



Denver's RiteWorks

September 2021 vol. 14-#9



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TOAST TO ABSENT BRETHREN

Architect for thy protection, now we humbly pray,
Guard and comfort all our Brethren far away.
Grant that we in true remembrance may not be remiss,
Let them know that in this hour 'tis them we miss.
If their absence be through wand'ring, or through grief or pain,
Bless them, heal them, bring them to us, safe again.
SO MOTE IT BE!

Front Door Security System

A security system has been installed on the sliding door entrance to the building. The door is no longer left unlocked during business hours allowing anyone to enter the building unannounced and take the elevator to the third floor offices. 10002863 The system was installed to provide much-needed protection for the office staff.

To gain admission, a visitor must push the intercom button on the outside of the door and request to be admitted. Denver Consistory members may be admitted by scanning their dues card in the card reader and are not required to push the intercom button and request admission.

HOWEVER ...

Your dues card **MUST** be scanned into the system before it will work as your key card. Come to the office and see Illustrious Brother Tom Thompson to get your dues card scanned.

PLANNING CALENDAR

September 2021

Fri & Mon Sep 3 & 6	No Lunch Friday/Consistory Closed for Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Sep 10	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Fried Chicken)
Fri, Sep 17	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Hamburgers)
Sat, Sep 18	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. KSA Fall Cleanup (ALL MEMBERS INVITED TO HELP!)
Mon, Sep 20	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 11121578 7:00 p.m. Scottish Rite Foundation Program 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting
Fri, Sep 24	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Fried Chicken)
Sat, Sep 25	12:30 - 5:40 p.m. Honors Conferrals (By Invitation Only) 6:00 p.m. Honors Banquet (By Invitation Only)

October 2021

Fri, Oct 1	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Fried Chicken)
Mon, Oct 4	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room (Open to all SR Masons)
Fri, Oct 8	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch
Sat, Oct 9	5:00 p.m. Oklahoma Indian Degree - Presented by Paul Revere #130 and other co-hosting lodges
Fri, Oct 15	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Fried Chicken)
Mon, Oct 18	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Awards & Presentations 7:30 p.m. Celebration of Remembrance and Renewal
Fri, Oct 22 & 29	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch

November 2021

Mon, Nov 1	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room (Open to all SR Masons)
Fri, Nov 5, 12	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunches
Mon, Nov 15	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Entertainment - Veterans Recognition Program 7:30 p.m. 5 min oration, Minister of State, Denver Consistory
Thu-Sat Nov 18-20	Fall Reunion (56 th), Banquet on Saturday evening
Thu-Fri Nov 25-26	Consistory CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat, Nov 27	9:00-11:00 a.m. Consistory Decorating Party— ALL ARE INVITED



Ron Birely #
Personal Representative
The Valley of Denver



Lux Inens Nos Agit

August 28, 2021

Dear Brothers, Families, and Friends of the Denver Consistory,

The most recent events in Afghanistan are heartbreaking. All of us at the Denver Consistory understand that this maybe a very difficult time for our veterans, particularly veterans who served in Afghanistan/Iraq. The Denver Consistory wants to remind all veterans that you are a member of the great Masonic family, and more specifically, the family of the Denver Consistory. We thank you for your service and the sacrifices you have made, for the freedoms we all enjoy. Your Brothers of Denver Consistory stand ready to support you, should you need anything.

Today, I ask each of you to do two things for me. First, reach out with a call or a visit to a veteran you may know. Their service to our country has been greatly appreciated.

Secondly, in the privacy of your homes, I hope you will join me on Wednesday, September 1st at 7:00 PM, for a moment of silent reflection and prayer, for all of our service men and women.

May the peace of the one living God be with all of our service men and women.

Yours in Faith,

Ron Birely #

Ron Birely
Personal Representative
Denver Consistory

EDITOR'S RESTLEBOARD



BY: **BILL HICKEY, 33°**
EMAIL: WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM

THE BIGGEST GIFT



A recent article from AXIOS (online news source) was entitled "The biggest gift of remote work is not commuting." I thought the article particularly apropos, especially for those who still work, but also for our Craft. So, I'm extracting here rather than posting it verbatim.

A large part of the lure of remote work isn't that we hate the office - it's that we hate the experience of getting there. And, any more, you can extend that frustration associated with work to the same frustration being experienced to attend football, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other athletic events - especially professional sports, but also college and even some high school games. What about just getting to a Masonic meeting? How many of you have experienced US36, I-25, I-70, I-270, I-225, or C-470 getting to a lodge or Consistory meeting? How about the congestion on the main streets once you leave those commuter arteries?

The big picture is that worsening traffic congestion and expensive housing push us further from work and our social events making that physical commute to participate more painful as time passes. But, then the COVID Pandemic happened.

