

MONTANA FREEMASON

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Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Montana

159 Years

1866 - 2025

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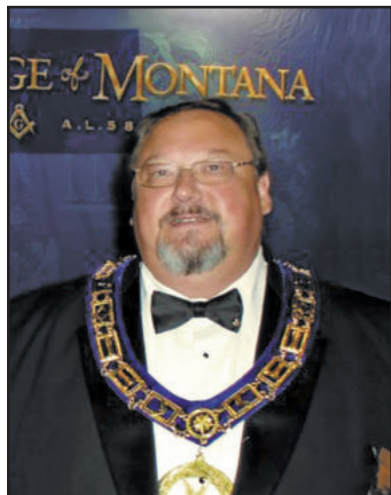


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About The Cover

Experience the newly remodeled museum from within. If you have previously visited the Montana Masonic Museum, now is the ideal time to return for a fresh perspective. This visit will instill a renewed sense of pride and belonging within our fraternity. Whether you are a Mason or not, visiting our museum provides a memorable journey through our organization's history and the significant roles we play in our communities, state, and nation.

EDITOR NOTES



Reid Gardiner
Editor



Articles & Correspondence

The Montana Freemason Magazine is produced by the Montana Masonic Foundation, Inc. Articles in this publication reflect the personal opinions of the writers and do not necessarily represent the official stance of the Montana Masonic Foundation or the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Montana unless otherwise stated.

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The Editorial Staff invites contributions, including informative articles, reports, news, and other information related to Masonry.

Article Submission. Adhering to the following guidelines is crucial when submitting articles for publication.

Photographs & Artwork. Original photographs or images from digital cameras are preferred. Ensure the highest resolution possible. Avoid using newspaper pictures or inkjet prints, as they reproduce poorly. All photographs should include the photographer's name and details of the event or individuals in the photo. Please note that printed photographs will not be returned.

Text & Copy. The articles must be either typewritten or computer-generated. Submissions can be sent to the editor via email, fax, regular mail, or delivered in person to the Grand Lodge office. It's important to spell-check all articles, which will undergo peer review and evaluation. Unfortunately, we cannot offer compensation for items, photos, or other materials submitted for publication. Please email all photos and articles to the address provided below.

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A DAY AT UTAH



It happened during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Utah. From left to right: Rick Holloway, Grand Master of Idaho; Gary Thomas, Grand Master Prince Hall of Colorado; Zack Gulling, Grand Master of Nevada; Sam Whitehead, Grand Master of Montana; Scott Kitchner, Grand Master of Wyo-ming; and Steve Almager, Grand Master of New Mexico.



HELENA LODGE NO. 3.

Grand Master Whitehead Visitation to Helena No. 3

Grand Lodge Officers who attended the formal Grand Master visit to Helena No. 3 included John D. Heston, David Ryan Dunbar, Ken Bates, Tom Gocksch, and Daniel Gardiner.

Grand Master Whitehead at World Famous Helena No. 3



Grand Master at Feast of Sts. John at the Hall of Cut Bank Lodge No. 82



“PLUGGING THE DRAIN OF THE SOUTH GATE”

Do you ever wonder why Masons are Demitting and going NPD? You may not want to know the answers. Here are five preventable reasons why our brothers are walking away and some solutions to prevent it:

1.)- That one obnoxious Brother: They did not see the point of remaining in a volunteer organization that refused to correct that one obnoxious Brother.

Solution: CORRECT that one obnoxious Brother. Do not ever become that “one guy” who (because of my arrogance, ignorance, pride, or bad behavior) chases off a good man who could have been a great Brother. We are equals and Brothers. Love each other enough to make a difference.

2.)- Being told to wait: Some well-meaning Brother told them to wait 6 months (and up to 3 years) until after they went through the lines/chairs, or “you’ll know when you’re ready” to join the appendant bodies.

Solution: Stop doing this. Our job is to help, guide, and support him. NEVER stand in a Brother’s way. Do not become an obstacle in his Masonic Journey. Help that Brother progress. It’s not your journey... It’s his.

3.)- Feeling under-appreciated: They did not feel that they “fit in”, were appreciated, valued, or accepted... They did not feel like they mattered.

Solution: They Matter. They joined a Brotherhood. Treat them like family, and be a good mentor. Every Brother deserves a place at the table. Get to know your Brother’s interests. Learn from each other. At the very least help them connect with Brethren who have shared interests. It will enrich their experience.

4.)- Communication... Or lack thereof: They became disillusioned and felt they were not worthy of being “in the know”... They never knew what was going on... So they just stopped showing up, and no one called them... So they didn’t feel like they mattered until it was time to collect dues.

Solution: over-communicate. Go the extra mile. Utilize every means possible to remind them they are invited, included, and invested... Show them that they matter. Text, email, exploit every form of social and digital media possible... Use Signal chat app, FB Group, Zoom, Skype, Google meet, call them... Send smoke signals daily if you must... But remember, Freemasonry is here to educate, inform, entertain, and communicate.

5.)- They were rushed into a chair or pressured to serve:

Solution: have the conversation... But don’t push them into it. Not everyone is called to serve; not everyone desires to serve. It could be an issue of timing, experience, interest, or desire... Not every Brother needs to or wants to serve...

Why are we not asking our brothers who choose to demit or go NPD why they are leaving? Do we not want to know? It is our responsibility to know so we can figure out how to fix our mistakes.

We need to ensure we deliver a good product as a lodge. Is just showing up, reading the minutes, paying the bills, and then going home going to get brothers to leave the comforts of their home. Why would I put my suit on, get in my car, and drive across town after I have been at work all day if it is not worthwhile for me? We need to ask ourselves and the brothers what is important to them, what they would like to see from the lodge, and what direction we should go.

By working together to deliver a good product in the lodge we will prevent the brothers from leaving out the south gate. The other day, I was told a story about an eager new Master Mason. The first time attending lodge, he sat next to the secretary, very excited to participate and participate in the brotherhood. Every meeting thereafter, he got closer and closer to the door until he was no longer there. He was just gone, never asked what his opinion was, and never asked what he thought the lodge should do; he was just expected to show up. This happens all the time all across the state in almost every lodge. Why would we ask the new guy what he is interested in he is new and does not understand the fraternity. The main job of a lodge is to make masons, but it should also be to keep them. It is up to us to change our thinking and continue to make masons better.

Sam Whitehead, Grand Master

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER JOHN M. CHIOUTSIS OF BUTTE NO. 22 ON REACHING 50 YEARS OF MASONRY



Brother John M. Chioutsis received his Masonic degrees at Mount Horeb Lodge No. 283: he was Initiated on October 2, 1974, Passed on November 6, 1974, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on December 4, 1974. He later affiliated with Hiram Lodge No. 52 on April 16, 1996, and Butte Lodge No. 22 on April 21, 2009. He took a dimit from Hiram Lodge on November 11, 2013. Brother Chioutsis was honored with the Montana Masonic 50-year award on November 1, 2024.

Remember that time my Brother when, as an Entered Apprentice, Freemasonry was explained to you, better enabling you to build your "Masonic Way of Life". This you have done, and done so well. I am sure you can remember those lessons as if they were taught yesterday. Faith, Hope, and Charity; Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice.



Montana Grand Chapter Session
Wednesday, June 11 - Saturday, June 14, 2025
Great Falls, MT

The Session will be held at the Scottish Rite, 1304 13th St. S.

