



Montana Masonic NEWS

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JULY 2009

FROM THE GRAND EAST

Greetings

To address the Masons of Montana in this issue of the Masonic News as your newly installed Grand Master is an honor. When I assumed the obligation at the Altar during the Grand Communication in Glasgow, the impact of the responsibilities bestowed upon me came to light. I look forward to serving Montana Masons during this year and I am humbled by the respect that the craft shows toward the office of Grand Master. I promise to do my best to serve you.

My focus for this Masonic Year is "commitment". I believe that each of us have been challenged at one time or another through our lives and have succeeded in our endeavors because of "commitment". Each of our lodges needs commitment from their members. Each of our members needs to commit to rededicating their selves to be better men. And each of us needs to commit to continually educate ourselves toward that end.

We are experiencing renewed interest in Montana Masonry but our numbers still show that we are losing membership. We have spent the last two years encouraging our lodges to become more capable of putting on exemplary degree work. We must continue to improve our ability to exemplify the degrees and prepare for the renewed interest in Masonic membership.

I am committed to certain goals this year and they should be easily accomplished by the craft.

- I am committed to completing the work on the combined Mnemonics and Monitor during this Masonic year. I have asked Most Worshipful David Prewett to Chair the Committee on Work and he is committed to accomplishing this goal during this year.

- I have committed to a Grand Master's Appeal (the program is conducted by Affinity Marketing) this year to raise money for the printing of the combined Mnemonics and Monitor. Please keep in mind that our budget process this year has required us to be frugal in our spending resulting in promoting Grand Master's Appeal that hopefully will give us a high rate of return. This year we will be promoting the use of "mailing labels" and I ask each Master Mason in Montana to give financial support to this appeal.

- "Pride and Excellence in Ritual Work" will be continued this year and we are hopeful that a large number of brothers will qualify to be a "Master Ritualist" during this Masonic Year.
- I challenge every Mason to consider a "Membership Replacement" program to where each of us will have an opportunity to sponsor at least one candidate for the degrees in the next 12 months. The "Membership by Design" program will give

you the tools to be successful in finding "good men" for the degrees of Masonry.

• We have restructured the "Master Builders" Program this year that will strive to reestablish lodge activities while working toward receiving the "Master Builders" Award at the year end.

• We will continue with the "Instructor Certified" program and I would like to see each Lodge Instructor who has not already done so complete this certification. The certification is open to any Master Mason.

• And lastly, I ask each Master to take time to educate the Craft at each meeting. Past G. M. Jack Levitt is chairing the Education and Research Committee and we hope that each lodge will select a brother who will be responsible for lodge education. The education committee is committed to giving your lodge the information necessary to have a successful educational program.



Brothers, I am "committed" to work toward a successful year. Join me in "making good men better" in all our acts and deeds.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master.

Fraternally,

Thomas L. Lund

Thomas L. Lund, Grand Master

FREEMASONRY: A PRECIOUS THING

It is important to appreciate that being a Freemason is a very precious thing. To belong to an organization that removes misunderstandings between men, makes them friends and teaches them to love one another, is to possess something that cannot be measured in understandable terms. We should encompass it, savor it, and protect it.

Our great fraternity is the oldest and largest in the world. It has drawn men to it across the centuries from every culture. It is a mine of wealth containing a distillation of the wisdom of the ages and a legacy of teachings to assist us to come to terms with moral

order and design within a potentially cold and heartless universe. It provides the path toward moral and spiritual progress, knowledge and service of God and our fellow men. It causes us to stand apart from all other fraternal orders. We have every reason to be optimistic that our Craft will be just as viable 100 years from now as it was 100 years ago, and that, eventually, all men the world over will learn to know and love each other at the altar of Freemasonry.

It is up to each of us to energize ourselves and to exemplify the faith of Freemasonry, so that others might look to us for example and inspiration, and thus

spread Freemasonry's pleas for universal friendship and its concern for human progress. Let us above all live in a manner befitting the dignity and worth of the Soul, remembering, as Emerson said, that "what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared with what lies within us."

Jack R. Levitt PGM (CA)

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PRIDE & EXCELLENCE IN RITUAL WORK

GRAND MASTER'S PLAN FOR 2009 -2010

Introduction

Enclosed you will find direction for both Grand Lodge Officers and our constituent lodges, for Pride and Excellence in Ritual Work.

This Program Should:

- Strengthen our Masonic culture through the education processes which develop Pride and Excellence in the delivery of the Montana Standard Ritual work.
- Strengthen our constituent lodges through the education processes of the Lodge Instructor Program and the Ritualist Program.

Philosophy

Though lodges are encouraged to do charitable works and perform civic services, their primary function, which is the moral basis for their good works, is to make Masons.

Making Masons has two components:

- 1) initiating men into our fraternity; and
- 2) constantly educating our brothers in the moral teachings and lessons of Masonry.

In other words, making Masons means attracting new men to petition for membership and tending to the needs of our existing members. Making a man a Mason is not only accomplished through the conferral of degrees on a candidate but a life-long endeavor for all brothers. Each of us is on that journey making ourselves Masons.

To make Masons means the lodge must approve candidates worthy of the fraternity, confer meaningful degrees that inspire the new Mason to be a better man and

continue Masonic education. The man we seek must be of exemplary character and have high moral qualifications.

Our Past Grand Masters have helped build the foundation on which we will now proceed. In the pursuit of Pride and Excellence, with our intent to:

- 1) Teach and instruct lodge brothers, officers, and instructors ritual proficiency and excellence in the conferral of degrees and in the opening and closing.
- 2) Provide educational resources and programs for lodges to continue making Masons, both newly initiated and established Brothers.
- 3) Provide assistance, when requested of the District Officer, to lodges in their conferral of degrees.

I. District Lodge of Instruction (at the discretion of the District Officer):

The purpose for the District Lodge of Instruction is to develop and teach excellence in Ritual work to the Lodge officers and brethren. The district meetings can continue to be District Officer-sponsored Lodges of Instruction and may be scheduled throughout the year as he sees fit. District meetings can be a Lodge of Instruction to instruct lodge officers and brothers in the ritual for the opening and closing and the conferral of a degree. No petitioning candidates will be conducted nor will any degree be conferred at the District Lodge of Instruction. If time permits the District Officer will also present other Masonic matters to the brethren of the district. Emphases will be on commitment, education, training, and execution of the work. District Officers may conduct up to three District Lodges of Instruction during the Masonic year. The Grand Master

will be consulted prior to scheduling a District Lodge of Instruction.

2. Lodge Instructor Program:

Each lodge will recommend a Brother to the District Officer who will be appointed by the Grand Master to serve as Lodge Instructor. Instructors must be Masons

who exemplify the virtues of Masonry and are knowledgeable in the Ritual and the Constitution and Code.

During their

appointment Instructors ensure their lodges do proper degree work in accordance with the Montana Standard Work approved by the Grand Lodge of Montana and mentor and instruct Brothers in the Ritualist Program.

The Lodge Instructor's duties are:

- a. Attend a District Lodge of Instruction during 2009-2010;
- b. Complete and pass the Grand Lodge's open book test on the Constitution and Code within the previous five (5) years;
- c. Conduct ongoing Lodges of Instruction in his lodge utilizing the Ritualist Program to instruct and mentor brothers in learning and executing Ritual work.
- d. Record and maintain each Brother's Progress Log for the Ritualist Program.

3. Ritualist Program:

The primary intent of the Ritualist Program is to create a culture for the Lodges to be self sufficient and proficient in the Montana Standard Work. The focus is to encourage the brothers to develop Pride and Excellence in delivering Ritual work. The Masters of the Lodges can promote this program as a means to strengthen their Lodge.

The Ritualist Program is based on the ritual and the lectures contained in the Montana Standard Work found in the Mnemonic and Monitor. The Ritualist Program is designed to encourage the Brethren to develop Pride

GM Plan Cont'd Next Page

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:

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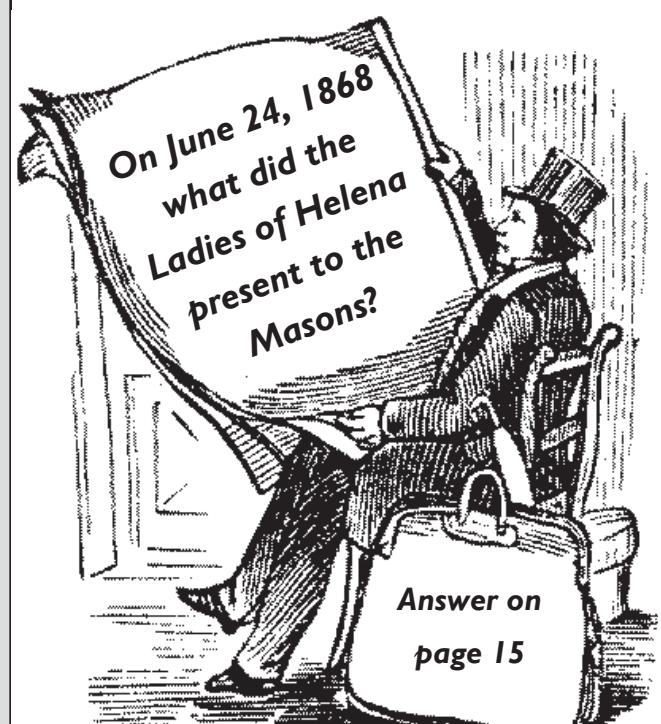
Please provide full given name, Lodge or affiliation and US Mailing address.

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.



RE-DEDICATION OF MISSOULA #13 TEMPLE

John N. Love, Grand Historian

Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas L. Lund conducted a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Montana which took place July 11, 2009 in Missoula, Montana for the purpose of re-dedicating Missoula Lodge #13 Temple building.

