



On the Level



Jan - Feb 2023

Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41, AF & AM

Denver, CO

IN THIS ISSUE

1 - Masonic Trivia

The Highest Lodge in the world

2 - Calendar of Events

3,4 - Officer's messages

Bro Johann Ortner, WM
Bro Richard Heath, SW
Bro Kyle Ennenga, JW

5 - The Secretary's Desk

Have a Coke and a smile

6 - Current officers & Past Masters



Our home, the historic Masonic building at 1614 Welton Street in downtown Denver

Masonic Trivia



The summit of Mt. Meiggs

Think that the highest lodge is Corinthian Lodge No. 35 in Leadville, at 10,200 feet?

No, that honor goes to Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094 in Oroya, Peru, at 14,167 feet.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland chartered the Lodge in 1911. American executives and engineers employed by the various mines and construction camps in Peru made up most of the membership.

In 1914, the lodge requested a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland permitting them to hold a regular lodge meeting at the summit of Mt. Meiggs in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 17,575 feet. The dispensation was granted and on August 29, 1914, twenty-six Master Masons held the highest regular meeting of its kind in the history of Freemasonry.



Calendar of Events

January



Saturday, January 7th
Installation of officers

Join us with family and friends as we host an open installation of our 2023 officers
Opens at 9am



Wednesday, January 11th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Friday, January 20th
Past Master Degree

Lodge opens at 6:30pm - open to all sitting and Past Masters



Wednesday, January 25th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm

February



Wednesday, February 8th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Tuesday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day - you best not forget your wives and sweethearts



Wednesday, February 22nd
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Light From the East

Bro Johann Ortner, Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

First, I'd like to thank all the brothers who accepted positions as officers in our Lodge and/or the positions in one of the committees we have. Second, a big thank to our Junior Past Master Nick Miller for all he has done during his time in the East.

It is needless to say how excited I am to be your Worshipful Master for this year and work with such an awesome line of officers and Brethren.

We will have the installation ceremony on Jan 7 from 0900 - 1200, along with the presentation of the Mason of the Year awards.

Not long thereafter, we'll have on Jan 11 our first stated meeting in 2023. It is then when I'll provide more details about my vision for 2023 - building on what has worked well in the past, but exploring additional opportunities.

However, this is not my lodge, this is *our* Lodge. I encourage everybody to reach out to me or any of the officers for ideas and proposals to keep our lodge meetings engaging, exciting, and educational.

Please plan on attending these meetings and use our OLP Page to RSVP for dinner and attendance. It makes life a lot easier for, especially for the JW who is responsible for planning dinners and refreshments. It'll save him time and money if the RSVPs submitted timely (and relieve some stress as well). Everybody who has been in this chair knows that inner struggle - will there be enough food for the Brethren, or will there be a lot of left overs which are fun to take home but translate into money the lodge could have saved?

My brothers, I am honored to be in the East and look forward to being part of the continued success of Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41 that is only made possible by all of your hard work and dedication to the craft.

Bro.: Johann Ortner

Worshipful Master



From the West

Bro Richard Heath, JW



Dear Brothers,

Let me start by apologizing for my negative attitude in the next few lines. If you will stay with me all will come together at the end.

I am writing this only hours after hearing that Southwest Air has canceled my holiday flight, effectively ruining my holiday vacation. Then to add insult to injury, I spend six hours on hold in an attempt to have my credit card reimbursed. The Southwest representative says that he will reimburse the card, no problem. Then I get an e-mail saying that I now have non-transferable credit for Southwest flights, not a credit card refund. I call the hotel and they inform me that my reservations are non-refundable. This is an all-too-frequent attitude in cooperate America.

As your newly elected Senior Warden, it is part of my duty to see that none go away dissatisfied, if in my power to prevent. I have also taken an oath not to wrong, cheat or defraud a lodge or brother. I am asking you, as lodge brothers, to hold me to these ideals. Let our dealings with each other be on a higher plane than what we find in corporate America.

Bro.: Richard Heath

Senior Warden

From the East

Bro Kyle Ennenga, SW



Brothers,

I trust you all have had a delightful holiday season filled with this year's atypical bitter cold, very typical overeating, and hopefully joyful time with friends and loved ones doing the things that make the holidays great.

Importantly, I hope you have had a chance to reflect upon the year gone by. Have you given yourselves that time yet? There, staring us all in the face, is a brand-new year ripe with opportunity, anticipation, and hopefully some optimism. This year provides me with the good fortune to supply you, as your Junior Warden, with sustenance and a mandate not only to superintend, but to see that none of you convert the means of refreshment into intemperance or excess. Fitting at the beginning of the year, sort of like those New Year's resolutions we tend to make.

Please reach out if you have any dietary restrictions that I should know about, or if you have any suggestions or requests for our meals. I have plenty of experience consuming food and I plan to bring that experience to lodge dinners in 2023.

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Junior Warden

Did you know that past issues of your trestleboards are available on our website?

Check out website www.mdl41.com for trestleboards, the Book of Constitutions, the officer's handbook, and more.



