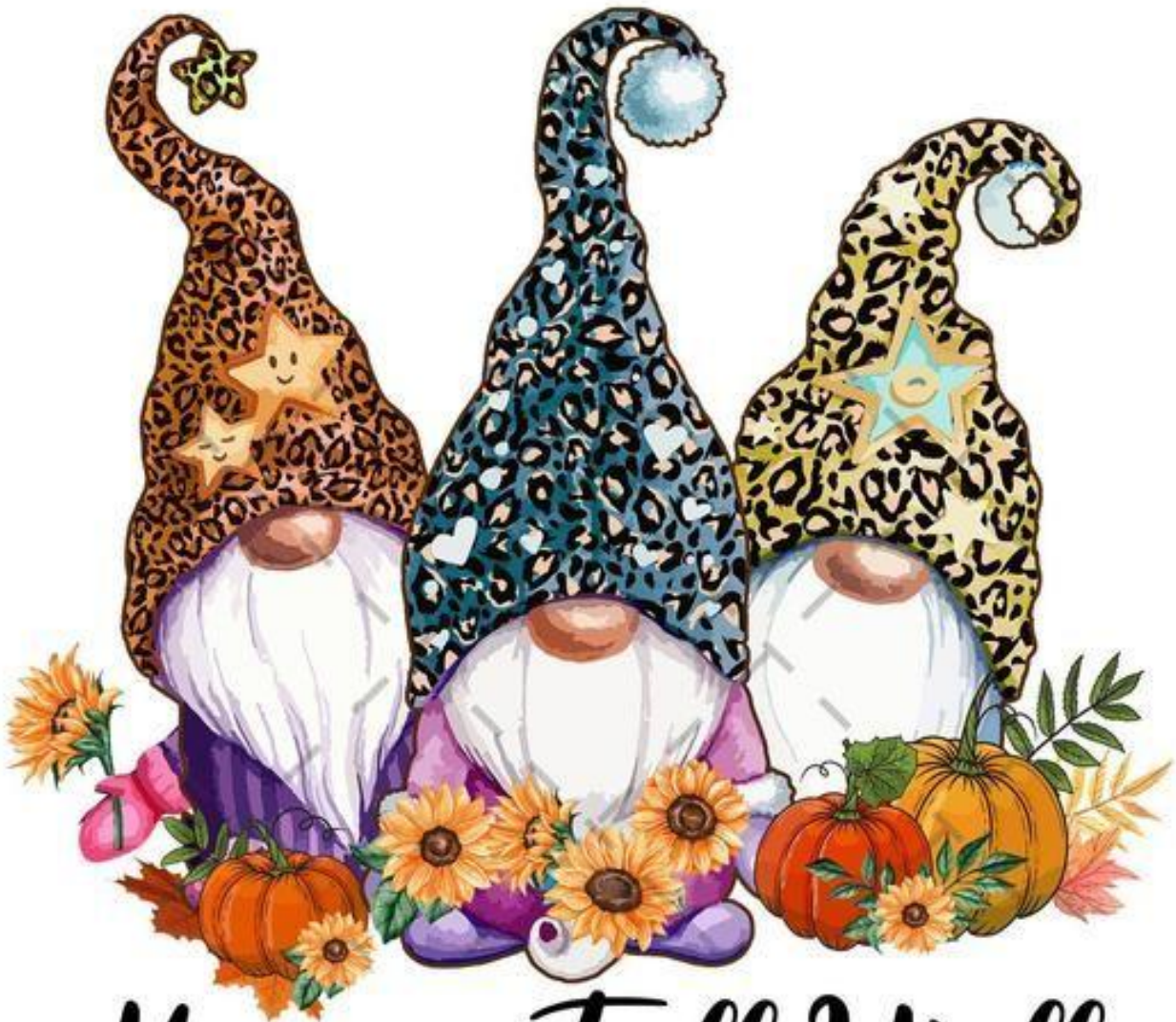




Denver's RiteWorks

July/August/September 2025 vol. 18



Happy Fall Y'all

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3:	Planning Calendar (September 2025 - November 2025)
Page 4:	Scottish Rite Honours Announcement
Pages 5-6:	Editor's Trestleboard: The Time Has Come, the Walrus Said ...
Page 7:	4 th Annual Golf Recap
Pages 8-11:	From the Secretary's Desk
Page 12:	Endowment Challenge
Pages 13-16:	From the Director of Education: 9 Great Truths Part 4
Page 17:	Denver-Fitzsimons #37, National Sojourners
Pages 18-19:	Member in the Spotlight: Sean Nelson, 32°
Page 20:	OES 50/50 Raffle Flyer
Pages 21-22:	Special Birthdays for July, August, September
Page 23:	Memorial Scroll
Page 24:	Fall Reunion Announcement
Page 25:	Whisky College 2026 Announcement
Pages 26-27:	Miscellaneous flyers

New Parking Garage Management Company – The owner of the parking garage hired a new company to manage the garage, which will impact how we have been allowed to use the garage for our meetings, reunions, Friday lunches, and special events. It is unclear, at this time, what the changes will be. Denver Consistory does not own the garage, and we do not manage the garage. The ground lease between Scottish Rite Properties and the garage owner allows the Consistory to use the garage on a restricted basis. **We are in the process of working with the garage owner to come to an understanding on our use of the garage. Please bear with us while we work through the details.**

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.**



DENVER CONSISTORY PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NEW QR CODE

Pocket petition cards with the new QR code are on the Tyler's desk. Pick up some of the new cards and discard the cards you have been saving in your wallet. The QR code on the old cards is no longer valid.

