



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 17, Issue 4

Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday

July/August 2021

"Use the Tools" Grand Master's Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2020 – 2021

- W. M. - Mark A. Novak, 216-406-5856, markn95@gmail.com
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- Treasurer - David P. Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
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- L.E.O. - Donald Ritchie, (216) 731-3030, donritchie@sbcglobal.net
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- Organist - Stephen A. Mietus, 330-592-3054, hkmietus@gmail.com

TRESTLE-BOARD

All stated meetings start at 7:30 p.m. – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and reservations are required, 440-257-6964

- July 4 Independence Day
- July 10 Bus Trip – see article
- July 14 Stated Meeting
- July 23 Stated Meeting
- July 24 Baseball Game – see article
- Aug. 11 Stated Meeting
- Aug. 14 Lodge Picnic – see article
- Aug. 27 Stated Meeting
- Sept. 6 Labor Day
- Sept. 8 Stated Meeting



From The East,

Greetings Brethren,

It's been a busy four months since Acacia Lodge began meeting in March, and the rest of this year should be no different. Beginning in April, our Lodge fully reopened to in-person meetings. We have had the honor of conferring the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees on two new, worthy brethren, and I am happy to say that our Lodge passed our annual Inspection in late April. In early June, we hosted a belated Awards Night, in which Right Worshipful Brother Gregory M. Kita and the Grand Lodge recognized multiple brethren for over fifty (50) years of Masonic service. I am confident in saying that a good time was had by all.

As for the rest of this year, summer has always been a busy time with Acacia Lodge and that was before we began holding Stated Meetings in July and August. We will be doing the latter this year, of course, and we hope to be performing more degree work during that period on our newest brethren. Please drop by on the second Wednesday or fourth Friday of either month if you can to help us out. We can always make room for you if you'd like to assist us in our Ritual.

But summer is also a good time to gather brethren and their families together for social events outside Lodge. 2021 will be no different in that respect. Weather and equipment issues have forced us to postpone our annual fishing trip twice in June, but we will be looking to reschedule for a Saturday in July or August. Stay tuned. On July 10, the Lodge will be heading out to Medina on a bus trip to Castle Noel in Medina for a little "Christmas in July" party. A boxed lunch will be provided during the trip. Two weeks later, on July 24, Acacia Lodge will be going back to Classic Park in Eastlake for a Lake County Captain's game. Plenty of tickets are available and we will be meeting before the game for a picnic near the right field seating area. Please join us, as the Captain's game has always been one of our most popular traditions. Finally, please save the date of Saturday, August 14, as this will be our Lodge Family Picnic at Pioneer Waterland, which I am happy to report is open for the summer. I hope to see all of you that are reading this at one or more of these great events in the next two months!

Fraternally,

WM Mark Novak



Take me out to the ballgame:

As we start back attending lodge in person, it's also time for us to resume our summer activities as well. Come join us as we travel out to the old ballpark on July 24th for a night of baseball, food, fellowship and fun. The game starts at 7:00 pm. We will be having a cookout in the right field picnic area starting at 7:00 pm; for those who would like to come out earlier when the gates open, the captains will be giving out a Shane Bieber bobblehead to the first 1000 fans that night. After the game we will be able to enjoy a fireworks extravaganza. The cost for the whole evening will be only \$5.00 for adults and children are free.

You can RSVP me at 440 488 5231 by July 10th and pick up your tickets and wristband at lodge on July 12th.

Hope to see everyone at the ball game on the 24th. We are looking for a big turnout.

Fraternally,

W.B. David Ponsart, Treasurer



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
John A. Malone	April 24, 2021
Lindsay C. Smith	March 21, 2020
Charles P. Hallock III	December 8, 2020

They rest from their labors

Dear Brethren,

I am writing on behalf of the Cleveland Children's Dyslexia Center. The pandemic has prevented us from having our usual fund-raising events this past year. The virtual Walk netted less than half of our usual profit and we were unable to hold the Annual Souper Bowl Party prior to the actual Super Bowl Game. Resulting in fewer donations and having a lagging economy, we are struggling to get where we
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need to be to meet our budget. Our newest fundraiser the **Drive-in for Dyslexia** at the Aut-O-Rama was a success and a boost in the outlook for 2022, and we thank you for your support of that event. Our mainstay for many years has been our Walk to help Children with Dyslexia. This year's event will be held on Saturday September 18, 2021 at the Western Reserve Masonic Community. At this time we are asking that you place our event on your calendar and for you to ask others to do the same. The Brochure for the Eighteenth Annual Valley of Cleveland Walk to Help Children with Dyslexia can be found on the 22nd District website. Please plan to attend this worthwhile event.

