



On the Level



Sep - Oct
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

The Autumn Equinox and Michealmas

We have two important dates in the solar and Masonic year coming so: September 23rd as the Autumn Equinox, and September 29th as Michaelmas (the Feast of St. Michael). This is when return to the center of our circumscribed circle, but only for the briefest moment. It's the time where we find ourselves at the center of the circumpunct, between the two St. Johns.

St. Michael is the archangel of the sun - overseeing earthly evolution. Michaelmas gives us strength in our struggle with learning to subdue our passions and keep them within due bounds; and all that impedes our potential - coming back to our inner center.

"Brave Saint Michael is my guide. As free and fearless forth I ride. With courage of Saint George of old. I dare to face fierce dragons bold."





Calendar of Events

September



Saturday, Sep 2nd

Masonic funeral service for WB Linc Soule

Service begins at 1pm

This is open to everyone; family and friends are welcome



Friday, Sep 8th - 9th

York Rite Grand Session

9am - 4pm at Golden Masonic Lodge

This is open to all Companions and Sir Knights



Wednesday, Sep 13th

Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm



Wednesday, Sep 27th

Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm

October



Wednesday, Oct 11th

Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm



Wednesday, Oct 25th

Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm





Light From the East



Bro Johann Ortner, Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

I hope you all had a good summer, and could get some rest and recreation from the daily job and chores.

Only six meetings to go for the rest of the year - suddenly time seems to be flying by and there is still quite a bit on our agenda for the rest of this year.

Although we were dark during the summer months, we weren't dormant. Bro Kyle, with the help of Bro Eric and Bro Grant, has been working with our EAs to have them go through the EA postings - a total of 4 sessions. The posting content was put together under the leadership of Bro Kyle. It is outstanding material - and very well received by the EAs who received it was well everybody who had a chance to see it. I encourage all to take a look at the postings materials that have been developed for the various degrees - please reach out to our JW Bro Kyle who can send you the link to it.

In addition to the EA postings we had a Special Meeting to Pass Bro Randall to the degree of an FC.

Last but not least, quite a few brothers attended a joint summer picnic we organized with some other lodges and that event was well received and a lot of fun.

The end of the year is approaching quickly we want to keep up the momentum we have with degree work, proficiencies, education, and some charitable events that are in preparation, along with a table lodge planned for Oct 21st.

Although I did enjoy the past few months, I'm ready to get back to one of the activities that is such an enrichment to my life: Brotherhood and Masonry. Similar to a long vacation that is certainly fun, after a while it begins to feel that something is missing and it's time to come home - in this case to Marquis de Lafayette Lodge #41.

I look very much forward to seeing you all again in our regular meetings beginning on Sept 13.

Love and light from the East,

WB:: Johann Ortner

Worshipful Master



From the West



Bro Richard Heath

Brothers,

The most important reminder to Freemasons, from the level, is that no matter what we do inside the fraternity, no matter what position we hold, we have a responsibility to our brothers and to the world to treat each other as equals.

Looking back on my installation, I find these words from the installing officer:

The Level teaches that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; "That we are all children of one common father, heirs to the same infirmities and exposed to the same vicissitudes."

We are reminded of this as we meet on the level at the close of each Lodge meeting. The challenge is to remember these teachings and put them into practice as we conduct our lives outside of the Lodge.

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'm staring at the EA tracing board as I write this. You know the one - you've seen it - made in the early 19th century by Josiah Bowring depicting symbols of our first degree. The tracing board prominently displays three columns, a ladder to the heavens all standing on a checkered mosaic floor providing the foundation. That mosaic pavement in the tracing board is described in the lecture as being our human lives checkered with both good and evil. At our foundation, our nature is to do good and evil things, and yes, we all have it within us to do both. I am married to someone who works for a police department; I'm reminded just about every day of the horrible things we humans do to one another. As Masons, we know that this system of ours is about how we apply our concepts to ourselves, hopefully to set upon our base nature the better, morally righteous ways to live. But it takes continual work - real labor - to ensure we've given ourselves the best chance at refraining from the wickedness that tempts us.