PLANNING CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

Mon, SEP 1	Consistory CLOSED for Labor Day Holiday
Fri, SEP 5	Consistory CLOSED for Grand York Rite Session
Fri, SEP 12	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken)
Mon, SEP 15	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner (Roast Beef & Mashed Potatoes) Reservations a Must
	7:00 p.m. Scottish Rite Foundation Program
	7:30 p.m. Split Meeting
Fri, SEP 19	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Chicken Patty Sandwiches)
Fri, SEP 26	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Oriental Buffet)
Sat, SEP 27	12:30 - 5:30 p.m. Honors Conferral (By Invitation ONLY)
	Parking Garage & PERA lot available
	6:00 p.m. Honors Banquet (Garage & PERA lot available)

OCTOBER 2025

OCT 3	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken)	Fri,
Mon, OCT 6	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room	
Fri, OCT 10, 17, 24, 31	11:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)	
Sat, OCT 18	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. KSA Consistory Cleanup (All are welcome to help out)	
Mon, OCT 20	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available	
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting	
	6:00 p.m. Dinner	
	7:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting with Grand Commander Cole	

NOVEMBER 2025

Mon, NOV 3	5:00 p.m. Special Officers Meeting to read petitions
	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Wed, NOV 5	5:15 p.m. Children's Hospital RiteCare Presentation
Thu-Sat, NOV 6-8	Fall Reunion (64 th) Parking Garage Available
Sat, NOV 8	5:30 p.m. Banquet, 25&50 year Presentations
Fri, NOV 14, 21	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Mon, NOV 17	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available
Thu-Fri, NOV 27-28	Consistory CLOSED—Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat, NOV 29	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Consistory Decorating Party—all members, officers and wives are invited.

**CONGRATULATIONS Illustrious and Most Worshipful
Brother Karl Hinkle on his appointment as Sovereign
Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Colorado**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 HONORMEN

**Selected by the Supreme Council to receive the 33°
Inspector General Honorary**

Dean A. McConnell
Scott E. Olson
Danny L. Tomlinson
Larry E. Tygart, Sr.

**Selected by the Supreme Council to be invested with the
designation of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour**

Thomas W. Adair
Thayne A. Coulter II
Levis S. Darrell
Jeffrey L. Gowin
Miguel A. Lazalde, Jr.
John E. Thompson
Kevin S. Trabert
Jaymie L. Vaughn
S. Todd Warburton
James A. Warner
Howard W. Zoufaly

EDITOR'S NESTLEBOARD



BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°

EMAIL: WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM

**The time has come, the walrus
said, to talk of many things ...**



A long time ago, when I was stationed in Scotland, my deputy was a Master Chief Petty Officer who had a peculiar sense of humor, but could be quite serious at times. One time, he put a message on my desk to review that started out with the title of this piece. Needless to say, things went downhill in a hurry, because he had to take our command headquarters in D.C. to task for not doing their job, and I couldn't sign that message. Even the XO couldn't do it. It had to be the CO. But, what he did was put that on the first page to "get my attention" and then put the "real" more polite message under it.

The quote is from the poem "The Walrus and the Carpenter" by Lewis Carroll (think Alice in Wonderland, or more properly Alice through the Looking Glass). In this poem, the Walrus invites the Oysters to discuss various topics, including "shoes, ships, sealing wax, cabbages, and kings" among other things. While Carroll is primarily known for his whimsical and nonsensical style, he also makes some pretty interesting points by allegory and allusion.

However, I'm not particularly going to be polite here, because there are a number of things that just NEED to be said—hopefully to get your attention...and while this isn't exactly "whispering good counsel in the ear of a Brother" - it's the vehicle I have at my disposal, so I'll use it.

There are a number of behaviors that I have witnessed over my years in the Consistory (and in US Masonry as well) that really bother me. We ALL have sworn sacred oaths in every degree we've taken, and if we swear these things with the knowledge in advance that we're not really going to do them BECAUSE no one cares or will say anything, then we're still violating our obligations. These are things we should not (and can not) take lightly. So, I'm going to outline a few things that nag at me—for whatever they are worth.

1. RSVP—from the French, Répondez s'il vous plaît—which, quite simply means PLEASE RESPOND. It does NOT mean respond only if you are coming or aren't coming, it means RESPOND. It's the POLITE and Brotherly thing to do...it lets the other person know how many people to expect so they can plan accordingly. In today's inflationary environment, it's even more important for planning purposes to avoid over or under purchasing food and items for an event. So, do your part and simply RESPOND!

2. Obligations—we've all taken them, in every degree we've taken. Sure, some of the "penalties" are perhaps figurative or speculative, but most of the ones in our Scottish Rite are quite literal—they point to shaming the honor of a true Mason if they are violated. So, when you agree to ATTEND stated meetings and then fail to do so, you are indeed violating your obligations. They didn't give you an "out" if attending was inconvenient or maybe there was a special TV program on. OK, SOME folks have other conflicts, but it's a different matter indeed to LOOK FOR a conflict to avoid attending or to misrepresent (OK, lie) your need to not attend. It's one thing to miss ONE or maybe two meetings a year due to conflicts, but really? Every stated meeting? I've heard one brother (name and lodge to remain anonymous) PROUDLY exclaim he had been a Scottish Rite Mason for 25 years and NEVER attended a stated meeting or reunion since. WHY BOTHER? Why spend your money for a life membership or pay annual dues if you're not going to make use of the membership by participating actively?

