
THE BILLBOARD

NOVEMBER 2024

For The Valley of Billings, Orient of Montana - Serving Eastern Montana Scottish Rite Members

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**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

NONE

Message from the Venerable Master



Greetings, Brethren!

On September 20-21, 2024, the Billings Valley Scottish Rite proudly initiated ten new brethren during the 194th Leroy Summers 32° KCCH Fall Reunion. These candidates were Jeffrey Anderson, Forrest Henderson, Kevin Hobson, Jose Maldonado, Ryan Rogers, Charles Rushing, Paul Ryan, Jason Sasse, John Smith and class president, Barry Collins. All were remarkably engaged during their class instruction and asked profound questions in search of further light in Masonry. We couldn't be happier to have these extraordinary gentlemen as new members of the Billings Valley, and I hope they valued the degree work as much as we enjoyed bringing it to them. Congratulations to our new brethren!

In all, the weekend was filled with close fellowship, delicious food, and invaluable instruction. It was also marked by what makes Scottish Rite Freemasonry so exceptionally rewarding, which is selfless service. In the Fall Reunion's case, this service was performed by several esteemed brethren who readily volunteered to fill in for degree parts at a moment's notice and without forewarning.

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(V.M. message continued from page 1)

Specifically, the brothers I would like to gratefully recognize are Jason Ascheman, Mike Capra, Robert Cauckwell, Lewie Fletcher, Tom Green, Jacob Hammersmith, Maxwell Knodel, Anthony Morse, Jason Smith and Sandy Stinnet. Without these brothers intrepidly stepping up and helping to perform parts due to unfortunate absences, the degrees would not have been performed as successfully as they were. On behalf of the Billings Valley and the Degree Chairmen, we owe these brothers a huge debt of gratitude and I would like to personally thank them.

Their actions are hardly surprising, though, when you consider the lessons they have learned from the Scottish Rite degrees we so dearly cherish. Namely, what comes to mind is the 15th Degree: Knight of the East, which is the first Degree of the Rose Croix. In it, we learn fidelity to obligations and perseverance of purpose under difficulties and discouragement.

The teachings of the degree are encapsulated in the quote, "The only true happiness is to learn, to advance, and to improve." This could not happen, the lesson continues, "unless we had commenced with error, ignorance, and imperfection." Albert Pike ends his commentary on this degree by saying, "We must pass through the darkness, to reach the light."

During the 194th Fall Reunion at the Billings Valley last month, there were two impressive lights that brightened our way. They were readily noticed, for we needed to look no further than within our lodge and classroom to see them. Holding those lights aloft were our new candidates seeking out what Freemasonry further has to offer, and by our supportive brethren eagerly volunteering to reveal that illumination to them.

With Masonic Regards!

Bro. John Hugdahl, 32°
Venerable Master
Billings Valley Scottish Rite



THE RITE CORNER

“Light: To-and-Fro”

David L. Nielsen, S.G.I.G. in
Montana

In Masonry, as well as in world religions, there is a fascination with the concept of Light. As a scientific matter, light is an electromagnetic radiation that travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second. Light from the sun takes 8 minutes, 17 seconds to travel to earth. Light, as we view it, is white, unless it is broken down into rays of colors, such as we see in rainbows or through prisms. There are three primary colors of light, green, red, and blue, which when combined are white.

Light to Masons is viewed metaphysically and not scientifically. The creation story in the Book of Genesis tells of the importance of light in proclaiming:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said- Let there be light; and there was light.”

From this text Masons believe that light was originally a gift from the Creator of the Universe, and that this new light was provided to overcome the darkness on the earth. The story is more than simply explanation of physical lighting of a barren earth; it is an allegory teaching us that the light of the Grand Architect of the Universe as shined on us conquers the darkness of evil. Light is symbolic of good, and darkness represents evil.

When we talk of receiving Masonic Light, what does this mean to each of us? Masonic Light might to some mean enlightenment to generally improve the quality of our lives and behaviors. Just as a prism separates white light into three primary colors, the Mason in receiving light may in the prism of his mind see wisdom, strength, and beauty. The poem, *The Three Great Pillars*, eloquently describes the meaning of these three:

(Continued on page 5)



Message from our Personal Representative

Our Unsung Heroes

As November unfolds, I would like to take a moment to honor the remarkable individuals who make a profound difference in the lives of cancer patients: our dedicated volunteer drivers. These unsung heroes selflessly give their time and effort, ensuring that those battling cancer can access the treatments they need.

Every week, countless patients depend on our volunteers to safely transport them to and from medical appointments. For many, driving is impossible, especially when faced with the physical and emotional toll of illness. Volunteer drivers alleviate that burden, providing not just rides but also comfort during a difficult time.

Their commitment goes beyond simply getting patients to their destinations. Each trip across town is an opportunity for connection, as drivers often lend a listening ear and a warm smile. For patients who may feel isolated in their fight against cancer, these moments of human connection can be incredibly uplifting.

In a month dedicated to giving thanks, let us celebrate our volunteer drivers who exemplify the values of the Scottish Rite. Their dedication not only enhances the quality of life for patients but also serves as a reminder of the impact we can have when we come together to support one another.

To all our volunteer drivers, thank you for your generosity, compassion, and time! Your contributions are invaluable, and you truly embody the spirit of gratitude this November. I look forward to breaking bread and acknowledging your service at our November stated dinner.

