

# THE BILLBOARD

OCTOBER 2020

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

Special points of interest:

**VM Message**

Dan Jobrack 32°

**PR Message**

Sean McDuffee 32° KCCH

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**MT SGIG Message**

David L. Nielsen 33°

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**General Information**

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**Officers for 2020**

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**To The Celestial Lodge:**

None known

## *Message from The Venerable Master*



Salve Frater et Amici!

Forsooth, me spies a light at the end of yon tunnel! Okay, that is about the limit of my waxing Shakespearean. Patience and understanding has brought us all this far during these difficult times to a point where we are finally ready to begin the process of reconnecting and reengaging life in our Valley. It is my hope that this good news finds you all well, healthy and eager to recover some of our fellowshipping that we has been on hold for the past 7 plus months.

Let me begin with the reengagement news of life in our Valley. Beginning in October we will have what we are calling a soft reopening. This means that we will once again begin having our Executive Meetings on the first Wednesday of each month as before. For the time being the Executive Meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. and run through 7:25 p.m. We will return to the original time at a future date. We will then have our usual and customary Stated Meeting upstairs beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be no social or meal served prior to the meeting until a future date when deemed safer and more appropriate. All precautions during both of these meetings will be maintained (i.e.: masks recommended, social distancing required and it is recommended to avoid handshakes and hugs). Of course none of these are dictated, but are highly recommended and nobody will think differently of any brother who either adheres to or abstains from these practices, of course.

Other meetings may also commence meeting at the Scottish Rite Building once again (committee meetings, etc.) providing the same temporary restrictions remain in place (NO FOOD, masks, social distancing. etc.). This means that Coffee Klatch will also remain on hold until a future date.

Supreme Council has created and approved (for at least this fall) a Virtual Reunion that will be conducted in the very near future under the leadership and guidance of our S.G.I.G., MW David Nielsen. More information will be forthcoming in the very near future. This may be the opportunity for those that just can't travel to Billings for a couple days or otherwise would join our Valley if time, distance or scheduling challenges have otherwise prevented a masonic brother from becoming a Scottish Rite mason. We also have a few brothers that have been waiting in the wings to unite with our wonderful organization who were also sidelined due to COVID. So, this is a good time to start talking it up in your Blue Lodges.

In my opening paragraph I touched on patience and how it has helped us, (me definitely) along in our absence from active Scottish Rite life this year. Recently I have spent some time thinking about patience and the many examples of how we view and need to exercise patience to be the best people and masons we can be. The obvious jumps out at us of course as exemplified by the story of Job - Cont P5 0

