

# MT. RUSHMORE LODGE #220

## Agenda

7:00 p.m.

Jan 23, 2025,

Stated Meeting

**Opening**

**Introduction**

Visiting Brothers

**Secretary**

Communications-

**2025 Dues Notices have been sent out.**

**Bills-**

-Grand Lodge per Capita and Degree Fee assessment Bill

**Treasurer's Report**

**Petitions-**

**Sickness and Distress-**

-Margo is ICU

**New Business-**

Rapid City 25 will be delivering flowers and chocolate too are widows.

**Old Business-**

-George Washington dinner- Ken Harris

-\$1000 community impact check was presented to The Club for Boys.

**RCMBA update.**

-Rent has been raised on the building assessment. \$150 now \$1250 per quarter.

-Talk about keeping or selling the building- (see attachments.)

**Awaiting Degrees:**

**Entered Apprentice: Jan 24-25 Masonic Festival**

Anderson, Brad Eugene	Candidate
Brinker, Douglas Scott	Candidate
Burton, Marshae Shundell	Candidate
Fox, David Jerald	Candidate
Johnson, Herron LaQuay	Candidate
Kosola, Joshua Alan	Candidate
Mastel, Dylan Michael	Candidate

# An Historic Conversation

Perhaps some will say that this conversation is late, and I will not argue that point. Rather, I will say we are having it now.

There are two issues at play in this setting and this conversation must clearly identify and discuss both of those issues. The first issue is **the cost of operations** in this Masonic Temple. The second issue is the **restoration of the historic building**. Each has a price tag and a benefit but together they are frankly causing us great consternation. The purpose of this document is to examine each issue by providing some facts so that you may decide in February of 2025.

First and critically, it is the emotional issue. For every single member of Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Lodge 25, Lodge 220, Golden Link Chapter, Black Hills Chapter No. 25 Royal Arch Masons and Schrader Commandery No. 9 we have ALWAYS come to 618 Kansas City Street. We do not have any other experience. It has "always been here"! Except for maybe 5 or 6 Black Hills Council No. 3 members who used to meet in Lead, it has always been here.

Why would we even consider changing the address of where we meet? There may be some valid reasons. Let's look at some. After examining all the things to consider, maybe we'll want to at least think about some changes. Please, keep your mind open to new considerations.

Twenty years ago, we had a membership that was far different than is the case now. Remember that only thirty years before the men who were members of Lodge 25 decided that membership and those who were knocking on the doors of Masonry were in such numbers to warrant a second Lodge. In the past twenty years, those people who were members of one or both Lodges have wondered when Lodge 220 or 25 would close and merge with the "other" Lodge.

Just the ways we recognize and accept losses in membership have changed. In former times when the Secretary of a York Rite or Blue Lodge or Eastern Star Chapter reported that a Sister or a Brother was "still delinquent" in February, a member who knew the individual would pursue the matter. Contrast that with the mode of operation utilized in 2025. Organizations tend to wait until December when their By-



Laws require action. It is just a different approach and certainly less “member-focused” than in days of yore.

But all of this is dancing about the issue. Membership in Masonic organizations is decreasing every year. Some of the losses are just not capable of being remedied. When a Sister or Brother moves to another community we can only promote and encourage affiliation in the new Lodges, Chapters and Commanderies. The degree to which we do that is far, far less impactful than was the case thirty years ago. Discontinuing membership because of non-payment of dues doesn’t happen very often...nor should it, but there are one or two every year. The “Grim Reaper” is the biggest cause of membership decline year after year. That is the one we cannot impact. BUT the result is just as certain...we lose members, and the result is the Lodge or Chapter or Temple loses income.

Twenty years ago, in Rapid City we had well over 600 members scattered throughout the three York Rite organizations and the Golden Link Chapter. They were members in Lodge 220 and 25 and about 250 only held membership in the Eastern Star Chapter. Today we have far fewer scattered throughout the same six organizations. Those members pay dues and part of their dues is used by the historic Masonic Temple to provide water and heat and lights for those meetings. Because there are fewer members...the cost for each of us is greater! *How long before we have priced our fraternity and sorority out of the reach of our members?*

NOW, let’s focus upon the place where those hundreds of men and women have met for almost 100 years...618 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD.

