



Denver's RiteWorks

March 2024 vol. 17 #3

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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BUILDING SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY! We ask that you be mindful of who you let into the lobby through the glass doors and also be aware of who follows you into the building. We have many "street people" waiting for an opportunity to slip into the building. **Do not let anyone in who you do not know to be a member of Denver Consistory.**

CORNERSTONE COMMITTEE **MONTHLY COORDINATION ZOOM MEETINGS**

ZOOM Meetings of the Cornerstone Planning Committee are held MONTHLY on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: **05 MAR 2024**. Zoom credentials:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81703605639?pwd=cjI5cDhNQnRXUXY5V1psU0MzSWRHUT09>

March 2024

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Fri, MAR 1 | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken) |
| Mon, MAR 4 | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room |
| Thu, MAR 14 | 7:00 p.m. Degree Council Meeting |
| Fri, MAR 8, 15, 22, 29 | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13) |
| Fri, MAR 15 | 2:00 p.m. Afternoon at Denver Dave & Busters. Contact Bill Achbach or Michael Rudloff to RSVP |
| Mon, MAR 18 | Stated Meeting Parking Garage Available Sports Team Shirt Night 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Awards & Announcements; Past Presiding Officer Recognition 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting 5 min oration - Minister of State, Denver Consistory |
| Sat, MAR 30 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. KSA Spring Cleanup (Everyone is welcome to help!) |
| Sun, MAR 31 | 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service (Knights Templar Association) Parking Garage Available |

April 2024

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mon, APR 1 | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room |
| Thu - Sat APR 4-6 | Supreme Council Leadership Conference (Salt Lake City, UT) |
| Fri, APR 5, 12, 19, 26 | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken on APR 5) |
| Mon, APR 15 | Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner (Reservations REQUIRED) 7:00 p.m. Awards and Announcements Celebration of Remembrance and Renewal |

May 2024

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Fri, MAY 3, 10 | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13—Fried Chicken on MAY 3) |
| Sat, MAY 4 | Evening Movie at Denver Consistory - Contact Brother Jeremy DeBard to RSVP debard@me.com |
| Mon, MAY 6 | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room |
| Mon, MAY 13 | 5:30 p.m. Special Officer Meeting to read last minute Petitions |
| Thu-Sat, MAY 16-18 | Spring Reunion (61 st) Parking Garage Available |
| Mon, MAY 20 | Stated Meeting: Awards & Announcements; Memorial Day |

EDITOR'S RESTLEBOARD



BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°

EMAIL: WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM

OBLIGATIONS

This month, Brother Bill Achbach is taking on a sticky-wicket kind of topic - we all swear an oath on our WORD as Masons to attend meetings and support not just the Rite, but all the bodies to which we belong. How many out there have “over-subscribed” to too many groups (Masonic AND non-Masonic) to the point that you stop attending or supporting one or more groups save, perhaps, for paying dues each year? [3750817] Dues are important, but your presence is much, much, more important—and especially if we are talking about our YOUTH GROUPS where our future members may come from, and in the case of girls, a favorable impression that she can pass on to her family later down the line.

Let me briefly regale you with a segment of my Scottish Craft Lodge ceremony (that is openly shared). It concerns the absence of the “ancient penalties” of all their craft degrees—which, I know, can be rather controversial over on this side of the ocean.

“The ancient penalties for a violation of that obligation have been omitted. As, however, you must know what they are in order to understand the remainder of the ceremony, I shall inform you that they were that your ...(details omitted here)... day. We omit these penalties as nowadays (and this was in 1978 for me) they neither could nor would be enforced. We prefer to depend on the fact that if one of you did violate his obligation, he would become a wilfully (sic) perjured individual and would suffer the everlasting torture of an uneasy conscience.”

I draw your attention to the not unremarkable similarity to many of the oaths and obligations you took during the Scottish Rite degrees (and I suspect in the York Bodies as well).

During WWII, a military officer’s CREDIT was automatically good—his word was his bond and insurance that his bills would be paid. Likewise, that attitude permeates the Craft over there. If you swear to something, you are EXPECTED to live up to that word. In my case, security clearances also expect certain behaviors over and above your word.

As we all know (all of us, right?) the Scottish Rite in Scotland is completely different in structure than ours. In fact, the Scottish Rite there is an entirely HONORARY body, membership being attained by invitation only. It literally takes a lifetime of work to progress to the 32nd degree there...and not everyone is so honored.

NOW, go forward to the bottom of page 8 and take due notice of where your “manpower” resides, age wise and think about the impacts of declining membership all around.

Bill



From the Secretary's Desk

[Matt Raia, 33°](#)



CONSISTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Work hard and save your money and when you are old you will be able to buy the things only the young can enjoy.

Transportation Available – Brethren, if you need a ride to a stated meeting, the reunion, or one of our events, call the office and let us know. We will send a ride-share service (Lyft or Uber) to pick you up and bring you back home, at no expense to you. The Consistory will pay the bill. You do not have to miss out on participating in Denver Consistory events because you need a ride.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund Contributions

The SRMC wishes to acknowledge those who donated to the Endowment fund this past month and began or added to a Cathedral Club membership.

Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°
Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH

Brother Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH
Brother Kevin Trabert, 32°

Who reads the RiteWorks Contest – WE HAVE A WINNER! Brother Grady Carter found his membership number and called the office to receive a free dinner for the February meeting. The membership numbers published in the February RiteWorks belong to the following Brothers who were eligible to receive a free dinner for the February Stated Meeting: **Wyatt Page; Max Hager, Jr.; Frank Klein, Jr.; Lance Maynard; Jerome Lueck; James Thoeming; Grady Carter; Robert Salazar; Charles Baum, and Roy Ince, Jr.** Maybe this month's winners will see their membership number and call the office to claim their free dinner for the March Stated Meeting.

February 19th Stated Meeting - Patents and class photos were presented to the members of the Fall Reunion class. **Illustrious, Most Worshipful Brother Steve Munsinger, 33°, SGIG Emeritus,** was recognized for becoming a Bronze Member of the Cathedral Club for having donated a cumulative total of \$5,000 to the SRMC Endowment Fund.

