



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

August 1, 2024

Volume 6 Issue 7

From the Desk of the Grand Master

FREEMASONRY AND THE CIVIL WAR - A HOUSE UNDIVIDED by Bro. Justin Love

The Civil War was the single most divisive event in our nation's long history. No other war, political event, or national crisis has ever approached the levels of animosity and hatred that the Civil War caused. Brother fought against brother. Fathers against sons. Families were forever split over the idealism of the War. They were not alone. Major national organizations and Churches, also broke up over the issues of slavery and States' Rights. The War seemed to destroy the bonds of any organization it touched.

All the organizations, that is, except one: Freemasonry. While the War raged around them, Freemasons held on to the ties and the idealism that brought them together in the first place. Thousands of Masons fought in the War, and many died. But the tenets of the Craft, those ideals and moral codes that we, as Freemasons, strive to abide by, were able to overcome the hatred and the animosity that the War generated.

There are a number of reasons why Masonry could rise above the hatred of war, the First being the long and storied history of the Craft. The beliefs and tenets of the Masonic Lodge predate not only the Civil War, but the Constitution, and the discovery of the New World. When a tradition of that many years exists, it is difficult to ignore.

A Second reason masonry held together is that membership in a Masonic Lodge is by choice alone. No man has ever been forced into joining a Lodge. We, in Colorado, have said it's okay to state (to a family member, friend, or coworker) "I think you would be a good fit for our fraternity" and then invite said man to an open Lodge function(s)

The third reason is the structure of the Craft itself. There are several internal rules and customs that helped the Lodge as a whole avoid the turbulent politics and divisiveness of the War. This allows the Lodge to continue to function as a place a man could go when he needed help, or a quiet haven from the storms that raged outside the Craft. It was then, and continues to be today, a place where true brotherhood exists.

One of the best examples of these ties of brotherhood occurred on the battlefield at Gettysburg. A true turning point of the War saw 93,000 Federal troops doing battle with 71,000 Confederates. Of those numbers, more than 35,000 were killed or wounded in the three days of fighting from 1 to 3 July, 1863. 35,000 men were killed or wounded in this action, 17,930 of those were Freemasons.

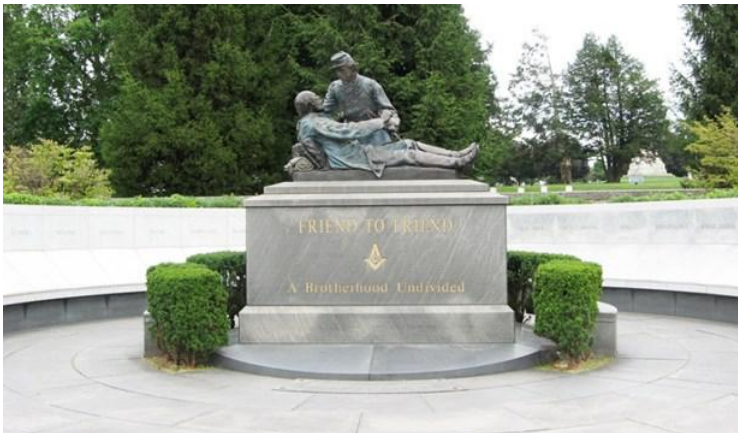


From the Desk of the Grand Master

(Continued)

One of the most famous events that occurred was known as Pickett's Charge. On 3 July, Pickett (a member of Dove Lodge #51, Richmond, Va) led nearly 12,000 men on a long rush across open fields towards the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. One of the men leading that charge was Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead, CSA. A member of Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge #22. Originally from North Carolina, Armistead had attended West Point. During that time, he served with now Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, USA (Charity Lodge #190, Norristown, Pa.) The two had become good friends; however, it had been over two years since the two men had had any contact. Until Gettysburg...

During the action, both men were wounded. Armistead was shot from his horse, and mortally wounded. Hancock's saddle took a hit, driving nails and pieces of wood into his thigh. It became clear that Armistead's injuries were fatal. Knowing that his old friend was somewhere behind the Union lines, Armistead exhibited the Masonic sign of distress. This was seen by Captain Henry Harrison Bingham, (Chartiers Lodge #297, Canonsburg, Pa.). He went to the fallen Armistead and declared that he was a fellow Mason. The two men spoke and when Armistead realized that Bingham had direct access to Hancock, he entrusted his personal effects to him, his Masonic watch, the Bible upon which he had taken his obligations, and a number of other items. Bingham returned to the Union camp to deliver the items. Armistead died two days later.



Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial in Gettysburg, PA

During the war, and in the years just prior to it, the questions of secession, slavery, and states' rights were as much on the minds of Masons in this country as anyone. There was almost no way of escaping the thoughts of imminent war. The following is taken from a letter, drafted in June 1861, from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and sent to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee decrying the situation that the country was in.

From the Desk of the Grand Master (Continued)

"As to the present deplorable state of this country, Masons cannot fail to have opinions as to the cause that produced it. It is to be feared that some of our brethren are in arms against the union of the States; others are in the ranks of its defenders. Taught by the history of the Order. . . they have carried these principles into the formation of opinions on the present crisis in our national history. But while Masons, as individuals, have been thus influenced and are acting in harmony with such views, Freemasonry is a silent, unimpassioned, abstracted observer of events. . . "Brethren -- We, with you, deplore the present unnatural and deeply distressing condition of our national affairs. But if this whirlwind threatens to overwhelm us, yet in this last extremity, the still small voice of Masonic faith will be uttered and heard, saying, Brethren, there is help at hand in this time of need.

"'Surely your God is our God; your faith our faith; your landmarks our landmarks; your joy our joy; your prosperity our satisfaction.' Then let us unitedly work together for the preservation and perpetuity of a common inheritance. . . We will aid in maintaining unity, peace and concord, among the brethren and citizens of united sovereign States in our glorious Union. If all bonds should be broken, all ties rent asunder; if discord, dissension, and disruption, shall mark the decline and fall of the most wise and wonderful of the governments of mankind, let the Masonic temple, in all States, kingdoms, lands, peoples or confederacies, be common refuge of an indestructible Masonic fraternity."

These sentiments were echoed by virtually all of the other Grand Lodges at one point or another during this time period. Negotiation was the overwhelmingly favored option. However, if war occurred, everyone hoped and believed that the Fraternity would be able to survive the conflict. During the time of the Civil War, there was a serious question of what bound the new generation of Americans to the federal Constitution. There was a good deal more significance paid to the individual state identities. People would identify themselves as a Virginian first, and then as an American. This question of dual citizenship would plague this country until the question was settled through the bloodshed of civil war.

The Masonic brotherhood was and is founded on three basic principles that we use to provide a moral guideline for our lives. Those three tenets are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. The concepts themselves seem simple enough. The first teaches us that we should love and respect all of our brethren of the earth, regardless of whether they are members of the Craft or not. The second teaches that we should do all that we can to help those who need our assistance. The third teaches us that we should ever seek the light of knowledge, for only in knowledge can men be truly free.

From the Desk of the Grand Master

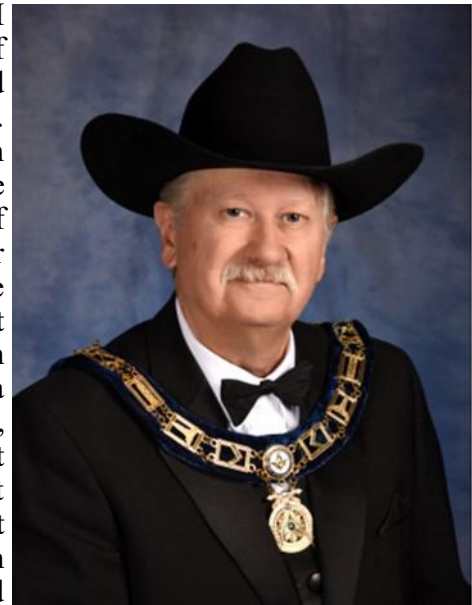
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During the Civil War, Masons on both sides of the line had opportunities to display those virtues. The story of Armistead, Bingham, and Hancock is only one of hundreds of anecdotes that can be related about Masonic brotherhood overcoming the hatred and animosity of the Civil War.

Some Masons took to wearing the signs and symbols of the Craft on their uniforms, in the hopes that a Mason on the other side, upon recognizing him as a Brother, would spare him harm. Masons were also very active in the hospitals and the care units at the sites of major battles. Often, the hospitals were located on the farms or in the buildings owned by Masons. The Masonic Temple in Vicksburg was used as a hospital first by the Confederates, and then by the Federals after the fall of Vicksburg on 4 July, 1863.

There are many reasons why Freemasonry was able to survive the divisiveness of the Civil War. The sense of tradition that extends back over many centuries lends it an air of dignity and reverence that is very difficult to ignore. No other organization or government has so long and storied a tradition.

