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# THE BILLBOARD

## AUGUST 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!

In my personal search for further light in Masonry, I recently discovered a book written by Don Bradley titled, "Freemasonry in the 21st Century." A review of his book states that it offers an insight into the esoteric meaning of Masonic degree work. It also provides the significance of the officers of a Blue Lodge.

Much of the book itself focuses on the purpose Blue Lodge ritual. Namely, Bradley offers his perspective on the intended purpose of each officer, their floor work, and various spoken lines within the ritual. This last portion comes with the caveat that key words are coded in such a way that the uninitiated shall not understand them.

On the Phoenixmasonry.org website, they compiled a list of "15 Qualities of a Master Mason" as presented in Don Bradley's book. The stated purpose of Phoenixmasonry.org, a Masonic library resource, is "to exhibit Masonic documents, lectures, and objects in a rich historical context that both educates and stimulates the traveler to continue and learn." To achieve this honorable goal, these are their fifteen qualities of a Master Mason as summarized from the "Freemasonry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" book:

1. Master Masons do not have selfish interests. All they do, say, and think is for the welfare of others.
2. Vanity is dead for them. They see themselves as they are and do not pretend to be something other than what they are.

(Continued on page 4)



## *Message from our Personal Representative*

### **“Five Masonic Thoughts, Part One”**

A line in the 18 Degree states “all of Masonry has not yet been discovered.” This is absolutely true, but many fine Masonic scholars have made some very good discoveries. One such scholar, Brother William A. Carpenter, RWPGM, Grand Lodge of F&AM of Pennsylvania, was a committee member and editor of “Masonic Culture”, a handbook issued by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. An unknown Brother extracted five items from the handbook which came from the inspired pen of Brother William A. Carpenter. While written nearly 50 years ago, they stand the test of time.

#### **Well and Duly Prepared**

Being “Well and Duly Prepared” is a Masonic expression. Masons understand its significance in the Lodge Rooms. However, they may also interpret it outside the Lodge. No Mason enters even the ground floor of the Lodge unless he is “Well and Duly Prepared.” So simple is his dress that it provokes no envy. He is dressed properly for the occasion, and everyone so dressed feels perfectly at ease among his Brethren. No place here for the rich to boast of fine raiment and resplendent jewels, nor for the poor to envy his more fortunate Brother or covet his wealth. Their clothing in each case symbolizes labor and innocence. With hand and brain, each is ready to serve his fellowman with forbearance and toleration, each is willing to forgive the crude and ignorant everywhere.

To carry the symbolism of Masonic investiture still further, every Mason should be clothed in the habiliments of truth. His wardrobe should contain the robe of justice, with which to protect those who, for any reason, have been deprived of their just rights, the mantle of charity, with which to comfort those made destitute, many times by no cause of their own, the tunic of toleration, with which to hide the weakness of the wayward, and help them to the road of recovery, and the cloak of mercy, with which to cover the wounded and suffering in mind or body with unstinted sympathy and kindness.

These garments are all of genius quality, measured and cut by a Master Tailor. They are serviceable and in good taste on every occasion. They, too, may be had without money and without price, and the man who wears them is truly “properly clothed,” and “Well and Duly Prepared” as a Master Mason.

William A. Carpenter, 1915-1990

During Bro William’s illustrious career, he wrote *The Exemplar: A Guide To A Mason’s Actions*, and hundreds of articles for several periodicals. I came across his work while researching my own article. My monthly message is fun, but I sometimes worry that it may not be relevant or have any value for the Craft. My expectations have improved during my tenure, which leads me to often round file my article at the last minute for various reasons. I am glad I came upon his work so I can occasionally share them with you. Let us see how “duly and truly prepared” I am for next month’s Billboard.



## **THE RITE CORNER**

### **“Portable Chamber of Reflection, Part One”**

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

In an exemplification of a Masonic initiation degree during a Scottish Rite Conference in New Orleans in 2010, the candidate was first placed in a quiet, dark room outside the lodge room called “The Chamber of Reflection.” There, alone with no distractions, he was to clear his mind of the worldly concerns he had. This was my first introduction with the concept of “The Chamber of Reflection.” Subsequently I saw it used by the Supreme Council in other conferral ceremonies. The idea is that through solitary, quiet introspection, a candidate can be mentally centered without extraneous mental clutter to optimize the experience and understanding of what he is about to discover. The following ceremony then is more meaningful to the candidate, who is better focused and free from distracting thoughts.