Brother Tom Gaffney, 32° KCCH, was installed as Commander of the Colorado Council of Kadosh. The Annual Report of the Almoner was given by **Illustrious Brother Joe Kier, 33°, Illustrious Brother Bob Gregory, 33°** gave the Life Membership report, and the SRMC Endowment Fund report was given by **Illustrious Brother Ron Birely, 33°.** **Brother Todd Warburton, 32°,** Orator of the Centennial Lodge of Perfection delivered his oration.

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From the Secretary's Desk - Continued from previous page

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT - Illustrious Brother Tommy Thompson, 33°, has announced his retirement effective July 1st. If you are interested in the Administrative Assistant position, contact me and we can talk. (Job duties, hours, salary, etc.) We would like to have the "new guy" on board April 1st to give him three months to work with Tommy before he retires.

Degree Council Meeting - March 14th at 7:00 p.m. for [ALL DEGREE DIRECTORS, ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN](#) to plan the Spring Reunion.

Scottish Rite Nights Out - FRIDAY March 15th - 2 p.m.

The Consistory Line Officers will be hosting various social events to facilitate the coming together of members, prospective members, Masons, non-Masons, and our neighbors and friends. [8434300] These are open to anyone who would like to get together and enjoy good company. The next event will be March 15th at 2 p.m. at Denver's Dave and Busters. To RSVP, contact Brother Bill Achbach (wbapm32@gmail.com) or Brother Michael Rudloff (wb.mr.traveler@gmail.com).

March 18th Stated Meeting - Will be Past Presiding Officer Recognition Night and "Wear Your Favorite Sports Team Shirt Night."

KSA Spring Cleanup - Saturday, March 30th 9:00-11:00 a.m. will be the Knights of St. Andrew Denver Consistory Spring Cleanup. Come out and help the KSA spruce up our building in preparation for the Spring Reunion.

Easter Sunrise Service - Sunday, March 31st at 6:30 a.m. the Knights Templar Association of Colorado will hold the 99th consecutive Easter Sunrise Service at Denver Consistory.



**DENVER CONSISTORY
PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Spring Reunion May 16-18, 2024 - We need petitions! Brothers, turn in the petitions as soon as you receive them. Do NOT wait until the April 15th Stated Meeting or the last minute Monday Officers' meeting before the reunion. Encourage your candidates to use the electronic petition. When completed, the petition is automatically sent to the Denver Consistory office.

First Line Signer Incentive Program: **THREE** petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership for a year. If you are already a Life Member, it entitles you to receive Stated Meeting dinners for a year.

Membership Profile Update - You may update your contact information in your Supreme Council Membership Record by logging on to the Supreme Council website

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Resources, Update Your Information. It is important that we have current contact information for you so you do not become "lost."

Calling Committee - The officers of the Kadosh Line, and a group of volunteers, make calls to our members each quarter. The Calling Committee members are not required to come to the office on a specific day to make the calls. Instead, they make the calls at their leisure. Every quarter the committee is given a new list of members to call, and a list of "talking points." The goal is for every Denver Consistory member to receive at least one phone call during the year. The purpose of the call is to let the member know that we have not forgotten about them, that they are important to us, to find out how they are doing, and to offer any assistance if needed.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the Calling Committee members for reaching out to our brothers. The recipients of the call really appreciate the calls. You are a vital link between Denver Consistory and our members. As a result of the calls, we have discovered some brothers who are in poor health, some who are experiencing financial difficulties and need assistance (and who have been referred to our Almoner) and, unfortunately, some who have passed on and we were not notified by the family of their passing.

If you would like to be a Calling Committee member, let me know and I will add you to the list of volunteers and send you a list of brothers to call.

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 Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Thank you Brother **Terry McAninch, 32°**, for donating your 2006 motor home for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

2024 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2023. If you have not yet paid your 2024 membership fee, please do so and do not become delinquent. \$130 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.35 per day. WOW! That's less than the cost of one cup of coffee. Isn't your membership in the Scottish Rite worth more to you than a cup of coffee? Please do your part to help sustain the operation of Denver Consistory by paying your membership fee.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay your membership fee, PLEASE CONTACT ME. We have programs available to assist you so that you are not suspended for nonpayment. You MUST contact me. We can't help you if you don't ask.

Monthly membership fee payment plan is available. Are you tired of paying fees at the end of the year for all the Masonic bodies to which you belong? You may pay your annual Denver Consistory membership fee in eleven easy monthly payments rather than one lump sum, eliminating one more year-end bill to pay. By authorizing an automatic credit card payment each month, at the end of eleven months your membership fee for the ensuing year will be paid. Contact the office to set up a payment plan.

Automatic Membership Renewal Program

Supreme Council has implemented an auto-renewal program to pay annual membership fees. This is a completely voluntary program that gives our members the option to have their membership fee automatically deducted using a credit or debit card through the online Membership Portal.

The automatic membership payment will occur in August annually for those who sign up for the program, and the payment will be applied to the following year. Members who sign up for the program will receive an email reminder a few days prior to the debiting of their credit or debit card. This program will give members the option to avoid the end of the year Masonic membership dues crunch as well as help ensure members are always in good standing.

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 ensures 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.

2024 Life Membership Fee:

75 years old and older – a single payment of \$1,250

62-74 years old – a single payment of \$1,750

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

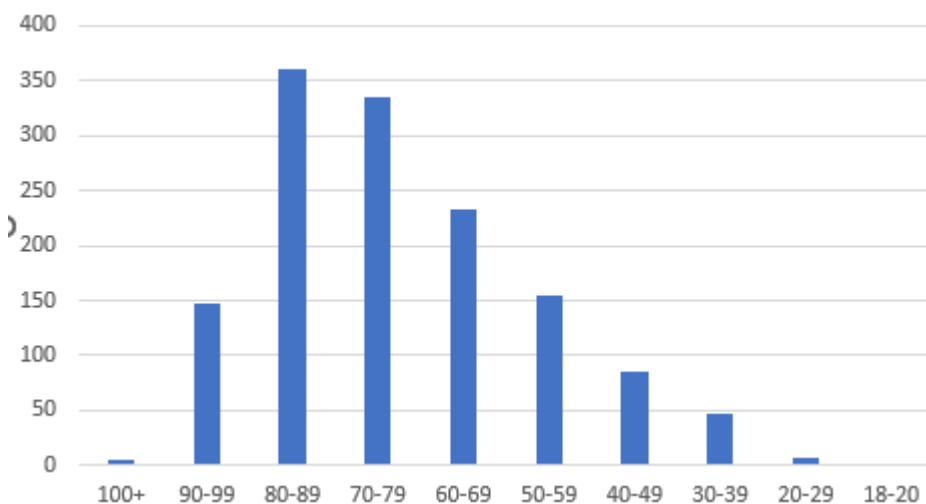
Extended payment terms may be arranged. Contact the office for details.

