



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

November 1, 2025

Volume 7 Issue 10

My Life of Service

As I sat down to write this article, and for those of you that know me, would tell you Vincent is not a story teller, nor overly creative, so there I am “what am I to write about”? I mulled over a few things for days and kept saying, “I can’t come up with one page on that subject,” this went on for quite a while. One thing I didn’t tell you is this; I received this in January of this year and this process started then. One subject kept coming to mind and that was service. Service is something that has defined my life — perhaps more than anything else I’ve ever done.

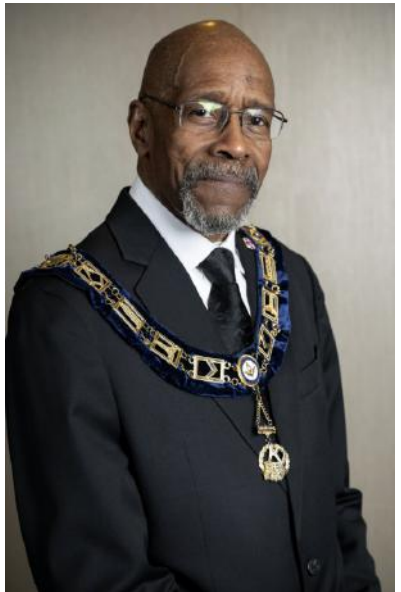
Early Lessons

Growing up on the poor side of a small town in Virginia we didn’t have a lot of things to keep an energetic young boy entertained, or busy enough to stay out of trouble. A boy who at the time thought he could figure out how things worked and if they broke, he could also figure out how to fix them. This was my effort to make everyday life better for everyone I came in contact with. The very first thing well, I think it was the first attempt, was my sister’s watch. One Christmas morning my sister received a new watch as one of her gifts, remember now, we didn’t have a lot of money and that watch must have set my parents back a



bit but, after about a week my sister complained that the watch had stopped working. This was news to my ears, “let me see it”, reluctantly, my sister gave it to me, I ran and got my toolbox, my toolbox was actually a toy set that over the years received some major upgrades in the way of tools. After about an hour or so tinkering around, I’m sitting in front of, what at the time were hundreds of parts. Having removed every little part from the watch I stared at them all, all while knowing that I’ll find the offending part (what I was going to do about getting a replacement, that’s not a thought that came to mind). Well needless to say I didn’t get it fixed, nor was I able to reassemble it totally, this upset my sister even more, and after word reached mom, and I was sent to my room.

Over time and working with my step-father I acquired a lot of skills that I still use and pass on today. He taught me this simple rule: simple rule that has guided me ever since: **If someone needs help, and you can give it — do it. If you can give time, give it. If someone is in need, assist them**



Vincent T. Johnson
Senior Grand Steward



My Life of Service (cont.)

as much as you can. As I grew, volunteering was something that came naturally. I didn't just spend my extra time volunteering, I was also resourceful enough that I found different odd jobs to earn money, I collected cans and bottle caps (yes, that was a thing in the fifties), had paper routes, cut lawns, raked leaves, shoveled snow. My first real job was in a neighborhood store as a clerk. At 12 years old, it may have been an illegal but, I didn't know, they didn't say, and besides, I loved being paid in cash.

In my early years I was a cub scout and then on to the Boy Scout, a very expensive hobby which only lasted me about two years but, during that time we completed a few projects for the community like cutting grass and removing leaves and then the snow for the elderly and those physically unable.

