



RLC Officers 6016 A. L.

W.M.	P. Martin Sugg c. (303) 588-9441 msugg@wkre.com
S.W.	Patrick Dey c. (803) 240-2442 saint.patrick.dey@gmail.com
J.W.	Viron E. Lewis c. (303) 995-3458 noriv23@yahoo.com
Tres.	Peter Preston c. (719) 651-9742 co77345llc@yahoo.com
Sec'y	Ben Williams c. (859) 361-2292 orionsg8@mac.com
S.D.	Eric Weddington c. (303) 549-4776 eric.weddington@gmail.com
J.D.	Greg Harris c. (720) 204-0850 gregharris1423@yahoo.com
S.S.	Pablo Colomban c. (720) 284-4304 pablocolomban@yahoo.com
J.S.	TBD
Mar.	John Balzer c. (303) 949-3887 jrbalzer51@hotmail.com
Chap.	Jerry Rice c. (303) 279-7070 jrice279@aol.com
Tyler	Ryan Wallace c. (970) 231-7767 ryanwilliamwallace@gmail.com



FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brethren, from the East,

One of the most important topics in Freemasonry is that of Leadership--as relates to each of us--as Lodge Officers, as Past Masters, and most importantly as related to our current sitting Masters. An ongoing educational dialogue related to the essence of leadership is in every lodge's best interest.

But where do we find this essence? One way is through identifying, researching and studying the Leaders whom we have admired throughout time. Who do you admire? Is it Marcus Aurelius? Thomas Jefferson? Abraham Lincoln? Winston Churchill? We each have role models and inspirational figures we look up to. Find them brothers. Study their strengths; their weaknesses; their speeches and writings. Research everything you can about them.

Reflect on leadership. What makes an effective leader? Research strong leaders. Bring what you learn back to your Lodges. Tell your brethren about what you've learned. Learning effective leadership is what makes good men better.

In the last chapter of Carl Claudy's important work, *The Master's Book*, Claudy lays out a thought provoking, hypothetical description of the Ideal Master. Among other things, Claudy says, "The Master of a Masonic Lodge has more power than the presiding officer of any secular body...", but he goes on to say, "the ideal Master is humble minded. Not for him the arrogant pride of place and power, though he has both power and place. Not for him the big stick, though it is his to wield, but the silken string which leads where ropes may not haul. The ideal Master keeps ever before him the knowledge that although elevated to the most honorable position within the gift of his Lodge, he can really fill the Oriental Chair only if he thinks first, last and all the time of the Lodge and brethren, never of self."

Research is the key to Education. Education is the key to Knowledge, to Understanding and, if we can be so bold, to eventual Wisdom and effective Leadership.

Fraternally,

Martin Sugg
Worshipful Master

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of RLC is scheduled for July 27, at Highlands Lodge no.86 at 3550 N Federal Blvd, Denver, CO 80211. Please see www.rlc Colo.org for more information and to RSVP.

St. John the Baptist Day Feast, June 22 at the Clocktower Downtown with a special presentation by Dr. John Stocke on the Antikythera Mechanism! Limited Seating. Get your ticket now at www.rlc Colo.org. Password is **antikythera**

FROM THE WEST

Salutations from the West, brethren. I would like to just update everyone on the progress of the reprinting and publication of the past papers of Research Lodge. Per my report at the last meeting, I have done a word count of the past papers and based on that have proposed that four volumes be put together of about 250 pages each. These four volumes would include all papers from 1954 to 2000. Papers after 2000 are on hold at the moment, as many presentations in Research Lodge since that time have been just verbal presentation not accompanied by a written paper. I am working with W. Bro. Ben Williams to go over the minutes to figure who gave what presentations and when, and to go through some old boxes and find some of these papers – if they exist. If you have presented and/or given a paper in Research Lodge, please reach out to me so we can ensure your work is included in Volume V. If you have given verbal presentation(s) without a paper, you may send me something written for use; PowerPoints, note cards, et cetera will not be accepted. Per discussion at the last meeting, these volumes will be set up as a print-on-demand in paperback and hardbound, as well as an e-book. We will most likely order a few copies to promote and sell, but largely this will be something we sell online, on-demand. Volume I is more or less done. I still have some formatting tweaks, general editing, and some pictures to add. I will begin work on Volume II soon. I hope we can have the first four volumes ready for purchase by the end of the year.