3. Not paying attention to your "cable tow" - there's a reason we use that allegory. You simply can NOT do everything all the time. You have to have some priorities. But, telling your Brothers you will do something, and then backing out at the last minute or without notice says a lot about your values. In my Scottish lodge, I was told that I was expected to notify the RWM if I would not be able to attend a meeting and give a valid reason why. It's a habit I have carried with me these nearly 50 years now. And, yeah, as we all get older, memory is the second thing to go ... I've forgotten what the first was...is a real statement sometimes. BUT, if you find yourself in that situation more often than not, it's best to recognize it and stop volunteering to do things if you will likely bail out on your Brothers. In other words, your quest for more "light" (meaning more degrees) does not end when you get those degrees. Part of your obligation is to assist in providing that light to those that follow you—whether it is in a degree part or a support role on a committee supporting the degree. At some point, your brothers will no longer be able to perform the degrees without a modicum of support from the newer brothers that have joined the group. When I took my Scottish Rite degrees in 2003, we did all 29 degrees in 4 days (whew!) It took somewhere between 600-700 Brothers (not all at the same time, obviously) in various roles to provide those degrees to my class. We simply can't do that anymore, mostly because we don't have the numbers to make it happen.

4. Phones - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ... remember to turn off your phone, put it on silent, put it on "airplane mode" or whatever when you are in the cathedral room or in a meeting. It's just rude to have your phone go off (unexpectedly, to be sure) while someone else is talking or trying to conduct a meeting. And yet, without fail, SOMEONE will always have their phone go off during a reunion degree or a stated meeting.

I'm pretty sure most people don't even think much about any of these four things...but we all SHOULD be thinking about them and working to deal with them in our lives. All of these things are basic etiquette things when you think about it. And, if we can't carry them out with our Brothers in our meetings, what makes anyone think we will carry them out in open society? Be an example, NOT an exception—PLEASE.

Bill

4th Annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic at Hiwan Golf Course—Danny L. Tomlinson, 33° (elect)

The 4th Annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic, benefiting the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Scottish Rite Foundation, and the RiteCare was a wonderful success on August 11, 2025 at the beautiful and scenic Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen, Colorado. The weather was outstanding, the food was great, and the company and fellowship even better. And we were successful in raising significant funds to support SRMC and RiteCare.

Eighty golfers were challenged by the rolling hills and slick greens at Hiwan—truly one of the most scenic mountain golf courses in the state. The day was greatly enhanced by the wandering local wildlife - a herd of more than 50 elk that were enjoying the day with our golfers and volunteers.

A huge shout out to Illustrious Brother Bart Corfee, 33°, who has chaired the event since its beginning four years ago. Also, the great group of volunteers and committee members that were instrumental in making the golf classic a great success.

Planning is already underway for our 5th Annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic, to be held on Monday, August 10, 2026 at Hiwan Golf Club. Please make plans now to participate as a golfer or volunteer and have a great day in the mountains.





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.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can never live long enough to make all of them yourself.

Congratulations—to Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother Karl Hinkle, 33°, who, on August 16th was appointed Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Colorado.

New Denver Consistory Web Site !!!

<https://www.denverconsistory.org>

Our Denver Consistory website has been completely redesigned by our webmaster, **Brother Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH**. Take a few minutes to check out the “new look.”

Front Door Scanner

There is a problem with the front door card scanner reading the bar code on the 2026 dues cards. If your 2026 card will not open the front door, inform the office (Illustrious Brother Alex). **KEEP YOUR 2025 CARD** and use it if your 2026 card does not open the door.

PARKING PERMIT REQUIRED - A Denver Consistory parking permit **MUST** be displayed on the lower left of your vehicle windshield. (Where the emission certificate is usually located.) Do NOT place the permit in a location other than the lower left of the windshield. If you park in the garage without a properly displayed parking permit, you will receive a ticket. Denver Consistory cannot dismiss the ticket, and we will not pay it. We do not own the garage; we do not control the parking, and we do not issue the tickets. Parking permits are available in the Consistory Office.

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 Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH; Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°; Brother Tim Hogan, 32° KCCH; Brother Christopher Jones, 32°; and the Family of Glenn Fishel, 32° (Memorial).

Endowment Fund Challenge - A new fundraising challenge has been issued for the period of September 15, 2025 to December 21, 2025! (See flyer in this issue)

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.

Receive a free stated meeting dinner - Prepay for an entire year's worth of stated meeting dinners and **receive one dinner free**. Prepay for nine dinners and receive the tenth dinner free. To receive the free dinner, you must prepay for all nine dinners at one time. It does not matter when during the year you decide to prepay. The time frame will run consecutively and not on a calendar year basis. No refunds or credit will be given for prepaid dinners not utilized during the twelve-month period.

