



Denver's RiteWorks

MAY 2026 vol. 19 #5



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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.**



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 The QR code on the old cards is no longer valid.



THE
SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY
SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

Join us for a celebration!

May 31, 2026 will mark the 225th Anniversary of the founding of the Supreme Council, in Charleston, South Carolina, and we want EVERY VALLEY to celebrate with the Supreme Council that day! Click the image below for a special message from Sovereign Grand Commander Jim Cole, 33°.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE SCOTTISH RITE
225TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SESSION

MOTHER CO... THE WORLD
LIVE FROM CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

LIVE STREAM EVENT
 **YouTube @SCOTTISHRITEMASONS**

MAY 31, 2026
BEGINNING AT 1PM EASTERN

Have your Valley Plan a Watch Party!

Click here to watch the video in your browser:

[An Invitation To A Special Live Stream Event: 225th Anniversary Celebration!](#)

PLANNING CALENDAR

MAY 2026

Fri, MAY 1	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken)
Mon, MAY 4	5:30 p.m. Special Officers Meeting to read Petitions 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Wed, MAY 6	5:15 p.m. Children's Hospital RiteCare Presentation
Thu-Sat, MAY 7-9	7:00 a.m. Spring Reunion (65 th) Parking Garage Available
Thu, MAY 7	noon Reunion Lunch (\$15 - Pasta, Marinara, Alfredo sauces)
Fri, MAY 8	12:30 p.m. Reunion Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken)
Sat, MAY 9	11:40 a.m. Reunion Lunch (\$15 - Mexican Buffet) 5:30 p.m. Banquet (Prime Rib - \$55); 25 & 50 Year Presentations
Fri, MAY 15	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Lasagna)
Mon, MAY 18	Stated Meeting (Feast of the Consistory) Parking Garage Avail. 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner (Honey Baked Chicken - \$25 - Reservations required) 7:00 p.m. Awards & Announcements; Entertainment, Memorial Day 7:30 p.m. 5 min Oration by Orator, Colorado Council of Kadosh Split Meeting
Fri, MAY 22	NO LUNCH - Holiday weekend
Sun, MAY 24	9:00 a.m. Flags for Vets - Fort Logan National Cemetery
Mon, MAY 25	Consistory CLOSED for Memorial Day
Fri, MAY 29	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Hot Dogs & Mac 'n' Cheese)

JUNE 2026

Mon, JUN 1	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, JUN 5, 12, 19, 26	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken on June 5 th)
Mon, JUN 15	Stated Meeting - <u>Hawaiian Shirt Night</u> Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Entertainment: Special Presentation: The Morgan Affair
Sat, JUN 20	11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon

JULY/AUGUST 2026 (DARK)

Fri, JUL 3	NO LUNCH—Holiday Weekend—Office Closed
Fri, JUL 10, 17, 24, 31	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken on 10 JUL)
Fri, AUG 7, 14, 21, 28	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken on 7AUG)
Mon, AUG 10	1:00 p.m. SRMC Golf Tournament - Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen
Wed, AUG 12	6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Officers' Midyear Planning Meeting at Denver Consistory
Thu, Aug 20	7:00 p.m. Degree Council Meeting

EDITOR'S RATTLEBOARD



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



You Didn't Know?

I think far too many of my Brothers simply don't read the RiteWorks. Why do I say that? Well, we put in all the announcements of activities at the Consistory for at least 3 months—and for someone to say “I didn't know about that” when we tell them they missed an exceptional meeting, it's very disappointing. If you can't make it to a meeting, OK. We all understand that everyone has different priorities. BUT, when you say you didn't know about something that was openly advertised multiple times, it makes us wonder.

SO...here's a little “Heads Up” ... we have a reunion coming up in early May. During that reunion, as we typically do, we exemplify the mandatory 5 degrees and 12 others. So, our FIRST degree is the 4th Degree—which in the SOUTHERN jurisdiction is called “Secret Master” - and we all know what lessons are conveyed in that degree.

