



March 2022

NEWSLETTER



▶▶▶ **Montgomery Lodge #258**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Monthly Overview	07	Treasurer Continued
02	Greetings From The East	08	Birthdays & Anniversaries
03	Greetings From The West	09	Lodge Contacts
04	Continued From The West	10	Masonic Memories
05	Greetings From The South	11	Monthly Recipe
06	From Our Treasurer	12	March Masonic Events



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Masonry is in full swing during the spring months, as always. If you are looking to engage in Masonic activities or catch up with your brethren, springtime is your best opportunity to get out and about.

Montgomery Lodge #258 has a plethora of activities happening, from new candidates to degree work, and it is exciting. We've experienced record attendance recently, compared to previous years, thanks to the leadership of our outstanding officers.

This week marks a transition and turning point in the lodge, adopting a new focus from our officers for what has historically been called an "officers meeting". It is the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master that we have renamed our traditional officers meeting to a "Growth Meeting", incorporating the G.R.O.W. method into our processes. G.R.O.W. stands for goal, reality, options, and will and way forward. This methodology is used in top corporations around the world to engage with members, employees, and volunteers, which has shown to foster change and growth more readily. Our first Growth Meeting will happen on 3/10/2022, and the details are listed further down in this newsletter. Growth meetings are open to all members of our Lodge, and we look forward to your input for the future direction of Montgomery Lodge #258.

Our current officer line is working hard to promote growth within our great fraternity and lodge, and they hope you will take on the challenge of your oath to Masonry to help our new candidates and members on their path to becoming outstanding Masons. It's time to answer your call, and be part of the team who makes great strides for positive progress. We need you, and appreciate your efforts towards growing the craft.



Montgomery Lodge #258
March 2022 Newsletter



GREETINGS FROM THE EAST



Aloha Brothers,

Greeting from Maui! My better half Sandy and I, along with four other couples from our Masonic family are in Heaven! Not sure we are coming back. Not sure we can afford to stay.

Congratulations to our newest brother! Welcome brother Geoff! I am told we received another petition this past Thursday. This is exciting!

As I was over the Pacific at 30K feet, I was not able to attend our Stated meeting on the 17th. I had talked to our SW Wiley Davis before departure, I believe it makes sense that we change the scheduled Second degree to another First degree on March 10th, if the investigations can be done prior to our work.

Then the two newest brothers can do their Fellowcraft and MM degrees together and it is extremely efficient for the Lodge.

I read the minutes and I believe the Table Lodge has been cancelled. It is for the best. Our degrees and new candidates take precedence. I would like to thank all the brothers that helped with the first degree! We even had three brothers from different Lodges fill certain roles. That to me is a perfect description of Masonry. Three brothers, two of which I had never had the pleasure of meeting, took time out of their own lives to come and help Montgomery! Thank You WB's!

I hope to see in Lodge Brothers. Montgomery is doing great!

Mahalo,

Mike Nehm



GREETINGS FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

In times of turmoil, we often seek solace in the areas of our lives that are most comfortable. There are many sayings that pass their way through the military services, one of my personal favorites is that, “there are no atheists in foxholes”. In other words, in times of conflict, we often turn to our Creator for comfort. As I ponder my journey in Freemasonry, I often draw parallels to other areas of my life. Like so many, I can look back and see how many different experiences in my past have led me to where I am today.

As one of the designated point persons for welcoming new candidates to our Lodge, I often find myself explaining that Freemasonry is where men meet each other

on the level and leave their stations in life at the door. This isn't to say that we leave our troubles at the door. Often, we find the best counsel available in the form of a friend who is also a Brother. One of the things I go on to share with these candidates, is that in Lodge, only two subjects are absolutely taboo; politics and religion.

Back to my initial commentary, though religion may be considered a taboo subject, our respective relationships with our creator is not. We should in no way feel ashamed or unable to share our experiences with the Supreme Architect. I've had many experiences that have shaped who I am. The ones that stand out the most are the ones where my Creator either led me into or in some cases out of, the place I was in. I've been in a literal foxhole, on a lonely highway at night, navigating any number of perilous situations, and each time, when faith was all but lost, I felt the presence of the Supreme Architect.

