
THE BILLBOARD

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

NONE

Message from the Venerable Master



Greetings, Brethren!

Hanging on the eastern wall of the Billings Valley Scottish Rite lodge room is a painting of a distinguished-looking gentleman. It is a rather large portrait, perhaps 3' x 2' in size, and it is mounted by an ornate gold frame. He is portrayed as having white hair with black-framed glasses and is wearing a grey suit and a red necktie. If you look closely to the details, this gentleman is also wearing a gold Scottish Rite ring on his left pinky finger.

I have been asked numerous times by visitors and members alike who the person in the painting is. According to the brass etched plate fastened to the frame, he was a man named Chandler C. Cohagen, and the artist who painted him in 1960 was LeRoy Green. However, that was the only information I have ever had to offer. This regrettable fact encouraged me to conduct some research and discover who this individual truly was.

According to my findings, Chandler C. Cohagen FAIA was born on April 24, 1889 in Pierson, Iowa, and he died on December 9, 1985 in Billings, Montana. He was an American architect who designed around 200 buildings in the state of Montana. In fact, FAIA stands for Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, which is bestowed for exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. Only three percent of AIA members hold the distinction of being designated a Fellow, and Cohagen was awarded that honor in 1951.

(Continued on page 2)

(V.M. message continued from page 1)

Cohagen moved to Billings with his family in 1907. From 1907 until 1912, he worked in the construction business until attending the University of Michigan. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Design in 1915, he became an architect in Great Falls. While there, he co-founded the architectural firm "McIver, Cohagen and Marshall" with his partners Angus V. McIver and Walter A. Marshall. They eventually expanded into Billings before McIver and Marshall enlisted in the war effort. The company became "McIver and Cohagen" in 1920, and Chandler became an independent architect starting in 1936.

Among the approximately 200 buildings Cohagen designed, his most well-known are the Masonic Grand Lodge building in Helena in 1936, the Billings Deaconess Hospital in 1950, the Yellowstone County Courthouse in Billings 1958, the Governor's Mansion in Helena in 1959, the Central Christian College in Billings in 1961, and the campus buildings for Eastern Montana College in Billings. In 1930, he redesigned the Oliver Building in Billings, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cohagen married Flora Brown on September 18, 1917. He spent most of his life in Billings where he served on the city council from 1925 to 1927. Cohagen was also active in the local community as Masonic Lodge member, a member of the Order of DeMolay, in the Star Lodge of Odd Fellows, in the Rotary Club, and in the Billings Midland Club.

According to the November 2014 edition of the Montana Freemason magazine, Brother Cohagen was raised as a Master Mason in Billing Lodge No. 113 on July 9, 1917. He was a Charter Member of the Lodge where he served as Worshipful Master in 1926. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Consistory. He was elected Grand Master of the A.F. & A.M. of Montana in 1951. In addition, he served as the first Executive Officer for Montana DeMolay, served as Grand Treasurer of DeMolay International, and received The Founder's Cross award on October 15, 1937, which is the rarest DeMolay honor ever given.

In closing, as we Masons continually strive to build our own moral and Masonic edifices, remember a man, an architect and a brother named Chandler C. Cohagen. He built many of the actual edifices throughout the state we continue to enjoy today. An impressive painting of him is on display in the lodge room of the Billings Valley. And the next time someone points to that portrait and asks you who that distinguished gentleman was, you will be able to recount his laudable accomplishments worthy of remembering and celebrating.

With Masonic Regards!

Bro. John Hugdahl, 32°
Venerable Master
Billings Valley Scottish Rite



THE RITE CORNER

“Portable Chamber of Reflection, Part Two”

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

Since the writing of the July Message, my wife Judy and I are traveling to Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, and its surrounding area. My father was stationed in this area during World War II as a maintenance technician on the bombsights and autopilots for the B-24, Liberator bombers. Darwin was bombed by the Japanese in 1941, just before my father arrived. The airstrips he was at are south of Darwin, near Katherine. I hope to see and walk in the places where he was. My hope is to visit a Masonic Lodge in Darwin, which would replicate his visitation to a Masonic Lodge in Australia during that time. I have entered a personal “Chamber of Reflection” in preparation for this experience. This August Message was prepared prior to our departure.

In the July Message in the Rite Corner, you were introduced to the concept of “The Chamber of Reflection,” both in its formal use by a candidate for Masonic initiation to prepare his mind for having the best focused experience when receiving Masonic teachings, and its casual informal use such as mentally relaxing contemplatively when viewing the consuming yet diminishing flames of a campfire in the dark open air. Both experiences show different ways and places a person can practice reflection.

