
THE BILLBOARD

JANUARY 2022

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

Special points of interest:

VM Message

Bob Donaldson 32°

PR Message

Sean McDuffee 33°

Page 2

MT SGIG Message

David L. Nielsen 33°

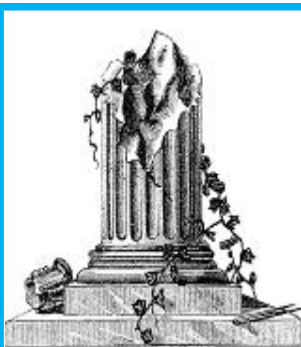
Page 3

General Information

Page 5

Officers for 2021

Page 5



To The Celestial Lodge:

John Jay Mangen
1955 to 2021

Message from The Venerable Master



Greetings to all of my Scottish Rite Brethren. I trust all experienced a Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukah to all the rest. I am extremely honored and privileged to have been elected as your Venerable Master for the year of 2022. I am confident that your incoming officers (both elected and appointed) will serve this Valley with distinction and commitment. The Scottish Rite has always been very dear to my heart and I hope that I will live up to your expectations as I strive to see this organization through another year of success and philanthropy. With sincere gratitude I wish to thank your past Venerable Master, Brother Dan Jobrack and his team of officers for their two years of service, through a terribly difficult time. Brother Dan proved to be up to the task of steering our ship across troubling seas, as we all navigated and survived a period of adversity to our nation, Valley and Masonry in general. A number of our most active and capable Brethern were lost to this horrible virus and we cannot, nor will we, forget their contribution to our work and fraternity. Again I thank you for the faith and trust you placed in me, by electing me to this position. I pledge to do my best to meet your high expectations.

Thank you
Bob Donaldson, 32°
Venerable Master

Valley of Billings Personal Rep



Greetings

At our January stated meeting, the Valley of Billings will hold a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our eight new Masters of the Royal Secret. This will solidify our dedication to our new Brethren and theirs to our fraternity. Directly afterwards we will install our new, duly elected, officers for the ensuing 2022 year. Both Ceremonies are open to the public. I welcome each of you to attend and your support.

Bro Bob Donaldson 32° was elected to be our Venerable Master. Bro Bob is a 15-year Master Mason and has been a member of our Valley for 6 years. I very much look forward to working with him and his Officer Line next year.

I would like to sincerely thank and congratulate those that attended our Annual Cookie Jar Fundraiser for the Rite Care Language Clinic in December. As many of you know, it is one of the most exciting events that we hold at the Valley of Billings. Please make sure to read Illustrious Brother Jered Scherer's article below for more details about it.

Also at our December gathering, our SGIG, Ill Bro David Nielsen 33°, presented Bro Bob Hanson 33° GC his new Hat, Jewel, and Patent for the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor. As my friend, mentor and Brother, I can not think of any one more deserving of this Honor. It was my privilege to be part of his Ceremony.

Depending upon when you get this, I wish each of you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you January 5th.



Left to right: Brother Jason Smith, Brother Sean McDuffee, Brother Bob Hanson with Lady Merillee, Brother David Nielson, and Brother Michael Welton.

THE RITE CORNER



“Light in Darkness”

David L. Nielsen, 33^o
S.G.I.G. in Montana

As regular as the Winter Solstice, every December 21st I renew my interest and passion in the Winter Solstice—the day that is the start of winter and that has the longest period of darkness. It represents the dark periods of winter with hope of return of the sun for growth and harvest of summer crops. This symbolism is used to describe the periods in history that were dark for people being oppressed and victims of senseless violence and death, but with the light of God’s love overcoming this darkness by bringing hope and joy.

Two thousand years ago, the Hebrews in Judea and Galilee, part of the Roman Empire, lived under the oppressive rule of Herod the Great—The King of the Jews. Herod was puppet ruler for Rome in its occupation of the Jewish territories. It was during Herod’s reign, that a Jewish baby boy called “Jesus” would be born in Bethlehem. This nativity, according to the New Testament, did not go unnoticed. The birth of Jesus could be compared to a single candle glowing in a dark night. The child was also heralded as “The King of the Jews.” Herod was not about to share his power and title as “King of the Jews” with a Jewish baby. His solution was to have all children of Jerusalem under the age of two slain, in an attempt to snuff the one small light. Jesus spent his life bringing the message of the law of Love an oppressed people.

