



# Denver's RiteWorks

October 2026 vol. 19 #8



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 The QR code on the old cards is no longer valid.**

# PLANNING CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2026

|                           |                                                                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri, OCT 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken on OCT 2)        |
| Mon, OCT 5                | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room                                |
| Mon, OCT 19               | <b>Stated Meeting (Parking Garage Available) (Feast of Tishri)</b> |
|                           | 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting                                |
|                           | 6:00 p.m. Dinner                                                   |
|                           | 7:00 p.m. Entertainment                                            |
|                           | 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting                                            |

## NOVEMBER 2026

|                      |                                                                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon, NOV 2           | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room                                        |
| Thu-Sat, NOV 5-7     | Southern Colorado Consistory Fall Reunion                                  |
| Fri, NOV 6, 20       | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken on NOV 6)                |
| Mon, NOV 9           | 5:00 p.m. Special Officers Meeting to read petitions                       |
| Wed, NOV 11          | 5:15 p.m. Children's Hospital RiteCare Presentation                        |
| Thu, NOV 12          | 7:30 a.m. Fall Reunion (66 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Parking Garage Available</b> |
| Fri, NOV 13          | 8:00 a.m. Fall Reunion (66 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Parking Garage Available</b> |
| Sat, NOV 14          | 8:00 a.m. Fall Reunion (66 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>Parking Garage Available</b> |
|                      | 5:30 p.m. Ring Ceremony; Banquet; 25 & 50 Year Presentations               |
| Mon, NOV 16          | <b>Stated Meeting Parking Garage Available</b>                             |
|                      | 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting                                        |
|                      | 6:00 p.m. Dinner                                                           |
|                      | 7:00 p.m. Entertainment: Veterans Recognition Program                      |
|                      | 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting: Annual Election of Officers                       |
|                      | 5 min oration—Minister of State for Denver Consistory                      |
| Thu-Fri, NOV 26 & 27 | <b>Consistory Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</b>                          |

## DECEMBER 2026

|                      |                                                                                                         |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri, DEC 4, 11, 18   | 11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15—Fried Chicken on DEC 4)                                               |
| Sat, DEC 5           | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Consistory Decorating Party - All members and wives invited                           |
| Mon, DEC 7           | 7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room                                                                     |
| Sat, DEC 19          | noon Wreaths across America - Fort Logan National Cemetery                                              |
| Mon, DEC 21          | <b>Stated Meeting - <u>Member Appreciation Night; Ugly Sweater Night</u> - Parking Garage Available</b> |
|                      | 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting                                                                     |
|                      | 6:00 p.m. Dinner                                                                                        |
|                      | 7:00 p.m. Entertainment                                                                                 |
| Thu-Fri, DEC 24 & 25 | <b>Consistory CLOSED for Christmas Holiday (NO LUNCH)</b>                                               |
| Fri, JAN 1, 2027     | <b>Consistory CLOSED for New Year's (NO LUNCH)</b>                                                      |

# EDITOR'S PRESTLEBOARD



**BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°**

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## **European View of Masonic Growth**



Going through my archives, I discovered a copy of the Prestonian Lecture for 1994 (this is typically given at a meeting of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, #2076) by WBro Michel L. Brodsky. The entire paper is copyrighted, and rather longish, so I will endeavor to extract pertinent portions to convey the overall flavor of the paper. Wish me luck!

While there are jurisdictions in Europe with multiple Grand Lodges—each claiming authority over a peculiar membership - there is only ONE Grand Lodge in Norway, Iceland, and Sweden.

In 1877, the Grand Orient de France abolished all references to Deity in their Constitution, replaced by statements to the effect of “total liberty of conscience.” In one French GL, only ONE VSL is permitted on the altar—and its pages are blank! They stipulate that, as a “speculative” body, you should “speculate” that the empty pages contain whatever words you need or expect to convey sanctity to any oath or obligation you might take. In one other GL, they go a step further and have NO VSL on the altar, saying you need to speculate the presence of whatever VSL is sacred to you.

There are Grand Lodges open to women—including those open to both men AND women as well as woman-only lodges.

As you might well imagine, Most of these unusual GL formations are not “recognized” as “regular” by UGLE or other (what we call) “mainstream Masonic bodies (this means most US and Canadian GL’s by definition).

These different GL’s are not concerned with how WE view their “regularity” and carry on their business without interference. Regular lodges do not visit unrecognized lodges (sometimes calling them “irregular” or perhaps “clandestine” - much like we in the US treated Prince Hall for many years. They acknowledge their presence, they just do not interchange or conduct Masonic conversations. Times have changed in the US, and we may or may not see some changes in the notion of what a GL considers “regular” “Irregular” “clandestine” or other adjectives to describe a lodge/Grand Lodge that does not conform to that GL’s policies.

The Grand Orient de France is the oldest permanent masonic body in France and has NEVER been recognized by UGLE. In 1877 it dropped all references to Deity in its Constitution and lost nearly all its foreign masonic relationships. In 1994, it had roughly 45,000 members and over 1000 lodges in France and overseas. Compare those numbers with a comparable US GL of roughly the same geographical area as France.

