



On the Level



Nov- Dec 2022

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

We are justifiably proud of owning one of the few known Lafayette aprons in existence. Here's another one that was also thought to be lost.

It was present to Lafayette by George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784, and was thought to be the one worn by Washington at the cornerstone ceremony for the US Capitol building in 1793. It was also thought to be lost...

Until it turned up, hanging in plain sight on the wall in Mount Nebo Lodge N. 91 in Shepherdstown, WV since the early 1800s. A certain Thomas Hammond married Washington's niece Mildred Washington, and he purchased the apron from Martha Washington's estate for the sum of \$6. The Hammonds relocated to Charles Town, WV where he joined the local lodge. Before Hammond died in 1820, he gifted the apron to the lodge where it resides today.



Another Lafayette apron



Calendar of Events

November



Wednesday, November 9th
Virtual meeting

Our entire principal officer line will be out of town so will NOT have a stated communication
Zoom meeting links will be emailed via OLP
Opens at 6pm



Friday, November 11th
Veterans Day



Thursday, November 17th - Saturday, November 19th
Fall Reunion at the Denver Scottish Rite Consistory



Thursday, November 17th
DDRC charity event at Arvada Beau Jo's pizza



Wednesday, November 23rd
No Stated Communication



Thursday, November 24th
Happy Thanksgiving!

December



Wednesday, December 14th
Stated Communication - annual business meeting and election of officers
Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Sunday, December 25th
Merry Christmas!



Wednesday, December 28th
No Stated Communication



Light From the East

WB Nick Miller, Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

It has been my absolute pleasure serving as you Worshipful Master this year. I can't believe the year has gone by so quickly!

Thank you to all the officers of the Lodge, and to Brethren who stepped in when we were shorthanded. I couldn't have done this without all of you.

Additionally, while our lodge has always had this since I've been a member, I saw a lot of true Masonry this year. I saw Brothers helping when they saw others struggling, helping members out in the community doing charitable work, and doing great Masonic education overall engagement in our Lodge. We have several new prospects interested in joining.

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From the South

Bro Erick Benson, JW

Brethren,

As many of you know, I love movies and certain TV shows! My thoughts are that it is a modern-day method of providing stories, and if done correctly and with intent, can provide messages, that enrich our thoughts, and provide us with perspective. The movie *Schindler's List* is an example of how a series of elements can provide a thought-provoking and emotional experience that resonate with us far after the movie is finished.

However, in today's world of never-ending streaming platforms, endless shows, and movies to watch, purposeful messages become muddled with the blandness of crap such as the *Fast and Furious*, *Saw*, and *Jurassic Park* franchises. One must be reminded from time to time to look back at the older films that provided meaning, and that brings me to the movie, *Network*.

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From the West

Bro Johann Ortner, SW



November is here and is our traditional time to give thanks. Mostly, I am grateful to all of you. I am thankful for the health of our members, families, and friends. I am thankful for the friendship of such people; the fellowship of Freemasonry is boundless.

I particularly would like to say thanks to our military members and first responders who cannot be home to celebrate with their families and loved ones.

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Light From the East *(continued from page 3)*

Masonry overall has experienced a decline in membership. There also seems to be a decline in practicing our Craft and in what it means to be a Mason. Not in our Lodge! Our membership numbers may have declined slightly, but our active membership has grown. We have been able to exemplify what real Masonry is inside and outside our Lodge, and will continue to grow as a result of that.

This is not the work of a Worshipful Master or of the officers. It is the effort of every member doing their part, staying engaged, and always working on chiseling off those rough edges of their personal ashlar. The men in our Lodge, and the work we do, makes me proud to be a member. I've also been proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your Master this year. I have always seen positions of leadership as positions of servitude to those under your command.

While the members are at the will and pleasure of the Master, never forget we are all on the level. All of you have helped lead me as much as I've tried to lead you. With that being said, I hope you all enjoyed the year and how the Lodge was conducted. Even if you didn't, I'd still love to hear about it so if I ever find myself in this position again I can do a better job. There is always room for improvement somewhere.

I want to reiterate that it was my honor and pleasure to serve as your Master and I hold the greatest hope for the future of our Lodge.

W.: Bro.: Nick Miller

Worshipful Master

From the West *(continued from page 3)*

As far as our lodge is concerned, I am thankful that we have we have good interest in new candidates interested in becoming Masons.

Last but not least a thanks to all our Past Masters. Inspiration can come from anywhere at any time. As a Brother and Officer of our Lodge, one group I draw inspiration from is our Past Masters. Our Past Masters are an excellent example of Brotherly Love. These men served our Lodge and sacrificed their time to lead. Moreover, during their year as Master of the Lodge, one could say the twenty-four-inch gauge of life may not have been divided equally.

