
THE BILLBOARD

APRIL 2023

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

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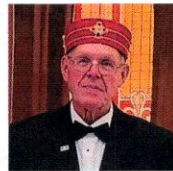
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**To The Celestial
Lodge:**

Message from the Venerable Master



Fraternal Greetings,

REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL – REFLECTION

I would like to congratulate David Jobrack and his team for a job well done on their presentation of the Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony. Also, I would like to compliment Nate Frickel for his work with the staging. What a special honor to have the Sovereign Grand Inspector General play Taps for us. I had the best seat in the house sitting in the sound room. It was very special for me.

“Are there faces lacking from this group which you knew in the past year? Have you laid a friend and Brother to rest? On this occasion, let us celebrate the lives and commemorate the deaths of our brethren who have passed on so that we may ever keep them with us while we live. For no man is ever truly dead as long as he lives in the hearts and memories of his friends and loved ones, and if his influences continue to act for good.”

As the Secretary read the names of the honored dead, I heard the name Bob Repac, one of my best and dearest friends. Bob and I worked closely together on many Masonic projects. He became my mentor. I was amazed on how well he interacted with the public. Everyone knew Bob. We would take trips to his hometown of Red Lodge. As a young man, Bob worked as a delivery person for The Pepsi Cola Company. His routes included Bear Creek, Belfry, Columbus, and Absarokee. I would get a special history lesson on each trip.

(Continued on page 6)



Message from our Personal Representative

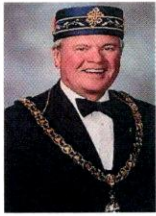
Cinematic Reunions

“After learning that traditional live Reunions would again not be possible for the Fall of 2020 due to in-person meeting restrictions, the Orient of Missouri with permission from the Southern Jurisdiction set forth a plan to create the best proverbial lemonade possible out of the lemons that were handed out during the pandemic shutdown. The goal of producing an extraordinary cinematic experience which encompassed the already established Communication of the Scottish Rite Degrees was set in place, and the mission of transmuting a golden opportunity out of circumstances made of lead was put to task.

Decisions were made not only to make the best out of an otherwise tricky situation, but to create an experience that could be shared anywhere in the world. One that would breathe exciting new life into our ancient traditions and lessons through a vivid new medium of communication. A cinematic production was the goal. A goal that was not only to get the job done and respect the certain standards of quality that our sacred Degrees deserve, but to shatter expectations, inspire others, and raise the bar for in-person traditional live reunions. A production of this extraordinary endeavor would not have been possible without all those who stepped up to the plate in dignified fashion. The production boasted a nearly 60-person cast of Brothers from all over Missouri who volunteered to participate in one capacity or another. The Cast included the SGIG of Missouri, Bro Robert W. Cockerham, 33° and Bro Ty G. Treutelaar, 32° KCCH, grand Master of Masons, Grand Lodge of Missouri at the time of production.

The production of this Cinematic Reunion is so much more than just a quirky moment in history in which the Scottish Rite was compelled to adapt to a virtual model. There remains vast potential for use of these cinematic materials in our Fraternity— from Masonic Educational tools to supplemental materials which will enhance future traditional live Reunions, and from promotional assets to inspiring modern content to use to advance the sublime lessons and teachings of our Brotherhood of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.” (July/August 2021 • SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL) “As it turns out, it is one of the most amazing things that happened during the pandemic, right when we needed it” Bro Ty G. Treutelaar, PGM Grand Lodge of Missouri stated.

(Continued on page 7)



THE RITE CORNER

"Growing"

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

I was reading a daily inspirational message recently that asked the question, "Where are you trying to grow?" It was a question to which I have not thought about in a long time. Having completed my education years ago, not being currently employed, and having learned many Masonic degrees for most of my life, I never considered pursuing any type of growth, whether intellectually, spiritually, occupationally, or fraternally.

