



On the Level



Jan-Feb
2024

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

Happy President's Day - February 19th, 2024

Our first President of the United States, Worshipful Brother George Washington, was born on February 22nd, 1732. In 1882, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that declared February 22nd as holiday to celebrate Washington's birthday. This was passed as a federal law in 1879. In 1968, the law was adapted to also celebrate Lincoln's birthday (February 12th), and moved to the third Monday of February.

We have had 15 Masonic presidents: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

FYI, Lyndon Johnson was initiated but did not advance, and Ronald Reagan was made an honorary Mason. It's past time to get some Masonry back in the Oval Office.





Calendar of Events

January



Saturday, Jan 6th
Officer installation

This ceremony is open to family and friends. We will gather at 9am, and there will be light refreshments served after the installation



Wednesday, Jan 10th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, and Lodge opens at 7pm
We are conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree



Saturday, Jan 20th
Robert Burns Dinner at the Scottish Rite Consistory

Please make reservations online if you are attending
Information and reservations at <http://denverburnssupper.com/>



Wednesday, Jan 24th
Stated Communication

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



Thursday, Jan 25th - Saturday, Jan 27th
Grand Lodge of Colorado 163rd Annual Communication

Grand Junction

February



Wednesday, Feb 14th
Stated Communication

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

Valentine's Day

Are you coming to the scheduled Lodge meeting, or spending the evening with your sweetheart?



Wednesday, Feb 28th
Stated Communication

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



Dues notices have been mailed.

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

Bro. Richard Heath
2024 Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

I would first like to thank all of you who had the faith and belief in me, to elect me to Master of the Lodge. I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed officers. I feel that we make a strong team and will be successful in building our lodge.

To that end I will be focusing on degree work this year. The past few years, due to Covid, we have been prevented from making very many new Masons. We currently have two entered apprentices wanting to advance, and a number of prospects attending or meals and asking about our lodge.

In preparation for this degree work I request that everyone referee to their Uniform Floor Work books and start memorizing their parts for all three degrees including opening and closings. The sooner you start, the more comfortable you will be on Lodge nights.

While making new Masons, as a lodge we are responsible for continuing their education. This effort will require input from every member. If you have a topic you would like to present or have presented, please talk to me about it so we can get it scheduled.

And remember I have a small masonic library that can be used for personal growth or research.

I am anticipating having a great year. Together we can make it happen.

Bro.: Richard Heath

Worshipful Master

A bit of history: Bro. Richard and his wife Patrice loved attending the ballroom dances hosted by the El Jebel Shrine's Tanzers. When he expressed an interest in joining the Tanzers, he was told he needed to be Shriner but first had to become a Mason. So that's what he did.

It was my distinct pleasure to be initiated, passed, and raised alongside Bro. Richard, and to share our posting sessions together. -- Lee



From the West



Bro Kyle Ennenga
Senior Warden

Brothers,

First, thank you for your trust and confidence in electing me as your 2024 Senior Warden. It is truly an honor for me to be a principal officer of our lodge. I trust you all have had a robust holiday season filled with all of the things that make the holidays great.

I'm excited for this upcoming year. Might be, maybe, possibly... excitement borne from no longer carrying the burden of dinner prep! Jokes aside, I'm excited to continue to grow and learn from each and every one of you. Twelve months ago, I wrote about reflecting upon the year gone by and the optimism that happens at the cusp of a new calendar year. Today I echo that sentiment and leave you with this thought: as aspirants at the altar of each degree we are asked what we most desire. That answer returned at each occasion is, of course, light. Keep that in mind as we embark upon this upcoming year and continue to seek that light.

May this year be filled at each and every lodge meeting with what we all most desire. I know we're in good hands with (as I write this) WM-elect Richard Heath at the helm.

Fraternally,

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Senior Warden

From the South



Bro John Piccone
Junior Warden

Brethren,

I hope that you've all enjoyed the best possible holiday season with your family and friends. As we enter a new year that will be filled with many things both familiar and new, I hope that you look forward to the journey as much as I.

I would like to thank you all again for the opportunity to serve our lodge. As a member of multiple lodges, I would like to reinforce how lucky we are to be at MDL41. Our lodge is a special place with an experience that is its own, with our traditions built by the great brothers that came before us. It is my sincere hope that we build on the foundation that we have been given and continue to excel as one of the premier lodges in Colorado.