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Between Grand Orient de France, Grand Loge de France, Droit Humain, Grande Loge Feminine de France, it is estimated that total membership in these bodies was ~100,000 world-wide in the 1990's.

The predominant US rule against "solicitation" for membership is virtually unknown in Europe. In fact, applications that are not supported by Masonic sponsors are rare and viewed as suspect and likely to be refused. This might be due to the long-running feud between freemasonry and the Catholic church (official position anyway). No fixed rules exist regarding contacts. Once a candidate decides to apply, he must normally have two sponsors, both of whom are regular members of the lodge. The application is first reviewed by a committee of the lodge (similar to many US jurisdictions), but then they send it officially to their Grand Lodge (unlike US jurisdictions ... the disposition of an application rests with the Lodge itself). The candidate provides references of persons that know him and ideally are also members of the craft. In France, a certificate issued by the local police stating that he has not committed any criminal offense is also required.

Once these preliminary hurdles are cleared, the process followed is similar to, if not identical, to what many T.O. (Traditional Observance) lodges use with their candidates.

Generally it takes ONE OR TWO YEARS for an EA to be Passed and about the same to be continued and Raised. This differs markedly with most US jurisdictions who limit the time between degrees, mostly to ensure the waiting list progresses in a reasonable manner. The EA is under the direct supervision of the Junior Warden, while the Fellowcraft is under the supervision of the Senior Warden.

Whereas in the US, "proficiency" in a degree is usually defined as the ability of the candidate to respond to an extensive series of questions (which basically consist of the ritual itself). An important difference in Europe is that the candidate for progression must present a scholarly paper in Lodge, which is used to judge how well they have progressed in Masonic knowledge. It is not meant as an "examination" like the US Proficiency examination, but rather a test to determine the integration and intellectual work done by the new member.

This long process will often take FIVE YEARS or more from the time they first applied for membership in the lodge until they are considered fully Master Masons in the lodge.

During the course of their work on these papers, they will discover new perspectives in symbolism and how to apply them in their daily lives. This, then, differs completely from a US based philosophy about what constitutes a "proficient" EA/FC/MM in lodge. Interestingly, you might think this long process might discourage men from becoming Masons, but in fact there are waiting lists of men to become Masons where it might take 4-5 years from the time they first petition until they are processed as an Entered Apprentice. Doubtless, not many Americans would be willing to wait that long for their membership in lodge to take effect.

The FOCUS in this process is to ascertain what the candidate has LEARNED, not what his ability to regurgitate extensive ritual extracts back word-perfect (without a real understanding of the underlying meaning).

Continued on next page

Now, with all these sundry GL's, the issues of regularity, visitation, and so on, you might expect that they have a relatively high level of drop-outs before they actually finish their progress to Master Mason. (Again, this is as of 1999, so 25+ years can result in a lot of changes—some good, some not so good.) Where their numbers are published and available, they seem to represent a 3-4% INCREASE in membership (as compared to the US/Canada GL's losing 5% - 5.5% per year for the last 50 years!).

It appears their predominant demographic for membership is men between 30 and 45 years of age. Many are university graduates. (Sidenote: when I lived in Scotland, I was stationed in a rural area on the east coast—about 40-45 miles from Aberdeen. My Knight Templar Preceptory was in Aberdeen and it would take routinely an hour or more to drive to a meeting!) So, even in the UK and rest of Europe, they have TV and sports (like we do) and their distances are usually much longer than we have here in the US. So, obviously, the conclusion is that they are finding SOMETHING in their lodges that they cannot find elsewhere.

European lodges, in general, favor intellectual work above all else. The nature and significance of symbolism and philosophy are MAJOR subjects, while those lodges generally deemed “irregular” have more of a tendency to study and support social causes from environmental problems to Third World needs. The management of the lodge, examination of the candidate's files, and examination of the candidates themselves occupy some long evenings, leaving less and less time for degree work.

For young men joining Freemasonry, this style of membership provides two challenges: On the “human side” the challenge of integrating themselves into a special society with assemblies “on the level” by persons of different ages and social conditions. On the intellectual side, there is the challenge to learn how to express ones' concepts concisely and briefly on subjects that are new to them, especially how Masonic symbolism impacts them.

If this Masonic work pleases them and they enjoy it, they talk about it to their friends and encourage them to apply. This provides the pipeline of growth that is essential to the good health and survival of the lodge. The success of growth in European lodges does NOT depend on change within the craft, but having happy and prosperous lodges with a large number of young (YOUNG) and enthusiastic Brethren.

CLEARLY, a European model of lodge operation won't likely work well in the US (it might work in SOME places). But, it is hard to argue WHY European lodges seem to have such success with a vastly different model of handling their candidates.

