



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

March 1, 2026

Volume 8 Issue 2

Saint Patrick’s Day and Freemasonry in America

St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated each year on March 17 and honors Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. What began as a solemn religious feast day has evolved into a global celebration of Irish heritage, culture, and identity. In the United States in particular, the holiday took on new dimensions, blending faith, ethnic pride, civic expression, and—less commonly discussed—connections to Freemasonry.

Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Christian missionary credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Though much of his biography blends history and legend, he is said to have used the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity. After his death—traditionally dated March 17, 461—he became Ireland’s foremost patron saint.

For centuries, March 17 (often the 16th or around that date) was observed primarily as a religious feast day within the Catholic Church. In Ireland, the holiday was marked by church services, modest celebrations, and family gatherings. It was a day of spiritual reflection rather than public festivity. Until the 20th century, Irish laws even required pubs to close on St. Patrick’s Day, underscoring its sacred character. Let that sentence sink in – they close the pubs in Ireland!

On this side of the pond, we are always looking for a reason to celebrate so we took the religious feast day and made it into a party! The large-scale public celebrations regularly associated with St. Patrick’s Day developed not in Ireland, but in America. Irish immigrants, particularly those arriving in the 18th and 19th centuries, used the holiday as a way to affirm their identity in a new and sometimes hostile environment.

One of the earliest recorded St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in the American colonies took place in Boston in 1737, organized by Irish immigrants who gathered to honor their homeland and support fellow Irish settlers, but this was celebrated on March 16th. Later, in 1762, Irish soldiers serving in



Right Worshipful Darren R. Klinefelter
Senior Grand Warden



St. Patrick's Day and Freemasonry in America (cont.)

the British army marched through New York City in what is often considered the first St. Patrick's Day parade, and the actions of these soldiers comes into play years later. These parades became annual events and gradually grew into large civic spectacles.

There is even a connection with Freemasonry to St. Patrick's Day. During the American Revolution, a General in the Continental Army, our Brother George Washington, was camped at Morristown, New Jersey, with his troops who were discouraged after a long winter of devastating fighting and losses. To make matters worse, the preceding winter of 1779-80 was brutally cold. General (Brother) Washington had many Irish troops under his command, and he saw the opportunity of celebrating St. Patrick's Day to boost morale. With that, Washington issued the order giving his troops their first day off in over two years, "The General directs that all fatigue and working parties cease for to-morrow the SEVENTEENTH instant, a day held in particular regard by the people of [Ireland]." With that order, our first instance of celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17th was established in the United States. A tradition initiated by a Freemason, no less.

So, my Brothers, on March 17th, raise a pint of Guinness with our great friend and Brother – Doc Powell, who I assure you will be doing the same in his Irish homeland - and say a toast to all Freemasons whithersoever dispersed! Slainte!

Darren Klinefelter
Senior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F. & A.M.

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 March 14, 2026

Southern Colorado Actual Past Master's Association Degree

Description: Annual meeting and conferral of the Actual Past Master's Degree. Location: Rocky Ford masonic Temple; 411 N. Main Street, Rocky Ford, CO 81067. Lunch at 11:30am (\$30.00). Degree conferral and meeting begin at 12:30pm. All Actual Past Masters and candidates are welcome. See flyer in proceeding pages for more information.

Wednesday March 18, 2026

Official Visit-Weston Lodge No. 22

Description: Official Grand Lodge Officer visit, dinner, and awards. 5718 S. Rapp Street., Littleton, CO 80120. Dinner at 6pm. Reception of officers and meeting to follow.

Saturday March 28, 2026

Two Cornerstone Ceremonies for Lincoln Elementary and McKinley School

Description: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado will be laying two cornerstones this day in Canyon City. Assembly will be at the Masonic center at 9am located at 114 S. 6th Street, Canyon City, CO. Lincoln Elementary ceremony at 10am. Lunch back at Temple. McKinley School ceremony at 2pm. Contact WB Dale H. Young; Secretary at mountmoriahsecy@gmail.com or (303) 918-8387 for more details.

Saturday March 28, 2026

Officer Installation: Daughters of the Nile El Mejdal No. 47

Description: 1pm to 4pm. Location: 3550 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80211. Contact Kendy Cusick-Rindone (Past Queen) 303-947-5123 or rinsickk@aol.com for more information.

Thursday April 2, 2026

Official Visit- Douglas Lodge No. 153

Description: Dinner at 6:30pm. Lodge and reception of Grand Lodge Officers at 7:30pm. 300 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104. Parking on street or parking garage one block west of lodge on Third Street.