The historic building is perhaps beautiful or ugly as you see it, but it is the recognized site of Masonry in Rapid City and for the area. Of late there has been a concerted effort to “restore” the Masonic Temple to its former glory, structurally and decoratively. In that melee’, it seems that some have lost sight of all that must be done for operations or day-to-day functions.

The **operation** of the building is a very costly experience each year and the bottom-line cost increases every year. While the figures are still being applied for fy2024, we have the figures for the previous three years and an approximation for the year 2024. The numbers are on the attachment. Please note the differences!



What may not be understood is that some of the **restoration monies** is being spent for day-to-day operations. **That is wrong.** Additionally, the projected “**Capital Campaign**” to raise a million dollars or more to **RESTORE** the Masonic Temple cannot be used for operations of the building. Operations funding comes from “building dues” which members pay.

Each of the “organizations” pays a quarterly assessment which is established by the Trustees annually. In addition, the RCMBA leases the parking lot and that nets us a sum without having to do anything except keep the snow clear in the winter. Additionally, each organization pays a per-cap on its membership. Sometimes we rent the facility and derive some income.

The fact is that the operating expenses of this building are more than the dues and income from the organizations which inhabit the building and have been for over three years. *We do not collect enough in building dues to pay the costs of keeping the lights on for the organizations to meet.*

We are faced with two (2) challenges: **1-** restore the building to what it was 100 years ago, and **2-** be able to pay for the operations of the building from our members' dues.

Based upon the current ways of doing business, we cannot do it. That's why we need the conversation and in February the members will answer the question...shall we sell the building?

## 2021

**Total Revenues**    **\$55,483.50**

**Total Expenses**    **\$45,389.50**

**Net Income**        **\$10,049.00**

## 2022

**Total Revenues**    **\$38,934.79**

**Total Expenses**    **\$49,374.47**

**Net Income**        **\$10,439.68**

## 2023

**Total Revenues**    **\$45,602.92**

**Total Expenses**    **\$70,109.26**

**Net Income**        **\$24,506.34**

## 2024 (Jan-Nov.)

**Total Revenues**    **\$49,023.45**

**Total Expenses**    **\$72,926.76**

**Net Income**        **\$23,902.96**



**RAPID CITY**  
**MASONIC BUILDING ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025 Annual Corporate Meeting**

**15 January 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Contents**

- ❖ **Agenda**
- ❖ **Minutes – January 17, 2024**
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report**
- ❖ **Vice President's Report**
- ❖ **President's Report**

# Rapid City Masonic Building Association



## 2025 Annual Corporate Meeting Agenda

**January 15, 2025  
6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Determination of Quorum

Approval of Agenda

Minutes – pre-printed

January 17, 2024 (see "Reports" packet)

Treasurer's Annual Report

Reports of Officers

- President's Report – (see "Reports" packet)
- Vice President's Report – (See "Reports" packet)
- Treasurer's Report - printed
- Secretary's Report (see "Reports" packet)

Unfinished Business



New Business

- ♦ Issues from Members of the Rapid City Masonic Building Association



Comments and Questions of Members

Adjournment

Notes:

- The Trustees of the Rapid City Masonic Building Association will meet immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the Association to transact such business as may come before it and to elect officers in accord with the By-Laws of the Association. The Trustee Meeting is open to all who wish to attend.
- Election of officers: "Immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Board of Trustees shall hold its Regular Meeting and shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer." (Article IV, Section 4)



**Rapid City Masonic Building Association  
2024 Annual Meeting of the Corporation**

**January 17, 2024**

**6:20p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order:**

The 2024 Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by President George Bauder.

**Roll Call:**

The Secretary took the attendance with the following Trustees present:

- Present: Joshua White, Austin Roubedeaux, Dave Meltz, Chad Tipton, Dan Conklin, Herb Cook, George Bauder, Dale Dunham, Joann Coady and Anna Thoreson.
- Excused: Mike Lamb, Chris Holland, Mike Argenziano, Alex VanCuren, Red Alspaw, Lana Chapman, and Leslee Wallis
- Other attendees: None

**Quorum:** Ten or more Trustees were present - It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Motion made by Dave Meltz to approved the Agenda was seconded by Dale Dunham; motion carried

**Secretary:**

- Minutes of the January 19, 2023, meeting were previously emailed. Motion made by Dave Meltz to approved the Minutes was seconded by Dale Dunham; motion carried.