Service in Uniform

By the time I joined the military volunteering was second nature to me, and when I arrived at the Air Force Academy, I met a man named Ben Benzel, at the time he was a counsellor (Insurance Agent) for the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCOA) and a Trustee with the Air Academy Chapter. He hounded me for weeks to trying to get me to join but, having experienced the NCOA before on a previous assignment I kept putting him off. What I didn't tell him while he was wooing me was that I didn't trust counsellors because of my previous experience. Well to make a long story short, I observed the chapter and the man himself and decided to give the NCOA a chance again, I didn't buy Insurance but, I did get involved. Within a year I became the Chapter Chairman. At the time the Chapter was heavily involved with Academy Athletes, we had about 150-200 members/volunteers of the total 1500 plus membership, would assist us in parking cars, selling seatbacks and programs. The chapter also became big supporters of Colorado Special Olympics, volunteering here locally and across the state. After noting that the Colorado Special Olympics didn't have a proper Cauldron for the torch lighting ceremony, we had a few resourceful members create and build one that we transported to each of the venues across the state during Special Olympics Summer and Winter programs. We also volunteered at the now closed Crawford House, a transitional housing center in Colorado Springs for homeless veterans and former military dealing with substance abuse. We would do minor maintenance in and around the facility and we would also collect and distribute food and clothes collected by the membership. The chapter was very instrumental in the Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Program. Ms. Wheelchair Colorado is not a contest to select the most attractive individual. It is instead, a competition based on advocacy, achievements, communication and presentation to select the most accomplished and articulate spokeswoman for persons with disabilities. The selected representative must be able to



My Life of Service (cont.)

communicate both the needs and accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the legislature. We were their aids (as much as we could be) for the several days of the program. The chapter also volunteered at the Festival of Lights Parade, Colorado Springs annual Christmas Parade in the staging area, lining up the different entries and ensuring the unites are at the start line on time. the SpringSpree, and we even parked cars at the Renaissance Festival in Larkspur, CO. Some of you may have seen us at the Seven Falls, one other event that we offered our assistance. Notice that a lot of these events are in the coldest time of the year, and those that know, me and cold don't really get along but, I stuck it out, had to set the example. After being the Chapter Chairman for a couple of years, I decided to seek a position on the International Board of Directors, I submitted my application and to my surprise elected to fill a position on the NCOA Board of Directors. I quickly rose through the positions and eventually, the Chairman of the Board. The highlights of my tenure with the Board of Directors were my visits to the White House where on one trip I got a photo opportunity with President George W. Bush. Please excuse the photo, I wasn't about to take the photo out of the frame, especially since the White House sent it to me sealed, a very nice touch. I served on the Board of Directors for 21 years, and my total volunteer time with the NCOA was close to 30 years. After leaving NCOA I had another itch to get involved and to continue to share wherever.



Continued Service to Others

In early 2017 I was an officer of newly created Home Field Advantage- **Home Field Advantage** (HFA) is an event planning company focusing on platforms that celebrate what is good about America. The company's founders believed that our country was losing its "home field advantage" because of the divide. In order to shrink that division, there must be a rallying point. We believe that is Service — helping others be better. Home Field Advantage looks for opportunities to add value to worthy nonprofits primarily focused on Youth and Front Line Forces. Home Field Advantage's philanthropic interest is to secure funding to improve the quality of life of those impacted by Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), particularly treatment protocols. During this time, we created the Lance P. Sijan Award, the award is presented to an individual whose actions of service and sacrifice demonstrate the same spirit and character as that of United States Air Force Captain, Lance P. Sijan, the Air Force Academy's only Medal of Honor recipient. I can tell you about his plight but, it's effect can't be fully felt unless you see the Documentary, For more information on HFA and Captain Lance P. Sijan please check out the site: <https://www.homefieldadvantage.team/>. If you would like to attend, contact me and I will keep a list, the Ceremony and the showing of the Documentary to be announced but, can be expected early 2026. In years past, the Lance P. Sijan Award has been given to recipients from

My Life of Service (cont.)

the military and first responder community, join us in 2026 to see our next recipient.

Service to Masonry



Strange story of how I came to be an A.F.&A.M. Mason, I had seen Square and Compasses and knew that they were associated with Masons but, I knew nothing about them. I had seen some of the things that Masons were doing and it perked my interest. I had a few friends (PHA) at the time when I noticed one of them wearing a Masonic ring, I inquired, and each time got the same response, “ask on to be one”. This went on until I met now Worshipful Brother William Stone, the husband of one of my co-workers at one of our company events. I noticed his ring and asked him what did it take to become a Mason. His answer, here, he carried a petition with him, I was taken aback, “what, that’s it”. I became a Mason in El Paso Lodge No.13 in 2009 and now I am member of the Grand Lodge, currently the Senior Grand Steward. In 2018 I became a member of Enlightenment Lodge No. 198 and a year later elected to be the Secretary, a position I still hold. I am also a member of Colorado Springs York Rite Bodies, serving as the recorder/secretary. As a member of Enlightenment Lodge, I headed up the committee to ensure that one of our members was able to make his cancer procedure appointments by scheduling and coordinating volunteers in the lodge, we would pick him up from his home, take him to his appointment, wait for his treatment sessions and return him home.