RSVP needed - Now that the summer break is over, it is time once again to remind you to make a reservation when requested. **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 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. RSVP is NOT a Masonic term meaning "Does not apply to me" - YES, it DOES apply to you! No RSVP, no dinner. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Knights of St. Andrew News - Monday, June 2nd, the KSA Knighted seven new members. **Brian Kirby, D. Bruce Beardsley, Paul Perseo, Peter Simpson, Christopher Jones, Austin Gailey, and Christian Delarosa**. Congratulations to the new Sir Knights and welcome to the Denver Consistory Chapter of Knights of St. Andrew.

First Aid Training - July 19th the Knights of St. Andrew hosted a first aid/CPR/AED training class at the Consistory. Those who received this training are ready and able to assist in the event of a medical emergency. We have three AED units in the Consistory building. Do you know where they are located and how to use them? (Tiler's room, Basement elevator lobby, sitting room outside costumes). Do you know the first and correct thing to do if someone starts choking? Or passes out? Or falls and can't get up?

We owe it to our Brothers, our ladies, and our guests to be ready and able to assist in the event of a medical emergency. Thank you to our Sir Knights of the KSA for sponsoring this very worthwhile training.



Ladies Lunch - The Annual Denver Consistory Ladies lunch was held June 21st at the Denver Botanic Gardens. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed by the ladies, and they enjoyed touring the gardens. Thank you to **Brother Jered Minter, 32° KCCH**, Venerable Master of the Centennial Lodge of Perfection, who planned the event, to the brothers that helped with the event, and to those who provided transportation for the ladies in need of a ride to the botanic gardens.

June Stated Meeting - Our June 16th stated meeting was "*Hawaiian Shirt Night*" - Thank you to all who wore a Hawaiian shirt and brightened up the room. Masonic author, **Illustrious Brother Chris Hodapp, 33°**, was our guest speaker for the evening.

Annual Summer Dinner Cancelled - The July 19th Annual Summer Dinner was cancelled due to a lack of interest. We did not have enough reservations to cover the expenses. Brother **David Spence, 32° KCCH**, Preceptor of the Denver Consistory line, planned a Hawaiian Luau, with Hawaiian dancers for entertainment. Thank you, Brother Spence, for planning a fun event for our members, families, and friends. It is unfortunate that our members did not wish to participate.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf Classic - The Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf Classic was held at Hiwan Golf Club on August 11th. (See the article by Brother Danny Tomlinson, 33° (elect) elsewhere in this issue.) Click on the link below to see some of the photos from the tournament: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/EBTRNzeQxWHAGSWc6>

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: <https://www.carsforcharity.net> to donate for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

2025 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2024. If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership fee, please do so and do not become delinquent. \$140 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.38 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 to all the Masonic bodies for which you are a member? 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 Fee Renewal Program

Supreme Council created and installed an auto renewal program to pay membership fees. This is a completely voluntary program that gives members the option to have their membership fees automatically deducted using a credit or debit card through the online Membership Portal.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are an ideal way to avoid paying future membership fee increases. A Life Membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for non-payment of membership fees 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 non-payment 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.

Current Life Membership Fee Structure

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

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

Younger than 62 years old - a single payment of \$2,500

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

Fall Reunion - The Fall Reunion will be November 6, 7, 8 and is dedicated to Illustrious **Brother Steve Hubbard, 33°**. We need you to do your part to facilitate the Fall Reunion. **We need candidates!** Get those petitions turned into the office - don't wait until November. We need volunteers to work on the AV, Lighting, Sound, Properties, Stage, Costumes, and Makeup committees. If you can help, even if for just a day or part of a day, PLEASE contact **Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°**, Director General, keith.anderson166@gmail.com We are asking for only a little bit of your time to help the existing committee members and to ease some of their work load.

If you are interested in being a cast member in one of the Degrees (speaking or non-speaking part) please contact **Brother Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH**, debard@me.com or **Brother Miguel Lazalde, 32° KCCH**, mikealazalde@gmail.com. If you would like to be a director, contact Director General, **Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°**, keith.anderson166@gmail.com

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

COMING EVENTS

September 15th Stated Meeting - Annual Scottish Rite Foundation scholarship presentations.

September 27th - Honors Conferral and Banquet

October 6th KSA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. KSA meeting is open to ALL Scottish Rite Masons.

October 20th Stated Meeting - **ZOOM "Town Hall Meeting" with Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother James D. Cole, 33°**. This will **NOT** be a closed meeting. Ladies and guests are invited to attend.

**From generous past contributions
and growth in the investment of
those funds, the Scottish Rite
Masonic Center Endowment Fund is
now comfortably
over a million dollars!**

A NEW CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MADE.

**In an effort to continue that growth,
the members of the
Endowment Committee
have committed that they will
personally match additional
contributions received during the
period of September 15, 2025
through December 21, 2025,
up to a total of \$25,000**



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh
Director of Education

Nine Great Truths - Part 4



Sincere Thanks!

Before launching into the article this month, I want to thank members and guests who attended the June 16th Stated Meeting. I really can't say enough (and you'd rapidly tire of it, if I did!) in appreciation to the Consistory Officers' Line, Valley Leadership, Executive Committee, Office Staff, and Tech Committees, for giving us such a successful evening. Illustrious Brother Chris appreciated our hospitality and the enthusiastic reception his presentation received, as well as the book purchases and orders following his talk. He left us with a lot to think about - as well as to live up to - in answer to the challenge: "How Dare We Be Masons!"

