



On the Level



Nov - Dec
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

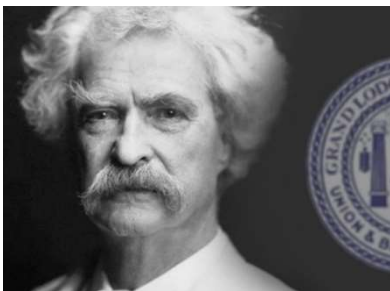
Brother Mark Twain's Christmas Hope

Mark Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, was the celebrated author of multiple novels and short stories. He was also a riverboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, entrepreneur and inventor. He's undoubtedly one of the most quotable figures in history.

Here's what he said regarding his hope for Christmas...

"It is my heart-warmed and world-embracing Christmas hope and aspiration that all of us, the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the admired, the despised, the loved, the hated, the civilized, the savage (every man and brother of us all throughout the whole earth), may eventually be gathered together in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss, except the inventor of the telephone."

I'm going to turn off my cell phone now. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



Bro Mark Twain

Polar Star Lodge No. 79
St. Louis, MO



Calendar of Events

November



Wednesday, Nov 8th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm



Thu, Nov 16th - Sat, Nov 18th
Scottish Rite Fall Reunion

If you are a Scottish Rite Mason, please support the new class



Wednesday, Nov 22nd
NO STATED COMMUNICATION

We do not meet on the 4th Wednesday of November



Thursday, Nov 23rd
Thanksgiving

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving

December



Wednesday, Dec 13th
Stated Communication & Annual Meeting

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm
Election of officers and annual meeting



Monday, Dec 25th
Merry Christmas

We wish you and your entire family a very Merry Christmas



Wednesday, Dec 27th
NO STATED COMMUNICATION

We do not meet on the 4th Wednesday of December



Dues notices have been emailed.

Your 2024 Marquis de Lafayette dues are \$203. The increase reflects the Grand Lodge's new per-capita of \$103, up from last year's per-capita of \$85.



Light From the East

WB Johann Ortner, Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

Time is flying by. We have two meetings left and then my year in the East is over, time to pass on the gavel. Your dedication to the Craft, your participation, and determination have been deeply appreciated by me, and admired by other Lodges as well.

One of focus points of this year was to visit and to be visited by other lodges, which was a great experience to our brothers and the brothers who came to our meetings - from lodges, such as Union 7, Weston 22, Centennial 4 to name a few. We have had wonderful guests attending our meetings from other Lodges, both from Colorado and other States, as well as a few Grand Line Officers in attendance.

As far as Education is concerned, we had wonderful speakers this year, to enhance our Masonic Education (my theme this year was centered around 'Back to Masonic Basics') - from the Grand Lodge, from District Lecturers, and Brothers from our and other Lodges. A big thank you to all who prepared and presented highly educational and interesting topics, and to our brethren who were actively engaged with discussions and conversations.

Lastly and one of the most important aspects of our work in lodge: ritual work. We had multiple degree ceremonies, all very well planned and executed. By the time you read this we will have had initiations and proficiencies of our two EAs, Bro Golden Goodwin and Bro Brian Johnson, and the passing and raising of Bro. Randall Nelson

My hope is that now, after the obstacles presented to us during the 'Covid Years' are over, we can continue and accelerated the efforts to attract new brothers and grow our membership numbers. Some other highlights and memorable events of this year, that brothers of our lodge attended and participated in were attending the raising of 4 Prince Hall brothers at Centennial No.4 PHA, retrieving the Traveling Gavel from Weston No 22 (in presence of Grand Lodge officers who happened to be on an official visit), a joint Table Lodge with Union No. 7 with German food and a dedication of toasts to famous Masons, and a joint summer picnic at Bear Creek Park in Lakewood.

One very special event was the celebration of Bruce Miller's 60 year anniversary as a Mason. It is very rare to have the opportunity to celebrate these special milestones and it was a true pleasure and honor to recognize WB Bruce Miller with this rare award.