**Reports of Officers:**

- President's Report - this was tabled; will be up for discussion during the January 17, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting
- Vice President's Report - motion made by Chad Tipton to accept the Vice President's Report as presented was seconded by Austin Roubedeaux; motion carried
- Treasurer's Report - motion made by Dave Meltz to accept the Treasurer's 2023 Report as presented was seconded by Dale Dunham; motion carried

- Secretary's Report - motion made by Dave Meltz to receive the report of the Secretary was seconded by Dale Dunham: motion carried

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- New Executive Position titled "Social Media & Technologies Coordinator" was proposed by Austin Roubedeaux; this position would be responsible for the webpage, upload meeting minutes, building history, contact information of the executive board, approve calendar requests (calendar will be online). More information will be presented at the February Board of Trustees meeting.
- Bronze Plaque - need to get that affixed to the building; shows the historic designation - need to plan a celebration - further discussion at regular Board of Trustee meetings
- Fundraising - it was suggested going out to the local businesses for donations, either monetary or supplies needed for our restoration of the building; combine with the Federal Campaign through EAFB, WeCareTuesdays at Applebee's and other restaurants
- There will be a seminar being offered through United Way in the next few days for help on major fundraising events - President Bauder will try to attend
- A motion made by Austin Roubedeaux to bring expertise in the form of Dane Bloch to put together a major fundraising campaign for the building was seconded by Dave Meltz; discussion: George will be seeing him in the next few weeks to discuss this; motion carried.

Adjournment:

- Motion made by Dale Dunham to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Austin Roubedeaux; Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

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George E. Bauder  
President

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Joann L Coady  
Joann L. Coady  
Secretary



## **Vice President's Report – Rapid City Masonic Building Association**

Date: January 15, 2025

To the Board and Members of the Rapid City Masonic Building Association,

As we move into the new year, I would like to provide an update on the ongoing projects and challenges facing the Association.

### **Elevator Repairs**

The committee tasked with the elevator repair has made progress, and we are currently awaiting the installation of the control panel, which will be the final step needed for the elevator to become fully operational. We are hopeful that this will be completed in the near future.

### **Renovation of Ante-Room and Prep Room**

The remodeling of the ante-room and prep room is continuing. Dan Conklin has taken the lead on this project, and while progress is steady, it is clear that the scope of work continues to grow as more issues are uncovered. We are working diligently to complete this project as efficiently as possible.

### **Building Maintenance and Financial Strain**

However, I must report that we are facing significant challenges with the overall condition of the building. The structure has deteriorated to the point where the cost of necessary repairs and upkeep is becoming unsustainable. The list of repairs needed to keep the building operational is long and growing. Unfortunately, our current membership is unable to fundraise or generate the financial resources necessary to cover these astronomical costs. The expense required to address these issues is far beyond what we can manage without drastic measures.

As it stands, the building's condition limits our ability to adequately serve all of our members. The years of deferred maintenance have compounded the difficulty of making repairs, and the situation now requires an immense financial investment to make the building safe and functional.

### **Recommendation for Future Action**

Given the dire state of the building and the financial burden that ongoing repairs would impose, I strongly recommend that we consider listing the building for sale in its current condition. We could then invest the proceeds from the sale, along with future funds, into acquiring a new building that better serves the needs of our members.

The necessary repairs are so extensive that it would require either a massive fundraising effort or a significant increase in dues to cover the costs. Neither of these solutions appears viable given our current financial and membership constraints. Moving forward with the sale and reinvestment in a new property may be the most practical path to ensuring the long-term viability of the Association.

In conclusion, while this is not an easy decision to make, the condition of the building and the financial realities we are facing leave us with limited options. I look forward to discussing this matter further and finding the best way to support our members and ensure the future of the Association.

Sincerely,  
Joshua White  
Vice President, Rapid City Masonic Building Association



# *Rapid City Masonic Building Association, Inc.*

## *President's Report*

*December 31, 2024*

We are at a point in our organizations when we must see clearly,  
or... we will cease to exist...