Further, I have gone with W. Bro. Marty Sugg to the Clock Tower in preparation for the St. John the Baptist Day event. I am very excited for this event. We have been working diligently on scheduling, space planning, and used of the various levels. It is a really amazing space and I am very proud to be working with the team for this very special, once-in-a-lifetime event.

Fraternally,

Patrick M. Dey
Senior Warden

FROM THE SECY

MORI Update

This year the migration to MORI has finally been completed. We ran into issues because RLC is not a typical Lodge and does not fit the parameters around which MORI was designed. (For example, how do you handle Lodges that are “members”? How about out of state Brethren who don’t have a MWGLCO membership no.?) With the appreciable assistance of Bro. Marvin Palmer at the MWGLCO Office we were finally successful in entering the membership (which also required every member’s membership no. to enter as plural members without supplanting the registration to a home Lodge). This has been a huge project, and the Secretary is extremely grateful for Bro. Marvin’s invaluable assistance.

Please be advised that we are also back entering deceased members. So if you notice deceased members just “affiliating” through your MORI app, that’s why: We promise, this is not some blatant necromancy....

Dues Cards

We are now on the MWGLCO system, so in the future the membership cards will be conformant with the jurisdiction’s overall design. We still need to get these out to you this year, and hope to do so within the next couple of months. However, starting 2020, dues cards will be included in the annual mailing.

Financial News

The Life Membership issue has been solved and the membership list is essentially current. Life membership in RLC is 26 x annual dues, or \$260.

The accounts have been transferred over to our new Treasurer, our junior Past Master, Peter Preston. We still need to get the PayPal account linked, but we’re working on it.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE

“If any complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent Judges of all such Controversies, (unless you carry it by Appeal to the GRAND LODGE)....”

Anderson’s Constitutions, Title VI, §1

“And if any of them do you Injury, you must apply to your own or his Lodge and from thence you may appeal to the GRAND LODGE at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the annual GRAND LODGE, as has been the ancient laudable Conduct of our Fore-Fathers in every Nation....”

Anderson’s Constitutions, Title VI, §6

Historically, across most jurisdictions, disputes between Brethren have been properly handled at the local Lodge; appeals of decisions heard at the discretion of the Grand Lodge.

The charges would be filed first with the Senior Warden in the accused's Lodge. The Master would then set a trial, and unless otherwise provided for by some dispensation or special request, the Junior Warden would serve as prosecutor and the Senior Warden for the defense.

The dispute would be settled with these Officers assuming their duties objectively (as far as possible). The Master would preside. A two-thirds vote of members present would be sufficient to convict (although other thresholds might be adopted depending on the charges).

The trial would be assiduously recorded. The charges would be filed in writing and the accused's response would be filed in writing. If, at the conclusion of the trial, the accused felt unfairly treated, or that due process was somehow violated, he had the right of appeal to the Grand Lodge which would review the charges, review the response and any evidence presented during the trial, and would thence become the final authority on the issue. The Grand Lodge could schedule a hearing to entertain oral arguments from both sides, at its discretion, if need be.

Thus, there was due process informing Masonic trials that sensibly allowed the Grand Lodge to conduct a final review and have final adjudication of the charges filed without overburdening the Grand Lodge in petty disputes between quarrelsome Brethren. The word of the Grand Master was final, whether in overturning or affirming the decision of the Lodge.

In the present day, in Colorado, all charges are now preferred to the Grand Lodge where the Grand Master sets the trial, appoints a special judge, and then has the final say on the proceedings.

This creates two issues of note. First, the Grand Lodge is both the trial venue and the appellate venue. This is improper: The appellate body should be independent from the trial body, to avoid abuses of process and even apparent conflicts of interest. This also denies the Grand Lodge discretion in accepting appeals to hear: if the evidence is compelling and there is no implication due process was denied the accused, the Grand Lodge can simply dismiss appeals without wasting time and resources in hearing the dispute. Having the trial perpetrated by the Grand Lodge obviates this authority.