Membership Statistics

March 2023: 1,451

March 2024: 1,374

Net: **-77**



Look carefully at the graph to the left. It shows age groups (x-axis) versus number of members in that group (y-axis). What is YOUR take-away from that graph? Roughly HALF of your Brothers in the Consistory are over the age of 70!!!! And, roughly half of that group over 70 is over the age of 80!!!!

Now, think what that means for reunions, activities, and the health of the Consistory in the future. [3477650]



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Director of Education

Duty? Obligation? Opportunity! *



First a word of thanks...

Before getting this month's (intended to be January's ... then February's) offering underway, I want to thank my Brethren for the expressions of concern and good wishes resulting from my forced hiatus in January. It was nothing serious and a matter not usually as aggravating as it briefly ended up being. After two cataract procedures in December, I was essentially "fully functional" in a matter of days, EXCEPT that I found that my vision just wouldn't stand up to computer use. Trying to word process just shut me down right out of the gate, so I wimped out and took the month off. I appreciate the concern, as well as the understanding of Editor-in-Chief Bill in granting me unpaid leave.

...And an important bit of housekeeping:

I hope you'll take a moment to find and read a couple of flyers posted in this month's *Rite Works*. As you likely know, the appointed officers in the Consistory Line have been working, for several years now, as a committee to enhance the entertainment and educational offerings at stated meetings. [6992978] This year, to assist Master of Kadosh Michael Rudloff [9860438] in his goal of expanding our opportunities for fellowship, the committee will organize and promote activities outside our stated meeting gatherings. The flyers you'll find in this month's newsletter will introduce and invite you to participate in the first of these opportunities. Both are social & educational events organized by organizations outside the Consistory and both stand to be interesting and informative events.

The other flyer running this month is, at this early stage, partly a "save the date" and partly a request to pass on information about our June meeting. Our Blue Lodge Recognition Night, in June, will include a very special entertainment event this year. Consistory leadership and the Entertainment Committee is looking to make this annual event something different and memorable, and I believe that Master of Kadosh, Michael Rudloff, has accomplished that with our plans for June.

Duty? Obligation? Opportunity?

Since this was originally intended to be a January article, please put yourselves back in "beginning-of-the year mode" for a moment and stay with me for a couple of thoughts ... then I have a question to ask you! For me, there's always been "something" about each New Year that not so subtly says "opportunity," and, looking back at past offerings here in *Rite Works*, I can see that theme has been on my mind in past years too. I know that flipping over the calendar can be about remembering, resolving, and renewing: remembering the highs

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and lows of the past year, renewing relationships with family and friends, and resolving (maybe in some specific way ... maybe just in generalities) to “do better” in the coming year.

Personally, I’ve never been much for resolutions. It’s sort of a “discipline thing” (more precisely a “lack-of-discipline thing”) with me, and I seem to end up always sadly looking back at unfulfilled promises and unmet challenges. Perhaps the resolution process itself is the problem.

So, with that in mind, I’ll ask my question: “How does one remind another person of his promises, without being “preachy” or judgmental about it?”

Cutting straight to the chase, I would say that there is no good way ... no safe way: unsolicited advice always carries the risk of such interpretation. However, I’m going to risk it and trust to the kindness and understanding of my Brethren ... with the assurance that I not only spent decades in need of the reminder I’m about to give but also consider myself fortunate to have heard the message more or less “in time.” To do that, I need to explain a passage in the ritual of the 32nd Degree which jumped out and grabbed me during our Fall Reunion.

What got my attention (and seemed to tie in so well with the coming of the New Year) was a part of the Fifth Vow administered by the Master of Kadosh. This vow is all about our obligation to support the Rite and contribute to its efforts in the world. The part that captured my interest then (and which I connect now to the opportunities of the New Year) was the promise that **“I will not neglect, by nonattendance, the meetings of any Body of the Rite without valid reasons.”**

Two things especially strike me about this promise, as I think about it in a wider Masonic context: first, in contrast with the notion expressed in the EA Charge, our attendance is not only “earnestly solicited” but now expected in the absence of a valid reason to be excused. Second, our presence and participation are required as a vital part of the Rite’s ability to carry out its mission to make the world a better place. How do we explain this difference in emphasis upon our attendance and participation? In that context, how can we justify our non-participation?

It seems to me that the explanation is also twofold and a natural product of our growing maturity in the Craft. When we have only begun our Masonic journey, we have much to learn about the Fraternity and much to decide about our role in it. Those who came before us knew that it would take time and experience to find our way. It is no coincidence that the invitation to an EA, to attend Lodge as we are able ... recognizing those things which are “on no account to be neglected,” is closely followed by the admonition to seek counsel from “well-informed Brethren!” This plays deeply into the whole concept of education ... which, not coincidentally, is a distinctive part of the Scottish Rite! As I used to tell my own students, “The true test of whether our education has been effective is not a measure of what we know, but rather how what we have learned changes how we act.”

At some point, if we seriously travel the road, we reach the place where we are comfortable within the institution and learn enough about it to appreciate what it means to us. We may then seek to enrich our involvement further by broadening our experience, and one of those possibilities is to petition the Rite. In doing so, we are making a statement about both our own Masonic maturity **and** about our willingness to expand the Craft’s position in our lives. It

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should come then as no surprise, in achieving some degree of maturity and wisdom, that more should be expected of us as a result! This progression is also an excellent argument for not rushing into the decision to affiliate with the myriad bodies that potentially compete for our attention. Once we are Master Masons (and if we are to “improve ourselves in Masonry”) the decision to turn in that next petition should reflect a yearning for growth and not merely the wish to put another emblem on our back bumper or dues card in our wallet!