My Brothers this was a rather lengthy article that I felt compelled to share with each of you. The importance of never forgetting what our founding fathers gave to us and lived, and bled, and died to protect can never be forgotten. When I hear or witness a Brother; sniping and talking down or behind another's brother's back it saddens me. I urge each of you to look beyond your pride at the landmarks of our craft, the obligations that you have taken to stand up for and never set aside, to whisper good counsel and aid in the reformation of your brother. These things stand us apart from the crowd, they elevate us to a need, even an obligation to stand up for each other. To believe each of you is a brother and whether we believe in each other's movements, circumstances, or thoughts we are brothers and deserve that respect and love as a Mason! Never forget the history that brought us to this place in the world. Even if it is not something we are proud of we need to remember and learn from past mistakes. I encourage each of you to look beyond the self and to the Craft and never forget.



Dave Reynolds, GM

From the Desk of the Grand Master (Continued)

This is just a small portion of the original article and I encourage each of you to go to the Masonic Trowel and read the entire piece. I salute Bro Love for his love of the subject and the way in which he has presented this. The complete article footnotes and references can be found at the Masonic Trowel, written by Brother Justin Love [Freemasonry And The Civil War - A House Undivided \(themasonictrowel.com\)](http://themasonictrowel.com)

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado Presents...

The 2024 Colorado Masonic Symposium



What You Can Expect:

- Multiple Speakers
- Masonic Vendors
- All Masonic Banquet
- and More!

September 14, 2024
ALL DAY EVENT

**Seek, Discover, Illuminate
MASONRY**

Guest Speakers Include:

Dean McConnell
Senior Grand Warden

Ben Williams
Rocky Mountain Mason

John Nagy
Renowned Masonic Author



Also: Boe Hawkins, Martin Sugg, John Piccone, and more!

1150 Panorama Dr, Colorado Springs CO

Special Notice from the Most Worshipful Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Colorado, A. F. & A. M.

ORGANIZED, AUG., 2, 1861.

David L. Reynolds
Grand Master - 2024
1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

O: 719-623-5345

grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org

June 27, 2024

Brethren:

It has come to the attention of the Grand Lodge office that several lodges have lost their Nonprofit status by failing to file their 990's with the IRS. There are reasons to believe that some of those lodges identified are in good standing with the IRS, and this false negative has been caused by a bad EIN number being filed at the Grand Lodge office. Some of the lodges identified have provided proof that they are in good standing. Section 68E of the Colorado Book of Constitution requires every lodge to forward a copy of their filing sent receipt to the Grand Lodge by 15 June each year. I am asking that they also include an accurate EIN and if unable to provide a copy of your filing sent receipt, then a status on where you are in recovering, your Nonprofit status. Please assist the Grand Lodge office in collecting this very important information.

To assist those lodges that have lost their Nonprofit status I have assembled a team to assist lodges in answering questions and directing them in the process to get their status back. The following individuals have agreed to answer questions that come up and advise those lodges working to get their status back. Please be courteous and patient when working with these Worshipful Brothers and remember they are Volunteers. They have agreed to assist the Craft and need our utmost respect for their efforts.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

WB John Groves: johngroves@mac.com

Grand Junction

WB Terry Blake: sblaketerry@gmail.com

Denver

ACCOUNTING:

WB Brandon Doellingen: accounts@coloradofreemasons.org

Colorado Springs

Fraternally,



M. W. Brother David L. Reynolds
Grand Master 2024

Boulder Lodge No, 14 Sweat Lodge Ceremony

By Bro. Lance D. White Horse

On June 15th, Brethren of Boulder Lodge #14 participated in a traditional Lakota Sweat Lodge ceremony. The Lakota Sweat Lodge ceremony focuses on purification and renewal, a concept shared among Freemasonry.

There are two main symbolic interpretations of the space one enters during the ceremony. The first, widely recognized interpretation is that entering the sweat lodge symbolizes re-entering the mother's womb. The supporting branches of the structure represent her ribs, and the steam inside symbolizes her breath. When a participant exits the sweat lodge, they are symbolically being "born again."

The second interpretation is one I developed through my own exploration of Lakota symbolism. I connect entering the sweat lodge to re-entering "Wind Cave" in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

According to the Lakota creation story, Wind Cave is the place of emergence where our subterranean ancestors came out from under the ground, and into the world. In this context, returning to the sweat lodge is like returning to that place under the earth. The branches of the sweat lodge structure now represent tree roots, and the steam inside mirrors the natural steam found underground.

While these interpretations may seem different, traditional symbolism suggests they are essentially the same but on different scales. After all, in Lakota cosmology, the earth is viewed as our mother, while "wind" and "breath" are seen as interchangeable.

