
THE BILLBOARD

OCTOBER 2025

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,

October has arrived and with it our annual Feast of Tishri, a mandatory Scottish Rite Masonry observance. A time to celebrate brotherhood, human concord, pursuit of peace, freedom, and the completion of King Solomon's Temple. We will celebrate this event on October 1st with a "special" evening dinner, the reading of scriptures, and the presence of a guest speaker (no LOP following dinner). The Feast of Tishri is an event you should not miss, so make plans now to attend. This is one of our rare public events, so, guests are welcome!

The 2025 Fall Reunion is fast approaching, and it brings me great honor to announce this reunion will be in remembrance of Brother Robert "Bob" Donaldson III, 32°, a loyal and devoted Mason and Scottish Rite Brother, who entered the Celestial Grand Lodge earlier this year.

Due to scheduling challenges, the 2025 Fall Reunion is being held on October 17th and 18th. Although later than usual it remains as important as ever. Bro. Cody Thormahlen 32°, our Director of the Works is drafting the schedule, and the degree chairs will be calling and scheduling practices. This is an event we are proud of however the success depends on you, so, get involved and offer your help.

A sincere thank you to all of you for a great year, however there is more to come! A reminder that December is our Annual Cookie Jar Auction. This event is to help fund the Rite Care, an essential component of Scottish Rite and always a good time.

Respectfully,

Tom Hanel, VM



Message from our Personal Representative

Sharing Wisdom

My Brethren. I recently read a very well-written letter from a Grand Master to his Craft and felt it necessary to utilize it in the space provided for myself. Peace and Harmony Prevailing, Sean.

Randolf L. Seipel,
Grand Master,
Grand Lodge of Masons in Indiana

September 11th, 2025

My Brothers,

Freemasonry is an organization of men of every background, sect, religion, and political thought. We join together in the union of Brotherly Love despite those differences of faith, thought, and conviction. We build brotherly relationships based on the acceptance of each other and our shared desire to put our ritual into action by supporting each in the journey of taking good men and making them better. We do this through our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Recently, a high-profile political figure was murdered at a public event sparking not only shock and sorrow but controversy and political hate speech from both sides of the aisle. As Freemasons we are charged to rise above the fray. Abhorrent speech, vulgar language, and hateful conduct is foreign to us, yet at times our emotions, thoughts, and actions override our Masonic values. When this happens, it is incumbent upon every brother Mason to reflect on their actions, arm themselves with their working tools and break off the corners of their rough ashlar to prepare their living stone for that sacred building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

As I often am, I am reminded of the valuable, in disposable lessons we learn as Masons. Silence and circumspection are truly masonic virtues. We are all children of the same parent. Masonry joins men of every sect and creed who might well have maintained at a perpetual distance.

My Brothers, as we reflect today on the thousands of lives lost 24 years ago during the 9/11 attacks, let us remember those tragic events brought to us by hate-filled extremists whose cause was not strengthened by those attacks. Rather, they were weakened as our great country rose together to support each other, renewing our pride in our country, and reenergizing our patriotism and unity. Let us then use the tragic events of yesterday to grow in understanding and compassion, to reclaim the charge of Brotherly Love and understanding and to stand firm on the moral dictates of our great Fraternity. Let us build and grow, and love, and pray together, and show that Masons can, do, and will make the world a better place.

Fraternally.

Randolph L. Seipel
Grand Master



THE RITE CORNER

“Biennial Session 2025”

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

The Supreme Council, 33° Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A. met in its Biennial Session of 2025, in Washington, D.C. from August 17-19, 2025. For the members of the Supreme Council, attendance is mandatory for the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General and Deputies from the Orients of the Southern Jurisdiction.

Prior to the start of the Session, Judy and I enjoyed a Nationals game on Friday night with M.W. Brother Jason Smith and his lady Karla. My wife Judy is behind the camera

The Supreme Council met on Saturday, August 16th, for its business meeting. One item that was of particular concern to the Orient of Montana was its request to the Supreme Council to extend the Letters Temporary issued for creation of the Valley of Glendive, Lodge of Perfection. The Council unanimously extended the authority of the Letters until the 2027 Biennial Session to allow additional time for the Valley to apply for a Charter.

On Sunday evening, sitting Grand Masters and their ladies attend a dinner as guests of Sovereign Grand Commander James Cole. The Orient of Montana was proudly represented by Most Worshipful Brother Jason Smith, Grand Master of Masons of Montana, and his wife Karla.

The Grand Masters are then all introduced at the Public Session on Monday morning.

This year Montana had a total of nine brothers and six of their ladies attending the Session. In addition to the Grand Master and myself, other attending brothers were Sean McDuffee, Lewie Fletcher, Ronnie Aasterud, and Dan Massey from Billings Valley; Tom Davis and Justin Davis from Livingston Valley; and Kim Bowman from Western Montana Valley.

III. Brother Dan Massey conferred as an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on August 19, 2025 at the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington, DC.

Of course, with Masonic events, there is dining and fellowship. We went to the Fish Market in Alexandria, Virginia for my traditionally hosted Montana dinner.

The next day, after a hard day of seeing D.C. sights and shopping, especially for shoes, the ladies attended a Brunch and Tea Party.

