



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 14, Issue 1**

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

**January / February, 2018**

**"Embrace Our Heritage – Preserve Our Traditions" --- Grand Masters Program**

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2017 – 2018

- W. M. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
- S. W. - Chris Modica, 440-298-1666, c.modica@yahoo.com
- J. W. - James L. Burnett, Jr. 440-796-8330 J.Burnett@twc.com
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- J. D. - Craig Niederriter, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
- S. S. - Errol Savage
- J. S. - Daniel E. Bennett, 330-892-8765, debennett2@gmail.com
- Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268, jasonelliott91@aol.com
- Secretary - James R. Cogan, 440-257-6964, coganj@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer - David Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
- Chaplain - Jerald G. Dickerson, (440) 449-4639
- L.E.O. - Robert Roffe, 440-413-9007
- 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

- Jan 3 **Degree Practice** 7 – 9 Euclid Temple – no dinner
- Jan 11 **Typewritten Ritual E.A. Degree**, 7:00 p.m. Clifton-Gaston Allen Lodge
- Jan 12 **Stated Meeting** – EA Practice
- Jan 20 **Leadership Meeting** See Article
- Jan 26 **Stated Meeting** – EA Practice
- Feb 7 **Degree Practice** 7 – 9 Euclid Temple – no dinner
- Feb 9 **Stated Meeting** – EA Practice
- Feb 23 **Stated Meeting** – Annual Inspection in EA Degree
- Mar 7 **Degree Practice** 7 – 9 Euclid Temple – no dinner

## From The East



Greetings Brethren,

As your newest Worshipful Master I would like to thank everyone for their support and dedication to Acacia both living and departed. I look forward to making 2018 as great as last year, and with a little hard work. It will be even better?

My theme for 2018 is “**A Lodge United**”. I will celebrate Acacia’s history this year in preparation for our rededication and cornerstone celebration that will take place in 2019. Our great lodge is a culmination of several other prominent and historical lodges of the 22<sup>nd</sup> District. It all started with Silver Cord #651 back in 1919. They met in a building on E 105<sup>th</sup> St and St Clair above a Standard Drug Store, sharing it with Glenville Lodge #618. They built the Glenville Temple together and shared it until 1962 when we relocated to Lyndhurst Masonic Temple.

We merged with Ornan Lodge #652 in 1981 and Windermere Lodge #633 in 1982. At which time our current name Acacia Lodge #651 was adopted. Then in 1995 we consolidated with James B. Ruhl Lodge #731. With is consolidation we were reunited with our brothers from Glenville Lodge #618 who had consolidated with James B Ruhl 731 in 1984.

Acacia Lodge packed up and moved again in 1999 to our current home at Euclid Masonic Temple. In recent years we merged with our esteemed brothers of Charles T. Raymer – Covenant Lodge #727 (which consisted of the following lodges Chares T. Ramer Lodge #683, Covenant Lodge #727, Halcyon Lodge #498, Bigelow Lodge #243 and Robert Simpson Lodge #713) to form, what is now without a doubt, one of Ohio’s premier F. & A. M. Lodges. Of which I am proud to say I am a member!

Please check out the updated and in-depth history of Acacia Lodge on our website. Please contact our lodge secretary should you have additional information of any of the lodges that make-up Acacia Lodge #651. Special thanks to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District’s best secretary for keeping things up to date for us.

I hope that everyone had a memorable holiday and has a safe and happy new year!

Fraternally,

Tim Gallagher, Worshipful Master

## What's New

I would like to present the image I created in dedication to my theme "A Lodge United", and our history...



Listing all the lodges that merged to form Acacia in a circle has a unifying effect. The message is unity. When I think of "A Lodge United", I think of images like the ones expressed on this emblem. It might be confusing at first, but when it's meaning is discovered? It can often times be better appreciated...

The two lions are not dancing, but it doesn't hurt if they appear to be. It's an allusion to the 5 points of fellowship. They are passing on Masonic knowledge, symbolic of the worshipful master and candidate, or simply the well informed brethren helping another brother to increase his Masonic knowledge. They are shaking hands with the strong grip which is symbolic of raising the master mason and also providing relief to a worthy brother. They hold together in their other hand the square and compasses, above their heads, to symbolize our allegiance to all freemasons around the world.

The date 1919 is significant to our origin.

Last but not least, the background is divided into 3, 5, and 7 steps (15 total). This is symbolic of our journey. They are the same 15 steps that we all take together on our path to more light.

This image will be featured on a t-shirt that we plan to make available for purchase soon. Please check out our website for details.

Fraternally,

Tim Gallagher, WM

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## Hello Brethren,

I would like to start off by thanking everyone. I truly appreciate your confidence in electing me as your Senior Warden for the upcoming year. This year will be a great year for Acacia Lodge. Our officer line continues to remain as strong as ever. I look forward to serving Acacia Lodge in any and every way I am able to.