Second, preferring charges at the Grand Lodge is much easier than filing them in a local Lodge where you would have to stand up and present them in front of everyone you know. Preferring charges to the accused's Lodge further weighs in the accused's favor – the evidence must be compelling enough, since the accused's home Lodge would be sitting in consideration of the facts. (Note that a dispute between Brethren of the same Lodge

is also more properly handled in that Lodge, since the Brethren present will be more akin to the facts at hand and know the parties involved.)

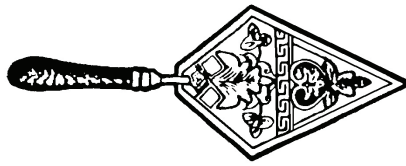
Having the Grand Lodge be the trial body instead, at least to some degree, facilitates filing charges for a dispute more readily resolved by the Senior and Junior Wardens. You simply circumvent the local body, and jump straight to the top, a distant place removed and inconspicuous from the local Brethren. This is a mistake.

Our traditions emerged from careful contemplation. Why should we change them? For simple expedience? For a leveraging of resources? Surely a trial of a Brother for unmasonic conduct should not be motivated by expedience or cheapness? It should be a matter that concerns the Lodge as a whole, and it should be a burden upon the officers and members present. The Master and Wardens should be empowered to properly fulfill the duties of their offices. The Brethren present should weigh well the gravity of the proceedings. Should they fail, and abuse the due process they are charged to uphold in granting every Master Mason a fair trial (such as by driving out an unpopular Brother), appeal to the Grand Lodge, now more objectively seated in appellate review, may then question the Officers of the Lodge on grounds of their unmasonic conduct: a Masonic trial is an important undertaking, and consequences for abuse of process ensure requisite due diligence is performed. This is how it was done for hundreds of years.

Further, having the Grand Lodge weigh trials undermines the authority of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master shouldn't decide the outcome of trials performed by the same people he appoints to hear them! The Grand Lodge should be empowered with the finality of a second-tier, appellate review. Its word should be final. Clearly this mitigates abuses by Grand Masters overreaching and executing sentences against Brethren they feel slighted by, and it prevents frivolous and retaliatory charges emerging from disputes that could be readily resolved at the local level.

This doesn't mean that the Master of a Lodge need hear all cases of unmasonic conduct. Where a Brother has been convicted in a state or federal court for a crime involving moral turpitude – crimes involving fraud, dishonesty, or violence, essentially de facto unmasonic conduct – the Master of the Lodge should be justified in issuing a default judgement (the trial has in fact already occurred within the state). Such default judgment would be, of course, subject to appeal at the Grand Lodge, which maintains discretionary review at its will and pleasure.

This past practice of our forebears is a sensible means of ensuring due process for all Brethren. It empowers the Brethren to adjudicate their own disputes among their peers, and it ensures the Grand Lodge a more objective position in exercising its ultimate authority.



MASONIC EVENTS CALENDAR


EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	FOR MORE INFORMATION
Grand York Rite of Montana	May 30-June 1	Great Falls, MT	www.mtyorkrite.org
Grand Lodge of Arizona	June 6 - 8	Tucson, AZ	www.azmasons.org
Research Lodge of Colorado St John the Baptist Day Feast	June 22	Denver, CO	www.ricoloro.org
Rocky Mountain Chapel St Thomas of Acon	June 29	Denver, CO	stthomasacon.org/chapels/STD/index.php?id=26
Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference	July 18-20	Denver, CO	http://rmmc.grandlodgeofcolorado.org
Grand Lodge of Wyoming	Aug 11-14	Sheridan, WY	wyomingmasons.com

Would you like to learn **LATIN**?

Dr. Castellani, Head of the Language Department at Denver University is offering an introductory course in Latin for members of RLC. Please contact the Secretary for more information.

Lux in Caelestis Turri et Caelestis eam Non Comprahendebant

Under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Colorado


 Mense De Apsum
 9200 W Cross Dr
 Ste 202
 Littleton, CO 80123

Est. 1953
Research Lodge of Colorado

Laughing Lion Press