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# THE BILLBOARD

## MARCH 2025

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

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

Jack K. Humphrey

John W. Jones

### *Message from the Venerable Master*



Greetings Brethren!

Thank you, Brethren, and to your guests for braving the elements and attending the February 5<sup>th</sup> dinner and LOP meeting. The meal was delicious, and the meeting agenda contained very important information.

The next dinner and meeting will be on Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, and certain to be an extraordinary evening! It pleases me to share that dinner entertainment will be provided by the youth of Scottish Rite families. Declyn McDuffee, Regan and Elanor Armstrong have been preparing and are excited to perform an Irish Step Dance, very fitting for St Patrick's Day. Their presence is a blessing, please show your support by attending.

In lieu of our usual LOP meeting, families and guests are invited to remain (in the dining hall) following dinner for a casual and very beneficial presentation by Chief St John, of the Billings Police Department. Chief St John will provide a status update of the Police Department, report on criminal activity and explanation of specialized units within the department.

As Masons, we represent the oldest fraternity in the world and among the oldest continued organizations in history; why - because of "you" your loyalty, your commitment, and your engagement. Show your pride, share your skills, share your companionship and share your presence - see you on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

Tom Hanel, VM



## *Message from our Personal Representative*

Last month, I had the pleasure of taking my family on a long-awaited vacation to Hawaii, joined by my parents and brother. While we often escape to Fort Peck in the summer, it had been five years since our last “real” vacation. With Mother Nature showing her strength this season and years of pent-up cabin fever, this trip was truly a blessing.

During our time on Oahu, we hiked Diamond Head Park, snorkeled in the ocean, lounged by the pool, and indulged in delicious food. We humbly visited the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, the North Shore, and the Dole Plantation, soaking up all the tourist experiences together. Amidst all the fun with my family, I found a few hours to step away for some sojourning.

I took the opportunity to visit the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Honolulu, where I was warmly welcomed by Assistant Secretary Marlon Calventas, 32° KCCH. He graciously gave me a tour of the Temple (picture inset below), including their library and the offices of the Aloha Shrine Club. Marlon was proud to showcase recent improvements, and our conversation flowed easily, reminiscent of catching up with an old friend. We discussed the similarities and differences between our two valleys, discovering that, despite our geographical distance, we face many of the same challenges. Most of our discussion took place in the shade of a Banyan tree in the backyard of the Cathedral. I genuinely look forward to reconnecting with Brother Marlon in the future—hopefully in his backyard again.

In exciting news, I am honored to announce a significant initiative by the Valley of Billings to further support our youth by offering two \$1,000 scholarships. These will be presented during Public Schools Night at the Masonic Center on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This proposal was unanimously approved at our February Stated Meeting, and we are finalizing the details. The application will be available starting March 1st, with a deadline of March 28th. I am very proud of our Valley for making this happen.

Looking ahead, our Wise Master, Br. Cody Catlin 32°, is preparing for our annual Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be honored to welcome Brother Maxwell Von Knodle 32° and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Montana, Brother Sam Whitehead 32° KCCH, as guest speakers for the evening. This public event is a fantastic opportunity for every Scottish Rite Mason to invite members from their Blue Lodges, allowing them to experience the essence of the Scottish Rite. Bring your friends and family, and if you have potential candidates interested in joining, please encourage them to enjoy a wonderful dinner and attend a harmonious ceremony.

I look forward to a Spring renewed and seeing you all soon!

Sean

**(Continued on page 4)**



## THE RITE CORNER

### **“DOING WHAT IS HARD”**

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

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy gave a speech at Rice University, wherein he said, “We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because there are hard. . .” This contrast between an easy path or hard one applies to many situations and decisions that we individually have to make in our lives. Even the simple choice of whether to take the elevator for a faster trip or walk up the stairs for the added physical exercise shows the difference in benefits between the choices, even though the end result of getting to the top is the same.

Choosing between a job that is easy or one that is harder can be difficult to make. Getting into and sustaining a relationship with other people can have its hard times. When we think about decisions that we have made in the past and graded the outcomes, there is a good chance that the paths we chose that were hard at the time produced outcomes that were the most rewarding. The tough decision in the 60’s for a country to expend time, money and talent on a bold, precarious project to explore outer space and go to the Moon, gave our country a result that not only made us proud, but it also had other unexpected benefits—from improving computer capabilities to the invention of Velcro. Though our personal decisions may not appear to be as exciting as going to the Moon, they are important for all of us—the accomplishment of a difficult challenge.