*Bill*



# From the Secretary's Desk

Matt Raia, 33°



## CONSISTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

***Monday is a hard way to spend one-seventh of your life.***

**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; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°.

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

**Mail Chimp Notifications** - If you notice that you are not consistently receiving Mail Chimp messages from Denver Consistory, check your spam or junk mail folder. Occasionally, the Mail Chimp messages appear to be going into spam or junk mail folders.

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**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.

**The Supreme Council mailed the 2027 membership fee notices in August of 2026.** Please pay your membership fee when you receive the notice and do not lay it aside and forget about it and then become delinquent.

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.**

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**Scottish Rite Masonic Center Sporting Clays Tournament** - The Annual Sporting Clays Tournament was held September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Kowa Creek Sporting Club. The Sporting Clays Tournament is a fund-raising event for the Colorado Scottish Rite Foundation/RiteCare, and the SRMC. Thank you **Brother Marty Carter, 32°** for coordinating the event. The 2027 event will be held Saturday, September 18, 2027, again at the Kiowa Creek Sporting Club.

**September 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting** - The Annual Scottish Rite Foundation Dwight Hamilton Scholarships were presented to nine graduate students. Congratulations to all the students.

**Fall Reunion** - The Fall Reunion will take place Thursday-Saturday, November 12-14, and is dedicated to **Illustrious Brother Bob Applegate, 33°**. We need **YOU** to do your part to facilitate the Fall Reunion. **We STILL need candidates!** Get those petitions turned into the office, **DON'T WAIT** until November to turn them in.

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

**Fall Reunion Special** – The Executive Committee reduced the fee for membership from \$400 to \$225 for the Fall Reunion in honor of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Southern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite. It would be fantastic if we have 225 candidates. (Like the 1940's) The goal is a minimum of 25 candidates. The fee will go back to \$400 for the Spring 2027 Reunion.

**DENVER CONSISTORY**

**PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP**





AMAZING!

*Bonnie Petersen and Gloria Hull shared their Rose Bowl Parade float building adventures at the September Stated meeting ladies break out group.*

THANK YOU!





## Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH Director of Education

### The Rite in the Twentieth Century (Part 2)



### III. Postwar Expansion and Institutional Consolidation, 1950–1985

The decades following the Second World War marked the most expansive and confident era in the history of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. Across the South and West, Valleys experienced sustained growth as returning veterans, civic-minded professionals, and community leaders sought out fraternal organizations that reflected stability, patriotism, and shared purpose. The Scottish Rite, with its blend of philosophical instruction and civic virtue, fit the cultural moment precisely. By the early 1960s, the SJ had reached its highest membership levels, paralleling national trends across American Freemasonry.<sup>1</sup>

This postwar boom was more than just numerical, with growth resulting in a reshaping of the internal life of the Rite. The Supreme Council, under the leadership of Sovereign Grand Commander Luther A. Smith (1942–1969), undertook significant administrative modernization: improvements in record-keeping, Valley coordination, and the professionalization of communications. Henry C. Clausen (1969–1985), succeeded SGC Smith and intensified these efforts. Clausen's leadership was marked by a strong emphasis on unity, discipline, and national coherence within the Jurisdiction.<sup>2</sup> His writings repeatedly stressed the need for the Rite to serve as a moral anchor in an era of Cold War uncertainty, social change, and ideological conflict.

Publications from this period - especially *The New Age* magazine - reflected the confident tone of mid-century American Freemasonry. Articles emphasized civic responsibility, patriotism, and the moral obligations of educated citizens.<sup>3</sup> The Rite's educational mission expanded through leadership conferences, instructional materials, and historical publications. Fox notes that the Supreme Council increasingly saw itself as both a guardian of Masonic heritage and a promoter of civic virtue,<sup>4</sup> and it continues to have a strong claim on that role to this day!

Mid-century also produced a generation of influential SGIGs and Deputies whose professional backgrounds - law, business, education, public service - shaped Valley development. Biographical sketches in *Brethren: Behold Your Supreme Council* reveal leaders who viewed the Rite not merely as a fraternal body but as an institution capable of not only exemplifying but shaping civic character.<sup>5</sup> Their work strengthened the organizational infrastructure that supported the Rite's postwar growth.

All that is pretty heady stuff! Yet, even by the late 1970s, demographic changes were becoming impossible to ignore. The postwar boom was giving way to a period of gradual decline. We Boomers were shaped by all of the cultural shifts, suburbanization, new forms of leisure, and changing patterns of civic engagement, and that, frankly, began to erode the fraternal landscape.<sup>6</sup> The SJ entered the 1980s aware that the era of automatic growth had

ended: an era which the Fraternity generally (and even to the present day) seems not to recognize as atypical of the Craft's history as a whole. Stewardship of a possibly shrinking institution requires new strategies, new forms of outreach, and a clearer articulation of the Rite's identity in a rapidly changing society. We're still struggling a bit with how to incorporate all that into the modern Rite!