Most of us have little or no familiarity with the degrees in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Their 4 bodies are similar to ours, but they are also quite different. The degree structure is TOTALLY different as well. SO ... we will be offering an opportunity for you to witness the NMJ's 4th Degree as the educational portion of the stated meeting in May. All I will tell you is you likely will be surprised. We have a few members in the Denver Consistory who came to Colorado after becoming Scottish Rite Masons in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction many years ago. Each of them (so far, anyway) has said something along the lines of “I took those degrees so long ago, I'm sure they've changed a lot over the years.” Yes, the NMJ is known to revise their degrees routinely to accomplish their long term vision and strategy.

SO, PLAN to attend the stated meeting and see how NMJ handles their 4th degree exemplification. You might find it surprising and interesting.



Bill

NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

SOUTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION

4°	Builder	Secret Master
5°	Perfect Master	Perfect Master
6°	Master of the Brazen Serpent	Intimate Secretary
7°	Provost and Judge	Provost and Judge
8°	Intendant of the Building	Intendant of the Building
9°	Master of the Temple	Elu of the Nine
10°	Master Elect	Elu of the Fifteen
11°	Sublime Master Elected	Elu of the Twelve
12°	Master of Mercy	Master Architect
13°	Master of the 9th Arch	Royal Arch of Solomon
14°	Grand Elect Mason	Perfect Elu
15°	Knight of the East	Knight of the East / Sword / Eagle
16°	Prince of Jerusalem	Prince of Jerusalem
17°	Knight of the East and West	Knight of the East and West
18°	Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.	Knight Rose Croix
19°	Brothers of the Trail	Grand Pontiff
20°	Master Ad Vitam *	Master of the Symbolic Lodge
21°	Patriarch Noachite	Noachite, or Prussian Knight
22°	Prince of Libanus	Knight of the Royal Axe/Prince of Libanus
23°	Knight of Valor **	Chief of the Tabernacle
24°	Brother of Tolerance	Prince of the Tabernacle
25°	Master of Achievement	Knight of the Brazen Serpent
26°	Friend and Brother Eternal	Prince of Mercy
27°	Knight of Jerusalem	Knight of the Sun / Prince Adept
28°	Knight of the Sun	Knight Commander of the Temple
29°	Knight of St. Andrew ***	Scottish Knight of St. Andrew
30°	Grand Inspector	Knight Kadosh / of White & Black Eagle
31°	My Brother's Keeper	Inspector Inquisitor
32°	Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret	Master of the Royal Secret
33°	Sovereign Grand Inspector General	Inspector General Honorary

* Master Ad Vitam in NMJ is the same as our TRAITOR play

** Knight of Valor is based upon the story of the Four Immortal Chaplains of WWII

*** Knight of St. Andrew in NMJ takes place in the Holy Land, not Scotland

NMJ & SMJ 4° - 14° = Lodge of Perfection

NMJ 15° - 16° = Council of Princes of Jerusalem

NMJ 17° - 18° = Chapter of Rose Croix SMJ 15° - 18° = Chapter of Rose Croix

SMJ 19° - 30° = Council of Kadosh

NMJ 19° - 32° = Consistory

SMJ 31° - 32° = Consistory



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.

*Of all the things you wear,
your expression is the most important*

DOOR ENTRY SYSTEM: A new entry system has been installed on the front door. The card scanner has been removed and replaced with a “tap” reader. See Illustrious Brother Alex McIntosh to obtain a sticker with an NFC chip to attach to your dues card. **DO NOT PUT THE STICKER OVER THE BAR CODE!** The Tylers can scan the bar code when you check in. Life members and 50 year members with “Gold Cards” see Alex to obtain a sticker.

You will need to obtain a new sticker each year when the Supreme Council issues new dues cards. You may opt to keep your old dues card as a door card, which will require you to carry two cards instead of one.

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.

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 to 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 Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH; Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH; and Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°.

Continued on next page

Capital Improvement Projects - In 2026 the Scottish Rite Cathedral Association has committed to the following capital improvement projects totaling \$205,351:

- Galvanized pipe replacement, \$70,351, with copper pipe, due to the deteriorating condition of the galvanized pipes (over 100 years old).
- Elevator replacement, \$135,000.