Looking into the future, as your current Senior Warden, I will be creating a calendar for the 2019 year and I am looking for some input from the craft. We have a few big things happening in the 2019 Masonic year. We will be celebrating our 100th year anniversary, a Corner Stone ceremony, and I will also be planning Pistol Range nights, Fishing trips, a Golf outing, Holiday party, a family picnic, baseball games, a bowling night and a few other events. As I stated I would like to hear some thoughts from the Past Masters and Brethren regarding different type of events anyone would like to see Acacia Lodge conduct. The more input I receive, will only make the 2019 year more enjoyable for everyone. So Brethren please feel free to email or call me with suggestions. Hope to hear from you soon.

Fraternally,

Chris Modica, Senior Warden

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## Tri-centennial

This past year the Grand Lodge of England celebrated their 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The below link is a video of the main celebration. The first ½ hour of the video talks about the various charities which is interesting but a bit long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuCd0xCVJ-U>

## A little History –

No one knows just how old it is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Probably, it arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the castles and cathedrals of the middle ages.

Possibly, they were influenced by the Knights Templar, a group of Christian warrior monks formed in 1118 to help protect pilgrims making trips to the Holy Land.

In January of 1781 when 30 Masons, representing 6 Lodges, met in New York City to form the Grand Lodge of New York State. The members of this fraternity share the common bond of love of family, love of God and love of country.

A Grand Lodge is the administrative body in charge of Masonry in some geographical area. In the United States, there is a Grand Lodge in each state. In Canada, there is a Grand Lodge in each province. Local organizations of Masons are called lodges. There are lodges in most towns and cities with some having several lodges. There are about 13,200 lodges in the United States.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Freemasonry is how so many men, from so many different walks of life, can meet together in peace, always conducting their affairs in harmony and friendship and calling each other “Brother”. The Masonic experience encourages members to become better men, better husbands, better fathers and better citizens.

Submitted by WB Don Ritchie



### In Memoriam

<b>Brother</b>	<b>Passed</b>
Robert E. Stroup	September 29, 2017
Roy F. Hoskins	November 18, 2017
Charles H. Schulz	December 11-1-2017
John M. Krankus	February 13, 2017
Edward J. Wilding	September 30, 2017

*They rest from their labors.*

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## From without the inner door:

My Brothers,

I would like to thank everyone who participated in and attended this year's Christmas party. It was a wonderful success and everyone in attendance had a lovely time. We had many children and all of them loved their gifts. I would like to thank Brother Modica and his family for shopping for all the gifts and I would like to thank everyone who helped wrap the presents the Worshipful Master and his children, Brother Modica and myself. I look forward to the coming year. It will be a very interesting year and a very fruitful one for Acacia Lodge. I know we have a couple of candidates and I foresee them adding a nice benefit to our meetings. As Acacia grows we all grow. The age-old question in masonry is how do we attract younger members?

We lost a generation who shared no interest in fraternal organizations or clubs.

We have to buckle down and find ways to encourage the new generation to find the beauty and reasons to join our great fraternity. I say we each take time to find who would be the best fit for our fraternity and who will participate and look forward to our meetings. They will need a thirst for knowledge not just the ability to wear a ring and say yes I'm a Mason.

I have not brought in anyone in all my years. None of my close friends are interested as of yet, but hopefully soon a couple of them will ask.

Fraternally

Bro. Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

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## Christmas Celebration!

Acacia Lodge has wrapped up another successful Christmas Party that was held on the first Saturday of December. We were entertained by the Flower Clown, Peddles, with balloon creations for the children and a magic show that was held in the Lodge Room. Everyone enjoyed the food (corned beef, turkey, roast beef sandwiches, pizza, desert and drinks). The day was topped off by a visit from the man from the North where the children received their gifts.

This year we enjoyed the company of fifty-nine adults and forty-eight children. A good time was had by one and all.

The extra gifts were donated to Lake Health System for their Christmas giving program to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. This year they adopted 107 children and Acacia Lodge was able to assist them with our donation.

All the officers want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Santa and his helpers (Bro Hugh Sullivan, Tori Gallagher, and friend Liz Burton)

[i carry your heart with me (i carry it in]  
BY E. E. CUMMINGS

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in  
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)

i fear

no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet)i want  
no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows  
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart  
i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)

### 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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### **From the Grand Secretary's December Newsletter:**

#### **“Replace Yourself Program a Membership Incentive Now in Progress**

For almost 60 years there has been a steadily decline in Masonic membership throughout the United States. This year, the Grand Master has launched a membership incentive program, “Replace Yourself Program” (RYP), in which to address the loss of membership in Ohio.