These demographic changes impacted Colorado Scottish Rite Masons most directly, in 1992, when the Supreme Council mandated the merger of the Colorado Consistory and the Rocky Mountain Consistory. Today it's difficult to imagine (what with all the challenges inherent in maintaining a single active Valley in Denver) how there could be two such entities in a relatively small metro area. The dynamics of what brought about the merger have been related previously, in this space. But, in a nutshell, by the '90s it was clear that having two Consistories in Denver was unsustainable. As traumatic and unsettling as it was at the time, some foresight on the part of the Supreme Council, in ordering the merger, gave us what we must enjoy and preserve today.

#### **IV. Modernization, Philanthropy, and Identity in Transition, 1985–2000**

The final decades of the twentieth century were defined by adaptation. As membership numbers declined across all branches of American Freemasonry, the Southern Jurisdiction responded with a deliberate program of modernization, professionalization, and public-facing philanthropy.

Foremost among these efforts was the rapid expansion of [RiteCare](#). What began as a modest initiative grew and evolved into a defining charitable mission by the 1990s. From the Spring-Summer issue of the program's Colorado newsletter [Rite View](#).

*Philanthropy has long defined the Scottish Rite. In 1953, members in Denver established the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado to help children overcome speech, language, and literacy challenges.*

*That local effort became a national model. Colorado's success led the Supreme Council to adopt the RiteCare® Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program as its official philanthropy, and today RiteCare programs across the country serve thousands of children and families each year.<sup>7</sup>*

RiteCare programs, in hospital and clinic settings - dedicated to childhood language and learning disorders - spread across the Jurisdiction, becoming the most visible expression of Scottish Rite philanthropy.<sup>8</sup> Their success reflected a broader trend: the SJ increasingly embraced targeted, professionalized charitable work that addressed concrete social needs. Fox's *Pillars of Charity* emphasizes that this shift represented a new model of Masonic philanthropy - one rooted in measurable social impact rather than generalized benevolence.<sup>9</sup>

Administrative modernization continued at the House of the Temple. New technologies began to improve record-keeping, publications, and archival practices. The Supreme Council invested in updated educational materials, revised ritual monitors, and historical works that

reinforced institutional identity. Publications from this era adopted a tone of heritage preservation, emphasizing continuity, tradition, and the enduring relevance of the Rite's moral teachings.<sup>10</sup>

Leadership confronted the reality of declining membership with a combination of strategic communication, enhanced educational programming, and renewed emphasis on the Rite's philosophical depth. The goal was not merely to arrest decline but to articulate a compelling identity for the modern era - one rooted in tradition yet responsive to contemporary expectations of transparency, service, and intellectual engagement. Jacob and Bullock both note that late-century Freemasonry increasingly framed itself as a moral and educational institution rather than a mass fraternal movement.<sup>11</sup>

By the turn of the millennium, the Southern Jurisdiction had completed a significant transformation, with the exuberant growth of the postwar years giving way to a more measured, intentional approach to leadership and philanthropy. I would argue that the SJ entered the twenty-first century with a clearer sense of mission: to preserve its heritage, serve its communities through meaningful charitable work, and maintain the Rite's role as a moral and educational institution in a rapidly changing world.

Brethren, closing out this look at the Rite in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, I'm including not only the foot-noted references cited this time but also a complete (I hope!) bibliography of sources used in preparing the September and October articles. Maybe you'll find a book or article in my lists worth delving into, to take your own study a bit further!

Next time, a few words on the Rite in the first quarter-century of the new millennium.

*Bill*

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**This Month's Trivia Question:** Masonic lectures originally contained references to "pan." As the English language evolved, so did this portion of the First Degree Lecture (Yep, there's a hint!). Masons still have the lecture, but "pan" is now referred to as \_\_\_\_? (A "pat on the back" bonus, if you can come up with modern word that references this archaic term!)

**September's Trivia Question:** (1) In what year was the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (now [Shriners International](#)) formed? (2) Where was it formed? (3) How many Masons made up the founding group?

**Answers:** (1) Well... that's a bit tricky! The concept became a reality in 1870, the founders became an initiated group in 1871, and the organization took in its first group of non-founding initiates in **1872**. Their website claims the latter date.

(2) New York City

(3) (3) 13

**Notes:**

1. Steven C. Bullock, *Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order* (Harvard University Press, 1996).
2. Henry C. Clausen, *Clausen's Commentaries on Morals and Dogma* (House of the Temple, 1974).
3. *The New Age* magazine, various issues, 1950–1975.
4. William L. Fox, *Valley of the Craftsmen: A History of the Southern Jurisdiction* (Scottish Rite Research Society, 1997).
5. *Brethren: Behold Your Supreme Council* (House of the Temple, various editions).
6. Mark C. Carnes, *Secret Ritual and Manhood in Victorian America* (Yale University Press, 1989).
7. Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado, *RiteView*, Spring-Summer 2026.
8. Scottish Rite Foundation, *RiteCare History and Development*, internal reports, 1980–1999.
9. William L. Fox, *Pillars of Charity* (Scottish Rite Research Society, 2002).
10. House of the Temple Archives, Administrative Modernization Files, 1985–1999.  
Margaret C. Jacob, *Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe* (Oxford University Press, 1991).