The SRMC Endowment Fund has contributed \$50,000 toward these projects from earnings on the fund's investments. Not one penny was taken from the corpus of the Endowment Fund (as per the operating agreement). The corpus is the money which has been donated to the fund. The more money that is donated, the larger the corpus becomes and the greater the earnings on the investment to be used for capital improvement expenditures.

Your generous donations to the Endowment Fund are very much appreciated and your continued support will allow the SRCA to address expenditures required to preserve our historic building.

2026 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2025. If you have not yet paid your 2026 membership fee, please do so and do not become delinquent. \$140 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. 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 is available - Are you tired of paying fees at the end of the year to all the Masonic bodies where 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.

Easter Sunrise Service - The Colorado Knights Templar Association held the 101st Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Denver Consistory, April 5, 2026. It is the oldest Easter Sunrise Service in Colorado.

April 20th Stated Meeting - The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix conducted the Annual Remembrance, Renewal & Commitment Ceremony. Thank you **Brother Tom Adair, 32°KCCH**, Wise Master, and the officers of the Chapter of Rose Croix for a beautiful ceremony.

Spring Reunion May 7, 8, 9, 2026 - We still need petitions!!! Encourage your candidates to utilize the electronic petition. When completed, the petition is sent electronically to the Denver Consistory Office. **1:00 p.m. May 4th is the deadline for receipt of petitions!**

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 free stated meeting dinners for a year.

DENVER CONSISTORY PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP—**NEW QR CODE**



Scottish Rite YouTube Channel - Subscribe to the Scottish Rite YouTube Channel, which is at: [Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ-USA - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) for outstanding educational presentations. You are encouraged to go to the Supreme Council website: <https://www.scottishrite.org> then click on "Education & Media" then click on "Podcasts, Social Media & Videos" for interesting presentations.

225th Anniversary Special Session - Sunday, May 31, 2026, the Scottish Rite will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Rite, in Charleston, South Carolina. A Special Session of the Supreme Council will be live-streamed on the Supreme Council YouTube channel - [Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ-USA - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) at 12:00 noon Mountain Daylight Time. You are encouraged to log in and watch this historic event.

MORGAN AFFAIR PRESENTATION: Illustrious Brother Maynard Edwards, 33°, Supreme Council Membership Services will speak at the June 15 Stated: **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!**



From the Consistory East By Greg Koenig, 32° KCCH Master of Kadosh



Greetings, Brethren,

As we approach the midpoint of the year, I am pleased to share a progress report along with a preview of what lies ahead for the remainder of 2026.

The Denver Consistory Officer Line has been working hard to implement this year's action plan. Our primary responsibility has been to provide engaging *entertainment and educational programming* for stated meetings, as well as meaningful activities for the ladies' breakout sessions.

In February, we presented and discussed material from the 18th Degree. The conversation that followed was both engaging and insightful. During the breakout session, the ladies enjoyed a wine and chocolate pairing, which was very well received.

In March, the Consistory recognized our past presiding officers. Inviting them to the stage with "walk-on music" added an enjoyable and memorable element to the ceremony. Following this recognition, the ladies were treated to a tea and macaron pairing that was greatly enjoyed.

We also hosted an Officer Breakfast, giving the Consistory officers an opportunity to connect outside of stated meetings and strengthen our working relationships. We plan to hold at least two additional breakfasts later this year.

Looking ahead, our May stated meeting will feature a presentation by Adam Evans of Channel 9 News on the Honor Flight program for veterans. This will include a video and discussion highlighting the behind-the-scenes efforts and the profound impact this program has on those who have served our country. Our ladies will be entertained in their breakout session with a presentation from Thelma Shaeffer on the Denver Consistory organ.

In June, we are honored to welcome Illustrious Brother Maynard Edwards from the Supreme Council, who will present on the 200th anniversary of the Morgan Affair. This event will be open to the public and promises to be both enlightening and engaging.

October marks the next stated meeting for which the Denver Consistory Line is responsible. We will work in conjunction with the Centennial Lodge of Perfection Officer Line to present a Feast of Tishri event.

In November, we will once again present *Quilts of Valor* in recognition of Veterans Day, continuing a meaningful and well-received tradition.