## Valley of Billings Personal Rep



### Greetings

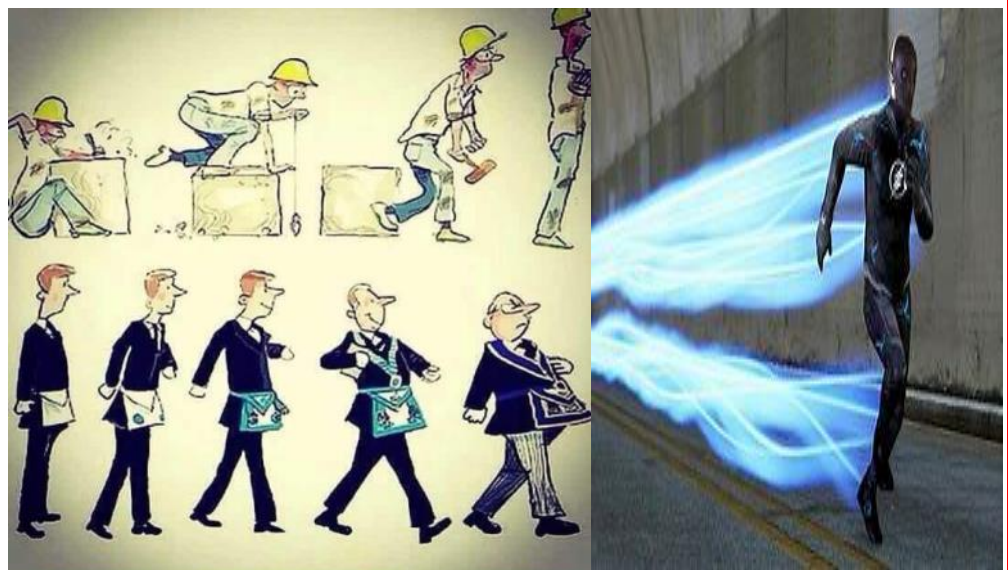
I recently had the privilege attending a Personal Representatives meeting, via ZOOM, that was hosted by our SGIG. Much was discussed in what was the first Orient meeting using this medium. One of the interesting aspects of this was that one could get a feel of how Freemasonry is doing around the state. When asked, most of the Brethren stated that their respective Valleys were meeting face-to-face or mask-to-mask in September and that their Blue Lodges had gone back to business as well. For informational purposes I felt like it was a need to know what others doing across our wonderful state. While I do not know the status of all the Blue Lodges in our Valley, I do know that some are beginning to meet and even do degree work. With this information, and much discussion, the Valley of Billings will open and hold its stated October meeting to conduct several months of business and discuss our future dealings.

The main topic of discussion at this PR meeting was to discuss the possibility of a Virtual Orient Reunion. It was widely discussed, and I will let our SGIG explain most of it in his article below. When discussed locally, I heard a range of opinions about an online Reunion and agree with many of the pros and cons. The Valley of Billings extends from Plentywood in the Northeast to Alzada to Southeast corners of the state. Some of our potential candidates could be a 6-hour drive from our Temple. We can focus on the opportunity to be able to provide our teachings to a Brother that otherwise might not make the trip. Like our G. C. Jim Cole said, "candidates are not joining us for our great ritual work, but more so to be a part of our great fraternity." Ultimately, I would rather look back and know that we gave it a try versus staying stagnant.

Also, I recently had the privilege of attending our Knights of St. Andrew's study group via ZOOM. The KSA have been meeting for a couple decades to study our Degrees, and this is the first time that they have met using this medium. These Gentlemen meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm. A ZOOM invite is sent the day before to those who want to participate. This is a great time to join this group and learn more about the Scottish Rite as they just completed the 4th and will be discussing the 5th on October 21st at 5:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Ron Swenson 32° or our Secretary, Bro. Michael Welton 32° KCCH.

After several months of being dark, we have some light in our future. How we go about it is a balance that we need to continually monitor. We can safely meet to discuss and maintain when needed. When necessary we will meet online or a combination of both! Things are looking up and I am honored to take the next step with you.

Sean McDuffee 32° KCCH  
Personal Representative  
Valley of Billings



# THE RITE CORNER



## “Going Forward” David L. Nielsen, S.G.I.G. In Montana

During the pandemic curtailment of our customary Masonic events our Scottish Rite Reunions were either cancelled or postponed. The Valleys throughout the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite are anxious to start getting back into the Reunion business. Though many enjoy the in-person presentation of the degrees in a Reunion, whether conferred or communicated, we recognize that this in-person experience may not be safe for all our members and candidates for the remainder of 2020 at least and maybe longer. The Supreme Council with the direction of the Grand Commander a script was developed that may be used to help communicate all the degrees, including the mandatory five, in a virtual Reunion. In the Supreme Council Statutes, the mandatory degrees must be conferred, except that the SGIG or Deputy may communicate the mandatory degrees provided he does so personally. Under our Statutes the recording of the conferral of degrees is prohibited, but the degrees may all be communicated with the active participation of the SGIG or Deputy. With this guidance, I met with the Personal Representatives of the six Valleys in the Orient of Montana to discuss if there was interest to do a virtual Orient-wide Reunion through Zoom. After much discussion, the consensus was to do a virtual Reunion through communication of the degrees. The dates selected are November 7, 2020, starting at 9:00 a.m. for the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> degree (Lodge of Perfection and Chapter of Rose Croix) and December 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the 18<sup>th</sup> degree through the 32<sup>nd</sup> (Council of Kadosh and Consistory). Each Valley agreed to provide knowledgeable brethren to lead the communication on the degrees and I will communicate the five mandatory ones.

