

# MONTANA FREEMASON

JUNE/JULY 2025

VOL. 101 NO. 3





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## About The Cover

Ford-Cavazos Entered Apprentice's Tracing Board, 2025. This example is provided by Christopher Cavazos, Helena Lodge No. 3, one of the two designers of this Tracing Board. The tracing board is a visual representation of the lessons and symbols taught in the first degree of Freemasonry, serving as a tool to instruct and reflect. The symbolic representation of the Lodge and the tools used in Masonic work helps us understand abstract concepts.



## EDITOR NOTES



Reid Gardiner  
Editor



# Articles & Correspondence

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The Editorial Staff welcomes contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news, and other timely information that broadly relate to general Masonry.

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**Photographs & Artwork.** Original pictures or those taken with digital cameras work best. Use the highest resolution, with 300 dpi being the ideal setting. Please do not send newspaper pictures or inkjet prints, as they will not reproduce satisfactorily. Preferred file types: JPEG, JPG, TIFF, PNG, or PSD. All photographs should include the name of the photographer and the name of the event or individuals who might have been in the photo. Printed photographs will not be returned.

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## Thursday BBQ Sponsored By The Montana Masonic Foundation



The night before the Annual Communication - museum outreach by the Montana Masonic Foundation.







## GRAND LODGE OF AF&AM OF MONTANA

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### SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF 159<sup>th</sup> COMMUNICATION – JUNE 26-28, 2025 in Helena, MT

#### Elected Grand Lodge Officers

Jason Smith (29, 31, 53)	Grand Master
Don Powell (18)	Deputy Grand Master
Wade Riden (96)	Senior Grand Warden
John Heston (42, 152)	Junior Grand Warden
Bruce Lahti (34)	Grand Treasurer
Daniel Gardiner (3)	Grand Secretary

#### Appointed Grand Lodge Officers

Martin Reiersen (52, 120)	Senior Grand Deacon
David Sageser (50, 55, 95)	Junior Grand Deacon
Mark Bassett (1, 32)	Grand Marshal
Brice Ligget (29)	Senior Grand Steward
Ken Bates (14, 33)	Junior Grand Steward
Dennis DeForest (96)	Grand Standard Bearer
Will Enloe (53)	Grand Sword Bearer
Terry Nau (155)	Grand Pursuivant
Myles Stinnett (31)	Grand Tyler
Ray Richards (32)	Grand Chaplain
John Hugdahl (29, 101)	Grand Historian
Max Knodel (96)	Grand Organist

#### Resolutions

GMR-2025-01	Disqualification and Requalification	Failed
GMR-2025-02	Eliminating Short Form Proficiency	Failed
GMR-2025-03	Proficiency Returned in Open Lodge	Failed
R-2025-01	Alcohol Allowed After Tyled Meeting	Tabled
R-2025-02	Consolidate Multiple Lodges/New Name (A)	Failed
R-2025-03	Consolidate Multiple Lodges/New Name (B)	Failed
R-2025-04A	Change Definition of “In Good Standing”	Failed
R-2025-04B	Master Mason Examination Required	Out of Order

**HONORS:** Chuck Stein (Delta #128); Steve Hanser (Billings #113); Terry Davis (Butte #22); Earl Nilsen (Meridian #105): Meritorious (Bronze) Medal; Educator of the Year: Chris Cavazos; Ted Williams Youth Leadership Award: Dan Massey (Rimrock #149) Visionary Award: Albert Kajin (Hiram #52); Max Knodel (Kyle #96); Jeff Anderson (Corinthian #72); Kody Krapf (Cut Bank #82); Scott Sterland (Helena #3); James “Bobby” Soileau (Ashlar #29); John South (Havre #55)

**REVOCATION:** Wisdom #61 charter

**BUDGET:** Passed – Per Capita \$59.50.



**INTRODUCING  
JASON M. SMITH  
GRAND MASTER OF MONTANA  
2025-2026**



Jason M. Smith is an accomplished professional based in Billings, Montana, with a diverse background in business management, accounting, and community service. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Smith's dedication to service and community is evident in his various board memberships and contributions to state and local organizations, including, but not limited to, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Montana.

Following his enlistment in the USMC and after six years as a law enforcement officer for the State of Montana, his entrepreneurial spirit flourished. At Billings Farmhand, Inc., as an owner and sales manager he transformed the small business into a thriving farm equipment dealership, retiring in 2012 to pursue different ventures in life. With extensive experience in sales and management, Smith moved into roles such as the sales manager at Hanson Chemical and outside parts and service sales at I-State Truck Center. Most recently, he became a student at Montana State University Billings in pursuit of his first Bachelor of Science degree in business management with an emphasis in accounting so he and his beloved wife Karla may work from most places in the world together, as a team.

Smith is the current owner of multiple businesses in Billings, including Ruby Accounting Services and JRL. He not only provides comprehensive financial services to a plethora of businesses, but also delves into the motorsport's realm with his extensive knowledge of internal combustion engines, most especially in the Harley Davidson world. However, his leadership extends beyond business; he has also served as the President of the Montana Masonic Foundation and President of the Montana Equipment Dealer's Association, overseeing operations and directing board meetings for these organizations. His commitment to hard work, ethics, and self-motivation drives his additional passion for serving the Montana military veteran population.

Smith is actively involved with several organizations within the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Montana. Belonging to Ashlar No. 29, Glendive No. 31, and Doric No. 53, he served as Worshipful Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 29 (2013-2014). He also serves the Billings Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Venerable Master, 2015). and the Al Bedoo Shrine (Potentate, 2021). Smith is grateful to have received the honors of the bronze medal in Montana masonry in 2014, as well as the distinct honor of being coroneted a 33rd degree Scottish Rite mason in 2021.

Although his services to the labor industry and community engagement played pivotal roles in his life, Jason M. Smith personally believes that the exemplification of leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving others is best shown through his loving wife, Karla, and their four wonderful daughters, Jessica, Jillian, Megan, and Emily.



# GRAND LODGE OF AF&AM OF MONTANA

## GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

### 2025-2026



#### Elected Grand Lodge Officers

Jason Smith (29, 31, 53)  
 Don Powell (18)  
 Wade Riden (96)  
 John Heston (42, 152)  
 Bruce Lahti (34)  
 Daniel Gardiner (3)

Grand Master  
 Deputy Grand Master  
 Senior Grand Warden  
 Junior Grand Warden  
 Grand Treasurer  
 Grand Secretary

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Martin Reierson (52, 120)  
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Senior Grand Deacon  
 Junior Grand Deacon  
 Grand Marshal  
 Senior Grand Steward  
 Junior Grand Steward  
 Grand Standard Bearer  
 Grand Sword Bearer  
 Grand Pursuivant  
 Grand Tyler  
 Grand Chaplain  
 Grand Historian  
 Grand Organist





## Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant to Stevensville Middle School



Grant Check being delivered by Don M. Powell, Director of the Montana Masonic Foundation and Sr. Gr. Warden to Stevensville middle school.

