
THE BILLBOARD

FEBRUARY 2025

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

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To The Celestial Lodge:

Leroy T. Manley

Robert K. Swanson

Message from the Venerable Master



Greetings Brethren!

Following the installation of the 2025 officers at the January Lodge of Perfection, we welcomed 13 new members to the Billings Scottish Rite. The event was celebrated with a “perfected” Cap and Ring ceremony attended by family and special guests including SGIG David Nielsen, who provided the Patent Talk and closing remarks.

As Venerable Master congratulations and welcome to our new members, I am also very grateful to the cast and everyone that helped make this a successful and honorable event. To our brethren that traveled from far away during inclement weather, we especially thank you.

February 5th, 2025 will be the next Lodge of Perfection meeting, your Masonic loyalty will be recognized by attending. The February meeting is designated for the Annual Association Report and elections, in addition, the Annual Rite Care report and elections. Plan to promptly gather following dinner for an orderly meeting.

As Masons we represent quality of character, care for each other and for society. An oath bonding us for life, a brotherhood of strength, respect, and never to be taken for granted. Billings Scottish Rite is a fine example of such brotherhood, it is what we are, get engaged - stay engaged.

Respectfully,

VM Tom Hanel



Message from our Personal Representative

Congratulations to all our Master's of the Royal Secret! Here are some memories of the January Cap & Ring Ceremony held at the beginning of the year. When you see these fine gentlemen and their lovely ladies, make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them aboard!

Sean



Jeff Anderson & Lady Vanessa



Jason Ascherman & Lady Meghan



Michael Capra & Lady Connie



Kevin Hobson & Lady Tiffany



Barry Collins & Lady Taryn Renee



Forrest Henderson & Lady Robin

(continued on page 4)



THE RITE CORNER

“Resolutions”

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

Entering the new year of 2025, some people make resolutions to improve their lives, assume new challenges, or complete projects. Others, having tried previously to make resolutions that will keep them focused for the new year, skip this tradition as a waste of effort. As Masons, do we have any resolutions that would benefit our fraternity and ourselves? I recently attended a Grand Lodge district meeting and one question that I have heard before is how to get brothers to attend the lodge. A brother could resolve for the new year to attend lodge meetings more often. Would that be a sustainable resolution? The comments heard frequently from non-attending brothers are that the meetings are too mundane and at times boring. We have probably all attended meetings, Masonic and non-Masonic, that fit this description. Some attend a meeting as a spectator sport, and unless they are satisfactorily entertained, they opt for the entertainment of television instead.

This raises the question of what is expected from a Masonic meeting. Is it to be passive entertainment to be produced by a few for the benefit of others? If that is the case, a resolution to attend more Masonic meetings as a mere spectator will be a disappointing failure. If attendance at a meeting is viewed as an opportunity to engage in fellowship, to interact with other members and learn more about them and from them, to engage in conversations that share life experiences—joy and sadness—and to learn more about applying Masonic principles to life in a confusing, complex world.

If attending a meeting is viewed as more than just being an observer, but rather an active participant, the experience is totally different. Those who have been in a play, or performed musically, appreciate the difference between being a part of the action, the performer of the music, rather than just listening and watching.

Admittedly, the opportunities to engage socially and fraternally at a Masonic meeting may not be available until the conclusion of the meeting. The leadership of the meeting of necessity needs to conduct essential business and does not want to make the members feel as though they are being held hostage to a punishing experience. However, as Masons we help each other, and one way would be to offer in advance to present a topic of interest for an engaging education. A Masonic meeting is an exercise in participatory learning. Not necessarily a lecture on a topic, but to inquire, examine, and discuss an esoteric topic, or even a sharing of common life experiences.

A better resolution for us is to attend Masonic meetings with the purpose of helping to make it enjoyable, informative and gratifying. If meetings are not fulfilling who is responsible? Perhaps some of that falls on the attendees who only want to be bystanders.

A resolution we can make is to make 2025 the best and most enjoyable Masonic event ever.

Happy and Prosperous New Year, my brethren!

Cap & Ring Memories Continued from page 2



Jason P. Sasse & Lady Karla



Ryan C. Rogers & Lady Lindsey

I would also like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of the fine gentlemen that were installed to serve our Valley for the ensuing Scottish Rite year!





The Clinic is providing sponsorships for 77 children. There is one application for renewal. The average expenditure per month for sponsorships is approximately \$7,100.

The major fundraiser, the Cookie Jar Auction, received \$10,225. The 365 Club had 10 members bring in \$3,650. There have also been some 365 donations in January.

It is important that there be continual giving to the Clinic through the 365 Club or donations, including giving to the endowment fund. That fund perpetuates your giving and the income from that fund is available for sponsorships.

There are four board members whose terms end as of 2024. All four have agreed to be nominated for another term and the Clinic Board has approved them for the annual Association meeting on February 5. They are: Don Herndon, Tom Hanel, Ron Swenson, and Jered Scherer.

Please give support to the Clinic and the board members to continue to provide funding to help the children with speech/language clinical help.

Respectfully submitted,

Jered Scherer
Chairman

2025 Valley Information 227 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 107 47.1 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 40 17.6 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 7 3.1 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 47 20.7%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 26 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.



Bundle up, it's cold out there!

2025 Officers & General Information

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 st Lt. Commander	Dennis Crowder, 32°
2 nd 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	Feb. 4 th , 2025
Stated Dinner	Feb. 5 th , 2025
Annual Business/Rite Care Meeting	Feb. 5th, 2025
KSA Meeting	Feb. 19 th , 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Mar. 4 th , 2025
Stated Dinner	Mar. 5 th , 2025
Stated Meeting	Mar. 5 th , 2025
KSA Meeting	Mar. 19 th , 2025



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





365 CLUB

Ronny & Marybeth Aasterud

Jason Ascherman

SHOES FOR KIDS PROGRAM

None

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Mike Capra

Michael Elbert

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

Mike Capra

Michael Elbert

Business Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 2/3/25 @ 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

1. **Pork Sausage Marinara Spaghetti, with Roasted Garlic Parmesan Green Beans**
2. **Veggie Marina Spaghetti, with Roasted Garlic Parmesan Green Beans**

Dessert

Lemon Cake with Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
 Billings, MT 59102-5216

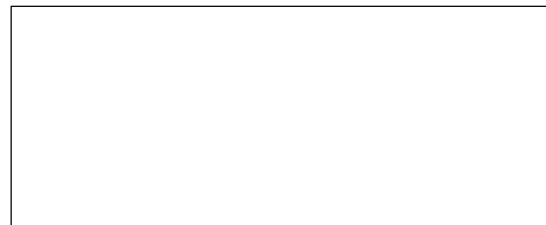
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 Email: secretary@billingscottishrite.com
 Website: www.billingscottishrite.com
 Phone: (406) 259-6683

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° KCCH
Chapter Rose Croix
Wise Master
 Cody Catlin 32°
Council Knights Kadosh
Commander
 Jacob Hammersmith, 32°
Consistory
Master of Kadosh
 Bob Donaldson III, 32°

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Rite Care Board Meeting	Feb. 4 th , 2025 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Feb. 5 th , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Feb. 5 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Annual Business & Rite Care Mtg	Feb. 5 th , 2025 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Feb. 19 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	Mar. 4 th , 2025 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Mar. 5 th , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Mar. 5 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting	Mar. 5 th 2025 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Mar. 19 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	April 1 st , 2025 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	April 2 nd , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	April 2 nd , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Remembrance & Renewal	April 2 nd , 2025 6:30. p.m. Lodge Room (public)