
THE BILLBOARD

JANUARY 2025

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

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**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

James A. Swanson

Message from the Venerable Master



Happy New Year, Brethren!

As the new year brings change, we reflect on the past year and express our sincere appreciation for the fine job by 2024 Venerable Master John Hugdahl, and the entire Lodge of Perfection and additional Bodies for a magnificent year. Congratulations to everyone!

As your Venerable Master for 2025, along with an exceptional team of both elected and appointed officers, we will do our best by exemplifying Masons and the "Mission Statement" of Scottish Rite, a premier organization of good character, motivation, strong morals and ethical quality.

While leadership is the key to success of any organization, it is a shared responsibility involving practice, discussion, learning, acknowledgement and most important "your" commitment.

Our walk in life provides opportunity, challenges and rewards. Based on the oath of a Mason of which I committed 25-years past, I have met no finer man than that of a Mason, further enhanced by the support of brother Mason's family and loved ones.

Upon your receipt of this Billboard, the 2024 Cookie Jar Auction will be behind us, and the January 2nd Cap and Ring Ceremony along with the Installation of Officers will be upon us. It is important that all Craft attend. Guests are welcome.

I am honored to call each of you my brother Mason and assure you my best as your Venerable Master. Together, as a team, The Billings Valley Scottish Rite will have another successful year, filled with "Love and Charity."

Respectfully,

Thomas "Tom" Hanel
Venerable Master 2025



Message from our Personal Representative

The Cookie Jar Auction Delivers a Holiday Season Home Run!

Last month, we came together for an extraordinary fundraiser that exceeded all expectations! The 13th Annual Cookie Jar Auction raised an incredible \$10,225.00, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our attendees. This achievement marks a new record to support the 72 children currently enrolled in our Language Clinic program, and it would not have been possible without the dedication of so many individuals.

A special shout-out goes to Patty Murphy, whose efforts ensured everything ran smoothly. From setup to rallying volunteers, Patty's commitment was evident. Her passion for the kids inspired us all and played a crucial role in the event's success.

I would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Bruce Butler, our auctioneer. Bruce's engaging personality and skillful auctioneering brought energy and excitement to the evening, and his refresher course on auctioneering, featuring the "Betty Botter's Batter" poem, was a delightful highlight.

The caterer for the event, Ken Catlin, the son of our newly elected Wise Master, Cody Catlin, and owner of Beachwood Eatery in The Dales, OR, brought his amazing skills to light as he delivered a wonderful prime rib meal. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the delicious dinner. On behalf of the Language Clinic, thank you, Ken; we hope to see your culinary talents again in the future.

As I reflect on this successful event, I am filled with gratitude for everyone who attended, volunteered, and donated. Your support is invaluable and inspires us to continue our mission. Together, we are making a lasting difference in children's lives, and I can't wait to see what we can achieve next year!

Thank you for your generosity, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sean



THE RITE CORNER

“Balance of Light and Dark”

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

As we approach the Winter Solstice, we are acutely aware that daylight and nighttime become more unbalanced. The diminishing daylight and encroaching dark of night has been an annual phenomenon that first frightened humans into thinking that the world was ending. Later, they realized that the daylight would again increase in duration. This became a symbol of Light emanating as a gift of God that brought life, love, and joy to the people. The Light symbolism is found in most religions and certainly in Masonry.

My annual job during this season is to string up the lights on the Christmas tree. This year I completed that task, and my wife put up a nice assortment of ornaments. While I was gone the tree unexpectedly did a header to the floor, breaking ornaments, dislodging the lights and spilling the tree water on the floor. The lights, a symbol of the Light of love and joy, were dark. In redoing the light arrangement, I recognized that darkness is an important part of the illumination of light. Light and darkness are in balance. Without darkness, the small lights would not appear as bright and encouraging. At times we view darkness as the home for evil, but darkness is simply the absence of light. Darkness is the medium through which light travels unimpeded and shows the result from the absence of light. Darkness enhances the illumination of many lights that brightly shine and provides a stark contrasting difference. Until we receive the divine Light of love and joy, our lives are in darkness, but when we receive Light and share it with others, the previous darkness is a comparison that accentuates the brilliance of the light.

Just as a string of lights is made up of many small lights, which together reveal the form of the tree, as individuals who have received, embraced and shared the Light of love and joy, we collectively give greater light to the world. When seen with the surrounding darkness, many small lights inspire others to receive and share the Lights of love and joy, not only to family and friends but to all people.

The balance of light and darkness is a gift from the Grand Architect for the optimum enlightenment of the world for love and peace to all. Just as the Creator gave light, the Creator first started with the gift of darkness. Darkness is a time of sleep and relaxation. Enjoy the peaceful rest during the darkness to be ready to embrace the coming Light of love and joy. Shalom to all.

Cookie Jar Event 2024



From Your Valley Office Staff

Brethren and friends,

Lately, there have been some miscommunications regarding dinner reservations that have been “passing each other in the night,” when called in, so to speak. Sometimes, AFTER the cutoff time (of NOON on the date that is posted in the meal section of each billboard) we find messages left on the office answering machine after office hours with cancellations or add-ons. We also sometimes have calls that come in during office hours on Tuesday or Wednesday with add-ons given to the Secretary, Treasurer or PR.