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**Ritual, Instructional, and Organizational Materials**

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- *The Ritual Monitor and Guide*. Washington, D.C.: The Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction. (Various editions.)
- *Leadership and Valley Development Manuals*. Washington, D.C.: The Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, mid-20th century editions.

**Historical Context and Secondary Scholarship**

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- Putnam, Robert D. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.
- Kammen, Michael. *Mystic Chords of Memory: The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture*. New York: Knopf, 1991.



**Member in the Spotlight**  
**By Jeffrey L. Gowin, 32° KCCH**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander**  
**Colorado Council of Kadosh**

**Cris Pastrana Advincula, Jr., 32°**



The Denver Consistory is proud to highlight Brother Cris Pastrana Advincula Jr., 32°, who was born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay Area. Cris is the first Mason in his family. His Masonic journey began at Burlingame Lodge No. 400, F. & A.M., in Burlingame, California. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 26, 2019, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on June 25, 2019, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 29, 2019. He remains a Perpetual Member of his mother lodge. After relocating to Colorado in 2020, Cris continued building relationships throughout the fraternity. He currently serves as the 2026 Worshipful Master of Union Lodge No. 7, A.F. & A.M., in Denver. His Colorado memberships also include Weston Lodge No. 22, his home lodge, Central Lodge No. 6, and Kiowa Lodge No. 116. Cris received the 4° through 32° of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite in 2019 in the Valley of San Jose, Orient of California. A Perpetual Member of the Valley of Burlingame, he served as Master of Ceremonies in the Chapter of Rose Croix officer line and as Chieftain, also known as Venerable Master, of the Knights of Saint Andrew. He was also selected for the Grand Commander's Fellows Program, representing the Valley of Burlingame.

Since moving to Colorado, Cris has become active in the Denver Consistory, where he serves as Lieutenant of the Guard in the Council of Kadosh officer line. His participation in degree work includes the 17th degree, the First Apartment of the 30th degree, and the 31st degree. For Cris, the Spring and Fall Reunions provide a welcome opportunity to contribute to the work and reconnect with Brothers he does not often see. What he appreciates most about the Scottish Rite is how it deepens Freemasonry's lessons while encouraging fellowship, service, and personal growth. Its degrees invite reflection on integrity, justice, duty, and responsibility to others. Cris values the opportunities the Rite provides to build lasting relationships, support communities, and put those principles into practice. His York Rite service includes the office of Principal Sojourner in Denver Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons, and Captain General in Denver-Colorado Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. He is also a member of Denver Council No. 1 of the Cryptic Masons. An interest in Masonic history and scholarship has led Cris to participate in several research and affiliated organizations. He serves as the Local Secretary for Colorado of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle, appointed by Worshipful Brother Adam Kendall, the incoming Worshipful Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. His additional affiliations include Kincora Council No. 8, Knight Masons; Centennial No. 126, The Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill; the Grand College of Rites of the United States of America; The Philalethes Society; the Scottish Rite Research Society; Southern

**Member in the Spotlight:** Cris Pastrana Advincula, Jr., 32° (continued from previous page)

California Research Lodge; and The Masonic Society. Through these organizations, he pursues thoughtful scholarship and a deeper appreciation of Freemasonry's traditions and teachings

Outside the lodge, Cris brings a varied educational and professional background. He graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose in 1994 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Policy Analysis and Management, with a minor in Sociology, from Cornell University in 1998. He also earned a Certificate in International Business from Cornell and later completed a Certificate in Advanced Project Management through Stanford University's Advanced Project Management Program. His early career included work on a securities trading desk, as a stockbroker, and as an assistant editor in educational publishing. He entered project management in 2000 and has remained in the field. Cris lives in Castle Pines with his wife, Koren, their son, Zayn, and their rescue Pitsky, Sabine. He and Koren have celebrated 16 years of marriage and 18 years together.

Although people sometimes assume Cris has Hawaiian ancestry, it is Koren who grew up in Hawaii. He is fourth-generation Japanese, raised on the Big Island; Cris's ancestry includes Filipino, Bornean, Catalan, and Sephardic Jewish roots. Before injuries and surgeries brought his competitive athletic career to a close, Cris played rugby for ten years at the high school, collegiate, and men's club levels, followed by ten years of Hawaiian outrigger canoe racing with the San Francisco Outrigger Canoe Club and Ho'okahi Pu'uwai Outrigger Canoe Club. He still follows rugby closely, enjoys hiking, and hopes to take up fishing. His musical interests include guitar, bass, and ukulele, along with learning the mandolin - though his instruments have been patiently awaiting his return for several years. For those meeting him for the first time, "Cris" will do just fine - no "h." As he likes to joke, his family couldn't afford the extra letter when he was growing up.