Our present situation is no different. We are seemingly inundated with turmoil in the form of war, politics, economic woes, the health of our beloved Fraternity, the list goes on. In addition, many of us face our own personal struggles, some shared, some not. I believe, my Creator has brought me to this place in my life for a reason.



THE WEST CONTINUED



More to the point, I believe you, my Brothers are in my life for a reason. It isn't always clear and I will likely never fully understand it, but I believe it to be true. I also believe, that we are designed and called to support each other and be able to lean on each other, as necessary and appropriate.

I encourage each of you to lean on one another, and conversely, offer each other a shoulder to lean on. I believe very strongly that by doing so, we will strengthen our bonds to each other and this will show through our actions and ultimately strengthen our Fraternity.

Fraternally,

WB Wiley Davis



GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH



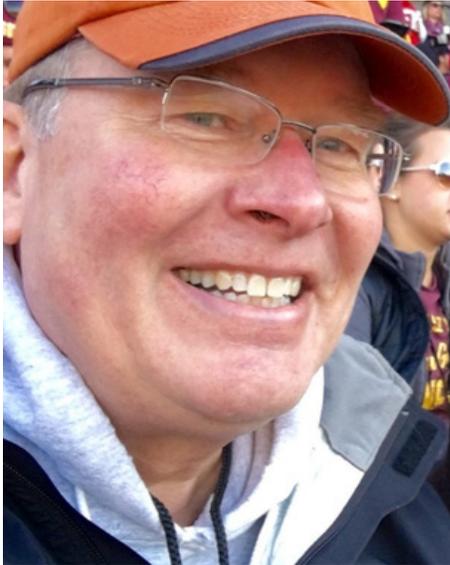
To the brother's of Montgomery, we've been having some delicious meals before the meetings. We have several candidates coming in. We have some fun events that we have been discussing, that will happen over the summer.

Thanks,

WB Kurt Dornfeld



GREETINGS FROM THE TREASURER



“I didn’t have time to write you a short letter, so I wrote you a long one.” Brother Mark Twain

Imagine opening the envelope with your paycheck and finding it empty. How would you feel? What would you think?

Imagine checking your auto deposit bank account for your Social Security, employer’s or customer’s expected payment on the day it was scheduled for deposit and nothing was entered. Your balance had not changed. What might you feel? What might you think?

What if we weren’t talking about your personal account but instead Montgomery’s; Would it be different? Should it be different when dues envelopes from brothers are empty or don’t show up?

Paying dues on time is a privilege and duty every brother has. It makes us financially responsible individuals contributing to the health of the lodge, and builds a better community.

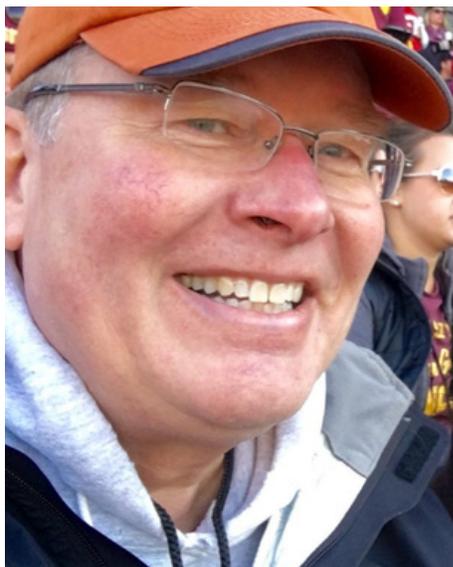
Obligations not met on time, force changes in the plans represented in our annual budget. The officers shouldn’t guess how many dues will roll in or when.

I pay lodge bills based on a budget, voted on at the first meeting of the year. If income falls below budget then our budget is invalidated and our by-laws require voting on each and every bill we pay or we make a revised budget by vote. That is tedious time consuming activity to be avoided at stated meetings where time can be better used for pleasurable and enlightening subjects.

We worry about brothers who pay late and have not told us why. It’s one thing if a check is lost in the mail and another if a brother loses his job, has a sick child, and funds are low. Still another if he is no longer interested in the lodge and is quitting without taking a demit. And, yet another if, the brother placed a low priority for meeting the deadline or if he values the money more in his own pocket than in the lodge Treasury where on the first of the year it belongs. Unless we communicate with the late paying brother we have no idea why, when or if to expect it at all. Continued...