So (finally!), back to that “opportunity of the New Year” theme! The Scottish Rite not only has a lot to offer its members, in terms of educational and service opportunities, but more to the point, the Valley of Denver and Scottish Rite as a whole NEED our active participation to meet the challenges of its programs and projects. There are countless opportunities to participate: to lend a hand in making the work of the Rite a reality. All of this is important work, all of it a part of our mission, and all of it must be accomplished to make the programs successful. The challenge that I pose to you, Brethren, as we move along in 2024, is to follow through on the duty ... obligation ... opportunity to join in the work - **AS WE ALL PROMISED THAT WE WOULD** - to make it a reality. I know that it’s blunt and perhaps tactless to say, but, no, the annual dues payment can’t (nor can any monetary donation, per se) fulfill the obligation. I cannot think of a more basic opening statement in fulfilling the promise of the 32nd Degree, than to make our physical presence a symbol of that promise.

Brethren, we escape far too easily from commitments we make entirely on our own initiative. [7787955] We know that the chances are we will never be called to task for not participating, and this is always an issue in any volunteer-based organization. All of us believe that other Brethren will continue to shoulder the load for those who decide to just carry the card in their wallets. Maybe it’s time to stop thinking that way!

The decision to become more active may hand us a large part to play, or we may discover that our role is relatively small. But we ALL have a part to play. There are certain things which the Rite MUST do to function...must accomplish to achieve its purposes. The more of us there are to share in that work, the more new, different, creative ideas there will be to feed the mission. Yes, it is also true that the more hands to share the work the lighter the individual workload will be. But that’s not really the point. The goal isn’t to make the work easier by dividing the load. The goal is to get every part of it done as completely and as proficiently as possible, and a part of that is building the sense of Brotherhood which will maximize the impact on society. That purpose, I suggest to you, is best fulfilled by ALL of us working together, with each bringing to the task what he alone can uniquely offer. For each of us, that begins with taking seriously our vow “Not to neglect, by nonattendance ...” “Presence” is the most fundamental requirement of “involvement.” It’s a small thing, but it’s something that almost all of us can contribute.

As the years unfold, and we realize that we gaze more and more toward the end of our journey (and perhaps also that we have been looking back over our shoulder rather more than we ought), it is meaningful to ask not only “How will I be remembered?” but as much, “How do I see my own journey?” It is my hope - and consider it my invitation to you - as 2024 moves on - that you will see it as, yes, both duty and obligation ... but more so as an opportunity to come and be with your Brethren, month-to-month, and offer your ideas, support ...

Impressions and your wisdom ... as a part of our common cause.

Bill

wbapm32@gmail.com

303-775-5727

* Obligation (ob = to/toward + ligare = bind); Duty (duete = morally required; that which ought to be done; due...and, yes, that's the origin of our basic, annual financial membership payment); Opportunity (Ob= to/toward + portus = port, door, entrance, destination).

December's Trivia Question: What actual, justiciable penalties are generally prescribed, by Grand Lodges, for un-Masonic conduct?

Answer: Once again, a hearty "well done" goes out to WB Juan Carlos Millan, for his almost instantaneous answer when the December *RiteWorks* was posted. His answer was heavier on the "offenses" and rather lighter on the "penalties" than I intended in my question, but the spirit of the intended answer and his were definitely in sync.

The first observation I'll make is that the traditional "penalties of the obligation," which we know so well from our own degree work and proficiency catechisms, are off the table when we're talking about actual, justiciable penalties. Indeed, not only are those not a topic for discussion in this answer, but (nearly as I can determine) they never have been, even in operative times! As degree mentors, many of us have likely told new EAs (especially), FCs and MMs something like this: "These punishments are derived from those meted out to operative craftsmen who dared to violate their oaths." Well ... no ... not so much! It is most likely that the authors of ritual both here and in Britain (Preston, Webb, Duncan, Claret, et al) mostly created the penalties from whole cloth or, at most, parroted particularly grisly punishments levied, at some point, for common crimes. The speculative art first developed not so long after a time when one might actually lose a hand for theft or a tongue for perjury, even though such apparently never had much relevance at all to punishments among skilled craftsmen. Their placement within the degree obligations was likely for shock value or for dramatic effect, and that makes sense, doesn't it? [7787955] Both corporal and capital punishments have long been the jealously guarded prerogative of civil authorities, rather than of private associations!

The penalties to which my question refers are therefore three in number:

Reprimand (or Admonition), which is the mildest and simply described as a "correction" of the offense of a Brother. It is often the reaction to some action of a Brother in ignorance (e.g., a Brother who talks about how he balloted on a candidate) and is generally a "Here's what you did wrong & don't do it again!"...almost a parental kind of discipline. It may carry some ongoing stigma, I suppose (especially if the offense really was in a "should'a known better" scenario, but normally that should not be the case.

Suspension, which is the loss of Masonic rights & privileges for a time (6 months...a year. ..

etc.). A suspension would usually be levied in situations where a Brother has acted in a way as to offend the Fraternity and where there's a desire to impress upon his mind the seriousness of the offense. Usually, a suspension is not levied in situations where a Brother has acted to seriously damage the reputation of Craft or where there has been a fundamental violation of the essentials (e.g., the duties of one's obligations) of Masonry. Suspension might also be a proper penalty for violations of duty in situations where the offense was a matter of degree, a "sin of omission rather than of commission," or (as in the civil law) where there is no provable intent to commit the offense. Again, although a Brother who has served his time may have something to prove to regain the closest of trusts going forward, no permanent stigma should be attached once the time is served...assuming sincere contrition on his part.