*I do not take this issue lightly or casually. It is not in my nature to approach tasks or jobs or responsibilities with a "light or trifling" attitude. I am deeply concerned that we will let emotions govern our actions rather than seeking real, tangible ideas that might result in corrections.*

- ‡ The membership in our organizations is declining and it is the membership; the Sisters and Brothers and Companions and Sir Knights who own this structure, who need a place for functions and to practice the elements of our "fraternity".
- ‡ Beliefs and attitudes have demonstrably changed. We have always expected that what we are about is acceptable in *everyone's* sight. Realistically, many people just do not believe we, "the Rapid City Masonic Family" have the wherewithal, courage, determination or just plain wisdom/intelligence to do so.
- ‡ The costs of providing a site for us to meet has skyrocketed out of site. If there is a single "item" which confounds us, it is the tension between being able to recognize our legitimacy as an organization and to pay for it. It wasn't more than three years ago when we could "afford" to have our Temple cleaned by professionals. It wasn't more than three years ago when we could afford to have a tablecloth and silverware and china dishes for our after-meeting "treats". It wasn't more than three years ago when we could easily pay for the snow removal. It wasn't more than three years ago when we could afford to paint a wall, recover furniture, or feel pride in what we have.
- ‡ The elevator is a continuing issue. Over the years since its installation, we have spent resources to have it checked for safety and to ensure that it would carry "our precious cargo" from one level to another. Our elevator has performed admirably for over a quarter of a century. Now it has told us that it's tired and needs some new parts and pieces. Unfortunately, the parts and pieces are VERY costly and the expertise to install them is also priced way beyond our level of monetary comfort or ability.



The Trustees have exhausted the funds in the "restoration holdings" to cover the costs of elevator repair...and it isn't yet fixed.

- ‡ In accord with the plans for restoration we had hoped to restore the front windows on the lower level. We have not been able to locate a "fabricator" capable in 2024 of re-making the original steel window frame.
- ‡ The photographs in the Anteroom: This has been the most discouraging part of the "public rooms" restoration. We waited for the frames; we waited for a lot of "other things" and still the pictures were not 'ready'. Well, I believe the pictures are finally ready for hanging and Chad Tipton and I are serious believers that the project will be done before the end of January...2025.
- ‡ During this year I appointed Herb Cook to the position of "Building Manager". We haven't had much of a chance for Herb to become acclimated to the job, but it is my goal and Herb's goal to bring this job/responsibility to fruition. Among some of the ideas Herb has suggested is to reduce the frequency of cleaning to "twice a month" instead of every two weeks. The new kitchen lights is another aspect of Herb's leadership. He also plans to attack the dishwasher use in the kitchen and ensure that every group has operators who know how to effectively and correctly use the device.
- ‡ The Trustees in a "cost-cutting" flurry eliminated the telephone and wi-fi from the building. That single action saved us about \$150 a month. I have asked tech-knowledgeable Masonic Family members to present us a "plan" before 1 April. Whether we like the idea, at least we'll have some data and experts to advise us. specs.
- ‡ Unfortunately, we have come to the *End of Service* of our Treasurer, Lana Chapman. To tell you that she has brought attention to our spending and sometimes a seeming lack of purpose is truly a story only 1/3 told. Lana has been willing to stand before Trustees and point out our errors in judgement and "make" us get back on the right track. She has been a bear...sometimes even a beast. But when the day is over, and we have all had the opportunity to think and re-think...she is generally right...and we agree. Lana Chapman has earned the absolute appreciation of every member of every organization which calls this place its home. Personally, I have come to rely upon her counsel and have learned to trust in her advice and respect her opinions...not all of which are complementary. I will miss you, Lana Chapman and thank you for the gift of your friendship and trust!



‡ Leading the charge for us for more years than I care to remember has been a Secretary beyond my wildest expectation. Joann Coady has had your best interests as a Trustee of the Rapid City Masonic Building Association, in the forefront of her mind. Recently she had the unmitigated audacity to advise that she would be absent during a meeting and, while she didn't say it, the clear implication was that we had to locate a person to take the minutes. Joann has been a partner, a confidante and always with a smile and a kind word...or two, and a counsel of inestimable wisdom. This partner is truly irreplaceable. She brings caring and wisdom and professionalism and sincerity to the task and to the relationship. Joann, thank you for your friendship which I have valued above all else that you do for us and for the corporation. I will never forget what you have done for us and for me.