Past Grand Masters Jack Anderson, Thomas Jordan and Alan 'Doc' Harkins were present as well as Worshipful Brothers Gerry Anderson, Grand Standard Bearer; Colbert Howell, Grand Tyler; Jim Trowbridge, Grand Chaplain and John Love, Grand Historian. Doc Harkins and his bagpipe associates in full Scottish regalia entertained the audience preceding the ceremony.

On May 18, 1909 a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Montana was held in Missoula in the Hall of Missoula Lodge No. 13 for the purpose of laying the cornerstone of the Temple. Grand Master Cornelius B. Nolan officiated. The Masonic brethren formed a procession marching from the Odd Fellows Hall to the site of the new Temple, preceded by the band and escorted by St. Omer Commandery No. 9. After the ceremony of laying the cornerstone, addresses were given by the Mayor, Brother Andrew Logan, Brother H.H. Parsons and the Grand Master. Many mementos

were placed in the metallic casket deposited in the cornerstone.

Dedication ceremonies for the completed Masonic Temple were held on March 8, 1910 with the Grand Lodge of Montana again holding a special communication in Missoula. Grand Master John L. Carroll presided at convening of the Grand Lodge at the Odd Fellows Hall with a procession forming at 2 pm to march to the new Masonic Temple, escorted by St. Omer commandery.

The new edifice was properly consecrated according to ancient usages and rites. A short address was given by Grand Master Carroll followed by an eloquent address by Brother Edwin L. Norris, Governor of the State of Montana.

The cost of the new Temple was approximately \$91,000. The historical information is from a booklet authored by Dr. Edward Earl Bennett, PM who was a history professor at the University of Montana. Thanks also to Brother Bert Hansen for his many hours to making the history possible. Bro. Hansen served as Grand Historian for the Montana Grand Lodge 1967-1968.

RAINBOW NEWS

The 81st "Pitch In and Have a Ball" Session of Montana Grand Assembly was held in the Scottish Rite in Billings and hosted by Hardin Assembly #33.

The Grand Officers exemplified the degrees for our Masonic Dignitaries on Monday night. Two new Rainbow Girls were initiated.

Rainbow is pleased to welcome Donna and Rich Ransdell and Nancy Hopkins to the Grand Executive Committee. Kay Mihalovich, Grand Deputy from Roundup is retiring from the board and was recognized for her many years of service to Montana Rainbow.

The winners of the Ritualistic Competitions were Shayna Uffelman, Hardin #33, for the Rose Lecture, Katie Prescott, Bozeman #21, Religion, and Emmily Flachmeyer, Great Falls Faith #3, for Faith's Walk. Lacy Koenig, Helena #7, and Laura Uffelman, Hardin #33, will share the title and duties of Miss Montana Rainbow Service for this next year. The Assembly with the highest growth percentage was Bozeman, and Freda Blood from Helen #7 signed the first line on the most new girl petitions. Laura Uffelman will represent Montana at Supreme Seminar in Kansas City, Missouri, later this summer. The Bonnie Fleshman Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jillian Bostwick, Billings #24, and the three recipients of the Evelyn B. Johnson Memorial Scholarship were Heather Engblom, Garden City #55, Lorelei Hallock, Hamilton #2, and Molly Hopkins, Bozeman #21. Molly was also elected Grand Worthy Associate Advisor and will be installed in Helena next June.

I am extremely proud of Montana Rainbow Girls and their achievements. We are all working diligently to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and follow the motto "Rainbow Gets Girls Ready For Life."

*In Rainbow Love and Service,
Diane Sherick
Supreme Deputy*

SIBLING GRAND MASTERS

John N. Love, Grand Historian

Upon the occasion of Most Worshipful Brother Thomas L. Lund being installed as Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana, an event of historical significance occurred. Extremely rare, if not unprecedented, in the annals of Masonic history of any Grand Lodge jurisdiction is the occasion where two brothers have been installed as Grand Master. Montana has that distinction.

MWGM Thomas L. Lund was installed by his Brother PGM Larry T. Lund. Both Larry T. Lund and Thomas L. Lund are 33rd degree Scottish Rite Masons, both Past Masters, both will be Past Grand Masters. MW Larry was Grand Master in 1989, installed at Glasgow, Montana. MW Tom was also installed at Glasgow, Montana in 2009. Twenty years separate these two Grand Masters. Both men have earned the respect of their Brother Masons, their business peers, and their community. Both have given immeasurable time and effort toward the betterment of the Craft. In addition

Brother Tom has served as Worthy Grand Patron of Order of Eastern Star.

Now Brethren, please lets not get confused. These guys don't 'walk on water'. We're all human and make mistakes. Being able to admit them, learn from them and apply remedies taught by the Masonic fraternity is the epitome of Masonic experience. Both Tom and Larry display in their daily lives those canons and virtues which are inculcated in the Lodge and so eloquently explained as the working tools of our Craft. All of us should review the 'tools' and apply them to our own lives.

One hundred years from now anyone perusing the list of Past Grand Masters will see these two names and with Masonic understanding know the importance of such event. Most Worshipful Tom and Larry have carried the banner of Freemasonry to the four corners of Montana and beyond. They display the honesty and integrity that cause other men to emulate and ultimately seek out Masonry. These are men for whom I have great respect, can call my Brothers, but most of all I call my friends. We should all be so lucky.

GM Plan Cont'd from previous page

and Excellence in opening, closing, and degree work. Upon completing each portion of the Ritualist Program a point value is awarded which will go toward a special recognition award for the participants.

The Ritualist Program has three levels of accomplishment that will be recognized:

- Ritualist
- Senior Ritualist
- Master Ritualist

The participant will be awarded a different pin as they reach each higher level.

4. Unauthorized Copies of the Work:

District Officers and Lodge Instructors must ensure that lodges do not use unauthorized rituals or materials in the lodges. The only authorized materials that lodge officers may use in delivering ritual work are the Mnemonics and Monitor. The Lodge Instructor and District Officer may have his copy of the written Secret Work in the Big Book. It is illegal to copy pages from the Big Book and thus machine or handwritten copies of the Big Book Secret Work may not be used by any person in lodge. Other written-out versions of the Secret Work regardless of the form are not allowed in lodge for use. When such materials are discovered the District Officer or Lodge Instructor after notification to the Master of the lodge shall request that the unauthorized materials be surrendered to that officer or instructor. Lodges

failing to voluntarily turn over such materials must be reported to the Grand Master for possible disciplinary action against the lodge, including suspension of charter. For explanatory lectures, extraneous written materials and copies are allowed for use by the lecturer or for prompting. The Montana Standard Work is the only work that is authorized to be used. Unauthorized copies or materials are to be destroyed after confiscation.

5. Education:

Each lodge is encouraged to work on Masonic Education at every meeting. This will be enhanced by the use of the District Lodge of Instruction, the Lodge Instructor Program, and the Ritualist program.

INTEREST VS. COMMITMENT

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONIC CONFERENCE

Are we committed to Freemasonry or just interested, and how do we help people get from interest to commitment?

Thomas Duffy, Jr. Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Montana

Prepared for the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference, 2009

**There is a difference between
INTEREST
and
COMMITMENT**
**When you're interested in
doing something, you DO IT
only when it's
CONVENIENT.**

**When you're committed to something, you
ACCEPT no excuses, ONLY RESULTS.**

--Kenneth Blanchard

Belonging to Masonic Lodge begins with Initiation, but being a Mason is not fully realized until he has learned and applied the lessons of his obligations into his day-to-day life within the Lodge and beyond it. When he does this applying, sharing, and eventually teaching these lessons, himself, the Mason has moved beyond interest into Commitment.

This fraternity has lasted beyond the obstacles of Time and History because of such commitment.

It is easy to speculate that the modern day Mason of Montana lodges finds little extra time in his daily schedule of obligations. Too often, in our sometimes disparate efforts to recruit candidates to the Lodge, we fish for the day - initiation day, that is, Young candidates arrive at the door with curious interest, usually prompted by a connection made. We perform our initiations and raise Masons-but only for a day. Some, unfortunately, never return to the Lodge room to finish what they have started and we end up with membership rosters filled with names of those interested, but few are committed Masons in the Lodge room. So how do we fix this?

I might suggest the following:

Everyday, we decide who we will be by the actions that we take. Pennsylvania's Sir Knight Charles A. Barnes, P.G.C. and Chairman of the 2003 Committee on Public Relations suggests that "perhaps our entrances were not well guarded and we allowed some to enter who did not really qualify ... we overlooked their short comings, ... ultimately causing the branches of the fraternity to deteriorate slowly_ The lack of Masonic Courtesy is just one area that detracts from the basic customs and lessons of our Fraternity" This rendering of courtesy taught within the lessons of our degrees extends further than this-the courtesy of communication-sending an RSVP, making a phone call, checking in on a brother, helping out without being asked - all of these cement friendships and add the element of integrity to the Craft. Such commitment is understood by those who profess all the great principles, traditions, and customs of the Masonic fraternity-but do we demonstrate these acts in our day-to-day living?

Recently, some have suggested that Freemasonry is Gone with the Wind. This great story adapted from

Margaret Mitchell's 1936 novel, then made into an award winning film, brings to mind a way of life that has now disappeared, but has this kind of commitment really disappeared in Masonry or are our current actions just speaking louder than our words?