Expulsion is the third form of discipline: the permanent loss of Masonic rights, privileges, and affiliation. This punishment is reserved for offenses in which a person has done material harm to the institution (including to its reputation), and/or for serious breaches of the duties of his obligation. These might be seen as offenses similar to actions justiciable as criminal or tort offenses under common law. A person expelled from the Fraternity has no claim upon recognition or association with any Masonic body or with any individual Brother, in terms of any of the prerogatives of the Craft. [11121579] Although it is, of course, up to each individual to determine his own connections and associations, no Mason should ever converse upon any subject relevant to the Fraternity—including the business of a Lodge, other Brethren, of any topic related generally to the institution—with an expelled former Mason. There is little justification for treating him in an uncivil manner, but he should never be treated as a Brother.

I'll make a final point in conclusion and say that Grand Lodges have (even if not yet widely) begun to recognize this more literal and practical treatment of penalties. The ritual of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, for example, has been revised to substitute the triad of reprimand, suspension and expulsion in the actual obligations of the Craft degrees. You have, of course, likely already noted the contrast of the Craft obligations with those of our Rite, and it does bear mentioning that even the traditional obligations employ the wording "... under a **no less** penalty." Think about that for a moment ... the obligation penalty **or worse**?!? What could be worse? To a true and dedicated Mason, I'd suggest that the righteous scorn of my Brothers - and the sincere regret and remorse that such should cause - would easily meet that description!

This Month's Trivia Question: What was the circumstance of Robert Burns composing the poem entitled "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton."



Member in the Spotlight

By Lee Miller, 32° KCCH

1st Lieutenant Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh

John Davis, 32° KCCH



If you've ever been to our Consistory, then you almost certainly know the huge smile and outstretched hand of Brother John Davis. With his infectious good humor, you will instantly feel as if you've made a new friend – because you have. I know John and I became friends right away, and it not just because “all y'all” think we talk funny. He and I are both proud Tennesseans. If you ever see us laughing and waving our hands around, be warned: you may not be able to follow our conversation. There's regular English, and there's southern English, and John and I will quickly switch to southern English after talking together for a few minutes. Or after a few drinks. Or after talkin' to some of the folks back home. We put salt, pepper and a bunch of butter on our grits, and we mix our eggs in with 'em. We drink sweet iced tea (as if there was any other way to serve it), and we'll eat just about any meat that's been breaded and fried.

Brother John comes from a Masonic family. His late father William Davis, celebrating his 30th year as a Mason last June 26th, was raised in Wheatridge Lodge when he was traveling from Memphis and working in Denver as a pipefitter. Brother John grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, but it was his mother's transfer as Federal Reserve employee that brought the entire Davis family to Denver in 1982. [7489511] When his mother finally retired, his mom and dad bought a farm near Memphis and they moved home.

Following in his father's footsteps, Brother John was accepted as a journeyman pipefitter and ironically got his first job back in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Fun fact: Brother John installed the fire suppression system in the 1614 Welton Street Masonic building when it was rebuilt after it burned in 1984.

He began dating his soon-to-be wife Heidi and they moved to Memphis for several years before coming back to Denver. Heidi worked for the airlines, and Brother John ended up working there and made a friend he never knew was a Mason until years later - Ill. Brother John Warren, 33°. He and Heidi were later blessed during the millennium with a son, Kyle. Following Heidi's tragic death just a few years later, Brother John made the difficult decision for Kyle to live on the family farm near Memphis with his grandparents while John again traveled for work. Kyle continues to live there with his grandparents, and works for Winchester in nearby Oxford, Mississippi. Sorry, no friends and family discounts; I've already asked!

I asked Brother John what incentive he had to join Masonry. “I promised myself for years that I was going to join Masonry by the time I was 50, so I did.” He credits his early Masonic

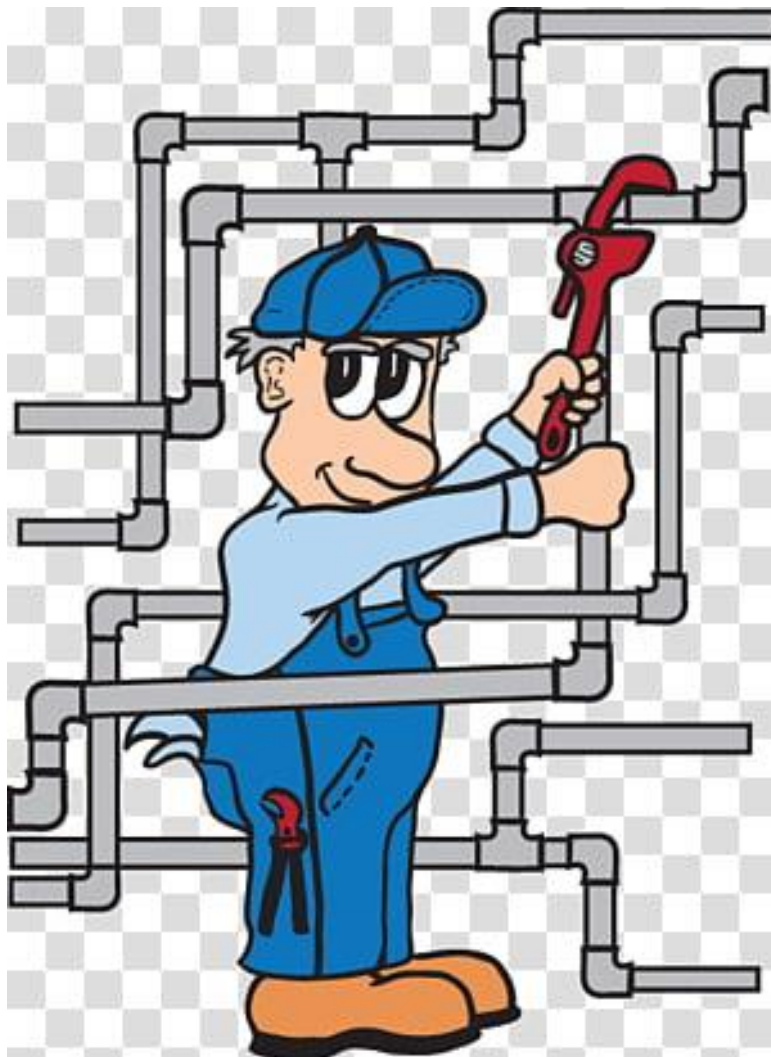
Continued on next page

education to two Lodge Brothers who have since moved to other states, Brother Jay Allen, 32° and Brother Chris Scott, 32°, and credits Ill. Brother John Warren, 33° for his joining the Scottish Rite.