A recent survey by a management company showed that 79% of responses indicated the "best" thing about remote work (Virtual working) was ... **LACK OF A COMMUTE!**

A recent study out of Texas A&M's Transportation Institute showed annual traffic delay PER COMMUTER went from 20 hours in 1982 to 54 hours before the pandemic began, and the cost of those delays went from \$15 billion to \$101 billion. (Lost time) For those places where jobs were hottest (most plentiful) and homes were more expensive (sound vaguely familiar for the Denver metro area lately?), the commutes are longer because people are forced to live further from work to be able to afford housing.

BUT ... now let's take a look at the pandemic - Texas A&M estimates that annual traffic delay per consumer fell to just 27 hours in 2020. But, that's not the whole story, because that number is somewhat deceptive. For those who COULD WORK FROM HOME (or who were required to work from home), of which 71% reported that they were working remotely as of the end of 2020, **COMMUTE DELAYS ESSENTIALLY DROPPED TO ZERO!**

If your lodge, or other organization has used virtual meetings during the pandemic, I'm pretty sure you've noticed perhaps that a few folks are showing up that you haven't seen in person in a long time. Whether they moved out of the area, or just stopped coming for any number of reasons, they now participate virtually. WHY? 9938861

Continued on next page

Simply put, they no longer looked forward to the meetings in person because of the “drag” of just getting there through traffic and trying to fit that into a complex work and family life schedule. Add another factor - parents today TEND to “over schedule” their kids’ time—to the point that they have little if any “free time” to just “be a kid.” As a result, the parents themselves likewise have little free time to just unwind and relax and enjoy something they want to do (read a book, watch a movie, have a nice quiet dinner) that doesn’t take 2-3 hours or more.

Suddenly, even some of our regular attendees are experiencing the freedom from commuting that virtual participation provides, and that gives them a glimpse of their life without having to sit in a car in stop-and-go traffic, through endless stop signs, stop lights, accident delays, and simple overly-congested roadways. Eventually, the wear and tear takes a toll on the individual—physical, mental, and emotional, and the result is predictable.

Now, there is a catch in the “benefit” of this virtual reality situation: People STILL want to have some sort of “in-person” experience - they crave it, they miss it, and they will come back to it. BUT - and here’s where Shakespeare said “Aye, there’s the rub” - if they come back to the same old boring, repetitive, and predictable meetings you held before the pandemic, they will take more notice that you are wasting their time, and that is time they learned to value in the pandemic. The upshot is, whether you continue to use the virtual capabilities you were FORCED to use or not (but you should for obvious reasons), you MUST look to see what can and should be done to make meetings more productive, more interesting, and more valuable to the individuals. Not just talk about the beauty of our ritual, not just focus on the brotherhood of an in-person experience, but remember TIME IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY — and, time is also irreplaceable. To fritter away our members’ time is unforgivable because they can’t get it back once they spend it.

We do many things in our meetings, not because we HAVE to do them, but because we’ve “always done it that way.” Unless you do what I’ll call a “zero-based budget” of your meetings, you probably won’t KNOW what you can and can’t do away with or at least refocus to get better use of everyone’s time. In the essence, a zero-based budget assumes you have no money (time) but you have responsibilities (tasks that must ... MUST ... be done). So, you make a list of those things you MUST do (personal, family, work, worship, and so on). Then you must RANK them in importance to your life. Here’s where the hard part comes in: you can’t have TWO number one priorities - only one thing can be “number one.” When you’re done with that, then you go back and identify the TIME involved for you to take part in those functions. Then, you look at how many of them fall into a single day and total up the time involved. If you end up needing a 27 hour day to get everything done, the message is clear: you HAVE to declutter your personal life somehow.

I’m not saying STOP coming to meetings. I’m saying take a close look at your life and decide which in-person and which virtual sessions help you satisfy your personal needs while still allowing you the luxury of gathering together and doing something productive with your life (time).

Bill



From the Secretary's Desk



[Matt Raia, 33°](#)

HOW LONG A MINUTE IS DEPENDS ON WHICH SIDE OF THE BATHROOM DOOR YOU'RE ON

Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund Contributions

The SRMC wishes to acknowledge those who donated to the Endowment Fund, this past month and began a *Cathedral Club* membership.

Brother Lyle Adams, 32°	\$100
Brother Brian Kirby, 32°	Bronze Level

Who Reads The RiteWorks?

I often hear a Brother say, "I didn't know about that", and my response to him is, "It was in the RiteWorks." Some reply, "Oh I don't read that." It amazes me that a member of Denver Consistory is not interested in reading the RiteWorks to find out what is happening at their Consistory and what events are planned.

We are running a contest to encourage you to read the RiteWorks. Each month, randomly selected membership numbers will appear somewhere in the RiteWorks. Maybe in the Secretary's message, maybe in the calendar of events, (1234567) or maybe in one of the articles. You need to read the RiteWorks to find the numbers.

If you see your membership number, call the office at 303-861-4261 and let us know! Give us your membership number (located on your membership card) and your name. We will verify that your number was published in the current RiteWorks and you will receive a free dinner for that month's Stated Meeting.

The above membership number is given as an example of how the numbers will appear. Keep reading to find the valid numbers for this month!