This kind of Commitment does not always roar, but sometimes is the quiet voice of Courage at the end of the day saying, I will try again tomorrow because I am committed to this. Historically, from Lodge room to Lodge room, there many stories of numerous Brothers who extended courtesy without ever giving it a second thought for their actions demonstrated this kind of commitment, not just interest. Making Masons is not a sometime thing that we do; it is an **all-of-the-time** thing. Not something we do once in awhile, when it is convenient for us or when we need something to do, but to be genuinely committed means making it a habit one we do daily ... something that becomes second nature to us -every single day, in all that we do and share with other Brothers. When we teach our newly raised Masons this difference as a courtesy, carrying it into the real world, we make a difference in their lives and the lives of others -who may only be interested in Masonry. This level of Integrity and Commitment to the Craft looks very different to those who do not understand. It is a commitment we can not afford to neglect.

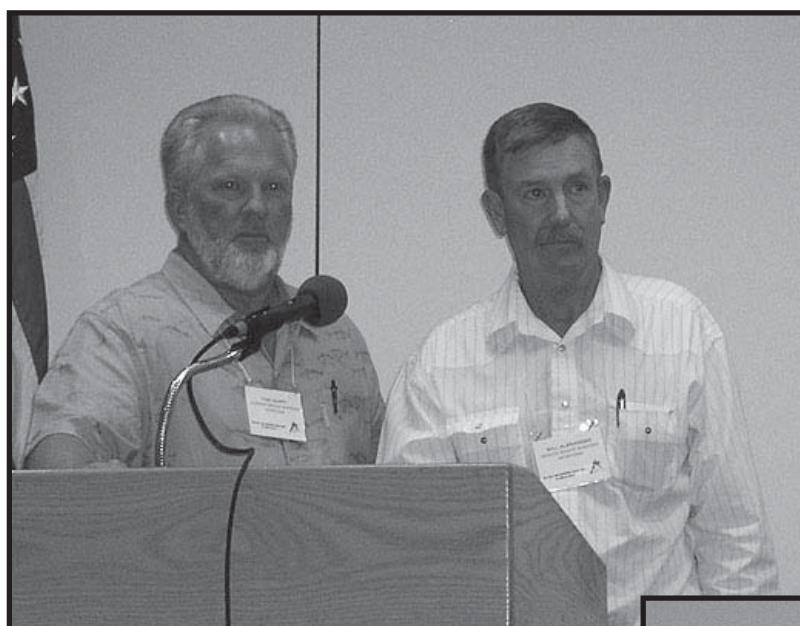
A true leader of men has the confidence to stand alone, to make tough decisions-even unpopular ones-and has the compassion and commitment to show others how to leave each opportunity in his world, better than he found it. This is a Mason committed for a lifetime. Do you know a Mason like this in your Lodge?

Making Masons requires us to carry the lessons beyond the Lodge room into our daily walk. Nothing is more important than what we will do today, for we will never fully know how our actions will impact the world and those around us. The courtesy of a handshake, a short conversation of encouragement, an offer of help -all have lasting effects. Acknowledging a Mason in the real world can have powerful results and demonstrate this kind of commitment. Every man needs and wants to be noticed for himself. His actions, no matter how subtle, give him the opportunity to carry out the lessons of the Craft. Each Mason seeks to find his own purpose in the Craft, in his Lodge room, and in the lessons of Masonry. Some will have the task of educating Brothers in the moral teachings of Masonry, while others will be encouragers of free thought and critical opinions, some will take on the task of being fishers of men -those chosen for investigating committeees who will seek out only those potential candidates who will commit for a lifetime, not just a day. Providing the "fish" for our rosters is not our purpose here.

It appears that examples today are rare, of such commitment, that Freemasonry is previously suggested Gone with the Wind but I propose that these Masons do exist here and all over the state of Montana and we should be **watchful of their Commitment** as we ask other men to become Freemasons, for these are would-be Brothers who will carry us into our own future.

Thank you to those Brothers who have been there year after year and in some Lodges, decade after decade. Your commitment reminds us just how important our purpose is. More than 3-5-7 steps of a Fellow Craft, more than kneeling at the altar as an

Entered Apprentice, more than being raised and recognized as a Blue Lodge Mason, for all of these together, adding a sense of urgency make the Mason committed for the next day, and the day after that, and the day after that... Making these qualities our Purpose that will live in the hearts, minds, and actions of better men--our Masonic Brothers--potentially, we will attract and instill these qualities in the lives, minds, and hearts of those who someday might desire to become members of this fraternity. By daily committing to these naturally simple but profound courtesy(s), our future - like our past - will dedicate ourselves to seek out those who will be **Committed** for a lifetime.



Above: The Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference was held July 16 - 18 in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. RW Brother Tom Duffy presented the paper for Montana titled "Interest vs Commitment". The Discussion was moderated by RW Brother Will Alexander.



Above-right: RW Bro Will Alexander moderated the Montana paper on "Interest vs Commitment" during the 59th Annual Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference. We wanted to specifically show Bro. Will in action and his commitment to not only Masonry but to recovering from a serious health issue which had him hospitalized for several weeks. W. Bro Will took the floor and moderated the discussion of the Montana topic like a seasoned speaker. "Atta Boy!" Brother Will.

ROLLS PROGRAM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONIC CONFERENCE

During the 143rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Montana you the Craft approved the acquisition and transition to the ROLLS program. During the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference Brother Thomas Heath, (W. Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Maine) and the President and developer of ROLLS gave a presentation of the system to the members of the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico). The ROLLS program is in use by the Grand Lodge of Maine and Vermont, Montana will be the next Grand Lodge to go active and probably followed by Idaho and New Mexico.

While we have **not** secured a commitment yet we are optimistic that W. Bro Tom Heath will also be able to attend one or both of the Wardens Workshops (Symposium) which will be conducted on September 19th in Billings and September 26th in Great Falls. This will be a presentation that you wont want to miss.

"ROLLS" Records OnLine for Lodge Secretaries

ROLLS is a complete online membership management application for use by Lodges fully integrated with Grand Lodge, into a unified system. ROLLS can help eliminate errors, improve mailings, facilitate membership changes in accordance with the Code and Constitution, and lower our operating expenses.

Specifically, ROLLS is a secure multiuser interface through which lodge secretaries can log in and maintain membership records, widow lists, committee rosters and other pertinent information for their lodges, in a database shared with Grand Lodge. Your internet provider may offer several ways to connect to their service, and while faster is better, dial-up will work.

References

Grand Lodge of Maine
Grand Lodge of Vermont

Features and Benefits

- ♦ **Convenience and Unified System:** ROLLS allows both Grand Lodge users and Lodge Secretaries to use the same system. Using one system greatly simplifies the management by eliminating synchronization issues, letting the secretaries do the data entry, and simplifying end of year reconciliation.
- ♦ **Cost Savings:** ROLLS can help lower expenses by allowing secretaries to enter and manage their own information, by eliminating bad addresses from mailings, by eliminating paper and other non-automated forms, and by integrating dues information and duties of the Treasurer.
- ♦ **Dues:** ROLLS allows the entering of a brother's dues information and manage it directly from his record or in a lodge-wide basis. This includes record of payment, record of remittal, record of suspension and reinstatement. ROLLS will also print the following: Dues Notice, Dimit, and Certificate of Good Standing. Dues Cards are printed by Grand Lodge and forwarded to the individual lodge.
- ♦ **Eliminate Forms:** ROLLS eliminates many paper and other non-automated forms by allowing secretaries to log directly into the system and enter their own information. ROLLS enforces

data security by only allowing users to see data for which they have permission and by keeping a complete audit trail of all secretarial registry actions, it's password protected.

- ♦ **Email:** ROLLS uses pop-ups to accomplish such tasks as opening your email client, so that you can compose messages and send them directly from the database address book. Provides automatic generation of emails to Grand Lodge, Grand Chaplain and others advising them of a death, suspension or change of address.
- ♦ **Filings:** ROLLS includes a summary of the dates when necessary reports are recorded as having been filed. This includes Annual Returns, reports of officer election and installation, membership audits and certification that you filed on your IRS 990-N.
- ♦ **Financials:** ROLLS has a "setup wizard" to help

tailor the financial section, including dues rates, member accounts, billing

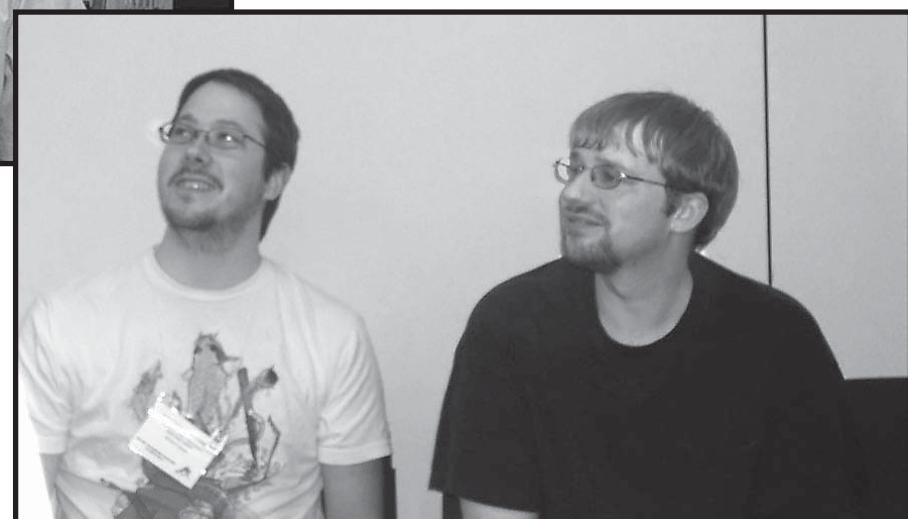


information, candidate fees; and printing of the Financial Worksheet. Access to lodge dues and financial information is restricted to the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer.