As every man is different, these men found their own way to lead while also crafting our Lodge to what it is today. Each year, the culture of the Lodge can change and as I have seen, it all starts with the East. So, my Brothers, if you are looking for examples to follow in Freemasonry, know that you can always look to the Past Masters for inspiration. Thank you to all Past Masters on whose shoulders we stand.

Bro.: Johann Ortner

Senior Warden



The Secretary's Desk

WB Lee Miller



After the "Great War" ended, President Wilson signed Armistice Day into our history in June of 1926, with the words in part

"Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and..."

In 1954, President Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated in part

"In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose..."

Now the country also officially celebrated our vets who'd come home from the "big one", as well as those who'd survived the brutal four years in Korea.

But the country changed as we begin sending more and more of our troops to a far away country that no one had heard of. The Vietnam War dragged on through 1975. Our returning vets were spit on and publicly humiliated. For many, their war never ended. Veteran's Day parades continued -- primarily in the small towns that were the backbone of our country -- but most Vietnam vets refused to participate. Instead of the hero's welcome extended to our vets in 1918, in 1945, and in 1954, these vets were never properly welcomed home.

So, my Brothers, when you see anyone who finally dares to wear a "Vietnam Veteran" hat or shirt, tell them "Welcome home".

And please wish a Happy Veteran's Day to **everyone** who served their country.

W.: Bro.: Lee Miller

Secretary

From the South

(continued from page 3)

Network, first released in 1976, is about a tv news anchor that was fired and ends up going on the air to inform the public not to believe what they see on TV and not to feel powerless against the media, and politics.

When Peter Finch, whose character's name is Howard Beale, was given a monologue, an angry lecture to say, on live TV, he talks about how you have the choice, the choice to remove the trash from what you see, think beyond what is told to you and have some critical thinking for once.

During his mad lecture, he mentions political topics that are eerily relevant to today's global issues, banks are corrupt, endless rioting, no jobs, food is not healthy, local news endlessly talking about killings, Russians threatening, oil crises, we sitting in the house complaining. He ends his monologue rant, by informing the viewers to get Mad, to make a choice, to think for themselves, to act and be human!

You can find this part of the movie on YouTube. If you type in 'Mad as hell, network 1976' the clip is roughly 2 minutes long.

This can be used as a reminder that even 40 years ago, movies and stories had messages that invoked you to think a little deeper, question what the media says, and start thinking with a critical lens.

Bro.: Erick Benson

Junior Warden



Viewpoint: Masonry and the four rules of gun safety



Over the years, I've met a lot of Masons who are either avid gun enthusiasts or are interested in learning more about shooting. Some are ex-military, some grew up shooting with their fathers or grandfathers, and some have learned from first-person video games. Others have never had any exposure to firearms but are concerned about personal safety and want to find out more. What matters, however, is that every one of these men shares a common interest regardless of their familiarity with firearms.

Does this sound familiar?

It should, because it sounds a lot like Masonry. Some men have been Masons for a long time while some are newly initiated. There are men who grew up in Masonic families and know a bit about the Craft but haven't joined. Others have read Dan Brown's books or run across Masonry on YouTube but really don't know much about Masonry at all. So what does all of this have to do with the four rules of gun safety? Those of you who have no or minimal exposure to firearms may have never heard of the four rules, so let's start by outlining those rules.

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and what's behind it.

Those are the four rules. If you have been around firearms for a while, you may have heard them in a slightly different order or with somewhat different wording. The most experienced shooters always pay the most attention to the rules, because they believe in what they do for the shooting sports and handling of all firearms.

You can look to your Grand Lodge for their adoption of the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, and find that they differ somewhat from those of another Grand Lodge or even those enumerated by Bro. Albert Mackey in 1854. The four rules of gun safety are akin to the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry in that they give you immutable guideposts to always guide you; the four rules to protect you as you handle firearms, and the Landmarks to protect Masons in Masonry.

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(Viewpoint - continued from page 6)

New Entered Apprentices may be wholly unfamiliar with the Landmarks of Masonry. Many Masons don't hear about the Landmarks until their Master Mason degree, and even then only in the lectures of that degree. I'm not going to list the Landmarks as they exist under Colorado Masonry here, but I will attempt to briefly define what the Landmarks are. That's a controversial subject, because Masons have not only never agreed on all of the Landmarks themselves, but have also never quite agreed on the definition of the Landmarks.

I like a definition laid down by the Masonic Congress in Chicago in 1893 that says

"The Ancient Landmarks are those fundamental principles which characterize Masonry as defined by the Charges of a Freemason, and without which the institution cannot be identified as Masonry, combined with the essentials of the unwritten language by which brethren distinguished each other as Masons."