SAPPHIRA TEMPLE NO, 79 DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE

Daughters of the Nile is an international fraternal organization that was founded in 1913 and strives to be a respected and growing leader among women throughout the world in promoting friendship, character building, intellectual benefit, and service to others.

Sapphira Temple No. 79 was chartered on November 1, 1947, and is honored to have 294 members spanning 50 towns/cities throughout Montana, as well as 18 other states and Canada.

Our one and only charitable endeavor is Shriners Hospitals for Children® and their network of medical facilities throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Daughters of the Nile contribute donations of over \$2 million annually to Shriners Hospitals for Children® through the Foundation and Trust with an additional \$1 million in items for the medical facilities and volunteer hours. Our ladies also sew clothing, make quilts, do special projects requested by the hospital, provide books, toys, games, and other educational/recreational materials, and sponsor parties for patients and their families each month.



Queen Terrie Volkman
Sapphira Temple No. 79

Sapphira Temple No. 79 has numerous fundraisers throughout the year. We have craft shows, bowling, style shows, nut sales, wine tasting, crafter's retreats, Breakfast with Santa, and of course BINGO just to mention a few. And I will say that we probably have more fun than we should, but that is what we are about, having fun while raising money for the children of the Shriners Hospitals.

Recruitment and retention are key factors to the success of this international fraternal organization. If you are, or know of, a woman of good character, 18 years of age or older, related by birth or married to a Shriner, Master Mason, or a Daughter of the Nile or are a majority member in Good Standing of a Masonic related organization for girls, or who was a patient, with or without Shrine or Masonic relationship, at a Shriners Children's facility and wish to join Sapphira Temple No. 79, please contact our Princess Recorder Ann Steward at (sapphira79recorder@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, feel free to call me, Queen Terrie Volkman at 406-581-4345 or email me at terrie.freese@hotmail.com

DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE...IT'S WORTH YOUR WHILE!!!



The Power of Masonic Mentorship

RWSGW Michael Johnson
Grand Lodge of Alberta

Freemasonry, an age-old fraternity shrouded in tradition and symbolism, has long been a bastion of moral instruction and social engagement. As articulated in our general charge, "the object, however, of meeting in the Lodge is of a two-fold nature, namely moral instruction and social intercourse," the essence of Lodge meetings is to foster personal growth and community. However, many Lodges today find themselves bogged down by mundane administrative tasks and repetitive arguments, which detract from the deeper purpose of these gatherings. With some Lodges taking pride in the shortest meeting and dismissing to a lackluster festive board, one must question: Is this why we traveled two hours round trip? To rekindle the true spirit of Freemasonry, mentorship must be emphasized. The relationship between an apprentice and a mentor, akin to that of a journeyman and a teacher, holds the potential to transform the Lodge experience, fostering engagement, communication, and personal development. This mentorship needs to go beyond the formal checklists and guides and include more informal opportunities.

The tradition of mentorship in Freemasonry dates back to the operative masons of the Middle Ages. Apprentices were paired with experienced masons who guided them through the intricacies of the craft, both technical and ethical. This relationship was not merely about imparting skills, but also about instilling the values and principles that define Freemasonry. Today, while the tools of the trade have evolved, the need for mentorship remains as critical as ever. Mentorship within the Lodge should not be viewed as a hierarchical imposition but rather as a mutually beneficial relationship.

This relationship provides the mentor with a view into the world of a new member, and the experiences of someone from outside their realm. The mentor and mentee will be able to share lived experiences and help each other grow. The relationship is not just about the new Entered Apprentice learning about Freemasonry

and how to navigate a Lodge, but it is reciprocal in that a mentor can learn from the mentee and may become reinvigorated through the passion and excitement of experiencing the journey of a new Mason again. It is like re-experiencing the magic of Christmas or other family traditions when you have kids or grandchildren! I know my own mentorship experience has been mutually beneficial. My mentor has become a great friend, my cherished travel companion, and very importantly a non-snoring roommate! We have truly established a lasting relationship.

For the newest Masons, having a Past Master as a mentor can be immensely valuable. The seasoned insights of a Past Master can provide guidance on the rituals and traditions of the Lodge, helping new members navigate the often-complex world of Freemasonry. Beyond the procedural knowledge, a mentor can offer support and encouragement, helping mentees feel more comfortable and engaged within the Lodge. The benefits of this mentorship extend both ways. For the mentor, the opportunity to guide a new member can be a reaffirmation of their own knowledge and commitment to the fraternity. It can also provide a renewed sense of purpose and connection to the Lodge, combating feelings of disconnection that sometimes accompany long-term membership. Engaging with new



members allows Past Masters to remain active and involved, contributing to the vitality and continuity of the Lodge. A simple thing to immediately implement is just to go sit with a new member!

It is also beneficial to include a new Master Mason as part of the mentorship team. Pairing a Past Master with a new Master Mason will provide the knowledge and experience of both. The Past Master will

have immense experience in matters of Lodge management and nuances, while the newer Master Mason will be able to provide more relatable and recent experiences similar to the new Entered Apprentice they are mentoring. This dynamic pairing can bridge generational gaps and foster a more cohesive learning environment. I was put on a mentorship committee as a new master mason and learnt so much from the process. The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else.

A vibrant mentorship program can also enhance the social fabric of the Lodge. Regular participation in social activities, both within and outside the Lodge, fosters stronger relationships and a sense of camaraderie. When members take the time to truly get to know one another, the bonds of brotherhood are strengthened. This deeper connection can transform the Lodge from a place of mere ritual to a community of friends and brothers who support one another in all aspects of life. One effective way to foster these relationships is through traveling to other Lodges with mentorship groups. This practice not only broadens the mentee's understanding of Freemasonry but also creates opportunities

for mentors and mentees to bond over shared experiences.

Visiting other Lodges can offer fresh perspectives and new ideas, enriching the home Lodge's practices and traditions. It also reinforces the universal nature of Freemasonry, emphasizing the fraternity's global brotherhood. Not to mention the conversations and problem-solving that occur on the drive to the meeting. I remember traveling with my mentors to a Lodge to watch an initiation and writing my questions down for our debrief discussion. I was able to really understand what was happening and ask questions that may seem commonplace to a seasoned veteran. But one of the best parts of that visit was meeting and befriending another brother who was at the same part of his journey as I was—two new Entered Apprentices from two different Lodges embarking on a new journey of knowledge and friendship.

In fostering a successful mentorship program, kindness and understanding are paramount. Mentors should encourage open and honest communication, creating a safe space for mentees to express their thoughts and concerns.



Mistakes should be viewed not as failures, but as teachable moments, opportunities for growth and learning. Instead of yelling 'NO' from the sideline, mentors should stand up and guide. An example is a new Entered Apprentice's first meeting after his initiation; they are usually left alone on the side, far away from all brothers present. They should have their mentors sitting with them and guiding them through the meeting. If they need to approach the altar or the East, guide them, walk with them, don't leave them alone. This approach cultivates a positive and supportive environment, where members feel valued and understood.

