



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 15, Issue 3**

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

**May / June, 2019**

**Acacia Lodge – Celebrating 100 years**

**"Invest" --- Grand Masters Program**

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2018 – 2019

- W. M. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
- S. W. - Ted Daly, 440-298-1666, tdaly@oh.rr.com
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- S. D. -
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- S. S. -
- J. S. -
- Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268, jasonelliott91@aol.com
- Secretary - James R. Cogan, 440-257-6964, coganj@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer - David P. Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
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- L.E.O. - David P. Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
- Marshall - N. Allen Paynter, 216-346-3162, mrclean274@aol.com
- Organist - Stephen A. Mietus, 330-592-3054, smeitus@neo.rr.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

- May 10 Stated Meeting – FC Degree
- May 11 100 year Reconsecration of Acacia Lodge
- May 24 Stated Meeting – FC Degree
- June 1 Fishing Trip – see article
- June 14 Stated Meeting – see article
- June 28 Stated Meeting –
- July 20 Night at the Captains – see article

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers." - Charles W. Eliot

## From The East



Greetings and salutations my brother,

Spring is upon us and with it the birth of summer. As always Acacia's officer core will be planning a pleasant experience for all the Grand Lodge Officers, visitors, and possible spouses, and I am excited to have the opportunity to preside over our 100th year Reconsecration on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Your officers have also begun the task of scheduling and reserving for all our summer events and I promise you will have much to look forward to.

Special events like the Reconsecration of our lodge remind us that we are a part of something greater than ourselves. It's not just a Reconsecration, but it's also a reckoning. Just as Spring prompts us to take inventory and prepare for the work ahead, so does this Recon present a chance to celebrate the past and rally for the future. I believe that the men that formed our lodge our first officer line, brothers like James Morgan, Worshipful Master, John Sheer, Sr. Warden, and James Parker, Jr. Warden, and the original petitioners:

James Edward Adcock, George W. Albaugh, Thomas Arnold, Arthur Edward Bach, William Thomas Biggs, Edwin Orlando Buxton, Karl Byus, William Ray Carpenter, William Henry Diehl, James Harvey Doolittle, Arthur Reinhardt Dressler, William Duffy, Herbert Fox, Melvin Branch Cans, William Daniel Cans, Robert Curits Garrison, Clarence T. R. Gilchrist, Alexander Henderson, Whalan Wallace Herb, Thomas Hodges, Harry Horrocks, Earnest John Hulland, George Morgan Huntzinger, Robert Hutchinson, Norman Avery Johnson, Robert Marshall Johnston, Philip Clarence Jones, John Ewell Kinzel, Albon Gardner Krafton, Lee J. Krueger, Walter Herman Kreuger, Frank Laubscher, Ralph Clarence Mc Bride, Frank C. Mc Lean, Thomas Carl Martinec, Howard Edward Meikle, Charles Melbourne, Franklin Benjamin Moery, Alfred George Moore, James Morgan, Victor Emanuel Mueller, Alden Robbins Palmer, James Henry Parker, Edward Albert Pohlman, Charles Ernest Porter, Andrew Milton Robertson, G. William Ryder, Warren Edward Schnefrer, Louis Adam Schultz, John Thomas Sheer, Harry Ludlow Siddall, Simeon Siddaway, George Frederick Sofery, Robert Stevenson, William Stevenson, George William Van Noate, Peter De War Weir, Ralph Henry West, George Franklin Wickes, J. Charles Wicks, Edward Alvin Wilhelmy, Albert Lester Williamson, Kenneth James Wilson, Henry Albert Worswick, Albert Wyss

that would eventually become Acacia. "A Lodge United!" (page 2)

And, all the subordinate lodges that resulted from our mergers, would be proud of our work. There will always be stories of how great lodge and life was in the “golden days” of masonry. This is how we pay homage to our past, and is certainly a suitable way to cherish the memories of the men that raised us, but shouldn’t detract from the present.

I would like to say that the better part of those men would understand the changes in society and technological improvements that distract us from our ancient roots. It’s only when we slow down enough from our earthly obligations that we start to hear the echoes of our forefathers. If you listen closely enough, I believe you will still hear them thanking and encouraging us in our hearts. When I listen I hear my father, WB Charles Gallagher Past Master of Acacia, eternally proud

May god bless you! I wish you a pleasant spring and all the holidays and the revitalization that comes with it.