TREASURER CONTINUED



We want to help brothers, not embarrass them. We aim to preserve our brother's dignity in all circumstances. Sometimes a loan conveys confidence, other times the Almoner is helpful. Since brothers and situations are different, these are consuming and important considerations

Today, if not paid already, 2022 dues are past due. If you are able, without inconvenience to yourself, please pay them today. Doing so helps us focus where it is needed, on brothers who can't pay.

If you are delinquent, and writing a check today isn't possible, please contact The Master, Secretary or Almoner who will gladly offer guidance depending on your situation. I am certain it would not be an unpleasant conversation because it will realign expectations for planning purposes and find solutions if more complicated circumstances are involved. We are brothers and it is the right thing to do.

I'll leave you with this parting lesson or reminder:

Assuming the bill is just and the ability to pay exists, the lessons of the centuries teach us to pay on the same day the debt is due not the next day.

Leviticus 19:13 " Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning."

I extend my appreciation to the vast majority of brothers who pay their dues on time. Without you we could not function.

I also want to thank, and profess my sincere respect, to brothers who have gotten behind for an array of reasons, and even with the elevated debt, managed to pay the lodge by determination and financial planning.

Lastly, I thank and wish to express my admiration for brothers who have encountered financial distress and in their dark hour had the courage to reach out to the lodge so arrangements could be made and our budgeted and actual incomes aligned so we could spend or fundraise accordingly.

I feel honored to be your Treasurer.

WB Dave Hansen



LODGE BIRTHDAYS

There are 6 brethren with birthdays during the month of March. Happy birthday, brothers.

De Vanney Kellogg, Jr.	March 9th
Kendall Crosby	March 12th
Kirk Lindgren	March 20th
Mark Dreyer	March 23rd
James Malsom	March 24th
Jerome Erickson	March 28th

LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

Dale Carmichael	March 17th, 48 years of fraternal service
Gregory Deegan	March 25th, 21 years of fraternal service
David Tabor	March 10th, 20 years of fraternal service
Oree Stevenson	March 24th, 3 years of fraternal service



LODGE CONTACTS

Our current officer line, along with their contact information

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Worshipful Master	Mike Nehm	(651) 269-2826	smnehm@comcast.net
Senior Warden	WB Wiley Davis	(763) 350-2335	wilo.davis@gmail.com
Junior Warden	WB Kurt Dornfeld	(651) 774-4049	dirtykurty2@gmail.com
Senior Deacon	WB Lawrence Gruffman	(612) 868-3949	Gh20@qwest.net
Junior Deacon	WB Christopher Zack	(651) 329-2342	Czack76@gmail.com
Senior Steward	WB Andrew Rappath	(651) 485-3070	arappath@hotmail.com
Junior Steward	Vacant	None	None
Secretary	WB Chris Elmquist	(612) 275-5707	specialist357@comcast.net
Treasurer	WB David Hansen	(651) 357-0912	davehansen@mac.com
Tyler	WB Bob Wicke	(651) 276-2865	bobwicke@comcast.net
L.E.O. (Lodge Education Officer)	WB David Seitz	(651) 468-5494	djseitz@comcast.net
Chaplain	WB Daniel Skoog	(651) 762-7035	dcskoog@gmail.com
Marshall	WB Thomas Keeley	(651) 829-9258	tskeeley@gmail.com

**Update your personal information by
contacting us at secretary@montgomerylodge.com**

Masonic Memories



The year was 1965. I was a young energetic man of twenty-seven years, filled with dreams and ideas, when I was raised a Master Mason by WM George Ziemski. This honor began a wonderful journey of my Masonic fellowship. WB Emory Stanley, appointed me Education Chairman which I served for two years. As I recall, there was remodeling of the lodge at that time. Our lodge facility on Payne Avenue; the East side of St. Paul, was vastly improved by adding an addition, a new front facade, and a complete overhaul of the lower level and exterior. This monumental task was headed up by building chairman, WB Lou Goldie. When completed, it was beautiful. The huge square and compass adorning the outside with the letter "G" was said to stand for "Goldie" who had done such an outstanding job. We spent many happy years enjoying that lodge facility. The lodge building was sold in the year 2000, we have since met at the Masonic Center on Plato Boulevard.