The challenge, more for some than others, is how to organize your thoughts to get the most from any reflective practice. In both examples—the formal and informal—it is totally up to the individual to be mentally undistracted and retain focus to do deep introspective self-study. The overall goal is to de-clutter the mind of thoughts that impede the best reflection.

In the July Message, I mentioned that my daughter Michelle also enjoys watching the campfire in the dark night with its dancing flames, occasional release of sparks, and slowing consuming the wood, while poking fire occasionally to stir it up. For us this setting relaxes the mind and prepares it for new, fresh thoughts.

Michelle wrote what she calls a “guided journal” entitled *Organize Your Mind* by Michelle Haught. On the cover she explains its purpose:

“From cluttered to clear. Organize your thoughts in a meaningful way to create your best day, every day.”

The concept of this journal is to write down in an organized fashion your thoughts on your daily life in five areas: Gratitude, Grievs, Giggles, Gifts and Goals. Preparing to write and writing the answers helps you to organize your thoughts.

Gratitude is what you are thankful for on that day. Grievs are documenting and owning unpleasant events. Giggles are those instances that make you laugh, even if silly to others. Gifts are actions that you do to help or benefit others. Goals are anything that you need to do in the future.



Message from our Personal Representative

Greetings!

What an exciting month of Scottish Rite Masonry that we have ahead of us! Since all of you take time to read the Billboard and email notices from our General Secretary, much of this will be old news. But, if you are like me, a friendly reminder is always helpful.

I am very excited about our in-person shoe fitting that we are holding on Saturday, August 24th. This will be the first time in 4 maybe 5 years that we have held a fitting at our temple. It is also the first time we held a shoe fitting *before* the school year begins versus our previous model of utilizing the teachers to assist us in spreading the word of our giveaways after school has started. I am very proud of our Venerable Master, John Hugdahl 32°, and Director of our shoes program, Ronny Aasterud 32° KCCH, for making this happen.

Directly after the Shoe Fitting is the Annual Venerable Masters BBQ. Brother John has a great afternoon planned with a bouncy house, water slide and classic cars. I hope you attend!

Our next big event is the 194th Reunion, in honor of Brother Leroy Summers 32° KCCH, being held on September 20th and 21st. Please make sure to get your potential candidates' petitions to the Secretary soon. Many of the degree teams have already started practicing with more practices scheduled before the Reunion. I expect this to be one of the finest that Billings has put on in some time. We are very much looking forward to a large class and have several petitions already on the Secretary's desk. As always, if you would like to get involved in a degree or the classroom, please reach out to the Secretary. I look forward to seeing you then.

194th (Fall) Reunion Billings Valley

In Honor of Brother Leroy Summers, 32° KCCH

Friday 19th, 2024:

12:00 p.m. **Class Role Call**

1:00 p.m. 4th Degree

1:30 p.m. 5-6th Classroom Degree

1:58 p.m. 7th Degree

2:15 p.m. 8-13th Classroom Degree

3:50 p.m. 14th Degree

4:30 p.m. 15-17th Classroom Degree

5:15 p.m. Eighteenth Degree

6:45 p.m. **End of Day**

Saturday 20th, 2024:

8:40 a.m. 19-21st Classroom Degrees

9:47 a.m. 22nd Degree

10:16 a.m. 23-25th Classroom Degrees

11:11 a.m. **Break**

11:20 a.m. 26-28th Classroom Degrees

12:45 p.m. **Lunch Break 1 Hour**

1:45 p.m. 29th Degree

2:20 p.m. **Break**

2:35 p.m. 30th Degree

3:40 p.m. 31st Classroom Degree

4:00 p.m. **Break**

4:15 p.m. 32nd Degree

5:30 p.m. **32nd Finished**

6:30 p.m. **Banquet**

Scottish Rite Clinic Report August 2024

The Clinic has been providing sponsorship to 67 children. There are currently three applications received. There are some children that leave the program as others are added.

The Clinic is actively getting a new website in place. Rita Daniels, a web designer who has developed many websites for Scottish Rite Valleys and clinics, has been selected for the project since she is very familiar with the process. We have a contract with her, and the website should be in place in the near future.

The annual Cookie Jar Auction and Fundraiser will be held Wednesday, December 4th. Patty Murphy will be in charge of the event and the auctioneer will be Bruce Butler.

Remember in your giving to think of the Clinic. There is an Endowment Fund that will perpetuate the Clinic for the funding of sponsorships. Income from the Endowment Fund is used only for this purpose.

Jered Scherer

Chairman

2024 Valley Information 224 Members

(Remember– you can pay your 2024 dues on-line or through the office!)

