No. 34	02/12/2007	Eddie G. Leach	Ionic No. 38	01/16/2008
Walter O. Forsman	Euclid No. 58	12/11/2007	Clair A. Willits, Jr.	Cascade No. 34	11/24/2007	Lyle Gibbs	Helena No. 3	02/24/08
Bernard H. Prentiss	Sitllwater No. 62	12/29/2007	James A. Dell	Star In The West No. 40	09/23/2007	Everett Shuey	Helena No. 3	03/06/08
Lloyd M. Stout	Judith No. 86	11/07/2007						
Allen J. Johannesen	Columbia Falls No. 89	09/29/2007						
Allan O. Greene	Columbia Falls No. 89	12/01/2007						
Forra F. "Bunk" Huckins	Powder River No. 135	12/10/2007						
Dana H. Myrick	Bozeman No. 18	01/06/2007						
Douglas E. White	Mission Valley No. 78	12/29/2007						
Joseph Loos	Bigfork No. 150	10/30/2007						
Willis Jones Pryor	Mountain No. 151	12/22/2007						
John P. Jones	Mount Moriah No. 24	09/06/2006						

If you are aware of a fellow brother who has passed away, please email the information to rgardiner@grandlodgemontana.org or complete this form and mail to:

Montana Grand Lodge PO Box 1158 Helena, MT 59604.

Deceased: _____

Lodge: _____

THINK "PETE"

Our good Brother Robert "Pete" Cargill, Grand Master of Idaho is in need of blood. If anyone would like to donate blood and credit MW Bro. Pete please contact the following: Grand Secretary of Idaho, Vern Patrick at 208 343-4562.

While this request is directed at this specific need we would like to encourage giving of blood for anyone through your local Red Cross.



What guides us is children's response, their joy in learning to dance, to sing, to live together. It should be a guide to the whole world.

Yehudi Menuhin

MASTER BUILDER AWARD

Its time to be finishing up on your nomination package for the Master Builder Program. Contact W. Bro. Paul Peterson for questions on the Master Builder program or call Bro. Paul at 585-7430.

Changes for the 2007—2008 Masonic Year.

- To qualify for the Builder or Master Builder, the following requirements must be met:
- The lodge instructor must be certified.
 - The lodge must conduct either conferral of degree or Masonic education at every meeting, including and especially the Feast of Sts. John.
 - At least three of the top five officers must attend a lodge of instruction.

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50 YEAR AWARDS

WHITEFISH LODGE #64

ACACIA LODGE #33



WM Phil Blaisdell of Whitefish Lodge #64 (left) presents PM Jake Heckathorn, member of the Whiteish Lodge, his 50 year certificate along with his 50 year pin. PM Jake was Master of the Whitefish Lodge for the masonic year of 1971-1972.



Worshipful Master Edward Eck, Acacia No. 33 and several Past Masters traveled to Missoula to present Brother Clarence VanFossen his Montana 50 Year Award. The presentation was attended by Mrs. VanFossen and several friends from the retirement home.

Worshipful Brother David B. Mcnay of Acacia No. 33, was presented his Montana 50 Year Award by brother Emmett Bock.





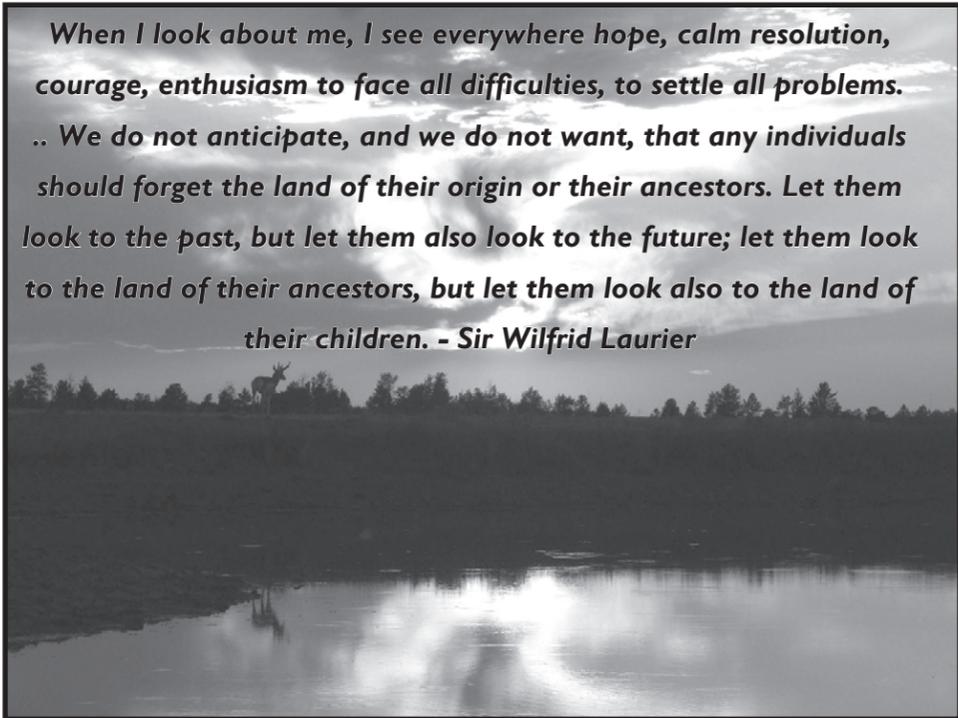
50 YEAR MEMBERS

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 2008

Congratulations to our brethren who were raised in 1957 and receive their Veteran's Pin in 2007 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of becoming a Mason. Please note that recent deaths and dimits from membership may not be reflected in this listing. Any brother with a question about his membership status should contact his lodge secretary.