It's my hope you continue to study and seek light outside our lodge meetings as Masonry shouldn't just stop when the weather warms up or the WM gavels us closed. I'm also hopeful that when this Trestleboard lands in your inbox it causes you to think about what you can do for your lodge. This summer while our newest Entered Apprentices worked through our lodge posting program, we discussed just how easy it can be to lose a lodge. We are builders in the quarries, brethren. However, sitting around staring at one another waiting for someone else to pick up that 24-inch gauge and common gavel doesn't really build much of anything. When good men sit idle or don't step up and contribute, our temple really becomes something more closely resembling a pile of aspirations. How much of that is fit for the builder's use?

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Junior Warden



The Secretary's Desk



WB Lee Miller

My Brothers,

I was recently asked why we light our candles in a certain order.

It was with no small amount of shame that I had to admit I couldn't remember, and had to redirect the question to another learned Brother. Yet it was quite gratifying to see the Brother get his answer. I watched him across the room as the "Oh, RIGHT!" look spread across his face. As always, the answers to almost all questions are hidden in plain sight in our ritual. What struck me at that moment is a passage in the first degree charge, "... that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, you are to converse with well-informed Brethren, who will be ready to give, as you will be ready to receive, instruction".

I assured myself later that it was just a memory lapse or perhaps pre-operative jitters for a quickly upcoming surgery. Of course I finally remembered the answer the Brother sought from me during my contemplative drive home. Yet the lapse has weighed heavily on my mind. I've almost decided to accept my senior moment as just that, or perhaps blame the Gabapentin I've been taking for the past four months. I'll just go with that. What's far more important was the abundance of Masonic knowledge that was readily shared by another knowledgeable Brother.

Oh - the answer to those who may join me in their own senior moment? We find the answer in our opening ritual with lines from the three principal officers: "As the sun rises in the East...". "As the sun in the sky at high meridian... ". "As the sun as in the West at the close of the day..." Trace the movement of the sun around the skies based on those three replies, and the answer becomes immediately clear.

W.: Bro.: Lee Miller

Secretary



Memorial Roll



WB Karl Beimel

Born - Sep 13, 1944
Raised - Mar 28, 1979
Died - Jul 7, 2023

WB Lincoln Soule

Born - Dec 12, 1945
Raised - Jan 21, 1989
Died - Jul 2, 2023



"Gone, but not forgotten"



Your personal safety

WB Lee Miller

Masons have suffered threats and bodily harm over the centuries, beginning with the allegory so dear to all Master Masons. Amid the increase in overall violence that has plagued our society in the past few years has been an increase in attacks on Lodge buildings and on Masons. The most recent shocking case is that of Bro. Robert Wise, who was shot and killed by a demented anti-Mason as he left McAllen Lodge No. 1110 in Texas on the evening of July 10th. The cowardly shooter had posted a number of anti-Masonic threats to social media. We still don't know why the killer picked Bro. Wise.

Closer to home, our own WB Scot Autry recently sent out a communication from the Grand Lodge that in part reads

"On July 21st, a white male... has made multiple attempts to get into the Colorado Springs Masonic Center, and threatened members of El Paso Lodge 13 that the Freemasons are devil worshippers and need to be shot and killed.

This same person gained access to the Colorado Springs Masonic Center on July 27, 2023 at 10:30AM with the same description above and threatened Grace the building manager."

We cannot and should not take our personal safety and that of our Brothers lightly. We must remain vigilant at all times, regardless of our age or handicap. Unfortunately, I too often see everyone, including Brothers, walking alone on the 16th St Mall with their head buried in their phone, or with ear pods in both ears without a thought that some less savory downtown habitants may be assessing them as potential victims. When we are in small groups, our conversations often overshadow what dangers may be lurking around the corner or in the shadows. Some Lodges are in areas of the city where violent crime occurs every single day.

The lesson I'd enjoin each of you to practice is that of personal awareness. As a young paramedic, I recall once ignoring the primary rule for first responders - ensure the scene is safe - nearly to my own demise on an "officer down" call. Pay attention to everything around you, especially when you aren't sitting in your recliner at home with your family.

DoD, Homeland Security, and FEMA use a color-coded system originated by the famous firearms instructor, writer and former Marine, Col. Jeff Cooper. The color code had nothing to do with tactical situations or alertness levels, but rather with one's state of mind. As taught by Cooper, it relates to the degree of peril you are willing to do something about and which allows you to move from one level of mindset to another to enable you to properly handle a given situation.