It is true that breaking bread with our brothers (and their families) is one of the greatest pleasures and rewards of being a member of our beloved craft! However, from an administrative and financial perspective, we need to provide our caterer(s) with a head count in a timely fashion so that the appropriate amounts of food and supplies can be purchased (usually done on Monday afternoons) so we don't run out for those planning on attending.

There are two ways to make a reservation for monthly dinners and special events. 1) we strive to call everyone (who have requested to be on the monthly courtesy call list) to see what meal choice is desired and how many will be attending, and 2) you can call in to the office and speak with us/leave us a voice message by the posted cutoff date/time that is found in the meal section of every billboard, as previously mentioned above.

When we are unsuccessful in obtaining this information one of two things happens. 1) we run out of food (when unaccounted for reservations come in) or 2) and equally challenging is when somebody cancels/no shows without notice, and we have to compensate the caterer for the reserved meal that does not get plated, at the valley's expense.

It is requested that we submit reservations in a timely manner to best be able to serve and accommodate everybody.

Thank you for understanding.

(If you desire to be added to the monthly call list, please call into the office and the General Secretary will cheerfully add you!)

On Wednesday, December 4th, the Clinic had its major fundraiser with the Cookie Jar Auction. It was a fun night with over 100 people in attendance. The auctioneer, Bruce Butler, enhanced the bidding of the various items.

A special thank-you to Patty Murphy who coordinated the event as well as the many helpers she had. Also, a thank-you to Diana Herndon for receiving the payments for the auctioned items. And thanks to all of those who donated the auction items and cookie jars.

The auction revenue was \$10,225. There were also ten 365 Club payments in the amount of \$3,650.

On behalf of the Clinic Board, a special thank-you to all who contributed. This all helps to provide sponsorships to help children receive speech/language therapy.

Special wishes to everyone that they have a Merry Christmas and will have a good New Year in 2025!

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: 89 39.2 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 57 25.1 % ←

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 8 3.5 %

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

Active Paid Life Members (E): 23 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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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
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 Ascheman, 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)



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

Rite Care Board Meeting	Jan. 7 th , 2025
KSA Meeting	Jan. 15 th , 2025
Honormens Luncheon	Jan. 31 st , 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Feb. 4 th , 2025
Stated Dinner	Feb. 5 th , 2025
Annual Business/Rite Care Meeting	Feb. 5 th , 2025
KSA Meeting	Feb. 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



MORE CHARITY IN ACTION!

Did you know that you can make charitable donations to four specific worthy charities at the same time you pay your dues on-line? The four that you can donate to are the Rite Care Clinic Operations Fund, the Rite Care Clinic Endowment Fund, and the Almoners Fund and our Courtesy Transportation Van. The following brethren took advantage of this easy method of donating during 2024:

Almoners Fund – Jered Scherer, Tom Green, Bud Bollinger, Raymond Frank, John Stewart, Maxwell Knodel, Jeff Dresch & Robert Coleman.

Rite Care Clinic Operations – Raymond Frank, Dell Aman, Jered Scherer, Tom Green, Joseph Roy, Bud Bollinger, Blake Macklin, Orion Everett Jones, John Stewart, Joseph Moore, Maxwell Knodel & Jeff Dresch.

Rite Care Clinic Endowment Fund – Jered Scherer, Tom Green, Bob Donaldson III, Bud Bollinger, Orion Everett Jones, John Stewart, Maxwell Knodel, Jeff Dresch & Roger L. Petersen.

Courtesy Transportation Van – Tom Green, William Alexander, Bob Donaldson III, Bud Bollinger, Orion Everett Jones, John Stewart, Maxwell Knodel, Jeff Dresch, Roger L. Petersen & Warren Ostwalt

Thank you, brethren, for your invaluable contributions!



365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud, Tom & Robin Hanel, John & Milissa Hugdahl, Dan & Jevelyn Jobrack, Llewellyn & Sue Fletcher, Cody & Kaitlin Catlin, Dennis & Jane Crowder, Gregory & Merielena Tripple, Bob Donaldson III, David & Judy Nielsen, William & Evelyn Langford, DMV

SHOES FOR KIDS PROGRAM

None

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Steve & Diane Ascherman

Cheryl Malia McCall

Jerry & Nancy E. Thuessen

Ron Swenson

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

The Al Bedoo Shrine Hospital Corp.

Business Attire (Officers in Tux/Dark Suits)



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY (**259-6683 NLT 12/30/24 @ 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

Relish Trays, Salad w/croutons (Italian and Ranch Dressings)

1. Baked Potato topped with Mild ground beef, smoked brisket, smoked pork sausage Chili and cheese. Bacon Green Beans
2. Baked Potato topped with mild vegetarian chili and cheese. Green Beans

Dessert

Chocolate Fudge Cake with Cocoa Cream Cheese Frosting

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

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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**



U.S. Postage Paid
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Billings, MT
Permit No. 724

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

Cap & Ring and Installation	Jan. 2nd, 2025 6:30 p.m. <u>THURSDAY!</u> Lodge Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	Jan. 7 th , 2025 noon Conference Room
KSA Meeting	Jan. 15 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Honormans Luncheon	Jan. 31 st , 2025 Noon Dining Room
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
KSA Meeting	Mar. 19 th , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room