January						March		
Clifford F. Poor	Mount Moirah No. 24	01/11	Jerry C. Sanner	Yellowstone No. 26	02/11	William S. Maloit	Hiram No. 52	03/04
R. Norris Grunhuvd	Mountain No. 110	01/13	Walter W. Zook	Bigfork No. 150	02/12	Norman K. Starr	Doric No. 53	03/04
Charles M. Lindberg	Star In The West No. 40	01/23	Benjamin F. Padden	Ekalaka No. 120	02/17	Arthur B. Smallwood	Cut Bank No. 82	03/05
Gordon G. Weber	Ashlar No. 29	01/25	Joseph A. Morin	Circle No. 136	02/18	George H. Selover	Ashlar No. 29	03/08
Ted Faro	Thompson Falls No. 70	01/29	George A. Brown	Thompson Falls No. 70	02/19	Kenneth McMillan	Missoula No. 13	03/13
Earl L. Faro, Jr	Thompson Falls No. 70	01/29	Jerrold A. Weissman	Delta No. 128	02/24	Joseph P. Kelly	Yellowstone No. 26	03/13
Thomas F. Savage	Montana No. 2	01/30	Merle T. Fletcher	Powder River No. 135	02/25			
Donald E. Grainger	Ashlar No. 29	01/31	Virgil K. Putman	Gallatin No. 6	02/26			
			Vernon H. Vial	Gallatin No. 6	02/26			
			Henry M. Maine	Delta No. 128	02/26			
			Dale E. Conover	Dillon No. 16	02/27			
			Marvin Shaffer	Mount Moriah No. 24	02/28			
			Kenneth R. Lowry	Glendive No. 31	02/28			
February								
Lee R. Roush	Monitor No. 35	02/05						
Donald R. Kegley	Missoula No. 13	02/05						

Trivia Answer:
 Lodge must meet at least once within a period of three successive months and in accordance with their Lodge By-laws.



When I look about me, I see everywhere hope, calm resolution, courage, enthusiasm to face all difficulties, to settle all problems. .. We do not anticipate, and we do not want, that any individuals should forget the land of their origin or their ancestors. Let them look to the past, but let them also look to the future; let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them look also to the land of their children. - Sir Wilfrid Laurier

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DALLAS LAND

C. M. Skip Stillman, Aqt.

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Submission Deadline for July, 2008
Montana Masonic News is PRIOR to June 15, 2008
 (see page 2 for details)

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Moved?

Let us know your new address:

Name: _____

OLD

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

NEW

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Attention Snow Birds

If you are one of those who go south (or elsewhere) for the winter, you will need to make arrangements to have your copy of the Montana Masonic News forwarded to you from the Post Office or by a friend. The Montana Masonic News mail list is too extensive to keep changing addresses back and forth. You will be allowed only one US Mail address.

Calendar of Events

April 2008

LODGE ELECTIONS - Lodge elections must be held no earlier than the first regular meeting in April and no later than the first regular meeting in May.

HALL OF FAME - Nominations due prior to 1 April for Montana Masonic Hall of Fame April 4 Deputy Grand Masters meeting with Shrine Centers April 5 Grand Lodge Officers Quarterly Meeting- Helena

April 5
April 25-26
April 25
April 26

Sat Investment Committee Meeting - Helena
 Fri/Sat Al Bedoo Shrine Center Ceremonial- Billings
 Fri GM Visitation Libby No. 85/Troy No. 126
 Sat International Meeting Creston B.C. & Bonners Ferry, ID

May 2008

May 2-3 Fri/Sat Bagdad Shrine Center Ceremonial – Anaconda

May 9-10 Fri/Sat Algeria Shrine Center Ceremonial – Helena

June 2008

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVANCE - Public Schools Observance must be held prior to 1 June

June 18-21 Wed-Sat OES Grand Chapter – Billings
June 26-28 Thur - Sat **142nd Annual Communication - Helena**

MONTANA ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

For advance planning and to give an idea when and where our Annual Communications will be the following is provided. More information will be added as the various dates get closer.

2008 - Helena, June 26 – 28

Helena Civic Center.

Session hotels will be the Great Northern Hotel (\$98.00) and the Park Plaza Lodge (\$94.50)
 Alternate hotels will include the Red Lion Colonial Inn (\$98.00) and the Days Inn (\$77.00)

2009 – Glasgow, June 25-27

Session site is the Cottonwood Inn & Suites and Convention Center (\$78.00)

2010 - Missoula, June 24-26

Session site and primary session hotel will be the Hilton Gardens (\$120.00)
 Alternate hotels will be added later.



REMINDER FOR LODGE ELECTIONS

Lodges must hold their annual election of officers no earlier than the first regular meeting in April and no later than the first regular meeting in May.

LODGE INSTALLATIONS

Lodges must hold their annual installation of officers after the Grand Lodge Annual Communication but no later than the first regular meeting in September.



Pictured above, left to right: Drew Burkhart - State Ritual Director, Patrick Murphy - State Scribe, J.D. Olsen - State Master Councilor, David L. Nielsen - MWGM, Trevor Howard - State Activities Director, Jesse Burns - State Sr. Councilor, Jeremy Peterson - Western Representative, Dad Sam Whitehead - State E.O., (sitting) Emmily Flachmeyer - State Sweetheart

Pictured Below: Line dancing