As we engaged in the discussion of whether to do a Reunion in a different way, it became apparent that this alternate Reunion is not a means to “just get by,” but an opportunity to provide meaningful Scottish Rite education by a different method. This will provide a new Reunion experience and the presentation of the lessons of degrees in this form is expected to be educationally enlightening over other Reunion experiences. Often Reunions are viewed only as a process of initiation of new brothers, but Reunions have always been an event for all brothers to attend and renew their vows, recall the lessons learned, and learn new lessons. Every reunion I have ever attended, I always learn something that I had missed in previous reunions or studies of the degrees.

As we slug through the pandemic and its expectation of personal isolation and discouragement of personal interaction, we can either moan and have a fit over this strange new “normal” or we can use it as stimulation to innovate ways to move forward in a satisfying and productive manner. Who knows, maybe the changes experienced now through adjustments in our lifestyle and social interactions of our fraternity may have greater value than expected and may become the new accepted practice. We need to view this time as an opportunity for learning and growth, since the status quo has for so long beguiled us into rote complacency. The dawn is awaking for new experiences and opportunities. Let’s grab it and profit from it.

Stay tuned for the **Orient Reunions** scheduled for **November 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. and December 5, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. Both are via Zoom.**

 Everyone should have or will shortly receive your Membership Card directly from the Supreme Council. Past years the office received them, you received your statement and you would receive your card when your fee was paid. We are all honorable Brothers so his year you on your honor to send in your fees.

**Remember, you can go online and pay with a credit card and the Valley will be notified of your payment.** To do this just go to the Internet and search [Scottishrite.org](http://Scottishrite.org). Then click on “Pay Dues On Line” then click on “MEMBER LOGIN”. If this is your first time follow the directions



## SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH and LANGUAGE CLINIC

We still would like our members and even nonmembers to continue participating in the 365 Club. This goes to helping our fund that covers the cost treatment.

Currently we are assisting 44 kids billable each month causing a continual drain of the funds we do have.

Remember the 365 Club is a 501 C3 and thus tax deductible.

All meetings have been placed on hold.

Although the board is not presently meeting because of covid-19, Rite Care Billings continues to function by processing new applications for the treatment of children and renewing expiring Treatment Plans when requested. Only the ongoing work to expand the scope of Rite Care coverage has been temporarily slowed.



### On Line

We will resume our Study Group Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.

I will use the Master Craftsman Group Studies Power Point presentation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree.

Zoom will open @ 5:30pm study group will start @ 6pm.

Please, RSVP Ron Swenson



### Meet Brother Jacob D. Clos 32°

Jacob David Clos. Born in Buffalo, MN, in October of 1987. Jacob is the second of six children. Growing up rather poor in rural Minnesota, he leveraged good grades into an opportunity to leave the corn fields for college. In 2006 he began his collegiate studies with Aviation at the University of North Dakota Aerospace. In 2009, he transferred to the University of Minnesota and in 2013 completed his education with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a focus in Law, Crime, and Deviance. While in college he was a security guard for the Minnesota Vikings Cheerleaders, and occasionally the players.

After school he continued his career path towards law enforcement working as security, becoming supervisor, then transferring to Code Compliance and Traffic Control with the City of Minneapolis.

In 2015, deciding that law enforcement was not the best way to utilize his dominant skills, he moved to Billings, MT and begin working with his grandfather in property management. Within the first year of arriving he also started his own independent contracting sole proprietorship which has become increasingly successful.