Here are the rules:

- Your membership fee must be current;
- Call the office prior to the Stated Meeting to claim your free dinner;
- Your free dinner is valid for that month's Stated Meeting only, and is non-transferable.

Happy Reading!

Congratulations – To Brother Tom Repp, 32° KCCH, who will receive free stated meeting dinners for a year for being the First Line Signer on three petitions for membership in Denver Consistory in a calendar year. ***First Line Signer Incentive Program: THREE*** petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership for a year. If you are a life member 5668280 it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year.

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Reminder - With the startup of in person meetings and events at Denver Consistory after the long COVID shut down, it has become necessary to reprint the below excerpt from my November 2019 message. We have had one Stated Meeting Dinner and the Annual Summer Dinner since we re-opened and for both we had members call the day before the event and request to attend. **It is IMPERATIVE that you make your reservation by the deadline listed in the event announcement, otherwise you will not be admitted.** Chef Michael is unable to snap his fingers and magically make more food appear. Also, if you have special dietary needs you must make that known when you make your reservation so we may inform Chef Michael.

WHAT DOES "RSVP" stand for in English? "RSVP" is an abbreviation for the French phrase "Repondez, s'il vous plait," which translates into English as "RESPOND PLEASE." When the phrase is on an invitation, it means a response is requested to let the individual sending the invitation know if you will or will not attend. Contrary to popular belief it is NOT a Masonic term which translates to "Does not apply to me." What does "Reservations Required" mean? It means that if you wish to attend, you MUST make a reservation. It too is NOT a Masonic phrase which means "Does not apply to me." RSVP'ing has become as rare as saying "please and thank-you." Failing to respond is not only rude, it is also a breach of good etiquette. **PLEASE ... HELP US PLAN PROPERLY** for our events and dinners. We do not want to waste money by over-ordering the amount of food we will need, and we definitely don't want to run out by not ordering enough. The only way we will know how much to order is if you do your part and let us know if you will attend. If you are hosting a dinner party at your home, wouldn't it be helpful if you knew how many were going to attend? The same thing applies—IN SPADES—for the Consistory.

Annual Summer Dinner - Those who attended the Annual Summer Dinner July 31st enjoyed delicious barbeque and great fellowship. Thank you **Brother Dean McConnell, 32° KCCH**, Preceptor of Denver Consistory, for planning this enjoyable event. We were treated to face painting and balloon animals. It was wonderful to see all of you. Thank you for supporting Denver Consistory. (Photos elsewhere in this issue.)

Ladies Lunch – The Annual Ladies Lunch was held August 14th. Thank you to **Brother Dan Conway, (33° Elect)** and the members of the Centennial Lodge of Perfection for planning the event and to all the officers and members for volunteering to help with the lunch. The ladies had a wonderful time. (Photos elsewhere in this issue.)

Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf Classic – The First Annual Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf Classic was held at Willis Case Golf Course on August 20th. Thank you to the members of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Committee, and **Brother Bart Corfee, (33° Elect)**, Golf Committee Chairman, for planning the event, and thank you to all the members of Denver Consistory and their family members who volunteered to help on the day of the tournament. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all who participated and benefited Children's Hospital Colorado, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

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The Second Annual Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf Classic will be held August 26, 2022. (Photos elsewhere in this issue.)

Electronic Petition – You are probably wondering what that “thing” is at the top of my message. It is a QR Code to an electronic Denver Consistory Petition for Membership. Use your smart phone to access the petition by pointing your camera at the box and click on the “open” button. The Electronic Petition will appear on your smart phone. Once completed and submitted, the petition will be electronically filed with Denver Consistory office.

It is no longer required that a candidate complete a “paper” petition. Simply give your candidate the QR Code. You will no longer need to carry “pocket petitions” with you to hand one to a brother who wants to petition to join Denver Consistory, the pocket petition is now business cards with the QR Code. (Pick up some the next time you are in the Consistory.) Give him the QR code and he can complete the petition electronically, or give him this URL to access the petition: <https://sms.scottishrite.org/DenverPetition>

Donate Your Car - We have a donation plan in place to give you a receipt for a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Donate your car, truck, RV, or boat. Go to www.carsforcharity.net to donate for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

2022 Membership Fee Notices have been mailed by the Supreme Council. Please pay your 2022 membership fee promptly and not set aside the notice and forget about it and become delinquent. Your membership card is attached to the notice. Do not throw it away. Detach it after making payment. By sending the membership card with the payment notice, it saves the expense of the postage to mail the card to you. \$110 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.30 per day. WOW! That’s less than one cup of coffee. Please do your part to help sustain the operation of Denver Consistory by paying your membership fee.

Life Memberships are an ideal way to avoid paying future membership fee increases. A Life Membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for nonpayment should your future financial situation change. It also insures that should you no longer be able to take care of your finances, you will not be suspended for nonpayment because your Scottish Rite Membership is of no significance to the individual handling your finances. By purchasing a Life Membership you leave a continuing legacy to Denver Consistory after your death.