Meanwhile, J. Randy Penn remains determined to make the nickname "Crispy" stick. Feel free to ask Cris about the many other nicknames he's collected over the years. If you need help pronouncing his last name, he offers this hint: it rhymes with "Dracula" - though Latin scholars may recognize its two parts, ad and vincula. At the heart of Cris's Masonic experience is the belief that personal growth is lifelong work. The Scottish Rite has encouraged him to pursue truth with humility, remain teachable, and recognize that wisdom is demonstrated through daily choices. He sees leadership in listening, supporting others, and accepting responsibility when called upon. Above all, Cris values Freemasonry's ability to bring men of different backgrounds together through shared principles, respectful conversation, and mutual support. Whether in lodge, during degree work, or around a fellowship table, he finds meaning in the bonds formed through shared effort and service - and in the continuing challenge to become a better husband, father, Brother, and servant of his community.



# DENVER CONSISTORY KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

## **Ladies Appreciation Night**

After a summer away, the **Knights of Saint Andrew** are back — and our first meeting of the season will be a special evening dedicated to the ladies who support us throughout the year.

We invite **all Knights and Knights Emeritus** to join us and, most importantly, **bring your significant other** for an evening of fellowship, appreciation, and entertainment.

## **Monday, October 5th**

### **6:00 PM — Charcuterie & Wine**

Join us at 6:00 PM in Doc's for charcuterie and wine before we make our way to the lodge room at 7:00 PM.

### **7:00 PM — Ladies Recognition**

We will open our KSA meeting in the lodge room and take a special moment to recognize the ladies whose support, encouragement, and patience make it possible for us to serve as Knights.

As part of the evening, each of the ladies will be presented with a **special KSA jewel** as a token of our appreciation and gratitude for all they do.

## **Special Entertainment**

Following the recognition ceremony, we are excited to welcome the **Legendary Ladies**, featuring **three performers** who will entertain us with a special performance.

Following the performance, we will conclude our meeting.

**Knights and Knights Emeritus — please bring your significant other and join us for this special evening of appreciation, fellowship, and fun!**

**We look forward to seeing you October 5th!**

**Joshua Ruegsegger**

**Venerable Master, Denver Consistory Knights of Saint Andrew**



## **Larry E. Tygart, Sr., 33°**

### **Past Venerable Master**

### **Centennial Lodge of Perfection**

#### **An OPINION**

I was unsure how to address recent conversations about the economy and how taxing some folks say it is nowadays as opposed to the way it used to be. The “good old days” syndrome. So, being from the “good old days” I decided to put some perspective to the issues.

In the 1980’s gas was \$1.42/gal (\$5.75/gal in “today’s” dollars), this followed the gas rationing of the 1970’s. Home mortgage interest rates averaged 12.7% and peaked in 1986 at 18.6%. Current rates are 6.5% to 7.5% depending on credit rating.

Median income in the 80’s was \$17,710.00 and \$65,052.00 in 2026. So, let’s start with some other comparisons.

If you rented, it averaged \$432/mo., or 17% of spendable income in 1980. In 2026 it is \$1694.00, or 24% of spendable income.

If you purchased a house in the 80’s, the median price was \$64,600.00 with 28% down and an interest rate of 13.74%. These reflect the actual numbers that I also paid for my first house in 1980. In 2026, the median price is \$417,000.00 with 20% down and an interest rate of 6.6%.

Credit cards were relatively new to most average people in the 80’s and their average credit card carrying balance was \$500.00, or 3% of disposable income where in 2026 the average is \$11,326.00, or 17% of disposable income.

There are a myriad of other expenses that 2026 folks partake in that were not available, not standard practice, or only on special occasions. Let’s start with the obvious: coffee. Starbucks opened in the 1970’s, but did not become a nationwide phenomenon until the 2000’s. If we wanted coffee, we made it and took it with us in a thermos. A regular 16 oz coffee is about \$6.00 which translates to \$48.00/gal. Bottled water was not a “thing” unless you were higher class and drank Perrier or Avion out of a glass bottle in a higher-class restaurant. The bottled water from the QuikTrip will run you about \$3.50 each, or roughly \$37.00/gal for what you can get for pennies out of your tap. If you indulge in the 2 oz energy shots, those average \$3.00 each, or \$192.00/gal. For those who dine out regularly, and we only did so on special occasions, that 5 oz glass of wine starts at \$9.00, which converts to \$230.00/gal (better wine costs considerably more), and if you take the low end for brown liquor, \$10.00 for 2 oz converts to \$350.00/gal.

So, everyone is wondering what is the point? The first is, there have been far worse cost eras in the recent past than exist now. Second, is the cost of living the real issue, or are they really our “wants,” i.e., dining out, alcohol, daily coffees or lattes, and having unlimited expendable income and night life the real limiting factors?

**Continued on next page**

**Opinion:** Larry E. Tygart, Sr., 33° (continued from previous page)

The unfortunate truth is that the more we earn, the more we spend, and there are a lot of folks that want to blame someone for their lack of budgeting ability.

Just my opinion. If yours differs, I would be glad to have those conversations.

DISCLAIMER: these are “national averages” and Colorado runs 7½% higher in rental costs and about 10% lower in median income in 2026 (\$250.00 and \$10,150.00 in 1980 respectively.)