In the fall of 1966, I was honored when WB George French, graciously appointed me as Tyler of Montgomery Lodge AF & AM. for the year 1967, that was fifty-five years ago. Forty-nine, since the winter day in December 1973, when I was installed Worshipful Master of Montgomery Lodge, for the ensuing year 1974. Reflecting on my years as Worshipful Master, and Past Master of Montgomery Lodge AF & AM., brings memories of great times: laughter, unbridled pride, devotion to brothers, times of sadness, and the joy of sharing our Masonic values. Montgomery is a most august Masonic Lodge with a long history of notable past masters and great masonic brothers.

My love for Montgomery Lodge began as a young boy around the age of four. I remember with fun and fondness my grandfather, Bro. Chester H. Skoog, bringing me to the Children's Christmas Party. We were greeted with singing and a jolly Santa handing out stockings filled with candy, animal crackers and other treats. There were games to play, a bazaar for the ladies, and of course the traditional reading of "The Night Before Christmas." We enjoyed hotdogs and ice cream in the same way kids do today.

I came from a family of brother Master Masons. Both my grandfathers, Bro. John Odin Halseth and Bro. Chester Hubert Skoog were early members of Montgomery Lodge. My father, Bro. Curtis Willard Skoog served as degree vocalist for many years, performing with organist Bro. George Johnson. My uncles, Darwin Dale, Martin Halseth, and John C. Skoog were also among my family who enjoyed the Masonic order. In years past, I have had the privilege of sitting in the East and raising my son Rodney D. Skoog, son-in-law David J. Hakes, and grandsons Jonathan S. Hakes and Mark D. Hakes.

Each spring, we looked forward to our Annual Sportsman Club Fishing Party. We had a ball gathering prizes and planning for a great fundraiser for the lodge. Parents and kids alike enjoyed the games, food, and raffle. I remember my own son's excitement when he opened his prize bag and discovered it was filled with fishing lures. He still talks about what fun he had and the big canoe filled with bags of prizes, rods and reels in the middle of the lodge. The highlight of the party was the raffle of the canoe, fishing boat and motor. This event was enjoyed for many years "catching" on as one of our favorites.

Montgomery was well known for delicious beef dinners and pancake breakfasts! It was said, that the aroma of the beef and pancakes was so inviting that it drew in crowds up and down Payne Avenue. I remember laughing with the guys in the kitchen as I cooked the first hard as a rock pancake, we later called "a roof tile." I would politely deliver the "roof tile" and sausage to an unsuspecting past master; Oh, the look on his face as he covered it with syrup and attempted to chisel a bite out of it. Now, the joke is to deliver the "roof tile" to WB Skoog!

Masonic Memories, Cont'd



Each year brothers joined in the Sportsman's Club Annual Fishing Trip which was always a blast. I remember one year, WB Richard G. Westman, walked out on the dock to look over the lake. He didn't realize how close to the edge he was when, "splash," he fell in head over tea kettle. His shock and our laughter can still be heard across the lake today. As brothers, we enjoyed sitting by the lake listening to WB Clyde E. White, and in other years WB Kenneth E. White, play their guitars and sing. There were many different Country and Western tunes we sang together. All of these times promoted brotherhood and fellowship.

WB Walter F. Grun, attempted an annual Lutefisk Dinner. Although it didn't take off as we had hoped, it did result in the beginning of thirty-six years of Lutefisk dinner parties in December, for PM's MWB Donald B. Sether, WB Richard G. Westman, WB Clyde E. White, WB James R. Aurandt, WB Daniel C. Skoog, along with their lovely ladies. We had great fellowship as Masonic brothers enjoying time together in unity.

For many years Montgomery participated in three year reciprocal trips with our Canadian brothers from St. John's Lodge in Winnipeg, Canada. In the initial years, we traveled by train and reserved a coach and extra car for cards and refreshments. The last year for train travel was during WB Donald B. Sether's year 1969. After that, we traveled by bus. We looked forward to our turn hosting the St. John's Lodge brothers and a great time was always had forging good friends, good times, and good fellowship.