December will conclude the year with our Holiday Entertainment Program, featuring another outstanding performance to celebrate the season.

I would like to recognize our Officer Line—David Spence, Mike Lazalde, Shawn Calder, Stephan Grenier, Sterling Field, and Jerry Edwards—for their exceptional teamwork, clearly defined roles, and continued dedication to executing our plan. I am grateful for their contributions thus far and for those yet to come.

Continued on next page

Our goal remains to provide *high-quality education and entertainment* that enriches the Consistory experience, and our team is committed to delivering on that promise.

In closing, we have made strong progress and hope that our efforts have been evident. While there is still much work ahead, I have complete confidence in our team and in the Brothers who continue to help and support us. Together, we can build upon what we have learned and deliver experiences that are meaningful, valuable, and worthy of your time. I welcome your thoughts and feedback on how we can continue to improve.

Thank you, Brothers, for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at our next stated meeting.

Fraternally,

Greg Koenig

Master of Kadosh

gregk78910@gmail.com

720-252-9300

Law of Late-Comers: Those who have the shortest distance to travel to a meeting invariably arrive the latest. - (Carl Thompson, Executive VP, Hill and Knowlton.)

Lawyer's Rule: When the law is against you, argue the facts. When the facts are against you, argue the law. When both are against you, call the other lawyer names.

Law of Anesthesia: NEVER say "oops" in the operating room.

Malek's Law: Any simple idea will be worded in the most complicated way.

Man's Law: No matter what happens, there is ALWAYS someone who knew that it would.

Martin's Definition of Drunkenness: You are not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.

McCarthy's Law of Intelligence: Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it's important.

McKenna's Law: When you are right, be logical. When you are wrong, befuddle.

Mencken's Meta-law: For every human problem, there is a neat, plain solution - and it is ALWAYS wrong.

Merrill's First Corollary: There are no winners in life; only survivors.



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH
Director of Education
Ordo Ab Chao:
The Stormy 19th Century!
(Part 1)



But first...

A bit of something more than just housekeeping to start this month. Before getting the main event underway, I want to take a moment to recognize the wonderful job done by Brother Tom Adair, the Rose Croix Officers, and our dedicated musicians and production crews in presenting the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance, Renewal and Commitment. Their effort was, in my opinion, as well done as I've ever seen it. It was moving and sincere, well planned and well executed in every detail, and appreciated by all in attendance.

It is most unfortunate that so few were in attendance to witness remembrance of the sixty-three Brethren who, over the past year, have gone before us to that *Celestial Lodge Above*: Brethren with whom we've broken bread ... shared a story ... portrayed ritual ... or simply enjoyed the warmth of fraternal affection. It's sad to realize how few of us had time to invest an hour to remember and honor them! (In person or virtual.)

If you're thinking, "Well, he doesn't have a right to lay a guilt trip on me about that!" ... you're right! I don't, and that's not my intent. My purpose is simply to remind you of two things that I believe merit a moment of consideration. First, paraphrasing the ceremony, it is central to our commitment to one another in Masonry, that "So long as we remember them, they still live on in our hearts!" Yes, we may think of them on our own and at any time. That's true ... but will we ... as we should? The second is that, someday, each of us will have our name on that Memorial Scroll. Perhaps we ought to remember our Brothers today, as we wish that those who come after us would pause to remember us!

Brethren, how about taking a moment, right now, to put an entry in your calendar to attend the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance, Renewal and Commitment on **April 19, 2027 @ 7PM**.

Ordo Ab Chao: The Stormy 19th Century

On May 31, 1801, just one week after Col. John Mitchell created the Reverend Frederick Dalcho a Deputy Inspector General, the Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree for the United States was opened in Charleston, with Col. Mitchell presiding as the first Sovereign Grand Commander and Rev. Dalcho as his Lieutenant. From the beginning, the organization *administered* thirty-three degrees. It did not, however, *control* all of them (more on that in a moment)! The authority of that first American Supreme Council...our own *Mother Supreme Council of the World*... was officially derived from the *Grand Constitutions of 1786*, a document "ostensibly ratified by Frederick II ('The Great'), King of Prussia."¹ I leave it to the reader

to navigate the maze that is the story of Frederick the Great and his involvement with the degree system(s) that evolved to become Scottish Rite Masonry, but “Like Morin’s Constitutions and Regulations of 1762, many modern Masonic historians view the Grand Constitutions of 1786 as ‘traditional’ rather than historical documents. After a detailed investigation into its possible origins, Albert Pike accepted the tradition regarding the King’s involvement and his reputed role in the creation of the Supreme Council, even though there was no direct evidence that he did so.”²