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 17 7.6 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 119 53.1 % ←

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 17 7.6 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 46 20.5%

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.



**Hello Fall!
Welcome Back.**

2024 Officers & General Information

2024 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	John Hugdahl, 32°
Senior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Nate Frickel, 32°
Orator (all bodies)	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Almoner	TC Chatman, 32° KCCH
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 33°
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	David Jobrack, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Cody Catlin, 32°
Expert	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Captain of the Host	Michael Ebert, 32°
Tyler	Anthony Morse, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	Jacob Clos, 32°
Senior Warden	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Junior Warden	Mitch Burns, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Tom Watson, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Anthony Morse, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Tom Hornung, 33°
Prior	Tracy Dinkel, 32°
Preceptor	Marc Sewell, 32°
Minister of State	TBD

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Detailed upcoming events on page 10)



Rite Care Board Meeting	Sept. 3 rd , 2024
Stated Meeting	Sept. 4 th , 2024
KSA Meeting	Sept 4 th , 2024
Fall Reunion	Sept. 20-21, 2024
Rite Care Board Meeting	Oct. 1 st , 2024
Stated Meeting	Oct. 2 nd , 2024
KSA Meeting	Oct. 2 nd , 2024

Membership Breakfast

2nd Saturday of each Month
7:30 a.m.

At: **Perkins Restaurant**

765 S 20th Street W., Billings MT 59102



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



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

Just a suggestion. These five categories are ideal as guide for personal mind cleansing in a Chamber of Reflection.

This Message is not a commercial for the book, but I want to share that it has a nice theme of organizing one's thoughts and emotions to help one live the best, productive life possible. Sounds like Masonry, doesn't it?

The reason to talk about the formal "The Chamber of Reflection," the campfire experience and my daughter's profound book on de-cluttering the mind, was to emphasize what is already known, is that the pre-ritual and ritual practices in Masonry can be used on an individual level as techniques to practice making our lives fuller, happier, and more compassionate. Masonry has much to teach outside the plain words in the ritual. Learning from the subtle, hidden meanings is rewarding when we discover it and practice it. When we pay attention and become engaged, we will find many more gems for enhancing our quality of life.

I encourage you to individually experiment with ways to create your own personalize Chamber of Reflection, and then give it a whirl.

Take care my brothers and sisters and look well for the hidden mysteries found in the Masonic Family.

Fall Reunion

The Fall Reunion is right around the corner, scheduled for Friday September 20th- Saturday September 21st. Hopefully you are attending degree practices for all those involved in degree work, and if you are a classroom instructor, boning up on your presentations. Please contact your degree chairman for a practice schedule. If you want to participate in the degree work, please reach out to our Director of the Works, Brother Cody Thormahlen (cody.thormahlen@gmail.com) or our Asst. Director of the Works, David Jobrack (davidjobrack@gmail.com). They will be able to find a spot for you (either speaking or non-speaking roles). If you desire to be involved in classroom instruction (degree communications), then please reach out to Dan Jobrack, Class Conductor/Instructor (djobrack@datatrue.net).



365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

Keith Thompson

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

None

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

In memory of Miriam Oswalt –

Conrad Oswalt

LANGUAGE CLINIC ENDOWMENT FUND

None

Business Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 9/1/24 @ NOON)** OR REQUEST THE SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST. THOSE ON THE CALL LIST WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER CALL 2-3 DAYS BEFORE STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

TBD

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

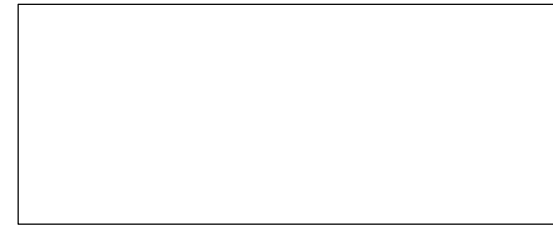
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our Email list for an electronic
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Billings Scottish Rite



*Orient of Montana
Freemasons of Montana*

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master
John J. Hugdahl, 32^o

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master
Jacob Clos, 32^o

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander
Tom Watson, 32^o

Consistory

Master of Kadosh
Tom Hornung, 33^o

Upcoming Events

MEETINGS/EVENTS

Rite Care Board Meeting	Sept. 3 rd , 2024 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Sept. 4 th , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Sept. 4 th , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting	Sept. 4 th , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Sept. 18 th , 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
FALL REUNION Sept. 20-21, 2024	
Rite Care Board Meeting	Oct. 1 st , 2024 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Oct. 2 nd , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Oct. 2 nd , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting	Oct. 2 nd , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Oct. 16 th 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room