
THE BILLBOARD

JULY 2025

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

Table of Contents

VM Message

Thomas Hanel, 32° KCCH
Page 1

PR Message

Sean P. McDuffee, 33°
Pages 2

MT S.G.I.G. Message

David L. Nielsen, 33°
Page 3 & 4

**2025 Officers & General
Information**
Pages 5-8



**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

Charles Smith

Message from the Venerable Master



Greetings Brethren,

Summer is in full swing; schedules are filling up fast, and time seems to be flying by. As said; *"take time to stop and smell the roses"*, OR, as a true Mason, *stop and take time for a brother.*

The July 2nd dinner and LOP are rapidly approaching. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The evening activities will be prompt and meaningful. The strength of Scottish Rite depends on you, your participation, and the support for each other.

Exciting news: The 225th Anniversary Celebration of the Establishment of the Supreme Council A & A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, is May 31, 2026. The celebration is sure to be a memorable event, expected to last approximately 2-hours streamed live from Charleston, SC., allowing virtual viewing from the comfort of your home.

Stay tuned; taking a break from our usual agenda, the August meeting plans include recognition of ladies with a "ladies' night" and later in August, an outdoor BBQ with children's activities (check the calendar found in this Billboard).

I sincerely hope you are enjoying your Summer with family and friends. Have fun and stay safe. Remember the future and success of Scottish Rite depends on you, your loyalty, and commitment as a Mason. Set aside some time for your brethren by attending.

See you on July 2nd.

Tom Hanel, VM



Message from our Personal Representative

Welcome Our Newest Master of the Royal Secret

Brother James Robert "Bobby" Soileau

Brother Bobby was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January 1965. He graduated from the all-male Baton Rouge Catholic High School. He then attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he earned a BBA in 1988 and an MBA in 1989.

Following his education, Bobby worked for two large, family-owned companies in Mississippi for 14 years, serving in roles such as bid analyst, treasury services manager, treasury manager, director of risk management, and director of safety. In 1997, his career took a new direction when he joined Vicksburg Woodworks in Mississippi, specializing in custom solid wood furniture, cabinetry, and the restoration of historic homes, some dating back to the 1830's.

In 1999, Bobby relocated to Fort Collins, Colorado, where he started his first cabinetry and remodeling business. In 2003, he sold the business to two of his employees and moved to Rosemount, Minnesota, where he launched his second remodeling and cabinetry business, serving clients throughout the Twin Cities region.

In 2014, Bobby moved his business and household back to Baton Rouge to be closer to his aging parents. In 2019, he relocated his business to the west end of Billings, where he resides with his partner, Michelle Neely. Bobby's 24-year-old son apprentices under him and is being trained to take over upon his retirement.

His hobbies include wood carving, Jeeping, snowmobiling in the mountains, and traveling in his old Chevy van. He also enjoys cooking for others, a skill at which he excels.

Brother Bobby was inspired to join Masonry by several factors, including a relationship with one of his customers, Bro. Jeff Bean of Baton Rouge. Bobby describes Bro. Jeff as a man of his word, a community leader, and a person of discerning taste and utmost integrity. His conversations with Bro. Jeff left a lasting impression, leading Bobby to seek Masonry upon settling in Billings. He was raised in May 2024 and currently serves as the Senior Steward of Ashlar #29.

When asked about his Scottish Rite Reunion experience, he shared:

"This most recent Scottish Rite Reunion was a very blessed and impactful experience for me. I am humbled by the incredible effort it took to instruct me and guide me through the 4th through 32nd Degrees of the Scottish Rite. Being the sole candidate was an absolute privilege and honor. I listened intently, absorbed everything I could, and I hope to grow in brotherhood, education, and the light of Masonry."

I am very excited to welcome Brother Bobby into our fraternity and look forward to witnessing his Scottish Rite journey flourish. Please be sure to introduce yourself when you see him.



THE RITE CORNER

“Lighting a Fire”

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

For those involved in Masonry or Masonic affiliated organizations, June is traditionally “Masonic Month,” though it may include the first part of July. In June we see meetings of Montana Grand York Rite, Grand Assembly of Rainbow for Girls, Grand Chapter of Montana, OES, Grand Lodge of Masons of Montana and finally the Masonic Youth campout at Hyalite Lake. With these meetings we find an annual change in the leadership of these groups, both at the Grand level and the local lodges, chapters, and assemblies. Though the position titles and organizational structures are constant for each body, the new leaders in those positions bring new ideas, talents, and leadership styles. Sometimes, we think of changes in leadership as “passing the torch.” In some cases that may be a fitting metaphor, but I think it is more like rebuilding a campfire. A traditional campfire with natural fuels is more akin to an organization.