This year we will engage in multiple fraternal and community activities, ensuring the masonic spirit shines bright from our labors. As we persevere with our initiatives both new and old, it's highly encouraged that you attend and take part as you can, bringing your brethren light, your community kindness, and our lodge the respect and recognition it deserves.

Fraternally,

Bro.: John Piccone

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



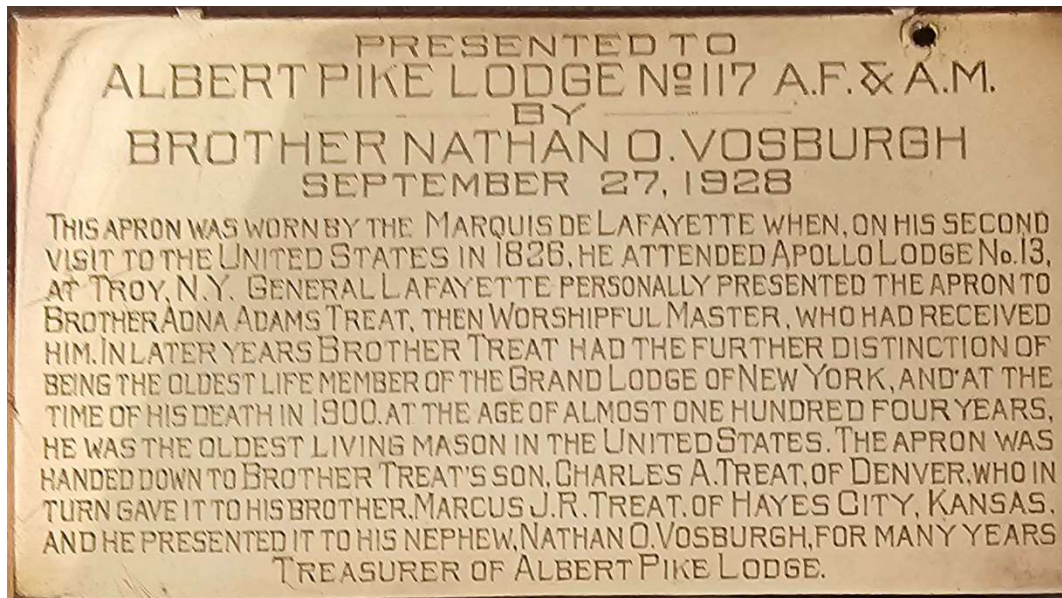
WB Lee Miller
Secretary

We've all enjoyed the small victories in our lives when things come together in happy circumstance.

My own bit of happenstance began with an unsolicited email several months ago from Bro. Chris Ruli, a Masonic historian and writer, and the Past Grand Historian and Librarian in Washington DC. He told me he was researching a new book that includes our Lodge's namesake. Bro. Ruli had found our website and the short article on how Lafayette's apron came to be in our possession.

He and I exchanged a few emails to verify that we were still in possession of the apron. Being a historian, he asked me for provenance of the apron and its journey from a small Lodge in upstate New York to Denver. Subsequently, I spent several hours in our storage unit going through all the protective tubs with our history so painstakingly recorded by hand in bound ledgers, confident that I could find the appropriate pages documenting the presentation of the apron to our Lodge in 1928. Alas, at least one bound Ledger from the 1920s was missing. (Prior to my tenure as your faithful Secretary, several well-meaning Brothers over the years have borrowed some of our records with the intent to digitize them, while other Brothers were going to do historical presentations to the Lodge. Those records are still missing.)

I had to admit defeat. I asked Bro. Ruli to give me time over the Thanksgiving holiday to do more research.



After the next Lodge meeting, Bro. Kyle Ennenga handed me a small brass plaque. He told me that it was given to him by another Brother several years ago who had taken it to shine it, and he'd just recently found it in a drawer. The plaque was badly tarnished and I could barely make out the inscription. It was a description of how and when Lafayette had presented this apron to Apollo Lodge No. 13 during his "grand tour" of the United States in 1826, and how the apron came to

be passed down to Albert Pike Lodge No. 117. The apron was displayed for a while, then eventually relegated to our storage closet where it languished until WB Chris Scott found it. The apron was sent to the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria VA to be authenticated. It was on display there for several years before it returned to us where it proudly sits in our 5th floor display case.

