

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

TIMELY TOPICS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 137th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE A., F. & A. M. OF WYOMING

August 18, 2011

(To Be Read In All Wyoming Constituent Lodges Section 352 Wyoming Code)

The Holiday Inn Hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming was the site of the 137th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming. Registration began at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday August 7th and continued until 4:00 p.m. opening again at 7:00 a.m. on Monday August 8th. Introductions at the Public Opening were conducted by Past Grand Master Gary D. Skillern. The 137th Annual Communication was opened in ample form at 10:00 a.m. Most Worshipful Grand Master John L. Farmer presiding in the East. The Election of the 2011 – 2012 Grand Lodge Officers was held at 11:15 a.m., the following individuals were elected to serve for the 2011 – 2012 year:

Allen L. Pierce (10) (*Elected at the 136th Annual Communication*)..... **Grand Master**
Clarence J. Vranish (4).....**Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master Elect**
William D. Townsend III (13/38).....**Senior Grand Warden**
Richard N. Lewis (16) **Junior Grand Warden**
Darwin D. Pace, PGM (41)..... **Grand Treasurer**
Philip G. Buchholz, PGM (14) **Grand Secretary**

Installation of 2011 - 2012 Grand Lodge Officers, at 4:00 p.m. Monday August 8, 2011:

Installing Grand Master..... **Ronald E. Triggs, PGM (1)**
Installing Grand Secretary..... **Philip G. Buchholz, PGM (14)**
Installing Grand Chaplain **Bryce E. Lundell, PGM (1)**
Installing Grand Marshal **Ernest J. Goppert Jr, PGM (21)**
Assistant Installing Grand Marshal..... **George C. Smith, PGM (10)**

Tuesday August 9, 2011, the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Wyoming 137th Annual Communication was called from Refreshment to Labor by Junior Grand Warden Vranish at 8:00 a.m. Grand Master Farmer presiding in the East.

The following resolutions were received and submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence and considered by the attending members at the 137th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Wyoming on Tuesday morning August 9, 2011.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

PASSED

Added paragraph below to section 227 of the Wyoming Masonic Code:

(e) Effective August 9, 2011 every lodge whether chartered or under dispensation with its annual returns shall make payment to the Grand Lodge of Wyoming an assessment in the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) for each Master Mason belonging to the lodge on June 30 of the reporting year to support the maintenance and operational expenses of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The proceeds of this assessment shall be paid to George Washington Masonic National Memorial by the Grand Lodge of Wyoming as soon as practical after receipt.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2

PASSED

Amended section 340 to read as follows:

Order of Business

Sec. 340. The order of business at each regular communication of a lodge is as follows, subject to change or modification by the Master at pleasure, save only that it shall adapted to a proper disposition of the business of the lodge:

- (a) Opening of the lodge.
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- (c) Introduction of Visitors and Special Guests
- (d) Reading of the minutes of the last regular and special communications.
- (e) Reading and referring of petitions.
- (f) Report of Investigating committees.
- (g) Balloting for candidates.
- (h) Proficiency examinations.
- (i) Reports of special or standing committees.
- (j) Reading of communications.
- (k) Reading of bills.
- (l) Unfinished business.
- (m) New business.
- (n) Masonic education.
- (o) Election of officers.
- (p) Sickness and distress.
- (q) Conferring degrees.
- (r) Closing of lodge.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

PASSED

Amended section 550 to read as follows:

When Degrees May Be Conferred and Candidate Proficiency

Sec. 550.

- (a) No degree in Masonry shall be conferred except at a regular or special communication of a lodge.
- (b) Candidate Proficiency; Proficiency requirements in the Grand Lodge of Wyoming shall be the responsibility and under the jurisdiction of each candidate's constituent lodge. An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall pass an examination on proficiency on each degree received before he can take the succeeding degree; the proficiency of candidates may consist of the time honored questions and answers appearing in the Grand Lodge Ritual, the First Section Lecture in each of the symbolic degrees, or by alternative methods devised by the local lodge.
- (c) Under no circumstance; however, shall a proficiency consist of less than the following minimum standards.
 - (1) Knowledge about and demonstration of all due guards, signs, words, and modes of recognition as revealed in the Wyoming Grand Lodge Ritual.
 - (2) A satisfactory recitation from memory of the obligation of each degree as revealed in the Wyoming Grand Lodge Ritual.

