



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

March 1, 2021

Volume 3 Issue 2

From the Desk of the Grand Master

My Dear Brothers,



Another month has started and our state has put out new updates on virus restrictions. Be sure to stay current on where your county stands in regards to this and work towards being open and effective using common sense and knowing how your members and lodge officers feel on this question. I hear everyday of more members receiving virus shots and this will also help us all as we progress. A large number of lodges are participating in virtual meetings, so one of the articles in this month's newsletter will be on proper etiquette when using this format. Realize that most of what you will hear or see in this regard to this will be based on general business protocol, so when we use these in a lodge setting, we

will need to modify them to include various Masonic aspects too.

I don't see virtual meetings going away soon. They can have a vital part in normal lodge business. Various non-lodge small group meetings when done this way will save mileage, driving time and keep Brothers off the roads late at night. A lodge may consider, if they have two meetings a month to have one virtual (which lets those who do not go out yet or are members from out of state attend), where they do monthly business and non-ritual items. And have one in person meeting per month, where they can do initiations, proficiencies and degree work.

Myself and the Grand Officer Line had a recent meeting under the new restrictions. It was "picture day" for us (since we did not have the opportunity to



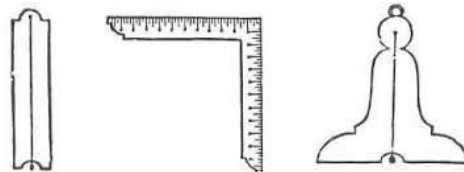
From the Desk of the Grand Master (Continued)

do this at a regular Annual Communication), passed out this year's ties and pins and held a monthly officer meeting afterwards. I think the officers enjoyed seeing each other much more than what we were there for; we had not been together since the last Budget meeting. Your state has a good Grand Lodge officer line, full of quality men who will do well now and in the future.

The month of March will see our first cornerstones of the year and the start of our Official Visits to the lodges. Just a reminder, a lodge can request to have a virtual Official Visit or an in person one. You will need to work out what will be best for your lodge and then request the visit through our Grand Secretary.

Fraternally,

Michael D. Moore
Grand Master 2021



Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

To help your lodge plan your Official Visits and any dinners beforehand, please be aware that the Grand Master is not eating in public yet. This will change as restrictions and progress with the virus gets better.

Mon Mar 15, 2021

6pm 50 Year Award Presentation at Eureka Lodge No. 66

Where: 387 Main St, Coal Creek, Colorado, USA

Description: 6:00 pm - dinner 7:00 pm - Lodge

Thu Mar 18, 2021

7:30pm OV @ Douglas Lodge # 153

Where: 300 Wilcox St, Castle Rock, CO 80104, USA

Description: No Meal due to COVID-19 Limited on Space due to COVID-19

Sat Mar 20, 2021

11am Canon City Middle School Cornerstone

Where: 1215 Main St, Cañon City, CO 81212, USA

Description: See flyer

1:30pm Canon City Elementary School Cornerstone

Where: 609 N 9th St, Cañon City, CO 81212, USA

Description: See flyer



**Mount Moriah Masonic Lodge #15
and the
Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F. & A.M.
Cornerstone Dedication
Saturday, March 20, 2021**

**Cañon City Middle School
1215 Main
11:30 am**



**Washington Elementary
School 609 N 9th
1:00 pm**

Mount Moriah Lodge #15 A.F. & A.M. will be assisting the Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F. & A.M. in two cornerstone dedications of the rebuilt Schools of Cañon City Colorado. Encapsulated behind these two stones will be a container with an inventory of historic artifacts. These ceremonies are a tradition of the Masonic Fraternity and it is our great honor and privilege to conduct and place these cornerstones.



Scottish Rite Golf Classic Benefiting Children's Hospital of Colorado, Scottish Rite Foundation & Scottish Rite Masonic Center "A Fund Raising/COVID Recovery/Networking Event" August 20, 2021 - Willis Case Golf Course, Denver, CO



Sponsorships sign up now at
www.ScottishRiteGolf.Org

www.DenverConsistory.Org

If you love golf, you'll want to set aside August 20, 2021.

Forget the boring, all day long 4-person scramble! This truly unique event will feature:

- Multiple par 3 holes and hole in one prize opportunities
- Long drive and closest to pin contests
- Putting contest
- \$100,000 shootout following golf
- Delicious meals and beverages
- Team prizes and player gifts

This is an important fundraiser for our organization, so your participation and sponsorship will be much appreciated. Teams are \$500, each.

For registration and sponsorships information visit:

www.ScottishRiteGolf.Org

We expect a full field so register now!