- ♦ **Lodge Information:** ROLLS displays detailed information for both the lodge and hall where it meets, including the Lodge Name, Lodge Number, District, Meeting Day, Election Month, When Dark, Lodge Location (community), and Building Name and Address. Also referenced are the lodges's Date of Charter. For an inactive lodge the Date Discontinued will also be given. If it is an Active Lodge you will find lodge contact information, and a tab for viewing officer information. Here too is a [Map Lodge](#) link which will bring up a Google™ map based on the Building Address.
- ♦ **Masonic History/Demographics:** ROLLS allows you to edit and view the various membership events such as Date and Place of Birth, Date of Death, Degree dates, demits and suspensions, Military Service, spousal information, service awards, 50 year awards. There is a Notes section that acts as a catchall for other information.
- ♦ **Members:** ROLLS divides members into two major categories; Active and Inactive. Active members are categorized as Master Masons in good standing. Inactive members include brethren

who are suspended, expelled, demitted, deceased, or are in the system as candidates.

- ♦ **Navigation:** ROLLS Info Center lists a variety of documents that can be produced and ROLLS has built-in "Breadcrumbs" to help you keep your bearings as you move around in the system. Customized lists and groups of names and members and an easy search and update feature.
- ♦ **Plural Members and Consolidations:** ROLLS completely supports tracking of plural members and events related to them. ROLLS automatically notifies secretaries of plural member should any change occur in the member's status. ROLLS has complete support consolidations. ROLLS tracks the complete consolidation history of lodges and memberships.
- ♦ **Postal Addressing:** ROLLS is integrated with the US Postal Service's Address Correction Service allowing for Postal Service mail formatting instructions, and Canadian postal addresses, and links to obituary sites and Social Security Death Index searches. Using ACS, ROLLS can automatically update addresses eliminating returned mail, and greatly reducing the cost of maintaining your mailing list. ROLLS will simplify the tracking of those moves. Provisions for seasonal mail addresses are also included.



Above left: Tom Heath, W. Grand Marshal, Grand Lodge of Maine and President of Barker Point Solutions (developer of ROLLS).

Above right: Tom Heath, W. Grand Marshal, Grand Lodge of Maine and Andrew Gardiner, Asst. Gr. Secreary, Grand Lodge of Montana. Photos were taken at during the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference.

♦ **Printing:** ROLLS will print Dues Cards, rosters, envelopes and labels. Mail options also provides a field for members who wish to opt out of mailings. Included in the address formatting is a link that will tell you by whom and when an address was changed.

♦ **Ritualists:** ROLLS allows you to checkmark those 'Parts' of the ritual, the installation ceremony, and Masonic memorial service, at which the brother is proficient and can be called upon to do. This information is searchable on a lodge-wide basis under the [Find Ritualists](#) link found under the Reports & Statistics section of the main menu.

♦ **Statistical Breakdowns:** ROLLS allows for a 5-year statistical breakdown. Prominently featured on the ROLLS main page are statistical breakdowns for your lodge — and the Grand Lodge as a whole — that allow for the tracking of trends in membership. All these numbers recalculate in real time, updating whenever a change is made in the status of a member.

SUMMARY OF THE 143RD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert A. Coleman., opened and presided over the 143rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Montana held Glasgow, Montana, on June 25, 26 and 27, 2009.

Attendance at the Communication

Elective Grand Officers present:	5
Total Chartered Lodges:	99
Elective Grand Officers Pro Tem:	1
Chartered Lodges present:	62
Appointed Grand Lodge Officers present:	13
Chartered Lodges <u>not</u> represented:	37
Past Grand Masters present:	11
Distinguished Guests:	27
PGM from other jurisdiction living in MT*:	1
* MT PM	
Grand Lodge Officer –Emeritus:	1
Others present not entitled to vote:	7
Worshipful Masters present:	17
Proxies Worshipful Master:	7
Senior Wardens present:	9
Proxies Senior Warden:	8
Junior Wardens present:	10
Proxies Junior Warden:	2
Secretaries present:	20
Total Registered:	181
Other Past Grand Officer entitled to vote:	1
Total entitled to Vote:	147
Past Masters Not Included above:	41

Silver and Bronze Medals

Distinguished Service Medal (Silver)
Joseph R. Simpson (86)

Meritorious Service Medal (Bronze)
Gary Schmidt (3), Don Nelson (121)

Special Committee on Recognition

Special Committee on Recognition – To extend mutual recognition to:
Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of North Carolina.....PASSED

Other Actions

TROY LODGE NO. 126

Troy Lodge No 126 surrendered its Charter and the action was accepted by the Craft

GALTA LODGE NO. 106

By action of the Craft assembled, Galata Lodge No. 106 has been charged with violation of Section 22060, Item:

- A. Disobedience of any provisions of the Constitution or Statutes of Grand Lodge;
- B. Disregard of lawful authority of the Grand Master;
- E. Failure to meet within a period of three successive months. These charges will be investigated by a commission of sitting Worshipful Masters.

Legislative action adopted at the 143rd Annual Communication became in force and effect at close of the Communication.

The 144th Annual Communication will be held June 24, 25, and 26, 2010 in Missoula, Montana.

LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

GMR - 2009 - 01	Allowing All Master Masons Voting Members of Grand Lodge	Failed
GMR - 2009 - 02	Clarifying the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame	Passed
GMR - 2009 - 03	Clarifying the Signing of By-Laws	Passed
GMR - 2009 - 04	When a Lodge becomes unsafe or unsuitable	Passed

HOLDOVER LEGISLATION

JUR - 2009 - 01	Determination of quorum for Session	Passed
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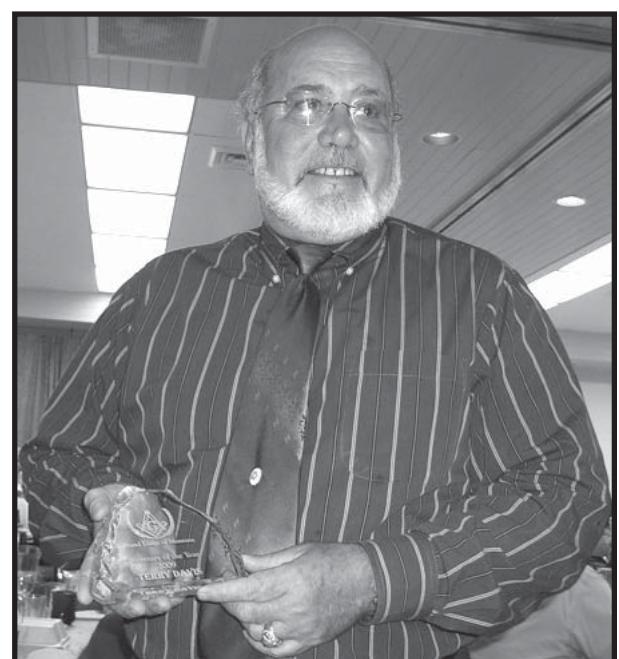
PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

R - 2009 - 01	Committee for conducting One Day Classes	Failed
R - 2009 - 02	One Day Classes	Failed
R - 2009 - 03	Committee on Membership	Passed
R - 2009 - 04	Committee for Masonic Organizations	Passed
R - 2009 - 05	Proficiency required before joining appendant body	Failed

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FIN - 2009 - 01	Concerning Audits	Passed
FIN - 2009 - 02	Duties of Grand Treasurer	Passed
FIN - 2009 - 03	Security Bond change to Fidelity Coverage	Passed
FIN - 2009 - 04	Clarifying duties of Secretary/Treasurer	Passed

SECRETARY OF THE YEAR Terry Davis (22)



TRUSTEES

Masonic Home Board

David L. Nielsen (5,18)
3150 Vigilante Dr
Helena, MT 59602

Marshall Gingery (41)
2522 Primrose Ln
Helena, MT 59701

Hall of Fame

Elected as a Trustee of the Montana Masonic Hall of Fame, Larry Hale (38)

THE MASTER'S PIECE

John N. Love, PM, Grand Historian

Considerable discussion continues regarding the issue of proficiency. Not long ago, Master Masons were required to commit to memory the entire lecture of all three degrees and recite same as a catechism of questions and answers in open Lodge.

In America, prior to and following WWII, Masonry enjoyed a boom in membership. In the 1970's, membership began to drop. In the 1980's and 90's the trend became precipitous and in order to 'stem the tide' several suggestions were made to make it easier to 'take the step', ostensibly enticing more men to enter the Craft. Reasons cited for such change was change in contemporary lifestyle. Fewer members increases economic pressure on constituent Lodges and Grand Lodge.

As a result, today the Grand Lodge of Montana requires a candidate to commit to memory the words, signs, and obligation. In addition a study manual explaining other symbolisms is required study. For some candidates more information is absorbed with a study manual than with rote memorization. Therefore, it could be argued that Montana work really hasn't been relaxed, but rather made more flexible. However, a question remains in terms of the issue of membership quality versus quantity. The local Lodge carries the responsibility to see that their candidate is properly prepared for advancement. Prior to the manual study system, flexibility was not available. You either did the memory work with reasonable proficiency and advanced to the next degree, or not.

So what's the point? The Coaches Handbook contains an interesting observation as to the reason for the necessity of effort in order to advance. Masonry is a progressive science and requires effort, thus forming a solid foundation which builds trust in one another. The foundation upon which it is built is knowledge, contemplation and understanding.

Apparently guilds of Operative Masons in the middle ages had a tradition of advancement in the professions in order to prove the apprentice workman worthy to become a Fellow of the Craft. Operative apprentices were required to labor seven years in order to gain enough skill to advance. He who had made suitable progress would make his 'Master's Piece' and submit it to the Master and Wardens of his Lodge. The work was usually some difficult task of stone cutting or setting. Whether he was admitted or turned back for further instruction depended upon its perfection.