I am pleased to tell you, by arrangement with the author, that the Consistory office has an additional, limited number of autographed copies of *Freemasons for Dummies* available for purchase. If you were at the event, you're aware that there was a problem with delivery of the UPS book shipment. Orders were taken instead, and, thanks to a suggestion made by Illustrious Ron Birely, we were able to place an additional order, enlisting Brother Chris's cooperation to offer these books at the same price as at the event: \$30. Contact the Consistory office to obtain a copy.

Back to our look at Albert Pike's *Nine Great Truths of Masonry*, as we continue with #6 ...

There are no degrees in the practice of moral obligations; ...

SGC Pike goes on to say that "... it [i.e., the practice of our moral obligations] is neither *variable* nor *contingent*. No excuse can justify one's failure to exercise the moral imperatives of a just life." His choice of words may require a bit of clarification for our modern ears.

When we are told that there are "no degrees," in carrying out our moral obligations, we are to understand that we may not excuse ourselves for less than a total effort to carry through with our moral responsibilities: there's no "good enough" in a less-than-complete effort. Of course, our ability to accomplish the mission will always be a matter of circumstances which we may not control, but if we are to be truly honest ... charitable ... faithful ... etc., then it is necessary that we be so in all things and at all times and always to the best of our abilities. Furthermore, this obligation is not "contingent" ... it does not depend upon whether it is convenient or advantageous to us to live up to our obligation nor whether some special arrangement for our behavior is made with another. Our moral obligations are not a form of currency to be used in trade for the actions of others! There is no place in this for "I needn't be honest, because I was lied to" or "I needn't be charitable, because no one else is giving either!"

Bluntly, Pike's position is this: The beliefs, behaviors, and expectations of others are not the

foundation for our own moral duty. So, shortcomings on the part of others - even our Brothers in Masonry - do not excuse us from living up to our duties. Our human relationships give us opportunities to **practice** our obligations, but they are not the **reason** for our obligations, which are a Divine imperative. Man's ability to understand and choose his own actions make failure his own responsibility and not a matter of others' "meeting us halfway." Moral failure may be understandable, and that's a perspective we come to comprehend in the lessons of the 31st degree, but it remains, for all that, no less our own responsibility to succeed rather than fail.

And, now on to #7

The immutable law of God requires, that besides respecting the absolute rights of others, and being just, we should do good, be charitable, and obey the dictates of the generous and noble sentiments of the soul.

Our Past SGC explains that there is a reason for this responsibility, and it is a reason as incapable as the rule itself: "We are but the almoners of God's riches and thus charity can know neither rule nor limit. It is the most sacred of all Masonic obligations." We are, all of us, almoners - stewards, in the service of others - of the bounty poured out from the boundless generosity of the Supreme Architect! In short (and no matter our own skill in harvesting that bounty), we did not, on a most essential level, create what we may come to possess. We may (and do) claim our "ownership," on a human level, but - even insofar as we have the reason to perceive and life to act on behalf of the needs of our Brethren - we have all that we have because of the generosity of Deity!

All of that is not to say that any other person has, on his own behalf, any right to claim what our efforts have allowed us to lawfully gather to ourselves. Neither does government, on behalf of the "community" have that right, except to the extent that we freely surrender our claim via the force of law. In that there is a tension between "the generous and noble sentiments of the soul" and the coercive or compulsive dictates of the state, and I believe this is an important part of the message that Pike intends.

Generosity, compassion, or charity, exercised through the authority of the state, are neither truly generous, compassionate, nor charitable, and it is hazardous for us to mistake acts of state-sponsored largesse for those of personal compassion! Even Dickens' Ebenezer Scrooge was satisfied that the state should provide for the poor, so long as he was not further troubled by their needs, and I'd observe that he was not, at that juncture, an admirable person! Neither the state nor its institutions have a soul, and its actions generally lack such human touches, even as those touches are often the greatest need of those who suffer. Motive, I would argue, as well as the voluntary nature of true charity, elevate the act to give it moral standing in ways that "public assistance" can never do.

It is also interesting to me that SGC Pike expresses our obligations to others as a dichotomy: "God's law requires this ... but also that." In this, he makes a completely rational distinction between our civic responsibilities and our social obligations. I admit that I did initially find it curious that he refers to the rights of others as "absolute," when our understanding, in a

System of law, is that no rights are without limit. But it occurs to me that what makes sense here is that another's rights are indeed "absolute," in the sense that it is not the job of one citizen to determine what are the rights (or the extent of the rights) of another! That, again, is the function of a system of laws ... and Albert Pike was, after all, an attorney!

When it is all said and done (and SGC Pike ends his comment with this observation) these "generous and noble sentiments" speak to us all. We are faced with the choice of heeding them or not and then following through on the actions to which we are called by conscience. No better instrument exists for that purpose than Freemasonry.

Bill

303-775-5727

wbapm32@gmail.com



Last Month's Trivia Question: In addition to Denver Consistory, what other Masonic bodies regularly meet at the Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center?