I am proud to be a member and officer of this Grand Lodge and look forward to serving this Grand Lodge and you.

To this day, I still find the time to give of myself, As Albert Einstein would say “Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile”. To me it is a great feeling to do something for those that can’t for whatever reason, when you can.

Oh, and about the watch, I saved up some money and got my sister another watch.

Vincent T. Johnson,
Senior Grand Stewart

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.

Wednesday November 5, 2025

O.V. & Awards at Weston Lodge No. 22

Description: Dinner at 6pm followed by Lodge opening at 7pm. Location; 5718 S. Rapp Street., Littleton, CO 80120. RSVP to Lodge Secretary Mark Costello, imarkstopsmoking@msn.com.

Friday November 7, 2025

Grand Master Address

Description: The Most Worshipful Grand Master will be speaking at the Fall Reunion of the Denver Consistory. Location: 1370 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203.

Friday November 7, 2025

O.V. at Highlands Lodge No. 86.

Description: Dinner begins at 6pm. Lodge meeting at 7pm. Location: 3550 Federal Blvd. Denver, CO 80211.

Monday November 10, 2025

Veterans Day Program for El Jebel Shrine

Description: Social at 5:30 followed by dinner program theater at 6pm. Location 3443 S. Gelena Street. Denver, CO 80231. Contact Kent Burns fdmr@netzero.net.

Saturday November 15, 2025

2025 Colorado Masonic Symposium

Description: Tickets are required! (see flyer this issue) 7:30am breakfast followed by opening and keynote speaker at 8am. Sessions last all day. Dinner at 5:30pm. Location: Denver 5 Lodge at 1614 Welton Street, Denver, CO 80202. Link here for tickets and information <https://coloradofreemasons.org/event-registrations/>

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 November 15, 2025

Grand Master Class

Description: DeMolay initiation class of honor. Doors open at 9:30am. Degree begins at 10am with event and light snacks following at noon. Location: 1625 Florence Street, Aurora, CO 80010. All Masons welcome.

Sunday November 16, 2025

Awards presentation at Columbine lodge No. 147

Description: Presentation of awards and lunch beginning at 10am. Location; 225 S. Acoma Street, Denver, CO 80223.

Saturday November 22, 2025

Grand Master at the Trash Bash Youth Event

Description: Youth groups trash bash at Golden City Lodge with Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, and DeMolay. \$15.00 at the door. Location: 400 10th Street, Golden, CO 80401.

Thursday December 4, 2025

50 Year Awards Presentation at Longs Peak Lodge No. 197

Description: Grand Master visit to present a 50-year award to Worshipful Brother D.J. Cox. Dinner at 6pm, Gavel down at 7pm. Location: 4350 S. CO Road 15H, Loveland, CO 80537.

Monday December 15, 2025

Denver Consistory's Annual Holiday Celebration

Description: Open Meeting entertainment provided by The Yuletide Carolers. Diner 6pm with meeting and entertainment to follow at 7pm. Guests welcomed. Please RSVP in the [Marketplace](#)

Saturday January 17th, 2026

Burns Night Supper & Whisky College

Description: Tickets required (see flyer in this issue). Whisky College (\$55) begins at 5pm followed by dinner at 6pm (\$74). Location: Scottish Rite Masonic Center 1370 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203.

A Season of Gratitude: A Reflection for Thanksgiving Within and Without the Lodge

As the autumn leaves fall and families gather around their tables, we are reminded that Thanksgiving is not merely a day marked on the calendar, it is a frame of mind, a sacred pause amid life's busy rhythm. For us as Masons, it offers an opportunity to reflect upon the many blessings that surround us: our families, our Fraternity, and the guiding light of the Great Architect of the Universe.

