



# Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41



Denver Masonic Temple, 1614 Welton St. Denver CO 80202  
www.mdl41.com

Nov-Dec 2021

## TRESTLEBOARD

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**"I read, I study, I examine,  
I listen, I reflect."**

- Marquis de Lafayette



## From the East *W.:B.: Nick Christoff, Worshipful Master*

Brothers,

It has certainly been a turbulent two years with Covid affecting many of our lives both in and out of Lodge. While many of those who have sat as Master during these last few years can likely attest to the difficulty of constantly having to change plans as a result of the various restrictions. I can say that I am unbelievably proud and lucky to have a Lodge that is so capable and willing to adapt to the changing circumstances. I don't know how I would have made it through the year without each of you being willing to step up and help when needed.

While I still feel that I am leaving a great deal unaccomplished; this year has seen quite a few accomplishments from acquiring the traveling gavel to simply connecting with Brethren virtually who normally can't attend the in-person meetings. The personal call to action has also been alive and well in various brothers with our long-awaited Master Mason posting sessions and Chamber of Reflection being ready to roll out in the next few weeks. This is something I encourage all to attend if able! After months of delay another sign that things are returning to normal is the welcoming of our two newest EA's Randall Nelson and Taylor Schuster. While personal medical circumstances prevented my attending of the degree, I have been told that all stepped up and performed a truly beautiful degree. My thanks to all who helped make it possible!

Brothers, one thing my experience with Marquis de Lafayette has taught me over the years is just how much each of you has to teach me in a variety of subjects and pursuits and I look forward to sitting with and learning from you for years to come.

*W.: Bro.: Nick Christoff*

Worshipful Master



**Please feel free to share this eTrestleboard!**

## From the West *Bro.: Nick Miller, Sr.: Warden*

Brethren,

I can't believe it's already the end of the year! It has been a good year for our lodge. We've gotten a lot done despite not being able to meet at the beginning of the year. We were able to bring in new brethren, and have several Masonic events outside of lodge. Even though we are near the end, these last meetings are usually our busiest.

Unfortunately, due to my work circumstances, I will not be able to attend our annual December business meeting. However, I will make sure everything is in place. We will have our budget and honor lodge points figured out. I am looking forward to next year and will be glad to be back in lodge. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of our Masonic year and their holiday season.

Fraternally,

*Bro.: Nick Miller*

Senior Warden

## Secretary's Desk *WB.: Bro.: Lee Miller, Secretary*

Brothers,

One of the first things every new Mason learns is Psalms 133, which begins "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Originally, this psalm was written to stress the importance of unity in the extended families who worked, lived, and traveled together. It was a rule to live by, for strife among family members was a threat to their survival. This psalm is also called a song of ascents, meaning that pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem to worship sang it.

As Masons, this same concept applies, for strife among the Brethren threatens the peace and harmony -- and potentially the survival -- of our lodges. St. John the Evangelist wrote in 1 John 4:20, "If anyone says 'I love God' and hates his Brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

Everything in our ritual was carefully chosen, and Psalms 133 is no different. There are many layers of meaning and symbolism in this short song recited at the opening of every Lodge. Take time to consider the hidden mysteries inside this short psalm, and while there is not room here to delve more deeply into those mysteries, I'd like to leave you with a question.

How does this admonition for Brotherly love also point to eternal life? This is a discussion that we should have in the future.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

*W.:Bro.: Lee Miller, PM* - Secretary

[secretary@mdl41.com](mailto:secretary@mdl41.com)

## From the South

*Bro.: Johann Ortner,  
Jr.: Warden*

Welcome Brothers to November and the advent of the holiday season. I don't know you but I'm definitely beginning to feel a nip in the air. Good bye to shorts and t-shirts and hello to long pants and thermals. It's one of my favorite times of year. This month I have no grand thoughts to share.

But it has, nonetheless, been a fairly busy time for our Lodge. We've had another wonderful double degree this past Wednesday, congratulations to our two new Entered Apprentices, Brothers Randal Nelson and Taylor Schuster – I look forward to seeing you both on your very bright Masonic journeys! I'd also like to say thanks to Eric and all the Brothers who organized and participated in the degree work – it went all as planned and everybody performed wonderfully.

Last but not least let's keep our WM Nick Christoff in our minds who suffered a fractured foot and could not participate in our last 2 meetings – We wish him a quick and full recovery from his injury. On the positive side, this allowed our officers to step up in line to fill in for Nick while he is recuperating.

May the season bring blessings and happiness to you & your family.