After I finally completed my formal education and started a career in the practice of law, the State Bar of Montana made continuing legal education mandatory. Prior to that change, it was voluntary. Being fresh out of school I was confident that there was little that I could learn. I had a good foundation of knowledge for my profession, though my experience level was nil.

Over my career I attended continuing legal education, and on occasion would give a presentation. I enjoyed participating in the CLE's and over time appreciated that the growth was beneficial in my career.

The same is true of our learning in Masonic degrees. We are a candidate in them, we watch them given to others, and later we are giving the degrees. Taking the extra 29 degrees of Scottish Rite, builds our confidence that we are Masons and prepared to practice that art. When we have the distinction of receiving additional honorary degrees, it really convinces us that we have Masonry down pat.

The question then is "Where are we trying to grow in Masonry?" Can we add more insight and understanding of the principles of Masonry, or have we gained it all? Observing or participating in any degree many times always teaches me a new lesson and understanding that I never appreciated before. Just as I was not a fully developed lawyer immediately upon graduation, I was not a fully developed Mason merely because I saw the degrees once. This is the essence of why we have Reunions in Scottish Rite. It is not just to initiate new candidates, it is the continuing education of all our members.

This year the Supreme Council, with the generosity of the Orient of Missouri, is making available to the other Orients and Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction, the Missouri Cinematic Reunion for use in Reunions and for education. This cinematic reunion can augment the lessons learned in the communicated degrees, by showing the staging, costumes, props, and actions found in the conferred versions. I encourage every Scottish Rite member in the Orient of Montana to attend a reunion, and especially ones that have this added feature. This is guaranteed to give growth to your Masonic understanding.

(Continued on page 6)



SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

The Clinic is providing 54 sponsorships to help children. There are three applications for sponsorships.

The Board filled two vacancies. Bob Donaldson and Gerald Giebink were elected to fill these positions. Their terms are for this year and will need to be elected for full terms at the annual meeting in February of 2024. Both will be valuable to the Board with their backgrounds.

The Board has had conversations regarding dyslexia, which affects up to ten percent of the population. There is treatment to help this condition. More information is needed on what qualifications are required to treat dyslexia. More information will be announced as to whether the Clinic can be involved with this.

Respectfully submitted,

Jered Scherer, Chairman

2023 Valley Information 232 Members

(Remember– you can pay your 2023 dues on line or through the office!)

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 133 57.3 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 18 7.8 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 13 5.6 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 41 17.7%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 27 11.6%

A note about 2023 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



It's APRIL in MONTANA!

2023 Officers & General Information

2023 Officers

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Venerable Master	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	John Hugdahl, 32°
Junior Warden	Tom Hanel, 32° KCCH
Orator (all bodies)	Nate Frickel, 32°
Almoner	David Bergeson, 33°
Secretary	Llewellyn Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Prelate	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Rick Ingram-Hegenbart, 32°
Expert	Cody Catlin, 32°
Captain of the Host	Robert Cauckwell, 32°
Tyler	Adam Price, 32°
Organist	John Baber, 32° KCCH

ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	David Jobrack, 32°
Senior Warden	Cody Thormahlen, 32°
Junior Warden	Erik Yerger, 32°

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Jacob Clos, 32°
1 st Lt. Commander	Michael Wren, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Andrew McCarroll, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Jered Scherer, 33°
Prior	Ronny Aasterud, 32° KCCH
Preceptor	Dan Massey, 32° KCCH
Minister of State	Nate Frickel, 32°

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Upcoming events on page 10)



Honormen Luncheon	Mar. 31 st , 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	Apr. 4 th , 2023
Stated Meeting	Apr. 5 th , 2023
Cinematic Fellowship Event	Apr. 22, 2023
Rite Care Board Meeting	May 2 nd , 2023
Stated Meeting	May 3 rd , 2023

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



(Venerable Master message continued from page 1)

He came from a poor hardworking coal mining family. In 1943 he lost loved ones in the explosion at the Smith Mine that killed 74 miners. He was a tremendous athlete excelling in football, basketball, track, and boxing. After graduating he joined the Air Force and served many years active and inactive. To my knowledge he had few vices, didn't smoke, or consume alcohol (probably the reason for his longevity).