The point of this story is that when the light of God’s love and presence shines on darkness of human despair, there is no instantaneous change for the good. It takes time, and in some cases years.

As Masons we individually came from a place of darkness to one of Light, given by God. The Light we received teaches us kindness, compassion, charity, and brotherly love. At times we may be discouraged that we still see, and may even experience, the darkness of hate, oppression, and cruelty. We want to use the Light we have gained to shine through and right the wrongs, but it seems to stall and does not take hold immediately.

The ancients, who depended upon the passing of the winter solstice into more sunlight, celebrated the Winter Solstice as the “opportunity for renewal, a shedding of bad habits and negative feelings and an embracing of hope amid darkness. . .” (CNN Travel)

If we feel frustrated in trying to make a noticeable difference in our society, to ease the pain of suffering, and the many types of darkness that comes in its treatment of people, the Winter Solstice teaches us that applying the goodness of light to dark situation is a long and demanding task, but with our trust in God we can persevere and prevail. We see too much discourteous behavior and unkind treatment of people. It makes us mad, and we want to retaliate in kind, but that would be adding darkness to dark. Bringing the Light of love, compassion, and kindness is slow, but it has a better chance of bearing healthy results. The Light we bring needs to be gentle but firm. Silence does not generate the Light that is needed. Compassionate application of Light to darkness may be our best hope for change.

May your New Year empower you to apply the Light of Masonry in areas of darkness and despair of God’s children, and give comfort to those in need, suffering or anger. I wish you and your family the best in 2022.



SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

The major fundraising event for the year was the Cookie Jar Auction which was held on December 1, at the Scottish Rite Center. The auction itself raised \$3427, and with other giving the total was over \$4200.

A special thank-you to Lady Patty Murphy for coordinating the auction plus others who helped in many ways. Also a special thank-you to Mark Steffes for donating his services as auctioneer.

Thank you to all those 90 people who attended and supported the fundraising. It all helps with providing sponsorships for children who need speech therapy.
May all of you have a good New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jered Scherer, Chairman



2022 Valley Information 264 Members

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 124 47.5 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 50 19.2 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 30 11.5 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (A,L,R): 28 10.7%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 29 11.1%



A note about 2022 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council:

1. 1st Notice - July 2021 mail notice to all Dues Paying members.
2. 2nd Notice - October 2021 mail notice to all Unpaid members only
3. 3rd Notice - February 2022 mail final notice to all Unpaid members only. (Possible NPD)

Remember your dues are **to be paid by 01 January** to be in good standing.



MORE PICTURES OF BOB



General Info

BILLINGS VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE 2021 OFFICERS

Elected

VM	Dan Jobrack 32° KCCH
SW	Mark Olson 32°
JW	Bob Donaldson, 32°
Orator	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH
Almoner	David Bergeson, 33°
Treasurer	Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH

Appointed

Prelate	John Hugdahl 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Arnie Frovarp, 32°
Expert	Gerald Giebink, 32°
Assistant Expert	TBD
Captain of the Host	David Jobrack, 32°
Tyler	Bob Hanson, 33°
Organist	John Baber, 32°, KCCH
Appointed (SC)	Michael J. Welton, 32°, KCCH

COUNCIL ROSE CROIX

Wise Master	Tom Hanel, 32°, KCCH
Senior Warden	Jeff Dresch, 33°
Junior Warden	Frank Dengel, 32°
Orator	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH

COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Commander	Michael Welton, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander	Wally Hall, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander	Steve Hanser 32°, KCCH
Orator	Ron Swenson 32° KCCH

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Arnie Frovarp, 32°
Prior	Nate Frickle, 32°
Preceptor	Jacob Clos, 32°
Minister of State	Ron Swenson, 32° KCCH



Beartooth District Calendar

As a continuing reminder, this calendar was created as a planning tool to avoid scheduling conflicts when setting event dates. This works best if you let us know of any events you would like to include. Corrections are also welcome.

Please go to:

<http://www.montanafreemasons.org/>

Click on Beartooth district
Scroll down to middle of page and click
on "Scheduled Events Calendar"

Please check for entries that may be
of specific interest to you!





Magic City Chapter

Happy Holidays!!