I've thoroughly cleaned and applied museum grade "Renaissance Wax" to the plaque (pictured above) and it will join the apron in our display case.





Celebrating Valentine's Day

WB Lee Miller

Brothers, whether you love it, hate it, or are just going through the motions, it's that time of year - Valentine's Day.

So what's this have to do with Masonry?

If you're asking this question, then you either haven't checked this year's calendar or else you aren't in a relationship because this year, our Stated Communication falls on Valentine's Day.

Behind most good Masons is his spouse or romantic significant other. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to take time away from home for all we do in Masonry. Some of us go all out with a romantic dinner, flowers, candy, cards and gifts. Your faithful Secretary is blessed with a spouse that considers Valentine's Day as just another day without so much as a "Happy Valentine's Day" passed between us.

I'd guess that most of you fall somewhere comfortably between an all-out romantic effort, and a complete indifference to the day. Here's a bit of historical perspective on the holiday.

One of the most accepted stories is that the Roman Emperor Claudius II was attempting to build up a more powerful army about 270 AD, and forbid the young men to marry. In the spirit of love, St. Valentine performed secret marriages for the young men and their ladies. Claudius was incensed at this, and ordered St. Valentine executed on February 14th. While imprisoned, St. Valentine supposedly fell in love with a mysterious girl that was believed to be his prosecutor's daughter and wrote her a love letter signed "From your Valentine".

A much different bawdy tale relates the Roman festival of Lupercalia. On February 15th of each year, there was a raucous day long celebration, the highlight of which the men stripped naked and spanked the fair young maidens in hopes of increasing fertility. Both of these stories are supported by the Catholic church's Papal decision in 496 AD making the feast of St. Valentine an official holiday in hopes of expelling the pagan rituals of Lupercalia.

Moving far ahead to 1415, Charles Duke of Orleans was imprisoned in the Tower of London and wrote a poem to his wife and referred to her as his Valentine. Over a hundred years later, the infamous King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday by royal charter.

Today, we exchange more than 145 million Valentine's Day cards, pay outrageous sums of money for roses, and give more than 58 million pounds of chocolate on this day.

So, my Brothers, I'll leave it to you this February 14th whether or not we'll see you in Lodge. If you aren't coming to Lodge, I sure hope you've already made dinner reservations for two.





Milestones

Memorial Roll

Bro. William Floyd Davis

*Born April 25th, 1945
Raised June 27th, 1972
Died December 16th, 2023*



Gone, but not forgotten

Birthdays

January

WB Randall Drake - Jan 26th
Bro Golden Goodwin - Jan 10th
Bro James Harrelson - Jan 22nd
Bro Clyde Keagy - Jan 28th
WB Kurt Larson - Jan 6th
Bro Manuel Lopez - Jan 6th
WB Johann Ortner - Jan 21st
WB Douglas Parce - Jan 3rd
WB J. Randy Penn - Jan 4th
WB Justyn Vander-Hayden - Jan 9th

February

Bro Sterling Field - Feb 17th
Bro Rick Hone - Feb 17th
Bro Brian Johnson - Feb 6th
Bro James Morris - Feb 8th
WB Jim Oliver - Feb 27th

Masonic Anniversaries

January

WB Jay Allen - 15 years
Bro William Cusick - 35 years
Bro Steve Leflar - 15 years
Bro Brandon Rockwell - 5 years
Bro Chris Rogers - 15 years
WB Justyn Vander-Hayden - 10 years

February

Bro Dave Lavanway - **50 years**
Bro Miguel Galvez-Estevez - 10 years



2024 Officers

Richard Heath	Worshipful Master (303) 841-1020
Kyle Ennenga	Senior Warden (720) 323-2360
John Piccone	Junior Warden (720) 327-3002
J. Randy Penn, PM	Treasurer (303) 596-3008 treasurer@mdl41.com
Lee Miller, PM	Secretary (303) 961-6455 secretary@mdl41.com
Lawrence Laurent	Senior Deacon (774) 289-3218
Sterling Field	Junior Deacon (719) 210-5312
Erick Benson	Senior Steward (720) 666-1632
Randall Nelson	Junior Steward (920) 737-1075
Gene Anderson, PM	Chaplain (303) 819-4191
Harry Sanders, PM	Marshal (303) 325-4702
Johann Ortner, PM	Tiler (303) 882-1296
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	Johann Ortner 2023	
	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.