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## Grand Master Whitehead Visits Stevensville No. 28





## Grand Master Whitehead Visits Ionic Lodge No. 38



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## Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant to Clinton Elementary



Grant Check being delivered by Don M. Powell, Director of the Montana Masonic Foundation and Sr. Gr. Warden to Clinton Elementary School for a multi-education corner.





## Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant Bonner School

Bonner School received a check from Don M. Powell, a Director of the Montana Masonic Foundation and Senior Grand. Warden, for a maker space in their library.

## Montana Masonic Foundation and Chinook No. 50 Reading Achievement Program Turner Public School K-12



### Kindles for Kids Reading Achievement Program Winners

Kevin Spudic, Auzdyn King (sixth grader), Addie Cornell (first grader), Gracie Zellmer (seventh grader), Brady Zellmer (sophomore), and Ben Hall. Two Brothers from Chinook Lodge No. 50 traveled to Turner, MT, to present the Kindles to the students K-12.



## Grand Master Whitehead Visit to Butte Lodge No. 22

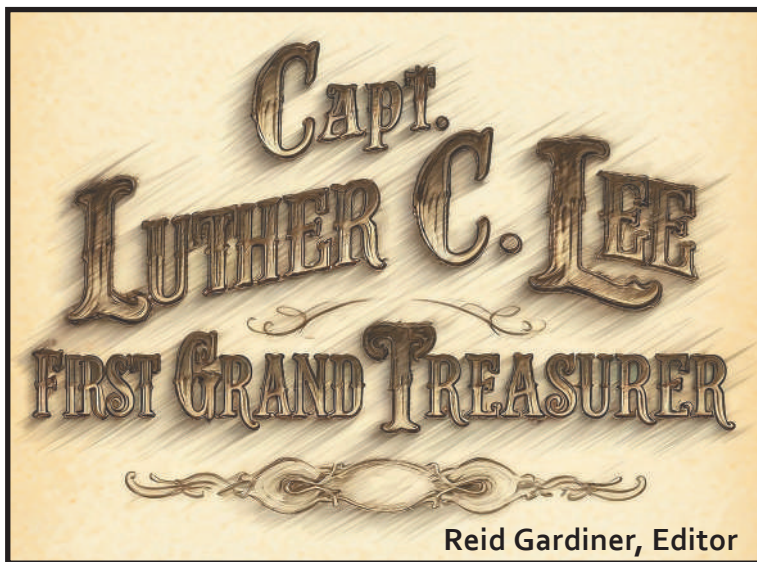


## Bozeman Area Lodges Welcome New Master Masons



This very happy group of Master Masons witnessed the raising of Bro. Jack T. Schwem, fourth from right. The gallery was filled along with Brothers of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 with Bros from Bozeman No. 18, Belgrade No. 68, Ashlar No. 29, Corinthian No. 72, and Doric No. 53. Also in attendance was PGM Dave Prewett, SGS Mark Bassett, and MWGM Sam Whitehead. Bro Tom Davis, Back row second right, was Raised in Belgrade Lodge the night before.





Luther Curtis Lee was born in Craftsbury, Vermont, on March 4, 1827. He received his early education in local schools and learned the trade of watchmaking and jewelry from his father. Around 1850, he moved to Aurora, Illinois, where he worked with his brother, Chauncey Whitney Lee, at their business, L. C. & C. W. Lee Watchmaking and Jewelry. Their business was reportedly one of the largest in the area at that time.

In 1858, Brother Luther Lee joined Jerusalem Temple Lodge No. 90 in Aurora, Illinois, following his brother Chauncey, who had become a member the year before. Brother Luther served as the Lodge Secretary for one year. The Grand Lodge of Illinois proceedings show him as a member from 1858 through 1865.

Heeding President Lincoln's call for volunteers, L. C. Lee enlisted in October 1861 as a first lieutenant in Company H of the Illinois 52nd Volunteer Infantry (known as the Lincoln Regiment or Lincoln Rangers). On April 8, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. Among the initial duties assigned to Capt. L. C. Lee and his regiment were the responsibility of acting as train guards, tasked with the escort of prisoners from Fort Donelson, Tennessee, to Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois. The unit then moved into Tennessee, participating in the Battle of Shiloh, and subsequently into Mississippi for the siege of Corinth, followed by the pursuit to Booneville. He resigned his commission and mustered out of the Army on November 7, 1862. Capt. Lee decided to head west, aiming to improve his health.

In 1864, Capt. Lee moved to Virginia City, Montana Territory, where he set up a watchmaking and jewelry business. In 1866, Lee possessed the only chronometer in the Territory, which allowed him to achieve exceptional precision in his watchmaking skills. He also made gold chains with pocket watches and other items.

In 1864, Virginia City became the first town to be incorporated in the Montana Territory, and other social and civic amenities followed. Virginia City, a city of wood, was highly concerned about fire safety. In November of 1864, a committee comprised of L. C. Lee and four others was appointed to district the town, collect subscriptions, and appoint night watch patrols. This laid the foundation of the volunteer fire brigade using buckets and later a volunteer fire engine company, and finally, the formation of the Virginia City Fire Department in 1866.

By the end of 1864, Virginia City was no longer the wild town it was often reputed to be as a result of actions of the Vigilance Committee. The Organic Act of 1864 established the Territory of Montana, providing a basic government structure with a territorial governor, secretary, judges, a legislature, and a non-voting representative to the U.S. House of Representatives elected by the territory's citizens. The first Court of the Territory was held in Virginia City by Hezekiah L Hosmer, the first Chief Justice and the first Worshipful Master of Montana Lodge No. 2. Judge Hosmer announced that the vigilantes had served their purpose. During its first session in 1864-1865, the Montana Territory legislative assembly passed an act banning "the carrying of concealed deadly weapons" anywhere within the limits of any town in the territory.

Neil Howie was the first U.S. Deputy Marshal for Montana in 1865 and the second U.S. Marshal of Montana Territory in 1868. Howie was a member of Virginia City No. 1 and Morning Star No. 5. Between 1864 and 1868, Virginia City and others in the Montana Territory, saw rapid growth as a gold rush towns. During this time, Virginia City and the Territory faced the challenges of a volatile, growing frontier community where law enforcement was often handled by the Miners Court and Vigilance Committees. In the years 1867 and 1868, Captain Lee was appointed as the Deputy U.S. Marshal for the 1st Judicial District of Montana Territory by U.S. Marshal Neil Howie. In the Montana Territory from 1865 to 1889, there were 178 U.S. Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals (including temporary and special assignments), and many other law enforcement officers to protect the peace.