The mental health benefits of such an environment cannot be overstated. Feeling connected and supported within a community has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety, improving overall well-being. For many, the Lodge serves as a sanctuary from the pressures of everyday life, a place where they can find solace and support. A strong mentorship program can enhance this aspect of the Lodge, providing members with the emotional and social support they need to thrive. We will begin to feel more comfortable in sharing our own struggles and assisting others with theirs. Many of us have gone through similar trials of difficulty and can easily empathize and offer guidance to our brethren. If we want to build better men and improve moral instruction, it is important to share our own blueprints with our apprentices. Show them how much they mean to us and that our bonds of brotherhood are meaningful and strong.

Engagement and retention are also significantly impacted by effective mentorship. When new members feel welcomed and supported, they are more likely to remain active participants in the Lodge. High levels of engagement not only benefit the individual members but also contribute to the overall health and vitality of the Lodge. Active members bring fresh energy and ideas, helping the Lodge to evolve and adapt to changing times. To implement a successful mentorship program, Lodges must first recognize the value of mentorship and commit to fostering these relationships. This requires a cultural shift, moving away from the focus on administrative minutiae and towards a more holistic approach to Lodge meetings. Leaders within the Lodge,

particularly Past Masters, should be encouraged to take on mentorship roles, guiding and supporting new members.

Regular social activities should be organized to facilitate relationship-building and engagement. We should be willing to try new activities and abandon old ones that have fizzled out. These activities can range from informal gatherings to more structured events. Informal activities could include dinners out and attending community events such as concerts. I have seen Lodges implement new social nights focusing on different interests, such as game nights, bowling, BBQs, and billiards. Formal events may take more planning, but the effort is worth it. Formal events can include well-planned banquets, educational workshops (like the Weekend Without Titles in Alberta), and guest speakers. The key is to create opportunities for members to interact and connect outside the formal Lodge meetings. These opportunities allow the members to bond and interact over common interests or provide the chance to have an open conversation to get to know the person you occasionally see sitting across the floor from you.

Strategies for Enhancing Mentorship in your Lodge

To enhance mentorship, retention, and engagement in Freemasonry, Lodges can adopt several strategies:

Structured Mentorship Programs:

Implementing structured mentorship programs ensures that new members receive consistent and comprehensive guidance. These programs can include training for mentors and regular check-ins with mentees. Lodges can utilize existing programs from Grand Lodge or their own Lodge.

Informal Mentorship:

Take the time to get to know each other through informal mentorship opportunities such as traveling to other Lodges, dinners, social events, etc. We can be too focused on developing a one-size fits all solution and formalizing. Sometimes the best fit is impromptu mentorship. Create a relaxed environment for this natural mentorship to occur.



Regular Social Events: Organizing regular social events helps strengthen relationships and fosters a sense of community. These events can range from casual get togethers to formal gatherings. Organize a dinner club or a reoccurring event such as a game night.

Recognition and Rewards: Recognizing and rewarding active and engaged members motivates others to get involved. Awards, certificates, or public acknowledgments can go a long way in showing appreciation—just make sure it is meaningful and timely!

Open Communication: Encouraging open communication within the Lodge helps address issues or concerns promptly. It also ensures that all members feel heard and valued. Lead by positive example and help others learn the art of communication in your Lodge.

Continuous Learning Opportunities:

Providing opportunities for continuous learning and development keeps members engaged. Workshops, lectures, and discussion groups on various topics can stimulate interest and participation.

In conclusion, the true light of Freemasonry shines brightest when the Lodge embraces its dual purpose of moral instruction and social intercourse. Mentorship is a powerful tool in achieving this balance, fostering engagement, communication, and personal growth. By pairing new members with experienced members, Lodges can create a supportive and vibrant community where members feel connected and valued. This approach not only enhances the individual experience but also contributes to the overall health and vitality of the Lodge. As Freemasonry continues to evolve, the tradition of mentorship will remain a cornerstone, guiding members towards a brighter and more fulfilling future.

Reprinted from The Alberta Freemason, Vol. 90, No.1., January 2025.



A portrait of Daniel Gardiner, a man with a mustache and goatee, wearing a suit and tie, set against a teal background.



The logo for the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education, featuring a central owl, a blue lamp, and a checkered floor, surrounded by the text 'MIDWEST CONFERENCE' and 'ON MASONIC EDUCATION'.

MCME1949.org



A QR code located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

Research for
Anyone
-Daniel Gardiner

MAY 2-4, 2025

MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

RWGS Daniel Gardiner, will be lecturing on the topic of 'Research for Anyone.' 'Learn how to contribute to Masonic research by taking seemingly simple tasks and data points to completion. By being every bit as mundane as this sounds, you can reveal meaningful stories. Once there, you get to decide if you want to elevate those stories into greatness by challenging the status quo.' <https://www.inglmarketing.com/.../midwest-conference-on...>

BUFFALO BILL CODY

As a kid in the 1950's, I remember a series of biographies in our elementary school library that featured American heroes. Included was a biography of Buffalo Bill Cody. Few could match Cody's many accomplishments, and in the late 1800's his fame because of the popularity of dime novels.

Cody was born William F. Cody in 1846 in Iowa. When he was small, his family moved to Kansas, and his father was killed because of his stance in favor of "free soil". Soon after his father's death, William went to work first as a "carrier boy" on a wagon train, followed by stints as a "bull whacker," pony express rider, and eventually a teamster in the 9th Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War. During 1867-68, he was under contract with the Kansas-Pacific Railroad to serve as a buffalo hunter, providing meat for the crews building track. During that 18 month period, he killed over 4,000 buffalo, and earned his famous nickname "Buffalo Bill." Cody's western skills soon led him to become a civilian scout for the U.S. Army from 1868 to 1872 during the Indian wars. His skill and daring resulted in his being given the Medal of Honor in 1872 for gallantry as a scout for the 3rd Cavalry. This was eventually revoked in 1917, along with 911 awards presented to others. Eventually the medal was re-awarded in 1989.

In 1872, Cody joined a Wild West Show called The Scouts Of The Prairie, and more or less performed part-time on the stage for the next 10 years. His friends Wild Bill Hickok and Ned Buntline also performed with him. In 1883, he formed his own Wild West show called "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World," which eventually toured the U.S. and Europe for the next 25 years. This Wild West "Circus" included Cowboys, Sioux Indians, Turks, Gauchos, Arabs, and Mongols. Crowds were enthralled by bucking broncos, live buffalo, and an Indian attack on the Deadwood Stage. Included in this menagerie was included Sitting Bull during the 1880 season and for many years, "Little Sure Shot" Annie Oakley from Darke County, Ohio. By 1908, not even Buffalo Bill's fame could keep the creditors at bay, and the show was closed.

During the late 1880's and 1890's, Cody was instrumental in developing an area in Western Wyoming near what is now Cody, Wyoming. Cody laid out the town that was named for him in anticipation of a growing tourist industry because of Yellowstone National Park, and because of the potential of the area for ranching and farming. Cody encouraged irrigation in the region, and eventually a dam on the Shoshone River. That dam was completed by the federal government in 1906 and the dam and reservoir are named in his honor. In addition to

all his other undertakings, Buffalo Bill built a fine hotel in Cody and named it after his daughter "the Irma Hotel". The hotel still stands and is famed for its good food. Cody built two other Inns approaching Yellowstone and created an 8,000 acre ranch where he ran 1,000 head of cattle.