Warm fraternal regards,

Ronald L Runion, 33^o
Board Member, Children's Dyslexia Center Cleveland

Masonic Word Search

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U N S Y H D Z B P N J C S H L
H N A N E O A Y O J U I R S E
R T I S O R L I M D D T A I B
I H I T E C T I F N A S L N A
M A T F Y A A I N E H Y L O N
R G O L D E N E J E Y M I M O
K O S N F F A E D R S N P D N
T R U J A V A N Y G L S H A S
N O A B Z E R F S R E P E E K
F E L M I I O S R E B M A H C
D E C T D L N U Y V J X P G V
T A B E R N A C L E R J H Y Y
N O R T H E A S T C E D A R S
N O I T A G I L B O P X Y C D
S A N C T U A R Y S E S N E S

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|-----------|------------|
| Aaron | Barefoot |
| Chambers | Deacons |
| Evergreen | Foundation |
| Golden | Holiness |
| Judah | infable |
| Keepers | Landmark |
| Mystic | Tie |
| Northeast | Obligation |
| Pillars | Raised |
| Sanctuary | Tabernacle |
| Unity | Veil |
| Wayfaring | Admonish |
| Balloting | Cedars |
| Lebanon | Desires |
| Eternal | Senses |



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Date: July 10, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m. – bus leaving Euclid Masonic Temple

Location: Castle Noel in Medina

Cost: \$10.00 per person max of 24 people

The “Christmas in July” bus trip with lunch to the fabulous Castle Noel in Medina is fast approaching on July 10. Believe me when I say that, if you want to make your wife, significant other, kids, grandkids or other important people in your life HAPPY, then sign them up and attend this trip!

Castle Noel features so many wonderful things to see and do. Housing the world’s largest privately owned collection of Hollywood Christmas movie props and costumes from your favorite Christmas movies including “The Grinch”, “Elf”, “Santa Claus The Movie”, “Fred Claus”, “The Santa Clause 1, 2 & 3”, “Jingle All The Way”, “Christmas Carol”, “Deck the Halls”, and MORE. And if you choose, you can end your trip with a slide down the ORIGINAL SLIDE from the beloved movie “A Christmas Story,” much of which was filmed right here in Cleveland!

The owner of Castle Noel, Mark Klaus (yes, his real name, and yes, he looks like Santa Claus!), has spent a lifetime acquiring these fabulous items. There is so MUCH to see – you will be amazed. I planned this trip for last year but due to COVID it was cancelled. Don’t miss your chance to visit this very popular destination, which has been featured on national TV. Check out the website at <https://castlenoel.com/>.

Box Lunches will be at about 11:45 a.m. at a park in Medina. \$10 for your entire family pays your way. Where else can you find a deal like this!! Be there or be a Scrooge!



Summer Family Picnic

\$10.00 per person – August 12, 2017



Date: August 14, 2021

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Water Park opens at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Pioneer Waterland, 10661 Kile Road, Chardon, OH

Cost: \$10.00 per person (over 40” in heights) – Children under 40” are admitted free

Come celebrate the summer with friends, family and lodge brothers. There will be good food, water events and more (<https://www.pioneerwaterland.com/cp/attractions>).

Take your family, kids, grandkids, relatives, neighbors and friends to an enjoyable day out.

Please make your reservations now by sending your check to our lodge secretary, James R. Cogan, 6130 Thistlewood Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to “Acacia Lodge #651” with “Lodge Picnic” in the memo section. Also, let him know how many will be attending including those under 40” so we will have enough for lunch.

Lunch will be served between 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., **PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH (Last name A-M) OR A DESERT (Last name N- Z) TO BE SHARED.**

SHRINE NEWS JUNE/JULY

The Shrine is alive and well. The office is still at Brecksville Masonic Temple, but it will be moving to a new location in Berea. The new office will have warehouse space to store things and park one of our hospital vans inside. The phone numbers should remain the same.