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.

Sunday April 5, 2026

101st Annual Easter Sunrise Service - Knights Templar Association

Description: Start time is 6:30am. Denver Scottish Rite Consistory. 1370 Grant Street., Denver CO. Optional breakfast to follow. Tickets can be purchased at www.coloradokta.org. See flyer in proceeding pages for additional details on event and parking.

Monday April 13, 2026

El Jebel Shrine Masonic Evening

Description: 3443 S. Gatena St. Suite 250, Denver, CO 80231. Additional details available by contacting Kendy Cisick-Rindone at director@eljebel.org or 303-947-5123.

Tuesday April 14, 2026

Grand Lodge Official Visit and Awards-Lakewood Lodge No. 170

Description: Location; 2460 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215. Dinner at 6:30pm with awards and reception of Grand Lodge officers to follow. Contact WB James Willey 720-921-5214 or jimger89@protonmail.com for additional information.

Friday April 17, 2026

Grand Lodge Official Visit and Awards—Highlands Lodge No. 86

Description: Highlands Masonic Center 3550 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80211. Dinner at 6pm with reception of Grand Lodge officers and awards to follow. Contact WB Pete Finne 720-635-3955 or pete.finnie@highlandslodge86.org for additional details.

Saturday April 18, 2026

4th Annual Crawfish Boil

Description: Highlands Masonic Center 3550 Federal Blvd., Denver, CO 80211. 11am to 3pm. See flyer in proceeding pages for more information.

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

ORGANIZED, AUG., 2, 1861.

Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master – 2026
1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

O: 719-623-5345

grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org

EDICT 2026001 PERTAINING TO PAST GRAND MASTER DECISIONS

Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Brethren of The Colorado Jurisdiction,

At the 164th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado A. F. & A. M. proposed Book of Constitutions change of Section 20 was approved by the body, which will require investigation into the prewise decisions of the Grand Masters. To facilitate this investigation and to keep the continuity of Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction I hereby order that the prewise Grand Master decisions are still in effect until the 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado that will take place on January 22nd, 2027.

Fraternally,



M.: W.: Brother Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master 2026

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

ORGANIZED, AUG., 2, 1861.

Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master – 2026
1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

O: 719-623-5345

grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org

EDICT 2026002 PERTAINING TO DEPUTY GRAND SECRETARY

Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Brethren of The Colorado Jurisdiction,

To preserve continuity within the Grand Lodge Line, and with the approval of the Jurisprudence Committee, I, as Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, do hereby enact the creation of a Grand Lodge office titled Deputy Grand Secretary.

To facilitate further investigation into the incorporation of this office into the Colorado Masonic Book of Constitutions, and to ensure the continued stability and orderly administration of Masonry with the Grand Jurisdiction of Colorado, I hereby order that the Office of Deputy Grand Secretary shall be active and in full effect until the 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, to be held on January 22nd, 2027.

Fraternally,



M.:W.: Brother Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master 2026

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

ORGANIZED, AUG., 2, 1861.

Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master - 2026
1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

O: 719-623-5345

grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org

EDICT 2026003 PERTAINING TO DEPUTY GRAND TREASURER

Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Brethren of The Colorado Jurisdiction,

To preserve continuity within the Grand Lodge Line, and with the approval of the Jurisprudence Committee, I, as Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, do hereby enact the creation of a Grand Lodge office titled Deputy Grand Treasurer.

To facilitate further investigation into the incorporation of this office into the Colorado Masonic Book of Constitutions, and to ensure the continued stability and orderly administration of Masonry with the Grand Jurisdiction of Colorado, I hereby order that the Office of Deputy Grand Treasurer shall be active and in full effect until the 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, to be held on January 22nd, 2027.

Fraternally,



M.: W.: Brother Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master 2026

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

ORGANIZED, AUG., 2, 1861.

Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master – 2026
1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

O: 719-623-5345

grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org

EDICT 2026004 PERTAINING TO DEPUTY GRAND LECTURER

Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Brethren of The Colorado Jurisdiction,

To preserve continuity within the Grand Lodge Line, and with the approval of the Jurisprudence Committee, I, as Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, do hereby enact the creation of a Grand Lodge office titled Deputy Grand Lecturer.

To facilitate further investigation into the incorporation of this office into the Colorado Masonic Book of Constitutions, and to ensure the continued stability and orderly administration of Masonry with the Grand Jurisdiction of Colorado, I hereby order that the Office of Deputy Grand Lecturer shall be active and in full effect until the 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, to be held on January 22nd, 2027.