Virginia City became the territorial capital from 1865 through 1875 and the Madison County seat. Here, the first newspaper and public school in Montana were established. The same year, the Masonic brethren of Virginia City Lodge No. 1, commissioned Brother Lee to craft two elegant pins as tokens of gratitude for the wives of Brother Paris Pfouts and J. W. Russell, in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the craft. Additionally, Brother Luther Lee fashioned a splendid Star for Judge G. G. Bissell. Brother Lee was instrumental in the growth of Masonry in Virginia City and the surrounding area. He played a key role in securing a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Colorado on April 4, 1865, which led to the establishment of Montana Lodge U. D., later renamed Montana Lodge No. 9 of Colorado. Recognizing further needs, he also helped secure a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Illinois to establish another lodge in the Montana Territory. This resulted in the formation of Nevada City Lodge U. D. on August 28, 1865.

On January 24 to the 29th, 1866, masters and wardens from Virginia City Lodge No. 43 of Kansas, Montana Lodge No. 9 of Colorado, and Helena City Lodge No. 10 of Colorado called for a meeting to organize a Grand Lodge for the Territory, which was held in the Masonic Temple located above Paris Pfouts and Samuel Russell's store. During that first meeting, Brother Lee was the Senior Warden of Montana Lodge No.2 and was assigned as recording Secretary. He was elected Grand Treasurer and was reelected in October 1866. A significant decision was made during the formation of the Grand Lodge, which was made on the motion of Grand Treasurer Lee. It was resolved that the Grand Lodge approve the Charters now held by the three organizing lodges and that they be granted them by this Grand Lodge new charters, which would recognize Virginia City as No. 1, Montana as No.2, and Helena as No. 3.

During this period in Virginia City, gold dust was the accepted currency, while greenbacks were generally only used by merchants to send back to the States for purchasing goods, as they were heavily discounted when received. At the first Grand Lodge meeting, a motion by R. W. Grand Treasurer Lee was approved, declaring that United States treasury notes, or "greenbacks," would be accepted for all fees and dues set by the constitution and bylaws for both the Grand Lodge and subordinate Lodges.

At the second Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge in October 1866, several brothers had been selected to demonstrate the ritual work before the Grand Lodge: Brother L. C. Lee from Montana No. 2, Brother Sol Star from Virginia City No. 1, Brother Oliver P. Raymond from Virginia City No. 1, and Brother Isaac Alden from Nevada No. 4. This was followed by a motion presented by R. W. Brother Lee that was approved, which stipulated that subordinate lodges within this jurisdiction would conform to the work as exemplified and approved by the Grand Lodge, taught by the Grand Lecturer, with the Grand Master's approval.

Luther C. Lee was known for his independence and likability, performing his duties without being influenced by any group or faction. He was well regarded by the citizens of the city and his commitment to the community was evident; his character and track record were impeccable, and his capability to fulfill his responsibilities was unquestioned. As a citizen and law official, he worked diligently to establish order and uphold the law amidst the chaos of crime in the area. Lee was an honest, capable, and dedicated individual who strove for the peace and wellbeing of the city and its residents; he did so without seeking any personal gain. His commitment to law and order was unwavering, and he executed every trusted position he held with credit and



Capt. Luther C. Lee

honor. As a citizen of Virginia City, Lee served as Alderman for several years and was also the Chief of Police and Deputy US Marshal. In 1867, he ran for Mayor of Virginia City on the Independent Citizen's Ticket but did not win the election.

In July 1867, Lee relocated from Virginia City to Helena to manage the watch department at L. W. Stickney's Jewelry Store. Upon his arrival in Helena, he joined Morning Star Lodge No. 5. Brother Lee had been appointed Grand Lecturer; he did not attend the 1868 Session or any subsequent meetings.

In late 1868, Capt. Lee left the Montana Territory for Denver, Colorado. By March 1869, Luther C. Lee was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he supplied ranchers with fruit trees and found success in this business.

In 1870, Lee was working again as a jeweler in Santa Fe but took on additional roles such as an authorized agent for the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper and the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1872, he began selling construction and finishing materials. He was also an active member of Santa Fe Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar.

On returning to Aurora, Illinois, Lee resumed his masonic activities, including with Aurora Chapter No. 22 R.A.M. and Aurora Commandery No. 22, Knights Templar. Luther married Fannie F. Jackson in Aurora on January 23, 1878.

Brother Luther C. Lee departed this life on January 27, 1886, in Aurora, Illinois, succumbing to a cerebrovascular accident at the age of 58. His funeral service was held at the Episcopal Church and were conducted with solemn dignity by the Aurora Commandery No. 22, Knights Templar, a group to which he was a devoted member. His final resting place is at Aurora Cemetery in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois.

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All newspaper references can be found at (<https://www.newspapers.com>)



## Welcome New Entered Apprentices

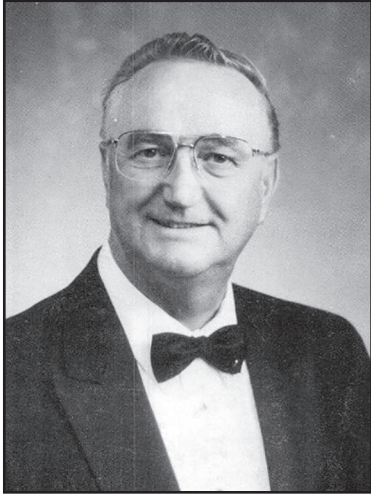


Helena Lodge No. 3 was pleased to welcome Deer Lodge No. 14 and Ruby Lodge No. 36 to Helena No. 3 to confer Entered Apprentice degrees.



In a feat of logistical wizardry, Brother Chris Cavazos and his team of Brothers conjured up a furniture arrangement worthy of Thursday's kick-off BBQ! Kudos to Brother Daniel Gardiner for granting access to the storage sanctuary.

**LEROY JACOB HAGEN**  
**M. W. GRAND MASTER 1994-1995**  
**1939 - 2025**



Missoula - LeRoy Jacob Hagen (85) passed away at Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, MT on May 7, 2025. Born in Miles City, MT to Jacob & Emma (Moos) Schmitt and one-year-old sister Frances on May 13, 1939. The family moved to Shelby, Montana, on December 6, 1941, and woke up the next morning to the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. His father worked at a dairy in Shelby, and one Sunday morning, when LeRoy was 3, his dad went to feed the cattle before church and never returned, having been fatally gored by a bull. Later, Emma married Alvin M. Hagen, who then adopted both children, and they changed their last names to Hagen. LeRoy's childhood years were spent between their house in town and on the farm 20 miles northeast of Shelby. After graduating from Shelby High School, he attended Montana State University for a year. Around that time, he went to a basketball game in Conrad and met Virginia Venetz. They began courting and continued dating while she attended Northern Montana College in Havre, and he served in the military, stationed at Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. They married in Conrad, MT, on April 29, 1962. Virginia joined him in Biloxi shortly after (having completed her teaching degree in 3 years). Their son, Lance, was born on February 10, 1965. LeRoy trained in ground radio repair and then became an instructor. Having been honorably

discharged from the Air Force, they moved back to Shelby, working the farm with their parents, and later became a Deputy Sheriff and Under Sheriff of Toole County. Their family grew with daughter Sherri born March 8, 1967, and daughter Cristy born September 5, 1970.