Fraternaly,

*Bro.: Johann Ortner*

Junior Warden

## Calendar

### Wednesday Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dinner at 6pm  
Lodge open at 7pm on the EA degree

**Veteran's Day presentation**



### Wednesday Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**NO LODGE – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



### Wednesday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dinner at 6pm  
Lodge open at 7pm on the EA degree

**Annual business meeting  
&  
Election of officers**



### Wednesday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

**NO LODGE – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



## Memorial Roll

**WB A. Lee Casto**

**Born 4/25/1932  
Raised 10/22/1966  
Died 10/11/2021**

*"Gone, but not forgotten"*



## Directors of the Work

Nick Miller - MM Degree  
Johann Ortner – FC Degree  
Erick Benson – EA Degree

## Posting Mentors

**Entered Apprentice Degree** Bro Nick Miller  
W Bro Harry Sanders

**Fellow Craft Degree** W Bro Lee Miller  
Bro Erick Benson

**Master Mason Degree** W Bro Bill Busby  
Bro Richard Heath



## Fee for Degrees

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

<b>2021 Yearly Dues</b>	
Marquis de Lafayette:	\$100.00
2021 Per Capita Dues:	\$82.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$182.00</b>



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## December 27th

The observance of the feast of Saint John the Evangelist is held on December 27th just after the winter solstice.

This is the time that the world begins moving from darkness to greater light.

*St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist*

### St. John – The man

John the Evangelist as a Biblical character was the author of the Gospel of John. In addition, he has long been associated with the "beloved disciple" mentioned throughout the gospels, and was probably the author of the Epistles of John. He is not, however, to be confused with the John who wrote Revelations, who is usually distinguished with the toponym John of Patmos.

The Gospel of John distinguishes itself as being the only non-synoptic canonical gospel, which means that it comes from completely different sources than the other three gospels. It is also the only gospel commonly identified by Biblical scholars as being probably authored by its claimed author.

### St. John in Freemasonry

Much of the writings associated with him echo common Masonic themes, phrases, and some argue even ritual. Works like the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelations provide an ideological and philosophical perspective that aligns with Masonic thought. Both Saints John appear in the picture above as the boundaries described in the Entered Apprentice degree as "two eminent patrons of Masonry".

The feast day of St. John the Evangelist in Christianity is on December 27, just after the winter solstice. Dating back to the 18th century, this is a day most Freemasons celebrate and was typically used to hold installations of Presidents and Grand Masters. This day also symbolizes the movement from darkness to light through lengthening days – a theme that will resound with every Mason.

## 2021 Officers

<b>Nick Christoff</b>	Worshipful Master (303) 886-6406
<b>Nick Miller</b>	Senior Warden (720) 323-2360
<b>Johann Ortner</b>	Junior Warden (303) 882-1296
<b>Dean McConnell, PM</b> 402 E 131 <sup>st</sup> Ave Thornton CO 80241-1736	Treasurer (303) 915-4709
<b>Lee Miller, PM</b> 14456 W Iliff Ave Lakewood CO 80228-5424	Secretary (303) 961-6455 <a href="mailto:secretary@mdl41.com">secretary@mdl41.com</a>
<b>Erick Benson</b>	Senior Deacon (720) 666-1632
<b>Richard Heath</b>	Junior Deacon (303) 841-1020
<b>Kyle Ennenga</b>	Senior Steward (720) 323-2360
<b>Harry Sanders, PM</b>	Junior Steward (303) 325-4702
<b>Bill Busby, PM</b>	Chaplain (303) 829-8812
<b>Lawrence Laurent</b>	Marshall (774) 289-3218
<b>Justin Szymik</b>	Tiler (303) 888-2591
<b>Ricky Haskell, PM</b>	District Lecturer

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### Prompter

W. Bro. Bill Busby, PM

### Webmaster

W. Bro. Lee Miller, PM

### Social Media Coordinators

W. Bro. Lee Miller, PM  
W. Bro. J. Randy Penn, PM

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## Past Masters

### Albert Pike 117

Emerson R. Bails	1959
Herbert E. Akins *	1979
Robert R Swope *	1984
Samuel L. Wittner	1986
Robert R Swope *	1987
James W. Oliver	1988
James W. Oliver	1989
David R. McDaniel	1990
David R. McDaniel	1991
Robert R. Swope *	1994
Stephen T. Parce	1996
Curtis L. Sorensen	1997
Douglas K. Parce	1998
James M. Desmond	2000
John A. Myers	2001
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

(\* Deceased)

Christopher Wm. 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

### Pythagoras 41

Ricky Haskell	2017
Ricky Haskell	2018

### Marquis de Lafayette 41

Harry Sanders	2019
John Davis	2020

## Past Grand Masters

Glenn B. Van Fleet, P.G.M. (1958)  
R. Keith Milheim, P.G.M. (1984)

## Secretary Emeritus

Christopher Wm. Scott, PM (2012 – 2017)  
Samuel Wittner, PM (1987 – 2011)



## The Lafayette Apron