Life Membership Fee:

75 years old and older – a single payment of \$1,000

62-74 years old – a single payment of \$1,500

Younger than 62 – a single payment of \$2,500

Extend payment terms may be arranged. Contact the office for details.

Membership Report

September 2020 1682

September 2021 1584 (-98)



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH
Director of Education
(Black is the new Red)

It Never Fails



As I write this piece for the September issue, we are three weeks into the second offering of *Journey to the Scottish Rite (J2SR)*. Although a project undertaken to support candidates who will be our fellow Masters of the Royal Secret, following the November Reunion, *J2SR* has also served to reinvigorate or reengage some of our Consistory Brethren who have also accepted the invitation to attend the sessions.

I'll begin this month's educational offering by reissuing the invitation to come along on the *Journey*, if you're able. I venture to say that you'll find it time well-spent. Dust off that copy of *A Bridge to Light*, and contact Brother Dan Conway (webmaster@denverconsistory.org) for the Zoom session link. We meet at 9AM on Saturdays. The next session, following the release of this issue of *Rite Works*, will be either August 28 (the 14th Degree) or September 11 (the 15th, 16th & 17th Degrees).

During the first session, in this "run" of *J2SR* on August 7, I enjoyed Ill. Bobby Juchem's presentation of the 4th Degree for (I believe) the fourth time. I have no clue how many times I've actually witnessed the degree itself...gee, maybe...well..."lots!" Not surprisingly (just like any one of us who has paid close attention when the work is portrayed), I came away from Bro. Bobby's orientation to the degree with a little something I'd never thought—or, at least, not thought ENOUGH—about before. More on that later.

Brethren, I really believe that our Scottish Rite ritual is intended to "hit us where we are" at whatever point we experience it. 11137306 We glean from it what our minds and hearts are ready to take in and take away from each experience. That is a very good reason indeed to try to clear our minds and prepare ourselves for something in contrast with the usual routines of our lives, when we attend Reunions!

The symbols and ideals of the Craft are intended to take us away from the mundane and profane and turn our hearts and minds to higher things: all the while with the parallel purpose of then returning us to our necessary vocations with a fresh and more positive outlook. There is always something which may be applied to what we face in day-to-day life, as we are permitted a respite and a chance to put things back in their proper order before acting.

For me, there's no serious contact with the work—reading it, discussing it, seeing it portrayed—which ever seems quite the same on consecutive occasions. I almost expect some sort of surprise, each time I see any of the work portrayed or discussed. Sometimes there's a totally new lesson to be mulled over and put in perspective; sometimes it's only a nugget of truth that fills a hole in my thinking about a topic...occasionally it's a gap that I didn't even know was there. What a treasure the work and its lessons are!

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So, getting back to that presentation on the 4th Degree, my “take-away” had to do with the contrast between position and leadership. First to make a fresh impression was the idea that, although we are all called to obey those in positions of authority, a subordinate position needn’t be seen as “inferior,” in any other sense. Even as we’re called upon to obey (as we are in the context of many Masonic lessons), we’re equally admonished to recognize the difference between legal authority and tyranny...and to act accordingly. This liberating notion is, of course, what has for centuries made the Craft an enemy of authoritarian rule.

As we meet Adoniram and a story begins to unfold (which we then follow through succeeding degrees), we are first impressed with the emphasis upon “merit” as the primary measure of one’s qualification for leadership and then with the realization that “virtue” is the most reliable test of a man’s fitness to lead others. In many instances, true leadership skill and prowess may be just as evident among those in subordinate positions as in those who hold actual titles of authority. May we always apply that lesson: not only in our responsibilities in officer lines and active positions within the Consistory, but also in our personal and professional interactions.

Finally, I was put in mind of the concept of “servant leadership” and how closely this attitude toward effective management mirrors our Masonic concept of “stewardship” and our belief in the honorable status of labor dedicated to the benefit of others. The Master calls us from refreshment to labor “...that **he** may have pleasure and **they** (i.e. **we**) profit thereby!”

“Position” and “leadership” are certainly not the same thing, but, when the qualities of a true leader are found in one who also assumes a position of authority, all in the body reap the reward, and that is my latest insight from the 4th Degree.

Bill

wbapm32@gmail.com

Last Month’s Trivia Question: Both Albert Pike and Dr. Mackey credit one person with the establishment of Scottish Rite bodies in America. Who has that honor and distinction?

Answer: “Stephen Morin. He in turn appointed M.M. Hayes a Deputy Inspector General for North America, who appointed Isaac da Costa a Deputy for South Carolina, and through him the Sublime Degrees were disseminated among the Masons of North America.”

[Source: Peterson, PM, 32°, William O. (ed.); *Masonic Quiz Book: Ask Me Another, Brother!* (Kindle ed.); The Book Tree; San Diego, CA; repub. 2006].

Also, for context & more information: visit <https://scottishrite.org/about/history/>.

This Month’s Trivia Question (answer in next month’s *RiteWorks*): What MLB Hall of Famer and Brother was nearly rejected for initiation, due to the very physical characteristic allegedly responsible for his success as a professional baseball player?