In Speculative Masonry the 'Master's Piece' is analogous to the task of learning by heart the ritual and ceremonies through which one passes. The work could take several months, weeks, or days. More recently it has become possible to observe the degrees in one day without making a 'Master's Piece'. The question might emerge whether it is a kindness to permit a candidate's advancement if his 'Master's Piece' is poorly made. Admittedly there are Brothers who did the work poorly, yet have the heart of Masonry within them. Also, there

are those who do the work expertly, yet have a great deal to learn in order to subdue their passion.

During the Inquisition, the Middle Ages, the old west days of the miners, WW I and WWII it was imperative that secrecy of a Brother be maintained. In short, one had to know he could find trust in a Brother. The foundation of such trust is the necessity of proving oneself as having made his 'Master's Piece'. Can a member who is the product of the 'One Day Wonder' prove himself as such? The answer is yes, IF he has an active Lodge to support him and the desire to complete the work! However, the reality is that a high percentage of one day class attendees do not.

This writer suspects that history will record this contemporary time period as being that of relaxed proficiency. In effect, the ultimate result being a 'watering down' of the quality of the Craft, thus making it more difficult to ascertain whether a Brother can place trust in another. Thus, the debate continues as we attempt to balance economic need with Masonic requirement.

100 YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE MISSOULA MASONIC LODGE BUILDING

Right: kneeling on left is WM and Emcee Jerry Knox and on the right is Dr. Robert "Bob" Brown portraying C.P. Higgins, an early prominent Missoula Mason. Front Row from the left are Colbert P. Howell Grand Tyler as Grand Treasurer, Gerald L. Anderson Grand Standard Bearer as Deputy Grand Master, Thomas L. Lund Most Worshipful Grand Master as himself, Jim E. Trowbridge Grand Chaplain as himself and PGM Thomas R. Jordan as Grand Secretary. Back row from the left are John N. Love Grand Historian as Grand Marshal, PGM Jack D Anderson as Senior Grand Warden and P.M. Peter DeWitt as Junion Grand Warden



Left: Thomas L. Lund Most Worshipful Grand Master applying the trowel to the edifices cornerstone.

143RD ANNUAL COMMUNICTION

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2009 - 2010

First Row L-R: Gerald L. Anderson (155), W. Gr. Standard Bearer; Bruce W. Lahti (34), R.W. Grand Treasurer; John J. Mangen (135), R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Thomas L. Lund (38), Most Worshipful Grand Master; Thomas M. Duffy (58), R.W. Jr. Grand Warden; Reid L. Gardiner (3), R.W. Grand Secretary



Second Row L-R: Russell J. Stoddard (84), W. Gr. Sword Bearer; Colbert P. Howell (13), W. Grand Tyler; Thomas W. Chisholm (153), W. Sr. Gr. Deacon; Donald S. Cerovski (1/37/59/68), W. Jr. Gr. Deacon; Brian J. Murphy (1/6/136), W. Gr. Marshal; Lewis K. Smith (14), W. Sr. Gr. Steward

Third Row L-R: Burk "B.J." Rhodes (57), W. Jr. Gr. Steward; Andrew S. Gardiner (5), W. Assitant Gr. Secretary; Jim E. Trowbridge (38), W. Gr. Chaplain; George A. Dengel (98), W. Gr. Pursuivant; John N. Love (38), W. Gr. Historian.

Not shown: William L. Alexander (65), R.W. Senior Grand Warden



**GM Bob Coleman and
Lady Faye**



**GM Bob Coleman and
Ray Moffatt, MWPGM of
Saskatchewan and Lady Lynne**



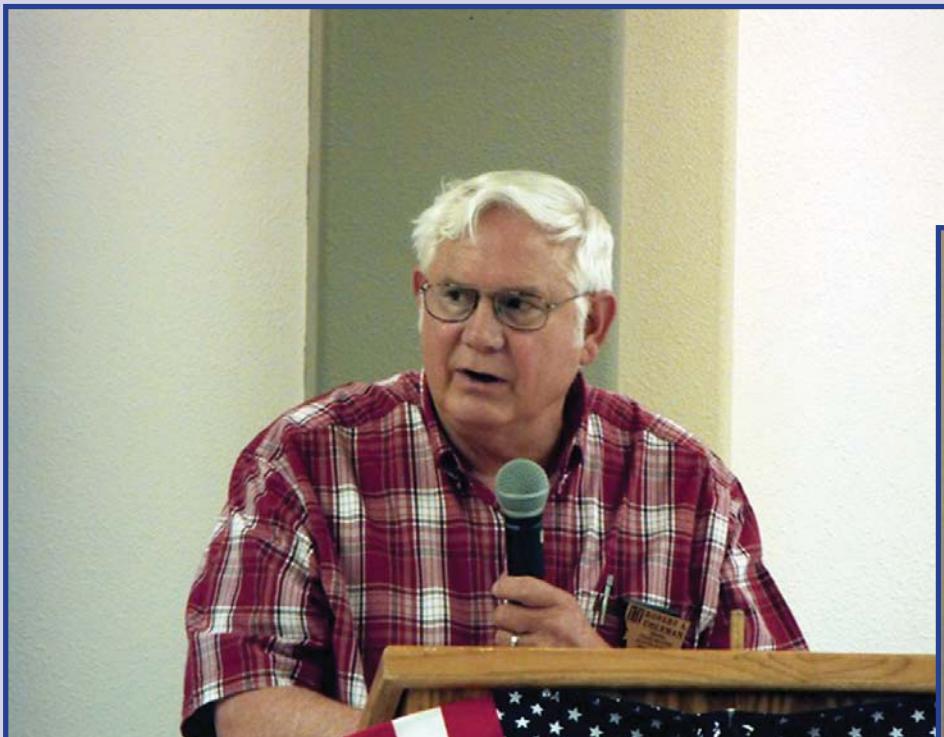
**Above: GM Coleman and
Josh Lightle, RWJGW of New
Mexico**



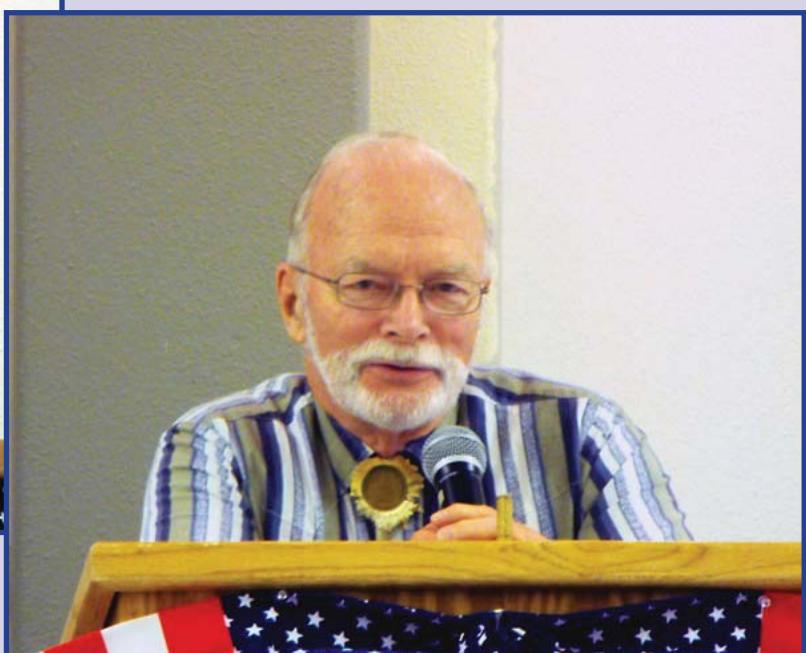
**Right: GM Coleman and
Richard Kaiser, GM of Idaho**



**GM Bob Coleman and Jack
Welker, MWGM of South Dakota
and Lady Mary**



Left: GM Bob speaking at the Master Masons Banquet



Right: GM Bob Coleman and Chris Holme, WSGD of California and Lady Heather



Above: Tom Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of PA and Exec Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges speaking during the Master Masons Banquet



Left: GM Bob Coleman and Brian Cotter, MWGM of Colorado and Lady Jeanie



R.W. Brother Thomas W. Jackson and R.W. Brother Reid Gardiner during the 143rd Session

Right: Gerald Waldren, DGM of Alberta and Lady Pam



Rainbow Girls represented by Amanda Nielsen, Grand Worthy Advisor



GRAND LODGE AF&AM OF MONTANA

2009 - 2010 LODGE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Brothers for the 2009-2010 Masonic year we are seeking an expanded Lodge Chaplain program. Each Lodge is asked to select a Brother for the position of Chaplain who can expand the duties and performance and take the office of Chaplain to a new level of activity and visibility.

A new lodge Chaplain lapel pin has been designed for those lodge Chaplains who will commit to this new level of responsibility. This commitment must be made with the effort to follow though and the desire to perform the expanded duties.

His Jewel of office is an opened book, symbolizing the Volume of Sacred Law (the Christian Bible, Hebrew Torah or Tanach, the Muslim Qur'an, the Hindu Veda, the Zoroastrian Zend-Avesta, or the Proverbs of Confucius). It's simply referred to as the Volume of Sacred Law. This is a nonsectarian term

representing the Holy Book held sacred by members of that lodge.

The Chaplain of a Masonic Lodge is an appointed officer of the Lodge. He sits to the left of the Master. The Chaplain is the spiritual leader of the Lodge. While he may or may not be a real-world Minister, Priest, Rabbi or Imam, in the lodge, the Chaplain is responsible for non-denominational prayers at both the opening and closing of meetings, during degree ritual ceremonies and before meals, and communication with sick and distressed brothers both within and outside the local area.