To learn more, contact: Bartley Corfee bart@corfeeassociates.com, Gene Hardy conohardy@gmail.com, Mike Brewer (Sponsorships), mike.brewer@allurdata.com, Rick Spoor (Marketing Promotion) rwspeer@yahoo.com, Randy Penn (Volunteers) pennjr@comcast.com



Band Camp News

To: The Most Worshipful Grand Master and Members of the Grand Lodge

The Colorado Masonic High School Band Camp Committee respectfully submits this report detailing the activities for the 2021 Masonic year. It is with deep regret that Band Camp will not be held this Summer due the COVID-19 Virus. The High School Band Students are not in Band classes.

The University is still not sure as to the precautions they will have to have to make in order to keep the students safe.

The Greeley Stampede Committee is not sure, at this time, if they will have a Parade.

It is our hope that we will be able to continue with the Band Camp in the Summer of 2022. For those lodges wishing to donate money at this time to get the Honor Lodge, please send your money to Jerry Fenimore, Grand Treasurer.

Marvin Feldman



Virtual Meeting Protocol

Knowing what to do or not to do when joining a virtual meeting is not complicated or hard to understand. Most of what is asked of you will be contained in three words – common sense and courtesy. And after your first few virtual meetings should be comfortable and confident for the next time. There are really only three things you need to know how to do in any virtual meeting:

1. Know how to log on to the meeting
2. Be able to turn your video and mic on and off when asked or needed
3. Realize anything that disrupts a meeting is bad

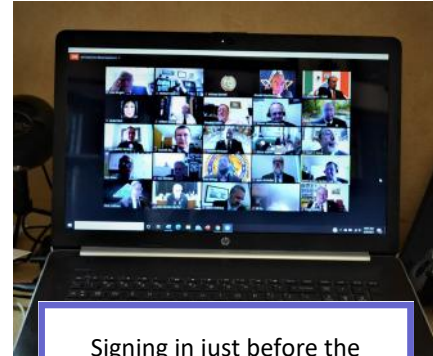
The rest is knowing how to dress (which can change from meeting to meeting, so ask), realizing that you are in a Masonic meeting, so you need to control who see and hears what is going on (this is called self-tiling) and is really no different than any other learning we do that stretches us or makes us think.

Yes, you do need to control who hears or sees what is going on in a virtual lodge meeting. This can be hard in a home setting, but normally being in a different room than your family or friends, with not too loud of sound and letting anyone know beforehand who could walk in on you that you want your privacy for a while really takes care of most of this. There should be no recordings of our virtual meetings unless the host does it. Ear phones can help. Be careful with phrases or humor that may divulge our secrets or our ritual even in these meetings.

On the courtesy side of things, it is not much different than if you were having a conversation with a friend. They like to have your attention (don't multi-task, take phone calls during the meeting, don't eat unless you can share with all of us) and don't do anything you would not do in a regular physical meeting. If all the person talking can see is a blank screen, it is not very personalable and we wonder what you are doing that you don't want us to see.

A virtual meeting should be a quality experience for all involved. They can be fun, educational and worthwhile. Experiment on ways to make these meeting useful and comfortable for you. Lastly, don't forget you can ask a Brother for help on this if all else fails. There are many lodge friends and acquaintances that can help you and show small ways to make all this easier for you.

I should let all the Brothers know that we did get a few good compliments from visitors who viewed our Grand Officer installation ceremony. They were mildly impressed that there were no coughs, disruptions and other things to break up the meeting. Good job!



Signing in just before the Conference of Grand Masters.

Education



Looking for Masonic things to read or see while stuck at home?

Or do you need to add something to your virtual lodge meetings?

Our Education Committee has a “secret vault” in our Grand Lodge website that many don’t know about. This “hidden” vault is easy to get to – click on the education link at the top of the main page of our website, sign in or request access to this section and enjoy. A number of Brothers are using this section, but many more need to be aware of all that is found in it.

The vault contains a wealth of information in various formats including 50+ videos on Masonic history, symbolism, general history, working tools and traditions; free for you individually to use or for your Blue Lodge. There is a link to the Speakers’ Bureau, which lists almost 40 choices of topics and speakers that could be arranged. Another section has all the Grand Orations since 2006, history papers and complete books that can be read and downloaded.

A new section there is a course called “Introduction to Freemasonry” designed for Entered Apprentices! Kudos to our Education Committee on the fine work on developing this section and all they do. There are many different rooms to explore in this area be sure to check it out.

Brothers Beware!