Brother John joined in the 2014 Fall Reunion. He made his presence known by joining the properties group almost immediately and has not missed a single reunion. He's one of the first men through the doors in the morning, and the last to leave. I've watched him run circles around some of the younger members of the committee. He is a member of the Knights of St. Andrew and was elected Venerable Master in 2020. Incidentally, that's the same year he was Master of his Blue Lodge, Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41 in Denver. That was also the year Doc's officially opened, and he spent a great deal of his own time setting it up, acting as bartender, and then as bottleshower after everyone else had gone home.

Brother John is also an active member of the three York Rite bodies in Golden, and has served as Past High Priest, Past Thrice Illustrious Master, and Past Eminent Commander of those bodies.

No matter the function, whether it's a ladies luncheon, the summer dinner, an open house, Brother John is always there with his big grin, asking, "Hey, whatchya'll want me to do?" If you've never met him, don't worry – you will if you ever get within 10 feet of him.





Special Birthdays

Harold Eugene Cook (103)

Stacy Lamark Sitton (102)

90 Years "YOUNG"

Kenneth G. Rogers

Lyle Thomas Williams

80 Years "YOUNG"

Wayne Russell Davis

Thomas Robert Magnuson

70 Years "YOUNG"

William Rankin Busby

Charles David Clinker

Kevin George Gray

Clifford Dean Lane

Jerald Robert Munson

Kenneth Peter O'Hanlon

60 Years "YOUNG"

Timothy Michael Tims

40 Years "YOUNG?"

Eric Dale Lowery

Our March Youngster

Jordan Kolby Kemp (31)

MONDAY MORNING COMPUTER GUIDE

SEEK TIME: The time it takes to read from disk a piece of data that isn't there.

SPECIFICATION: An unreasonable request.

STORAGE: An area of memory, either main or peripheral, that is insufficient for any reasonable need.

TURNKEY: A special-purpose computer that, at the turn of a key, reveals its purpose to be other than that for which you bought it.

PROTOTYPE: A program that does not work perfectly but is still better than the program you eventually get.

PASSWORD: A system of computer security in which a secret number is assigned to each user and then written out in a list and left by the console in case anyone forgets their particular number.

OPERATING SYSTEM: A master program which, alone, can destroy all lesser programs.

MNEMONIC: Something whose precise use one forgets.

BUG: Undocumented "features" essential to the failure of the program to successfully perform its allocated tasks. May result in non-specific error messages. [2876621]

BYTE: Eight bits, only one of which is wrong.

CURSOR: A programmer working against a deadline.



Memorial Scroll

Lloyd Lynn McKean, 32°
Royce G. Roland, 32°

02/06/2024
01/19/2024



All Scottish Rite Masons in good standing are entitled to have a Rose Croix Funeral Service at the time of their passing. Members should advise their families of their wishes to have this beautiful service. It is a very dignified service intended to help bring comfort to the family.

The current members of the Denver Consistory Rose Croix Funeral Team are: Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH - Chairman; Thomas W. Adair, 32°; Scott A. Bates, 33°; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Pablo Columban, 32° KCCH; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; M. Edward Johnson, 33° (emeritus); Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Scott E. Olson, 32° KCCH; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; Thomas R. Repp, 32° KCCH; John A. Warren, 33°; Richard M. Wenzel III, 32° KCCH; and Benjamin F. Williams, 32° KCCH.

If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Brother Greg Harris, 32° KCCH for more information.

The **Consistory Line Entertainment Group** invites you to...

Join us for an afternoon of fun & fellowship

on **Friday, March 15** starting at **2:00 PM** at

Dave & Busters, 2000 S. Colorado Blvd. (I-25 & Colorado Blvd)

<https://www.daveandbusters.com/us/en/eat-and-drink?location=denver>

- ✓ Play Games
- ✓ Virtual Reality
- ✓ Food & Drink
- ✓ Watch Sports & Trivia

R.S.V.P. to Bill Achbach (wbapm32@gmail.com) or
Michael Rudloff (wb.mr.traveler@gmail.com)



The **Consistory Line Entertainment Group**

invites you to join us on...

Sunday, March 24, 2024 @ 1:30pm

“Kit Carson and the Mountain Men”:

a look at the role Br. Kit Carson played in the
Rocky Mountain fur trade.

Lecture by **Dr. Paul Andrew Hutton**, Distinguished
Professor of History at the University of New Mexi-
co. Presented by the **Tesoro Foundation**.

Goodson Recreation Center

6315 S University Blvd

Centennial, CO 80121

This program is **free** to the public. **Registration is re-
quired** through South Suburban Parks & Recreation
website or by calling **303-347-5999**.

A photograph of a sunrise over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect with rays of light. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky.

SUNRISE SERVICE

REJOICE! HE IS RISEN!

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
PRESENTS THE 99TH ANNUAL
OLDEST CONSECUTIVE PRESENTATION OF
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE IN COLORADO
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

AT 6:30 A.M.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 A.M.

DENVER CONSISTORY

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

1370 GRANT STREET

DENVER, COLORADO

REV. DR. A. J. BUSH, PASTOR

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE THE CONSISTORY GARAGE OPEN 4:45 AM & STREET

BREAKFAST WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE AT WWW.COLORADOKTA.ORG

ANY QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO 303-596-3008 OR PENNJR@COMCAST.NET

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE IN COLORADO

Sunday, March 31, 2024

6:30 a.m.

1370 Grant Street, Denver CO

The Knights Templar Association of Colorado presents the 99th Annual **Easter Sunrise Service**. This is the oldest consecutive presentation of an **Easter Sunrise Service** in Colorado (COVID excepted). Easter is early this year on **Sunday, March 31, 2024**. This service is open to all Masonic Family, Guests and prospects, neighbors and anyone who wants to celebrate Easter with us. Invite everyone you know to join you in this celebration. The service is a traditional Easter Observance with Scriptures, Community Prayers, Hymns and a Homily.