Most Chaplains have no religious training and prayers are non-denominational. The Chaplain's position is similar to a Supervisor.

We recall that Freemasonry formally organized in 1717 in England, less than 300 years ago. The office of Chaplain was instituted in the early years of English Speculative Masonry. The English term "Chaplain" refers to a priest, minister or other clergy officiating in a private chapel. It is this office which is charged with the offering of holy prayer. It was adopted when men of great intellectual curiosity--authors, musical composers, architects, philosophers, churchmen, men of the aristocracy, from both royalty and the nobility--were streaming into the vast pool of enlightened men who had been attracted to this peculiar and unique organization which they learned had been founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue. In Masonry were men, congregated together, who were devoted to the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God, and engaged in the search for truth, the relief of the indigent, and the protection of virtue.

Masonry is not a religion. Masonry is not a religious order or religious organization of any kind. Masonry is not meant to replace religion in a man's life. Be that as it may, however, prayer is an essential part of the form, substance and content of Masonic assemblies and meetings. Men in the Masonic Order denied the right of dictation by any church and were conscious of the tendency to persecution by governments under whose protection they resided. In this vein, they initiated the prohibition of religion and politics as discussion topics within the Lodge. This prohibition is jealously guarded to this day. Masonry, nevertheless, is so far interwoven with religion as to lay men under obligation to pay that rational homage to the deity which at once constitutes their duty and their happiness. It leads the

contemplative to view with reverence and admiration the glorious works of creation and impresses them with the most exalted ideas of the perfection of the Creator.

From these early beginnings we now define the Chaplain's role in Masonry, which is to interpret the spirituality of the ritual to the Master of the Lodge and through him to all Lodge members. In this office it is essential that he be conversant with the history, aims, purposes and fundamentals of the Order in general and with his Lodge in particular, paying special attention to the membership as individuals with their own particular needs and problems. His prayers unite the Brethren in a mystical bond of fellowship whose faculties are, at this time, directed toward God, the Supreme Being, to whom all must submit, and whom we ought most humbly to adore. The only time a candidates' particular religion is of importance to the Order is when he takes his obligation on the sacred book of his own

religion, the better to deem it solemn and binding. His religion is otherwise of no concern to anyone. But it is the concern of the Office of Chaplain to see that the Holy Bible is in its place on the altar when the lodge is opened--for the Bible, and the Square and Compasses, represent the Three Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work.

The role of the Chaplain is to promote thorough, faithful, and honest endeavour to improve. In so doing,

he makes his greatest contribution to the Lodge.

Some of the areas of expanded commitment will be a frequent review and reading, memorizing and able to deliver a polished rendition of prayers and parts, will include:

- Opening and Closing prayers
- prayers in various portions of the ritual
- participation and coordination of Masonic Funeral Rites,
- visitation of sick and distressed members
- communication with members in the local area and more especially outside the local area
- timely awareness and reporting of the passing of a brother

Brother _____ you have been appointed Chaplain of _____ Lodge No._____. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. That Holy Book, (which is the chart and text-book of your sacred calling) is also the Great Light of Masonry, and forever sheds its benignant rays upon every lawful assemblage of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. From it we may learn our duty to God, our neighbors and ourselves. Teach us from its lifegiving precepts, and you will have faithfully fulfilled your (sacred and) important trust. Its is fitting that an emblem of the Sacred Volume should be the jewel of your office.

If you are willing to commit to this expanded role of Lodge Chaplain. Then please wear your Chaplain lapel pin and complete the following form and mail it to the Grand Chaplain.



I _____, having been selected as Chaplain for _____ Lodge No.____ for the 2009-2010 Masonic year commit that during the term I serve as Chaplain that I will to be best of my abilities will perform my duties and will assist in the shepherding and stewardship of all the members of my lodge.

On completion of this form please mail it to:

Jim E. Trowbridge, Grand Chaplain
384 Eagle Lane
Corvallis, MT 59828

THE BROKEN COLUMN

In Freemasonry, the broken column is the emblem of the fall of one of the chief supporters of the Craft. The use of the column or pillar as a monument erected over a tomb is a very ancient custom, and a very significant symbol.

The Broken Column brooch was first worn by widows of Masons who died during the Civil War. The practice has continued into the present day, so that a Masonic widow is easily identified by the wearing of this brooch. Any Brother seeing a woman wearing this should know immediately this lady is a Masonic widow who at some time, probably for many years, supported her husband, a Brother, in his Masonic work. This widow is someone very special, who should receive appropriate acknowledgement

and support at all times. Presentation of such an acknowledgement is another way that the Lodge Chaplain can show care and attention to the Lodge's widows.

This year, Grand Master Lund has placed additional emphases on our Chaplain's and Lodge's encouraging them to get back to the basics and strengthen our lodges internally and also to look well to our widows.



LET HARMONY PREVAIL

**John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of California**

When the organist of a masonic lodge in California is installed, the installing officer gives him the following charge:

The Lyre is the Jewel of your office, and as it is an emblem of music, it should continually remind us that as harmony is essential in the liberal art and science which it symbolizes, so should harmony continue to be the strength and support of all societies, especially of ours. Let Harmony prevail!

This charge is peculiar in that it is framed in the context of a prayer. The meaning of the charge in plain English is that as harmony is a dominant theme in music, so should harmony be the dominant theme in a masonic lodge. The encyclopedia defines harmony as follows:

Harmony is the use and study of pitch simultaneity and chords, actual or implied, in music. It is sometimes referred to as the "vertical" aspect of music, with melody being the "horizontal" aspect.

The phrase, "pitch simultaneity" may seem like an arcane and difficult phrase, but it is not really so difficult

to understand when we take a look at its meaning in the encyclopedia:

Simultaneity is the property of two events happening at the same time in at least one reference frame.

What all this means is that harmony is the blending of separate entities into a new entity, without having destroyed the component parts. A musical chord is an example. A chord is three or more notes of different pitches sounding at the same time, and which are perceived by the listener as one musical experience. The image thus created for us of "harmony" is one in which multiple notes or sounds are so played that they seem to be one sound, even though made up of several.

There is a very definite masonic teaching here. A lodge of master masons consists, according to our ritual, of "three or more" master masons. A master's lodge is – or ought to be – a blending of three or more individual masons who together produce a simultaneous expression of masonry without having surrendered the individuality of each of those who comprise the lodge. A masonic lodge is **not** the suppression of all viewpoints in favor of one. It is the bringing together of diverse viewpoints into one harmonious arrangement in which the beauty of masonry is expressed. As one note in

music by itself does not have the power and beauty of a musical chord, so one mason alone does not have the power and beauty of masonry as expressed through his lodge. A mason can be a mason in solitude; but the power and beauty of masonry are much less in solitude than in the harmonious expression of masonry in the lodge.

Of course some masons, and some lodges, have missed this important masonic teaching. Some masons come to lodge to make their viewpoints prevail over all others. Some masons stay away from lodge because they are unable to make their viewpoints prevail over all others. And both groups of masons miss the point. Masonry is the harmony of all our viewpoints displayed only when we come together as masons. When we understand this, we get a glimpse as to why, at the opening of every masonic lodge, we are told that "harmony is the strength and support of all societies – especially of ours." Of all people in the world, masons should understand this best. In the words of our Installation Ceremony, "Let harmony prevail!"

GRAND MASTER TOM LUND ATTENDS RAINBOW INSTALLATION

Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas Lund and his wife, Betty, helped support the International Order of Rainbow for Girls of Hamilton Assembly No. 2 by their attendance at their Installation of Officers held on Sunday, July 12th in Hamilton. Grand Master Tom brought good wishes to the girls from all the Masons in Montana and offered their support in any way possible.

One of Most Worshipful Grand Master Tom's projects this year is the support of our youth Masonic groups by your gifts but, more importantly, by your attendance at their meetings and activities. They appreciate sideliners and your presence encourages them to do their work better. Your attendance at a youth group function will

satisfy an optional standard toward this year's Master Builder's Award.

Fred Jackson (37)

Lorelei Hallock; Grand Master Tom Coleman; Cara Christiansen. & Aspen McDonald



THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE WIDOWS SONS TOOK A RUN NORTH TO MEET WITH THE ALBERTA BROTHERS



Montana guys with MW Brother Brian Shimmons, Grand Master AF&AM of Alberta (center with the Zeppelin shirt).

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.

CALLING THE CRAFT TO LABOR

(MOTIVATING FROM WITHIN)

Bobby M. Arthur Sr. Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of New Mexico Prepared for the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference, 2009

We as Masons are frequently reminded of the challenges facing our lodges today. New membership, degree completion, ritual, retaining members, attendance, closing or consolidating lodges and finances are just some of the topics that we struggle with.

Recently, much emphasis has been placed on dealing with a changing society. It is true that the four generations of men that make up the pool of Masons and potential Masons, differ greatly in culture.

The Silent or Greatest Generation

Were born before 1946; they have strong traditional views of religion, family, and country.

Baby Boomers or Baby Busters

Were born between 1946 – 1964; they did not experience the same difficulties as their parents. They are optimistic and believe that their generation changed the world.

Generation X

Were born between 1965-1980; they tend to be nontraditional, interested in new concepts and products and have a global mindset.

Generation Y: otherwise know as “Nexters” or “Millennials” or “Generation Next”

Were born between 1980-2000; they have no recollection of the Reagan era and do not remember the Cold War. This generation includes more than 81 million people, approximately 30% of the current population.

How we as a fraternity deal with each of these generations definitely has an effect on both gaining and retaining new members. This in turn also has an effect on finances, lodge security and even how we present our ritual.