On September 25, 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited Billings. 17,000 Montanans flooded the Yellowstone County Fairgrounds to hear him speak. Being employed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bob received top security clearance and had the special honor of being in the motorcade riding in the second car behind the President.

Make sure to take frequent opportunities to spend quality time with your loved ones and if possible, make amends with your adversaries before it is too late.

TRAVELS

Recently I had the honor of attending the Joint Shrine Treasurer & Recorder Association meeting in San Antonio, Texas. At the finish of the day on Wednesday, I observed the Imperial Photographer taking pictures. Being a shutterbug myself, I inquired about what model of camera he was using. We struck up a conversation and became instant friends. He, his father, and brothers were members of Texas Masonic Lodge No. 8 A.F. & A.M. and were also members of the Scottish Rite.

I informed him that my schedule was busy, and I would not get a chance to do any sightseeing. He asked me if I'd like to visit the Alamo. I said yes. He gave me a tour of the Alamo and showed me parts of the city which included seeing the beautiful Scottish Rite Cathedral.

I was overwhelmed and amazed by his Masonic hospitality. (Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love).

UP COMING EVENTS

On Monday, March 20 the March equinox or the first day of spring, takes place. This means warmer weather and green grass are on the way. I am Looking forward to helping Bob Hanson mow and water the lawn at the Scottish Rite Temple.

I am also excited about the upcoming **Cinematic Degrees and Fellowship Day** which will be presented at the Temple on Saturday, April 22nd. **Mark your calendars and bring a Scottish Rite brother with you.**

Fraternally,

Ron Swenson

Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection.

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

Another opportunity for Masonic growth is at the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal hosted by Helena Valley on April 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Consistory-Shrine Temple, 15 North Jackson, Helena, Montana. The Ceremony is featuring Bob Weatherford, as guest speaker. His frequent presentations on the Tyler's Place Podcast are stimulating and exciting. This is a rare opportunity to hear and see him in person. The Ceremony will be followed by a nice dinner and, of course, fellowship. Helena Valley believes this is a rare opportunity to hear Brother Bob give a powerful, growing message. Please RSVP so food can be prepared accordingly to Fred Benson, at 507-360-7172 phone or text, or email fcb.brokenspurranh@gmail.com. Helena Valley welcomes your attendance.

No matter your position or station in life or Masonry, it benefits you and all around you to grow as an upright person. We are looking forward to seeing you at a Reunion and the Helena Valley Remembrance and Renewal.

(Personal Representatives message continued from page 2)

“How best to explain the Scottish Rite Cinematic Reunion? As one may or may not already be aware, there are two distinct methods by which a Candidate may become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. The first method is receiving the Degrees of the Scottish Rite by traditional Conferral, in which the Degrees are played out by a cast of Scottish Rite Masons. The second method is a more expedient, whereby the Candidate will receive a brief synopsis of the Degree, including the symbols and lessons contained therein, followed by the official Charge—the “secret-work,” or explanation and extrapolation of the Degree’s symbols and lessons— and then will assume the Obligation of the Degree. This method is known as Communication and was written and developed by the Scottish Rite Ritual Committee of the Supreme Council. Such means may be employed by authorized Scottish Rite Masons when circumstances do not allow for the full theatrical production of any Degree. Rather than filming the actual Degree work, which the Southern Jurisdiction does not permit, we endeavored to produce an elaborate and superior-quality cinematic vision of the method of receiving the Degrees by Communication.