Buffalo Bill was many things, and at times it is difficult to determine what is fact and what is fiction. He was always very benevolent to the Indians. Following his tenure as an Army Scout, because of the way the government treated the Indians. He said, "every Indian outbreak this I have ever known has resulted from broken promises and broken treaties by the government." He also supported the rights of women. He said, "What we want to do is give women even more liberty than they have. Let them do any kind of work they see fit, and if they do it as well as men, give them the same pay." He supported conservation by speaking out against hide-hunting and pushing for a hunting season.

Among his many accomplishments, Buffalo Bill was a very proud Mason. He was raised to a Master Mason in 1871 at North Platte, NE, and was also a Royal Arch Mason and member of the Shrine. He died January 10, 1917, in Denver and was buried on top of Lookout Mountain in Golden, Colorado with full Masonic Honors.

Buffalo Bill has some local connections that should also be mentioned. His Wild West show frequently appeared locally and was in Huntington on May 3, 1916, in Bluffton, July 2, 1896, appeared 3 times in Marion, 12 times in Ft Wayne, and appeared in Auburn, Kendallville, Portland, Peru, Plymouth, Warsaw, and Logansport. Supposed Buffalo Bill appeared at the Warren Race Track, and visited the Pulse Opera House in Warren at that time. A recent stage play at the Pulse Opera House, "Annie Get Your Gun" is a famous musical written by Irving Berlin featuring Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill. Oakley performed with Buffalo Bill from 1885 to 1902 and was the most famous female performer of her era because of that involvement. Her most famous trick shot was to split a playing card edge wise at 90 feet with a 22 caliber rifle, and then shoot the two halves multiple times before they hit the ground. Because of this trick, complimentary tickets to theaters which had a punched hole in them were called "Annie Oakley's. She and her husband Frank Butler, are buried in Greenville, Ohio.

Chuck Clampitt, MT Etna No. 333, Indiana

Rocky Mountain District Meeting at Hall of Deer No. 14 & Feast of Sts. John



Billings Bethel No.3 Montana Job's Daughters Initiate New Member



Bethel #3 of Billings, Montana of Job's Daughters International initiated a new member today. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Sam traveled to welcome our new member.
-Mary Beth Aasterud

Reid Gardiner, Editor



Lieutenant John Moffitt was the son of Thoms and Eleanor (Riddle) Moffitt, who were both from Scotland. His father, Thoms, served as a Sergeant Major in the Royal Horse Artillery. Throughout his military career, he was stationed in various locations, including the Island Bridge artillery barracks and military complex in Ireland. Established in 1798, this facility housed 23 officers and 547 soldiers, provided stabling for horses, and included a hospital. The British Army vacated the barracks in 1922.

John Moffitt was born on June 27, 1836, at Island Bridge Barracks in Dublin, Ireland. He received his education in public schools and later attended the Royal Hibernian Military School in Phoenix Park, Dublin. The military school played a significant role in preparing him for his future military career. In 1851, at the age of fifteen, he emigrated to the United States and settled in Ohio, where he found work in a nursery earning \$8 per month. Two years later, he moved to Iowa, traveling by wagon as there were no railroads then. In Iowa, he worked as a store and post office clerk, earning \$20 monthly plus board. After another two years, he relocated to Topeka, Kansas, where he worked as a clerk until 1861.

Like many men of his era, he answered President Lincoln's call for volunteers. On April 19, 1861, he joined Company A of the Second Kansas Volunteer Infantry. During his three months of service, he was stationed on the frontier due to Indian hostilities. After his three month term, Moffitt reenlisted in the Second Kansas Cavalry and was promoted to First Lieutenant by order of the War Department. He was assigned to Company F, Second Regiment, Indian Brigade. During his service, he took on roles such as Adjutant and Regimental Quartermaster. His duties took him to Missouri, Arkansas, and the Indian territory. In August 1861, he participated in the Battle of Wilson Creek, the first significant Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River. In late 1862, he participated in the Battle of Cain Hill and Prairie Grove in Arkansas. In January 1864, he resigned his commission and returned home.

Upon his return home, Brother John Moffitt received his Masonic degrees at Topeka Lodge No. 17, Grand Lodge of Kansas. He was Initiated on January 27, 1864, Passed on March 21, 1864, and was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 21, 1864.

While living in Topeka, Mr. Moffitt ventured into politics and was appointed Enrolling Clerk for the Kansas House of Representatives. In 1864, he resigned from this position to seek new opportunities spurred by the discovery of gold in Montana. He prepared his wagon with a four-horse team and gathered a year's provisions before setting out across the plains. During this time, there was significant Indian activity, and many tribes were causing trouble. He traveled from Topeka, Kansas, to Platte Bridge Station, Wyoming. From there, he joined the Jim Bridger Wagon Train, which journeyed northwesterly through the southern Big Horn Mountains, across the Big Horn Basin, and then crossed the Shoshone River into the Montana Territory.

On July 4, near the Yellowstone River, they were joined by another group of travelers, which included Cornelius Hedges. An attorney educated at Yale and Harvard, Hedges became a Helena Lodge No. 3 member and served as Grand Master of Montana in 1870. His group met up with the Bridger group and traveled together the rest of the way to Virginia City. They journeyed through the mountains and foothills, eventually rejoining the Bozeman Trail and arriving at Virginia City on July 10, 1864. There, Moffitt engaged in placer mining, working with pick and shovel at a claim in Highland Gulch alongside Hedges. In early October, Moffitt relocated to Last Chance Gulch. By January 1865, Hedges had also moved to Last Chance Gulch in Helena City. Moffitt and Hedges developed a lifelong friendship.

On October 10, 1864, Moffitt arrived at Helena and began mining at Last Chance Gulch and surrounding areas. Moffitt joined a group of miners in Diamond City, about 40 miles from Helena. They successfully extracted \$48,000 worth of gold before giving up the venture a few months later and returning to Helena. The discovery of gold in Confederate Gulch in the 1860s sparked a gold rush that led to Diamond City becoming the third largest boomtown in Montana. By 1900, the town had been deserted, and all placer mining operations had stopped. Moffitt prospected and mined until early 1865. Then, he accepted the role of Deputy County Recorder and was appointed by Thomas Francis Meagher, the Territorial Secretary of State, who later served as Territorial Governor.

In the spring of 1865, Cornelius Hedges, John Moffitt, and others started organizing a Masonic Lodge in Helena. It was the third Masonic Lodge to be established in Montana. The Grand Lodge of Colorado officially chartered it in November 1865 as Helena City No. 10. Once the Grand Lodge of Montana was formed in 1866, it became known as Helena Lodge No. 3. Brother Moffitt served as the Lodge Secretary in 1867, 1871, and 1874. Brother Moffitt was also active in the York Rite, where he held various offices.

He also was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW). He served three terms as Assistant Adjutant General for the Department of Montana in the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a proud member of Wadsworth Post No. 3 and the Loyal Legion.

Between 1867 and 1872, Mr. Moffitt managed Crounse & Moffitt Stationery, where they sold stationery, schoolbooks, notions, fancy goods, and newspapers. Their store was located in the Post Office building on Main Street, Helena. On August 23, 1872, a major fire swept through downtown Helena, destroying twenty-three residences, the old post office, the Masonic Hall, the U.S. Assessor's Office, and the Federal Marshal's Office. In 1874, a permanent watch tower was constructed on Tower Hill. This tower provided a panoramic view of the town and was equipped with a bell, which could be rung to indicate the location of fires across the six wards. The "Guardian of the Gulch" remains a reminder of Helena's early history with fires. From 1872 to 1880, Mr. Moffitt served as the Deputy Postmaster of Helena, holding the position for eight years. Silas H. Crounse was Helena's second Postmaster from 1869 to 1881.