During my year as Master in 1974, with the help of WB Merlin H. Kvaal, Montgomery Lodge put on the first Masonic Table Lodge which was patterned after a German Table Lodge which WB Kvaal brought back from his time of employment while working in Germany. It was a formal event with the officers in Tuxedos and aprons. The Master was ceremonially escorted in under the cadence of unison clapping. The officers and brothers each gave individual toasts to God and Country, and a meaningful speech about the United States, written by Canadian Sinclair was given by Master, WB Daniel C. Skoog.

We all looked forward to the annual picnics; especially my daughter, who was always excited to attend the Masonic Home picnic in Shakopee. She couldn't wait for the pony rides, ice cream, and bingo games. Many participated in yard games of sack races, egg toss, three legged races and my favorite the horseshoe match. At the end of the day, we all took home our sleepy children. Our picnics at Phalen Park, were similar, with lots of fun and prizes for everyone!

I could write a book about my memories of times spent with wonderful brothers and friends. But I'll close with a reminder of this anecdotal degree event. Some of you were there and others only know the story by word of mouth. We were in the midst of a 3rd degree, second section. I found it necessary to take a secret break from the work, so I made my way to the men's room. However, much to my chagrin, I neglected to turn off my microphone. Well, we all know how the story goes. Upon my return to the East, I was met with chuckling all around. I was unaware what had happened and felt a little confused by the laughter. What I discovered was that instead of the privacy I thought I enjoyed in the men's room, I had instead entertained my fellow brothers with the sounds of rushing waters. To this day, when we are preparing for a degree, I am reminded, out of love, to "turn off my microphone."

It has been my great honor to be a fellow Mason at Montgomery Lodge AF & AM. What a fantastic home of fellowship and unity it has been for me. I continue to make and cherish all my memories with my fellow Masonic brothers.

Fraternally,
WB Daniel C. Skoog

Montgomery Lodge #258
March 2022 Newsletter



MONTHLY RECIPE

This BBQ sauce recipe has a lot of sweetness and spice, so if you're looking for a classic BBQ sauce that's easy to make, look no further.



Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups ketchup
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ cup water
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 ½ tablespoons dry mustard
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 ½ teaspoons black pepper
- 2 dashes hot pepper sauce

Directions

In a blender, combine brown sugar, ketchup, vinegar, water and Worcestershire sauce. Season with mustard, paprika, salt, pepper, and hot pepper sauce. Blend until smooth.

Notes

This will fill a 32 ounce ketchup bottle exactly. Cut back on the brown sugar to make it less sweet, or add more Worcestershire for more 'steak sauce' appeal.

Nutrition Facts

Per Serving:

43 calories; protein 0.4g; carbohydrates 10.2g; fat 0.3g; sodium 278.4mg.



LODGE EVENTS

When	What	Time	Where
March 3rd	Stated Meeting	6:00 PM	200 E. Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107
March 10th	Growth Meeting	6:00 PM	1145 Woodhill Dr, Roseville, MN 55113
March 17th	Stated Meeting	6:00 PM	200 E. Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55107

SHRINE EVENTS

When	What	Time	Where
March 24th	Shrine Circus	10:30 AM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 24th	Shrine Circus	7:00 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 25th	Shrine Circus	10:00 AM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 25th	Shrine Circus	2:30 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 25th	Shrine Circus	7:30 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 26th	Shrine Circus	10:00 AM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 26th	Shrine Circus	2:30 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 26th	Shrine Circus	7:30 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 27th	Shrine Circus	10:30 AM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108
March 27th	Shrine Circus	3:00 PM	1784 Judson Ave, St Paul, MN 55108

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The monthly newsletter requires input from numerous brothers within our lodge. This months contributors include:

- WM Mike Nehm
- SW Wiley Davis
- JW Kurt Dornfeld
- Treasurer David Hansen
- Secretary Chris Elmquist
- Chaplain Daniel Skoog
- Secretary in Training Brad Batdorf

*We thank you for your continued
membership & participation.*



Contact

Montgomery Lodge #258

200 Plato Blvd. East, St. Paul, MN 55107

612-424-3214

montgomerylodge.com

secretary@montgomerylodge.com