Suffice it to say that the first extant copy of the Grand Constitutions dates to 1801-02 (after the end of Frederick II’s reign), and the document is in the handwriting Rev. Dalcho! The King was, whatever his actual involvement with the high degrees, most definitely a Freemason.³ His involvement in the founding of our Rite serves, at the very least, as a legendary foundation as significant as those involving King Solomon, the Templars, or even The Widow’s Son.

Even after the establishment of the Supreme Council in 1801, a certain degree of chaos (Okay, yes ... pun intended!) prevailed in high degree Masonry in the U.S. One must remember that a multiplicity of degree systems were invented and flourished, on the heels of the beginning of the Grand Lodge Era in 1717, and many of these took root in America. Even after the formation of the Supreme Council in 1801, this situation continued, and I consider this reality to be a contributing factor in the efforts of the Supreme Council to establish its authority and its legitimacy.

On December 4, 1802 (about eighteen months after its founding), the Supreme Council issued the *Circular Throughout the Two Hemispheres* (also known as the *Manifesto of 1802*) ... a bold proclamation of its own authority over high degree Masonry. The document described the organizational structure of the Rite but claimed authority only over degrees above the 17th! Certainly, one of the reasons for this limitation ... which seems so odd to us today ... was that claims of greater authority, at that early date, stood to alienate Brothers who were members within the multiple degree systems operating in the U.S. at that time. The Supreme Council did not assume government of the entire system we know today as the Scottish Rite (4th-32nd Degrees), until the revival of the Craft following the crisis of the *Morgan Affair*.

One of these degree systems was Cerneauism, a long-lived competitor to the Rite. It was a system of twenty-five degrees and was particularly popular in what became the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, after the Mother Supreme Council established that authority in 1815. Cerneauism was an especially disruptive movement, due to the fact that it claimed authority to govern Blue Lodges under its own authority, thereby setting itself up also as a rival to existing Grand Lodges! It was still prevalent enough in the North to engineer a merger with the NMJ in 1867, and it wasn’t until late in the century that litigation firmly established Grand Lodges authority to determine which bodies its members could join and be considered “regular.” It isn’t difficult to imagine, had this standard not been established by legal precedent, that the American Masonic landscape might today look as confused and present as many challenges as one finds in modern France or Italy!

One persistent myth, regarding the Scottish Rite in the U.S, is the assumption that the existence of two jurisdictions, designated Northern and Southern, is in some way linked to the Civil War. It’s an unfortunate misunderstanding, tending as it does to attribute a division among

the Fraternity to an event which, though perhaps inevitable and certainly tragic, had nothing at all to do with the organization of our Rite. In fact ... "Dalcho's copy of the Constitutions of 1786 permitted 'one Council of this Degree, in each Nation or Kingdom in Europe—[and] **two in the United States of America**, as remote from each other as possible.' As a result, the Supreme Council at Charleston created several Supreme Councils around the world, including a second Supreme Council in the United States." ⁴

So, why did this happen in the period 1813-1815, which seems like rather early in the life of the recently established Rite ... certainly before national demographics and the westward movement had done much to dictate a second jurisdiction? The explanation is actually all too simple ... and in some ways typically Masonic, in that a major factor was a matter of "regularity" and "jurisdictional authority"...