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Withdrawn by author

RESOLUTION NO. 5

PASSED

Added section 803 to the Wyoming Masonic Code, reads as follows:

Keeping the Grand Lodge Informed

Sec. 803. As it is the responsibility of the Grand Master to be aware at all times of the health of the Craft in this grand jurisdiction, it is therefore imperative that he should be aware of any and all issues which might adversely impact that health. In the event that it becomes known that a member of a lodge or a candidate going through the degree process within a lodge has been arrested for a felony and is awaiting trial, the lodge will notify the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary of the situation. The lodge will keep the Grand Master and Grand Secretary updated concerning the status of the legal action, particularly if it is felt that such action is going to result in a conviction and expulsion from the fraternity.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Withdrawn by author

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Withdrawn by author

RESOLUTION NO. 8

PASSED

Amended section 459 (b) (1) of the Wyoming Masonic Code to read as follows:

- (1) A duly constituted Youth Group as recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction in Section 11(c), Sovereignty and Jurisdiction

RESOLUTION NO. 9

PASSED

This resolution deleted the Standing Resolution adopted August 28, 1956, amended August 9, 2005, that states that constituent lodges may extend financial assistance to the Order of DeMolay and Job's Daughters and other recognized Masonic Youth Groups not to exceed Ten (10) percent of the total annual income received by said Lodge.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

FAILED

This resolution, if adopted as written, would change the time period for suspension for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) from two years to one year. It would also change the notification of the member under scrutiny for suspension from "by registered or certified mail" to "mail or E-mail to such member."

RESOLUTION NO. 11

FAILED

This resolution, if adopted as written, would prevent anyone who has been arrested, tried, and convicted of a felony, or has pleaded *nolo contendere* to the same from being considered for membership within this Grand Jurisdiction. Completion of the sentence imposed by the courts for such an act would not alter this disqualifying factor. If adopted, this resolution would have no effect on anyone's membership prior to the date of adoption of the resolution.

RESOLUTION 12

PASSED

Amended section 313 (a) to read as follows:

- (a) To hold at least one regular communication every month; provided, that upon a majority vote of the members present at a regular communication, the lodge may stand in recess no more than three months between June 30 and May 1. The months the lodge will stand in recess during the coming year shall be reported to the Grand Secretary with the Annual Reports in July each year. A regular communication may be held during such recess upon call of the Master and after seven days notice to all resident members.

RESOLUTION 13

PASSED

This resolution added "DeMolay International" to Section 11(c) it now reads as follows:

- (c) The following organizations are authorized by name to function in this Grand Jurisdiction: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; Grand Council of Cryptic Masons; Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons; Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; Royal Order of Jesters; National Sojourners; Order of the Red Cross of Constantine; The York Rite Sovereign College of North America; Knight of the York Cross of Honor; Allied Masonic Degrees; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; The Order of Nathan Hale; Grand Chapter of Order of Eastern Star; Grand Court of the Order of Amaranth; Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem; International Order of Job's Daughters; International Order of Rainbow Girls; Daughters of the Nile; Ladies Oriental Shrine; Social Order of Beauceant, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Rosicrucian Society of the United States; DeMolay International.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

Recognition of Grand Jurisdictions

The following Grand Jurisdictions were recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming approving the recommendations of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence and Recognition:

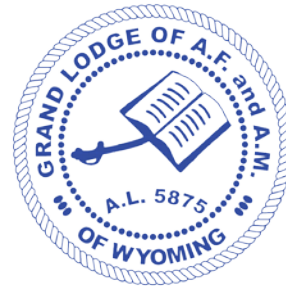
National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan
Grand Lodge of Ukraine
Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta
National Regular Grand Lodge of the Principality of Monaco
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina
Grand Lodge of Mauritius

Installing Grand Marshal, Past Grand Master Ernest J. Goppert, Jr proclaimed the 2011 – 2012 Grand Lodge Officers duly installed at 10:55 a.m. August 9, 2011.

The 137th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming closed in ample form at 11:20 a.m. August 9, 2011, peace and harmony prevailing.



Philip G Buchholz, PGM
Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Wyoming



138th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Wyoming will be held in Casper, Wyoming on August 12th, 13 & 14th, 2012.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2011 – 2012



— ELECTED —

Allen L. Pierce (10) (Jackie)..... Grand Master
Clarence J. Vranish (4) (Jean).....Deputy Grand Master
William D. Townsend III (13/38) (Kathy)..... Senior Grand Warden
Richard N. Lewis (16) (Charlyn)..... Junior Grand Warden
Darwin D. Pace, PGM (41)..... Grand Treasurer
Philip G. Buchholz, PGM (14) (Janet)..... Grand Secretary

— APPOINTED —

Michael B. Johnson (53) (Judy).....Senior Grand Deacon
T. Mark Mickelson (33/47/48) (Diane) Junior Grand Deacon
Jerry G. Orr (16/23) (Ellie) Senior Grand Steward
Mark S. Young (28) (Marci)..... Junior Grand Steward
John M. Krmpotich (12) (Jana)..... Grand Lecturer
J. D. “Dugan” Simmons (15) (Barbara)..... Grand Chaplain
Robert O. Finley (53) (Janna) Grand Orator
Wayne Long (16) (Donna)..... Grand Marshal
William G. Teter (23) (Darla)..... Grand Librarian
David D. Darlington (12) (Carolyn) Grand Historian
Regis J. Michelena (43) Grand Organist
Larry D. Dodge (29) Grand Instructor
William D. Patterson (29)..... Grand Director
James R. Young (10) (Nancy) Grand Tyler

— EMERITUS —

Robert B. Willis (38) (Kitty)..... Grand Organist Emeritus

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS

Names and addresses of District Instructors in accordance with Sec. 154 of the Code.