The program was delivered by the DDGM at the District's PM Convocation. There will be a District RYP Rep. and a Lodge RYP Rep. to promote the program. Program supply kits containing the necessary materials are available from the Rep's.

A member makes a commitment to the program by indicating “I Will” thereby pledging himself to become a first-line signer on a petition. A reward and recognition are available to those fulfilling their commitment.

For more information browse  
[www.ReplaceYourself.org](http://www.ReplaceYourself.org)”

As a side note Acacia Lodge is looking forward to a busy year with a number of good men looking at completing their petitions and submitting them to us. Stay tuned and plan to attend our degree work.

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### **Eight Steps to Excellence: The Observant Lodge**

W.: B .: Andrew Hammer, From: *Observing the Craft: The Pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance*

#### **1. Guarding the West Gate**

This point is first among these, because we are nothing more or less than who we let in to our fraternity. Not every man should be a Mason, and not every man who should be a Mason belongs in just any Lodge. The brethren have a right and responsibility to determine the standards for their own Lodge, and to ask incisive questions of those men who knock on their door. Lodges should take

time to first get to know the men who knock at their doors, and not simply sign any petition just because a man has an interest. Brothers who sign a petition for a man need to know who they are signing for, and more important, need to be willing to serve as his mentor. This is a fundamental point of responsibility for all brethren. Do not ask a brother in your Lodge to do the job of mentoring for you. If you are not willing to give that petitioner your time, how can you ask your Lodge to give theirs?

## **2 Being Proficient in Masonic Ritual and Law**

Proficiency is an essential function of any observant Lodge, because we must know both what we are doing, and why, if we seek to uphold the highest standards of our respective Grand Lodges. It does no good to claim the mantle of excellence if your Lodge is not well versed in the ritual and the Masonic law of your jurisdiction. Masonry is a thing of order, not anarchy. If you wish to keep that order, as well as harmony between your Lodge and the Grand Lodge, you must learn and follow the rules that each brother has obligated himself to observe. An observant Lodge is not a renegade Lodge. It seeks to be an exemplary one.

## **3. A Commitment to Advance Brethren Through the Degrees by Mutual and Genuine Effort**

Progress in the degrees requires a mutual commitment of time and effort from candidate and mentor alike. Some form of proficiency, be it the catechisms, or papers delivered before the Lodge, should be required before allowing any brother to advance. Otherwise the brother learns that his advancement has no measurable value, other than his mere presence. Certainly not every man can do memory work, and not every man is a writer. But if he is not willing to even *attempt* to do either, then perhaps he should simply not be a Mason to begin with. The same goes for the mentor, who, though he may be experienced, must not take the easy way out when it comes to the knowledge he has pledged to impart to his apprentice.

## **4. The Selection and Advancement of Officers Should be by Merit Alone**

This step, while admittedly difficult for some, is firmly grounded in the *Book of Constitutions*, without question. Masonry has never intended the

adoption of a progressive line. A progressive line should only function when the next man down has the full faith and trust of his fellows that he will rule and govern his Lodge properly, because he has properly learned the requirements of his office. Of course, human nature is what it is, and mistakes can always happen, but they can be mitigated if such a standard is put in place, because no one advances until and unless they are ready to do so. The only way to justify a progressive line is if every officer is carrying his weight to the extent of his office, while at the same time preparing himself diligently to advance to the next one. Lodges ignore this step at their own risk.

## **5. Dressing Your Best for Lodge**

How one appears before the Lodge is a sign of how much you value both the brethren and the Craft. In most lodges in the world, a dark suit and tie is the minimum required to gain admittance. It's what the brethren expect from each other in an observant Lodge, and it certainly adds to the notion that a Masonic meeting is not just another night out, but a special event, worthy of being considered as special as each of us should believe Masonry to be. Additionally, dignity expressed outwardly through dress, serves as a superstructure, helping to enhance that dignity that can only be created from within.

## **6. A Lodge Must Offer Quality Assemblies and Be Willing to Pay For Them**

The dues of a Lodge should be set at a level which allows the Lodge to not only support and sustain itself, but enjoy a quality of experience which tells the brethren that their assemblies are opportunities to rise above the ordinary. Good meals, served at proper festive boards, are essential. The festive board conveys the sense of conviviality that helps build true brotherhood, and it is historically established in the Craft as not merely a simple dinner, but quite honestly the second half of a Lodge meeting. An observant Lodge cannot forego it. A Lodge must decide that Masonry is a thing of value, and properly determine that value in such a way that it allows the Lodge to work and assemble in a manner that clearly establishes that value. Our dining and social events should reflect the worth we place on ourselves. Excess is not the objective; quality is. The problem is that so many of us have forgotten what quality is to the extent that we consider any expenditure on ourselves to be

pretentious. But if Masons are to be men of inner distinction, then we are fully justified in treating ourselves to the best we can afford in life. We cannot expect less from the Craft or ourselves.

