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# THE BILLBOARD

## APRIL 2025

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

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### **To The Celestial Lodge:**

James K. Duncan

Dennis E. Dobbin

### *Message from the Venerable Master*



Greetings Brethren,

Comments regarding the March dinner/meeting were outstanding. The dinner dancing entertainment provided by 3 lovely young ladies; youth of Scottish Rite families was terrific! The Law Enforcement update provided by the Chief of Police was very interesting and meaningful. It pleases me greatly to share that resulting from these activities along with beautiful music and a delicious meal, no one left early 😊.

The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal will be presented at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a ceremony of significance and respect, one you should not miss. Remembrance and Renewal will be directed by Wise Master Cody Catlin 32°, Chapter of Rose Croix. Brother Cody and his ceremonial team are well prepared and honored to present in memoriam for our fellow Brethren. Ladies and guests are all welcomed and invited to the entire ceremony.

April brings sunshine, warmth, smiles and yes; it brings SPRING REUNION! Mark your calendar, set aside time, support your brethren and exercise your commitment of loyalty. The dates are April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Should you not be a degree participant attend regardless, for all or part of the activities. We will begin at 10:00 AM the 25<sup>th</sup> and conclude with a banquet dinner on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The strength and continuity of Masonry and Scottish Rite depends on "you". Come and greet the class, show your support, you are a Mason.

Respectfully,

Tom Hanel VM



# *Message from our Personal Representative*

**Valley of Billings**

**195<sup>th</sup>, SPRING Reunion**

**in Honor of Illustrious Dave Bergeson, 33<sup>o</sup>**

## **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- 9:00am – Class Roll Call & Instruction
- 10:00am – Fourth Degree, Secret Master
- 10:30am – Fifth & Sixth Degree's communication
- 11:15am – Seventh Degree, Provost and Judge
- 11:45am – Eighth Degree communication
- 12:00pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm – Ninth through Thirteenth Degree's communication
- 2:15pm – Fourteenth Degree, Perfect Elu
- 3:00pm – Fifteenth through Seventeenth Degree's communication
- 4:00pm – Eighteenth Degree, Knights of the Rose Croix
- 5:30pm – Nineteenth through Twenty First Degree's communication
- 6:30pm – End of Day



## **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- 8:00am – Continental Breakfast & Class Roll Call
- 8:30am – Twenty Second Degree, Prince of Libanus
- 9:00am – Twenty Third through Twenty Eighth Degree's communication
- 11:45am – Lunch
- 12:45pm – Twenty Ninth Degree, Knight of Saint Andrew
- 1:30pm – Thirtieth Degree, Knight Kadosh
- 2:45pm – Thirty First Degree, Inspector Inquisitor
- 4:15pm – Thirty Second Degree, Master of the Royal Secret
- 6:30pm – 195<sup>th</sup> Reunion Banquet Dinner



## THE RITE CORNER

### “MUSIC TO OUR EARS”

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

When I joined Masonry, I was excited to be a part of a group of men for whom I had respect and wanted to be like them. They were kind, gentle, trustworthy and stood upright in their lives. They were not perfect, but they revered and trusted in God for guidance in how to love humanity. They learned more than the ritual and secrets of Masonry; they lived Masonry. I grew up in a family that taught love of God, country, and family, with charity to all. As an Eagle Scout and a DeMolay, Masonry was a natural progression in learning to love God, being friendly, courteous, honoring one's parents, helping others, and being trustworthy and honest. For me it was a recipe for gaining a full and respectable life.

Masonry for many is a part of learning how to live a quality life that is pleasing to their God, inspiring to others, and giving respect. When Masonry's principles augment one's religious practices and complement the enjoyment of the arts and sciences, the formula for a meaningful and rewarding life is even broader. I appreciate it when I hear or read words that reinforce my moral and spiritual beliefs and encourage me to be a kinder, more productive person. I am a musician and especially enjoy musicals that combine deep philosophical truths with moving, powerful music. For a Masonic musician, it is getting life lessons set to a pleasing melody.

Recently, the Public Broadcasting Service presented a special on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the musicals written by the team of Rogers & Hammerstein. Some of us grew up listening to *Oklahoma*, *Carousel* (both of which were way before my time), and *The Sound of Music*. In *Carousel* there is a profound song entitled “You'll Never Walk Alone,” which was written in 1945, just prior to the end of World War II. The words seem to reflect the anxiety of the time and the reassurance that our God is with us, when it says in part:

*‘When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high*

*And don't be afraid of the dark,*

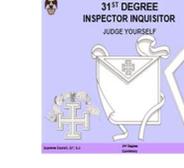
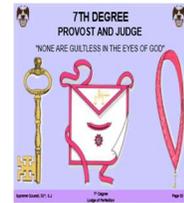
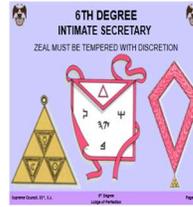
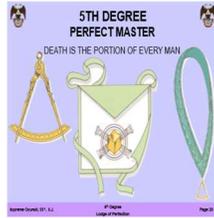
*At the end of the storm is a golden sky*

*And the sweet silver song of a lark.”*

When we hear those lyrics, it should strike a familiar chord of Masonic teaching that the love of the Grand Architect of the Universe is always with us to provide strength, direction and comfort. Hearing these words beside our existing beliefs is reinsuring to us that our path is sound and sure.