2015 was also when he met his lovely wife Jacqueline, a Brazilian au pair working in the states. Since then they went through the legal immigration gauntlet and had two children.

Jacob joined the Ashlar Lodge in 2018 and was raised to the sublime degree of a MM in January of 2019. He joined the Valley of Billings during the 2019 Spring Reunion. He is always willing to lend a hand when time will allow. If you are ever looking for advice on maintenance or recommendations for honest contractors in the Billings area, get in contact with him.

## General Info

### BILLINGS VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE 2020 OFFICERS

#### Elected

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

#### Appointed

Prelate	John Hugdahl 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Arnie Frøvarp, 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°

#### 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°

#### CONSISTORY

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

(the patience of Job) and what he endured, while he remained unshaken in his faith and his resolve. Although we teach in our Blue Lodges a lecture identifying the cardinal virtues, while patience is not listed as one, it is most certainly a virtue, and arguably a virtue of the highest importance. "It is amazing how far a little patience or impatience can go to change a moment, a life, lives, or even history." "Usually people are impatient when the moment calls for patience, but sometimes people can be too patient when the moment calls for a little impatience in order to put an early end to what eventually may become a disastrous situation." (P. Winston, 2011). I certainly think that a lack of patience in the face of recent health and safety concerns could have easily created a disastrous result. It was not an easy thing for any of us as masons to put our masonic activities on hold all this time, as it is just not what we do or what we are all about. Yet, we did and remained patient. Impatience is a dangerous thing. The Holy Writings have taught us all that from the beginning, "The first tragedy, namely, Adam's eating from the forbidden fruit also involved a lack of patience." Additionally, patience, is the sense of trusting in the Great Architect and letting things take their course. Impatience is caused by a false feeling of control over our destiny, and as we learn to relinquish that control to the GAOTU our patience grows, together with our spirituality.

So, as we re-open, reengage and start to see the fruits of our patience, witnessing our Valley come back to life, I encourage all of us to consider, if you feel comfortable coming back to Lodge in October as we begin to kick things once again into gear and get back into the swing of Scottish Rite Masonic life in Montana!

May the Great Architect watch over you always!

Fondly and fraternally yours,  
Dan Jobrack 32°, Venerable Master  
Valley of Billings

**PAST DUE FOR 2020**  
**CHECK YOUR CARD**  
GET WITH THE SECRETARY  
GET CURRENT



## Magic City Chapter

Greeting Brothers! Fall is upon us and the leaves are beginning to turn, I was pleasantly surprised to see leaves falling off the trees, I have been ready for change and as the saying goes "Time Marches On". Our students and members are back in the school environment and new things are becoming the norm. My youngest daughter started pre-school, to her, this is how things are, soon,

they will only know this as normal. It reminds me of how fast things can change, in some cases it is a generation in DeMolay its about 9 years. Things we used to do in DeMolay sound so foreign to the new members today, we just stopped doing these things some time ago and now it is just history. My kids and chapter members are always asking me about how things were when I was younger. I tell them what it was like, but always remind them that prior performance does not necessarily define future performance. It is smart to look to the past, but change can be good and doing things in new ways is the best way to keep things fresh and exciting.

In other news, Montana DeMolay and Job's Daughters have decided to cancel our Annual Convention, normally held in October. We feel that we must look out for the health and well-being of our members first and feel that there is too much risk to hold it in person this year. Both organizations are working feverishly on hosting the event virtually in some fashion, so more to follow as the event comes together.

Now is a great time to evaluate your relationships and look for young men to get involved in our organization. If they are looking to for something to do that is safe and fun, we are looking for them. We can do almost anything that we put our minds to. A masonic relationship is not required. Additionally, we need more adult leaders, both men and women to assist in mentoring and supporting these young men. If you have the time and ability, please contact me at [dan.massey@mtdemolay.org](mailto:dan.massey@mtdemolay.org) or 402-681-7763.