He then had an opportunity to become an instructor at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, so they moved to Bozeman, where daughter Tana completed the family on May 1, 1975. They returned to take over the farm in 1979, and he and Virginia worked side-by-side until retiring in 2006. While retired, they enjoyed being full-time RVers; spending winters in Parker, Arizona, and summers in Montana. LeRoy was tirelessly devoted to Virginia while she went through 17 years of cancer treatments and other health issues. They were joined at the hip their entire marriage, and when she passed away (2016), he had to learn how to live without her; an incredibly difficult task for him and the rest of the family to do. He moved to Anaconda to be close to his youngest grandkids, and when they moved to Missoula in 2019, he followed; most recently enjoying living at The Village Senior Residence. He also enjoyed playing golf and cards, geo-caching, Jeeping with friends, and creating pastel drawings and oil paintings. Though he said he just dabbled in art, he was always pleased when asked to display some of his pieces for others to enjoy.

Brother Hagen was a member of the Shelby Masonic Lodge No. 143, where he served as Worshipful Master. He also served as Worshipful Grand Master for Masonic Grand Lodge of Montana for 1994-1995. In February 1994, during the 67th Annual Conference of Grand Masters in North America held in Crystal City, Virginia, Brother Hagen was elected President of the Conference. He presided over the 1995 Conference of Grand Masters held in Fargo, North Dakota. Most Worshipful Grand Master Hagen was the first Grand Master from Montana to be elected President of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America. Brother Hagen was also a member of the York Rite Bodies. He received the degrees of the Royal Arch in Tyrean Chapter No. 34, Cut Bank, on November 2, 1984, and the Red Cross of Constantine in St. Peter's conclave in Helena in 1992. In April of 1995, he received the degrees of Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic Masons) in Cut Bank Council No. 11, Cut Bank; and was knighted in Golden West Commandery No. 24, Knights Templar, Cut Bank. Brother Hagen received the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Great Falls Consistory on October 26, 1991. He was a Noble in the Ancient and Accepted Order of the Mystic Shrine and a member of Algeria Temple, Helena, where he received the degree in 1985. He served as the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Arizona near the Grand Lodge of Montana. He was a member of the Order of Eastern Star of Shelby Chapter No. 113, where he was a Worthy Patron numerous times. He served as the Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Montana OES for the 2004-2005 term.

LeRoy is predeceased by wife, Virginia Louise (Venetz) Hagen, his parents Jacob Schmitt, Emma Moos Schmitt Hagen, and Alvin M. Hagen; Father and Mother-in-law, Vernon and Alice (Keil) Venetz; Sister Frances; Brothers-in-law Art Smith, Gideon Schmidt, Wayne Venetz, and Virgil Venetz; Sister-in-law Joyce Venetz, and Nephews Allen Smith and Dick Schmidt.

He is survived by his children Lance (Cindy) Hagen-Polson, MT, Sherri (Kurt) Sand of Afton, WY, Cris (Dana) Lund of Wylie, TX, and Tana (Shane) Taylor of Missoula, MT; grandchildren Rachael and Lake Hagen; Devin Sand, Lindsey (Cameron) Draney; Rian Parker (Andrea) Lund, Paige Lund; Dillon and Bridger Taylor; Sister-in-law Carol Schmidt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master LeRoy J. Hagen, having lived a life respected and died regretted, passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on May 7, 2025, at the age of 85. He has laid aside his working tools of life, and having wrought well and conscientiously; he will surely hear from Him who reviews each human life, no condemnation, no censure, no reproach, but those life-giving, soul-strengthening words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Condolences may be sent to: Tana Taylor, 5749 Prospect Drive, Missoula, MT 59808. LeRoy requested that memorial donations be given to the Montana Grand Chapter (Cancer Fund) c/o Fern Thompson, Grand Sec., PO Box 1226, Laurel, MT 59044, or any youth organization.



# HANDS OF THE WORKMAN

## Herbert F. Hosfeld Grand Master 1949-1950

Herbert F. Hosfeld was born in Tiffin, Ohio, on December 30, 1888. He was educated in the public schools of Tiffin and graduated from high school. Choosing Pharmacy as his vocation, he matriculated at the College of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1911 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After graduation, he followed his profession in Nevada and Butte, Montana, and later Spokane, Washington, where he was manager of the Owl Drug company for some years. Moving back to Montana, he had a drug store in Troy. In 1919, he acquired a drug store in Somers, Montana, where he made his home. He operated the drug store for 36 years, until 1950 when he moved to Helena and purchased the Helena Hotel, which he operated until his death.

Brother Herbert Hosfeld was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Kalispell Lodge No. 42 on July 19, 1923. He served his lodge as Worshipful Master in 1931 and was elected as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Montana for 1949 - 1950.

He received the Royal Arch degree in Kalispell Chapter No. 13 in April 1924 and served as High Priest in 1929 and as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Montana from June 1939-1940. He became a member of the Order of High Priesthood at Helena in 1929.

He was initiated in Tyrean Council, Royal and Select Masters at Missoula in 1927. He served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 1933 and as Grand Master of the Grand Council of Montana in 1948-1949. He was a charter member of the Order of the Silver Trowel and served as its Recorder.

He was Knighted in Cyrene Commandery No. 10 at Kalispell in December 1924 and served as Commander in 1928-1929 and as Grand Commander in the Grand Commandery of Montana in 1943-1944. He received the York Rite Cross of Honor.

At the time of his death, he was a member of the Grand Encampment Committee for the Advancement of the York Rite Masonry. He was Grand Recorder for the Grand Chapter, R.A.M., the Grand Commandery Knights Templar, and he was a Past Sovereign and Recorder of St. Pete Conclave Knights of Constantine at Helena.

He was initiated in the Algeria Shrine in May 1924 and served as Potentate in 1940. He was initiated in Adah



Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star in Kalispell, in June 1942, and served as Worthy Patron in 1928.

Grand Master Hosfeld called Special Communications for the following funerals: MWPGM James M. Charteris, MPGM Oscar A. Johnson, MWPGM Len Parmelee, and MWPGM Daniel J. Muri.

He also called Special Communications to lay the cornerstone of the new temple of Bozeman No.18 and for the cornerstone of the new Temple of Palestine Lodge No. 88.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Hosfeld presided over the 86th Annual Communication held in Missoula on August 15-16, 1950. In 1950, there were 135 active Chartered Lodges and 23,682 members. In 2025, there are 74 Lodges and 3,074 members.

It was said of Herb Hosfeld that he did not fit in any mold but had a personality and drive that was all his own. His vocation was Pharmacy - but his avocation was Masonry. He loved it in all its branches. He was never long a stranger in any group and was known in Masonic circles nationwide. He has been called from labor to rest, but he lives in the record of his achievements and the memory of all who knew him.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Herbert Hosfeld passed to the Celestial Lodge above on September 22, 1956. Funeral services were held at the Consistory Temple. The Grand Lodge of Montana conducted the services with Lyman Bennet presiding as Grand Master. Interment was held at Forestvale Cemetery, Helena, Montana.



# Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Montana 2025-2026



## Grand Officers for 2025-2026

WGM – Janet Holland (27/124)  
WGP – Cliff Brophy (50)  
AGM – Jennifer Chabotte (7)  
AGP – Robert Anderson (1/3)  
Gr. Sec. – Fern Thompson (1/50)  
Gr. Treas. – Shirley Kronebusch (86)  
Gr. Conductress – Linda Knight (132)  
AGC - Rebecca Shay (44/50)  
Gr. Chap – Karen Lorenz (1/3)

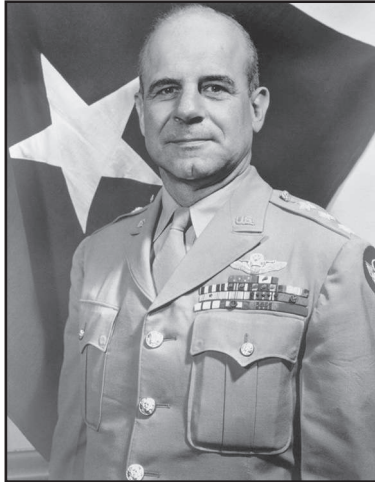
Gr. Marshal – Jan Lambert (116)  
Gr. Organist – Karen Kuhar (116/50)  
Gr. Adah – Betty Ames (50)  
Gr. Ruth – Mary Beth Aasterud (32)  
Gr. Esther – Kareene Butler (116/101/65)  
Gr. Martha – Kathy Damuth (49)  
Gr. Electa – Vickie Maurer (86/10)  
Gr. Warder – Casey Thompson (1/27)  
Gr. Sentinel – James Manning (13)





# JIMMY DOOLITTLE

When Tom Brokaw coined the phrase, "The Greatest Generation" describing the generation that fought and experienced World War II, he certainly hit the proverbial "nail on the head". Perhaps one of the more notable American military figures was Jimmy Doolittle. Doolittle was born in California in 1896 and completed 3 years of college before dropping out to become a cadet pilot with the Army Signal Corp Reserve in October 1917. Although he never was sent to Europe during World War I, he was commissioned as a lieutenant and served the next 10 years in the Army as a pilot.



Following the war, he made many pioneering flights and won trophies from nearly all the major air races. In 1922 he made the first solo coast-to-coast air flight and was awarded his first Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1923 he was sent to MIT for 2 years to earn a Master's Degree in Aeronautics. He finished that degree in 1 year and completed a Doctorate Degree in Aeronautics the following year. During the balance of the 1920's he continued to fly in air races and was sent to South America to perform flight demonstrations for Curtiss Aviation. In 1930 he resigned his commission to work for Shell Oil, where he continued to push aeronautic development in flight. In addition, he encouraged lab development of high octane aviation gas and increased production in advance-of-demand for the emerging commercial air business.

In July 1940 he returned to active duty and was commissioned a major in the Army. Following Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt proposed a quick retaliation against the Japanese. He wanted to send a message to the Japanese that war with the U.S. was more than they anticipated and he needed a positive public relations event to encourage Americans after the disaster at Pearl Harbor. A plan was finally devised to send Army B-25 bombers from Navy Aircraft Carriers in the western Pacific to bomb Japanese targets before flying on to China. Lt. General Hap Arnold, head of the Army Air Corp, had known Doolittle for years and selected him to lead the "Raid on Tokyo", April 18, 1942, promoting him to Lt. Colonel. The raid was a success and Doolittle and 63 of the other fliers who bombed Japan were able to continue on to China. Back in the U.S. Doolittle was hailed as a hero and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (all other crewmen were awarded Silver Stars), and was promoted to Brigadier General.

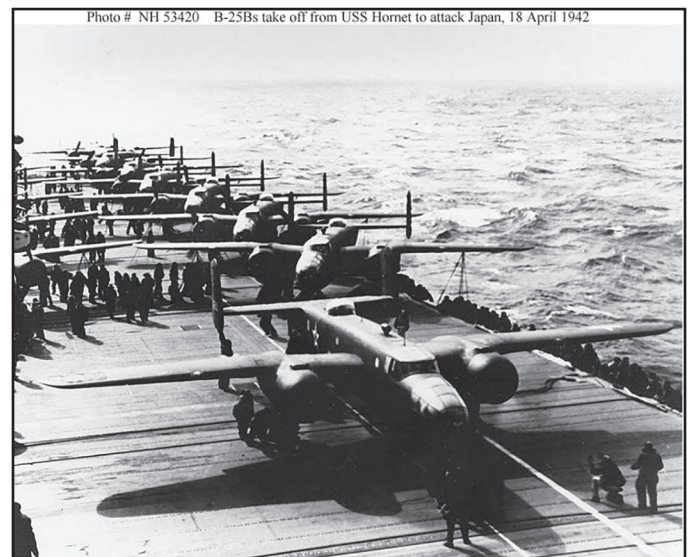
Following a short stint with the 8 th Air Force in England (a unit of bombers), Doolittle became the commanding general of the 12 th Air Force in North Africa. Later, he was named the commanding general of the 15 th Air Force in Italy and elevated to Major General. In January 1944 he returned to England to take command of the 8 th Air Force there, ultimately leaving active duty in 1946 as a Lt. General.

While Doolittle's military experiences set him among the most distinguished officers in World War II, he continued to serve on a number of Presidential appointments, boards, and achieved notable positions: 1 st President of the Air Force Association in 1947; special assistant to the Air Force Chief of Staff on scientific matters relating to the ballistic missile and space programs; the Congressional Aviation Policy Board; and member of the advisory board of the National Air Museum at the Smithsonian Institute. In addition to serving these appointments, he worked for Shell Oil and was Chairman of the Board for Space Technology Labs and TRW Systems. He

retired in 1969 at age 73. In 1985, he was promoted to 4 Star General following President Reagan's nomination and confirmation by the Senate. In 1989, President George H. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor.

Doolittle was not your average general. During his flying career he flew 10,000 hours in every type of plane in commands in which he was assigned. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing throughout his life. He was often called upon by government and commercial entities because of his aviation experience and scientific knowledge. Doolittle died at age 96 in September, 1993.

As you might suspect, Doolittle was a Master Mason having been raised in Norwalk Lodge No. 315 in Southern California. He was a 33 rd Degree Scottish Rite and was enshrined in the Supreme Temple of Architects Hall in the House of the Temple in Washington D.C., Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction.