The reason for the creation of the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ), was to combat a bogus "Supreme Council" previously created by Joseph Cerneau, a French Mason living in New York City. Prior to immigrating to the United States, Cerneau had received a patent for the Order of the Royal Secret, which authorized him to confer the highest degree (25°, Prince of the Royal Secret) on one Mason a year, although it limited his authority to the northern part of Cuba. However, after moving to the United States, he created several Masonic organizations, including a "Supreme Council" in 1813, which was bold enough to imitate the name and seal of the Supreme Council at Charleston. The group was discovered by De La Motta [Note: Emanuel De La Motta, Treasurer General of the Supreme Council at Charleston.], who was in New York at the time. De La Motta met with Cerneau and asked for proof of his Masonic credentials, but was rebuffed. Cerneau's members included many prominent regular Masons, who were deceived and continued to believe in their cause. Following an investigation, Cerneau's activities were denounced as irregular and unlawful, and he was expelled from Freemasonry by the Supreme Council at Charleston. Cerneau's group denied Charleston's authority over the Scottish Rite Degrees, and even had the temerity to deny the existence of the Supreme Council at Charleston. In a long and interesting history the regular Scottish Rite Masons in New York continued to battle against Cerneauism, with occasional defections on both sides, until the two bodies reconciled on May 15, 1867, in what is now known as the "Union of 1867." This resulted in the formation of the current Supreme Council, 33°, NMJ.

Next month, I'll take a brief look at the Rite during the Civil War and delve into the impact on the AASR of undoubtedly it's most influential and, in some quarters, controversial personality: Grand Commander Albert Pike.

I hope to see you all at the Spring Reunion on May 7, 8, and 9!



101st Easter Sunrise Service hosted by the Knight Templar Association was held in our Cathedral.



Rose Croix service of Remembrance, Renewal, and Commitment was a special evening in April.



Ms. Lelia is recognized by the White Shrine for her humanitarian work.

Additionally, she celebrated a birthday recently.





Member in the Spotlight By Jeffery L. Gowin, 32° KCCM

1st Lieutenant Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh

James Everett Thomas, 32°



Meet Brother James Everett Thomas - known to friends and fellow Masons simply as Jim. His journey through life and Masonry is as rich as the Colorado landscapes he calls home. Born in Golden, Colorado, Jim has always stayed true to his roots. He currently resides in Idaho Springs, Colorado, a place that holds countless memories for him.

Jim attended Idaho Springs Grade School and High School before heading to the University of Northern Colorado, home of the UNC Bears. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Jim spent most of his formative years in Clear Creek County. He was an Atomic ski rep while putting himself through College. He has been married to his wife, Jane Thomas, for 33 years.

Jim began his Masonic journey in DeMolay in Idaho Springs during high school. He and fellow Mason Danny Tomlinson have enjoyed a friendship spanning over 70 years. Jim doesn't know where he would be without their partnership through the years.

Interestingly, Jim is the first Mason in his family. Blue Lodges: Idaho Springs #26, Blackhawk #11, Central City #6, Georgetown #12. In addition to his Blue Lodge commitments, Jim is a member of the Scottish Rite and the Knights of Saint Andrews (KSA). Jim was granted Honorary Past Master of Idaho Springs Lodge #26 in 2022.

Jim especially enjoys serving in the KSA, where he finds fulfillment in helping others. Outside of Masonry, Jim enjoys hunting and taking his grandchildren to Rendezvous events. He loves meeting new members and cherishing the fellowship with current members during the Spring and Fall Scottish Rite reunions. Jim has participated in the 29th Degree at these events. He appreciates being able to serve the group and assist with the physical tasks required to make gatherings successful. Above all, Jim is drawn to Masonry by the men who are truly invested in the craft.

A little-known fact: Jim spent time as a vocational teacher, instructing students in welding. Jim has a memorable story about meeting Jimmy Buffett, if you have time for a chat. He also counts John Cooley, who climbed Mount Everest, among his friends. He is looking forward to attending the upcoming reunion.

Reflecting on his many years in Scottish Rite Masonry, Jim shares this philosophy: "Old too soon, wise too late."

We could all take a page from Jim's playbook, especially because his wife wanted to add to this article. Here are some of her notes: "With wisdom gained from both life and Masonry, Jim has enjoyed passing knowledge to others. After a long career as a heavy equipment salesman, he was known for sealing deals with a handshake and a promise kept—a testament to his integrity."