The Landmarks are a basic set of rules, usually said to be ancient or of time immemorial, unchangeable and inviolable. As an example, Mackey's famous 25 Landmarks include rules like the necessity of tiling a Lodge, and that every visitor to a Lodge must either be known by a Brother of that Lodge or else undergo an examination to prove himself a Mason. These Landmarks are designed to protect the institution as a whole.

New shooters are rarely acquainted with the four rules of firearms safety unless they take a class by an experienced firearms instructor. These four rules are drilled into every new shooter, are posted in virtually every shooting range, and are constantly reinforced. Intermediate shooters get tired of hearing them, because they think they've been around firearms enough to know those rules and to be safe. These are the same shooters who grow careless and have negligent discharges.

These used to be called accidental discharges, but I and most instructors now call them what they really are - negligent discharges. Negligent because someone got complacent, ignored one or more of the four rules of firearms safety, and have now either put a hole through a wall or door, or through themselves or someone else. Interestingly enough, police station ceilings tend to have the most unintentionally placed holes in them from negligent discharges than those at any gun range. Why is that? Because instead of living the four rules of firearms safety, the vast majority of law enforcement officers are intermediate shooters; they grow complacent, and something bad happens. Best case is they are embarrassed; worst case is they wound or kill one of their brethren in the thin blue line.

So what happens when Masons grow complacent about the Landmarks of Masonry?

We may suffer an embarrassment, such as inadvertently admitting a cowan into our Lodge by neglecting to properly examine that visitor to our Lodge. But the true price we pay might well be the death of Masonry. The Landmarks exist to guide and protect Masonry. Just as complacency in handling firearms can lead to a death, ignoring and forgetting our Ancient Landmarks will eventually lead to the collapse and death of Masonry.

It's time for every Mason to reacquaint himself with the Landmarks. If you don't have them, ask your Lodge Secretary for a copy. Look them up as Mackey first defined them by asking for Bro. Google's instant assistance. But by all means get a copy. Read the Landmarks and live them with the same earnestness as you would with handling a firearm in order to protect our Craft.

(If you're interested in getting a copy of the four rules of firearms safety, you can easily find them at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's website at <https://www.nssf.org/articles/4-primary-rules-of-firearm-safety/> or the NRA's website at <https://gunsafetyrules.nra.org>. Or ask the author of this Viewpoint article, WB Lee Miller, who is an NRA Instructor and Range Officer.)



2022 Officers

Nick Miller	Worshipful Master (303) 808-5944
Johann Ortner	Senior Warden (303) 882-1296
Erick Benson	Junior Warden (720) 666-1632
Dean McConnell, PM 402 E 131 st Ave Thornton CO 80241-1736	Treasurer (303) 915-4709
Lee Miller, PM 14456 W Iliff Ave Lakewood CO 80228-5424	Secretary (303) 961-6455 secretary@mdl41.com
Richard Heath	Senior Deacon (303) 841-1020
Kyle Ennenga	Junior Deacon (720) 323-2360
Lawrence Laurent	Senior Steward (774) 289-3218
Justin Szymik	Junior Steward (303) 888-2591
Grant Sanders, PM	Chaplain (720) 648-0222
Bryan Kemper	Marshall (720) 891-2721
Nick Christoff, PM	Tiler (303) 886-6406
Tony Clart, PM	District Lecturer (720) 838-1567

Past Masters

Albert Pike 117		Christopher Wm. Scott	2011
	Emerson R. Bails	Daniel R. McCune	2012
	Herbert E. Akins *	Jeremiah "Jay" Allen	2013
	Robert R Swope *	Richard M. Murray	2014
	Samuel L. Wittner	Dean McConnell	2015
	Robert R Swope *	Bill Busby	2016
	James W. Oliver	Lee Miller	2017
	James W. Oliver	Anthony Florez	2018
	David R. McDaniel	Rob Morris 92	
	David R. McDaniel	Grant Sanders	1999
	Robert R. Swope *	Schiller 41	
	Stephen T. Parce	J. Randy Penn	1996
	Curtis L. Sorensen	Pythagoras 41	
	Douglas K. Parce	Ricky Haskell	2017
	James M. Desmond	Ricky Haskell	2018
	John A. Myers	Marquis de Lafayette 41	
	Stephen T. Parce	Harry Sanders	2019
	James W. Oliver	John Davis	2020
	Robert R. Swope *	Nick Christoff	2021
	Edward F Charter		
	David Parce		
	Keene Daiss*		
	James Oliver		
	Herbert Akins *		
	Robert R. Swope *		

(* 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

2022 Dues

\$ 182

(The Grand Lodge will increase per-capita by \$3 for 2023)



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.