By: Chuck Clampitt, MT Etna No. 333, Indiana

## Montana Masonic Foundation School Grant Program Chinook High School



David Sageser, Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Montana AF&AM, presented checks from the Montana Masonic Foundation to two groups at the Chinook High School. David presented a check for \$766.95 to Alicia Noel, music director, and Carter Rayburn, music student, for some new drums for the music department. The second check for \$1200 to Stella & Garald Llante, educators, for the Academic Olympics

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## Helena No. 3 Welcomes Two New Entered Apprentices

Sam Whitehead, Grand Master on the right, attended the Entered Apprentice degrees of Nick Mills and Chris Moratelli, two of Sam's coworkers at the Fort Harrison VA Medical Center.



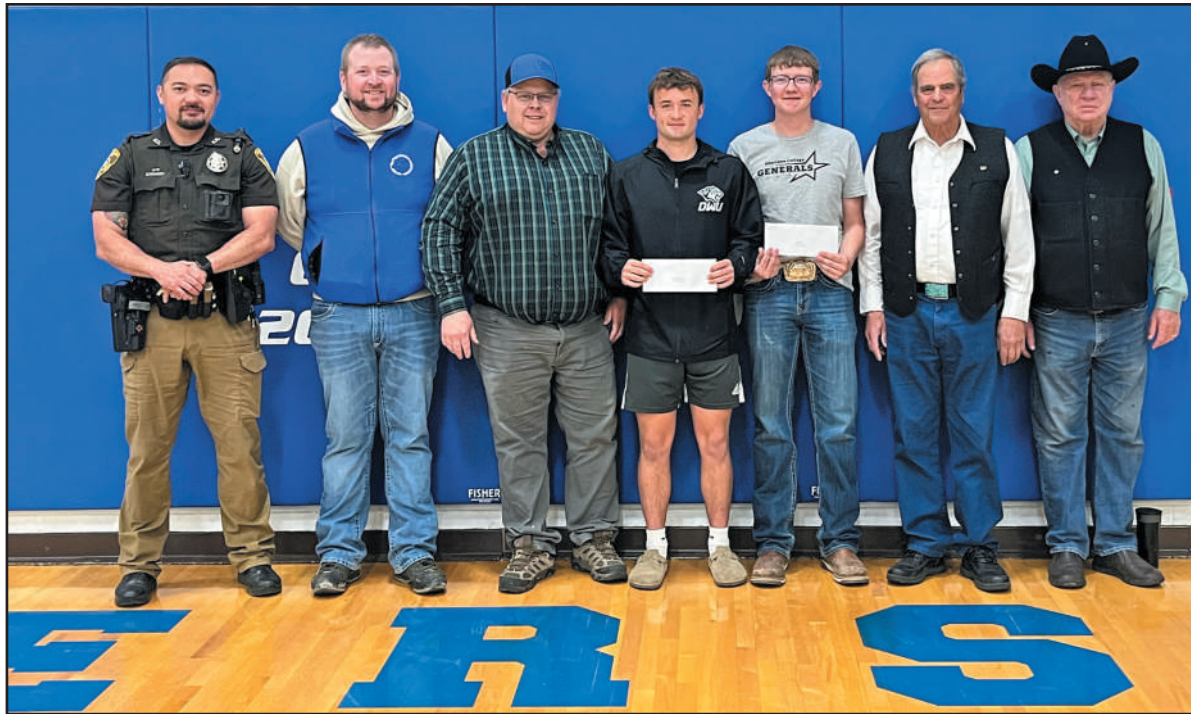


## **Alberton Public School Receives Educational Grant From The Montana Masonic Foundation**



Back L-R: Sam Whitehead, MW Grand Master, and Don M. Powell, a Director of the Montana Masonic Foundation and Sr. Gr. Warden, deliver a Montana Masonic Foundation grant check to Alberton Public School.

## **Doric Lodge No. 53 Presents Scholarships to Sweet Grass High School**



Doric Lodge No. 53 presents \$25,000 in scholarships to 11 Sweet Grass High School seniors and past graduates (Wednesday, May 7, 2025). Left to right: WB Jason Ferguson, Bro. Tracy Zuhoski, WB Brian Engle, HS senior recipients John Hasbrook & Gage Talkington, WB Dave Hodges, WM Geoff Goble.

**DAVID R, DUNBAR**  
**1981 - 2025**  
**WORSHIPFUL GRAND TYLER 2024-2025**



David was born on May 24, 1981, and the Lord needed him back on his birthday; May 24, 2025. He was the light of his family for 44 short years. He faced many hard times and struggles in those years without any complaints. He was never without a smile to share. Kind to everyone. David would go out of his way to make life easier for others, even strangers.

One of his greatest joys in life was camping with family at the lake or family game nights with as many people as possible. He loved his younger cousins and made connections they will all remember. Another joy was learning to cook favorite family recipes with his Mom and family cookie day before Christmas. He was his Dad's right hand. He truly looked out for all of us his family. David was always trying to push his siblings; Megan and Adam, to be better, do better, do more. He wanted great things for everyone.

David attended Bozeman schools and graduated High School in 2000 and from Montana State University in 2008. He was employee of the year in 2009 for MSU Library Services. He worked to help start the Faculty Union and the Streamline Bus during his time at MSU. While in Helena, he worked for the State of Montana, starting with the Department of Environmental Quality, and then moved on to the Department of Labor and Industry and most recently with the Department of Administration in the Information Technology bureau.

David is survived by his family, Jean, Joel, Adam, Megan, and a large extended family. He was preceded in death by both sets of grandparents: Helena and Erwin Dunbar, John and Virginia Bodak, aunt Nita Gendrow and Uncle Steve Bodak.

Brother David R. Dunbar received his Masonic Degrees in Gallatin Lodge No. 6, Bozeman, Montana: Initiated on June 21, 2000; Passed on August 22, 2000, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on November 22, 2000. He served as Worshipful Master of Gallatin Lodge No. 6 in 2005; Lodge Secretary in 2008. He served as Assistant Secretary in 2016. He affiliated as a dual member with Helena Lodge No. 3 on April 6, 2015. He served as Secretary of Helena Lodge No. 3 in 2015. He served as Worshipful Master of Helena No. 3 in 2018, 2019 and 2020. He served as Secretary of Helena No. 3 in 2023 and 2024.

Worshipful Brother David Dunbar served on the Grand Lodge Officer line as Grand Historian in 2015. In 2022, he served as Grand Organist. In 2024-2025, he served as Grand Tyler.

Many people have a "David story" and fond memories of a very kind Brother. David would always say yes. It didn't matter if it was to help a brother with an emergency move, or to walk someone's cat back home, or to drive up to MacDonald Pass to help pull a car out of a snow drift. He would show up and support others with their 'wins' or cheer them on. For years, he would arrive before and after the annual meeting to assist with the setup and takedown of sessions, without being asked, and always with a smile. He was always there to lend a hand to others. He was well known for being always willing to work and accomplish various tasks, as well as for his ability to show kindness and assist others. David possessed a heart of gold and was a friend who will be missed.