In a world often focused on what we lack, Thanksgiving invites us to recognize what we already possess. We are blessed with the fellowship of good men and true; Brothers who stand ready to lend a hand, offer counsel, or share in our joys and burdens alike. Within our Lodges, gratitude finds expression not only in words, but in action. Every time we extend charity, comfort the distressed, or endeavor improve ourselves in Masonry, we are living examples of thanksgiving in motion.

Let us also be thankful for the freedom to assemble in peace and harmony; a privilege earned by the courage of those who came before us and preserved by the vigilance of those who serve today. As we gather with our families, may we remember the widows, orphans, and those who will spend this holiday in service, in illness, or in solitude. A simple call, a warm meal, or a moment of sincere fellowship may remind them that they are not forgotten.

This season, let our gratitude deepen into purpose. May we give thanks not only with our lips but through our deeds; by serving others, strengthening our Lodges, and striving to be better men tomorrow than we are today.

As Masons, we understand that every good and perfect gift comes from above. So, let us bow in humility before the Great Architect, offering our thanks for the light that guides our steps, the work that refines our character, and the Brotherhood that enriches our lives.

From my family to yours, may your Thanksgiving be filled with warmth, reflection, and renewed gratitude for the blessings that surround you.

R.'.W.'.Brother Jerry Underwood
Senior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

Funeral Proficiency Challenge

MEMORIAL LODGE #2 PRESENTS

3RD ANNUAL MASONIC FUNERAL SERVICE

WORKSHOP

15 MARCH 2025



The 3rd annual Masonic funeral services workshop was a resounding SUCCESS. The workshop was attend by members of Pueblo #17, Colorado Springs #76, Centurion #195, Union #7, El Paso #13, Manitou #68, Constitution #184, and Fountain Valley #191. Thanks to all who attended and shared their experiences. Huge thanks to WB Dick Stewart and WB Bill Twyman who provided invaluable support.

The seminar covered history, where can we give a Masonic funeral and who can receive it, working with the family, preparing for the Funeral, appendant organizations and much more. We are looking forward to conducting another workshop next year.

CHALLENGE TO ALL COLORADO LODGES

Memorial Lodge #2 is presenting a challenge to ALL Lodges in Colorado. The Lodge that has the most "NEW" funeral service certifications by Dec 31st, will be presented a funeral kit (similar to the one below) during the next Grand Lodge annual communication. Contact you District Lecturer or a Custodian of the Work on what is required get certified.



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.

Lodge Artifact Sharing Contest

Sesquicentennial Celebration at the 165th Annual Grand Lodge Communication

Artifact Sharing Contest

To celebrate Sesquicentennial of Colorado and the rich history of Freemasonry in this state, the Most Worshipful Grand Master invites you to bring the most interesting historical artifact (signature, document, picture, item, etc.) from your lodge to be displayed during the 165th Annual Communication being held January 22nd thru 24th in Grand Junction, Colorado. Attending members will get a chance to vote on their favorite item. Prizes will be awarded on Saturday of the Communication.



2025 COLORADO MASONIC SYMPOSIUM



SCHEDULE:

7:30 AM - BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - OPENING & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:30 AM TO NOON - SESSIONS

NOON - LUNCH/BREAK

• **OPTIONAL: SANDWICH BOARD**

1:00PM - 5:00PM: SESSIONS

5:30PM: DINNER

• **OPTIONAL: PRIME RIB, MASHED POTATOES, VEGGIES**

• **OPTIONAL : VEGETARIAN LASAGNA**

PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!





COLORADO DEMOLAY
COORDALY INVITES YOU TO THE

GRAND MASTERS CLASS

Honoring William E. Marshall
Grand Master of Masons in
Colorado

**AURORA LODGE
SATURDAY NOV 15TH**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:30AM
DEGREES START AT 10AM**

All adult members of the appendant Masonic organizations,
as well as all Advisors, Parents and DeMolays are welcome to attend.
For questions, contact costatedemolay@gmail.com.