Fraternally,



M.:W.: Brother Dean A. McConnell
Grand Master 2026

March 1, 2026

Volume 8 Issue 2



**THE SOUTHERN COLORADO
ACTUAL PAST MASTER'S ASSOCIATION
PUEBLO, COLORADO**



PRESENTS THEIR

**Annual Meeting & Conferral of the
Actual Past Master's Degree**

All Actual Past Masters and Candidates are welcome*

When: *Saturday, March 14, 2026*

Where: *Rocky Ford Masonic Temple
(St. Johns Lodge #175)
411 N Main St, Rocky Ford, CO 81067*

Time: *Lunch: 11:30 am
Cost: \$30.00, payable in advance
(Dinner RSVP Deadline: 3/7/2026)
(Menu yet TBD, but it will be well worth it)*

Degree Conferral & Meeting: *12:30 pm +/-
(Meeting & Degree Conferral will follow Lunch)*

Reservations for the lunch are required and must be received no later than Saturday, March 7, 2026. Your check or MO, made payable to Actual Past Masters and sent to WB Dale H. Young, Secy/Trea, 60 Pine Valley Rd, Cotopaxi, CO 81223; is your reservation. For questions, contact WB Dale at scapmasecy@gmail.com or (303) 918-8387.

** Brethren, especially Secretary's, if your Lodge has a first time Worshipful Master in need of receiving the degree, or a Past Master who has never received the degree (or one who would like to retake it), contact WB Dale. We would love to include him, or them, in our conferral.*



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APPENDANT BODY NIGHT

MARCH 26, 2026



YORK RITE



SCOTTISH RITE

**DINNER AT 6:00 PM
LODGE AT 7:00 PM**

**ST. VRAIN MASONIC
LODGE #23**





101st Annual
Knights Templar Association

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5th
6:30am

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory
1370 Grant Street

Optional breakfast to follow the service
You may purchase breakfast tickets from www.ColoradoKTA.org

Everyone is welcome - bring your family and friends

Free parking in the PERA lot behind the Consistory
You may not park in spaces 1-9 or 41-42

Paid parking available in the garage
Pay using your smartphone by scanning the QR code outside the garage door

Limited street parking nearby

ANNO DOMINI 2026
Knights Templar Association
Contact SK Lee Miller for more information
(303) 961-6453 or jlmwritco@gmail.com

March 1, 2026

Volume 8 Issue 2

Presented by
St. Vrain #23

**Trowelin
N'
Twangin**
Featuring
Tribonacci Band

Dinner at 5 PM
Concert at 6:30 PM
April 11th

Tickets Available at
Longmontfreemasons.org

All proceeds benefit the
Colorado Masonic Band Camp

March 1, 2026

Volume 8 Issue 2

PAUL REVERE LODGE #130 INVITES YOU TO OUR

4th Annual Crawfish Boil

When:

Saturday, April 18, 2026
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where:

Highlands Masonic Center
3550 Federal Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80211



Cost:

\$20.00 All You Can Eat Louisiana Crawfish with Potatoes,
Corn, Andouille Sausage and Drink

\$15.00 Two Fried Catfish Filets, French Fries, Hushpuppies,
and a Drink.

\$5.00 Slice of Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza and a Drink

Purchase tickets by Friday, April 10th

<https://www.paulreveremasons.org/category/crawfish-boil>

Masonic Funerals

CONGRADULATIONS to Jacques DeMolay #171

Last year, Memorial Lodge #2 put out a challenge to all Colorado Lodges to see who could get the most members certified in the Masonic funeral service. Jacques DeMolay #171, with five newly certified Masons took first place and was awarded a Funeral Kit. Memorial Lodge #2 is issuing the same challenge for 2026.

The Masonic Funeral Service is as old as the Fraternity itself. In the days of Operative Masonry, Stonemasons buried their own with great solemnity and reverence. The deceased Brother was one they knew and worked with their entire lives.



The Masonic funeral is fundamentally for the living and presents useful lessons to the living. Freemasonry does not teach salvation, but rather teaches the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. Our participation in a Masonic funeral is an expression of our fraternal affection to the deceased Brother and his family.

Masonic funeral rites are based upon the teachings of the Volume of the Sacred Law, and generally accept the principles of the religion of the departed Brother with the recognition that once you die you must face judgment. The fundamental objective is for the living to be taught the very useful lesson that death is certain, and the time of death is unknown and left in the hands of our God.