Fraternaly yours,
Sean

(S.G.I.G. message continued from page 3)

*Fair beyond e'en the midday sun;
Resplendent WISDOM—truth divine,
Whose lips pour knowledge, as rivers run,
Into the souls which do enshrine
--true FAITH*

*Virtue's STRENGTH, it has oft been said,
Ne'er abandons (though dark the night)
The aspirant with penitent head,
Who bows beneath its visions bright
--of HOPE*

*The Moral Sense and Reason are
The voice of BEAUTY; heed the call!
And grant your Brother help, aid, and care,
Who was laid low by setting maul
--with CHARITY*

Whatever "Masonic Light" means is for each brother to discover for himself. Just as a prism can separate white light into other colors, each brother can pick which meaning is most significant for him.

Individually discovering what Masonic Light is the first step in effectively using the meaning of that light in a person's life and behavior. The second step, and embarrassingly one that is equally important but overlooked, is spreading that acquired light to others. Sometimes we focus so much on acquiring Masonic Light, that we forget our obligation to pass it on to others. Otherwise, receiving light but not sharing it is like directing a laser beam into the black hole. It just goes onward but never reaches a goal. As another example is the Biblical lesson to not cover the light with a basket. For the good of light, whether directly from the Creator or indirectly from another, to be helpful and healing for other people, it must be shared and even enhanced in intensity.

What is encouraged is to discover what Masonic Light means to each of us and then to share that light. This is how Masonry works best--with divine light to-and-fro.

The Clinic is providing sponsorships to over 70 children. These children will benefit greatly having had speech/language therapy in the future of their lives. This all happens through the philanthropy of the Scottish Rite.

The major fundraiser for the Clinic will be on Wednesday, Dec. 4, when we have the Cookie Jar Auction. Please plan to attend this & bring cookie jars filled with goodies. It is a fun evening and the auctioneer is Bruce Butler. The coordinator of the event is Patty Murphy with the help of others.

Remember that the donations to this is to help the kids.

Jered Scherer
Chairman

2025 Valley Information 218 Members

(Remember– you can pay your 2025 dues on-line or through the office!)

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 58 26.6 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 77 35.3 % ←

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 11 5.0 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 47 21.6%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 25 11.5%

A note about 2025 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



Have a Happy Turkey Day!

2024 Officers & General Information

2024 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	John Hugdahl, 32°
Senior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Nate Frickel, 32°
Orator (all bodies)	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Almoner	TC Chatman, 32° KCCH
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 33°
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	David Jobrack, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Cody Catlin, 32°
Expert	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Captain of the Host	Michael Ebert, 32°
Tyler	Anthony Morse, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	Jacob Clos, 32°
Senior Warden	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Junior Warden	Mitch Burns, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Tom Watson, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Anthony Morse, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Tom Hornung, 33°
Prior	Tracy Dinkel, 32°
Preceptor	Marc Sewell, 32°
Minister of State	TBD

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Detailed upcoming events on page 10)



Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 2024
Exec. Board Mtg.	Nov. 6 th , 2024
Stated Dinner	Nov. 6 th , 2024
Stated Meeting/Annual Elections	Nov. 6 th , 2024
KSA Meeting	Nov. 20 th , 2024
Exec. Board Mtg.	Dec. 4 th , 2024

Cookie Jar Event **Dec. 4th, 2024**

Cap & Ring & Annual Installation of Officers - This is event is on Thursday January 2nd, 2025 beginning at 6:30 in the Dining Hall



Billings Scottish Rite Office Hours

Wednesday and Thursday
9 a.m. – noon

Coffee Klatch

Every Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m.
in the Temple Dining Room





December 4th is the Annual Cookie Jar Event. **This is our primary fundrising event of our Scottish Rite Philanthropy, our Language Clinic.** This is a critical event for which we unite together annually and give our to support every year during the holiday giving season! Please put it on your calender, invite family and friends, bring your wallets, your smiles and most importantly your joy as we break bread together and dig in deep to help and support societies future, **the children!** The Secretary reports that there are some free cookie jars sitting on the table as you enter the building for anybody to take, fill up and bring back on December 4th! Contact the Secretary with any questions! See you in December! This is also the perfect time to recommit to or join our 365 Club that also raises funds for the Clinic!



365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Jeff & Kim Dresch

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

Jeff & Kim Dresch

Business Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 11/4/24 @ NOON)** OR REQUEST THE SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST. THOSE ON THE CALL LIST WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER CALL 2-3 DAYS BEFORE STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

Relish Trays

Salad w/croutons, Ranch & Italian Dressings

Flakey biscuits w/butter & strawberry jam

1. Chicken Cordon Blu with Dijon Parmigiano Cream Sauce
Buttered Normandy Vegetables
Traditional Stuffing
2. Impossible Chicken with Dijon Parmigiano Cream Sauce
Buttered Normandy Vegetables
Traditional Stuffing

Dessert

Slice of Pumkin Pie w/Whipped Cream

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

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Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday
9:00 a.m. – noon

**Email the Secretary to be added to
our Email list for an electronic
Billboard**



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Billings Scottish Rite



*Orient of Montana
Freemasons of Montana*

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master
John J. Hugdahl, 32°

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master
Jacob Clos, 32°

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander
Tom Watson, 32°

Consistory
Master of Kadosh
Tom Hornung, 33°

Upcoming Events

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 2024 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Nov. 6 th , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Nov. 6 th , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting/Elections	Nov. 6 th , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Nov. 20 th 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	Dec. 3 rd , 2024 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Dec. 4 th , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
COOKIE JAR EVENT!	Dec. 4 th , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room

NO Stated Meeting – This is a Public Event!

KSA Meeting	Dec. 18 th 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Cap & Ring and Installation	Jan. 2nd 6:30 p.m. THURSDAY! Lodge Room - NO Stated Meeting-This is a public event!