Thanks,  
Dan Massey



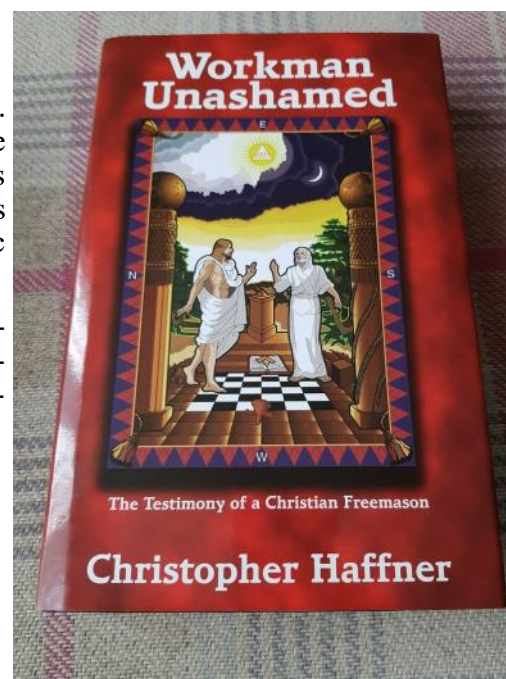
## LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE LIBRARY COME VISIT YOUR LIBRARY!

By Tom Hornung

A NEW BOOK! Workman Unashamed by Christopher Haffner. "Christopher Haffner as a freemason has carefully examined the accusations leveled at Freemasonry. He gives reasoned answers and explanations to the issues raised in anti-masonic publications and exposes their lack of substance, in many cases as journalistic speculation".

No, I have not read the book. Harold Davidson told me that librarians do not read all of the books. They do not have the time. Librarians read the Preface and Introduction to get a feel for the contents and tone of the book. Come in and check it out.

**Come to the library  
and check it out!**





## CONTRIBUTIONS

### 365 Club

Ronny Aasterud

### TRANSPORTATION VAN

Linda Egelhoff

### Language Clinic Operations

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Sean McDuffee

### Language Clinic Endowment

**MEAL MENU  
CANCELLED**



**Membership**



**Breakfast**

Dinner Reservations Required

259-6683

By 10 AM  
MON-DAY  
before

### SHOES

The Clarence Sportsman Shoes for Kids Program is happy to announce that we gave shoes to 214 happy kids since the pandemic started in March. We did not have any shoe fittings in the Spring, and we won't have a Fall one either, due to the COVID-19 threat.



We continue to reach out to the schools and community partners to cover the needs of children in our area. If you know of any needs, please let us know, and we will be happy to help.

Ronny Aasterud  
Shoes for Kids Coordinator  
406-860-9478  
[ronny@randmsolutionsinc.com](mailto:ronny@randmsolutionsinc.com)

Shoe fittings Cancelled  
Needs will still be filled  
contact Ronny  
or the Secretary

## Reunion

**Via ZOOM**

07 November  
And  
05 December

## Billings Scottish Rite Bodies

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Editor: Secretary

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7.00-11:00 AM  
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[www.billingsscottishrite.com](http://www.billingsscottishrite.com)

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



### Lodge of Perfection

#### Venerable Master

Dan Jobrack, 32°

### Chapter of Rose Croix

#### Wise Master

Ton Hanel, 32° KCCH

### Council of Kadosh

#### Commander

Michael Welton, 32° KCCH

### Consistory

#### Master of Kadosh

Arnie Frøvarp, 32°

## September—Need to Know Information

### ALL MEETINGS AT THE RITE

**07 Oct**—6:45 pm Exec Meeting

**07 Oct**—7:30 PM LOP

### ALL EVENTS

**07 Nov**—9 AM via Zoom  
4-17 Degrees

**05 Dec**—9 AM via Zoom  
18—32 Degrees