The Chaplain's prayer in the Masonic funeral is wholly and entirely for the living. It relates to the seriousness, importance, and relevance of the funeral service in which those present are engaged, God's grace for those afflicted, particularly those related to the bereavement, and lessons to all present that they accept the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life. It also tells us to be ever ready to meet our God and give a full account of our lives on Earth, and realize that God's intention is to have eternal life with Him, through being dedicated to the observance of the divine laws and to both live and die in God's love.

Masonic Funerals (cont.)

It is the final tribute we can pay to a deceased Brother, and also to thank the Brother's family for allowing him to share his time on Earth with our Fraternity. If he was a member of your Lodge, he deserves your attendance at his funeral service and having been entitled to all the rights and benefits of a Freemason, he also deserves a well-attended Masonic funeral service.

During the Grand Lodge Session, I was asked what items are necessary for a funeral kit and how to make the collapsible Deacons rods. So here you go.

Contents of a Funeral kit:

Great Lights

Black Cushion for the Great Lights

Gavel

Deacons Rods (SR and JR)

Wardens Columns (SR and JR)

Officer Jewels (All)

Aprons (~20 for brethren who attend and don't have theirs)

Presentation Apron (New, NO wrinkles, to be used during the service if the deceased brothers can't be found)

Apron for the Deceased Brother (In case the family can't find his and they want him to be buried in one)

White Gloves (~20 for brethren who attend and don't have theirs)

Arm Bands (~20 for brethren who attend and don't have theirs)

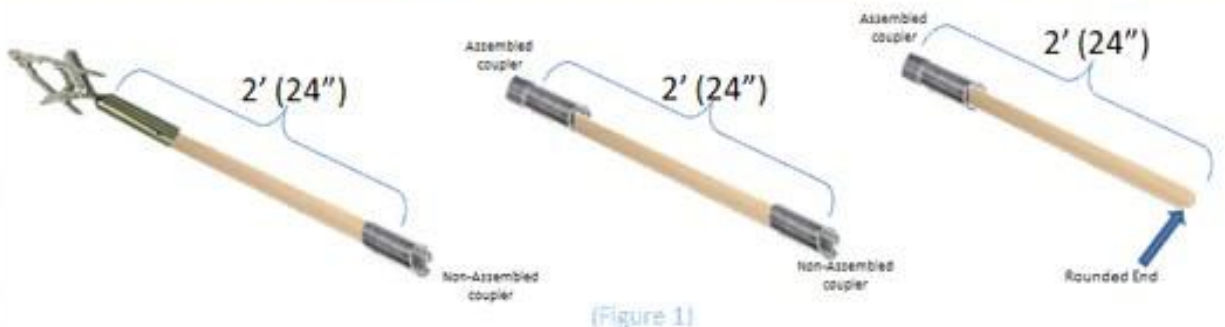
Black Table Cloth Container to carry all the items.

How to make collapsible Deacon Rods

All the parts can usually be found in the electrical department and lumber departments of any major hardware store. The Deacon rod toppers can be found on Amazon or Masonic supply stores

Masonic Funerals (cont.)

Item you will need: 8ea-Threaded Couplings * 4ea-Threaded Nipple Conduit Fittings * 3ea-0.75-in dia x 72-in L Round Poplar Dowels * 2ea – Deacon Rod Tops 2ea-Wood Screws



1. Twist #1 half way into #2 (4ea). Add thread lock to ensure it doesn't come out
2. Cut Rods (#3) to 2' lengths (6ea @ 24"). Round off one end of the cut rods (2ea)
3. Place assembled and non-assembled couplings to rods as shown in figure 1.
**You may have to sand the ends for a better fit
4. Paint Rods Blue
5. Add deacon rod toppers (#4 and #5) to the rods after the paint has dried.

By Worshipful Brother Michael Mabbitt
 Memorial Lodge No.2
 Fountain Valley Lodge No. 191

Getting Your Rainbow Girls Tax Refund?



Are you getting a Colorado Income Tax Refund?

Why not donate part of your refund to Colorado Rainbow Grand Assembly.

Beginning in 2020, you may donate part of your Colorado Income Tax refund to the eligible charity of your choice. And your choice can be Colorado IORG!!!! We thank those that have given in the past years.

Here is how you do it:

- Use Colorado Tax form DR0104CH
- In Line 17 (on back of form) enter amount to donate
- Under Line 17 enter Registration Number: **20083005635**
- Next Line enter Name of Organization: **International Order of the Rainbow Colorado Grand Assembly** See example below, Note must be as listed no abbreviations.

17. Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund..... • 17 00

- Enter the 11-digit Secretary of State Registration Number for the Registered Charitable Organization

20083005635

- Enter the Name of the Registered Charitable Organization

International Order of the Rainbow Colorado Grand Assembly

18. Total of lines 1 through 17. This cannot exceed the amount on line 42 of DR 0104 or line 10 of DR 0104EZ..... • 18 00

Submit the completed Colorado Tax form DR0104CH with your Colorado Tax form.

This information is also posted on our Public Facebook page "[Colorado IORG - International Order of the Rainbow for Girls](#)" and our web page www.iorgcolorado.org so please share this with your friends!

Who is Job's Daughters International?



As a Master Mason, have you ever wondered what opportunities are out there for your daughters? An organization where they can gain some of the same friendship, leadership and personal development that you get from your membership in your lodge, but for girls? Some place where the adults share similar values and look out for your kids as if they were your own?

Have you heard of Job's Daughters International? We are an International Organization for girls from 10-20 and in 5 countries around the world. Originally founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 1920, we were the outcome of a progressive idea that young ladies needed a place to learn leadership, public speaking, communication skills, respect for elders and most importantly, teamwork.

Much like the Masons, we require a belief in higher power and welcome members of all faiths. While Job's is religious in nature, we are not a religion and not a substitute for one. All members are encouraged to practice their own faith, in their own way. Our members are of many different faiths and religions and are brought together to improve themselves and do good for their community.

Job's Daughters will be hosting an information booth at Grand Lodge in Grand Junction this year and we would love to talk to you and your families! We would love to get a bethel started on the Western Slope again. We will have some candy and information packets and some past members who have lots to say about the benefits of JDI so come by and see us! Or reach out to us at cojdigest@gmail.com and we will send you information.



Weston Lodge #22, 5718 S Rapp St, Littleton, CO. will be having a charity breakfast on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00-11:00 All proceeds will benefit the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado.

On-street or paid parking only! Please don't park behind the shops behind us.

Please RSVP by April 16th at <https://www.punchbowl.com/parties/470dfaf328aafe143008> or master@westonlodge.org.

We hope to raise a few \$ for a great cause.

Fraternally, Randy Lutton;

Worshipful Master

FLAGS FOR FALLEN VETS

SUNDAY – 24MAY2026 – 0900 HOURS (9AM)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



Flags for Fallen Vets is a national program that annually takes place at a number of national, or military cemeteries across the country. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix of the Scottish Rite and Masons throughout Colorado have proudly supported and participated in the event for the past several years. The mission is to ensure that an American flag is placed at the grave of every veteran resting in these cemeteries.

This year's family-oriented event will take place on Sunday, May 24 at 9am at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. We need volunteers to assist with placing the flags on May 24 and then with the retrieval of the flags on Saturday, May 30. Volunteering is very easy - just follow these steps:

Go to <https://flagsforfallenvets.com/> and click on 2026 Volunteer Form

- Select Fort Logan National Cemetery - Denver in the drop-down menu and then enter your email address
- In the "Group" menu, select "Mason" or "Masonic" and Section "S"
- Add the number of volunteers you will be bringing with you that day
- **Plan to arrive by 8 am on Sunday, May 24, 2026**
- We (the Masonic family) will be focused on Section S of the cemetery, just a couple of blocks from the main entrance on Sheridan Boulevard. See the map below. We will be responsible for the entire section and all graves in the section. **Please plan to arrive by 8:00 am.**

Contacts:

Danny Tomlinson – Section Leader – dtomlinson@msn.com

(303) 638-6509

Tom Adair – Wise Master of Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix –

bromagic153@outlook.com

(303) 842-5360



**2026
COLORADO
MASONIC
SYMPOSIUM**

MAY 30TH, 2026

**1614 WELTON ST,
DENVER, CO**

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM

**LUNCH & DINNER
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:
JOHN NAGY, TIM HOGAN,
JERRY HAGER, & MORE!**

PURCHASE TICKETS

Camp is
FREE!

2026 COLORADO MASONIC Band Camp!



This five-day band camp is held June 30 to July 4, 2026 on the University of Northern Colorado campus in Greeley, Colorado. The camp is a rewarding and exciting opportunity for promising band students to attend a first-rate marching band clinic and meet students from around Colorado.