Fraternally grateful,  
Tim Gallagher WM

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### **Camaraderie –**



Some of our members gather together after conferring the EA degree.

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### **Need a Ride?**

If you are in need of a ride to come to lodge please call Jim Cogan at 440-257-6964 and arrangements will be made to pick you up. This is my home phone; please leave a message if I don’t pick up when you call.

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William F. Koeckert, PM a plural member in Acacia Lodge received his 65 year service award from the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, Grand Council Royal & Select Masons of Ohio and the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Ohio. This special event took place on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

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**The Human brain  
is an amazing  
organ. It  
functions  
24 hours a day  
from the day we  
are born and only  
stops when we  
are performing  
ritual**



### **From Without the Inner Door:**

Hello Brethren! Let’s welcome another lovely spring. As the years have gone by we keep discussing ways to get new candidates. But that is all we do is discuss it. With every idea brought up by the younger Masons getting shot down. Today everything is digital and the youth wants instant everything, now at the tip of your fingers we have to grow with the times. How we do that is the question. I suggest as I have before more activities like friendship days and extra events that will draw young men to our lodge.

The first line of New Blood needs to be the sons, grandsons and great grandsons of our current members. We have many members whose sons and

or grandsons are not members of our fraternity. They don't want to be, I suggest we ask those members children, grandchildren and great grandchildren why, what is it about masonry that makes you not want to join. I want this lodge to be around for my grandson's to join. And, the way it looks it won't survive for 10 years. We're on the verge of being forced to consider merging with another lodge. So my challenge to all our members is to talk to your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who have not yet joined freemasonry to consider joining our great society. If they don't want to join ask them why and let us know. Maybe we can talk about these problems and find a solution. God bless you all

Fraternally yours

Brother. Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

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### **How our ritual can change!**

Have you ever heard of the "Telephone game"?

Most of us think that we understand and remember everything we hear, but when we're tested we find out that the truth is very different. The classic party game Telephone brings this to light, often with hilarious results. In addition to producing laughs.

Telephone can help people learning English develop their active listening skills. Players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player in line. The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line.

A phrase such as "Mahogany tables don't look good painted fuchsia." is a good example.

What does this have to do with our lodge, you ask? Well, actually a lot. When we learn our ritual, we are in effect playing a game of Telephone.

The "book" does no good, because all it really is, is a list of hints to help us remember what we are taught, however, what if we are taught incorrectly? A comic from the 50's, Shelly Berman, did an entire routine on "incongruities in the English language" while this may not be the real reason, it is what came to my mind. Common errors we hear all the time, "or" or "of", they both start with the letter "O", but mean quite different things. Compose, comprise and consist are prime examples, take a moment and look them up, and think about their

placement in the ritual.

And then there are the people that add (or subtract) a word, because they THINK it sounds better.

The diatribe was written not to "trifle" with your feelings, but to impress upon you that you can go to a typewritten ritual meeting and try and pay attention in the places where someone may have pointed out you may have a problem, and let's quite playing "Telephone" with our ritual.

Don Ritchie, P.M. Acacia Lodge

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### *Aesop's Fables*

#### The Ant and the Dove

AN ANT went to the bank of a river to quench its thirst, and being carried away by the rush of the stream, was on the point of drowning. A Dove sitting on a tree overhanging the water plucked a leaf and let it fall into the stream close to her. The Ant climbed onto it and floated in safety to the bank. Shortly afterwards a birdcatcher came and stood under the tree, and laid his lime-twigs for the Dove, which sat in the branches. The Ant, perceiving his design, stung him in the foot. In pain the birdcatcher threw down the twigs, and the noise made the Dove take wing.

*One good turn deserves another*

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### **FACES OF OHIO FEATURED BROTHERS**

**ARE YOU THE NEXT FACE OF OHIO FREEMASONRY?**

Share with us why you're proud to be an Ohio Mason and you could be our next featured Mason!

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR BROTHER WHO YOU THINK PERSONIFIES ALL THAT IS BEST IN FREEMASONRY?**

Nominate him or encourage him to submit a picture for the campaign. Submitting your entry is easy, click: [www.freemason.com/facesofohio/](http://www.freemason.com/facesofohio/)

At the Grand Lodge of Ohio, it is our goal to continue to foster Brotherhood among Ohio Masons. Adding faces to Ohio Freemasonry shows the public who we really are: men from all walks of life and of all different appearances, ready to live up to the values of the fraternity and do it together as one Brotherhood.