This has been a very educational and productive and year for our Lodge, with lots of new bonds and friendships formed. I couldn't be any prouder of what you, my brothers, have accomplished. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for giving me and the rest of the officer line the opportunity to serve Marquis de Lafayette No. 41 - the light of this Lodge is shining strong and the future looks bright.

WB:: Johann Ortner

Worshipful Master



From the West



Bro Richard Heath

Brothers,

We are coming to the end of another Masonic year.

As chairman of the grievance committee, I am delighted that no grievances have been brought before me, and no charges of unmasonic conduct have been filed. This is a testament to the brotherly love and affection that flows through the lodge.

It is indeed a rare organization of men that can gather and inspire each other as masons do. I look forward to learning and growing with each of you as we enter into another year.

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,

Darkness has struck the world in many regions. Anyone looking back on this trestleboard years from now will note that around this time we're seeing the launch of another Israeli-Hamas conflict coupled with an ongoing war in Ukraine, and the bubblings of conflicts amongst the north Caucasus near the Caspian Sea. This is set upon a backdrop of additional concern between China and Taiwan. With all this international strife, the U.S. has its own set of new domestic strife with a Speaker-less House. What an opportunistic time for evil - maybe it's better suited as a time to reflect.

Conflict and strife. Peace and harmony. Humankind reaps and sows centuries of struggle with the duality between conflict and peace. The imagery of the checkered floor comes to mind. Mackey states the checkered floor is "colored stones of black and white [...] readily and appropriately interpreted as symbols of the evil and good of human life."

In Shakespeare's *All's Well that Ends Well*: "The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together..."

Remember brothers: the yin and yang of our world has two equal parts. When we're faced with constant ill amongst today's new and ongoing conflicts, remember that the good still exists, and balance is what is to be sought. We can be an active part of bringing that balance within ourselves as well as externally to one another. So go, do good for others today, and cherish the time we have with one another while we still have it.

Fraternally,

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Junior Warden



The Secretary's Desk



WB Lee Miller

My Brothers,

Do you have an elevator speech? About Masonry, I mean.

Those among us who have unfortunately had to or still are suffering through corporate culture have almost certainly heard of the "elevator speech". That's a pithy, easy to understand, and jargon-free summary of your business or current job that you can tell someone in the length of a typical elevator ride - 30 to 60 seconds.

How many times have you been asked about your Masonic ring or shirt or hat? You tell them "Well, I'm a Mason". These days, the most common response is "What is *that*?"



Fifty years ago, virtually everyone was related to a Mason, or knew something about Masonry because of neighbors, or parades, or the Shrine Circus, as well as other public-facing activities. Twenty years ago, Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* brought Masonry back into the public spotlight. Today, it's the rare teen or young adult who has even heard of Masonry.

The tired old chestnuts we bring out aren't going to help the explanation. "Freemasonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." That doesn't tell people anything at all. We should be forbidden to say this even to a candidate until after his First Degree! Telling people we are the "world's oldest fraternity" isn't going to mean much either, because you might be amazed at how many people haven't heard of fraternities.

When you tell anyone about Masonry, you are *selling* Masonry, and by default yourself as well. You don't want to come across as a pompous ass because you are the Grand Exalted Master Poobah. Your titles don't bestow any status on you outside of the Lodge room. You don't want to launch into a scattered story full of Masonic terms that will lose and bore your audience without answering their question either. Be enthusiastic. Be sincere.

Get organized. Think about what first attracted you to Masonry, and what it means to you now. Consider the stories you've heard from your Brothers over the years. The best story you have is one that's relevant to YOU. Now organize those thoughts into a coherent speech, then pare it down so you can deliver it in 60 seconds or less. Polish it up and PRACTICE. You should be prepared to change things up and tweak your speech for your audience. You may want to have an additional speech if a man tells you "That's great. I think I might like to be a Mason", but if a young lady asks it may be just from her curiosity over the square and compasses. Read your audience, and deliver accordingly.