Music activities are directed by the UNC band faculty and staff. Camp culminates with the performance of an evening concert on campus July 3rd, and marching in the Greeley Rocky Mountain Stampede Parade on July 4th.

Camp is FREE! Costs (excluding travel to and from Greeley) are paid in full by Colorado Masons and affiliates. Student housing, social and recreational activities are sponsored by Colorado Masonic Lodges and affiliated organizations.

The camp accepts talented 9th, 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in a Colorado high school band program during the 2025-26 school year; capable of performing in the parade, and who play at least one marching band instrument.

Colorado high school band instructors are encouraged to recommend at least three promising band students.

Direct questions to:

Bill Feldman at bandcamp@coloradofreemasons.org or 303-910-9266

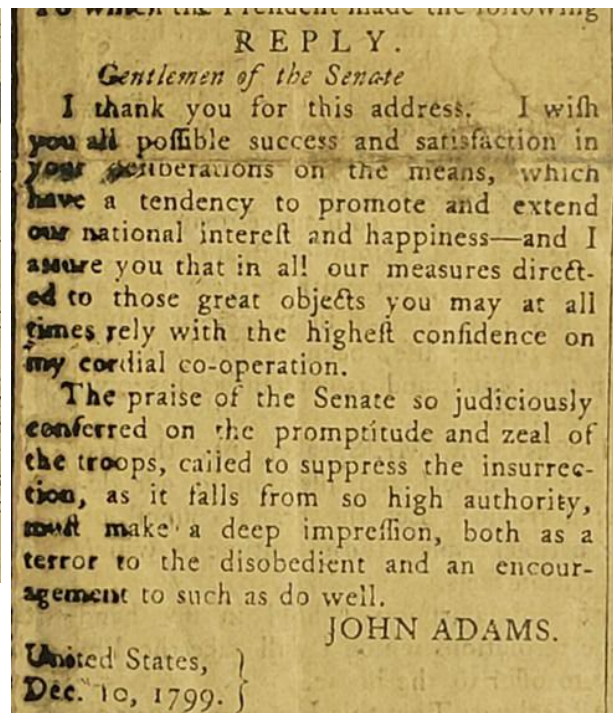
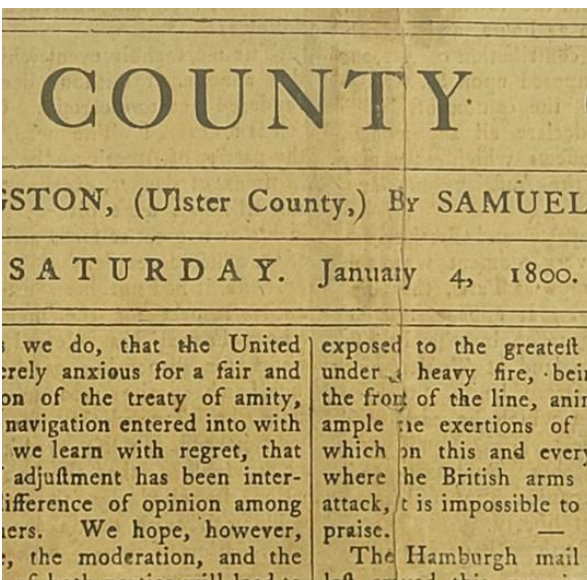
Registration must be received by April 18, 2026



Within the Vault

“Old Newspaper Articles on George Washington”

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado has some interesting very early 19th Century newspapers such as the January 4th 1800 edition of the Ulster County Gazette reporting on the details from George Washington’s funeral and articles by John Adams,. An 1899 Edition of the Washington Post provides an account of the Centennial Anniversary of George Washington’s funeral as well.



This ongoing series of articles highlights the fascinating artifacts contained within the Grand Lodge Museum that you can see on your next visit. The museum is not supported by the Grand Lodge budget and needs your help to preserve and protect our treasured history. Please contact the Grand Secretary to see how you can help!

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/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.

Membership Awareness and Retention

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

Tax & Non-Profit Assistance

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 upmost respect for their efforts.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE:

WB John Groves: johngroves@mac.com Grand Junction

WB Blake Terry: sblaketerry@gmail.com Denver

ACCOUNTING:

WB Brandon Doellingen: accounts@coloradofreemasons.org Colorado Springs

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.

Front Range Gavel

Location: Union Lodge No. 7

1614 Welton Street, Denver, CO

Meeting Dates: 2nd & 4th Saturdays; 6:00 p.m.