There is no better feeling than stepping into your Lodge room and being greeted by fellow Brethren, men whom you might not have had the chance to meet otherwise. This sense of community, purpose, and passion are the ideals behind Freemasonry and what drives a hundreds-of-years-old tradition in today's world.

With the Faces of Ohio Campaign, we want to shed light on this feeling and highlight you: your story, your journey, your individuality. At the heart of this campaign, are men who embody the spirit, values and obligations of Masonry and by giving the community a voice and shining the spotlight on those who are doing good in the world, we'll continue to strengthen relationships within the fraternity. And not to mention, show others what Freemasonry is really all about.

So, what are you waiting for! Nominate yourself or a fellow brother by submitting a few details and the answer to the question, "What does being an Ohio Freemason mean to you?"

After the nomination period, the Grand Lodge of Ohio team will select their top 10 finalists. To engage the community further, we'll then invite Brothers to vote for the 5 whom they think should be named winners. We are very excited to kick this campaign off and hear about your thoughts on being a Freemason in Ohio. We welcome you to join our mission and show the world what #ThisIsOhioFreemasonry truly means.



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## ACACIA LODGE FISHING TRIP

**Date:** June 1, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Wildwood Marina-Fishing Charters, 226 East Island Drive. Eastlake, Ohio

**Cost:** \$50.00 per person - max of 16 people - includes boat, refreshments, prizes and lunch

This fishing trip will be on June 1<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood Marina in Cleveland. Be there at 7:30 a.m and the boat sets out at 8:00 a.m. Any person who wishes to fish will need to bring their own fishing rods and reel, tackle box, cooler for your fish, bait and fishing items, camera and fishing license. These items can be purchased or rented at the Charter site.

Spread the word. This event is open to any adult male (family and friends) who would enjoy an adventure on the water and the fun of trying to outwit a fish.

There are plenty of open weekends still but getting out early in June is necessary to successfully fish for Walleye. We can still do both Walleye and Perch.

Make your reservations (440-269-9611) as soon as possible and before June 1<sup>st</sup> (this will allow us the time to purchase food, refreshments and prizes

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## A message from MENTOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parents and guardians,

As many of you may already know about this topic, we are writing to help continue to raise awareness of an alarming cyberbullying threat happening on social media: The Momo Challenge. Both the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health are also recommending we share information to make parents and guardians aware of the danger.

The Momo Challenge has been found on numerous social media platforms and gaming sites and is especially scary because it is being reported that the purpose is to lure a victim into participating in challenges that encourage self-harm and even suicide.

We believe in the importance of keeping our home-to-school and school-to-home channels of communication strong and are sending this email so you know about the Momo Challenge and can choose to address this topic in a manner that is appropriate for your family. We did find an article on [EducateEmpowerKids.org](https://educateempowerkids.org) that may be a helpful resource: <https://educateempowerkids.org/5461-2/>

We hope this email can also serve as a reminder that you can always share with your children/our students that they can feel free to report concerns of any kind to any of our staff members at any time.

Thank you for your support as we work together to continue to make our schools a safe place for children to learn.

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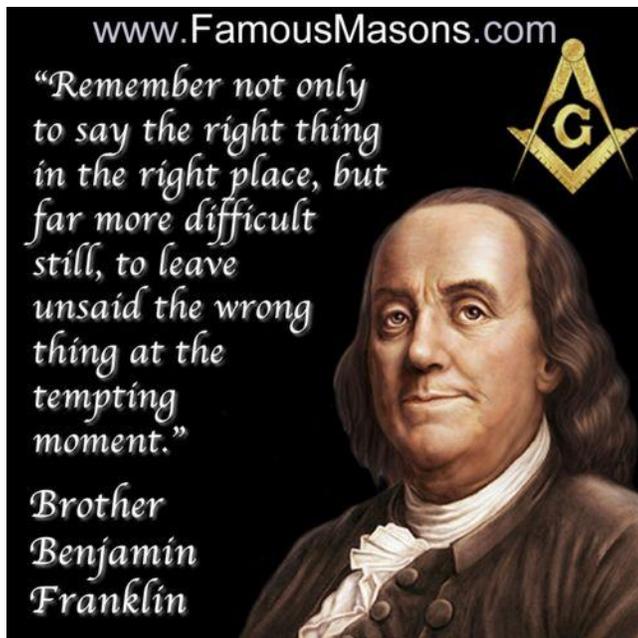
## Night Out at The Captains

Our annual night out at the Lake County Captains will be held on Saturday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy a baseball game, Jobu Bobblehead giveaway, fireworks, food and fellowship for the low price of \$10 per member.