The Secretary's Desk

WB Lee Miller



Have you ever heard of writer's block? It's a phenomenon that all writers experience occasionally, including your humble Secretary. Usually, my problem is the sheer amount of drivel that spews forth from my keyboard, whether I'm writing for a professional journal, penning a gun review, or coming up with a submission for your trestleboard. As I prepared this issue for you, I found myself doing web searches for Masonic speech topics to spark an idea for this column. Instead of availing myself of the wisdom of the ages, I wasted prodigious amounts of time going down rabbit holes while watching old movies on TCM.

I finally found something that truly sparked my interest. It was a picture of the gravesite of one Dr. John Stith Pemberton -- Brother Pemberton, of Columbian Lodge No. 7 in Columbus, GA. I owe a great deal to that Brother and fellow Southerner for his contribution to my refreshment growing up in the deep South when air conditioning was a luxury not afforded in our house or that of my grandparents. The frosty relief during those endless summers came in peculiar green bottles filled with the sugary elixir we called "Co-cola" or just "Coke". It was the last in a series of drinks invented by Bro. Pemberton.

He was a "steam" doctor - trained in the use of steam baths and herbal treatments - a pharmacist, an inventor, and a Confederate war veteran who was sustained a saber wound to his chest during a battle and became addicted to morphine. Trying to develop an alternate formula to help him kick his morphine habit, he eventually came up something he named French Wine Coca drink, which contained wine and coca leaves (the precursor to cocaine) and it enjoyed moderately successful sales, but did not cure his addiction. When rumors of an upcoming alcohol prohibition circulated, Bro Pemberton developed a new alcohol-free syrup that contained kola nut extract and citric acid in addition to coca leaves. He put his new syrup on sale at a small Atlanta pharmacy; the syrup was mixed with water and sold for five cents.

When a clerk mixed soda water instead of plain water for a customer, the resulting clamor for the refreshing new drink sparked Bro. Pemberton to form a new company to market the drink. Poor business decisions and subsequent liver cancer kept Bro. Pemberton from enjoying the success of the drink that is still enjoyed the world over.

Little is known of his Masonic career other than his membership in Columbian Lodge. Bro. Pemberton is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus, GA. His gravestone has the Confederate States of America symbol over the Square and Compasses and reads:

Dr. JOHN STITH PEMBERTON
Born in Knoxville, Crawford
County, Georgia
July 8, 1831
Died in Atlanta, Georgia
August 16, 1888
ORIGINATOR OF COCA-COLA



W.: Bro.: Lee Miller

Secretary



2023 Officers

Johann Ortner	Worshipful Master (303) 882-1296
Richard Heath	Senior Warden (303) 841-1020
Kyle Ennenga	Junior Warden (720) 323-2360
J. Randy Penn, PM	Treasurer (303) 596-3008 treasurer@mdl41.com
Lee Miller, PM	Secretary (303) 961-6455 secretary@mdl41.com
Bryan Kemper	Senior Deacon (720) 891-2721
Lawrence Laurent	Junior Deacon (774) 289-3218
Grant Sanders, PM	Senior Steward (720) 648-0222
Sterling Field	Junior Steward (719) 210-5312
Gene Anderson, PM	Chaplain (303) 819-4191
Harry Sanders, PM	Marshal (303) 325-4702
Nick Miller, PM	Tiler (303) 808-5944
Tony Clark, PM	District Lecturer (720) 838-1567

Past Masters

Albert Pike 117	Emerson R. Bails 1959	Rob Morris 92	Randall Drake 1989
	Herbert E. Akins * 1979		Lincoln Soule 1996
	Robert R Swope * 1984		Grant Sanders 1999
	Samuel L. Wittner 1986		Lincoln Soule 2006
	Robert R Swope * 1987	Schiller 41	
	James W. Oliver 1988	J. Randy Penn 1996	
	James W. Oliver 1989	Lincoln Soule 2014	
	David R. McDaniel* 1990	Pythagoras 41	
	David R. McDaniel* 1991	Ricky Haskell 2017	
	Robert R. Swope * 1994	Ricky Haskell 2018	
	Stephen T. Parce 1996	Marquis de Lafayette 41	
	Curtiss L. Sorensen 1997	Harry Sanders 2019	
	Douglas K. Parce 1998	John Davis 2020	
	James M. Desmond 2000	Nick Christoff 2021	
	John A. Myers 2001	Nick Miller 2022	
	Stephen T. Parce 2002		
	James W. Oliver 2003		
	Robert R. Swope * 2004		
	Edward F Charter 2005		
	David Parce 2006		
	Keene Daiss* 2007		
	James Oliver 2008		
	Herbert Akins * 2009		
	Robert R. Swope * 2010		
	Christopher Scott 2011		
	Daniel R. McCune 2012		
	Jeremiah "Jay" Allen 2013		
	Richard M. Murray 2014		
	Dean McConnell 2015		
	Bill Busby 2016		
	Lee Miller 2017		
	Anthony Florez 2018		

(* Deceased)

Past Grand Masters

Glenn B. Van Fleet, P.G.M. (1958)
R. Keith Milheim, P.G.M. (1984)

Secretary Emeriti

Christopher Wm. Scott, PM (2012 – 2017)
Samuel Wittner, PM (1987 – 2011)

Fee for the Degrees

EA: \$150 FC: \$50 MM: \$50 = \$250.00

2023 Dues

\$186



This is the Marquis de Lafayette's apron which is proudly displayed in our Lodge. It is one of five known of his existing aprons. See our website at www.mdl41.com for more information.