Master: Chris Advincula



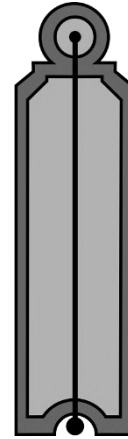
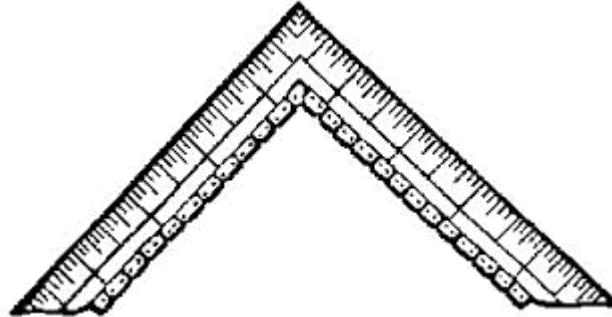
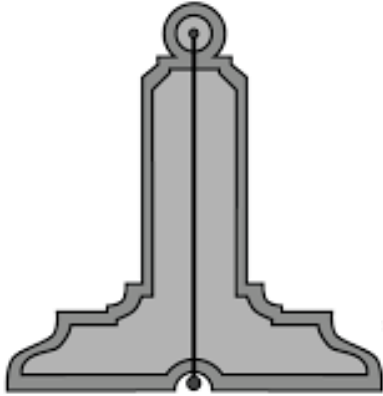
Western Slope Gavel

Location: Mesa Lodge No. 55

2400 Consistory Court, CO

Meeting Dates: 1st & 3rd Sat. ;7:00 p.m.

Master: Thomas Verdieck



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.

Contacts

Grand Lodge of Colorado

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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.





Most Worshipful Grand
Lodge

March 1,

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March Newsletter Supplemental



Securing the Future of the Craft: A Disciplined Commitment to Retention, Leadership, and Operational Excellence

by

R W B Jerry Underwood
Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

If we are to meet the challenges before us thoughtfully and effectively, we must take a comprehensive look at where our efforts will have the greatest impact. The Craft is not in crisis, nor is it without hope. In fact, we have much to be proud of. Yet pride alone does not secure progress. We must acknowledge that while we are doing many things well, we can do better, and we are capable of doing better, if we concentrate deliberately on the areas that most influence our strength and sustainability.

The future of this jurisdiction will not be determined by enthusiasm alone, but by steady execution. We must take practical steps now to ensure that our Lodges remain vibrant, our leaders prepared, and our systems supportive. With that in mind, three priorities rise to the top:

- 1. Retention**
- 2. Leadership Development**
- 3. Improving Grand Lodge Operations**



R.W.B. Jerry Underwood
Deputy Grand Master

These are not themes selected for convenience; they are foundational components of a healthy jurisdiction. The order is intentional, as each priority builds upon and reinforces the others. Taken together, they form a coordinated approach to growth and long-term stability.

1. RETENTION: TAKING OWNERSHIP OF THE MEMBERSHIP, WE ALREADY HAVE

Before we speak of expansion, we must ensure we are preserving and strengthening what we already possess. True growth is not measured solely by new petitions, but by the number of brothers who remain engaged, progressing, and committed over time.

Every candidate who kneels at our altar does so with trust, trust that this Fraternity will offer meaning, development, and fellowship. If that brother later disengages because he feels unseen, unchallenged, or underutilized, we must be willing to examine our own processes honestly. Retention is not about assigning blame; it's about assuming responsibility.

Fellowship is essential, but fellowship alone is not enough to sustain decades of commitment. Men remain where they grow. They remain where they are mentored. They remain where they are needed. A Mason who understands the ritual, sees his moral development unfolding through study and service, and feels accountable to his Lodge will continue to invest himself in the work.

That kind of engagement does not happen by accident. It requires structured mentorship, intentional education, and consistent follow up. When new Masons are guided, challenged, and expected to contribute, attendance transforms into investment. That investment is the bedrock upon which everything else rests. We must do better in this area, and we can. The light at the end of the tunnel is not a warning, it is an opportunity. If we focus here first, we stabilize the foundation upon which all other improvements depend.

2. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: PREPARING OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Once we secure retention, we must turn our attention to leadership, not only within the Lodge, but throughout the jurisdiction. Leadership development is not a critique of our current officers; it is a commitment to continuous improvement at every level of the Craft.