“The Chamber of Reflection” has been used as a mental preparation for participants in Montana Masonic ceremonies, and though each participant is instructed to quietly reflect on his life, considering the past and prospective influence of Masonry, for some men this type of focused soul-searching is not easy. For some, the mind may be constantly in high gear, always searching for solutions or fixes for pending or anticipated problems. For those who are problem solvers—e.g. engineering types or legal types—to stop the perpetual mental analysis and relax to think reflectively is unnatural. In the vernacular, some people cannot easily chill.

Over this last 4<sup>th</sup> of July and its following weekend, the Bozeman-area Masonic lodges and the R. C. Jensen DeMolay Chapter hosted a Masonic Family Campout at Hyalite Lake, south of Bozeman. It specifically includes members of DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, and Rainbow Girls. It is a fun event with a very light agenda—enjoy fun, eat and stay safe.

My personal contribution to this annual event is to cook pancakes for one of the breakfasts and to bring a portable firepit for evening campfires. From my early camping experiences, I enjoy starting and maintaining a campfire. A campfire provides a space for relaxation, protection, and companionship. Personally, I enjoy watching the fading embers, small sparks and dancing flames, especially when alone. I can watch it for long periods. Just me and the fire. I justify this habit by saying I am watching the fire for safety. This year my daughter Michelle joined me at the fire, and she told me she enjoys watching it also. We were together in silence, occasionally poking the logs to stir up the flames. All our other cares were consumed, and our minds cleared by the mesmerizing flames. Enjoying a campfire slowly die down to ash is was to us a mental cleansing of the worldly concerns that burden our craniums. Unwittingly, watching a campfire at night, while being cloaked in darkness except for the sole light from the campfire, is the perfect setting for “The Chamber of Reflection.”

These are examples of two settings where “The Chamber of Reflection” has been felt. There may be more to the observing eye and attentive ear.

A question to ponder until next month’s message is whether the concept of “The Chamber of Reflection” is limited to individual preparatory mental conditioning for ritualist initiations, or does it have expanded uses in daily life? The follow-up question is: Can the mind be organized to clear out the thought clutter?

Next month’s message will offer guidance on answering these two questions. Please stay tuned and make opportunities for relaxing and clearing out the mind for new adventures.

**(V.M. Message Continued from page 1)**

3. Anger is no longer their master. They have found that anger is a defense mechanism of the ego.
4. They are not the slaves of possessions. Money, homes, cars, clothes, books, TV's are not evil in themselves; it is being a slave to them that is a problem.
5. Master Masons are not afraid to act with courage in their convictions. If they have a fear, they act to overcome it.
6. A Master Mason is always a real person. He does not care what others think of him, but he constantly cares for the welfare of others.
7. He sees the viewpoints of others. He listens and thinks about what others are saying so as to understand them.
8. His emotions are always positive. If hate or anger try to control him, he finds love and understanding and lets them bloom instead.

**Pryor Mountain Field Trip**

Unless bad weather prevails, there will be a geologic field trip to the Pryor mountains on September 14th. All day, bring your lunch and beverages.

Full tank of gas.

Bags for collecting fossils.

Bring enthusiasm, curiosity, and family.

Start on the rims for an overview, then to Bridger and into the mountains. End at Devils overlook of the Big Horn River. Home on your own after that.

Non strenuous.

No facilities until the end. Maybe a little boy bush or a little girl bush.

**Call Hornung: 406-690-6060 with any questions.**

**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: 5 2.2 %

**Members with Current Dues Balance: 129 67.6 %** ←

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 19 8.5 %

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.**



**Summer fun!  
Stay Hydrated!**

# 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 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Stated Meeting	Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
KSA Meeting	Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024
<b>Valley BBQ-Picnic</b>	<b>August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
Honormans Luncheon	Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Rite Care Board Meeting	Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024
Stated Meeting	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
KSA Meeting	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<b>Fall Reunion</b>	<b>Sept. 20-21, 2024</b>

### Membership Breakfast

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each Month

7:30 a.m.