Answer: Besides the various Boards, Committees, and special events of the Valley itself, these would include:

- Knights of St. Andrew: the Consistory's "black hat" service organization (1st Monday, monthly except July, August, and September)
- East Denver Lodge #160 (2nd and 4th Wednesday, monthly except June, July, and August)
- Jacques DeMolay Lodge #171 (2nd and 4th Friday, monthly except June, July, and August)
- Pikes Peak Council #156 (Allied Masonic Degrees) (Quarterly, 4th Friday)

This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's RiteWorks):

Stated Meetings never get into the details of the Consistory's bills and other financial transactions. Is there a way for me to see the details of the Valley's regular expenses and financial decisions? What is the process?

This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works): In addition to Denver Consistory, what other Masonic bodies regularly meet at the Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center?

Pike's Nine Great Truths of Masonry

1. No man has seen God at any time; that is, God is only spiritual.
2. The soul of man is immortal.
3. The Moral Sense of man derives from God and therefore has a divine source and is a divine imperative.
4. Moral truths are as real as physical truths. They are not created by God but are a part of His nature; therefore, morality is not an arbitrary law of God but a part of that goodness which constitutes His essence.
5. The distinction between good and evil is essential. Having the ability to make the distinction is a unique quality of man whose ability to do good is only made meaningful by his ability to do that which is not good.
6. There are no degrees in the practice of moral obligations; it is neither variable nor contingent. No excuse can justify one's failure to exercise the moral imperatives of a just life.
7. The immutable law of God requires, that besides respecting the absolute rights of others, and being just, we should do good, be charitable, and obey the dictates of the generous and noble sentiments of the soul. We are but the almoners of God's riches and thus charity can know neither rule nor limit. It is the most sacred of all Masonic obligations.
8. The laws which control and regulate the universe are those of motion and harmony. Evil is merely apparent, and all is, in reality, good and perfect. The existence of misfortune and adversity provides the opportunity for the expression of those virtues which ennoble the soul and elevate the spirit of man; thus is the evil of this world but part of the great plan of God for the betterment of man.
9. The last Great Truth of Masonry is the paradox of the equipoise of the infinite justice and infinite mercy of God; the former alone would call for man's utter destruction, the latter alone would permit the most offensive hedonism. Together they provide man with both retribution and forgiveness.

Denver-Fitzsimons Chapter No. 37, National Sojourners meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Golden Corral Restaurant at Riverpoint Center (Hampden and Santa Fe). We meet for lunch, with the meeting being convened at noon. All Master Masons who are veterans or active duty military are welcome to join us.

Sojourners trace our proud heritage back to the Revolutionary War and Most Worshipful Brother George Washington. Many of our Founding Fathers were Masons. They created the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution based on Masonic principles of faith, hope, and charity. They risked their lives and their fortunes to resist tyrannical rule. We are proud to carry on the tradition of these men.

Soldiers and sailors serving our country are not usually stationed at a duty station or on a Navy ship where there is a Masonic Lodge. These Brothers improvise and continue to meet as Masons despite not having a Masonic Temple available. Hence the name "Sojourners."

The focus of today's Sojourner Chapters is to promote patriotism and Americanism among the youth of our area. We work with JROTC units and Masonic and other youth groups throughout the state and annually award scholarships to several young people to attend a program at Valley Forge based on American history and patriotism.

At our May 14 meeting, we installed the following officers for the 2025-26 Sojourner year:

President—Tim Lambert, 32° KCCH

1st VP—Danny Will, 33°

2nd VP—Marty Carter, 32°

3rd VP—James Warner, 32°

Secretary—Bill Hickey, 33°

Treasurer—Joe Kier, 33°

Chaplain—Danny Tomlinson, 32° KCCH

We also installed the officers of the Two Scout Camp of Heroes of '76:

Commander—Peter Czarnowski, 32°

Chief of Staff—Tony Clark, 32° KCCH

Assistant Chief of Staff—Tim Lambert, 32° KCCH

Adjutant—Bill Hickey, 33°

We invite you to join us at our monthly luncheon meetings. Please contact any of the Brothers pictured below for more information.





Member in the Spotlight By Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH

1st Lieutenant Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh

Sean Nelson, 32°



In this month's Member Spotlight, we're thrilled to introduce Brother Sean M. D. Nelson, a passionate Mason, dedicated historian, and vibrant member of our fraternity. Sean's journey in Masonry is deeply rooted in family tradition and a lifelong commitment to the values and brotherhood of our craft. His story reflects a profound connection to Freemasonry and an inspiring dedication to both personal growth and service to others.

Born in Denver, Colorado, and raised in Strasburg, Sean now calls Fort Collins home while pursuing his Master's in History at Colorado State University (CSU). A 2024 CSU graduate with a Bachelor's degree in history, Sean is currently working on his Master's thesis, which explores the fascinating role of Freemasonry in the development of Colorado as a territory and state up to 1900. His academic passion for history aligns seamlessly with his Masonic journey, as he delves into the rich heritage of our fraternity.

Sean's connection to Masonry runs deep, tracing back six generations, making him the seventh in his family to embrace the craft. Inspired by his grandfather, Brother Steve Davis, Sean knew from a young age that he wanted to be a Mason. "My 18th birthday present was my petition to the lodge," he shares with a smile. He began his Masonic journey in March 2022 at Aurora Revelation Lodge #156 in Aurora, Colorado, and has since become an active member of both the Blue Lodge and the Denver Valley of the Scottish Rite, where he joined in May 2024. Sean's family ties to Masonry are strong - his grandfather, father, and cousin are current members, while his mother is part of the Eastern Star, and his grandmother is involved in the Social Order of the Beauceant.