H.I.S.

Larry Tygart

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PERSPECTIVE is EVERYTHING:

1. Growing up in Oklahoma in the 60's, gas ranged in price from \$.10/gal (price war) to \$.25/gal. Yet, my salary (as a teen) at minimum wage was \$1.00/hour. So, for one hour's work, I could pay for 4-10 gallons of gas.
2. Today's “minimum wage” runs anywhere from \$15-\$25 an hour for similar jobs like I had as a teen. But, gas at \$4-\$5 a gallon means a teen can buy 3-5 gallons of gas for one hour's work today.
3. Growing up, my dad would have to pay ~\$2,000 for a new car. A new house was around \$20,000. 10:1 ratio. Today, (here in Colorado) new homes run \$400,000 to \$600,000 (or more) and a car will run somewhere around \$35,000-\$50,000 (depending on too many factors to deal with here). That ends up being anywhere from 8:1 to 15:1 (again, “depending”).
4. Did anyone pay attention to the JUMP in soda pricing in the last year or so? From ~\$3.00 for a 12 pack to now \$6 or more—and the way the grocery stores try to mitigate it is to offer you BOGO or a “buy three, get three for free” which ends up still costing you usually between \$3 and \$4 per 12-pack, but now you have a LOT of soda to deal with. (They aren't COSTCO or SAMS, but you end up thinking the same way.)
5. I distinctly remember, in 1979, when gas prices jumped from \$.35/gal to around \$.85/gal in literally a couple of weeks. I watched as the pricing jumped almost daily. I remember Johnny Carson opining that he believed there was a “lot of \$1/gallon gas in the ground somewhere.” Of course, gas in UK was like \$1/imperial gallon (~\$.85/US gallon).
6. It's not always the specific price of something that is a problem, it's the VOLATILITY of price from day to day that drives people crazy. I recently watched King Soopers (at 136th and Quebec) vary pricing literally day-to-day from \$4.50/gal to \$3.80/gal—sometimes pricing changing during the day as well.

The real issue is ... prices go up faster than income. When it's for “luxury items, you can deal with it. When it's for essentials (transportation to/from work, food on the table, rent, etc.), simply saying “learn to budget better” doesn't work because no one can predict how much things will cost tomorrow or how much our COLA raise will be for this year...that's the problem.

*Bill*



## Special Birthdays

### 80 Years "YOUNG"

James William Luke  
Jerry Raymond Rice  
George Raymond Selbe  
Robert Wayne Sivacoe

### 70 Years

Thomas K. Kerlee

### 50 Years

Cleat Young

### 40 Years

Ryan Andrew Klassy

### Our Youngster

Elias David Trzos (31)

October was originally the eighth month in the early Roman calendar, its name coming from the Latin *octo*, and it is now known for events like Halloween on October 31 and the Hunter's Moon, which often appears in mid-October. In Old England, it was called *Winmonath* ("wine month") and *Winterfylleth* ("winter full moon").

Two Zodiac signs represent the month of October. If you were born between October 1st and 22nd, you're a Libra. Libras are known to be calm and balanced with impeccable taste.

Born between October 23rd and 31st? You're a Scorpio. Scorpions are known to be passionate and magnetic with a strong will.

October is known as the best harvesting month for many crops including apples, carrots, corn, grapes, onions, potatoes and squash. Oh, and obviously pumpkins too!

The opal is the birthstone of October. It is the only birthstone that isn't crystalized and can take on many shapes and colors. Opal deposits have even been discovered on Mars. How cool is that!?

October 2nd is International Coffee Day.

October 8th is National Kick Butt Day.

October 15th is National Grouch Day.

October 29th is National Cat Day.



13  
OCT  
1775



# MEMORIAL SCROLL

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| James Christian Carner, 32°     | 08/18/2026 |
| Edward Francis Charter, 32°     | 12/31/2024 |
| Forrest Earle Curtis, 32°       | 08/30/2026 |
| Daniel Baber DeHoog, 32°        | 01/01/2026 |
| Clinton John Dexter, 32°        | 06/11/2026 |
| James Wilson Handy, 32°         | 07/25/2026 |
| James Henry Harris, 33°         | 07/06/2026 |
| Bruce Clark Hepp, 32°           | 07/13/2026 |
| James Theodore Hinricks, 32°    | 06/09/2026 |
| Richard Henry Karns, 33°        | 08/23/2026 |
| Ernest Barry Kozacek, 32°       | 07/25/2026 |
| Zachary Kutner, 32°             | 08/24/2026 |
| George Robert Lewis, 32°        | 11/29/2025 |
| Cecil Edward Norrid, 32°        | 05/13/2026 |
| Dale Lee Pierce, 32°            | 07/08/2026 |
| Dennis James Rapier, 32°        | 06/16/2026 |
| Charles Curtis Robinson II, 32° | 06/24/2026 |
| Dwight Allen Singleton, 32°     | 07/15/2026 |
| Gerald Lee Trent, 32°           | 01/01/2018 |
| Manuel Vigo-Torres, 32°         | 06/13/2026 |
| Jerrold Wayne Westbrook, 32°    | 06/19/2026 |