PENNIES ON THE CEILING

Lincoln C. Soule, 33°
CLU, RHU, ChFC

For those of you who believe hospitals are a place to rest, let me disabuse you of that notion. In the Critical Care Unit (CCU) the patient is connected to all sorts of monitors that make noise all the time and more if an alarm goes off. And, while all the rooms are private in the CCU, the patient can hear all the other rooms near-by and if there is an emergency, it gets noisier. Can anyone spell “sleep deprivation”?

During the night in the cacophony of the CCU, and not knowing the Emergency Department (ED) doctor had told the patients wife, “You need to know, this may not end well”, he started counting the pennies on the ceiling.

How did he get here? One morning, his wife couldn’t wake him up and his temperature was 104. By the time he was cognizant enough to realize his situation, he had spent two days in the ED and another three in the CCU and having surgery, without any knowledge of what had happened. He was aware of his (noisy) surroundings and that, without a doubt, he was in trouble. Alone with his thoughts, he began to worry about money – what would happen to his wife if, “...this doesn’t end well”? Staring at the ceiling tiles, he saw decimal points and dollar signs – assets and liabilities – what would happen, what would she – could she do, “IF”?

Looking at the options, staying or moving, clearing or continue paying off debt, adjust investments, retirement plans, etc. 9499427 As you can guess, it was quite a night.

Looking at the “pennies on the ceiling”, and seeing the nice block of paid-up, permanent, cash-value life insurance, he was relieved that his bride wouldn’t have to be moving into the basement bedroom in their daughter’s house. When he bought this policy, the agent talked about “pennies on the dollar” meaning that ultimately, he would be paying very little for the protection he would be affording his family. As it turned out, he had paid premiums totaling about 25% of the benefit and then the policy was self-sustaining and growing! While not the majority of the assets, it is substantial and not subject to what happens to the markets or changes in the tax codes.

Thankfully he was a product of a generation for whom the biggest asset they could leave their families was permanent life coverage and that ethic rubbed off on him. Not all the health issues are settled but the estate issues and financial decisions are made, updated, or transferred with the full understanding that when something happens to one, the other will be secure.

NOTE TO ALL: THE AUTHOR IS RETIRED BUT IF THIS STRIKES A NOTE, PLEASE CONTACT A PLANNER IF YOU HAVE ONE, OR CONSULT OTHER PROFESSIONALS FOR A REFERRAL.



COLORADO MASONS BENEVOLENT FUND ASSOCIATION

R. Gene Hardy, 32° KCCH
President, Scottish Rite Masonic Center
President, Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund Association

I write this for two purposes: first, to thank all of you for your very generous support of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center; and, second, to remind you of the availability of the resources of the Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund for our Brothers and their families who may be in need.

First, the easy stuff, the thank yous. As I write this, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center team is finishing up the first of what will be many Scottish Rite Charity Golf Classics, the SRMC signature event for 2021. I just want to thank all of you, my Brothers, for your support of the Masonic Center this past year. Without the generous donations of your time, talent, and treasure, the Masonic Center team would have been lost. You have donated money as you paid your dues; you have donated property to the Masonic Center; you have given books to the refugee community; you have supported Brother Dick Williams' fund-raising efforts with the Rockies; you have used Amazon Smile and King Soopers loyalty cards; you have sponsored and participated in, either as a player or volunteer, the Golf Classic; and, you have done so much more. The SRMC Board can't thank you enough.

I also want to specifically recognize the members of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Board and thank each of them for their yeoman-like work during Masonry in the time of Covid. We are very fortunate to have Illustrious Brothers Karl Hinkle, Steve Munsinger, Ron Birely, Wayne Arner, Matt Raia, Bill Skewes, and Brothers Bart Corfee, Mike Brewer, Phil Hause, Tom Lincoln, and Rick Spoor working so hard for the Masonic Center. The Board has also been very fortunate to have attracted the regular assistance and involvement of some of our Brothers who are not formal members of the Board, including Randy Penn, Pablo Colombar, Michael Rotert, Scott Bates, and Bryant Harris. Whatever the SRMC has accomplished during this past year can be attributed to these Brothers.

Now for the second point. The other night I heard our Almoner, Illustrious Brother Joe Kier, provide a short report on the activities of the Almoner this year. It was clear that our annual collections for the Almoner's Fund have decreased because we have not been able to get together this year and Illustrious Brother Joe can stretch a buck only so far. 4914230 I thought then that I needed to remind everyone that the Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund is available to support the good works of our Almoner, Lodges, and all other Masonic organizations who provide benevolence to our Brothers and their families.

The Benevolent Fund was established over a century ago by our Grand Lodge to provide financial support for Colorado Master Masons and their families who might find themselves in financial need. Luckily, I have not had to personally ask for assistance from the Benevolent

Fund, but I can tell you that as a Mason I am extremely grateful, proud, and fortunate that Masonic groups such as the Benevolent Fund and our Almoner are dedicated to helping me and my family and you and yours. Once again, I need to thank all of you, as Colorado Master Masons, for establishing and regularly supporting the Benevolent Fund. Please think of the Benevolent Fund if you become aware of any Colorado Master Mason or his family, widow, or orphans who need financial assistance during this unusual period in which we now live. We find ourselves in a time when matters of public health have dramatically affected our ability to earn a living and support our families. Providing a helping hand right now is exactly why the Benevolent Fund was formed. I am certain that I can speak for all Colorado Masons when I say there is no need for our Brothers or their families to suffer financially.

