



**Mesa Lodge #55 AF&AM
Grand Junction, Colorado
March 2021**



**Calendar of Meetings and
Events**

Mar 4	6:00 pm - Dinner (John Groves) Followed by Stated Communication at 7:00 pm
Mar 18	7:00 pm - Officer Practice
Apr 1	6:00 pm - Dinner (David Marshall) Followed by Stated Communication at 7:00 pm
Apr 30- May 1	Grand Junction Scottish Rite Spring Reunion - GJ Masonic Center



Linn Armstrong

Guest Message

**The Masonic Center
– Past, Present and
Future**



Fifty years of age is only a concept only understood by the context in which it is presented. Compared to how long-ago dinosaurs walked the earth, 50 years is mere speck in time. A Brother Mason reaching 50 years of age may have already had many aches and pains. Glasses, knee replacement or shoulder replacement and arthritis that are starting to enforce the signs of advancing age. Our temple building is now 50 years old and is doing very well – but with a few signs of old age.

Several years ago, the Temple Board made a very difficult and often controversial decision to rent the building to non-Masonic groups. The reality was that maintaining the Masonic Center was not sustainable unless outside assistance was brought in. Although comments such as “we never did it like that before” or “we can’t do that” were common. Brothers such as Sean Norris said, “how can I help to make this successful?” With their help we were able to obtain monies from outside rentals to maintain, improve and upgrade the facility while at the same time reducing the burden on our Masonic organizations faced with declining memberships.

Many of you remember Brother Chris Motz, President of Sun king Construction. Chris spent hours and hours of his personal time to take a serious look at the pressing needs of the building as well as long term updating. Twenty to thirty pages of plans and schematics are produced. Pressing need was the 40-year-old heating and air conditioning units that were wore out. All of the heating/AC units were replaced - not an easy task since the old units were/are lodged deep in the bowels of the building.

The lighting was very dated (i.e. so many complaints of how dark and gloomy the Consistory was). New lighting systems were installed throughout the building. Lodge Room #2 saw the greatest change. Lighting that is controlled for many uses. The hall is now bright and cheery. The dining room is brighter, and lighting is controllable. With the heating and lighting updates a sizable saving in the cost of utilities is realized.

Technology is important. State of the art big screen video systems in the Dining Room and Lodge Room #2 and the large televisions Lodge Room #1 allow viewing of video presentations from computers, cell phones or from the Internet. Examples: When Brother Ray McDaniel was recently given the Shriner of the year award his family and Shrine members were able to view a slide show of Ray’s Shriner history; this year’s Grand Lodge session was “zoomed” into Lodge Room #1; and building renters can present slide shows for weddings, funerals, etc.

As a further note, the Masonic Center has really good audio systems. Please make use these systems. Many of us whose hearing has diminished do appreciate the use of these audio systems during

**March
Birthdays**

Andrew Weber	Mar 1
Gerald Rossman	Mar 9
Brian Burns	Mar 11
Randy Larson	Mar 14
Emmett Palmer	Mar 14
Dick Gilmore	Mar 26
Byron Cook	Mar 27

Dinner Assignments

Dec	No Meeting
Jan	Parker King
Feb	Greg Foster
Mar	John Groves
Apr	David Marshall
May	Jim Marshall
Jun	Tim Claypool
July	Jason Kholes
Aug	Picnic - TBD
Sep	Harry Clark
Oct	Roger Phillips
Nov	Brad M-Anderson
Dec	Christmas Party

The 2021 Grand Master's pin is a reflection of a combination of the old Masonic lesson of the ladder; the current Grand Master's occupation as a house painter and his interest in one of his hobbies – astronomy. The colors chosen are our state's colors.





2021 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	David Marshall (Erika) 970-412-5809 tonupdave@gmail.com
Senior Warden	Harry Clark, P.M. (970) 986-9315 bigharrymonster@gmail.com
Junior Warden	Tim Claypool 970-712-3280 musashi_sama88@yahoo.com
Treasurer	John Groves, P.M. (Pam) 970-261-5189 johngroves@mac.com
Secretary	Christopher Geisler (Kele) 970-250-8979 crgeisler7@charter.net
Senior Deacon	Greg Foster (Jessica) (505) 350-0197 phelanwolf75@gmail.com
Junior Deacon	Parker King (Hannah) (970) 629-9496 king.parker94@gmail.com
Senior Steward	Andrew Weber (Kimberlee) (970) 312-4773 mramweber@icoud.com
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Jim Marshall (Victoria) (970) 712-9207 247gearhead@gmail.com
Chaplain	Jason Kohles, P.M. (970)250-8004 coloradohunter@myway.com
Marshal	William Marshall 970) 260-5432 metisse@bresnan.net
Director of the Work	John Groves, P.M. (Pam) 970-261-5189 johngroves@mac.com

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Lodge and other events. Brother Harry Clark and Brother Mark McGowan’s knowledge “tech-savvy” has been instrumental

Brother Briscoe has spent hours installing electronic locks. I do mean hours. Now entry is more closely monitored and controlled. The question wasn’t who had a key to the facility, the question was who in Grand Junction didn’t have a key to the Lodge!

Several security cameras have been installed throughout center to assist in monitoring building. We can now monitor activities in the building over the Internet, from anywhere. Major past complaints have involved plumbing problems in the main bathrooms. At the beginning of 2020 a project to remodel of those bathrooms to handicapped accessibility standards began. COVID-19 caused horrific delays, but after delay after delay by late 2020 that project was completed prompting many positive comments.

Speaking of COVID-19, our outside rental income was reduced by 50% in 2020. Because of advertising, our greatly improved website (grandvalleyeventcenter.com), and by word of mouth much of that rental income is now returning.

Two people who have to be on top of their game is Sharon Parrish and Brother Mike Briscoe. These two take turns showing and checking renters into the facility. They look professional, they show the facility and know how the “stuff “ works to renters.

One project that was particularly fun and interesting were the six columns in Lodge Room #1. During and for some time after construction back in 1972 the columns were rolled up and laid on the floor. This caused seriously deteriorated. Over a 3-month period a restoration by a professional restored these pieces of art to the beauty they deserved.

The Temple will again host a booth at the 2021 Wedding Expo at Two Rivers hoping to attract couples that wish to avoid the outrageous facility fees at local hotels.

For the last 50 years our backyard has been a mud bog with knee-high weeds. The city weed patrol has been a worthy adversary, so we have had to spend serious dollars for weed control. Before his passing, Chris Motz worked made an improvement plan for the backyard and the area between Lodge Rooms #2 and #3. Grand Junction Lodge #173 has volunteered funding to implement that plan. A large patio will be created for outdoor gatherings such as dances, parties and other events for renters as well as for Masonic functions. This new area will be named the “Plateau 101 Vern and Ken Dillard Family Park”. Much of the money is coming from the sale of the Plateau Lodge #101building in Mesa. This construction is an example of “For The Good of Masonry!”

As spring and summer arrive, we will be repairing the new roof leaks that have occurred over the winter. There are currently three different roof compositions covering our building. Each roof has its own problems. ALL are flat roofs. Traditionally, in late summer and early fall the roof is inspected and repaired as necessary in preparation for winter.

If the occasion arises, please thank your Temple Board, John Groves, Mike Briscoe and Sharon Parrish, Harry Clark and all those who have given hours of their time so to support our Masonic Center.

Linn Armstrong, President, Grand Junction Masonic Temple Association, Inc.