John Moffitt

Mr. Moffitt was married twice. His first marriage was to Fildelia O. Mather from Elkhorn, Wisconsin, in 1876; she passed away in 1881. In 1883, he married Phoebe W. Duer, originally from Baltimore, who died in 1895. John and Phoebe had one son, John "Johnny," who lived from 1886 to 1888. Mr. Moffitt also had an adopted daughter named Martha Worthington Phillips, who was Phoebe's niece. In his later years, he resided with Susan Duer, his late wife's sister.

Between 1881 and 1883, John Moffitt managed the Davidson & Moffitt harness store in Fort Benton. This store was an extension of the Helena business owned by Absalom J. Davidson. In addition to saddles and harnesses, the store traded in wool, hides, and robes. Located at 1221 Front Street, the building that housed the Davidson and Moffitt Harness Shop is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and currently accommodates the River Press Company, the town's newspaper publisher. The River Press acquired the building in September 1883 and continues to operate there. Absalom J. Davidson, who arrived in Helena in 1865, was a Past Master of Helena Lodge No. 3 and served as Grand Master in 1882.

Starting in 1883, John Moffitt held the position of Chief Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue in Montana. He was Acting Collector in 1893, 1894, 1897, and several other short periods. Moffitt worked with James Mills, the Collector for Montana, from 1889 to 1893. Mills was a fellow Civil War veteran and Lieutenant Colonel with the 14th Pennsylvania Infantry. James Mills became the Grand Master of Montana in 1895. Mr. Moffitt was regarded as the most knowledgeable person in Montana about Internal Revenue laws. John had devoted himself to being the IRS Collector for almost twenty years until he resigned in November 1900. He was unable to continue working due to his declining health.

Montana had only been a territory for two months when Moffitt arrived; twenty five years later, it was the 41st state to be admitted into the Union on November 8, 1889. John, who lived in Montana for thirty-seven years, had come to know many people and was highly respected by those who knew him. His reserved and peaceful nature earned him widespread recognition, making him one of the most well-known men in the city. Brother Moffitt passed away on November 5, 1901, in Helena, in his 65th year. He died as a result of kidney and heart issues. The Helena Independent, on November 6, 1901, commenced his obituary with these words: "Another old-time resident of Helena has crossed the great divide."

His funeral was held at the family residence on November 7 and was conducted by the Masons of Helena Lodge No. 3 and members of the Knights Templar. The funeral procession was headed by Wadsworth Post No. 3, the Grand Army of the Republic, followed by the Knights Templar and then members of Helena No. 3. Cornelius Hedges Jr led the Masonic funeral ceremony due to his father's poor health. Brother Moffitt was buried at Forestvale Cemetery in Helena, Montana.



References:

- Archives of the Grand Lodge of Kansas AF&AM.
- Archives of the Montana Masonic Foundation.
- Membership Records of the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Montana.
- "Attempts To Start Masonic Lodges In Montana", Khols, William R., 1964.
- "An Illustrated History of the State of Montana", Miller, Joaquin, 1894, Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company.
- "Society of Montana Pioneers", Volume 1, Sanders, Jame U., 1899.
- "Cowboy Up! The Master Saddlers of Fort Benton", Robinson, Ken, Published by Fort Benton River Press, 31 January 2007.
- Gold Dust to Dollars, A History of Federal Tax Administration in Montana 1864-1993, IRS Historical Studies, Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service.
- "For This and Succeeding Generations -The Cornelius Hedges Story", Gardiner, 2015.
- Image generated using Pixel Studio: Lt. John Moffitt Montana Pioneer.



**COME SEE
WHAT WE SEE!**

*Montana Masonic
Museum*

www.instagram.com/mtmasonicfoundation

Mon-Fri 9-4pm (closed all state and federal holidays)
Hours subject to change. 406-442-2323 for questions

425 N. Park Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Parking on street, or in lot behind building (access via alley)



HANDS OF THE WORKMAN

Henry O. Morgan Grand Master 1948-1949

Henry Orlando Morgan was born on July 6, 1888, in Morton, Minnesota. He attended schools in Redwood Falls, Hutchinson, and Northfield, Minnesota. In Northfield, he entered the confectionery business, making his own candies.

On May 27, 1913, he wed Bertha B. Lathrop of Northfield. Soon after their wedding, they traveled to Montana, where Mr. Morgan invested in a newly opened bank in Fairview. From 1915 to 1934, they resided in Valley County, living in Opheim and Glentana, where he worked in the banking sector. In 1934, they moved to Glasgow, where he established an insurance and real estate business, which he operated until his retirement in 1946. In 1953 he was elected Treasurer for Glasgow.

His involvement in civic and state activities included serving on the school board, holding an official position in the Chamber of Commerce, presiding as President of the state Insurance Agents association, participating as a council member for the Montana Deaconess School, and being a member of the Governor's interim committee on highway issues, and promoting highway safety. For more than forty years, he was an active member of the Methodist church and served on various church boards. Additionally, he was a past president of the Glasgow Kiwanis Club.

Although he retired from business in 1946, Mr. Morgan remained actively involved in various city and state affairs. He traveled to Helena to attend a board meeting of the Montana Automobile Association on Monday and to join a county delegation at the state highway commission meeting on Tuesday. Sadly, he was found dead in his hotel room, having passed away from heart failure.

His journey in Freemasonry began in 1920 when he became a Master Mason at North Star Lodge No. 46. He later left this lodge to help establish North Border Lodge No. 145 in Opheim in 1929, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1935. In 1938-1939, he first joined the Grand Lodge officer line as Grand Sword Bearer. He progressed steadily through the ranks, ultimately being elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Montana for 1948-1949 at the 84th Annual Communication. MWGM Henry Morgan presided over the 85th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in Great Falls on August 16-17, 1949. At that time, there were 22,258 members and 135 Lodges. As of 2025, membership stands at 3,077 across 77 Lodges.



Grand Master Henry O. Morgan conducted a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge for the following events: the funeral of MWPGM Claude J. McAllister (1922-1923) and MWPGM John R. Lloyd (1935-1936); the cornerstone ceremony and dedication of a new temple building for Circle Lodge No. 146; the dedication of a new temple in Wilsall for Park Lodge No. 140; and the dedication of a new temple at Plentywood for Plentywood Lodge No. 91.

He was a Past Commander of Glasgow Commandery No. 13 K.T., a member of Chinook Council No. 7 R&SM, a member of the AASR Valley of Great Falls, and a member of Algeria Temple AAONMS. He had received the Red Cross of Constantine by Saint Peter's Conclave No. 8 of Helena. He was also a member of Sunset Chapter No. 117 of the OES at Opheim and was a Past Patron.

Brother Morgan was known for his sharp intellect and dedication to serving his friends, fraternity, city, state, and nation. From a young age, he understood the importance of working with and for others. His service record was exemplary in every endeavor he undertook. His devotion to causes, amiable character, kindness, and understanding of others create a legacy worth emulating. Selflessly dedicating his time to Masonry, he energetically fulfilled all his duties and left behind an admirable record of achievements.