At: **Perkins Restaurant**

765 S 20<sup>th</sup> 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



**(V.M. Message Continued from page 4)**

- 9.** He uses his imagination for creative, not destructive purposes. He imagines how he is going to respond instead of reacting to events.
- 10.** He does not belittle or slander others. His job is to see that anything that comes from his mind, emotions, or mouth is the highest it can be for him.
- 11.** Each day he aligns himself with his inner teacher. He does this by spending a few quiet minutes to allow himself to be healed of his vices and shortcomings.
- 12.** All his actions have as their basic animating energy the power of Love. Even when he acts as a warrior to destroy darkness and evil, it is with the support of love and freedom.
- 13.** He always has a vision. His vision comes from his heart, and because this is so, it always includes humanity.
- 14.** His actions, feelings and thoughts are in harmony with the teachings of ageless Wisdom. He is always acting in the best interests of all concerned, and his daily life is an example of sanity and balance.
- 15.** He is never fanatical. He is sane, normal, and healthy. The most interesting idea about the Master Mason is that he is one who is an example of integration. Integration means that his mind, emotions, and body all work together and not against each other. A true Master Mason has glimpsed the eternal and unchanging reality of life. He sees all things as necessary in the Great Plan for unfolding the hidden potential of all creation. As such, mortality and its illusion are overcome by him. As he lives in the eternal, his life reflects that eternal consciousness.

As I contemplated this list, my thoughts took me back to PGM Jonathan Dahlquist's message when addressing the craft during the 2023 Grand Lodge Communications. The theme of his speech was, "We Can Do Better!" In reality, it was more than a mere theme. It was his challenge to us as Masons. I willingly admit that I sometimes fall short in living up to these 15 Qualities of a Master Mason. Whereas I expect I am not the only one, and I'm sure we can always do better, the next logical question is, what steps can we take to get there? In fact, where do we even begin?

Hopefully, Don Bradley has provided us with guideposts we can follow with his 15 Qualities of a Master Mason to lead us in the right direction. Whereas we may never fully reach our desired destination, these goals should, ideally, aid us in staying on the right path. At the very least, neither they nor our journey through Freemasonry should ever lead us astray.

Indeed, as the philosopher once said, the point of a journey is not to arrive. Rather, it is to experience its valuable lessons along its path. Choose which philosopher you'd most like to attribute that quote to - Ralph Waldo Emerson, Steven Tyler of Aerosmith, or Neil Peart of Rush.

Regardless, I am eager to embark on this noble voyage, and I am looking forward to you, my brothers, joining along with me. And if we never get there, then no matter. Rest assured the journey was worth it. And, steadfastly, we had a lot of outstanding company along the way.

With Masonic Regards!

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





### **365 CLUB**

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

Bob Donaldson III

Jeffrey Peete

### **LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS**

Warrant Oswalt (for Gerald Shay)

### **COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN**

In memory of Miriam Oswalt –

Conrad Oswalt

Shirley Wagner

Wanda Harmon

William and Dorothy Stenerson

Candace Kautz

Peggy Oswalt

### **Casual**



### **DINNER**

**DINNER RESERVATIONS**  
**REQUIRED**. PLEASE MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATION WITH THE  
SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 8/5/24**  
**@ 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**

**Chips & Salsa**

**Spring Mix Salad w/Chipotle Ranch &  
Cilantro Lime Vinaigrette**

**1. Beef Enchilada Casserole  
Mexican Rice  
Elote Corn Salad**

**2. Impossible Enchilada Casserole  
Mexican Rice  
Elote Corn Salad**

### **DESSERT**

**Sopapilla Cheesecake Bars**

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

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

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33°  
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 33°  
Editor: Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH  
Email: [secretary@billingscscottishrite.com](mailto:secretary@billingscscottishrite.com)  
Website: [www.billingsscottishrite.com](http://www.billingsscottishrite.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**  
John J. Hugdahl, 32°

### **Chapter Rose Croix**

**Wise Master**  
Jacob Clos, 32°

### **Council Knights Kadosh**

**Commander**  
Tom Watson, 32°

### **Consistory**

**Master of Kadosh**  
Tom Hornung, 33°



## **MEETINGS/EVENTS**



<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Aug. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>Valley Picnic/BBQ</b>	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 at the Temple
<b>Honormans Luncheon</b>	Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup> 2024 Dining Room @ noon
<b>Rite Care Board Meeting</b>	Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024 noon Conference Room
<b>Exec. Board Mtg.</b>	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
<b>Stated Dinner</b>	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
<b>Stated Meeting</b>	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> 2024 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>KSA Meeting</b>	Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> 2024 6:30 p.m. Lodge Room
<b>FALL REUNION</b>	<b>Sept. 20-21, 2024</b>