When one is "in the earth" or "inside the womb," they revert to their smallest and most basic form of existence. It is about returning to your most fundamental principle. Traditional symbolism often uses the imagery of a seed, which aligns with the meaning found in this ceremony.

A seed represents the smallest form of manifestation. It contains everything that it will

Boulder Lodge No, 14 Sweat Lodge Ceremony (cont.)

be within itself, and yet it has very little to no physical existence. This concept is akin to mathematical axioms or physical formulas - simple and condensed information that contains massive and profound implications. In Freemasonry, this idea is reflected in the Trestle Board, suggesting that a “return to the seed” as a return to the plans on the Trestle Board.

In our workaday lives, there are times when we make mistakes. In one way or another, reality doesn't match our plans. There are two avenues one can take when faced with such an obstacle. One way is to simply work harder and continue chipping away at your stone, while sometimes the answer is rest and reflection, and a return to the drawing board. The Lakota Sweat is about the latter – a renewing of your plans and returning to the world with a renewed perspective.



Boulder Lodge No, 14 Sweat Lodge Ceremony (cont.)



Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

To help your lodge plan your Official Visits please note that activities may change due to various issues that may arise.

Saturday August 10, 2024

EA Degree at Simpkin's Store

Description: Open to all Colorado Masons! Come join the brethren of Doric Lodge No. 25 as they host an Entered Apprentice degree in an iconic lodge room, known throughout the world! Degree begins at 10am Sharp! South Park City Complex in Fairplay, Colorado

Monday August 12, 2024

Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Description: Shotgun start at 1pm at the Hiwan Golf Course. See page 23 for registration and more details.

Saturday August 24, 2024

Cornerstone Re-dedication at Park Hill Lodge No. 148

Description: Re-dedication ceremony will begin at 10am. 4819 Montview Blvd., Denver, CO 80207

Saturday September 7, 2024

District Lecturer's Workshop at Union Lodge No. 7

Description: Refresh on the fundamentals of opening and closing the lodge. Lite lunch followed by instruction and fellowship. 11:30am to 5pm. 1614 Welton Street, Denver, CO

Saturday September 14, 2024

2024 Colorado Masonic Symposium

Description: "Seek, Discover, Illuminate" This free all-day event will host a variety of masonic speakers at the Masonic Center 1150 Panorama Drive, Colorado Springs

Saturday September 28, 2024

Annual "Barn Raising" Master Mason Degree

Description: Join the MWGLCO Grand Officer Line in their performance of the Master Mason degree with the Brothers of Douglas Lodge No. 153, Kiowa Lodge No. 116, and Aurora Revelation Lodge No. 156.

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive? A Poem

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

Is it because we say we make good men better... that once someone has fallen they're beyond our regard?

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

Is it because our standards are so high that when we guard the Westgate and seek to let in only the Worthy that if someone fails to follow his obligation we feel he had fooled us and was actually not a good man to begin with?

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

At one point or another within our Masonic Journey we say that we will whisper Good Counsel into an erring Brothers ear an aide in his Reformation.

Once a brother has fallen is he then beyond us following our obligations and are we not guilty of failing him if we don't try?

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

Is it easier to create a new Entered Apprentice then to forgive and raise a fallen Master Mason?

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

There are procedures in place to remove Masons that are Beyond Redemption and forgiveness. No man should be arrested, tried, and convicted by a court of public opinion.

Facts and only facts should be what is used to take a Mason to trial and every state has its own laws rules and regulations established in our Constitution's and administered by the people you elect to execute them.

Are we not all human do we not all make mistakes are we so unwilling to forgive ourselves that we can't even comprehend forgiving a fallen Brothers mistake?

Why is it so hard for a Mason to forgive?

D L REYNOLDS, MWGM

100th Anniversary & Cornerstone Re-dedication Ceremony

On July 20th the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado, joined by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, performed a re-dedication of the Cornerstone at the Denver Consistory building located at 14th and Grant across from the State Capitol building. This re-dedication celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the original cornerstone ceremony.



100th Anniversary & Cornerstone Re-dedication Ceremony (cont.)



Membership Awareness and Retention

Greetings Worshipful Masters, Officers, and Brothers:

As 2024 begins and we look to Freemasonry through the lens of membership, awareness, and retention, I wonder how many of our lodges are actively engaged in membership, awareness, and retention in their lodges and in the local communities?

I would like to hear from the lodge representatives on what they are doing to promote the craft from membership to awareness in their lodges and community at large. What are the various ways that you maintain the members' awareness and interest of the craft? What local programs do you have in place to expand your membership locally?