Henry Morgan, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, passed away at the age of 66 on September 27, 1954. His funeral took place at the First Methodist Church in Glasgow, Montana, on Thursday, September 30, 1954, with Reverend Leon Johnson officiating. The graveside service at Highland Cemetery in Glasgow was conducted by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Montana. In honor of his memory, the businesses in Glasgow closed during the funeral.



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW

Come See, What We See



MONTANA MASONIC MUSEUM

Inspired by you!





COME VISIT YOUR MASONIC MUSEUM

The Grand Lodge building, grounds, and the Montana Masonic Museum are owned and managed by the Montana Masonic Foundation. The Foundation is responsible for the upkeep and preservation of the building and museum artifacts. Recently, the Foundation Board committed to reimagining and updating the museum to enhance its quality.

The Foundation Board of Directors acknowledges its role as the owner of this distinctive museum and has made a much needed financial investment for its upkeep and redesign. This enhancement will allow us to better communicate the story of Montana Masonry to both members and the public in an engaging and informative way.

If you've already had the chance to visit the Montana Masonic Museum, now is the perfect time to go again for a fresh perspective. This experience will instill a new sense of pride and belonging within our fraternity. Whether you're a Mason or not, visiting our museum offers a memorable journey through our organization's history and the important roles we play in our communities, state, and nation.

You have the option to explore the museum exhibits on your own with self-guided tours, or often, the office staff may provide more detailed and informative tours.



As you step into the museum, you'll be welcomed by a stunning display showcasing the history of Freemasonry, featuring a rare 1723 edition of The Constitutions of the Freemasons.



As you walk through the museum, you'll encounter numerous exhibits that take you through history, offering informative insights into various Masonic and historical events.





You will witness an excellent presentation on various Masonic organizations such as the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Order of the Eastern Star, the Shrine, and Masonic youth groups.

Prepare to be astounded as you delve into the history of Montana Army Lodge No.1 (U.D.), established by members of the Second Montana Infantry, Montana National Guard. This unit, later redesignated as the 163rd Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Brigade, 41st Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, played a significant role during World War I.



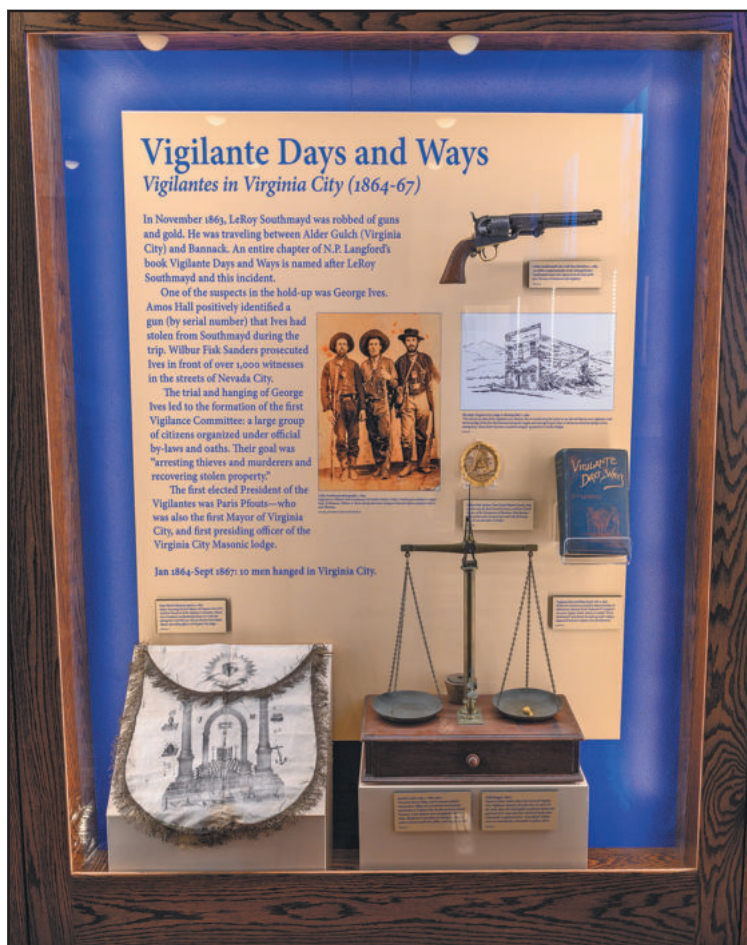


With this brief presentation, we hope to spark your curiosity and whet your appetite to fully immerse yourself in the entire experience.





This presentation is just a glimpse of the many displays that the museum offers for your enjoyment.





Many exhibits explore the period from the Montana Territory to Statehood, featuring the Vigilantes, prominent figures in Montana's history, and the founders and leaders of Freemasonry in Montana.

Our recently renovated museum beautifully showcases our Masonic heritage and offers an inspiring experience with engaging and educational exhibits. The museum staff and contractors dedicated significant effort to designing and interpreting the displays, resulting in a memorable narrative for visitors. The museum's opening presents an opportunity to revisit and update our collections management requirements. However, much work remains. Our archives, including photographs, documents, and historical artifacts, must be appropriately identified, cataloged, and preserved. This will facilitate individual access, enabling research and viewing of our extensive collection separately from the museum displays.



Montana Masonic Foundation School Grant Program Kila school



Present from left to right:
John Heston, Senior Grand Deacon, Autumn Benson - 1st
grade Teacher, and John Sonderegger of Trinity No. 152

Montana Masonic Foundation Grant Program Trego School



L-R: John Heston, Senior Grand Deacon,
Rachel Howe- k-8 Teacher, Mrs Howe's son
and Trego student, and John Sonderegger
from Trinity No. 152.

Montana Masonic Foundation School Grant Program Trout Creek school



Left to right: Steve Eberhardt of Thompson Falls No. 70, Kimberly Johnson Music Teacher Trout Creek, John Sonderegger of Trinity No. 152, John Heston Grand Senior Deacon, Carla Doss Music Teacher and Cal Dunks of Thompson Falls No.70.

Montana Masonic Foundation School Grant Program Thompson Falls Elementary



Left to right
Ken Owens of Thompson Falls #70, John Heston Senior Grand Deacon, Brittany Nichols Thompson Falls Elementary Music Teacher, Cal Dunks of Thompson Falls No. 70, and John Sonderegger from Trinity No. 152.

CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONIC CONFERENCE GRAND MASTERS



Helena Lodge No. 3 Americanism Program & Annual Chili Cook-off



Helena Lodge No. 3's Americanism program: Montana's state Constitution's history from the 1889 original to our 1972 brand new one, presented by local law firm.

Chili cook-off winners: returning champion Scott Sterland (Spiciest flavor), and new upstart Todd Johnson dethroning Bro. Scott's double win last year (Best flavor).



Bro. Scott Sterland - Spiciest Flavor.



Bro. Todd Johnson - Best Flavor.



SUMMONS TO ATTEND 159TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

All Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, other Past Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Past Masters of constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana who are in good standing are hereby summoned to attend the 159th Annual Communication to be held on June 26-28, 2025 at the Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel in Helena, Montana.

Every Brother entitled to vote at the Annual Communication is expected to attend unless prevented by illness or other substantial reasons. Worshipful Masters and Wardens who cannot attend must appoint qualified Proxies to vote on their behalf. You will need to present your current year's Dues Card.