Amidst today's concerns, let me take you back one hundred and fifty years or so. Well actually only fifty years, as this quote is credited to Abraham Lincoln but was actually written by Walt Disney writers for Lincoln's Hall of Presidents speech. "At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined could not take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if ever it reaches us, it must spring up among us. It can not come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we ourselves must be its author and its finisher".

So it is that "Calling the Craft to Labor" recommends that we look within and not outside of Masonry to confront our challenges.

Certainly we are not predicting the demise of Freemasonry. We are suggesting, we as Master Masons share much of the blame for our current situation.

The primary and sole goal of Freemasonry is to make Masons. Of course to make masons we first have to make members. For purposes of this discussion we will assume that most lodges try to recruit qualified

members and focus on the goal of making Masons. It is at this point, that we as Master Masons begin to shirk our responsibilities and lose sight of our primary goal. Society today, and this includes all four generations of Masons and potential Masons, have come to expect instant gratification and knowledge. Unfortunately, Masons today seem to translate this need for instant knowledge into our primary goal. We think that the process of making a Mason ends with the conferring of the third degree. Welcome to the fraternity you are a Mason; bring us another candidate or victim.

It is true that after receiving the third degree a candidate is a Mason, entitled to all of the rights and privileges of the fraternity wherever dispersed throughout the globe. Since making a Mason is so much more than the conferring of the three degrees, it encompasses a life changing experience, to quit teaching at this point leaves the candidate feeling unfulfilled and with little more than a social club experience to look forward to.

How then do we expect to retain new members when we fail to support our Masonic teachings beyond the degrees? Why do we expect our members on the sidelines to attend meetings when there is nothing in it for them?

These questions and many others leave us in a bit of a quandary. On one hand, we have a society that expects instant gratification and knowledge. We tend to believe that knowledge is attained by some form of intuitive process. On the other hand, the Masonic system of presenting information always expresses its ideas in terms of the simplest aspects and leaves the Mason to search for further explanation - if he so desires.

As an example let us look at an important theme that is one of the first lessons of the Entered Apprentice Degree and one that follows through all three degrees.

The Rite of Discalceation

The Rite of Discalceation is derived from the Latin *discalceatus* which literally translated means unshod. It is the act of removing one's shoe as evidence of a pledge, contract or commitment.

In the past, you might have wondered why an Iraqi journalist taking off his shoe and throwing it at then President Bush was significant beyond having a convenient missile. Or why Nikita Khrushchev pounding the podium with his shoe was more than an act of immaturity or where the act of tying shoes behind a newly wedded couple's car came from. In the first and second instances the act of Discalceation, contempt is exemplified and in the last instance, humility is exemplified.

Yet the Rite of Discalceation represents important lessons of our ritual that is only briefly explained. Further, the explanation changes and becomes more beautiful as we move from degree to degree but gets very little attention.

We read in the book of Ruth, "Concerning their manor of redeeming and changing, that to confirm all things a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbor and this was a testimony in Israel."

In the Entered Apprentice Degree, the candidate removes his left shoe symbolically handing it to his conductor as a testimony of the commitment he is making to the Lodge and his brethren that he is sincere in his desire to fulfill the requirements of the first degree. He is then committed to learn to subdue his passions and to improve himself in Masonry. He is making a commitment to prepare his body to receive light by eliminating greed, hate and debauchery from his

thoughts and actions.

Preparation for the fellow craft degree requires the candidate to remove his right shoe again symbolically handing it to his conductor. Now the candidate has established a new covenant to improve his mind. He is making a commitment to become a better citizen, a better father, son or husband and to climb the heights of intellectual achievements.

The symbolism in both of these two degrees is that there is a transfer of rights and a mutual assumption of obligations between the Lodge, its members and the candidate.

The third degree brings an entirely different meaning to discalceation. If the first degree concerns the body and the second degree is about improving the mind, the third degree is about the soul. Master Masons meet in a place representing the sanctum sanctorum or holy of holies of King Solomon's Temple. The removal of both shoes in the third degree is an act of humility. An act that represents that the person removing his shoes is aware that he is entering sacred ground. A place where the Great Light is dedicated to God and a place where the Master gets his light and inspiration from the Great Light. Because no Lodge can ever meet without the presence of the Great Light (The Supreme Architect being present), the Lodge is Holy Ground.

The custom of removing ones shoes when entering holy ground was and is wide spread. It was practiced not only in Israel but in ancient Peru, by the Druids of England and of course throughout the Middle East. In Israel, it was unlawful for a man to enter a place of the Lord in his work clothes, with his staff or with shoes on his feet. He had no need of protection in the house of the Lord and should not defile that place by insinuating that he would require such protection there. Even Moses when standing before the burning bush was told that the place where he stood was Holy Ground and to remove his shoes.

The Rite of Discalceation is just one example of the many lessons that are contained within the degrees. Each of us, having completed the degrees has agreed to be active, to fulfill our obligations to learn and to study the ritual. It is a very important part of the Lodge's labors.

Calling the craft to Labor requires change and change is something that we all resist. Change is a word that we hate to hear, especially in Freemasonry. But my Brethren we as a constituent Lodge and as a Grand Lodge Change every year. When the new Master and Grand Master take their obligations and assume the duties and responsibilities of their office, we change. We take on the personality of that Master, we support him with his goals, his ideas and his work as he makes his mark upon the craft. We do what has to be done in order to be successful. Freemasonry and this country were founded on change and we today should not be afraid to adapt. We don't have a choice – we have to change and move forward or we will fail and cease to exist.

I'm not naïve enough to think that we will get there without some disagreement as well as a few struggles and bumps in the road but I have confidence that we can succeed. To obtain this success, we need to be open to new ideas, willing to listen, eager to learn have a desire to grow and be flexible to change.

This will take team work and team work is defined as the ability to work together toward a common goal or vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments

Calling cont'd next page

A NATIONAL TREASURE AND ONE FOR THE WORLD

Walter Breuning (born September 21, 1896 in Melrose, Minnesota) is currently the oldest verified living man born in the USA and now verified as the oldest living man in the world. Brother Breuning of Great Falls, who is 112, downplayed being the oldest man in the world Sunday after 113-year-old Henry Allingham of England died Saturday, but others paused to acknowledge the milestone.

Worshipful Brother Breuning has been as Master Mason for 84 years. Brother Walter has lived at the Rainbow Retirement and Assisted Living Center in Great Falls, Montana for the last 29 years. He walks and eats two meals a day, and always wears a suit and tie. He still maintains a very sharp and accurate memory.

A former railroader for the Great Northern Railway, who is noted for still being on the move and "sharp as a whip". He is the nation's oldest living railroader still drawing a pension. When asked the key to his longevity, Brother

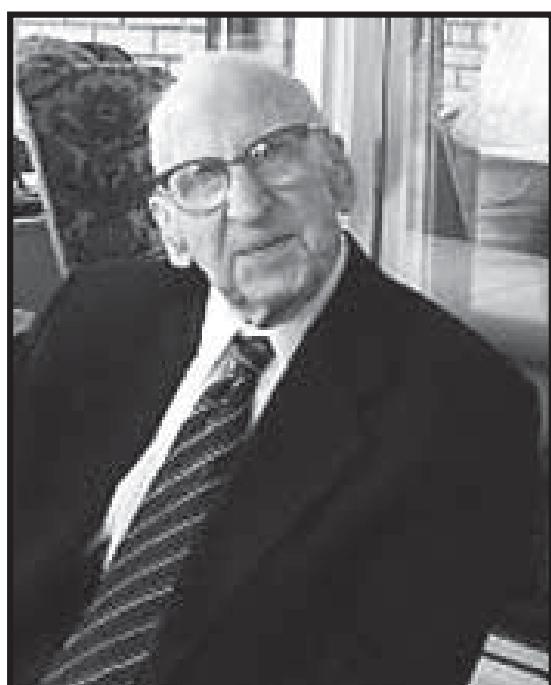
Breuning gave a simple solution: "Work. When I was 50, I was working two or three jobs. The secret is to keep busy."

"This is great advice!" said Montana Governor Schweitzer at the celebration reception held in Breuning's honor.

Until he retired at the age of 99, he managed the Elbon Club, the Shriner's club in the basement of

the Rainbow Hotel, Great Falls. W. Brother Breuning was initiated on March 7, 1925, passed to a Fellowcraft on April 7, 1925 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on May 16, 1925. Bro. Walter served as Worshipful Master of Great Falls Lodge No. 118 in 1934 and had also served as Lodge Secretary. He received his Montana 50 Year Award in 1975 and in 1993 was presented the Meritorious Service Award. The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded for outstanding service to Montana Masonry and only when it is desired to recognize service above and beyond that which is constantly demonstrated by so many of our Brethren.

Brother Walter is also a member of the Great Falls Valley of the Scottish Rite and a member of Algeria Shrine Center.



Calling cont'd from prior page

toward organizational objectives. Team work is the fuel that permits common people to achieve uncommon results.

As Masons, that means calling the craft to labor, working with other Lodges and working and cooperating with appendant and co-ordinate bodies. All the while remembering that we are all a part of the Masonic Family.

Should our focus become more on the quality of the Masonic experience, to include Masonic Education as well as quality degree work, or should our focus remain on quantity of members?

In summary, The Man who comes to Lodge to get something from it rather than to give something to it may be a member but is not in the truest sense a Mason. The man whose pride leads him to lodge in search of a title or power defiles all that Masonry stands for. And the man who labors in his lodge in a careless manner insults his Lodge, his craft and his brothers by his assumption that his time and convenience is more important than our ritual and our teachings. There is no substitute for quality in Freemasonry.

The importance of teaching all of our lessons to a new member must also be impressed on the minds of

our current members. The teacher must also become the student and relearn the truths of our craft and rethink his obligations. By doing this he will inspire others by his actions and make Masons out of members.