Two years ago, I implored... "Let's rededicate ourselves to the task at hand...*please*." Because I felt the need to restate the obvious last year, I repeated that refrain.

This year I ask that we begin to seek a new way to provide for our needs and a new way to perpetuate our meanings and standards so that this society...the one in which we live, and act and dream...may have a new birth.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Bauder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".



**RAPID CITY**

**MASONIC BUILDING ASSOCIATION, INC..**

# **JANUARY TRUSTEE MEETING**

**15 January 2025**

**10 minutes after adjournment of the Annual Meeting**

## **Contents**

- ❖ **Agenda**
- ❖ **Minutes – December 18, 2024**
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report -**
- ❖ **President's Report**
- ❖ **Proposed Budget**

# Rapid City Masonic Building Association

## Trustees' Agenda

January 15, 2025

### Call to Order:

#### ✚ ROLL CALL:

Determination of a Quorum:

#### ✚ APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

#### ✚ SECRETARY:

§ Minutes – November 20, 2024, Meeting (Previously emailed)

§ Communications

§

#### ✚ TREASURER'S REPORT:

§ Financial Statement

§ Bills -

§ Assessments/Donations, Payments & Gifts Received

#### ✚ REPORTS:

§ Update on Prep Room and Fireplace Room – Dan Conklin

§ Elevator Report – Herb Cook

§ Mackenzie River Fundraiser – Josh White

§ Conversations with our Members

Questions and Issues from Organizations

#### ✚ PRESIDENT'S REPORT: (Distributed by email on 1/14/2025)

#### ✚ OLD BUSINESS:

§

#### ✚ NEW BUSINESS

§ 2025 Budget Proposal

§ Election of Officers

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#### ✚ GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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#### ✚ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

§

#### ✚ ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025



# **Rapid City Masonic Building Association**

## **Trustees Meeting**

**December 18, 2024**

### **Minutes**

#### **Call to Order:**

The October Trustees Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President George Bauder.

#### **Roll Call:**

The Secretary took the attendance with the following Trustees present:

- Trustees present: Christopher Holland, Josh White, Bryant Stokes, Dave Jeffries, Chad Tipton, Red Alspaw, Dan Conklin, Herb Cook, George Bauder, Anna Thoreson, Lana Chapman,
- Trustees at Large: Joann Coady, Dawn Erk, Dave Meltz
- Absent: Mike Argenziano, Tim Heald, Leslee Wallis
- Other attendees: Michelle Dennis, Ken Harris,
- Quorum: Ten or more Trustees were present - It was determined that a quorum was present.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

- Motion made by Herb Cook and seconded by Red Alspaw to approve the agenda, motioned carried.

#### **Secretary:**

- **Minutes** of November 20, 2024, meeting were previously emailed. Josh White moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Chris Holland; motion carried.

#### **Treasurer:**

- Lana Chapman, Treasurer, presented the **financial report** for November 2024, including income and balance statement. Dave Meltz moved to receive the financial statement; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Harris; motion carried
- Prior to the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Flexible CD was rolled over with a better rate of return; this was accomplished by email with all trustees.

#### **President's Report:**

- President Bauder went over his report; all received a copy in their meeting folder



### Reports:

- **Report on finishing the Prep & Fireplace rooms (Dan Conklin):**  
The 'phone booth' was moved from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to the space to the left of the fireplace; wood was used from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor where needed; the door will be repaired - needs a better anchor; continuing work will happen after the Christmas holidays
- **Elevator (Herb Cook):** The elevator is still not working; still do not have the replacement mother board, and the manpower to get this installed is working elsewhere. Otis Elevators has not been returning phone calls regarding any updates. Also there is another invoice that was listed on a statement, but Treasurer Lana does not have an invoice for this - not sure what it is for, and, again they are not returning phone calls. President Bauder has been in conversation with an attorney as we have paid over \$55K and have not seen any results.
- **Mackenzie River Fundraiser:** Lana did give the tax exempt ID # to Chris McKiven - not sure where we are at with the fundraiser. Update at the January 22, 2025, meeting.
- **Rehab Projects**
  - There will be another round of grants opening up in June of 2025 - Michelle Dennis will be looking into those
  - We do not have any real dollars to contribute at this point, but in-kind volunteer hours should be documented for submission for some of these grants
  - Michelle is researching grants that specifically target kitchen remodels and elevators in historic buildings.
- **Questions or Issues from Organizations:**
  - It was noted that a 65" TV was donated by Brother Jeff VanCuren; this will remain at the Rapid City Masonic Center