Each Chartered and duly constituted lodge must be represented in Grand Lodge. All Master Masons in good standing of recognized Lodges are warmly invited to attend.

Attest:

Samuel H. Whitehead
Grand Master

Daniel Gardiner
Grand Secretary

MONTANA



Session Information

Duty to Attend Session

Every year, Worshipful Masters and Wardens promise to submit to the “ancient charges and regulations of Masonry” during their installation. These charges point out the duties of the Master of a Lodge and are deemed so important that they are read to ensure accuracy.

In these charges, you promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge upon having received proper notice and pay attention to all the duties of Masonry. A Lodge is a constituent of the Grand Lodge when in session. In order for a lodge to be a component of Grand Lodge, it must be represented. Thus, its presence is mandatory, either personally or by proxy. Additionally, our Code requires each Lodge be represented by the attendance of their Master and Wardens.

Representation in Grand Lodge

Section 25050 states that “Each chartered and duly constituted lodge shall be represented in Grand Lodge at every non-ceremonial communication by one or more of its Master and Wardens, or by an elected representative. Where a Master or Warden is unable to attend, the lodge Instructor shall be given the preferential representation.

Proxies

Whenever the Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden cannot attend the annual communication, he may grant a proxy (using the Proxy Card provided by the Grand Secretary,) to some member of his lodge to act in his stead. The proxy must be issued and signed by him at least two days prior to the annual communication, and he must notify the other officers of the granting of the proxy. The proxy must be presented when checking in and registering at the annual communication.

If either the Master, Senior 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 a proxy does not use it, the credential cannot be used by anyone else. If a proxy is being given, it should be given to a member of the other than a Past Master, as they have a vote. If attending as a Proxy, the member must present his current Montana Dues Card and the Proxy Card to the registration committee.

Dues Cards Must Be Presented

The Current Dues Card will need to be presented at Check-In and Registration at Session. The current dues card will show an expiration date of December 31, 2025. Failure to present your 2025 Dues Card will result in you not being able to participate in Session.

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.

Balloting & Other Matters Before Grand Lodge

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

Notice for Balloting on Grand Lodge Officers for 2025 -2026

During the Annual Communication, the voting delegates will be voting for the following officers.

Deputy Grand Master (Grand Master-elect)
Senior Grand Warden
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Secretary
Grand Treasurer

The various duties of these officers are specified within the Constitution and Code of Statues.

Presentation of Lodge Banners

Again, this year, Lodges are encouraged to bring their Lodge Banner for display during the Annual Communication. The Banners will be able to be posted in a designed area.

Apron at Session

All Mason and Lodge Officers are encouraged to bring and wear the apron appropriate to their office or station within the Lodge. All Past Masters are encouraged to wear their Past Master Apron. There will be a limited number of plain paper aprons available for use.

The lambskin apron is the prized possession of every Mason. It is customary to wear a substitute, a white cloth apron. Some Lodges provide special aprons for their officers, and most Grand Lodges have more elaborate aprons for their Grand Officers and past Grand Officers. To be “properly clothed,” a Mason must wear the apron in Lodge unless, as an officer, he wears the appropriate apron supplied him by the Lodge of Grand Lodge. Within the Grand Jurisdiction of Montana, Masons always wear their aprons outside of clothing, not under a coat or jacket.

Concerning Balloting

In Anderson’s Constitutions and in Mackey’s Jurisprudence, we find that the “immemorial usages” concerning balloting and electing that it be independent and secret. The secrecy of the ballot is as essential to its perfection as its unanimity and its independence.

Frequently we hear those who would propose that we change our procedures to match that of political parties or other organizations in the name of transparency but doing so would throw out secrecy and would be un-masonic.



PREMIER | **BEST WESTERN.**

Helena Great Northern Hotel

Great Northern Convention Center

Parking Options

Please share this information with your group before meeting/event begins.

- **OVERNIGHT GUESTS ONLY – Parking lot across from the front entrance of the Hotel** (Between CDM Smith and the Carousel)
Overnight permit provided at check-in.
- **Convention Parking Lot behind Hotel** (Entrance on Front Street)
Free Parking
Available on a first come, first served basis. No permit required.
- **Parking in Lot 15 across the street from the rear entrance of the Hotel** (Entrance on Front Street)
At the entrance of Lot 15 on Front Street, get a parking permit out of the box located on the sign, (Permits are either full day or half day) complete the permit information and place it on the dash of your vehicle. **Parking is available on a first come, first served basis.**
- **Getchell Street Parking Garage** (Entrance is at the corner of Getchell and 14th Street). Parking is available in this parking garage, if the Hotel Lot and Lot 15 are full. The cost is \$0.75 per hour (maximum of \$11.25 per day). Monday thru Friday 5:00 AM to 8:00 PM Weekends and Holidays are free.
Guests are responsible for the cost of parking in this parking garage. The Hotel will not validate parking in this location.

The BEST WESTERN PREMIER Helena Great Northern Hotel is **not** responsible for tickets issued by the City of Helena.

Pre-Registration

(if you are **not** a Montana Mason **OR** are a guest, use "Non"-Cost)

159th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Montana June 26-28, 2025

Return this form to the following address prior to June 10, 2025

159th Annual Communication

PO Box 1158

Helena, MT 59624-1158

registration@grandlodgemontana.org

***NOTE: Please Register even if you will be having no meals.** This helps us set up the number of seats, etc.

Name: _____ Title: _____
(First and Last Name) (Senior Warden, etc)

Lodge Name & Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Accompanied by: _____

	Montana Mason	Non-Cost
THURSDAY – June 26, 2025 Food Truck (6:00 pm)	\$ Free	\$ Free
Location: Grand Lodge Office	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Burgers, or Ribs, or pork belly burnt ends, coleslaw, mac & cheese		

FRIDAY – June 27, 2025 Lunch (12 to 1:15 pm)	\$18.00	\$25.00
Location: Great Northern Best Western Hotel	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Chicken cordon bleu, smoked gouda au gratin potatoes, seasonal salad	\$18.00	\$25.00
or	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Pasta primavera, smoked gouda au gratin potatoes, seasonal salad		

FRIDAY – June 27, 2025 Banquet (6:30 pm)	\$27.00	\$45.00
Location: Northern Best Western Hotel	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Top sirloin, baked potatoes, seasonal salad, NY cheesecake	\$25.00	\$40.00
or	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Lemon Herb Salmon, baked potatoes, seasonal salad, NY cheesecake		

SATURDAY – June 28, 2025 Lunch (12 to 1:15 pm)	\$16.00	\$22.00
Location: Great Northern Best Western Hotel	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Grinder buffet: hickory turkey, bacon, dill havarti, aioli, shredded lettuce, huckleberry sauce, tomatoes, Caesar salad on wheat bread	\$16.00	\$22.00
Or	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____
Grinder buffet: honey ham & cheese, provolone, onion, shredded lettuce, thin tomatoes, shallot vinaigrette on a ciabatta roll		

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS	\$ 17.00	\$28.00
Hors D'Oeuvres (Brie, Swedish meatballs, Potato shins, Steak bites, Hummus, Taquitos) – 10-12 pieces of (food subject to change)	x _____ = _____	x _____ = _____

FRIDAY GARAGE PARKING (Can enter & exit the garage TWICE with it) \$8.00 x _____ = _____

FRIDAY WOMEN'S PROGRAM Bingo during lunch service (12:30) \$10.00 x _____ = _____
At least 9 prizes for winners.