Summer is here and this is the time of the years where our burns hospital starts to see a lot of kids get burnt. The leading cause of children's burns in the summer are bond fires, fire pits, and grills. So please be "very" careful when children are around these things. The 4th of July is coming and be careful about fireworks and sparklers. Sparklers burn very hot and are not as safe as people think and should not be handled by small children.

The Shriners Hunters unit is raffling off a beautiful Henry Brass Framed Lever Action 22 cal. Masonic tribute rifle. This is the same model as the one the Grand Lodge raffled off a few years ago. This rifle is just beautiful, it is engraved with Masonic symbols. If you could buy one it would cost over \$1200. We are raffling it off with only 250 tickets available. The ticket cost is \$10.00. If you win and are out of state this will have to be delivered to a FFL dealer. If you live in state we will find a way to get it to you. The winner will be pulled when all the tickets are sold and they should go fast. If you would like to purchase a ticket please call me at 216-346-3162.

Be Well, Stay Safe

WB Al Paynter, Past Potentate 2005

July 4th Trivia Questions

1. Where was the first celebration of Independence Day held?
2. Every Independence Day, how many times does the Liberty Bell ring?
3. What was the name of the newspaper that published the Declaration of Independence?
4. The Fourth of July commemorates which document?
5. What is the proper way to fold the American flag?
6. Which American president was born on July 4th?
7. Which president of the U. S. was the first to host a July 4th celebration at the White House?
8. How many Stars and Stripes does the first US flag have?
9. What is the location of the nation's oldest Fourth of July parade?
10. What was the total number of people who signed the Declaration of Independence?
11. Every July 4th, what food is most commonly consumed?

12. What is the name of the national anthem of the United States of America?
13. Who gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?
14. What was The Statue of Liberty's official name?
15. Where is the Liberty Bell currently located?
16. Every July 4th, how many hot dogs are consumed?
17. On the Declaration of Independence, who had the largest signature?
18. Which two presidents of the United States died on July 4th of the same year?
19. Why was the Boston Tea Party's tea shipment ruined?
20. What was the estimated population of the United States on July 4, 1776?
21. On July 4th, which classic children's book was published?
22. In what year were fireworks first used to celebrate the Fourth of July?
23. Who is the author of the Pledge of Allegiance?
24. During World War II, where did the Declaration of Independence get stored?
25. Which country declared independence from the United States on July 4, 1960?

Answers on page 6

5 Lesson's on How To Treat People

1. First Important Lesson – Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant.

They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello." I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. Second Important Lesson – Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car.

A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance, and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his name and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home.

A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others," Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

3. Third Important Lesson -Always remember those who serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

"Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream and left the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left.

When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table.

There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4. Fourth Important Lesson – The obstacles in our path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The

purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand: *Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our situation.*

5. Fifth Important Lesson – Giving when it counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breathe and saying, "Yes. I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color return to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

From the South

Dear Friends and Fellow Masons,

In the last addition of "The Sprig of Acacia" I wrote about a well-known mason, J. C. Penney (James Cash Penney), who founded Penney's Department Store. Someone who influenced his life was Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, an American minister and writer. During my high school years Rev. Dr. Peale was a guest speaker at our church (Epworth-Euclid UMC in University Circle – now University Circle UMC). Any time you can meet someone of such renown live and hear them speak, that in my opinion, is time well spent.

Rev. Dr. Peale was born in 1898 and ordained a Methodist minister in 1922. In 1932 he changed his religious affiliation to the Reformed Church in America. For 52 years he was a pastor at the Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan. He died on December 24th, 1993

He wrote many books, some of which I acquired from my mother, one being the very well known: “The Power of Positive Thinking”. Staying positive and optimistic about life I have found to be very comforting and joyful. In 1935, Peale started a radio show called “The Art of Living”. The show ran for 54 years. He also started the magazine called the “Guideposts”.

Peale was a member of Midwood Lodge No. 1062 in Brooklyn, New York. He was also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. Masons helping masons and others has always been a way of life for us masons. J. C. Penny and Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale will always be remembered for putting others’ needs ahead of their own. Something we can all do well to practice.