The service starts at 6:30 a.m. and doors will open at 5:30 a.m. The service is held at Denver Scottish Rite Consistory, 1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado. **Free Parking is available in the adjacent garage**. This historic cathedral is a great venue for this service with the Sir Knights and DeMolay forming a Living Cross on the floor. We are also excited to have Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery PHA to join us as well.

Leading the service this year is **REVEREND DOCTOR A. J. BUSH**. The Reverend Doctor A. J. Bush is a pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Denver. Rev. Dr. Bush is a Past Worthy Advisor of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Assembly #12 and is the daughter of Jeff Bush, current Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Colorado. Rev. Dr. Bush earned her Master of Divinity degree from Claremont School of Theology and her Doctor of Ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary.

Breakfast will be available for purchase online at www.coloradokta.org. The buffet is served downstairs in the dining room following the service.

Any questions may be directed to SK J. Randy Penn, KTA President, at 303-596-3008 or PennJR@comcast.net

An interesting fact is that our service is the oldest consecutive presentation of an Easter Sunrise Service in Colorado (COVID excepted). Our service was held indoors while others were snowed out as outdoor events. While they were canceled, we continued to celebrate our Savior together. Knights Templar is a fraternity of Christian Masons.



The Origin of the Knights Templar

**By: J. Randy Penn, 32° KCCH
President, Colorado Knights Templar Association
Grand Captain General**



There are many historical accounts of the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ, or Knights of the Temple, more commonly referred to as Knights Templar. They were formed as a result of the Crusades doing battle with the Moslems and the capture of Jerusalem around 1099. Jerusalem fell and the Holy City belonged to the Crusaders and all Christendom rejoiced. Most libraries and bookstores have many volumes on the Crusades and the Knights Templar and these writings are easily understood. The Internet today has an almost endless amount of information on Knights Templar and those interested can become well informed of the different versions relating to their history.

Men, women, and children pressed forward on their pilgrimage to the sacred city only to find that although Jerusalem was in Christian hands, the Moslems still controlled Palestine.

The highways and byways leading to Jerusalem were unprotected. The ferocity of the Moslems seemed to increase with the fall of the city, and mutilated bodies and bleached bones of pilgrims soon became a common site along the roadways. To add to the vulnerability of the pilgrims, thousands of the Crusaders, their primary objective accomplished, returned to their own lands leaving the countryside to the Moslems uncontested.

This was the circumstance that set the stage for Templary. A small band of Crusaders remaining after the conquest recognized the plight of the pilgrims and bound themselves in a Holy Brotherhood of arms, entering into a solemn agreement to aid one another in clearing the highways, and in protecting the pilgrims through the passes and defiles of the mountains to the Holy City.

In short, the Knights Templar were laymen who protected and defended Christians traveling to Jerusalem. These men took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and were renowned for their fierceness and courage in battle.

In 1118 A.D., nineteen years after the successful Crusade, these Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ, as they termed themselves, were officially recognized and sanctioned and were given, for their headquarters, a building on Mount Moriah, the site of the former Temple of King Solomon. [11164131] Consequently, they became known as the Knights of the Temple, or Knights Templar.

This was the era of chivalric ascendancy. Much as outstanding athletes receive the hero worship and admiration of the public today, so did those Knights of old capture the hearts and the wealth of the public of their period. Their fame spread like wildfire. Rulers hastened to be identified with Knights Templar and to present gold and property to the Order.

It is a matter of history that the warriors who fought for Christianity as Knights Templar had

The Origin of the Knights Templar - Continued from previous page

their vicissitudes with more downs than ups on the battlefield through the centuries. However, their wealth and their prestige remained undiminished. On the contrary, their treasury became too large to escape the notice of some financially embarrassed rulers, especially Philip the Fair, King of France.

Philip the Fair, with Pope Clement (who Philip pretty well influenced) arranged for Convocation of the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Jacques DeMolay, and his officers at Paris. The Convocation was held, but Grand Master DeMolay and his officers never left, at least not with their lives. In 1314 Jacques DeMolay was burned at the stake for alleged heresy and dozens of other accusations; all Knights Templar wealth was seized and Templary “moved underground.”

Some have written that after the death of Grand Master DeMolay there was an unbroken succession of the Grand Masters and a constant Templar organization without a lapse. This is difficult to believe and it is even more difficult to read the many treatises written to support or disprove the theory.

To simplify the story without attempting to elaborate or quote various researchers, all we know is that when Templary emerged in the early 1700’s it was a part of Freemasonry.

There is no proof of direct connection between the ancient order and the modern order known today as the Knights Templar.



PAUL REVERE LODGE #130

INVITES YOU TO OUR

2nd Annual Crawfish Boil

PROCEEDS BENEFITTING JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL #5



When:

Saturday, April 20, 2024
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where:

Westminster Masonic Center
8151 N. Bradburn Drive
Westminster, CO 80031

Cost:

\$30.00 One Pound of Louisiana Crawfish with Potatoes, Corn, and Andouille Sausage and a Drink

\$20.00 Two Fried Catfish Filets, French Fries, Hushpuppies, and a Drink.

\$5.00 Slice of Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza and a Drink

**Purchase tickets by Wednesday April 10th
@ <https://paulrevere130.square.site/>**



SCOTTISH RITE SPRING REUNION

Denver Consistory May 16 - 18, 2024

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



Denver Consistory 1370 Grant Street Denver, CO 80203

denverconsistory@denverconsistory.org

303-861-4261

100TH ANNIVERSARY CORNERSTONE

Location: 1370 Grant St
Date: July 20, 2024
Time: 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Host: Thomas Gaffney 32° KCCH

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1:30PM – 2:30PM | Grand Lodge Cornerstone Ceremony, | NE Corner Consistory |
| 2:00PM – 3:00 PM | Consistory doors open for attendees to tour <u>building</u> and to see displays. | Foyer/Cathedral |
| 3:00PM – 4:00PM | Presentation of The Traitor | Cathedral Room |
| 4:00PM – 4:30PM | Comments from Dignitaries | Cathedral Room |
| 4:30PM – 7:00PM | Transition to Social/Dinner | Doc's/Dining Hall |

Additional information

The event is open to all that want to attend. Dinner will be restricted to the first 220 paid reservations. All attendees will receive a commemorative pin and those RSVPs to the dinner will receive a commemorative collector's challenge coin.



judi's house JAG Institute
For Grieving Children and Families



Please drop items off in the bin located in the building.
Supplies they need will be listed on a flyer above the bin.

