



On the Level



May - Jun - Jul - Aug
2023

Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41, AF & AM

Denver, CO

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

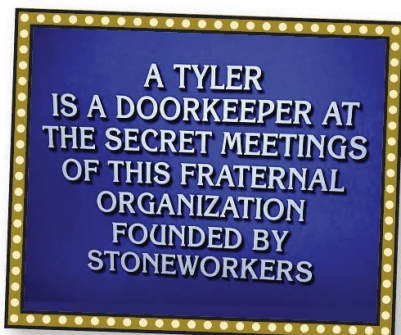
Masonic Trivia

Our "secret society" has been on the best-known trivia show in America

Did you know that Masonry has been featured on the long-running show *Jeopardy!* at least 70 times?

The show premiered in 1964. Since then, there have been at least 70 different Masonic clues presented. On three different occasions, there have been entire categories devoted to Masonry. Some of the most recurrent clues have been 'Mozart's Magic Flute' and 'the Shriners'.

North Carolina Past Master Tom Imler wore a Masonic lapel pin on the show in April of 2015, and was introduced as a member of Hiram Lodge No.40





Calendar of Events

May



Wednesday, May 10th
Stated Communication

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



Thursday, May 11th - May 13th
Scottish Rite Spring Renunion

Scottish Rite Consistory



Wednesday, May 24th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm
60 Year presentation to WB Bruce Miller by the Grand Lodge

June



Saturday, June 24th
Welton St Masonic Family Picnic

Bear Creek State Park, Morrison Rd, Lakewood

August



Saturday, August 5th
Grand Lodge Anniversary Budget Session

8am-noon, Grand Lodge, Colorado Springs



Be sure to check your email for other summer events!



Light From the East

Bro Johann Ortner, Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

Time is flying it seems - but for good reasons. A lot has happened and is still going to happen. A quick summary of the most recent activities:

Bro Randall Nelson has demonstrated his proficiency as an EA and we congratulate him.

Brian Johnson has been initiated as an Entered Apprentice on April 12. What an exciting and well delivered event that was. My thanks go out to the Director of the Work (SD Bryan Kemper) and the entire cast who made this a great experience for the newly made Mason. We welcome Bro Brian to our Lodge.

As many of you know, WB Grant Sanders has been an advocate for the DDRC for many years and his effort to support that worthy organization is well known and recognized. WB Grant was recently elected as a Board Member of the DDRC and we congratulate him to this position. In his new position he not only strengthens the bonds of our Lodge with the community, he also increases the visibility of our Lodge and Freemasonry as a whole.

Last but not least an event, some brothers of our Lodge (WB Harry Sanders, WB Gene Anderson, and myself) participated in the first ever Ritual competition held at the Welton Temple. It was the first event of its kind where any Master Mason could compete in presenting one, two, or all three Charges, where the contestants were professionally scored on delivery and content. It was a fun event with many lodges coming together and I am proud to say the MdL41 performed very well with WB Harry Sanders getting second place in the FC Charge, and myself reaching third place in the EA charge and second place in the MM charge.

We are looking forward more activities are planned, inside and outside the Lodge:

In May we will initiate Golden Goodwin.

At our second meeting we have the honor and privilege to celebrate WB Bruce Miller's 60 year anniversary as a Mason with members of the Grand Lodge visiting us for that very special occasion. What a wonderful occasion to end the first have of the Masonic year.

We are working to pass Bro. Randall Nelson to the second Degree.

Also planned are some family activities, including a summer picnic with the goal to have all Welton Lodges to participate in a fun day at Bear Lake Park in Lakewood.

Finally, we have had quite a visiting brethren come to our stated meetings, a lot of them due to Bro. John Piccone's efforts to support the goals of reaching to other lodges. Hearing feedback so many brothers who visited us in recent meetings I have to say the quality of work, education and ritual does not go unnoticed.

Again, thank you to everybody of being so engaged in the activities of our Lodge.

WB:: Johann Ortner

Worshipful Master



From the West



Bro Richard Heath

Dear Brothers,

Here's a little more about the level from the West. This is a paragraph I found on the web. It offers another perspective about being on the level.

"It is a reminder that we are all equal in the eyes of death, often referred to in masonry as the '**Great Leveler**'; It means that death comes for us all no matter what station we have attained in life, no matter what we attained as status in the fraternity, we will all look upon the face of death.

It is a reminder for all of us that we are no different from the person walking beside us on the street or standing next to us in our lodge room."

I hope you'll keep this in mind.

Fraternally,

Bro.: Richard Heath

Senior 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.

From the South

Bro Kyle Ennenga

Brothers,

I'll start this off with a simple question: "How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?" The answer is, of course, twenty: two to complain that the light doesn't work; one to suggest and recommend the problem to a committee, Temple Board or Past Master of the Lodge; three to conduct a study on light in this Lodge; two to check out the types of lights the Scottish Rite uses; three to argue about it; five to plan a fundraising dinner to raise money for the bulb; two Past Masters to complain that "that's not the way we did it in my year;" one to borrow a ladder, donate the bulb and install it; and one to order the brass memorial plate and have it inscribed.