It is easy to apply for financial assistance and the Board of the Benevolent Fund holds information delivered to it in confidence. A Colorado Master Mason or other proposed beneficiary need only contact the Mason's Lodge and ask for assistance, as the Lodges are the first line of benevolence. The Lodge then should determine whether and to what extent it can provide financial assistance. If a Lodge cannot provide some or all necessary assistance, the Lodge then should apply to the Benevolent Fund to make up any deficit. All Lodge Secretaries have access to the forms that should be filed with the Benevolent Fund. The Board of the Benevolent Fund meets once monthly and considers all requests for assistance that have been delivered by Lodges so there should be no unnecessary delay in considering requests.

There you have it. Thanks, again, to all of you and please keep the Benevolent Fund in mind, especially in these trying times.

Best wishes to all of you.

Gene Hardy

TWO EASY WAYS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SRMC ENDOWMENT FUND

Are you aware that there are two easy ways to make a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund and also avoid paying income taxes on the money you donate?

The first way is really quite simple if you have a regular IRA, 401k, or similar retirement fund. Remember that when you make a normal withdrawal, that amount is included in your taxable income. Thus, as an example, if you were to withdraw \$5,000 and use the funds yourself, you would be responsible for taxes on that \$5,000 withdrawal as regular income. However, money can be transferred directly from that fund to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund without being taxable to you.

Brokers have slightly different rules for such transfers, but if you contact your fund administrator, they can let you know how easy it will be to help assure the future of the Consistory.

The second way is equally simple if you own investment equities that have appreciated in value since you acquired them. By contributing that stock directly to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund, you gain the deductible contribution of the current value of the stock and avoid paying income taxes on the amount that the stock has appreciated.

Need help or more information? Please consult with your professional tax advisor, who can more fully explain these provisions in the IRS Tax Code.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Brother Michael Rotert, 32°



By: Danny Tomlinson, 32° KCCH
1st Lieutenant Commander,
Colorado Council of Kadosh

This month we will meet and get to know Brother Michael Rotert, 32° and Worshipful Master of Denver Lodge #5. Michael is a fairly “new” Mason, having been raised in 2016. He joined the Denver Consistory and became a 32° Scottish Rite Mason later that same year. Brother Michael, in his own words, never said “no” to a Masonic request and he has become very active with the Consistory.

Brother Michael was recently appointed to the Rose Croix line and serves as the Guardian of the Temple. He also is the Prelate in the 30th Degree, 4th Apartment and works on the Makeup Crew during the Reunions. He is as anxious as the rest of us to finally get back in the swing and holding a Fall Reunion. He is a member of the Research Lodge and serves as Junior Deacon. And I’m proud to add that he’s a Plural Member of Central #6. Michael serves on the Board of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Michael has a limited Masonic legacy with his great, great-grandfather on his mother’s side of the family having been a Mason in the 1920’s. He only discovered this when his mother gave Michael a shaving mug adorned with the words “W M Hicks”. This grandfather’s name was Frank, but the entire family thought from the inscription that he possibly went by William. Michael did some research and found that his ancestor was indeed the Worshipful Master of a lodge in Idaho.

A good friend of Michael’s was visiting Michael and Leah in Denver in about 2015 and told Michael that he should become a Mason. That he would enjoy it. Michael meant to look into Masonry, but let it slide until 2016, when he started doing a little internet research on Masonic lodges in the Denver area. He came to the website for Denver #5, thought it looked interesting and that the Brothers seemed to be active, engaged and enjoying Masonry and Masonic fellowship. So...he screwed up his courage and went down to 1614 Welton, walked in and introduced himself and joined the Brothers for dinner. Kind of a Masonic “cold call”. The first Brother to come up to him and welcome him to the lodge was Van-Troi Perozo, Worshipful Master of Denver #5 at the time. Michael continued to attend dinners and get to know the Brothers, always sitting with a different group of men. He would often “wait with patience” without the door until the meeting was closed and then join the Brothers for Masonic fellowship at a nearby watering hole. After the required six-month period, Michael submitted his petition and was soon initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason. Thus began his Masonic journey.

Michael was born in Twin Falls, Idaho and lived there until he was four years old, at which time his dad was transferred to Denver with his work. Michael graduated from Broomfield High School and then attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins for a couple of years

Continued on next page

before dropping out to “find himself”. Michael has two younger sisters – one in Seattle with two boys and one in the Denver area with two boys. His family is very close, and he speaks of his dad being his best friend. Michael’s parents recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and live only about a mile from Michael and Leah. His younger sister lives about a mile in the other direction – kind of a family triangle. Michael’s father is retired now, after selling the business he started more than 40 years ago to Michael. After Michael had spent a couple of years on the west coast deciding what he wanted to do in life, his father suggested that he come back to Colorado and begin working with him. Michael did that, at the same time enrolling in Regis University and earning his BS degree in International Business. Michael is CEO of the company started by his father many years ago.

