

The Gold Country Trestleboard

The Quarterly Newsletter of Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M.

210 17th Avenue, P.O. Box 1623, Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452; Phone: 303-567-2247; Website: <http://www.idahosprings26.org/>

Editor: W.:B.: Bill Achbach; 303-775-5727 (text or voice messages okay also); williamachbach@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

January

Doug Barbee Larry Olde
Robert Thomas

February

Bart Corfee John Gould
Kevin Masar Scott Pennell
Charles Rizzuto Bill Skewes

March

Bill Achbach Tracy Davison
Caleb Holman Richard Olde
Greyeme Platt Charles Shaeffer
Robert Wildman Lyle Wilkes

Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M

W.:B.:Bill Achbach, W.M.
303-775-5727 (call or text)
wbapm32@gmail.com

W.:B.:William F. Skewes, Secretary
303-519-1240
bill@skewes.com

STATED MEETINGS

January 5

January 19

February 2
(Annual Communication)

February 16

March 2

March 16

• Lodge opens at 7:30 PM

• Dinner at 6:30. Freewill donation (\$10 recommended for those who are able). Come and enjoy an hour of fellowship before the Stated Meeting.

• Building will be open by 6PM

From the East: A Message from the Worshipful Master

Brethren, it is an honor to be elected and installed as Master for the coming year. It seems like only yesterday that I came to Lodge as a visitor: a guest of WB John Gould. I will always be grateful to WB John for suggesting that I come with him to Lodge, because, in a very short time, I found here a new Masonic home, with Brothers and friends such as I had not known for...well...let's just say "much too long."

Some of you have heard me say that "I was a stranger, and you took me in," but, really, it would be more accurate to say that there are no strangers at Idaho Springs #26. The welcoming atmosphere, noted by many Brothers in coming through our door, may be our greatest asset!

So, what is on the horizon for our Lodge, in the coming year?

Overall goals for this Masonic year include:

- ◆ Keeping our Stated Meetings to one hour in length, whenever possible,
- ◆ Related to that, scheduling Masonic Education at each meeting,
- ◆ Undertaking our first effort to qualify as an Honor Lodge,
- ◆ Realizing a net increase in membership for 2022 MY, and
- ◆ Keep the Lodge's own webpage and Our Lodge Page (OLP) postings up to date.

We, of course, have ahead (and we hope with no further interference from the pandemic) all of the usual Grand Lodge events and obligations. The MW Grand Lodge of Colorado Annual Session will be on January 20-22, at the Double Tree Tech Center in Greenwood Village. Bro. Don, WB Danny and I will represent the Lodge at these sessions, and we look forward to reporting back to you in February.

The Grand Secretary informs us that there are four legislative proposals (amendments to the Book of Constitutions) on the agenda for Grand Lodge. These include proposals to...

1. Modify the role of the Committee on Custodians of the Work, to provide for direct assistance to the Grand Lecturer in providing instruction to Lodges & members.
2. Increase the amount of information to Lodges & members in advance of the annual Anniversary (Budget) Session,
3. Require Grand Lodge Standing Committees to submit plans for their work to the Grand Secretary, to make these available to Lodges & members (including budget), and include minutes of their meetings in their annual report to Grand Lodge, and
4. Add the Grand Lodge of Colorado Operations Endowment Fund to the list of non-profit corporations under the §501(c) umbrella of the Grand Lodge.

Our first meeting of the month, January through April, 2022, will once again be a joint meeting with Central #6.

Regarding our own work. we currently have one Fellowcraft and two Entered Apprentices, who are ready to advance in their Masonic journey. I am working to enlist the cooperation of one or more of our sister Lodges, in extending courtesy work (as their schedules of upcoming degree work may permit) to help us fulfill our obligations to these Brothers. We will, naturally, "do our own work," as we are able, but the reality is that it is becoming

Continued...

Masonic Trivia: (Answer at the end of this newsletter)

Who was Joseph Brant and what is his significance in the Masonic history of America?





Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M.
 210 17th Avenue, P.O. Box 1623
 Idaho Springs, Colorado 80452

“From the East,” continued...

difficult for us to plan and deliver degree work. That is a topic I will be raising with the Lodge, beginning in January.

Following our December 15 installation ceremony, I appointed WB Danny Hayman as Assistant Secretary. He will be assisting WB Bill Skewes with the Secretary’s duties, especially on Stated Meeting nights. WB Danny brings a wealth of knowledge and considerable skill and technical know-how to the most demanding job in Masonry. He and WB Bill should make a great team, and their combined work will serve to benefit the Lodge.

As we prepare for the our Annual Meeting in February, I have appointed Bro. Don Hale (Chair), WB Danny Hayman and Bro. Chris Boyd to serve as the Audit Committee for 2022. Remaining committee appointments will be announced at the January 5, Stated Meeting.

Brethren, as the new year begins, I will be sharing with you a number of program plans and ideas for this term. Some of these will represent mainly an effort to return our Lodge to a more familiar level of activity; some will seek to involve us more with other Lodges in the mutual and “laudable pursuit of Masonry;” and some will be an attempt to try what will be, for us, some new forms of both Masonic and general fraternal activity. I am excited by the possibilities, and I can think of no better approach to what we can achieve together than to see you in attendance at our Stated Meetings. Please come and be with your Brethren in Lodge!

I have no greater wish, during this year in the East, than to see **more** of you **more** often and to get to know **all** of you better! Let’s have an enjoyable and successful year together.

Bill

News & Coming Events

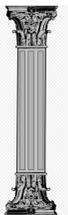
Annual Session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado will be January 20-22, at the Double Tree Tech Center, in Greenwood Village.

Congratulations to WBs Danny Tomlinson, Juan Carlos Millan and Fred Dare for their election and installation as Master at Central Lodge #6, Harmony Lodge #61 and Memorial Lodge #1, respectively. WBs Juan Carlos & Fred are plural members of Idaho Springs #26.

Mark it on your Calendars:

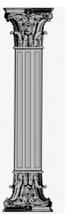
- ◆ **The first meeting in February (Feb. 2)** is Idaho Springs #26’s Annual Meeting. This is a special night in our Lodge, with annual reports & several items of special business.
- ◆ **The First meeting in April (April 6)** will be Lamb-skin Night at Idaho Springs. **FIND YOUR LAMB-SKIN APRON** and wear it that night. We will enjoy one or more special presentations that evening pertaining to our Masonic aprons.

For the Good of the Order: Your 2022 Officers



Worshipful Master, Bill Achbach, PM
Senior Warden, Don Hale
Junior Warden, Danny Tomlinson, PM
Secretary, William F. Skewes, PM
Assistant Secretary, Danny Hayman, PM
Treasurer, L. Dean Clark, PM

Senior Deacon, Jonathan Herrmann
Junior Deacon, Russell Magyar
Senior Steward, Fred Dare, PM
Junior Steward, Chris Boyd
Chaplin, Wes Cannady, PM
Marshall, Al Brown, PM



Answer to “Masonic Trivia”: Joseph Brant was “[a] Mohawk Indian who was initiated in London in 1776. While in command of some Indian troops in the British service [during the American War for Independence], who were prepared to torture Captain [John] McKinsty, an officer in the Colonial army, [Brant] noticed the mystic appeal in the hour of danger, whereupon he interposed and saved his brother from his impending fate. He rescued McKinsty, took him to Quebec, and placed him in the hands of English Masons, who eventually returned him, uninjured, to the American outposts. Years afterwards Brant visited McKinsty at his home in Greendale, N.Y.” (ref. Peterson, William O.; *Masonic Quiz Book: Ask Me Another, Brother!*: Book Tree, Kindle Edition.) Note: Another source also says that the two attended McKinsty’s home Lodge (Hudson Lodge No.13) together in 1805. A portrait of Joseph Brant hangs upon the wall of that Lodge room to this day.