As funny (and tired) as that joke may be there's some truth to it. We're just a lodge made up of human beings. All fallible, some frustrating, verbose, inept, aggravating, or any number of negative character traits. Yet, we are also surprising, caring, dependable, and capable men all the same. The brother in the joke springs into action for his lodge while everyone else waffles - borrowing the ladder, donating the bulb, and installing it - that version tends to be our own view of ourselves, doesn't it? We would all like to think we would be that guy that others lean on, gets things done, asks for no praise, and remains a pillar of our own community ready to selflessly serve others. Truth is, we're not that guy most of the time. I'm the first to admit it about myself. This summer, while we are dark, I am running the Entered Apprentice postings for our newest lodge brothers (let me know if you'd like to join us!). However, I am also going to commit to doing something in service to others outside of the lodge. Sure, this comes easier for those who don't have day jobs or young kids, or any number of happenings in life, but we are what we prioritize. If anybody wants to join hands to scale efforts, please let me know - let's get out there, borrow ladders, donate bulbs, and serve.

So again, "How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?" The real answer is none. A Mason doesn't change a light. Masonic Light changes the man (or so I've read).

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Junior Warden



The Secretary's Desk



WB Lee Miller

My Brothers,

I recently received a payday like no other.

Most of you know that I've not been able to work for the past six months after two back surgeries, and another planned for the end of May. I hobble around the best I can with a cane, and try to keep a smile on my face despite not being able to work, not able to hike and run, and not even able to stand at times. I don't anticipate being able to return to work again until at least July, and even that isn't a guarantee.

What I've seen is an enormous outpouring of help and concern from everyone. Jim Miles *insists* I let him know when I arrive on our Lodge nights so he can carry my 30-ish pound Secretary's bag from the parking garage up to the Lodge room. I have a number of Brothers - most notably WB John Davis - who call me 2 or 3 times a week to check on me. I've got standing invitations from a dozen Brothers to come to my house and help with anything.

The payday I've received are my Masonic wages. Benjamin Franklin said it best

"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealing with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

So thank you to each and every one of you for allowing me to draw that most special of paydays, my Masonic wages.

W:: Bro:: Lee Miller

Secretary



V.I.T.R.I.O.L

Over the past eight years, every Brother in Marquis de Lafayette has been first introduced into Masonry by a largely forgotten practice that occurs immediately prior to his Entered Apprentice degree.

During this time before his degree, the candidate sees symbols placed around him and is admonished to consider each of them. While all of those symbols are explained during his posting sessions on the EA degree, some should already be familiar to anyone with freshman college chemistry.

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One of the most curious of these is not a symbol itself, but a appears to be a word -- VITRIOL.

It's a curious word indeed, and one that has largely fallen out of common usage. Vitriol's definition is "bitter or harsh criticism", which in turn was taken from the archaic meaning "acidic".

So why, then, would a candidate be offered this word? A superficial explanation may lie with Masonry's critics. To this day, Masons are often met disdain or outright hate by certain religious groups, by those over-enamored with conspiracy theories accusing us of an end-goal of world domination, of being shape-shift alien lizard people, and of course of worshiping Satan and sacrificing babies. Masons have been met with vitriol by many outsiders over the centuries.

But a closer look will reveal that it's not merely the word VITRIOL, but instead is written V.I.T.R.I.O.L. With that comes the explanation that this is properly an acronym (rather than an initialism), and stands for

Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Occultum Lapidem

This is a Latin phrase that translates to

Visit the interior of the earth and purifying you will find the hidden stone

The origins of this motto was thought to be from a 15th century alchemist, Basilius Valentinus (pictured on the right) who included it in his work *L'Azoth des Philosophes*. Most people associate alchemy with the mediaeval practice of trying to turn lead into gold. This is not a misconception, as the Kings and rulers were always interested in increasing their wealth; the promise that a common element could be turned into gold was one that kept many an alchemist fed and housed by monarchy.

But as a Mason, we know that symbols have many deep layers, rich with promise to those who would but study them. Such as it is with this phrase.

The acid referred to by the acronym VITRIOL was sulphuric acid, which was used by the alchemists to dissolve all non-metallic substances to reveal only gold. Occultum implies the hidden work, and the entire phrase tells us we must visit the interior of the earth - meaning ourselves - to look for the gold inside us, and to reveal that gold by using the acid of our Masonic lessons. This overly simplistic explanation has a direct tie to another lesson presented to the new Entered Apprentice, that of the rough and smooth ashlar. Ponder that superficial definition for its meaning.



Those interested in learning more should refer to Tim Hogan's book "*The Alchemical Keys to Masonic Ritual*". I'd recommend this for Master Masons only in order to garner the full meaning. There are also a number of Masons in our Lodge who would be more than happy to discuss this in more detail. ∴

WB Lee Miller



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	Marshall (303) 325-4702
Nick Miller, PM	Tiler (303) 808-5944
Tony Clark, PM	District Lecturer (720) 838-1567

Past Masters

Albert Pike 117		Rob Morris 92	
Emerson R. Bails	1959	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		
James W. Oliver	1988	Schiller 41	
James W. Oliver	1989	J. Randy Penn	1996
David R. McDaniel*	1990	Lincoln Soule	2014
David R. McDaniel*	1991		
Robert R. Swope *	1994	Pythagoras 41	
Stephen T. Parce	1996	Ricky Haskell	2017
Curtiss L. Sorensen	1997	Ricky Haskell	2018
Douglas K. Parce	1998		
James M. Desmond	2000	Marquis de Lafayette 41	
John A. Myers	2001	Harry Sanders	2019
Stephen T. Parce	2002	John Davis	2020
James W. Oliver	2003	Nick Christoff	2021
Robert R. Swope *	2004	Nick Miller	2022
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.