MEMORIAL SCROLL

Robert W. Applegate, 33°	04/29/2026
Charles David Clinker, 32°	03/14/2026
Leslie Marc Davidson, 32°	04/11/2026
Gerald Wayne Human, 32°	03/13/2026
Robert Leroy Keefer, 32°	03/20/2026
Bruce James Lawlor, 32° KCCH	03/25/2026
Ernie Joe Lee, 32°	05/30/2013
Joseph Robert Roeder, 32°	03/13/2026



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 Colombaro, 32° KCCH; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH; M. Edward Johnson, 33° (emeritus); Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Scott E. Olson, 33°; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; John A. Warren, 33°; Richard M. Wenzel III, 32° KCCH; and Benjamin F. Williams, 32° KCCH.



Special Birthdays

90 Years "YOUNG"

James Allen Dolbier
Frank Joseph Klein

80 Years "YOUNG-ISH"

Michael Edward Clark
Ronald Richard Shaffer

40 Years OLD

Austin Michael Almquist

Our May "Youngster"

Mason Monroe Sellars (27)

Interesting Facts About MAY

Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980

Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis received a patent for blue jeans on May 20, 1873.

Merriwether Lewis and William Clark began their famous travels on May 14, 1804.

Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic on the first solo flight for a woman on May 20, 1932.

The Jamestown colony was established on May 24, 1607.

Special Forces killed Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011.

Christopher Columbus "discovered" Jamaica on May 4, 1494.

The German airship Hindenburg exploded at 7:20 p.m. on May 6, 1937.

RMS Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine on May 7, 1915.

Japan suffered its first strategic defeat of WWII at the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942.

Catherine the Great (Empress of Russia) was born in May 1729—her real name was Sophie von Anhalt-Zerbst.

Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884. The "S" didn't stand for anything. It was a compromise between his grandfathers' names Anderson **Shipp** Truman and **Solomon** Young.

The month of May is named for Maia, the Greek Goddess of fertility.





SCOTTISH RITE SPRING REUNION

Denver Consistory May 7, 8, 9, 2026

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

65th Reunion
Spring 2026
May 7 – 9, 2026

Thursday May 7, 2026

7:30 AM Registration
8:00 AM Class Convenes
8:26 AM Exemplify 4°
9:30 AM Exemplify 5°
10:28 AM Exemplify 6°
10:47 AM Exemplify 7°
11:35 AM Exemplify 8°
12:00 PM Lunch
12:50 PM Committee Tours
1:38 PM Communicate 9° & 10°
1:45 PM Communicate 11°
1:52 PM Communicate 12°
1:59 PM Communicate 13°
2:10 PM Exemplify 14°
3:17 PM Communicate 15°
3:28 PM Exemplify 16°
4:09 PM Shrine Presentation
4:34 PM Exemplify 17°
5:19 PM Adjourn

Friday May 8, 2026

8:00 AM Class Convenes
**8:19 AM Exemplify 18° First & Second
Apartment**
**9:12 AM Exemplify 18° Third
Apartment**
10:01 AM Knights of St. Andrew
Presentation
10:27 AM Exemplify 19°
11:02 AM Communicate 20°
11:09 AM Communicate 21°
11:22 AM Exemplify 22°
12:07 PM Grand Master's Address
12:27 PM Lunch
1:22 PM Communicate 23°
1:29 PM Communicate 24°

1:43 PM Exemplify 25°
2:06 PM Exemplify 26°
3:04 PM Exemplify 27°
4:19 PM Exemplify 28°
5:09 PM Communicate 29°
5:16 PM Adjourn

Saturday May 9, 2026

8:00 AM Class Convenes
8:10 AM Class Photos
9:11 AM 30° First Apartment
9:31 AM 30° Second Apartment
9:51 AM 30° Third Apartment
10:23 AM Secretary's Presentation
**10:45 AM Exemplify 30° Fourth
Apartment**
11:20 AM S.G.I.G. Address to Class
11:40 AM Lunch
12:35 PM Exemplify 31°
1:55 PM Exemplify 32° First Section
2:49 PM Exemplify 32° Second Section
3:40 PM Closing Ceremony
4:00 PM Adjourn
5:30 PM Ring Ceremony (Dining Room)
6:00 PM Banquet
25 & 50-Year Membership Awards
8:00 PM Adjourn

FLAGS FOR FALLEN VETS

**SUNDAY – 24MAY2026 – 0900 HOURS (9AM)
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**



Flags for Fallen Vets is a national program that annually takes place at a number of national, or military cemeteries across the country. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix of the Scottish Rite and Masons throughout Colorado have proudly supported and participated in the event for the past several years. The mission is to ensure that an American flag is placed at the grave of every veteran resting in these cemeteries.