We have reserved the right field picnic area at the stadium. The menu will be hotdogs, hamburgers, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, chips, cookies and soft drinks. Bring the whole family and friends for a fun evening. Reservations are due to Wor. Bro. David Ponsart no later than June 26<sup>th</sup>. Email [grocerydude@att.net](mailto:grocerydude@att.net) or call 440-488-5231

Fraternally,

Wor. Bro. David Ponsart, Treasurer



Freemasonry's Obsession With Empty Chairs  
by *Midnight Freemasons Founder*  
**Todd E. Creason, 33°**



Here's a little known fact about Freemasons -- they are obsessed with empty chairs. You don't have to talk very long to just about any group of Masons, and the subject

of all those empty chairs comes up. "We've got to fill those empty chairs in our Lodges!" they'll exclaim. The Blue Lodges are worried about empty chairs. The Scottish Rite is worried about those empty chairs. The York Rite is worried about empty chairs. The Shrine. Amaranth. Order of the Eastern Star. "We've got to fill those blessed empty chairs!"

Grand Lodges come up with plans to increase membership. Here in Illinois, just since I've been a Mason we've had several different ideas about how to fill those chairs. We went from 2B1ASK1 to being able to ask somebody if they'd like to join our Fraternity. We still have empty chairs. One of our Grand Masters, a good friend of mine, had a great plan. Every member should add a member to their Blue Lodge. He was known to always have petitions in his pocket. We did add members, but we still have empty chairs. My York Rite Chapter back when I joined came up with a magic number of new members they'd like to add that year, and they worked tirelessly, putting on degrees, and putting guys through the Chapter. They added a large number of new members. I was one of those guys that went through then. Guess what? They still have empty chairs!

The problem is, we're asking the wrong question. The question isn't how can we fill those chairs -- the question is why are those chairs empty to begin with?



When I joined the Lodge, it was because I was looking for something. I wanted to improve myself. I wanted to learn new things. I wanted to gain new skills. I wanted to be more active in my community. I wanted to be a part of something traditional and something ancient. In an ever changing world, I wanted something in my life that remained steady and consistent. And I've found all those things, but not entirely within the walls of my Lodge. Much of what I've gained has been through my own explorations and studies into the Craft. If it hadn't been for my own initiative I'm not sure I would have found that greater meaning that makes my Lodge attendance and participation so fulfilling.

Our chairs are empty because so many of our Lodges have gotten so involved with the business of Freemasonry, they've forgotten the purpose of the Craft - to make good men better by constantly working to

improve ourselves. We spend so much time reading minutes, and reciting committee reports, we forget that we're supposed to be learning something as well. The expectation of our membership versus the reality of our meetings is the reason so many of our chairs are empty.

The world is a busy place, and very few men are willing to waste a couple hours of their time once or twice a month to sit through a meeting when the only thing they might learn in that meeting is that the Lodge's building insurance went up 8% from last year, and somebody needs to make sure we have enough pancake mix by Saturday's breakfast.



There's no sense in worrying about how to fill those chairs in your Lodge if you aren't willing to figure out why they are empty to begin with. We must do better. Like it was said in that famous movie "Field of Dreams" -- if you build it they will come. Your Lodge will start seeing fewer and fewer empty chairs when you start giving your members, old and new, the thing we promised them in the beginning.

Light!

### You are Invited

Our Senior Warden will be presenting a special program on June 14<sup>th</sup> at our Stated Meeting at the Euclid Masonic Temple. A fine dinner will be presented to all attending catered by Kuhar's. Also, we want your wife or significant other to attend.

We will be discussing ways to enhance our Masonic experiences! This will need your participation when we talk about our activities and schedules for the upcoming years. We want to hear from your spouse or significant other in this planning discussion

No idea is too small or unusual, let's think outside the box or dive deeper into the box. We need to bring new Masons into this great fraternity. Let us keep Acacia Lodge alive, viable and growing.

My wife, Linda has arranged a special program for the ladies while we are attending to business in the Lodge room on this stated meeting night.

Warmest Fraternal Regards,

Ted Daly, PM, Senior Warden

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#### WILL THE FUTURE REMEMBER?

S. Kenneth Baril 2005

Will the future remember?