District No. 1: Harry Furrey (54)..... 3304 Morrison Ct
Cheyenne, WY 82001-1728..... (307) 220-0552
Lodges: 1, 11, 32, 40, 41, 54..... Harry.Furrey@warren.af.mil

District No. 2: David G. Hammond (3) 510 Kearney St
Laramie, WY 82070-389 (307) 760-4999
Lodges: 3, 5, 14, 50..... dhamms@wyoming.com

District No. 3: Charles F. Conroy (6) 660 Adams St
Green River, WY 82935-5216..... (307) 875-7600
Lodges: 4, 6, 12, 33..... conroychf@q.com

District No. 4: Thomas G. Needham (48)..... PO Box 7565
Jackson, WY 83002-7565..... (307) 739-9045
Lodges: 31, 47, 48..... needham.tom@gmail.com

District No. 5: John A. Boesch, Jr. (26)..... 102 W. Bell Ave.
Riverton, WY 82501-2821..... (307) 856-7306
Lodges: 2, 25, 26, 53..... johnb@a-bysystems.com

District No. 6: Donald L. York (10) 739 E Antelope Rd.
Douglas, WY 82633-9572 (307) 358-5421
Lodges: 10, 15, 22, 42, 56..... D_L_York@yahoo.com

District No. 7: Robert Melonuk (49)..... PO Box 61
Fort Laramie, WY 82212-0061..... (307) 837-2940
Lodges: 16, 23, 24, 29, 49..... robertmelonuk@yahoo.com

District No. 8: Kevin R. Sweeney (44) PO Box 33
Hulett, WY 82720-0033..... (307) 467-5706
Lodges: 9, 13, 38, 44.....

District No. 9: Kenneth R. Humphrey (8)..... 232 S Jefferson St.
Sheridan, WY 82801-4708 (307) 672-2276
Lodges: 7, 8, 28, 43..... wr7s@bresnan.net

District No. 10: James H. Whipps (46)..... PO Box 548
Basin, WY 82410-0548 (307) 568-2829
Lodges: 17, 20, 27, 46.....

District No. 11: Clyde Holtsman (30)..... 725 Lane 11 ½
Powell, WY 82435-8535 (307) 254-2488
Lodges: 21, 30, 35.....

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

EDUCATION COUNCILORS

Names and addresses of Education Councilors in accordance with Sec. 155 of the UCode.

District No. 1: Tim Forbis (1).....311 W Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001-4437.....(307) 634-9219
Lodges: 1, 11, 32, 40, 41, 54..... Htd@vcn.net

District No. 2: Ray Robertson (3)..... 1719 W. Hill Rd.
Laramie, WY 82072-1926(307) 745-7934
Lodges: 3, 5, 14, 50.....orgchem@bresnan.net

District No. 3: Dave Hutchinson (6).....625 Sundance Dr.
Green River, WY 82935-5552.....(307) 875-5490
Lodges: 4, 6, 12, 33.....dhutchin@wyoming.com

District No. 4: Christopher Schroeder (48).....PO Box 9193
Jackson, WY 83002-9193.....(307) 413-2798
Lodges: 31, 47, 48.....c.schroeder@bresnan.net

District No. 5: Otto Uecker (26)..... 1021 Wagon Cir.
Riverton, WY 82501-3285.....(307) 856-6589
Lodges: 2, 25, 26, 53.....Uecker1021@opitimum.net

District No. 6: Nathan Clark (15)1812 Laramie Ave
Casper, WY 82604-3008(307) 577-5759
Lodges: 10, 15, 22, 42, 56.....colgrin@hotmail.com

District No. 7: Lee Milner (29)..... 123 Arrowhead Rd
Torrington, WY 82240-9018 (307) 532-5291
Lodges: 16, 23, 24, 29, 49.....leemilner@embarqmail.com

District No. 8: Mike Hutchinson (13).....200 3rd Ave
Newcastle, WY 82701-5431(307) 746-2628
Lodges: 9, 13, 38, 44.....mihutch@rtconnect.net

District No. 9: Ken Thorpe (8).....1006 Laclede St
Sheridan, WY 82801-3148(307) 675-8885
Lodges: 7, 8, 28, 43.....ken@traken.us

District No. 10: Michael Messenger (17)PO Box 111
Thermopolis, WY 82443-0111(307) 864-5541
Lodges 17, 20, 27, 46.....mikemesjuro@rtconnect.net