One program for consideration for 2024 is the creation of a Craft Warden position or appointee and I bet that some of the lodges already have a similar position in place, but I would also like to know if that is the case for those that do and those that do not.

The concept of the Craft Warden would be to address the above membership and awareness activities inside the individual lodges and build an interface between the lodges and membership & awareness and the GL district lecturer. The Craft Warden would be responsible for local membership & awareness activities for your lodge and allowing for a larger base of ideas and exchange of information between the GL committee and the lodges. The position could encompass things like holding and scheduling local training and presentations for your lodge as educational, awareness, retention type material, candidate open houses or even scheduling digital meetings based on approved content and format as an open meeting.

A coordinator for any and all membership and awareness, and retention for the members and prospects for your lodge and local area but focusing on membership and awareness. By nature, the responsibilities of the Craft Warden and membership/

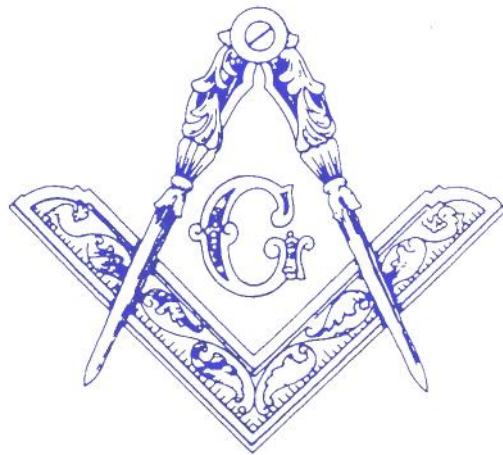
Membership Awareness and Retention

awareness committee and GL District Lecturer will cross over into the education committee arena where the Craft Warden would find online content for various presentations, educational materials and more from the members login from the education portal.

It is time that we engage and invest in the lodges into their future and build on our wider experiences that a lot of us are doing today. I would like to get a feeling from the lodges if such a program would be embraced and if they would consider creating such a position.

Please respond to the few questions above to membership@coloradofreemasons.org and please use a subject line of **2024 Membership Review** so I can easily identify responses.

Fraternally
Pete Finnie
Membership / Awareness Committee



2024 Masonic Band Camp



2024 Masonic Band Camp (cont.)



2024 Angel of the Forest

On Saturday, July 13 Pueblo Commandery No. 3 hosted the Annual Summer Commandery Festival - "Angel of the Forest" - outdoors in the spectacularly beautiful Graham Masonic Memorial Park near Rye, Colorado. This wonderful setting is at about 8,300' elevation in the San Isabel National Forest. Several other Commanderies assisted with the degree work, including Denver-Colorado Commandery No. 1, Jefferson-Highlands Commandery #30 and Delta Commandery No. 34.

The weather was great, with a temperature in the 70's and some high clouds. More than 50 Sir Knights participated in the three degrees as twenty-five men from across the state were knighted as Sir Knights Templar. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross began at 9 am, followed by the Mediterranean Pass and the Order of Malta. After a tasty lunch of sloppy Joe's, the Order of the Temple was conferred by Denver-Colorado Commandery No. 1.

The ladies joined us about 4 pm for a great dinner of smoked brisket before we adjourned to head home. Make plans to join us next year!



2024 Angel of the Forest (cont.)



Cast of the Order of the Temple

High Twelve International

WHO ARE WE?

Founded by Wally Wolcott in 1921, we are an association of Master Masons who desire to gather in fellowship INDEPENDENT of formal ritual.

More than a lunch club, we provide an environment where Master Masons can feel comfortable among brothers with similar values.

Simply put, High Twelve is MASONARY IN ACTION.

Today, High Twelve International has 122 Chartered Clubs in 7 Countries. Those are: United States (113), across 7 states, Japan (2), England (3), Mexico (1), Scotland (1), El Salvador, (1), & Brazil (1). We currently have over 3,000 members + total spread across the world. We are looking to Charter 3 new clubs very soon.



WHAT WE DO?

First and foremost, is to encourage and support good government. This is accomplished through the Wolcott Foundation, which provide fellowships to those who endeavor to pursue a Master's Degree in Federal Government or Foreign Service. These fellowships are provided at George Washington University in Washington DC.

Assist BLUE LODGES in whatever manner is needed. Partner with local lodges to further community objectives,

Service to youth, support and provide assistance to Masonic Youth Groups like DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters.

WHEN?

Meetings usually begin with a breakfast, lunch or dinner on a monthly basis. Since there is no ritual, members are encouraged to invite, wives, family members or friends to attend. After the meal there usually is a presentation on a topic of interest to the club. These may be Masonic or Non-Masonic.