What we did here today?

Will the future remember?

If it does, what will it say?

Will it say we were humble?

Will it say we lost sight?

Will it agree with our reasoning?

Whether wrong or right?

Will the future remember?

Of the subjects we spoke?

Will it defend our actions?

Or condemn promises we broke?

Will the future remember?

Will it forget our face?

Will it understand our methods?

To make your world a better place?

Will the future remember?

These men of the past?

Will the future acknowledge?

The shadows they cast?

Will the future remember our relief

To brothers in pain?

Will the future remember?

We did it without thought of gain?

Will the future remember?

We did the best that we could?

Will the future remember?

We tried to live as we should?

Will the future remember?

Our oaths on bended knee?

Will the future remember promises made

Between God, you and me?

Whether or not the future remembers

Or shares our point of view,

You are the future, my children

We did it for you!





On behalf of Acacia Lodge #651, you are cordially invited to our 100<sup>th</sup> year Reconsecration being held on May 11, 2019, at the Euclid Masonic Temple, 27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid, Ohio, 44132. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m., Acacia Lodge will open at 2:00 p.m. with refreshments following the Reconsecration.

There will be no cost for the lunch, but ask that you provide a donation to be used for one of our lodge charities. There will also be a ladies program that will take place while the brethren are in the Lodge Room for the ceremony. This program will be a theatrical presentation of "Molly Brown".

If you are able to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> year Reconsecration ceremony for Acacia Lodge, we would appreciate you contacting James Cogan at 440-257-6964 or email [coganj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coganj@sbcglobal.net) to confirm your luncheon and/or ceremony reservation before May 4<sup>th</sup>. This will assist us to ensure that adequate food and refreshment are available.

### **Masonic Joke**

Two lifelong friends who got initiated way back in the day (we will call them Bob and Joe) were having dinner one night at lodge, Bob looks over at Joe and says "You know, we need to make a pact!".... "Yeah, what kind of pact, Bob?" He says "The first one of us to drop the working tools and enter the celestial lodge above, has to come back down here, and tell the other what it's like up there!" They shook hands and agreed. So later that year Joe passes in his sleep. About 2 weeks later, as Bob is in his bed just drifting off to sleep, he hears a big thud at the foot of his bed, sits up quickly and sees Joe standing there! In disbelief, he says "Joe! Is that really you?" "Yes Bob, its me! We made a pact, remember?" Bob replies "I remember it well, but didn't really think we could come back for real and tell the other, but hey! So what's it like up there?" With a saddened tone, Joe told him" Well,

the fellowship is amazing, the ritual is spot on, the officer attendance is 100%, the meals are very good, and the lodge is beautiful, and we are doing a MM degree in the morning." Bob replied "That sounds amazing! Why so glum brother?".... "Well! I came here to inform you that you are on the list to be the Senior DEACON".

### **Symbol of the Acacia**



Mackey, in his *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, says:

An interesting and important symbol in Freemasonry. Botanically, it is the *acacia vera* of *Tournefort*, and the *mimosa nilotica* of Linnaeus, called babul tree in India. The *acacia Arabica* grew abundantly in the vicinity of Jerusalem, where it is still to be found, and is familiar in its modern use at the tree from which the gum arabic of commerce is derived.

The acacia is called in the Bible *Shittim*, which is really the plural of Shittah, which last form occurs once only, in *Isaiah 41:19*, which reads "*I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together...*". It was esteemed a sacred wood among the Hebrews, and of it Moses was ordered to make the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, the table for the shewbread, and the rest of the sacred furniture (*Exodus 25-27*).

The sprig of acacia, then, in its most ordinary signification, presents itself to the Master Mason as a symbol of the immortality of the soul, being intended to remind him, by its ever-green and unchanging nature, of that better and spiritual part within us, which, as an emanation from the Great Architect of the Universe, can never die.

## 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.

May 10, 2019	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – Fellow Craft Degree
May 11, 2019	<b>Special Event</b> – 100 year Reconsecration of Acacia Lodge
May 24, 2019	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – Fellow Craft Degree
June 1, 2019	<b>Fishing Trip</b> – see article
June 14, 2019	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – Dinner meeting to discuss improvements to our lodge
June 28, 2019	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – last meeting before summer break
July 20, 2019	<b>Night at the Captains</b> – see article

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James R. Cogan  
6130 Thistlewood Drive  
Mentor OH 44060