It was a great pleasure for us to host a large Montana delegation and their spouses for the Biennial Session of 2025.

We encourage all Scottish Rite Brothers to try to attend a Biennial Session at least once in your Masonic careers and take your ladies. We trust you will enjoy the experience. Thank you for the honor to serve the Orient of Montana.

David & Judy Nielsen

(Please Enjoy the Pictures on Page 4)



**Billings Fire Department Assists with
Installing our New Flag**



**Phillips 66 Community Event @ South
Park**



Judy and I at the Nationals Game



It has been an honor to serve!



III. Brother Daniel Massey's



Brunch & Team Party for the Ladies



**Most Worshipful Brother
Jason Smith, Grand
Master of Masons in
Montana and his wife
Karla**



The Clinic provides funding towards speech/therapy at various clinics in Billings. At this time the Clinic is providing sponsorships for 64 children.

The Clinic is in need of financial donations, and now this can be done through PayPal. This makes it easy for monthly donations without having to write a check. It is also convenient if you are doing the 365 Club. Go to: <https://www.ritecarebillings.org/> and make your donation today!

The Annual Cookie Jar Auction will be held on Wednesday, December 3. Patty Murphy will be the facilitator and we will have auctioneer Bruce Butler. Be sure to bring your cookie jars with goodies.

This is a fun night and the revenue helps the kids.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jered Scherer, Chairman

2026 Valley Information 219 Members

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

Active Members with Dues Paid in Full: 50 22.8 %

Members with Current Dues Balance: 8 36.5 %

Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance: 21 9.6 %

Active Members that are Dues Exempt (ALR): 43 19.6%

Active Paid Life Members (E): 25 11.4%



A note about 2026 dues Renewal Notices coming from Supreme Council: Remember your dues must be paid by 01 January to be in good standing.



**Fall has arrived!
Break out your
back-to-School
sweaters!**

2025 Officers & General Information

2-Month Valley Calendar Snapshot

(Detailed upcoming events on page 8)

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 st Lt. Commander	Dennis Crowder, 32°
2 nd Lt. Commander	Tom Green, 32°

CONSISTORY

Master of Kadosh	Unassigned
Prior	Marc Sewell, 32°
Preceptor	Cody Thormahlen, 32°



Executive Committee Meeting	Oct. 1 st , 2025
Feast of Tishri (No LOP)	Oct. 1 st 2025
KCCH Conferral Great Falls	Oct. 4 th , 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Oct. 7 th , 2025
KSA Meeting	Oct. 15 th , 2025
Fall Reunion	Oct. 17 th -18 th 2025
Honormans Luncheon	Oct. 31 st 2025
Rite Care Board Meeting	Nov. 4 th 2025
Executive Committee Meeting	Nov. 5 th 2025
Stated Dinner & Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 2025



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





365 CLUB

Ronny & Mary Beth Aasterud

LANGUAGE CLINIC OPERATIONS

Forrest Henderson

John Stewart

Tom Green

Joseph Moore

COURTESY TRANSPORTATION VAN

Forrest Henderson

Billy Millhollin

John Steward

Tom Green

Jeff Dresch

Endowment Fund

None

Business Attire-Honormen in Tuxedo



DINNER

DINNER RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WITH THE SECRETARY **(259-6683 NLT Sept. 29, 2025 @ NOON)** OR REQUEST THE SECRETARY ADD YOU TO THE CALL LIST. THOSE ON THE CALL LIST SHOULD RECEIVE A REMINDER CALL 2-5 DAYS BEFORE STATED DINNER.

MEAL MENU by Cody

\$20.00

Salad with crushed walnuts, apple and maple vinaigrette or ranch.

Centerpiece Bread with honey butter

1. Traditional Tri-tip with garlic mashed potatoes and brown gravy, roasted cauliflower.
2. Vegetarian Meatloaf with garlic mashed potatoes and gravy, roasted cauliflower.

Dessert

Spice cake with cream cheese frosting

Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

514 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102-5216

Personal Rep: Sean P. McDuffee, 33°
Secretary: Llewellyn Fletcher, 33° PGM
Editor: Dan Jobrack, 32° KCCH
Email: secretary@billingscscottishrite.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 and for Standing Dinner
Reservations (to receive a call)



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Billings, MT
Permit No. 724

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



MEETINGS/EVENTS



Exec. Board Mtg.	Oct. 1 st , 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Feast of Tishri	Oct 1 st , 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
KCCH Investiture & 33° Conferral Oct. 4th in Great Falls	
Rite Care Board Meeting	Oct. 7 th , noon Conference Room
KSA Meeting	Oct. 15 th , 6:00 p.m. Lodge Room
Fall Reunion 2025	Oct. 17th-18th 2025
Honormans Luncheon	Oct. 31 st , noon Dining Room
Rite Care Board Mtg.	Nov. 4 th , noon Conference Room
Executive Committee Meeting	Nov. 5 th , 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
Stated Dinner	Nov. 5 th , 6:30 p.m. Dining Room
Stated Meeting (Annual Elections)	Nov. 5 th , 7:30 Lodge Room
KSA Meeting	Nov. 19 th , Lodge Room
Annual Cookie Jar Fundraiser	Dec. 3rd, Dining Room