WHY?

In today's climate, everyone is looking for a group, FAMILY, a cause, FELLOWSHIP, a reason, FUTURE. Everyone eats and is always looking to share a meal with friends. So I ask, WHY NOT.

Our emblem features THREE STEPS which symbolize the three degrees of a Master Mason. The clock is at HIGH TWELVE. But most important is our motto.

To Talk Little
To Hear Much
To Reflect Upon Truth

I challenge you to GIVE US A TRY, JOIN US, you will be glad you did. There are clubs in your area ready to WELCOME you. If a club is not near you, start your own, we'll help and guide you.

Hope to see you soon. For more information contact us at secreary@high12.org

FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP, FUTURE

Al Kaly Membership Trophy



AL KALY SHRINERS Southern Colorado



Al Kaly Shriners have created a new Membership Trophy to be given to a Blue Lodge in Southern Colorado for successfully providing the most, new candidates to be made Nobles to Al Kaly during the course of each Masonic year. This will be an annual award, and it will be “travelling”; that is, we would anticipate a modest competition, and perhaps move to a different lodge each year. 2024 will be the first year, and the award will be presented to the winning Blue Lodge in December. Any questions, can be communicated to Al Kaly’s membership chair, Noble Mark Giffin at 303-304-9115, [Giffin mark@yahoo.com](mailto:Giffin_mark@yahoo.com).



Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Bring your "A" game!

To the exclusive [Hiwan](#) Golf Club



Monday, August 12, 2024 – shotgun start at 1 pm

Format will be 4-golfer scramble

Golfer fees are All-inclusive –

- Box lunch
- Awards Reception
- Player "goodie bag"

Proceeds will benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Scottish Rite Foundation and RiteCare (juvenile speech and hearing therapy and treatment)



District Lecturer's Workshop

District Lecturer's Workshop

Hosted by Union Lodge No. 7

1614 Welton Street

September 7, 2024

11:30 am to 5:00 pm

Casual Dress

Schedule



11:30 am – Lite Lunch

12:30 pm – Move to workshop

12:45 pm – Learn the stuff

~3:30-4:00 – Break up

~4:00-4:30 – Enjoy Brotherhood



Learned Staff

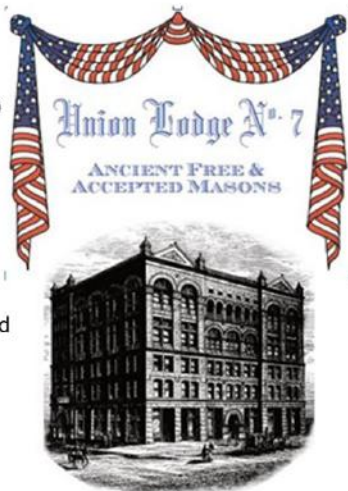


W.: B.: Michael Scott
District Lecturer

W.: B.: Bob Hoyle
District Lecturer

W.: B.: Gregg Harris
DL & Grand Chaplin

R.: W.: B.: Dean McConnell
Senior Grand Warden



RSVPS REQUIRED TO:
Chris Hochmuth, W.: M.:
DadChrisH@gmail.com

Come get a good warm up on the fundamentals of opening and closing the lodge before you come back from Summer recess.

The teaching staff will be walking us through the hows, whys, whens, how -comes of opening and closing and answering all those burning questions you've always had.

Come one, come all, bring the newer members E.A.'s and F.C.'s

Honor Flight

From the Grand Commandery of Colorado



Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is a Denver Colorado-based non-profit organization formed in 2007. Our goal is to fly every able and willing Veteran to Washington D.C. to visit the monuments and memorials dedicated to their service. Our priority is with World War II and terminally ill Veterans. We also accept applications from all Veterans. We are a member of Honor Flight Network, which began this activity in 2005 and began flying with commercial charter aircraft in 2006 from Dayton, Ohio. There are now about 130 “hubs”, from which flights originate around the country. National Honor Flight Network provides us with logistical support as well as arranging activities in Washington D.C.

Veterans must fill out an application form, which can be found on our application page <https://rockymountainhonorflight.org/> and printed or downloaded. Trained volunteer guardians accompany all Veterans on each flight. Volunteers can apply to be a guardian by downloading or printing the form available here. Various private and commercial donors support us. We are supported by many Veterans’ organizations in the region. We have no paid staff. Our volunteers organize the Veterans for travel, arrange the travel both to and from Washington, and arrange all transportation, activities and meals in Washington. The “journey” is usually 3 days and 2 nights, spending several hours at the World War II Memorial, and visiting other Washington landmarks such as the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington

Honor Flight

(continued)

National Cemetery and changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

At the current time, for obvious reasons, priority is given to World War II Veterans. If a Veteran is certified terminally ill by a doctor but able to travel, he or she moves up the priority list no matter what their era of service. We hope to launch at least four flights per year and perhaps more, providing we get enough financial support.