**(Continued on page 5)**

# Its Time for a Reunion - Come and watch your favorite degree!



**(S.G.I.G. Message continued from page 4)**

The second song that touches an inspirational emotion is “*Climb Ev’ry Mountain*” from *The Sound of Music*. Part of the lyrics that poetically express guidance for achievement are:

*“Climb ev’ry mountain,  
Search high and low,  
Follow ev’ry byway,  
Ev’ry path you know.*

*Climb ev’ry mountain,  
Ford ev’ry stream,  
Follow ev’ry rainbow,  
Till you find your dream!”*

Though the setting for this song is based upon a budding romance, the words are easily applied to a deeper and enduring meaning. In our Masonic life, how many times are we just spectators to learning the principles? We have the words of the ritual and know the meaning, but does it go beyond that? These lyrics instruct us to climb every mountain, follow every byway and path that we know. In the blue lodge we receive valuable instruction for a fuller Masonic life, but in Scottish Rite, we are pushed to put that information into action--just do it. Do not let up on learning more healthy life practices; do not let your learning fall into stagnation. If we fail to actively embrace the teachings and make them an active part of our life, at best the Masonic light we gained will only shine inward and will be of little value to the world. The strength of Masonry is to embrace it in your life, expose it to the world on every mountain top, on every pathway and byway, past every stream of impediment, and to follow your rainbow until you find your dream.

Masonry and music have traditionally been in harmony from Mozart to Sousa to Brad Paisley. Enjoy the journey of finding Masonic principles not only in the lodge room but in the concert hall. It is there for your enlightenment.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! DRIVERS NEEDED!!!**

**PLEASE, PLEASE!** If you have time in the morning or afternoon, **PLEASE** contact us! **WE NEED DRIVERS.** The van serves between 480 and 789 patients annually.

Lewie Fletcher, 33° PGM  
General Secretary  
Valley of Billings Scottish Rite  
(406) 208-7580 or (406) 259-6683



**For more information or to volunteer, please feel free to contact the Van Coordinator, Brother PC Moran 32° KCCH at (406) 670-3824.**

From the Craft –

I just wanted to let you all know that our satellite shoe room at the Child and Family Services Office has reached a little milestone. I am very proud to say that we have given away roughly eight hundred pairs of shoes to foster kids in need since July of 2023. I can tell you that we are having a very positive impact on children in care within Yellowstone County. I just want to say thank you for all the support. We are definitely doing something good in the community.

Fraternally,

Michael Wren 32°

## 2025 Valley Information 223 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 118 52.9 %

**Members with Current Dues Balance: 27 12.1 %**

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 6 2.7 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 47 21.1%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 25 11.2%



**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.**



**It's SPRING!  
Time to bring on  
the outdoors!**

# 2025 Officers & General Information

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## 2025 Officers

### LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Nate Frickel, 32°
Junior Warden	Tom Watson, 32°
Orator (all bodies)	David Jobrack, 32°
Almoner	TC Chatman, 32° KCCH
Assistant Almoner	Tom Hornung, 33°
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 33° PGM
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Mitch Burns, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Expert	Anthony Morse, 32°
Assistant Expert	Forrest Henderson, 32°
Captain of the Host	Jason Ascherman, 32°
Tyler	David Strand, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

### ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	Cody Catlin, 32°
Senior Warden	Anthony Morse, 32°
Junior Warden	Forrest Henderson, 32°

### COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Jacob Hammersmith, 32°
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	Dennis Crowder, 32°
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander	Tom Green, 32°

### CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Bob Donaldson III, 32°
Prior	Marc Sewell, 32°
Preceptor	Cody Thormhalen, 32°

## 2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot (Detailed upcoming events on page 10)



Rite Care Board Meeting	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025
Stated Dinner	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025
Remembrance & Renewal	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025
KSA Meeting	April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Spring Reunion	April 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Stated Dinner	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
KSA Meeting	May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025
Honormans Luncheon	May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025



## Billings Scottish Rite Office Hours

Wednesday and Thursday  
9 a.m. – noon

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### Coffee Klatch

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





**365 CLUB**

Ronny & Marybeth Aasterud  
Ida DeGraftenreid

**LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS**

None

**COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN**

Keith Thompson

**In Memoriam**

None

**Business Attire (Ritual Team  
Formal Attire)**



**DINNER**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 3/31/25 @ NOON)** OR REQUEST THE SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST. THOSE ON THE CALL LIST SHOULD RECEIVE A REMINDER CALL 2-3 DAYS BEFORE STATED DINNER.

**MEAL MENU by Cody**

**Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00**

**Salad with Croutons  
Ranch Dressing or Italian  
Dressing  
Rolls with Butter**

- 1. Herb Grilled Chicken,  
Rice Pilaf & Roasted  
Veggies**
- 2. Impossible Chicken,  
Rice Pilaf & Roasted  
Veggies**

**Dessert**

**Pistachio Sheet Cake**

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Secretary: Llewellyn Fletcher, 33<sup>o</sup> PGM  
Editor: Dan Jobrack, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH  
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Website: [www.billingscottishrite.com](http://www.billingscottishrite.com)  
Phone: (406) 259-6683

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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## Upcoming Events

Billings Scottish Rite



Orient of Montana  
Freemasons of Montana

### Lodge of Perfection

**Venerable Master**  
Thomas Hanel, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH

### Chapter Rose Croix

**Wise Master**  
Cody Catlin 32<sup>o</sup>  
**Council Knights Kadosh**  
**Commander**  
Jacob Hammersmith, 32<sup>o</sup>

### Consistory

**Master of Kadosh**  
Bob Donaldson III, 32<sup>o</sup>

## MEETINGS/EVENTS

<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Remembrance &amp; Renewal</b>	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025 6:30. p.m. Lodge Room (public)
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>Spring Reunion</b>	April 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> 2025 Temple
<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 noon Conference Room
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<b>Stated Dinner</b>	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	May 7 <sup>th</sup> 2025 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>Honormans Luncheon</b>	May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 noon Dining Room