SATURDAY WOMEN'S PROGRAM → 930am bus boards at hotel sign painting at Hammer & Stain workshop (upgrade on own) 10am \$55.00 x _____ = _____

Payments by check #: _____ Total: _____

Payments by Credit Card done over phone (406) 442-7774, sign here: _____

GREAT NORTHERN BEST WESTERN HOTEL
835 Great Northern Boulevard, Helena MT 59602
406-457-5500

GRAND LODGE OFFICES
425 N. Park Ave, Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 442-7774

Tentative Agenda

(Full Session Agenda will be available in the Session Program)

Thursday - June 26, 2025

5:45 pm Backyard barbecue - EVERYONE
INVITED, No dress code! @GrandLodge

Friday - June 27, 2025

9:00 am Public Grand Opening
9:15 am Youth Groups & Appendant Orders welcome
9:45 am Formal Opening of 159th Annual Communication
10:00 am Election of Grand Lodge Officers
10:15 am Grand Lodge Called from Labor to Refreshment
10:30 am Call to Order
Refreshment to Labor
Committee Reports
Reception of Montana Past Grand Masters
Reception of Montana 50 Year Members
Reception of Visiting Grand Lodge Officers
Grand Lodge Called from Labor to Refreshment
12:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm Call to Order
6:30 pm Banquet (Awards, Honors, Recognition)

Saturday - June 28, 2025

9:00 am Call to Order
9:15 am Recognition Report
9:45 am Call to Refreshment
10:00 am Resolutions
12:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm Call to Order
Refreshment to Labor
Final Finance and Budget Report
TBD Formal Closing of 159th Annual Communication
Time TBD Photo of 2025-2026 Grand Lodge Officers
TBD Installation for 2025-2026 Grand Lodge Officers
TBD Farewell Reception

Session Dress Code: Suits for everyone; GLO's wear Tuxedos.

Garage Parking is FREE After 5pm Thursday ONLY.

\$1hr (first free) 8-5pm on Friday. Saturday parking is Free.

Please bring your current (2025) Dues Card!

Big Sky Masonic-Con 2025

Euclid Lodge No. 58 • 821 Central Ave • Great Falls MT 59401



April 25-26 2025

(No Ties – No Titles)

Join us at Big Sky Masonic-Con, a relaxed conference where Masons can enjoy a day filled with engaging Masonic education. Whether you are deeply involved or just curious, this event offers a welcoming environment to learn about Freemasonry and its traditions.

Big Sky Masonic-Con - The Conference and Meals will all be held at the
Great Falls Masonic Temple, 821 Central Ave.

Itinerary

Friday, April 25 th , 2025

9:00 a.m.: Duane Buchi – “Discipline of the Corps of Discovery” - *(Open to all)*
10:00 a.m.: Bro. Guy Venuti – “Early American Masons and their impact on their American Revolution”
12:00 p.m.: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Bro Sam Zeiser – “Craft Brewing”
1:15 p.m.: Bro. Tom V. Hornung – “Mason Jars”
2:00 p.m.: Bro. Arlan Cage – “The Kabbalistic Tree of Life (as the basis of Freemasonry)”
4:00 p.m.: Bro. Jeff Bolstad – “Leadership”
5:30 p.m.: Dinner
6:30 p.m.: Cowboy Poetry – Bro. Jeff Bolstad

Saturday, April 26 th , 2025

9:00 a.m.: Bro. Michael McCurry – “Our Scots Origins”
10:00 a.m.: Bro. Leo Schuman – “Sufi Orders: The Fraternal Brotherhood in Islam”
11:00 a.m.:
12:00 p.m.: Lunch
1:00 p.m.: Bro. Anthony Kelson – “The Importance and Relevance of Freemasonry for Modern Man”
2:00 p.m.: Roundtable Discussion – Bro. Brian DeRosa – “Appendant Bodies”
3:00 p.m.: Bro. Ben Williams – “Origins of the Order of the Temple”
4:00 p.m.: Keynote Speaker: Bro. Chris Hodapp – “How Dare We Be Freemasons”

Ladies Program

Ladies programs for wives / spouses are offered through Pizazz (Cooking Instruction with Ms. Rhonda Adkins) (minimum 8 persons / limit 12 persons). Cost: \$50.00 per person with 20% gratuity.

Ladies Event/program will be at Pizazz - 403 Central Ave - Great Falls

Please make direct arrangements/payments with Ms. Rhonda Adkins at the following:

“Ladies of Masonic-Con”

Ms. Rhonda Adkins - 403 Central Ave - Great Falls, MT 59401

www.pizazzmt.com - rhonda@pizazzmt.com - (406)452-6724 - Cell: (618) 920-7222

Big Sky Masonic-Con 2025

Hosted by Euclid Lodge No. 58: 821 Central Ave., Great Falls, MT 59401

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Spouse (if present): _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Lodge (Name / Number): _____

Masonic-Con 2025

Friday, April 25 th , 2025

Masonic-Con 2025 Friday Registration: \$50.00

Lunch: \$15.00 per person: _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Dinner: \$50.00 per person: _____ @ \$50.00 \$ _____

Saturday, April 26 th , 2025

Masonic-Con 2025 Saturday Registration: \$50.00

Lunch: \$15.00 per person: _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the following:

Big Sky Masonic-Con
821 Central Ave
Great Falls, MT 59401

RSVPs MUST be received. Space for said conference is limited to 120 participants... RSVPs for the conference must be in by Monday, April 21 st , 2025.

Big Sky Masonic-Con Hotel Suggestions

Lodging is available at several local hotels, noting the three (3) local hotels primary to Big Sky Masonic-Con 2025 for the dates April 24 th – April 26 th , 2025. Please bear in mind that you are responsible for making your own reservations. The three (3) primary hotels for the event are as follows:

The Gibson Hotel. Room rate is \$189.00 + Tax / per night.

The Gibson Hotel -621 Central Ave - Great Falls, MT 59401 - (406) 604-0430

O'Haire Motor Inn. Room rate is \$120.00 + Tax. (\$131.60) (Please note; the O'Haire has single rooms – single queen beds - available for said dates). There is no cut-off date, however, reservations should be made as soon as possible.

O'Haire Motor Inn -17 7 th St. South - Great Falls, MT 59401 - (406) 454-2141

Holiday Inn. Room rate is \$114.00 + tax (\$138.00) No block of rooms has been set, however ask for "Masonic Temple" when making reservations to get special rate.

Holiday Inn - 1100 5 th St. South - Great Falls, MT 59405 - (406) 727-7200

Hear ye!

Hear ye!

AUTHENTIC

1717 Table Lodge

AN 18TH CENTURY FEAST W/ CEMEMONY & TOASTS

SAT. **MAY 17** - 6:00 PM
GAVEL FALLS AT 6:00 PM
OASIS AT 5:00 PM

MASONIC TEMPLE 14 S. TRACY
BOZEMAN, MT

\$35~ALL YOU CAN EAT

FIRST TWO BEERS OR WINE - \$10

MICROBREWED BY B. COLIN RUH OF LAST BEST PLACE BREWERY

ALL NEW GLASS BEER STEIN~ \$20

ROAST PIG!



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