Happy NEW YEAR!! Wow, 2022, It is hard to believe how fast the years are flying by. We have accomplished another year around the sun, and we are still living in a COVID stressed time. Although, it is a different variant this time around. I pray that we move

past this sooner rather than later. It has been nice to get back to meeting in person and enjoying a well-cooked meal. The Cookie Jar auction was a tremendous success. Seeing it supported by so many friends and family of the Billings Scottish Rite Community, who opened their hearts and pocketbooks for such a worthy cause. Magic City Chapter has planned to hold a movie night for our first meeting January 13th. We are going to watch a classic movie from the '80s or '90s and see how much popcorn and soda we can consume. The Montana DeMolay State Officers are busy working for the Order of DeMolay, they are reviving our Jurisdictional Newsletter, creating templates and checklists for the chapters to use to plan events and bring in new members, and they are planning statewide events to continue to energize our members and bring our sister organizations together. Additionally, the state officers will be traveling to the Region 7 conference at the end of January to meet and discuss jurisdictional issues with the leadership from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. We are excited to be able to travel and learn and support each other.

We are on the lookout for some more young men to get to experience this wonderful organization. If you know of any young men, please pass their name along. We will handle the rest. If they are looking for something to do that is safe and fun, we are looking for them. We can do anything that we put our minds to. If you have someone in mind, please let me know at dan.massey@mtdemolay.org or 402-681-7763.

Thanks,
Dan Massey

LIBRARY

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE LIBRARY!

By Tom Hornung



The Billings Gazette, some love it, some loathe it. Nevertheless the Gazette has chronicled the history of Billings since 1884. I recently found an illustrated edition of the Gazette dated July, 1894 and presented to Ashlar Lodge #29, Billings Chapter #6, and Aldemar Commandery #5 by Brother Charley Shipman on May 29th, 1916. Price 15 cents. Mention is made of the Masonic bodies including the O.E.S. Many prominent citizens are pictured and annotated in the margins as Masons or non-masons. Early buildings are pictured and described including the Eastern Montana State Prison at Billings and numerous churches. It can't be checked out of the library, but you can come in and check it out.



CONTRIBUTIONS

TRANSPORTATION VAN

Ray Klein
Linda Egelhoff

In memory of Clint Frank
Conrad Ostwalt

365 Club
Adam Johnson
Gerald Giebink
Bob Donaldson III

Language Clinic Operations

Cheryl Malia-McCall

In Memory of Clint Frank
Gordon Lockwood
Gregory and Shelly Popp

In Memory of Ron Anderson
Marie Armstrong

Language Clinic Endowment

As Part of Dues payments

Mark Williamson

Almoners Fund

Don and Gayle Holland

MEAL MENU

MENU

Spaghetti w/Meatballs

Or Chicken Alfredo

Roasted Italian Veggies

Wedge Salad

Mixed fruit and French

Bread

Relish tray

Holiday Dessert Tray

COST: \$15



Membership Breakfast

2nd Saturday
7:30 AM
2022

Western Emporium
3141 King Ave W, Billings,
MT 59102

Please be healthy!

Dinner Reservations Required

259-6683

By 11 AM Monday

Due by 01 November

THANK YOU

Business Attire

Members



OFFICE HOURS

ARE

9 AM TO 12

WEDNESDAY

And

THURSDAY
AM during
Koffee Klatch

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th StreetWest
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean McDuffee, 33°
Secretary: Michael J Welton, 32° KCCH
Assistant Sec: Lewie Fletcher, 32° KCCH
Editor: Secretary
Email:
secretary@billingscottishrite.com

U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Org
Billings, MT
Permit No. 724

**In Office: Wednesday & Thursday
9.00-12:00 AM**

Office Tel: (406) 259-6683
Return Service Requested



We're on the Web at
www.billingscottishrite.com

Send an email to the secretary to
be added to our Email listing



Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master

Bob Donaldson, 32°

Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master

Nate Frickle, 32°

Council of Kadosh

Commander

Gerald Giebink 32°

Consistory

Master of Kadosh

Jeff Dresch, 33°

Need to Know Information

MEETINGS

Koffee Klatch **Every Thursday 7:30 AM** until you leave.

Executive **05 January**
6:00 PM Executive Meeting—Conference Room

Dining Area 6:30 PM Meal is served

LOP: Installation of 2022 Officers following dinner