When a man thinks about joining Masonry, does he realize that the task of joining and improving his Masonic experience means encountering numerous divided pathways, which require a choice between an easy and a hard way? Petitioning to join Masonry is a harder path than an easy alternative of doing nothing. Engaging in the fellowship and learning Masonic teachings is harder than staying home to watch uninteresting television programs. Even after a man is made a Mason, he encounters diverging pathways—the easy one to just be observant to the Degrees and teachings, verses a harder one that makes him a participant—a performer—in the instruction. All would agree that memorizing and reciting ritual flawlessly and with dramatic flair is certainly harder than being a sidliner and merely listening. This is not to say that learning ritual is the only hard task in Masonry. For example, doing charitable work in-person is harder than writing a check for that charitable cause.

“If you are satisfied with rote instead of value;  
Indifference instead of zeal;  
Inattention, instead of punctuality;  
Lassitude, instead of interest;  
And Stagnation, instead of action,

Then your Scottish Rite Body will be like the beacon which shines inward instead of outward to be a guide for the mariner, for the Masonic light which shines inward is only of little value to the world.”

**(Continued from page 2)**

Here are some pictures from the Temple in Hawaii. Please enjoy them!



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

In the Scottish Rite Installation Ceremony, the installed officers are challenged with choices before them and what the consequences may be. They are told:

The point of this inquiry is that with harder effort, the result is meaningful and brighter. So, it is with our lifelong practice of Masonry. Should we just do enough to meet the minimum requirements—the easy way—or give zealous effort to exceed standards of mediocrity? Often the hard task rewards us with greater satisfaction while giving greater value for the benefit of others.

“Well, I have chosen my own rough way,  
And I will walk it manfully;  
And do the best that mortal may,  
Wherever duty leadeth me.”  
(“*Noon in Sante Fe*,” Hymns to the Gods, p.73)

I hope that each of you will find your own path and not shy away just because it is harder. The journey may be long and difficult, but you will find joy and satisfaction in the end. We do not join and work in Masonry because it is easy; we do it because it is hard. Please choose wisely.



The Clinic is providing sponsorships for 82 children. The average expenditure per month for sponsorships continues to be approximately \$7,100. Any donations would truly be appreciated to assist in the increased number of children we are proudly serving! It is important that there be continual giving to the Clinic through the 365 Club or donations.

During the Annual Rite Care Meeting in February, our Chairman, Illustrious Jered Scherer provided a report for 2024 on the average number of children we serve. He also put up for nomination the 4 board members that were identified in last month's Billboard (those being Don Herndon, Tom Hanel, Ron Swensen and himself). All four were honorably re-elected to serve the board for another 3-years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Jobrack, Trustee

## 2025 Valley Information 224 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 111 49.6 %  
**Members with Current Dues Balance: 35 15.6 %**  
Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 6 2.7 %  
Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 47 21%  
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.**



**Hang in there,  
Spring is on the  
way!**

# 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)



KSA Meeting	Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Mar. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Stated Dinner	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Stated Meeting	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
KSA Meeting	Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
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
Spring Reunion	April 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <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

Tom Hornung

### **LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS**

David Russel

Donald Stanaway

### **COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN**

David Russel

Donald Stanaway

Del Aman

### **In Memory of Jack Humphrey**

Robin & Tom Hanel

Laurie & Tom Hornung

Bob Hanson

Jered Scherer

Marie Armstrong

### **Business Attire**



## **DINNER**

### **DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 3/3/25 @ 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**

Salad with Onion Pepper Croutons  
Creamy Balsamic Honey Mustard or Ranch Dressing

- 1. 2-Pork Sausage Bangers, Mashed Potatoes with Beef Caramelized Onion Gravy, Buttered Peas**
- 2. 2-Vegan Sausage Bangers, Mashed Potatoes with Beef Caramelized Onion Gravy, Buttered Peas**

### **Dessert**

Cinnamon Toast Crunch Sheet Cake  
with Cream Cheese Frosting and CTCrunch Crumbles

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

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

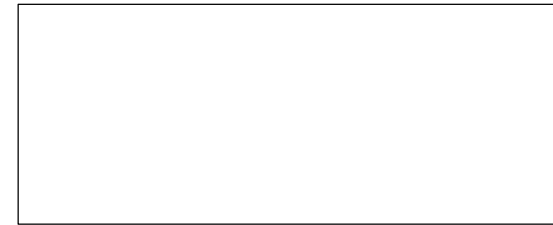
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Office Hours Wednesday & Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – noon

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



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## 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**

<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	Mar. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup> 2025 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<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>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<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