### Old Business:

- None

### New Business:

- **2025 Budget Proposal:** President Bauder highlighted the 2025 Budget Proposal. A copy was put in everyone's meeting folder. It gave a rundown on annual expenses and revenue - there is a shortfall of \$4,800.
- **Tentative solutions are as follows:**
  - Increase quarterly rent for the 4 bodies
  - Reduce some expenses; i.e., cleaning of the building, pest control, snow removal, trash collection
  - Soliciting funds from individual members



- President Bauder asked that each trustee go to their respective organization and ask the question "Should we sell the building?" The answer from each group will then be reported back to the Board at the January 22, 2025, meeting.

Good of the Order:

- none

Announcements:

- Next meeting: January 22, 2025
  - The Annual Meeting of the Corporation will start at 6pm.
  - Trustees meeting to start immediately afterwards
- Future agenda items:
  - Mackenzie River fundraiser update
  - 'survey' results from the question to sell the building or not

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

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George E. Bauder, President

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Joann L Coady

Joann L. Coady, Secretary

# Rapid City Masonic Building Association

Rapid City Masonic Building Association, Inc. has Trustees from the following Masonic organizations:

**Lodge 25 – 3 seats on the Board of Trustees:**

As of January 1, 2021, those seats were held by the Worshipful Master,  
Senior Warden and Junior Warden

**Lodge 220 – 3 seats on the Board of Trustees:**

As of January 1, 2021, those seats were held by members elected to  
three-year staggered terms during the June elections

**Golden Link Chapter 14 – 3 seats on the Board of Trustees**

As of January 1, 2021, those seats were held by the Associate Matron,  
Conductress and Associate Conductress

**Black Hills Chapter No. 25 – 3 seats on the Board of Trustees**

As of January 1, 2021, those seats were held by members elected to  
three-year staggered terms during the April elections

**Schrader Commandery No. 9 – 3 seats on the Board of Trustees**

As of January 1, 2021, those seats were held by members elected to  
three-year staggered terms during the April elections



# **RCMBA Trustees December 31, 2024**

## **Lodge 220**

**Josh White, Shane Little, Bryant Stokes**

**David Meltz**

## **Lodge 25**

**Christopher Holland, Mike Argenziano, Tim Heald**

**Matt Ressler-Alternate**

## **Chapter 25**

**Lana Chapman, Anna Thoreson, Leslee Wallis**

**Wendy Best, Joann Coady**

## **Royal Arch Masons**

**Dave Jeffries, Chad Tipton, Ervin Alspaw**

## **Knights Templar**

**Herb Cook, Daniel Conklin, George Bauder**

## **Job's Daughters**

**Dawn Erk**

## **OFFICERS**

**Joann Coady, Lana Chapman, Josh White, George Bauder**

**\*If an elected or appointed Trustee has been elected as an officer, the organization is entitled to an additional Trustee.**

## 2025 Budget Proposal

I am proposing a budget for the current year, 2025. It includes some significant reductions in our spending including reducing the cleaning slightly, reducing the pest control by half, reduction in the snow removal expenses and some slight reductions in other areas. I propose increasing revenue by charging Job's Daughters \$100 per year and increasing the rent which Golden Link pays by \$1100 or one additional quarter.

Like each of you, I do NOT like having to seek money for "day-to-day" operations whether it is for my personal life or the one I have with your Masonic Temple. We should NOT have to constantly seek a way out of our financial straight-jacket. That hasn't always been the case with Rapid City Eastern Star, its two Lodges and its York Rite. There was a time when money was not an object.