As my undergraduate speech teacher was fond of saying, "Be brief, be brilliant, then BE GONE!"

Very Fraternally yours,

W.: Bro.: Lee Miller

Secretary



Events

Memorial Roll

We have not had any Brothers pass to the Celestial Lodge since July.



Birthdays

November

WB Emerson Bails - Nov 11th
WB Rich Murray - Nov 18th
Bro Wayne Long - Nov 23rd
Bro Kyle Ennenga - Nov 24th

December

WB Lee Miller - Dec 4th
Bro Mel Knight - Dec 16th
Bro Joe Kent - Dec 23rd
WB Christopher Carroll - Dec 24th
Bro George Jayne - Dec 25th
Bro Bryan Kemper - Dec 24th
Bro Mark Folsom - Dec 26th

Masonic Anniversaries

November

Bro Charles Adams - 30 years
Bro Colt Simmons - 15 years
Bro Marlon Daley - 10 years
Bro Scott Dent - 5 years

December

WB Anthony Florez - 10 years
WB Harry Sanders - 10 years



Who is on the membership committee?

WB Lee Miller

One of my favorite questions when I do an official visit is to ask "Who here is on the membership committee?"

There's usually some looking around at each other, and if fortune favors me, I may have one person raise a hand. Even that is rare; typically no one responds because most of us have never been appointed to the membership committee.

I make eye contact with as many Brothers as possible, then tell everyone to raise their hands. That's because every single Brother is on the membership committee. Not for a year, not for a term, but forever.



It's rare that when you go into public with the square & compasses on your lapel pin or on your hat that someone doesn't ask "Hey, are you a Mason?" or say "I've seen that logo. What does it mean?" Best of all is when a man asks you "How can I join the Masons?"

Now, my Brother, is you aren't just on the membership committee, but you are the President and CEO of it!

If you read my column on page 5 about elevator speeches, that's how you can really shine. Break

out that elevator speech, and use it to turn that man into a candidate. Ask questions of him to see if it's idle curiosity on his part, or if he seems genuinely interested in the Craft. If it's just idle curiosity, you will have left a good impression about Masonry.

You have so many resources to back you. If you're a newer Entered Apprentices you may still be a bit apprehensive on what you can and can't say about Masonry, so tell *your* story. Call on another Brother that might be with you to join the conversation. Tell the potential candidate when we meet, and that we'd love to have them come to a complimentary dinner to meet the Brothers. Direct them to our website, and to our Grand Lodge website. Tell them about WB Christopher Hodap's book, *Freemasonry for Dummies*. Give them your Secretary's phone number and Lodge email.

If you're in the Scottish Rite, York Rite, or the Shine, you are on those membership committees as well. As we are fond of saying in the Scottish Rite, "our members come from the Blue Lodge". Tell an interested Brother what those appendant bodies mean to you, and why you think they might be interested.

No matter whether you're talking with a stranger, a co-worker, or even a relative, you must be ready to show your passion tempered with sincerity for Masonry to that man. The next time you hear me ask who is on the membership committee, you can be the first to raise your hand.





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	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		Steve Kennedy 2000
	James W. Oliver 1988		
	James W. Oliver 1989	Schiller 41	
	David R. McDaniel* 1990	J. Randy Penn 1996	
	David R. McDaniel* 1991	Lincoln Soule * 2014	
	Robert R. Swope * 1994		
	Stephen T. Parce 1996	Pythagoras 41	
	Curtiss L. Sorensen 1997	Ricky Haskell 2017	
	Douglas K. Parce 1998	Ricky Haskell 2018	
	James M. Desmond 2000		
	John A. Myers 2001	Marquis de Lafayette 41	
	Stephen T. Parce 2002	Harry Sanders 2019	
	James W. Oliver 2003	John Davis 2020	
	Robert R. Swope * 2004	Nick Christoff 2021	
	Edward F Charter 2005	Nick Miller 2022	
	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)



2024 Dues

\$203

Fee for the Degrees

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



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.