The Consistory Line Entertainment Group Presents...

Denver Consistory's Annual Holiday Celebration December 15, 2025

Entertainment Provided by...

The Yuletide Carolers



The Yuletide Carolers | Professional Singers

Guests are welcome for dinner at 6PM and for the
open meeting and entertainment at 7PM.

Dinner Reservations [HERE](#)

Burns Night Supper & Whisky College

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

Scottish Music  Silent Auction  Burns Poetry

Presented by the Denver Knights of Saint Andrew



Whisky College | 5:00 p.m. | \$55 – Adult (21 and over)

Join us for a captivating Scotch whisky tasting and educational journey led by a true expert. This year's special class features selections from Glenmorangie Distillery, showcasing how a single malt evolves through time and craftsmanship. Discover how age, cask type, and maturation techniques transform aroma, taste, and finish—revealing the subtle complexities that make each expression uniquely exceptional. *Price includes a commemorative tasting glass!*

Dinner & Entertainment | 6:00 p.m. | \$74 – Adult (13 and over)

Pear Salad, Haggis, Filet Mignon, Asparagus, Twice Baked Potato, Chocolate Mousse

Join us for a lively dinner in honor of Robert Burns: Celebrate Scotland's beloved bard with an evening of traditional fare, poetry, and song. Enjoy the stirring sounds of the El Jebel Pipe Band and the Celtic folk tunes of Gobs o' Phun. Raise a glass to heritage, humor, and Highland pride in true Burns Night fashion!

Advance tickets only!
denverburnssupper.com
or scan the QR code

*Reserved table with purchase
of 8 dinner tickets*



Within the Vault

“1723 Anderson’s Book of Constitutions”

As many of you know the United Grand Lodge of England was formed in June of 1717 after a meeting of several London area lodges at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern. Shortly thereafter, in 1723, the Reverend James Anderson published the famed Anderson’s Book of Constitutions. The museum has several 18th Century copies including an original 1723 edition seen here.



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: Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 1 PHA

4200 E. Colfax Ave. Denver, CO

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

Master: Sandy J. Reddic



Western Slope Gavel

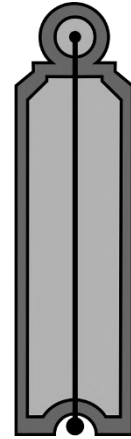
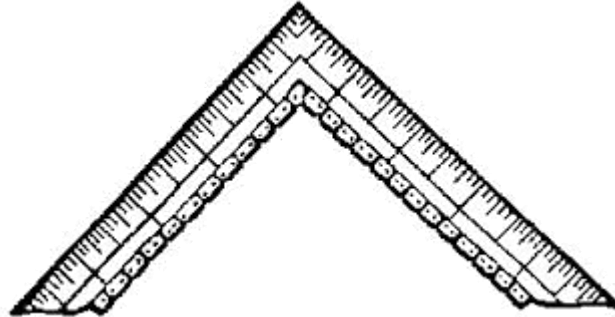
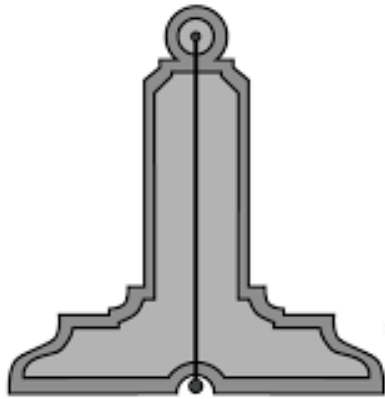
Location: Lumen Artis Lodge No. 199

414 Main Street, unit D, Windsor, CO

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

Master: Brian Kirby





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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 Colorado Springs, Colorado. 80904
 (719) 471-9587
 Fax Number: (719) 484-8993
gloffice@coloradofreemasons.org

Grand Master
 M.W. Bro. William E. Marshall, G.M.
grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org
 (719) 623-5345

Grand Secretary
 R.W.Bro. Scot M. Autry, P.M.
grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org
 (719) 623-5342

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.