When asked about his favorite Masonic activities, Sean lights up about the degree work. "The degree work is easily my favorite activity," he says, "but the fellowship before and after Lodge is also very enjoyable." He particularly enjoys the Scottish Rite degree practices, which balance reverence for the moral lessons with a lighthearted camaraderie that fosters connection among brothers. Since joining the Scottish Rite, Sean has participated in the 5th and 30th degrees, relishing the elaborate rituals and the universal appeal of the Scottish Rite's teachings. "It has something for everyone, no matter their particular interests," he notes, praising the theatrical elements and diverse themes, from Egyptian motifs to Chivalric Templars.

For Sean, the heart of Masonry lies in its unparalleled brotherhood. "I can confidently say that none of my fellow historians have the pleasure of researching a community or organization that shows such a tremendous amount of support as the Masonic fraternity," he

reflects. His travels to lodges in Rome, London, and Washington D.C., have shown him the global reach of this bond. “The fact that I can arrive in any of those cities and immediately have support, friendship, and genuine connections is amazing” he says. This sense of community has enriched both his academic pursuits and personal life, providing a network of brothers who uplift and inspire him.

Though relatively new to the Scottish Rite, Sean has already embraced profound life lessons from his Masonic exposure. The concept of *memento mori* - a reminder of life’s impermanence - has been particularly impactful. “For a young man of 20/21 years to come face to face with the inevitability of death is a jarring moment,” he shares, noting how it prompted him to reflect on his choices. The symbols of Masonry, like the square and compass ring on his right hand, serve as constant reminders to act with integrity and to extend a helping hand to those in need. “Whom virtue unites, death shall not separate,” he says, quoting the lesson of the 14th degree, a principle that guides his daily life.

Outside of Masonry, Sean is a man of diverse interests. An avid reader, particularly of history, he also enjoys watching the Denver Nuggets, playing pickup basketball at CSU, hunting, fishing, backpacking, calligraphy, maintaining home aquariums (both saltwater and freshwater), and playing the guitar. One surprising fact about Sean? During his school and college, he ran a home aquarium maintenance service, showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit and love for unique hobbies.

This past summer, Sean had the opportunity to intern at the Scottish Rite House of the Temple in Washington D.C., an experience he describes as “absolutely wonderful.” He conducted daily tours, assisted in creating state-of-the-art archives, and helped coordinate the Biennial Session. The internship, made possible with the support of Illustrious Brother Karl Hinkle, allowed Sean to immerse himself in Masonic history and access invaluable resources for his research. “The resources available in their libraries were incredible for my thesis,” he says, expressing gratitude for the experience.

As Sean looks forward to the upcoming Scottish Rite reunion, he’s eager to continue participating in degrees and deepening his involvement in the fraternity. While he has not yet served a presiding officer, he remains open to the honor in the future, driven by his commitment to the craft and its values.

Brother Sean Nelson embodies the spirit of Freemasonry - a blend of intellectual curiosity, dedication to brotherhood, and a commitment to living virtuously. His journey, from a young man inspired by his grandfather to a scholar and active Mason, is a testament to the enduring impact of our fraternity. We look forward to seeing Sean’s continued contributions to our lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the broader Masonic community.

Editor’s Note: at the young age of 21, Sean is currently the Denver Consistory’s YOUNGEST member.

**Stars of Service
50/50 Raffle
Win Big, Give Back**



Tickets \$5 Each

Buy on Line



<https://go.rallyup.com/coloradoeasternstar-50-50-raffle>

or

Contact a Colorado Eastern Star Member

Drawing

Colorado Eastern Star Grand Chapter Session

Distinguished Guests Banquet

September 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM



Special Birthdays

106 Years "VERY YOUNG!"

Horace Michael Moore

90 Years "YOUNG"

Robert Richard Johnson

John William Speed

80 Years "YOUNG"

John William Beaton III

Russell William Herrick

Joseph Lawrence Mitchell

James Henry Nadorff

Michael Patrick Rowan

70 Years "YOUNG"

Robert Lyle Clevenger, Jr.

Ross Barnet Lampert

Bruce James Lawlor

Thomas Edwin Rainbolt

John Murray Ringland

60 Years "OLD"

Viron Everett Lewis

Umar Abdul Raheem Shabazz

Our July Youngster

Joseph Robert Dowling, Sr. (33)

Tommy Thammavongkeo (33)



Special Birthdays

90 Years "YOUNG"

John Thomas Heppting

Roland Henry Lewis

80 Years "YOUNG"

Steven Patrick Bennett

Rev. James Henry Harris

Paul Stark Karrer

James Edwin Long

Jerry Dean McFall

James Everett Thomas

70 Years "YOUNG"

Stephen Paul Class

Alfred Cecil Ulibarri

60 Years "OLD"

Paul Scott Baker

Robert Anthony Salazar

Scot Paul Somes

Gregory Scott Tabberer

Our August Youngster

Connor Davis Riddle (29)





Special Birthdays

90 Years "YOUNG"

Wayne Grey Arner
William Ray Johnson
Thomas Andrew Lewis

70 Years "YOUNG"

Jeffrey Kent Canfield
David Leslie Dorn
Steve Franklin Gresh

60 Years "YOUNG"

John Robert Emperor

40 Years "OLD"

Miguel Angel Lazalde, Jr.