Michael’s marriage to Leah is the second marriage for both and together they have four sons. Michael described it as a re-run of the old television series, “The Brady Bunch”. Son Harrison is 18 years old and just graduated high school this spring. He is currently at Fort Sill in Army boot camp. He has already qualified as a candidate for RASP (Ranger Assessment & Selection Program) and will be reporting to Fort Bragg for further training and jump school before becoming a part of the 75th Ranger Regiment. You can see Michael’s chest swell with pride when he talks about Harrison and how proud of him they all are. Next in line are twin sons Elijah and Jonah, who are 9th grade STEM students at Northglenn High School. The youngest is Leah’s son Jonas, attending 8th grade at Bethlehem Lutheran Middle School.

Leah and Michael met in an online dating service. They were both divorced, single parents and really weren’t into the singles’ bar scene. They met online and got to know each other a little bit before actually meeting in person. 5169891 It turns out that they shared many common interests, including raising their sons as single parents. Leah is the youngest of five children, with two older brothers and two older sisters. Her mother lives in Wheat Ridge.

Michael describes being a newly divorced single dad and not having any money to furnish his house. He made sure that his boys had food for their meals and a warm bed and clothes to wear. He slept on the floor because he couldn’t afford a bed of his own and didn’t want to take away from his sons. They slowly acquired more furnishings and made their little house a home.

When Michael speaks of his parents, his honest love for them readily becomes apparent. His dad was “an Idaho farm boy”. He stands 6’5” and wears cowboy boots. Just a good ole boy with a keen business sense. He started an import business more than 40 years ago and his suppliers were based in Taiwan. His business took him to Taiwan several times a year for business meetings. Not speaking Mandarin Chinese, he always needed an interpreter and a lady named Grace that worked for the supplier was able to interpret for him. However, the Taiwanese businessmen didn’t approve of a woman at a business dinner meeting. Michael’s dad insisted that she be allowed to attend and sit at the table with the men. He was truly instrumental in helping Taiwanese women achieve parity with their male colleagues. Grace has since left the company and is the CEO of her own business in Taiwan.

Another story that Michael shared about his dad was especially interesting to me as an old car guy. Michael’s dad always drove new pickup trucks. One day he got in his truck with a screwdriver in his back pocket and immediately punched a hole in the new truck’s upholstery.

He was driving through Nevada at the time, and it turns out that his next sales call was to a lady that had a custom sewing operation, generally making leather goods. Michael's dad asked her if she could fix the upholstery and what she thought she might be able to do to help prevent something like this from happening again. It turns out that she had a bunch of roll-end material from making horse blankets. She sewed up a seat cover for the pickup from the horse blanket material and that was the start of those horse blanket or Indian blanket seat covers that we have all seen and probably had in our own pickups. I have one on my 1973 GMC pickup. They started making the seat covers and selling them across the country.

Michael's mother Shirley worked at the Middle School in Broomfield before retiring. She is very involved in the community, especially in the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), an organization formed in 1869 with a mission of "Women Helping Women Reach for the Stars".

In his leisure time, Michael enjoys golf, shooting sports and gardening. He also is an accomplished furniture maker and woodworker.

When asked to identify those men that have been most influential in his Masonic life, Michael mentioned PGWM Claud Dutro. His exact words are, "I aspire to have the same carriage and demeanor as Claud. To be as patient and thoughtful". He also mentioned WB Robert Danko, the Secretary of Denver #5. They continue to speak 2-3 times a week and Michael has learned more about Masonry from WB Robert than anyone else. Michael also has high words of praise and admiration for WB Pablo Colomban and WB Kory Wilson, both Past Masters of Denver #5 and mentors of Michael.

When I asked Michael to share some words of wisdom, his immediate response was, "Be patient. Enjoy the journey. Don't let life and the many things that you have going on keep you from enjoying the experience of life."

It's really been a pleasure to get to know Brother Michael and to sit in Lodge with him on many occasions. I urge you to meet Worshipful Brother Michael at our next regular communication and certainly at the upcoming Reunion.



Summer Dinner (BBQ)



Ladies Luncheon



SRMC Golf Tournament





The Prelate's Pulpit

Rev. James H. Harris, 33°

Prelate for All Scottish Rite Bodies



September is a month in which we move from Summer to Fall, shorter days and cooler temperatures. It is also the month in which the fraternity moves from darkness to light. In September we will meet to receive new Honormen. Our Grand Commander James Cole gave a stirring message at the biennial session. He talked about how the All-Seeing-Eye is always on us. He talked about spreading light. Through our work, we are making a difference in the world. He talked about the Cross and Flame emblem on a stained glass window at his church. It is a symbol of two churches (flames) combining to form the United Methodist Church. It was unique as it took thousands of pieces of glass to form the emblem. In the fraternity it takes all of us coming together to do the work of the Scottish Rite. 10799008 At the cornerstone for the new Shrine building, we learned about all the great work the Shrine does through the Shriner Hospitals. Thousands of persons work together to support the work of those hospitals as they offer free medical care. The Rite also makes a difference through the work of our speech and language centers. We also provide scholarships to students in those fields to assist them in their career pursuits. YES, we do make a difference. We take good men and seek to make them better men. Our reunions bring us together and offer learning experiences for our candidates and ourselves.