WHITE	Unaware and unprepared. "Tuned out."
YELLOW	Relaxed, prepared, and aware. Good situational awareness.
ORANGE	Specifically identified interest/focus/threat. Ready to act. Wargaming possible reactions.
RED	Action time. You're on "high alert." Actively engaged in emergency response.
BLACK	Panicked, frozen, in shock. Breakdown of mental and physical performance.

Condition white is at home and blissfully unaware of our surroundings. Condition yellow is a "relaxed" awareness; going about our everyday lives but paying more attention to what's actually happening around us. In condition orange, we have identified something of interest that may or may not prove to be a threat. And finally, condition red is the stage that is associated with action. Things have escalated to the point where we are either engaging a dangerous situation or are in retreat.

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(Personal Safety - continued from page 6)

We can't spend our entire lives in condition orange. But the next time you've stopped at an ATM to withdraw some cash, or are leaving a bar alone late at night, your mind should be very alert to the car of young men watching your every move. You must stay alert, and pay attention to what's going on around you. Do your car doors lock automatically only when you're in gear? If you are talking to kids, or digging your phone out of your pocket, lock your doors first. Why is that unsavory person yelling at cars at the gas station? Maybe you need to keep driving and find another gas station. There's no reason for anyone to wear a duster or trench coat over jeans in July. If you see this person in public, you might want to check for the closest exit while keeping an eye on him. For that matter, you should *always* know where the exits are, in the supermarket, the mall, the stadium, and so on.

I live in the real world, and I know we can't always avoid bad places; I sometimes visit a Lodge in a particularly bad area in Aurora where Masons have encountered young neighborhood folks intent on taking advantage of the older white guys. Our own Lodge is downtown where people come to have a good time. Some of those people are looking for more than a good time; perhaps thinking to relieve us of wallets or cell phones or jewelry. We also can't always avoid bad people. What we can do is to avoid *potential* bad actors or situations. Don't take the alley as a shortcut late at night. Don't be ashamed to cross the street if you notice a group of people eyeing you a little too carefully. If you see on the news that there are protests going on downtown, perhaps that isn't the night to not go downtown.

Be aware of your surroundings. Have you ever had a feeling that *something* wasn't right about a situation? Maybe your primitive brain sensed potential danger that you felt deep in your gut, or making the hair on your neck stand up. That's when you should think about Col. Cooper's threat level conditions. If you aren't in condition orange at this point, then you should be on condition red. Plan your escape. Don't be ashamed to join another group of people. Pull out your cell and dial 911 on speaker while moving away from a perceived threat. Yell "FIRE" at the top of your voice. Just do something, and don't get frozen in analysis paralysis - "This isn't really happening to me, is it?"

Pay attention, Brothers. Don't let yourself be a victim. Walk with your head upright and your chest out, taking big, confident strides. If you think inner-city crime won't find your middle-class neighborhood, think again. Last week there was a rash of burglaries in Ken Caryl Ranch, off C470 - classic suburbia. Lock your car doors if you park outside. Keep your garage door down when you go in the house. Lock your front door. Don't get lulled into a false sense of security anywhere.

As a long-time firearms instructor, I'm going to tell that if you don't practice regularly and carry everywhere, owning a gun isn't going to help you. I forget who said "Just because you bought a piano doesn't mean you're a piano player." If you already have your concealed carry license, remember that it's not a license to shoot. Every single bullet has a prosecuting lawyer attached to it, and that lawyer would happily see you rot in jail. The best gun fight is the one that doesn't happen. Drawing my weapon as a civilian isn't something I ever want to do, and neither do you.

The First Degree lecture tells us that "Fortitude is that noble and steady purpose of mind..." and "...is equally distant from rashness and cowardice, and should be deeply impressed upon the mind of every Mason, as a safeguard or security against any attack that may be made...".

Remain strong against the adversity present in the real world. Use the noble and steady purpose of mind to keep yourselves, your families, and your Brethren safe. ✨

Dues notice change: At the Grand Lodge's Annual Budget session on August 5th, the Grand Lodge set the per-capita at \$103, up from last year's per-capita of \$85. Your 2024 Marquis de Lafayette dues for 2024 will reflect the \$18 increase.



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.