At the Lodge level, advancement through the chairs should represent readiness supported by preparation. Future Worshipful Masters must be equipped in governance, communication, and conflict resolution well before they assume the gavel. Wardens and appointed officers should receive mentorship that strengthens both competence and character.

Humility requires that we look beyond the Lodge as well. District Lecturers, Grand Lodge officers, and those entrusted with jurisdiction wide responsibilities must also commit themselves to growth. None of us is exempt from improvement. Just as Lodge officers' benefit from training and mentorship, so too do those who serve above the Lodge benefit from sharper focus, clearer communication, and sustained attention to effectiveness.

Leadership in Masonry is stewardship. It demands humility to learn, courage to decide, and discipline to act for the good of the Craft rather than personal preference. When leaders at every level commit to refinement and preparation, the entire jurisdiction benefits.

This is not about correcting weakness, it is about building strength. It is about acknowledging that excellence requires effort, and that improvement is a shared responsibility.

3. IMPROVING GRAND LODGE OPERATIONS: SUPPORTING OUR LODGES

Even with engaged members and prepared leaders, our broader systems must function efficiently if we are to maintain momentum. Grand Lodge exists to serve and support its constituent Lodges. The Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge office over the last few years have completed several projects to improve operational efficiency (the new website and update our communications platform to Outlook 365 to name a couple), and we are working on several other projects to improve our overall operations and effectiveness. Many lodges have also taken steps to improve their effectiveness, but we can all be better.

When communication is clear, resources are accessible, and processes are efficient, Lodges are empowered to focus on what matters most, making and building Masons.

Improving operation is not an exercise in bureaucracy, it is an effort to remove friction. Like the rough ashlar, there is more we can do to smooth out our operations and make it better. Clear

guidance prevents confusion. Accessible educational materials reduce duplication of effort. Responsive administration strengthens trust.

Operational excellence does not happen by chance. It requires discipline, coordination, and a willingness to refine processes when they no longer serve their purpose effectively. When the Grand Lodge models professionalism and clarity, it reinforces those same qualities throughout the jurisdiction.

Again, this is not an indictment, it's an opportunity. By sharpening our systems, we amplify the impact of retention and leadership development efforts across every district and Lodge.

THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THESE PRIORITIES

The sequence of these priorities reflects their interdependence. Without retention, there is no stable membership base. Without leadership development, retained members lack direction and guidance. Without effective operations, neither retention nor leadership initiatives receive the support they require.

Strengthen the base, prepare the leaders, and refine the system, and a reinforcing cycle emerges. Engaged Masons become capable officers. Capable officers foster stronger Lodges. Strong Lodges contribute to a healthier jurisdiction. Over time, stability gives way to growth.

We are not facing insurmountable obstacles. We are facing manageable challenges that require focused effort. There is light ahead, and it is opportunity, provided we take the necessary steps now.

A COMMITMENT TO EXECUTION

The encouraging truth is that none of these priorities require extraordinary innovation. They require consistency, humility, accountability, and sustained attention. If we commit ourselves to improving retention, developing leaders at every level, and strengthening our operational support, measurable progress will follow.

We must do better, and we can do better, but improvement will not occur passively. It will result from deliberate action. The path forward is clear. Let us move with steadiness, confidence, and unity so that the Craft entrusted to us will stand stronger tomorrow than it does today.

As always, my lines of communication remain open. I value our discussions in the quarry and welcome your ideas, suggestions, or best practices your Lodge is implementing to strengthen our fraternity.



Enlightenment Lodge #198

proudly presents

Freemasonry and Civil Disobedience

A Masonic Education Program

By MWB Raymond H. Dunn, Jr

All Masons wherever so dispersed.

You are cordially invited to attend an afternoon of Masonic Education devoted to an exploration of the relationship between the principles of Freemasonry and the concept of civil disobedience - examining historical context, moral philosophy, and the duties of conscience within the framework of civic responsibility.

As Freemasons, we are charged with being a true and peaceable citizen, not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, and to conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which we live. At what point do we stand against tyranny, and in what manner? Are we as Freemasons expected to overlook or downplay tyranny by remaining true to our charge, or can we resist tyranny and engage in civil disobedience if we believe a law is unjust, as this aligns with the principles of standing against tyranny?

Saturday, March 21st, 2026 | 3:30 pm

Agape to follow at 6:00 pm

The Agape is \$35 per person (pay on site)

Please RSVP no later than March 18, 2026
to WB Dave Reitan at DavidReitan814@comcast.net

Dress: Enlightenment #198 members - Tux and Tails,
all others Dark Suit and Tie