As with building a fire in the same firepit as previously used, the newly installed leader brings the spark—the ignition—but that alone does not make a complete campfire. Campfires require five elements—heat, tinder, kindling, fuel, and air. To explain the relative importance of these elements, fire (heat) can be with live coals or a match. This heat is applied to the tinder, which is fine pieces of inner bark, dry pine needles, or thin pieces of wood. These are the first parts that are lit. Once this starts, then kindling, which may be small twigs or pieces of split wood are added to the burning tinder. The burning kindling increases the size and intensity of the flame, and when going well larger pieces of wood (fuel) are added so long as they do not overwhelm the kindling flames.

Starting a campfire with only natural wood materials and a single match requires planning, careful execution in starting with a small flame and making it larger by gradually increasing the size materials. A single match cannot light a two-inch log without first starting with tinder and kindling. Thus, it is with the leadership spark in our organizations. The spark is needed but must cultivate inspiration among the rest of the group. However, if the only tinder is used, the fire may be intense at first but will not last. An example is using pine needles as tinder. It starts easy and burns very quickly but does not sustain a flame. Appropriately sized kindling must be added quickly. Even kindling is limited in duration. The best campfire is one that reaches the use of larger logs for the final fuel.

(Continued on page 4)

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Brothers, if you are the last man leaving the Temple Building, PLEASE ensure that all the interior doors are closed. I have found several doors open and no one in the building. The doors are not fire doors per se; however, a closed door will slow down the spread of fire. Please do your part in looking out for our Temple.

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

By analogy, the Leader is the spark, the close group around leadership is the tinder, and as more are involved in the planning they are like kindling. But the optimum goal is to all the organization's membership--bigger and longer burning logs to provide heat for warmth and light for seeing. The leader with the spark provides the vision, the close advisors are the tinder to grow the vision into a strategy, which adding more members as kindling expand the plan into a tactical action plan. From there all the members are introduced to the plans and asked to volunteer time and talent to successfully execute the plan.

Of course, depending upon the simplicity or complexity of the idea, some steps may be truncated or lengthened. The message is start small and building upon the idea—the spark—but keep the steps appropriately timed and sized to sustain motivation of the members and to timely accomplish the goal.

Enjoy the summer and the warm glow of an evening campfire—whether actual or metamorphically.



The Clinic is providing sponsorships to 67 children on the average. The amount paid out for the sponsorships is \$7,500 per month.

The income to support this comes from donations, memorials, the 365 Club, and fundraising such as the Cookie Jar Auction. To continue to help this many children requires more income than we are now receiving. An excellent way to give is through the 365 Club.

The board has two new members: John Hugdahl and Marc Sewell. We are looking forward to their input and advice.

The Clinic website is up and running. If you desire, please check it out for information at www.ritecarebillings.org

Respectfully submitted,
Jered Scherer, Chairman

2025 Valley Information 219 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 125 57.1 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 21 9.6 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 5 2.3 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 43 19.6%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 25 11.4%



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 Birthday AMERICA!

2025 Officers & General Information

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Detailed upcoming events on page 8)

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	Unassigned
Prior	Marc Sewell, 32°
Preceptor	Cody Thormhalen, 32°



Rite Care Board Meeting	July 1 st , 2025
Stated Dinner	July 2 nd , 2025
KSA Meeting	July 16 th , 2025
Finance Committee Meeting	July 22 nd 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Aug. 5 th , 2025
Stated Dinner	Aug. 6 th , 2025
VM BBQ	Aug. 16th 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 & Mary Beth Aasterud

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

None

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

None

In Memoriam of Paula L. Baum (mother of Jason Smith)

Bob Hanson

Casual Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 6/30/25 @ NOON)** OR REQUEST THE SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST. THOSE ON THE CALL LIST SHOULD RECEIVE A REMINDER CALL 2-5 DAYS BEFORE STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

\$15.00

TBD

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 and for Standing Dinner
Reservations (to receive a call)



U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Org
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



MEETINGS/EVENTS



Rite Care Board Meeting	July 1 st , 2025 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	July 2 nd , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	July 2 nd , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting	July 2 nd 2025 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	July 16 th , 2025 6:00 p.m. Lodge Room
Rite Care Board Meeting	Aug. 5 th , 2025 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Aug. 6 th , 2025 Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Aug. 6 th , 2025 Dining Room
Stated Meeting	Aug. 6 th 2025 Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Aug. 20 th , 6:00 p.m. Lodge Room
Honormens Luncheon	Aug. 29 th , noon Dining Room
Venerable Masters BBQ	Aug. 16 th , 2025 Temple

Fall Reunion 2025

Oct. 17th-18th 2025