Our September Youngster

John Andrew Turner (30)

Interesting Summer Facts in Colorado

Denver Colorado is literally a Mile High: The nickname of Denver is Mile High City, and the moniker is certainly accurate since the city sits about a mile high. If you're keen on standing at a point that's exactly one mile high, you can climb to the 13th step of the capitol building, which features an inscription indicating its elevation.

Colorado's Southwest border is the only place where four states meet: Known as the Four Corners area, the southwest corner of Colorado meets up with the corners of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico, and you can stand in all four states simultaneously when you visit. Although it does take a bit of driving to reach the tourist spot, it's definitely worth at least one visit.

Three Governors once presided over Colorado in a single day: Colorado had a very strange day on March 17th, 1905, when the recently elected governor was forced to resign because of rumors of election fraud, and the man who lost in the election was forced to resign immediately after as a condition of his acceptance of the governor's hat. The lieutenant governor would become governor by the close of the day.

Colorado was rejected for statehood more than once: When the Colorado statehood bill landed on President Johnson's desk, he vetoed it because he didn't think Colorado had enough residents to warrant statehood. He vetoed the bill again because he disagreed with the requirement that new states needed to give equal suffrage (voting rights) to whites and blacks.

The Colorado Constitution was originally written in THREE languages: English, Spanish, and German.



MEMORIAL SCROLL

Charles Raymond Adair, 32°	07/23/2025
Ronald Rudolph Anderson, 32°	06/26/2025
Marshall James Bartlett, 32°	05/23/2025
James Robert Carr, 32°	07/08/2025
Basil Ray Deem, 32°	05/30/2025
Donnelly Gene Elliott, 32°	06/01/2025
Richard D. Ermentraut, 32°	06/22/2025
Edward Lynn Ervin, 32°	06/21/2025
Floyd Sumner Feenie, Jr., 32°	11/21/2020
Clarence William Guckert III, 32°	04/13/2025
Ricky James Haskell, 32°	07/08/2025
Dennis L. Herbolsheimer, 32°	04/14/2025
Robert Andrew Jargowsky, 32°	01/19/2025
Conrad Arthur Johnson, 32°	04/09/2025
Bruce Owen Marron, 32°	04/12/2025
William Henry Martini, 32°	11/01/2023
Robert Wayne Naudack, Jr., 32°	06/03/2025
James Denton Robison, 32°	07/03/2025
Joseph Aldon Rouse, 32°	05/23/2025
Stephen Hugh Snyder, 32°	06/04/2025
Robert Lee Sorrell, 32°	07/02/2025
James Albert Uhrlaub, 32°	05/05/2025
David Lee Vaughan, 32°	06/07/2025
James Fredrick White, 32°	07/29/2025

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:

Keith M. Anderson, 33° - Chairman; Thomas W. Adair, 32° KCCH; Scott A. Bates, 33°; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH; M. Edward Johnson, 33° (emeritus); Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Scott E. Olson, 32 KCCH; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; 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 Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33° for more information.



SCOTTISH RITE REUNION

Denver Consistory

November 6, 7, 8, 2025



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

Whisky College
Year 10
Saturday, January 17, 2026
5:00 p.m. **PROMPTLY**



For the past 10 years, Professor Stan Holtzworth has taken the class on some pretty special journeys discovering some unique and rare whiskys (and whiskies as well). This year, he will have a special class using Glenmorangie Distillery's products of various ages and maturation casks to show how a single malt from one distillery will change it's taste, finish, and other unique characteristics as it ages and is matured in different casks and combinations of casks.

This is an unique opportunity, not to be missed. Remember, seating is limited (fire code) so you don't want to postpone your reservation once it is announced by the KSA in association with their Burns' Supper announcement later this year...so keep your eyes open and be ready for what could be your most unique "post-graduate" Whisky College experience yet.

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

MEDIA PRESENCE



Denver Consistory Web Page

<https://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](#)



THE
SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY
SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

<https://scottishrite.org>

DENVER CONSISTORY RITEWORKS STAFF

Matt Raia, 33° - Bulletin Advisor
303-861-4261 / matt@denverconsistory.org

Cathy Anderson - Technical Advisor/Correspondent
303-861-4261 / cathy@denverconsistory.org

Sons of Light (Photography Committee)

John Moreno, 33° - Staff Photographer
Scott Olson, 33° (elect) - Staff Photographer
Danny Will, 33° - Staff Photographer
John A. Klein, 32° - Staff Photographer

Bill Hickey, 33° - Editor-in-Chief
wa3h@hotmail.com

Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH - Webmaster
webmaster@denverconsistory.org

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.

All photographs and graphics used in this issue are in the public domain. Facebook and Twitter logos are taken from a public domain library.

Photographs by Consistory Sons of Light unless otherwise noted.

This publication is copyright 2025 by the Denver Consistory - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Requests for reprinting will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Editor.



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

alex@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°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Colorado



Ronald D. Birely, 33°
Personal Representative of the
SGIG in Colorado



Jered Minter, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



Dillon Brickhouse, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



Lee Miller, 32° KCCH
Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh



William Achbach, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh
Denver Consistory



Joe E. Kier, 33°
Almoner



Grover Sardeson, 33°
Prelate



Dan Conway, 33°
Treasurer



Matt Raia, 33°
Secretary
Recorder
Registrar