2024 Flights

Event: Flight #48—In pre-planning

Date: September 5-7, 2024

Honor Flight

(continued)



Honor Flight

(continued)



Honor Flight

(continued)



Douglas County Fair & Rodeo Parade



Traveling Gavels

In an effort to promote visitations among lodges in the state of Colorado we are going to attempt to provide information in each newsletter about where the travelling gavels are located

There are two gavels that travel around the state. One we are going to call the **Regular Gavel** and one the **Western Slope Gavel**. Check the requirements for claiming the gavel including the number of brethren required to attend the visit.

Regular Gavel

Location: Douglas Lodge No. 153 300 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO

Meeting Dates: 1st & 3rd Thursday ;7:30 p.m.

Master: Joel Charles



Western Slope Gavel

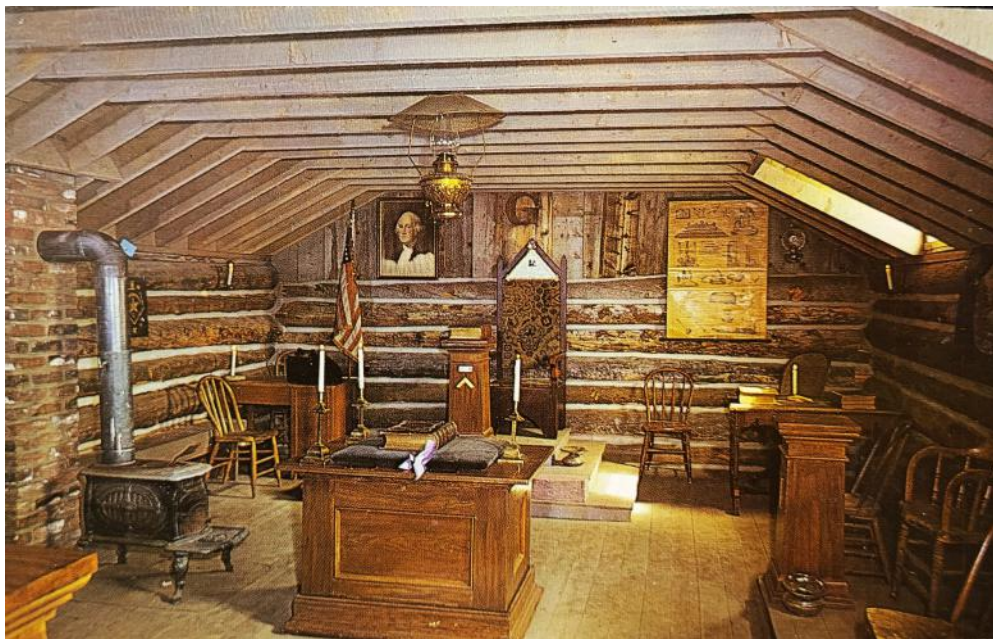
Location: Glenwood Lodge No. 65, 901 Colorado Ave. Glenwood Springs, CO

Meeting Dates: Meets 2nd Tuesday; 7:00 p.m.

Master: Duke Soddy

Simpkin's Store EA Degree

Come join the brethren of Doric Lodge No. 25 as they host an Entered Apprentice Degree in an iconic lodge room first described in the poem "The Lodge Room Over Simpkin's Store" by PGM Lawrence N. Greenleaf.



The Lodge Room Over Simpkin's Store

The plainest lodge room in the land was over Simpkins' Store,
 Where Friendship Lodge had met each month for fifty years or more.
 When o'er the earth the moon full-orbed had cast her brightest beams,
 The Brethren came for miles around on horseback and in teams,
 And O! what hearty grasp of hand, what welcome met them there,
 As mingled with the waiting groups they slowly mount the stair,
 Exchanging fragmentary news or prophecies of crop,
 Until they reach the Tyler's room and current topics drop,
 To turn their thoughts to nobler themes they cherish and adore,
 And which were heard on meeting night up over Simpkins' Store.