District No. 11: David Hough (21)..... 1914 Ash Street
Cody, WY 82414-3919.....(307) 527-6645
Lodges: 21, 30, 35.....codydave7@yahoo.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

STANDING

JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE:

All Past Grand Masters

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Matthew Ramey (7) (Chairman) 1 year (307) 684-8932; Clarence J. Vranish (4) Deputy Grand Master (Co-Chairman); Jerry Orr Senior Grand Steward (16/23) 2 years; David Lingelbach (24) 3 years

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Mike Ito (42) (Chairman) 1 year; Matthew Ramey (7) 2 years; T. Mark Mickelson, Junior Grand Deacon (33/47/48) 3 years; Ex-Officio: Darwin Pace PGM (41) Grand Treasurer; William D. Townsend III, Senior Grand Warden (13/38)

CHARITY COMMITTEE:

Niels Rasmussen (22) (Chairman) 1 year (307) 436-8846; Tyler Vasco (29) 2 years; Jerome Kinner (10) 3 years; Ex-Officio: Mark S. Young, Junior Grand Steward (28)

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Thomas C. Harmon (28) (Chairman) 1 year (307) 686-4166; Kenneth Badget (21/30) 2 years; Ronald E. Siekert (41) 3 years; Ex-Officio: Richard N. Lewis, Junior Grand Warden (16)

APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE:

Donald A. Porter, PGM (13/3) (Chairman) 1 year (307-745-8544); Thomas R. Nance, PGM (8/53) 2 years; John L. Farmer, PGM (41) 3 years; Ex-Officio: Michael B. Johnson (53) Senior Grand Deacon

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENCE & RECOGNITION COMMITTEE:

A. Lee Hauber (44) (Chairman) 1 year; Jarrod D. Gose (38) 1 year; Nathan Clark (15) 1 year; Ex-officio Jerry G. Orr, Senior Grand Steward (16/23)

COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL DEAD:

Dugan Simmons (15), Grand Chaplain, 1 year

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Charles H. Moore PGM (40) (Chairman) 1 year (307) 632-2948; Michael James (10) 1 year; Danny R. King Jr (28) 1 year; David D. Darlington (12) 1 year; William H. Smith (54) 1 year; David Robblee (11) 1 year; Ex-Officio: T. Mark Mickelson (33/ 47/ 48) Junior Grand Deacon

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:

Richard N. Lewis (16) Junior Grand Warden

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION COORDINATOR:

Philip G. Buchholz, PGM (14) 1 year (307) 326-8346

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL VISITORS:

Robert J. Bigelow (1) (307) 638-4056; Robert M. Wagner (7) (307) 684-5712; Alfred E. Badgett (43) (307) 672-2824

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MASONIC MEMORIAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Philip G. Buchholz PGM (14) 1 year (307) 326-8346

WYOMING MASONIC CHIP:

Frank Probert (10) (Chairman) (307) 358-3940; Clarence E. Parrish (10); Darrel S. Butts (10)

Clarence J. Vranish (4) DGM is Ex-Officio to all Grand Lodge Committees

Grand Lodge Endowment Fund Board of Directors 2011 – 2012

Clarence Vranish, DGM – President
Brian Sandlian, PM– Vice President
George Anderson, PM – Secretary/Treasurer

Jerry G. Orr, SGS - Member
John Espy, PM - Member
Allen L. Pierce, GM- Member
Mark Mickelson, SGS – Member

Communications should be addressed to:

George H. Anderson, Secretary / Treasurer
Grand Lodge Endowment Fund
PO Box 21131
Cheyenne, WY 82003-7022
(307) 638-6998 -- ghanderson82009@yahoo.com

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

QUADRANTS

GRAND MASTER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

2011 – 2012 YEAR

NORTHWEST QUADRANT

William D. Townsend III, SGW

Lodges
7, 8, 17, 20, 21,
30, 35, 43, 46

NORTHEAST QUADRANT

Richard N. Lewis, JGW

Lodges
9, 10, 13, 15, 22,
24, 28, 38, 42, 44, 56

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT

Michael B. Johnson, SGD

Lodges
2, 4, 6, 12, 25, 26,
31, 33, 47, 48, 53

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

T. Mark Mickelson, JGD

Lodges
1, 3, 5, 11, 14, 16, 23,
29, 32, 40, 41, 49, 50, 54

2010 – 2011 Statement of Membership

Master Masons Reported 30 June 2010	3,899
Gains:	
Raised:	75
Affiliated	16
Reinstated	15
Plus Errors from last year	<u>0</u>
Total Gain	106
Losses:	
Dimitted	32
Died	114
Suspended NPD	71
Expelled	3
Minus Error from last year	<u>9</u>
Total Loss	229
Net Loss	123
Master Masons Reported 30 June 2011	3,776