I raised the issue of having a conversation about selling the building in November because it just seems that as we continue to lose members the expenses become more and more difficult to absorb. I am not advocating for the sale...I want us to talk about the benefits of keeping the building AND the difficulties and hardships. I am prepared to bring this issue to a decision in February, next month, so that we can move forward in the current state or we can begin to plan for a new location and a different future.

During the conversations it is imperative that if we plan to sell the current building, we also have a "place to go" that will not financially ruin us. I have some folks who might be interested in purchasing this building. I do not know of any existing location for us...because I have not "looked". However, the future structure needs to have several features that may be lacking in this facility or we lack the resources to provide such. For example, I believe a different structure must have an upgraded HVAC system. I believe it must have modern restroom facilities for women and men. It must have a kitchen area and a dining area. It must have storage for our paraphernalia. The electrical service must be available where we need it and it must be adequate for our needs. It has to have adjacent parking.

Perhaps the future site will be a new structure, or it may be a "remodeled building" with everything that we need for many years of use. The most important element is that we must be able to afford where we "live" and it must be safe for all of us. We deserve to be able to feel pride in our home.



A "new" Masonic Temple must meet our major needs and must be a structure of which we can be proud. We deserve that. If the decision is to keep our current Masonic home then we must be prepared to do two (2) things...reduce our spending and commit to raising two million dollars over the next year or year and a half.

To be brutally honest, in my opinion, I do not believe we can raise the money ourselves; I believe we must employ (hire) a professional who will "take charge" of our 'Capital Campaign' and begin the duty of raising the money. We cannot ever hope to make the kind of money we need through the fundraising endeavors we do.

We will all move to a different mode of operation. I don't know exactly what that might be at this time. But I do know it will require both Lodges to be very active and "on display" in a variety of forms and styles. We won't be doing 'dinners' for fundraising but we may be attending dinners to present our case. We'll be under scrutiny by non-Masonic related people and perhaps even questioned about why, and who, and what.

While I will be available to do whatever you wish, it will require more than just me. You will have to learn and do new and different things. That isn't necessarily bad...it will increase the level of responsibility required of each of us.

I don't know what our Brothers and Sisters and Companions and Sir Knights will decide in February about the future of this building we call "the Masonic Temple". But we have to begin the conversation(s). Where our conversations will lead us is anybody's guess. Let's just begin the conversation.

In the interim between now and next month when we make a decision...we have to have a budget to help us control our spending and income. Accordingly, I propose that we adopt the "Proposed Budget".

Respectfully submitted,

George Bauder

## 2025 Proposed Budget

In any project in which we forecast expenses, it is always just a projection...based upon some data. In making projections, I have based those projections on data either using the same figures as last year or based upon the contract for the current year.

### Annual Expenses – 2025

Taxes	+	\$ 150
Cleaning Expense	-	\$ 5,500
Laundry	-	\$ 800
Supplies	-	\$ 3,000
Kitchen Supplies		\$ 36
Postage & Shipping		\$ 68
Maintenance	-	\$39,000
Professional Services		\$ 183
Insurance		\$ 9,360
Services Expense	-	\$ 2,700
Electricity		\$ 1,728
Natural Gas		\$ 5,318
Trash Removal		\$ 1,140
Water/Sewer Expense		\$ 1,714
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$31,697</b>

### Annual Revenues - 2025

Rapid City Lodge #25	\$ 4,400
Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220	\$ 4,400
York Rite	\$ 4,400
OES Golden Link #14	\$ 3,300
Job's Daughters	\$ 100
Parking Lot	\$15,600
Special Assessments	\$ 700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>

### Annual Expenses – 2024

Taxes	\$ 130
Cleaning Expense	\$ 6,643
Laundry	\$ 910
Supplies	\$ 3,886
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 36
Postage & Shipping	\$ 68
Maintenance	\$40,828
Professional Services	\$ 183
Insurance	\$ 9,360
Services Expense	\$ 3,120
Electricity	\$ 1,728
Natural Gas	\$ 5,318
Trash Removal	\$ 1,140
Water/Sewer Expense	\$ 1,714
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,236</b>

### Annual Revenues - 2024

Rapid City Lodge #25	\$ 4,400
Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220	\$ 4,400
York Rite	\$ 4,400
OES Golden Link #14	\$ 2,200
Parking Lot	\$15,600
Special Assessments	\$ 700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 31,700</b>