Worshipful Brother David R. Dunbar, having lived a life respected and died regretted, passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on May 25, 2025, at the age of 44. He has laid aside his working tools of life, and having wrought well and conscientiously; he will surely hear from Him who reviews each human life, no condemnation, no censure, no reproach, but those life-giving, soul-strengthening words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, June 25th at 11 A.M. at Holy Rosary Catholic Church. A separate Masonic memorial service will be held later this summer.



## George A "Butch" Hall Presented his 50-year Membership Award During The 159th Annual Communication



W. Brother Hall received his Masonic Degrees in Ashlar Lodge No. 29: Initiated on April 11, 1975; Passed on May 9, 1975; and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on June 6, 1975.

Brother Hall, you stood before the altar of Freemasonry. It is emblematical of that special place where some fifty years ago you stood as the youngest Entered Apprentice and were first instructed in the ancient mysteries of our Craft. You were presented with a lambskin apron and informed that it was the emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. You labored among us as an Entered Apprentice, were passed on to the ranks of Fellowcraft, where you received further instruction. Here you were first taught how to read and later draw our designs upon your trestle board and in due time were raised to the sublime degree and have served the Craft for many years as a Master Mason.

### Brother Blake Mackin Receives Lewis Jewel



On April 14, Billings Lodge No. 113 WM. Joe Roy bestowed the Lewis Jewel on Bro. Blake Mackin, almost 100 years old, and his son Bill Mackin.

### Billings Lodge No. 113 Receives 8-Ball Trophy



James Kuhr, SW of Stillwater Lodge No. 62, handed off the Beartooth District's "8-Ball Trophy" to WM Joe Roy of Billings Lodge No. 113 on April 14.



## Rocky Mountain District Installation Of Officers for 2025-2026



Rocky Mountain Masonic District, Officer Installation- Monday, June 30, 2025, at Helena.  
Helena No. 3; Deer No. 14; Boulder-Basin No. 41 and Ottawa No. 51.



### **Russ Dorsey New Deputy Member of the ISC of DeMolay for Montana**

Meet the newest Deputy Member of the International Supreme Council from Montana. Thank you, Dad Russ Dorsey, for your hard work and continued dedication to Montana DeMolay and DeMolay International! Brother Russ is a member of Gallatin Lodge No. 6.





# ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONIC CONFERENCE

Boise, Idaho - July 17,18 & 19, 2025



Representatives from various member jurisdictions attended a degree at Meridian Lodge No. 47 the evening before the RMMC opening.







### The Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference (RMMC)

The Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference (RMMC) was formed on February 22, 1952. Initially, it was comprised of the following Jurisdictions: Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. The first meeting of the RMMC was held in Casper, Wyoming on July 11-12, 1952.

Over the years the RMMC expanded its membership to add Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Nebraska.

The sitting Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the host jurisdiction serve as the President and Secretary of the Conference; the Vice President is the officer who will be Grand Master of the host jurisdiction the following year. The official delegates and voting members of the Conference are composed of the elective officers of the respective Grand Lodges. However, any Master Mason from the member jurisdiction or one that is in amity with the member jurisdictions is welcome to attend.





## INSTALLATION OF MWGM JASON SMITH AND THE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026



Jason Smith being installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Montana by PGM Lewie Fletcher.



Wade Riden being installed as RW Senior Grand Warden by PGM David Schantz the Installing Marshal.



Grand Master Smith introduced his wife, Karla Smith, to present flowers to Juile Whitehead.



Max Knodel, Grand Organist; MWGM Smith; Myles Stinnett, Grand Tyler.





PGM Lewie Fletcher welcomes MWGM Smith to the Grand East.



Most Worshipful Grand Master of Mason in Montana, Jason Smith.



Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M. Of Montana  
Grand Officers for 2025-2026



## Ladies Event During the Annual Communication



During the Annual Communication the ladies went to Hammer & Stain and had a wonderful time sign painting.

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## Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant For Dutton & Brady School District



The Dutton/Brady School District received an educational grant check, presented by Dennis DeForest, Great Falls District Officer, on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

## GRAND MASTER JASON SMITH IN SERVICE DAY AT GRAND LODGE OFFICE



The Grand Master's administrative day, or In-Service day, is when the Grand Master of our Grand Lodge conducts administrative activities and responsibilities while in the Grand Lodge Office. As Grand Master, he is the presiding officer of a Grand Lodge and the supreme authority of our jurisdiction. His duties include making decisions to run the jurisdiction and overseeing all lodges. The Grand Master is the guardian of Masonic ritual and tradition within the jurisdiction and is responsible for making decisions to run the jurisdiction in consultation with the Executive Officers. He files and reviews reports and documents related to his official acts and actions within the jurisdiction and consults with the Grand Secretary. Among his many duties, the Grand Master may grant dispensations for various Masonic activities, appoint and evaluate Lodge Instructors who assist the lodges, and ensure that activities within the jurisdiction comply with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. In addition, he has the time to review and sign documentation, as well as sign birthday cards. The time is available for him to either attend a Lodge meeting or conduct a meeting with the Grand Lodge Officers. As time goes on, our Grand Masters are recognizing the value of conducting administrative work at the Grand Lodge Office.





## Ulm Public Schools Received an Educational Grant from Montana Masonic Foundation



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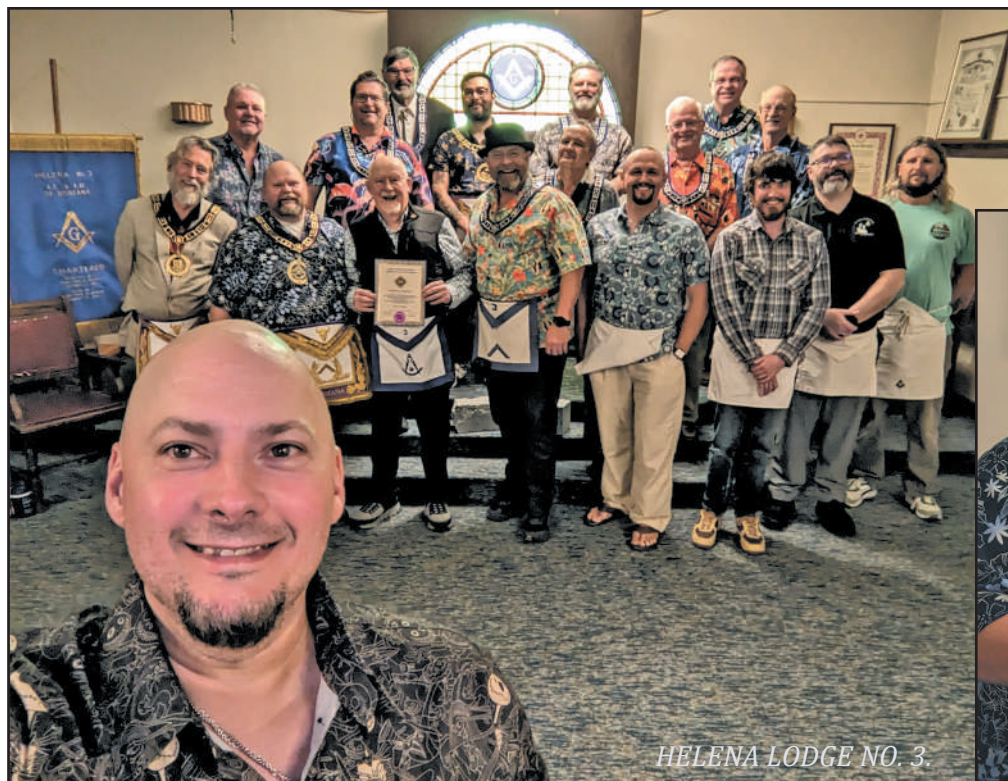
## Bowling with Sentinel No. 155



Bowling night with Sentinel Lodge No. 155. What a great idea for a Grand Master visit.