Have you seen this man? Do you know his whereabouts? The only problem is we don't know whether he is a man or a woman. Whether this individual is an adult or a teenager. All we know is that these individuals are known as Computer HACKERS and they are on the offensive! They are stealing your identity, money, property, and it's all going through your email.

So far in Colorado, I am aware of four Brethren who have been hacked, myself included.

How does this hack work? The hacker steals email addresses from your email address book, creates an alternate email account with your name on it, and then sends out messages to all of your contacts with requests such as, "Can you do me a favor?" At initial glance you might not notice simple grammatical errors or misspellings within the email, or that the return email address is different than the original one that was sent to you. Or you may simply assume the sender was in a hurry.

Overlooking these subtleties, friends and family innocently respond with, "What can I do for you?" Then the hacker sends a second email asking you to go to a store, purchase several hundred dollars worth of Apple gift cards, and email back the gift card serial numbers. The hacker usually creates an elaborate story, such as needing the money to find a missing family member. I have also been told by a Brother who fell into this trap, that he received subsequent emails that were tailored to impersonate the victim by stating, "I'd be happy to do any masonic position or role if needed in degree work." Now Brethren, this tells me that this hacker is targeting masons with deadly accuracy.

IF you fall for the scam, buy the gift cards, and electronically send them to the address he has provided in the email, you have lost your money to the hacker. Giving him the Apple ID codes off the card allows him to purchase items electronically carte blanche.

If you do catch the scam in time, you can contact Apple at 800-275-2273 and speak with an agent (Apple stated that they were experiencing a huge problem with the gift cards with this hacking



Brothers Beware!

problem) and Apple will put a stop payment on the gift cards. Then notify your bank to put a stop payment on the purchase of the cards because you have been scammed.

Brethren, we are Masons. We open our hearts as well as our checkbooks to our brothers in need. However, we need to stop and ask ourselves one simple question first. Does the email you received sound like this Brother – would this Brother normally phone you with this request? Does the email look normal? Contact the Brother by phone TO CONFIRM his need. If you don't have his

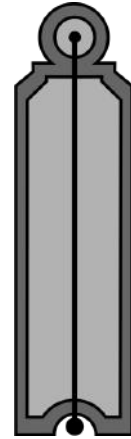
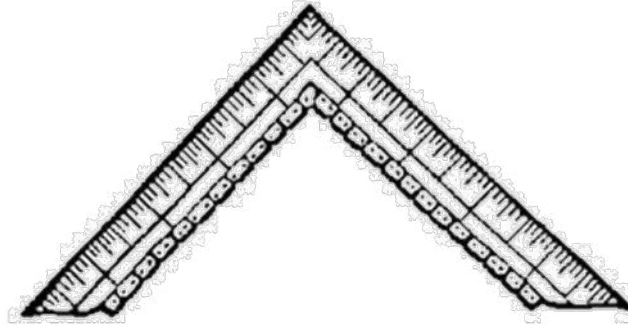
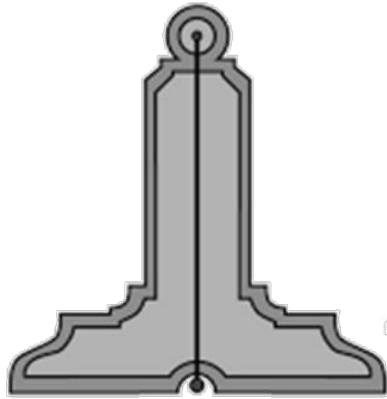


number, there are means of locating him, i.e., contact the Grand Lodge Secretary. In my experience throughout this whole ordeal I had over 400 email addresses compromised. The hacker even deleted my entire address book so I couldn't send out alerts to warn my friends and family. My contacts were un-recoverable and were gone forever. Three brothers were scammed that I know of – one purchased the cards but didn't

email the codes, so he was able to return the cards to the store; one purchased the cards and emailed the codes, but was able to cancel the transaction with Apple; but unfortunately, the third one purchased the cards, sent the codes, and lost his money.

In addition to the theft, the hacker took my time. It took hours upon hours to rebuild my email account with another provider, and to change over accounts that were associated with my old email address to the new (it's interesting how your life is attached to your email!). Amazon, Alexa, home security, banks, cars, investments, pet food deliveries and the list goes on and on. Eight solid hard days of extra work and a waste of a half-bottle of fine Scotch, w-e-l-l, maybe the Scotch wasn't a waste. So, Brothers Beware!

WB Lyle Wilkes
L. N. Greenleaf Lodge #169



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

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

Due to governmental restrictions your Grand Lodge Office is limiting the office to one person at a time and no outside visitors. The staff is alternating days in the office but when not in the office they will be working from home Thank you.