Peace and fraternal friendship,
 Jeffrey H. Day, Junior Warden

July 4th Answers:

1. Philadelphia
2. 0 – bell is cracked
3. The Pennsylvania Evening Post
4. Declaration of Independence
5. In a triangular shape
6. Calvin Coolidge
7. Thomas Jefferson
8. 50 Stars and 13 Stripes
9. Bristol, Rhode Island
10. 56
11. Hot Dogs
12. Star-Spangled Banner
13. French people
14. Liberty Enlightening the World
15. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
16. 150 million
17. John Hancock
18. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
19. Due to Protest against British
20. 2.5 million people
21. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
22. 1777
23. Francis Bellamy
24. Fort Knox
25. Philippines

Awards Night – June 9th

Due to the cancelling of our Awards Night due to the Covid 19 restrictions, we held a make up event on June 9th and a good time of friendship,

fellowship and true love was had by all who were able to attend.



Our brethren, family and friends enjoy a fine meal before the awards presentation. Bro. John Rose in yellow shirt is a 50 yr. recipient.



WB Novak, Wor. Bro. Philip E. Barr – 40 year mason and RWB Gregory M. Kita



WB Ted Daly with his family presenting a 50 yr. award to his father, WB Tom E. Daly, Jr.



Brian Daly, Linda Daly, WB Tom E. Daly, Jr., WB Ted Daly and Teri Creadon (WB Tom's daughter)



The following day was WB Tom Daly's 93rd birthday.

Cowans and Eavesdroppers

Cowans and Eavesdroppers are two common names used in Freemasonry.

We cannot have a masonic meeting without the words Cowans and Eavesdroppers being used. As Freemasons we are reminded on a regular basis to be on guard for both. But what are they really? The etymology of both words are lost to time, so let's look at them one at a time.

First let's talk about Eavesdroppers. The origin of the word is believed to refer to the water that drips from a roof, or eaves drippings. If you have ever seen a house or building that that doesn't have gutters on it, there is a line around the structure where the water running off the roof has eroded the ground. The idea of an eavesdropper came from someone who would stand so close to the structure that they would be on or inside that line and able to hear what was going on inside the house or structure. Another definition of eavesdropper, possibly due to Henry VIII, were people who would hide up in the beams of the house by the eaves.

Henry VIII had wooden figures carved and placed in the beams of his palace. The idea was to make all in his court feel like that they were being listened to and the information was being reported back to the King. This may have something to do with the fact that in old lodges, the Deacons were charged with checking the rafters of the meeting room with their staff. Making sure that no one was listening to the meeting and unlawfully obtaining the secrets of masonry.

Ironically a Cowan could very well be a successful Eavesdropper. The origin of the word Cowan is believed to be old Scottish. A Cowan was a person, often someone who worked as an operative mason, who was not part of a lodge and not formally trained. Extending from the fact that operative lodges were trade guilds (unions), a Cowan in modern terms would be a "scab", someone who either refused to join a union or in some way went against a union. A Cowan would be any individual who would present themselves as a Freemason, having never joined the Fraternity. In a real sense a Cowan is a clandestine Mason. A Cowan may have all of the right answers to be able to get in to the door of a lodge room, although never became a Freemason.

Albert Mackey stated in *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* that Cowan was a word that was uniquely Masonic in it's origin.

Regardless of the origins of the words, Cowans and Eavesdroppers for Freemasons might as well be one word. It reminds us of our obligations to the fraternity and to remind us that we should be careful of who we let into our lodge room, and by extension those we let into our life.

From "Today in Masonic History"



Does anyone have any jokes about Sodium?
Na.

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

All stated meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated – Dinner is provided before each meeting at 6:30 p.m. and reservations are required. Please call James Cogan, 440-257-6964.

Saturday	July 10, 2021	Bus Trip to Castle Noel Bus leaves at 10:30 Lunch at 11:45 a.m. Bus returns around 4:30 p.m. RSVP
Wednesday	July 14, 2021	Stated Meeting – Special Awards Night
Friday	July 23, 2021	Stated Meeting
Saturday	July 24, 2021	Captains Baseball Game – See Article
Wednesday	August 11, 2021	Stated Meeting
Saturday	August 14, 2021	Lodge Picnic – Pioneer Waterland – See Article
Friday	August 27, 2021	Stated Meeting
Wednesday	September 8, 2021	Stated Meeting

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