CELESTIAL LODGE

May, June 2009



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

Robert E. Richeson	Morning Star No. 5	05/2009
Francis M. Superneau	Missoula No. 13	6/24/2009
Ormand R. Baldridge	Missoula No. 13	5/9/2009
LaVerne Klingsmith	Bozeman No. 18	4/26/2009
Laird Plymale	Valley No. 21	5/26/2009
William Tarrant	Mount Moriah No. 24	6/1/2009
Howard L. McClure	Westgate No. 27	6/21/2009
Roy L. Dalrymple	Ashlar No. 29	7/1/2009
Joseph Black, Jr.	Glendive No. 31	4/13/2009
Donald Plagmann	Glendive No. 31 /Jordan No. 148	6/5/2009
L. Willard Johnson	Kalispell No. 42	07/2009
James Kindle	North Star No. 46	7/16/2009
Charles T. Wolter	North Star No. 46	3/21/2009

Carl R. Thompson	Ottawa No. 51	UNK
Raymond Felton	Doric No. 53	3/27/2009
Herbert J. Bacon	Wisdom No. 61	5/9/2009
John V. Nelson	Whitefish No. 64	6/24/2009
Lewis McBride	Musselshell No. 69	5/31/2009
Louis C. Kalberg	Musselshell No. 69	5/1/2009

John R. Davies	Mission Valley No. 78	1/13/2009
Terence Higgins	Mission Valley No. 78	5/2/2009
Frank P. Dakan	Rimrock No. 149	9/1/2003
Edwin A. Kapernick	Pryor Mountain No. 151	04/2009

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 59624.
Deceased: _____
Lodge: _____



50 YEAR MEMBERS

JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST 2009

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.

John Ridgeway	Livingston No. 32	June 2	Merle D. Lloyd	Ionic No. 38	June 11	Ronald M. Lund	Terry No. 74	July 11
Arthur Sturgeon	Glendive No. 31	June 2	Bernard A. Novark	Diamond City No. 7	June 11	R. Kim Miller	Judith No. 86	July 14
Charles F. Rose	Lavina Temple No. 101	June 4	Carl R. Johnson	Meridian No. 105	June 17	Bernard Alt	Kalispell No. 42	Aug 19
Travis E. Reyman	Terry No. 74	June 8	Gordon L. Mulkey	Power River No. 135	June 23	Lester Neal	Lavina Temple No. 101	Aug 21
C. Spencer Smith	Belgrade No. 68	June 8	Dennis E. Huntington	Monitor No. 35	June 24	Donald R. Lord	Cascade No. 34	Feb 11
Edward L. Solle	Terry No. 74	June 8	Jay C. Doig	Diamond City No. 7	June 25			
Ronald Lewis	Gallatin No. 6	June 10	William R. Bovee	Helena No. 3	July 7			
Paul E. Toepfer	Stevensville No. 28	June 11						

BROTHER NORMAN WITHERBEE 50 YEAR MASON

On May 14th in the year 2009, Brother Norman Witherbee was presented before the altar of Havre Lodge #55 and introduced to his Worshipful Master William P. Bilger. The WM invited our Brother to the East where he was presented his certificate and lapel pin and afforded the Public Grand Honors befitting the occasion.

Front row: Brother Norman E. Witherbee 50 year recipient, WM William P. Bilger, JD Shane A. Boyle. Back row left SW Robert W. Anderson, JD Sam E. Clawson, J.W. Kenneth A. Campbell, Chaplain Ralph M. Montgomery and Treas. Henry R. Tweeten.

Norman E. Witherbee was raised to the degree of Master Mason on February 5th 1959.



STILLWATER LODGE NO. 62 THREE NEW MASTER MASONS



WELCOME NEW MASTER MASONS

Brian J. Hughes	Missoula No. 13	5/5/2009
Samuel A. Trammell	Missoula No. 13	5/5/2009
Clayton J. Webber	Missoula No. 13	5/5/2009
David P. Foster	Deer No. 14	5/16/2009
Curtis R. Roe	Bozeman No. 18	5/7/2009
Joshua B. Norris	Bozeman No. 18	5/7/2009
Mark A. Pederson	Westgate No. 27	6/18/2009
Andy C. Lund	Ionic No. 38	5/19/2009
Todd J. Meagher	Belgrade No. 68	5/26/2009
Peter J. Howard	Sentinel No. 155	5/30/2009
Keven A. Kidder	Sentinel No. 155	5/30/2009
Timothy M. Ondrak	Sentinel No. 155	5/30/2009
Samuel R. Aldridge	Hot Springs No. 153	6/10/2009
Michael W. Kirry	Ponemah No. 63	6/10/2009

GM Coleman visits the libby area. Lodges attending: Libby No. 85, Eureka No. 93 and Troy No. 126



GARY SCHMIDT PRESENTED MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

During the 143rd Annual Communication in Glasgow, MWGM Coleman awarded the Distinguished Service Medal to Joe Simpson (86) and Meritorious Service Medals to Don Nelson (121) and Gary Schmidt (3).

W. Brother Gary was unable to attend the Communication as he was with his 94 year old father and our oldest living Past Grand Master, Grover Schmidt who was Grand Master in 1963.

RW Brother Reid Gardiner, Grand Secretary presented the Meritorious Service Medal to W. Bro Gary at a surprise presentation shortly after Bro. Gary had returned from work after working on the communication tower.



R.W. Reid Gardiner presents the Meritorious Service Medal to W. Brother Gary Schmidt.

The award was given in part for: The Meritorious Service Medal shall be awarded for outstanding service to Montana Masonry and only when it is desired to recognize service above and beyond that which is constantly demonstrated by so many of our Brethren. Brother Gary is one who is toils behind the scenes serving his lodge and community quietly and as a

Mason. He is a man who cares about the fraternity and whose life exemplifies the principles that we hold.

Submission Deadline for October 2009 Montana Masonic News is PRIOR to September 15, 2009 (see page 2 for details)

Trivia Answer:

The first three Lodge Banners in the Montana Territory to: Helena Lodge No. 3, Morning Star No. 5 & King Solomon Lodge No. 9. These first banners are on display in the Montana Masonic Museum.

Thank You MMN Sponsors

We'd like to "Thank" our sponsors for their continued support of the Montana Masonic News. If you would like to help sponsor the MMN please contact Reid Gardiner at mtglsec@grandlodgemontana.org or call the Grand Lodge.

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Calendar of Events

August 2009

- Aug 1** Mullan Pass Historic Lodge No. 1862 annual meeting and picnic
Aug 7 Billings Area Lodges Installation
Aug 8 Mt Jefferson Lodge No. 56 Installation
Aug 9-11 Grand Lodge of Wyoming
Aug 15 Ionic Lodge No. 38 Installation
Aug 15 Lincoln No. 157 Annual Oyster & Fish Feed

- Aug 22** Installation, Havre No. 55, Chinook No. 50, Treasure No. 95 - Havre
Aug 29 Libby No. 85 & Eureka No. 93 Installation in Eureka at 5 pm

Note: Lodge Installations must be completed by the 1st regular meeting in September

September 2009

- Sept 2** First Degree-Malta No. 57
Sept 12 Bannack Historic Lodge No. 3-7-77 Annual Meeting
Sept 17-19 Grand Lodge of Idaho, Idaho Falls
Sept 19 Wardens Workshop, Scottish Rite Building-Billings

- Sept 24-26** Grand Lodge of California
Sept 26 Wardens Workshop, Great Falls
Sept 26 Pilgrim No. 102 Installation

October 2009

- Oct 3** Red Cross- York Rite, Great Falls
Oct 10 Red Cross- York Rite, Billings

- Oct 30-31** Scottish Rite- Helena

2009 WARDENS (SYMPOSIUM) WORKSHOPS

Please check your calendar and make plans to attend one or both of the two Wardens Workshops.

September 19th, 10 am at the Scottish Rite building

514 14th St W, Billings

September 26th, 10 am at the Masonic Hall

831 Central Ave, Great Falls

Speaking of the duties of the Grand Wardens, Code Section 2020 states "They shall annually hold a workshop or workshops for the instruction of officers and members of the Craft." Perhaps rather than calling these "Wardens Workshops" identifying them as Masonic Symposium might be more appropriate. Nonetheless, this year the key focus will be "Commitment".

Our identity as Masons must include work or commitment on ourselves both as individuals and as a brotherhood. Our decline in membership over past years is merely a symptom of the loss of Masonry's relevance to our lives and our communities. We have individually and collectively allowed our lethargy to encrust the jewel of Masonry, which has been bequeathed to us to pass on to the future. Has our focus on the past blinded us to the challenges of the present. Has our reliance on former brothers' and or more outspoken and ritualistically talented

brothers (let someone else do it) weakened our commitment to achieving our own Masonic identities.

We must look squarely into the challenge of performing Masonry to the betterment of our fraternity and ourselves. We must discover our own Masonic calling and our own place in the history of Masonry and put our Masonic performance before the symbol. The Square and Compasses, the best known symbol of a Mason, cannot replace the identity of living the life of a Mason, which is itself perpetually in a state of improving ourselves in body, mind and spirit.

Each of us has a responsibility to steward our respected fraternity into the future, calling on our own spirit rather than deferring to those of our predecessors. We must exercise the same determination that we admire and celebrate in our heritage. Thus the focus of these workshops or symposiums will be "Commitment".

Attendance is open to all Lodge Officers and members and both of these locations will offer presentations that you won't want to miss.



Brother Dan Koch, Jr with the Widows Sons Masonic Riders during the 4th of July parade in Laurel.

SK Ed Berg and SK Robert Green with Grand Commander and SK Churchill (not in uniform, but driver of truck) in 3rd of July parade in Roundup.