The Cinematic Reunion has been a transformative, inspiring, and deeply enriching Masonic experience for the thousands who have taken part thus far, and we encourage all who have not yet experienced this cinematic journey to look forward to future opportunities in which to participate.” (July/August 2021 • SCOTTISH RITE JOURNAL)

Message from the Director and Assistant Director of the Works

Much of the allure of being a Scottish Rite Mason is the unique Brotherhood that ignites when we gather in fraternity and friendship and the continuation of our masonic education. Through viewing the Cinematic Degrees, we not only can come together with Brothers from our own Valley, but potentially throughout the Orient.

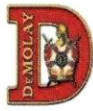
Having a Fellowship Day is a great opportunity for us to come together, not for a business or committee meeting, but to enjoy each other’s company. We will join and engage with the teachings of our craft, reflect on our values, and learn from each other.

In short, having a Cinematic Degree Fellowship Day is a great way to get together for camaraderie and rumination on our fraternities’ lessons, as well as an opportunity for us to **invite potential members to meet and join us for lunch afterwards** and encourage them to enter our great Scottish Rite Brotherhood during our next reunion.

We Look Forward to Enjoying the 4th through 32nd Degrees Recorded by the Orient of Missouri with you!

Cody Thormahlen 32°, Director of the Works

David Jobrack, 32°, Assistant. Director of the Works



Magic City
Chapter

THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE

Here's to Spring. While the temperatures are still fluctuating, Magic City Chapter continues to be consistent with our efforts to find good young men for our Order. We recently had a Cornhole game night with a couple of prospects and what seemed to be a never-ending supply of candy. Well, the boys tried their best to eat it all. We participated in MT DeMolay's Annual Sweet Retreat in Fairmont Hot Springs. It was awesome to see all the members from around the state come together. They swam, ate, and danced the night away, until exhaustion sent them looking for some much-needed sleep.

I am going to borrow this next section for the newsletter written by Dad David Carter from Ross C. Jensen Chapter in Bozeman.

"In the words of one of our members and Senior Councilor, Seamus, "Comradeship to me is when you would do anything for one of your friends or brothers. It is when, even though the odds are against you, you still manage to pull through because you went through it with those closest to you."

As always with our Virtues, there is a question that arises from Brother Seamus' definition: Are we willing to do anything with and for our family, friends, and those we love when the odds are against them?

Another question is, are we willing to ask for help when the odds are against us? Perhaps it is worth remembering that emulating this virtue sometimes means being there for others, and sometimes letting others be there for us. Wherever we find ourselves, I'd like to challenge all of us to take a closer look at that definition, and work to better exemplify this virtue in our daily thoughts, words, actions, and habits.

This really hits home for me this month. Especially the *don't be afraid to ask for help and let others be there for you*. A young man in Billings committed suicide in the last few weeks. This young man was known to some of my DeMolay Members. I saw how much it affected them. Please do not be afraid to ask for help or give it. It might save a life.

The Road to Life Begins Here. Now is the time to bring your son, grandson, nephew, stepson, or neighbor kid into this organization. The road to bigger Leadership begins with DeMolay. The road to Brotherhood begins with DeMolay. The road to Success begins with DeMolay. There is something for everyone here. They will find their path here. It is a safe, fun, learning environment and we are looking for them. If you have someone in mind, please let me know at dan.massey@mtdemolay.org or 402-681-7763.

Thanks,

Dan Massey

Van Coordinator



We are still looking for someone to fill the position as Coordinator for the Courtesy/Cancer Van.

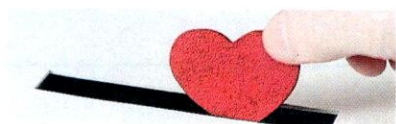
It takes approximately 30 - 90 minutes a week to manage the drivers and coordinate with the Cancer Center liaison.

The position is for the management of eight drivers/shifts weekly (2-per day, one morning, one afternoon). Most drivers have a favorite time to drive and normally stay in that position/shift, which makes it much easier to coordinate.

Our former coordinator put the bi-weekly list format and drivers on a thumb drive making it easy to coordinate the list.