**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 Colomban, 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.**

**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.**

EST. 1801

CELEBRATING  
225 YEARS



# DENVER CONSISTORY

SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY

225<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

## FALL REUNION

JOIN US FOR OUR HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY EVENT

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**66<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Fall 2026  
Nov. 12, 13, 14, 2026**

**Thursday Nov. 12, 2026**

7:30 AM Registration  
8:00 AM Welcome/Class Instruction  
**8:20 AM Exemplify 4°**  
9:00 AM Communicate 5°  
9:07 AM Communicate 6°  
9:14 AM Communicate 7°  
9:21 AM Communicate 8°  
**9:33 AM Exemplify 9° & 10°**  
**10:40 AM Exemplify 11°**  
**11:42 AM Exemplify 12°**  
12:19 PM Lunch  
1:12 PM Shrine presentation  
**1:38 PM Exemplify 13°**  
**2:25 PM Exemplify 14°**  
**3:47 PM Exemplify 15°**  
4:53 PM Communicate 16°  
5:00 PM Communicate 17°  
5:07 PM Adjourn

**Friday Nov. 13, 2026**

8:00 AM Class Convenes  
**8:17 AM Exemplify 18° First & Second Apartment**  
**9:16 AM Exemplify 18° Third Apartment**  
10:00 AM KSA Presentation  
10:23 AM Communicate 19°  
**10:35 AM Exemplify 20° First Section**  
**11:20 AM Exemplify 20° Second Section**  
11:50 AM Grand Master Address  
12:10 PM Lunch  
**1:10 PM Exemplify 21°**  
1:45 PM Communicate 22°  
**2:17 PM Exemplify 23°**  
**3:05 PM Exemplify 24°**  
3:51 PM Communicate 25°  
3:58 PM Communicate 26°  
4:05 PM Communicate 27°  
4:12 PM Communicate 28°  
**4:22 PM Exemplify 29°**  
5:09 PM Adjourn

**Saturday Nov. 14, 2026**

8:00 AM Class Convenes  
8:05 AM Class Photos  
**9:06 AM Exemplify 30° 1<sup>st</sup> Apartment**  
**9:26 AM Exemplify 30° 2<sup>nd</sup> Apartment**  
**9:46 AM Exemplify 30° 3<sup>rd</sup> Apartment**  
10:13 AM Secretary's Presentation  
**10:36 AM Exemplify 30° 4<sup>th</sup> Apartment**  
11:12 AM Committee Tours  
12:02 PM Lunch  
12:55 PM S.G.I.G. Address  
1:22 PM Communicate 31°  
**1:35 PM Exemplify 32° First Section**  
**2:35 PM Exemplify 32° Second Section**  
3:50 PM Adjourn  
**5:30 PM Ring Ceremony**  
**6:00 PM Banquet**  
25- & 50-Year Membership Awards  
8:00 PM Adjourn



# The Other Reindeer Christmas Carolers

Scottish Rite December 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting

7:00PM Entertainment for any Masons and their families and guests.

Dinner available by reservation at 6:00pm <https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/#NCXEPf> <select December Dinner>



## **Burns Night Supper & Whisky College**

**Saturday, January 16, 2027**

**Scottish Rite Masonic Center**

**Whisky College \* 5:00 p.m. \* \$55 (Ages 21+)**

**Dinner & Entertainment \* 6:00 p.m. \* \$74 (Ages 13+)**

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the life, poetry, and traditions of Scotland's beloved bard, Robert Burns!

### **Whisky College - American Malts**

This year's Whisky College will be led by **Trey Perrin and Clark Boyer**, who will explore the world of **American Malts**. Discover what makes American malt whisky unique and experience a selection of whiskies while learning more about their character, production, and traditions.

Advance tickets only. **Reserved tables are available with the purchase of 8 dinner tickets.**

Full event details and ticket information will be available beginning October 15 at:

[DenverBurnsSupper.com](http://DenverBurnsSupper.com)

**Additional details about this year's selection and program will be announced soon.**

**Limited Availability - be sure to purchase your Whisky College tickets early!**

### **Burns Supper Dinner**

Enjoy an evening of traditional Scottish fare with a delicious menu featuring:

**Apple & Cheddar Salad**

**Haggis with Whiskey Cream Sauce**

**Beef Wellington, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Brussels Sprouts**

**Sticky Toffee Pudding**

The evening will also feature **bagpipes, live music, Burns poetry, and a silent auction**, with additional entertainment details to be announced.

**Tickets Go On Sale October 15, 2026**

**Proceeds support RiteCare Colorado's programs for childhood language disorders and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center building preservation.**

# *MEDIA PRESENCE*



Denver Consistory Web Page

<https://denverconsistory.org>

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



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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°**  
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**Matt Raia, 33°**  
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Recorder  
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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**

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

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Contact:

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or

[alex@denverconsistory.org](mailto:alex@denverconsistory.org)