- This year's family-oriented event will take place on Sunday, May 24 at 9am at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. We need volunteers to assist with placing the flags on May 24 and then with the retrieval of the flags on Saturday, May 30. Volunteering is very easy - just follow these steps:
- Go to <https://flagsforfallenvets.com/> and click on 2026 Volunteer Form
- Select Fort Logan National Cemetery - Denver in the drop-down menu and then enter your email address
- In the "Group" menu, select "Mason" or "Masonic" and Section "S"
- Add the number of volunteers you will be bringing with you that day
- **Plan to arrive by 8 am on Sunday, May 24, 2026**
- We (the Masonic family) will be focused on Section S of the cemetery, just a couple of blocks from the main entrance on Sheridan Boulevard. See the map below. We will be responsible for the entire section and all graves in the section. **Please plan to arrive by 8:00 am.**
 - Contacts:
 - Danny Tomlinson – Section Leader – dtomlinson@msn.com
 - (303) 638-6509
 - Tom Adair – Wise Master of Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix –
 - bromagic153@outlook.com
 - (303) 842-5360

DENVER CONSISTORY

SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY

JUNE 15, 2026 ✦ 7:00 PM

THE MORGAN AFFAIR: A BICENTENNIAL REFLECTION

JUNE 15, 2026 ✦ 7:00 PM

A Special Presentation by
MAYNARD EDWARDS, 33°

FEATURED SPEAKER

Join us for an insightful evening commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Morgan Affair, a defining moment in Masonic and American history.

Illustrious Brother Edwards will explore its lasting impact and significance.



WILLIAM MORGAN
(1774-1826)

LOCATION: DENVER CONSISTORY, DENVER, CO
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC




**CELEBRATE
'OHANA**

LADIES LUNCHEON | JUNE 20, 2026
11:30AM | MENU TO BE DETERMINED

1370 GRANT ST. | DENVER CO. 80203
DRESS: HAWAIIAN DINNER APPAREL

Scottish Rite Charity Golf Classic – August 10, 2026



***Players bring your “A” game!
Sponsor opportunities to fit all budgets!
See you at the exclusive Hiwan Golf Club
in Evergreen, Colorado***



www.scottishritegolf.com

**Monday August 10, 2026 – shotgun start at 1:30pm
Check in at 12 Noon
Lunch on Patio at 12:30
Free range/putting, Player Gifts, Awards Ceremony**

**Proceeds will benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and the Scottish
Rite Foundation / RiteCare
(Juvenile Speech / Hearing Therapy Treatment)**





SCOTTISH RITE SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC

Shoot. Connect. Give Back.



★ **September 19, 2026**
📍 **Kiowa Creek Sporting Club**

A DAY OF COMPETITION, CAMARADERIE & CHARITY

Join us for an exciting sporting clays event supporting the Scottish Rite mission.

EVENT INCLUDES:

 **Sporting clays** tournament

 **Team & individual** participation

 **Raffle** prizes

 **Lunch** provided

IMPORTANT: REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

WHY IT MATTERS:

Proceeds support **Scottish Rite** charitable programs, including, **Scottish Rite Masonic Center** and **RiteCare**—helping children with speech, language, and learning challenges.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER

scottishriteclays.com

AIM HIGH. HAVE FUN. MAKE AN IMPACT.

MEDIA PRESENCE



Denver Consistory Web Page

<https://denverconsistory.org>

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



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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>

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



Larry Bendt, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



Tom Adair, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH
Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh



Greg Koenig, 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

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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.

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

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Bill Hickey, 33° - Chairman

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