Currently we are staffed with a minimum number of drivers to “keep the doors open.” However, should a driver fall ill or have an unforeseen conflict, we begin to have to scramble. So stated, **we still need a few more drivers!**

Please contact the Valley Secretary, Office 406-259-6683, Cell 406-208-7580.



CONTRIBUTIONS

365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

Bob Donaldson, III

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Fanwood Trust

Walter & Elaine Anderson Memorial
Trust

Earl Halverson

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

Charles Harman

Anonymous Donation

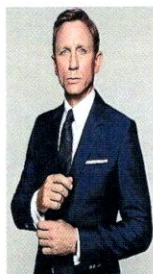
In Memory of Robert Repac

Jered Scherer

In Memory of Jack & Pat Rehberg

Phyllis Burns

Business Attire



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH
THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT 4/3/23 @
11:00 a.m.)**, 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 Ravens

Main Dish and Sides (choice) - \$15.00

Lettuce Salad w/ tomatoes, onions and
avocado (Southwest Ranch Dressing)

1. Beef Enchiladas with Mexican corn
2. Chicken Enchiladas with Mexican corn
(w/dairy)
3. Veggie Enchiladas with Mexican corn
(cheese on the side)

DESSERT

Mexican chocolate brownies or sugar cookies

Cinematic Degrees and Fellowship Day Schedule of Events-April 22, 2023

7:30 A.M. - Doors Open, Coffee and Doughnuts Provided

8:30 A.M. - Film Begins

10:00 A.M. - 15 Minute Bathroom/Coffee/Stretch Break

10:15 A.M. - Film Resumes

12:00 P.M. - Lunch and Fellowship

Lunch Buffet –Catered by J Evelyn Jobrack

Mains and Sides:

Pancit- Filipino Chicken and Noodles

Lumpia (beef) - Filipino Spring Rolls with Sweet & Sour Sauce

Pineapple Chicken

Pandesal- Fresh Baked Rolls

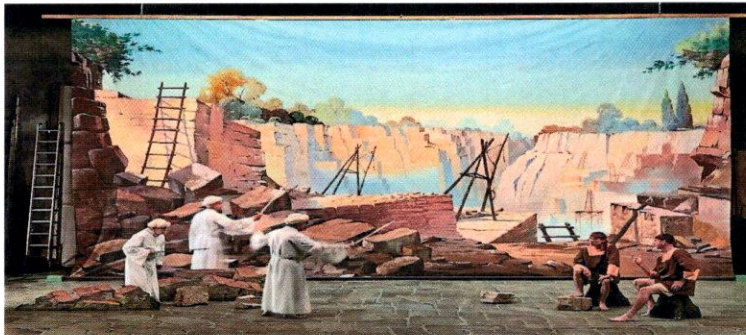
Steamed Rice

Desserts:

Biko- Sweet Rice Cake

Turon- Fried Wrapped Banana

Cost-\$12.00



Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33°
Secretary: Lewie Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Email: secretary@billingscottishrite.com
Website: 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



Billings Scottish Rite



Orient of Montana
Freemasons of Montana

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master
Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master
David Jobrack, 32°

Council Knights Kadosh

Commander
Jacob Clos, 32°

Consistory
Master of Kadosh
Jered Scherer, 33°

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Upcoming Events



MEETINGS/EVENTS



Honormen Luncheon	Mar. 31 st , 2023 noon, Dining Room
Clinic Board Meeting Room	April 4 th , 2023 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	Apr. 5 th , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Apr. 5 th , 2023 6:30 p.m. Dining Hall
Stated Meeting	Apr. 5 th 2023 7:30 p.m. Lodge Room
Cinematic Fellowship Event	Apr. 22, 2023 7:30 a.m.
Clinic Board Meeting	May 2 nd , 2023 noon Conference Room
Exec. Board Mtg.	May 3 rd , 2023 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
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