At my class reunion we looked at the yearbook of our graduating year. Many persons wrote goals about what they would like to achieve in their lifetimes. A couple of those were: travel abroad, marry a rich person, finish medical school, and be a professional baseball player. No one wrote the type of person they wished to become. Yet, THAT is the question! Masons try to make better men, Masons, fathers, husbands, citizens and servants of our Creator. As for me, I try to be a reverent, good, kind, and honest person. In the Bible, God emphasizes being more than just doing.

September is a time for reflection and to deepen our roots. Our Renewal and Remembrance Service is always very meaningful. In the fall we have beautiful colors, back to school, football, back to church Sundays, browning grass, and the possibility of snow.

Why not take some time to remember who you are and where you are going?

Blessings,

Ill. Br. Rev. James H. Harris, 33°



100 Years Young

Eugene X. Tepper

90 Years Young

Joseph Robert Roeder
Kenneth James Simpson

80 Years “OLD”

James Kie Ellington
Francis Lee Kingman
Richard William Newman
Ronald Lee Todd

50 Years “OLD”

Daniel James Bickhard
Thomas Richard Repp

Our SEPTEMBER “Youngster”

Aaron Bailey Codiga (28)



18 SEPTEMBER 1947 (74 years old)

MURPHY’S LAWS **OR ... Why Things Go Wrong**

Murphy’s Law: If anything can go wrong, it will.

The Extended Murphy’s Law:

If a series of events can go wrong, it will do so in the worst possible sequence.

Gattuso’s Extension of Murphy’s Law:

Nothing is ever so bad that it can’t get worse.

Lynch’s Law:

When the going gets tough, everyone leaves.

Grossman’s Misquote of H. L. Mencken:

Complex problems have simple, easy-to-understand wrong answers.

Ducharme’s Precept:

Opportunity always knocks at the least opportune moment.

Rune’s Rule:

If you don’t care where you are, you ain’t lost.

Maryann’s Law:

You can always find what you’re not looking for.

Boob’s Law:

You always find something in the last place you look.

The Queue Principle:

The longer you wait in line, the greater the likelihood that you are standing in the wrong line.

Paul Revere Lodge ...

*along with LN Greenleaf Lodge, Harmony Lodge,
Union Lodge & Jacques DeMolay Lodge*

... Proudly Present



The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team

JOIN US!

Saturday, October 9th, 2021
at the Denver Consistory
(parking garage not available)

4:00 p.m. Open Lodge & Introductions
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Second Section & Lectures

Registration & Ticket Information
bravewarrior.eventbrite.com



The Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team is made up of Native American Freemasons from the state of Oklahoma. The team travels around the state, country and world to perform the Master Mason degree wearing full Native American regalia for the second section, in accordance with the Oklahoma Grand Lodge ritual. The degree work is for the enjoyment of Master Masons everywhere.



SCOTTISH RITE FALL REUNION 2021

Denver Consistory November 18, 19, 20, 2021

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REUNITE WITH YOUR BROTHERS
REVISIT THE TEACHINGS



Preparation



Organization



Having Fun

First Line Signer Incentive Program: THREE petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership for a year. If you are a life member it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year



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Click [HERE](#) for instructions.

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Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Building Endowment Fund. Go to the endowment fund web site for more information at:

<https://www.denverconsistorybuildingendowmentfund.org>



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- 2) ON THE TOP RIGHT CORNER, CLICK ON **WELCOME SIGN IN**
- 3) ON THE LEFT SIDE, CLICK ON **CREATE AN ACCOUNT**
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- 2) SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE AND CLICK ON **"KING SOOPERS COMMUNITY REWARDS"**.
- 3) CLICK ON **"ENROLL NOW"**
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- 5) YOU'RE DONE! NOW, EVERY TIME YOU MAKE A PURCHASE AND SWIPE YOUR LOYALTY CARD, THE SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER WILL GET A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR PURCHASE!

IF YOU HAVE A LOYALTY CARD BUT DO NOT HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS:

OUR FRONT DESK STAFF WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU IN GETTING YOUR DIGITAL ACCOUNT SET UP!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A LOYALTY CARD AND WANT TO SUPPORT SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

YOU CAN GET A LOYALTY CARD FROM KING SOOPERS ANYTIME AND THEN JUST FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

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This publication is produced monthly by and for the benefit of members, staff, and interested parties associated with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and more particularly the Denver Consistory in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Denver Consistory or its officers.

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