## HELENA LODGE NO. 3 HAWAIIAN SHIRT NIGHT & 50-YEAR AWARD BROTHER LEE CHAMBERS



Brother Chambers received his Masonic Degrees at West Gate No. 27 Initiated October 18, 1974, Passed on January 22, 1974, and Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on March 14, 1975. He served as Worshipful Master of Helena No. 3 in 2016.

## Job's Daughters Bethel No. 3 Billings



Bethel #3 of Billings, MT of Job's Daughters International added four new members to the Bethel on Monday, June 9th.



## Montana Masonic Foundation Educational Grant For Dutton & Brady School District



The Dutton/Brady School District received an educational grant check, presented by Dennis DeForest, Great Falls District Officer, on behalf of the Montana Masonic Foundation.

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## Montana Masonic Foundation Grant to the Great Falls Empowerment Center



Great Falls Empowerment Center receives a Grant from the Montana Masonic Foundation, 27 Mar 2025.



## Kalispell No. 42 School Scholarship Award



Kalispell No. 42 presented scholarships at the Glacier High School scholarship awards night. Pictured right to left: John Heston, Senior Grand Deacon, Trevor Cockerill (awarded \$500.00), WM Christopher Turner, Kalispell Lodge No. 42.



Glacier High School scholarship awards night. Pictured left to right - John Heston, Senior Grand Deacon, Luke Nickunen (\$500.00 scholarship), WM Christopher Turner, Kalispell Lodge No. 42.

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## Grand Master At Missoula Lodge No. 13



GM Whitehead visited Missoula Lodge No. 13; 20 members were present, with four FellowCraft in attendance.





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WHAT WE SEE!**

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Museum*

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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)





## **Choteau Lodge No. 44 Welcomes New Entered Apprentice**



Choteau Lodge No. 44, EA Degree conducted at the Hall of Conrad No. 80.

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## **Montana Masonic Foundation Grant Presentation to the Montana State School Deaf and Blind**





## A group of approximately 12 men are posed for a group photo in a room with light-colored walls. The men are dressed in formal or semi-formal attire, including suits, blazers, and cowboy hats. Several of the men are wearing aprons; the aprons on the far left and center-left are white with gold trim and feature a logo with the word 'MONTANA' below it. The man in the center-right is wearing a grey blazer over a patterned shirt and a cowboy hat. The man on the far right is wearing a dark suit and a cross necklace. On the wall behind them, a large, ornate letter 'G' is mounted. A framed document is visible on the wall to the left.



2025 Tri-Jurisdictional  
Grand Master's Outdoor Roaming Lodge  
Havre Montana  
September 19-21

- This will be a weekend full of events. This years Tri-Jurisdictional coincides with Havre Festival Days. Many community events will be taking place, Quilt Show, Craft Fair, Farmers Market, Saturday morning parade, and many more.
- The Friday evening dinner. will include a cash bar and entertainment.
- Saturday morning Festival Days Parade
- Saturday afternoon will be a Table Lodge with Toasts and Fellowship. This table lodge will take place in Beaver Creek Park, South of Havre. A limited quantity of toasting cannons will be available. There will be a lunch for the Ladies at The Wild Fig in Havre and a tour of Fort Assiniboine.
- Saturday Evening there will be a no host mixer and dinner at the Havre Elk's.
- Sunday Morning, Breakfast Buffett, Golf, and Travel Blessing.

Note: There are a limited quantity of camp sites available at the Park, please contact the Secretary for information.

Return this form to the following address prior to August 30th

Tri-Jurisdictional  
C/O: Havre Lodge 55  
P.O. Box 2533  
Havre, MT 59501-2533  
406.262.4831

For Alternate Payment please  
contact Havre Lodge Secretary  
mt55afam@gmail.com



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday**

Evening Dinner, Potato, Vegetable, Salad Bar, and Desert.

12 oz. Ribeye Steak \_\_\_\_\_

Panko Shrimp \_\_\_\_\_

Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Alfredo (no Potato) \_\_\_\_\_

\$40 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday**

Table Lodge in the Park

Burgers and Brats, Cole Slaw, Cowboy Beans, Chips, Cookies, Water

\$30 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Lunch

From the menu pay as you go (average meal with wine \$35)

Fort Assiniboine Tour \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Mixer and dinner (Freewill donation) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday**

Breakfast Buffet \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

9 holes golf with cart \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Polo Shirt with Tri Logo \_\_\_\_\_

\$35 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X \_\_\_\_\_

Toasting Cannon \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_



## Lodging

Best Western Plus Great Northern Inn  
1345 First Street  
Havre, MT 59501  
406.265.4200

Double Queen \$135 plus tax per night  
King \$125 plus tax per night  
Room block under Masons

Best Western Plus Havre Inn and Suites  
1425 US Highway 2  
Havre, MT 59501  
406.265.2888

Queen or King \$135 plus tax per night  
Room block under Masons

Siesta Motel  
600 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Havre, Montana 59501  
406.265.5864

Double Queen \$75 plus tax per night  
Room block under Masons

AmericInn by Wyndham  
2520 US Highway 2 West  
Havre, MT 59501  
406.395.5000

Quality Inn  
601 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Havre, MT 59501  
406.564.1145

Tri-Jurisdictional  
Registration Form  
September 19, 20, 21, 2025  
Havre, Montana



### Trinity Lodge No. 152 Scholarship Presentation



Trinity No. 152 at the Flathead High School scholarship awards ceremony. Presenting a \$500.00 scholarship to Nazar Shostak. Pictured left to right: John Heston, Senior Grand Deacon. Nazar Shostak scholarship winner. And WB Daniel Wills, Secretary of Trinity No. 152.

### Deer No. 14 Bikes for Books



### Flint Creek No. 11 and Ruby Lodge No. 36 Bikes for Books



Flint Creek No. 11 and Ruby Lodge No. 36, handing out bikes for books to the following schools: Drummond, Hall, & Philipsburg. Pictured are Tom Burdan, Dan Graybeal, & Ron Wetsch.



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