They need things like art supplies, toys, non-perishable snacks, and
everyday household supplies.

Any questions? Contact Pablo Colomban
pablocolomban@yahoo.com • 720-284-4304

Scan the QR code for a
complete list.



SCAN ME

HOT Pipe Organ Capital Campaign

Since 1916 the Temple Room at the House of the Temple has had an Organ to make our events even more special with music. The Shantz organ console located behind Lieutenant Grand Commander's Chair controls the sound from the 1,417 pipes located high above floor level. The acoustics perfectly allow the room to be flooded with sound. Typically, the organ is played by the Grand Organist for various Masonic events and ceremonies. On occasion, guest organists hold concerts in the Temple Room. The public also visits the Temple Room every week during tours at the HOT.

The current Shantz Organ needs rebuilding and improvement. Currently, only about 50% of the keys will produce correct sounds. This is why the Scottish Rite has opened the HOT Pipe Organ Capital Campaign to save our treasured Organ. We formed a committee of members with vast knowledge and experience in Organs to plan this work. We need to keep music as an important part of the ceremonies and rituals of our fraternity.

Our goal is to raise \$400,000 to pay for restoration, improvements to the instrument, and provide an endowment to pay for its maintenance and repairs in the future. Members all around the Southern Jurisdiction are giving, and we are making progress, but we are counting on every member's help – and your help – to reach the goal.

Gifts to this Capital Campaign are tax deductible as allowed by law. Your gift made payable to the **HOT Historic Preservation Foundation** can be mailed to:

Supreme Council - Development Office
Attn: Caitlyn Kent
1733 16th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20009-3103

Or you can simply call Caitlyn Kent at (202) 777-3111, tell her your gift is for the "Pipe Organ Campaign" and give her your card payment information to complete your gift. All information will be kept confidential.

You can also make your gift directly online by going to: www.ScottishRite.org. Hover over "How to Give", then "Giving Types" and left click on "Cash Gifts". You will gain access to a secure jotform with blanks in which to type your information.

- Select House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc.,
- Select "House of the Temple Pipe Organ Capital Campaign"
- And continue completing the questionnaire/form.

If you would like more information about this work or the campaign, please reach out to Donor Officer Phil Shortt at (240) 608-7425 or PShortt@ScottishRite.org.

Help keep our rich music culture alive in the Scottish Rite by helping with this earnest effort.

The January/February edition of the Scottish Rite Journal has greater detail about saving the House of the Temple's Musical Treasure. Go to <https://scottishrite.org/media-publications/scottish-rite-journal/the-scottish-rite-journal/> for even more.



Mount Zion #133 Pancake Breakfast

4th Sunday, every Month, 8am – 11am



all the Pancakes you can eat!

With potatoes, eggs, sausage, coffee, tea, cocoa, milk & orange juice

Donations:

Adults & Children over 12yrs - \$7.00 ea.

Children 8-12yrs - \$5.00 ea.

Children 5yrs & under – Free!

And check out the “Make – an – Offer” Table!!!



Golden Masonic Center

400 10th Street

Golden, Colorado, 80401



Order of the Eastern Star



Denver's Scottish Rite Masonic Center earns funds through King Soopers charitable Community giving program. Depending on how much you shop at King Soopers and get gas at King Soopers or Loaf 'n Jug, you can earn a little or a lot for the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Create a digital account

A digital account is needed to participate in King Soopers Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

Search for your organization [here](#).

Link your Card to Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) and click "Save".

Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) will also display in the King Soopers Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account.

If you do not have a King Soopers Loyalty Card, you can get one at your local store. Then just follow the instructions above.

Thank you for supporting the Scottish Rite Center

OUR MEDIA PRESENCE



Consistory Building Endowment Fund

<https://www.denverconsistorybuildingendowmentfund.org>

QUESTIONS: [Matt Raia, 33°](#)



Denver Consistory Web Page

<http://www.denverconsistory.org>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: [Pablo Colomban, 32° KCCH](#)



find us on

Facebook

Look for (search):

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory

<http://www.facebook.com>

You need to "LIKE" us to see what is going on.

QUESTIONS: [Randy Penn, 32° KCCH](#)

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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.

Deadline for article submission is two (2) days after the monthly stated meeting (third Monday). Articles should be approximately 250-1000 words long. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits may be included with your submission. Articles may be submitted in hard copy to the office or by electronic format via email to the editor. All articles are subject to editing and are published without restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

Notice of publication is provided to members of the Denver Consistory who have provided a valid email address. The newsletter is published on the web site as an Adobe .pdf file. It requires the free Adobe Reader program to read. (A copy of this program can be found at <http://www.adobe.com>). Current and past issues (subject to available storage space) are available for viewing on the Denver Consistory Website.

Questions pertaining to this publication should be forwarded to the Editor or the Consistory Office.

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DENVER CONSISTORY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Bill Hickey, 33° - Chairman

If you have comments, constructive criticisms, recommendations, or **articles for submission**, please send them to the EDITOR, RiteWorks.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER !!! Let us know how we're doing. We need to know if you want to see something in particular that we haven't published previously. If you are receiving this e-newsletter, it is because we have a valid email address for you. If you know of a Brother who has email but is not receiving these notices, PLEASE have him contact the Consistory Office and get his email updated or added to our database.

Contact:

cathy@denverconsistory.org

or

tom@denverconsistory.org

ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the **Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World)** of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon.



James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander



Karl J. Hinkle, 33°
Deputy of the Supreme Council
in Colorado



Ronald D. Birely, 33°
Personal Representative of the
Deputy of the Supreme Council in Colorado



Bartley A. Corfee, 33°
Venerable Master
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



Thomas L. Gaffney, 32° KCCH
Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh



Michael W. Rudloff, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh
Denver Consistory



Joe E. Kier, 33°
Almoner



James H. Harris, 33°
Prelate



Dan Conway, 33°
Treasurer



Matt Raia, 33°
Secretary
Recorder
Registrar