To city eyes, a cheerless room, long usage had defaced,
 The tell-tale lines of lath and beam on wall and ceiling traced.
 The light from oil-fed lamps was dim and yellow in its hue,
 The carpet once could pattern boast, though now 'twas lost to view.
 The altar and the pedestals that marked the stations three,
 The gate-post pillars topped with balls, the rude carved Letter G,
 Were village joiners clumsy work, with many things beside,
 Where beauty's lines were all effaced and ornament denied.
 There could be left no lingering doubt, if doubt there was before,
 The plainest lodge room in the land was over Simpkins' store.

While musing thus on outward form the meeting time drew near,
 And we had a glimpse of inner life through watchful eye and ear.
 When Lodge convened at gavel's sound with officers in place,
 We looked for strange, conglomerate work, but could no errors trace.
 The more we saw, the more we heard, the greater our amaze,
 To find those country brethren there so skilled in Mason's ways.
 But greater marvels were to come before the night was through,
 Where unity was not mere name, but fell on heart like dew.
 Where tenets had the mind imbued, and truths rich fruitage bore,
 In plainest Lodge room in the land, up over Simpkins' store.

To hear the record of their acts was music to the ear,
 We sing of deeds unwritten which on angel's scroll appear.
 A widow's case - Four helpless ones - lodge funds were running low.
 A dozen brethren sprang to feet and offers were not slow.
 Food, raiment, things of needful sort, while one gave load of wood,
 Another, shoes for little ones, for each gave what he could.
 Then spake the last: "I haven't things like these to give - but then,
 Some ready money may help out: - and he laid down a Ten.
 Were brother cast on darkest square upon life's checkered floor,
 A beacon light to reach the white - was over Simpkins' store.

Like scoffer who remained to pray, impressed by sight and sound,
 The faded carpet 'neath our feet was now like holy ground.
 The walls that had such a dingy look were turned celestial blue,
 The ceiling changed to canopy where stars were shining through.
 Bright tongues of flame from altar leaped, the G was vivid blaze,
 All common things seemed glorified by heaven's reflected rays.
 O! wondrous transformation wrought through ministry of love -
 Behold the Lodge Room Beautiful! - fair type of that above,
 The vision fades - the lesson lives! and taught as ne'er before,
 In plainest Lodge room in the land - up over Simpkins' store.

Masonic lodge room over Simpkin's store. A completely equipped with pioneer furnishings donated by more than 20 of the older Masonic lodges of Colorado. Dedicated June 13, 1959 by the Grand Lodge of Colorado in memory of PGM Lawrence M. Greenleaf who wrote the moving poem "The Lodge-room over Simpkin's Store". The master's chair is a replica of that used by John M. Chivington, first grand master.



August 1, 2024

Volume 6 Issue 7

“Barn Raising” Degree

2024 Annual “Barn Raising”

Saturday September 28th

Master Mason Degree

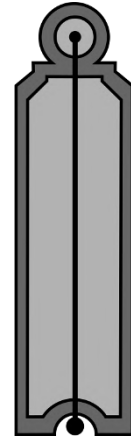
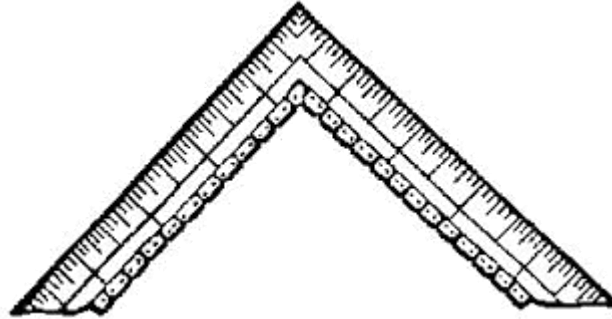
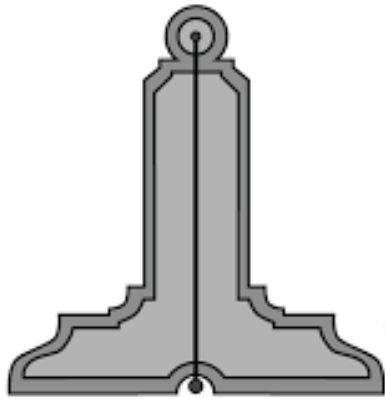
Performed by your Grand Lodge Officer Line

Property of Worshipful Brother Hoss Monsebroten

Kiowa , Colorado

Contact the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden for details





If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master (grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org) and the Grand Secretary (grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org) so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

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Submission Deadline

Articles and events that you want included in the newsletter are due to the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, by the 25th of the month prior to the publication month.



COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: BEAFREEMASON.ORG

The Grand Lodge Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. All are welcome as long as you are not feeling ill. For the front door please ring the door bell for access.