### 7. **The Return of a Sense of Awe to Our Ceremonies**

We should bring back those things that once were found in our lodges, and which helped create a very unique, contemplative atmosphere for both the candidate and the Lodge. Among these are the use of music, the manipulation of light and darkness, the Chamber of Reflection, and the closing charge which forms what is known as the Chain of Union. Consider that the candidate preparation room is not and was never meant to be a mere dressing room. Consider that the notion of a 'sacred band of brothers' might allude to a physical manifestation of that sacredness. Consider that music has always been a part of our ceremonies, and that the *Book of Constitutions* ends with a collection of songs. All these things are part of who *we* are; they are not innovations from later jurisdictions or borrowings from European Masonry. Even the use of incense is ritually alluded to in early exposures of the Craft. The idea is to stimulate and manage the sensory experience of the brethren, in the endeavor to create the sense of uniqueness one expects from a Masonic experience. Here again, there is nothing strange about employing the senses in a Masonic meeting. Our rituals teach the importance of each of those senses extensively; to *not* employ them in our meetings is the greater neglect and error. To refuse the restoration of awe to our rituals is to refuse to acknowledge our own heritage and history, and to deny the proper place and application of the pillar of Beauty to the Lodge.

### 8. **Masonic Education at Every Meeting**

The very origin of Freemasonry itself is in education. Whether it be the practical education in stone-cutting found in the operative craft of masonry, or the search for inner knowledge and science presented to us by the speculative Craft, the foundation of the art is inexorably based in teaching and learning. Without it, there is simply no Freemasonry taking place in a Lodge. Therefore, every meeting of the Lodge should offer some amount of Masonic education, be it through the degrees, or through presentations on the various lessons of the Craft. Even a ten-minute talk focused

on the symbolic meaning of a single working tool is far better than a meeting where nothing but donations, dinners, and dues are on the agenda. An observant Lodge values the educational function of Freemasonry in its full bloom; the observant Mason holds the fraternity accountable to its promise to him to bestow light, and he means to receive it from the Craft in every sense: spiritual, literal, and intellectual. Numerous monitors and manuals from our Grand Lodges, spanning over at least the last two centuries, make plain the injunction to all Masons to seek knowledge. That same injunction extends by natural progression to each Lodge, and as a result, a Lodge without Masonic education cannot be an observant Lodge, and is arguably not any kind of Lodge at all. The search for more light is at the heart of Masonry. Observance is impossible without it.



*“The soul is dyed the color of its thoughts. Think only on those things that are in line with your principles and can bear the full light of day. The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you think, and what you do is who you become. Your integrity is your destiny...it is the light that guides your way”....Heraclitus.*

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### Oxymorons

How come abbreviated is such a long word?

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

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### **Something to Think About**

Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?

Christmas: What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

## THE HIDDEN LESSONS FROM RITUAL WORK

by Micheal Mayer

So many times we seem to look at Ritual Work as not being that important, and that it doesn't have to be done that well. We feel that just need to have more Masons for our Lodges. If we fail to share the teachings properly, who do you think loses?

I would like to have you think back to that first night, it could of been a warm or cool night, that we all share. That night we were so apprehensive, or for the sake of better words, confused as to what was going to happen. Those first words you heard said at the Lodge door, asking questions and wanting answers of you, and how you were treated was only the start of your Masonic life. That life that leads most of us on a continuous journey of Masonic travel the rest of our lives.

For some of us, who had to memorize the Degree and Obligations, we share something that no one else can understand. This task of learning them, that we choose to do, and we did. This struggle teaches us what we all can do with hard work and a true desire to accomplish things.

So many times I have listened to the lectures, and still I find them as interesting as the first time I heard them. Every time I hear them, I find a new perspective that I have missed before. I fear for those that do not choose to listen to them in this way, as they will never find the lessons that are taught there in Masonry.

And as for those that give those grand lectures, they learn as well. They learn how it feels to give that perfect lecture and also when they don't get it perfectly right! Most of the time just stopping for a moment to think or to taking a breath. I think we can all learn hidden lessons here too. How we should overlook everyone's little mistakes that we all make in life. Also to remember sometimes the best intentions go wrong by accident.

"Value Your Word"

For What Worth Hath a Liar!

"If you would convince a man that he does wrong, do right. But do not care to convince him. Men will believe what they see. Let them see." - Henry David Thoreau

## Leadership Event #1

The DDGM's and DEO's for the 22nd Masonic District present four leadership events every year. Below is the information for the first event.

When: January 20, 2018 - 9:00-11:30 a.m.

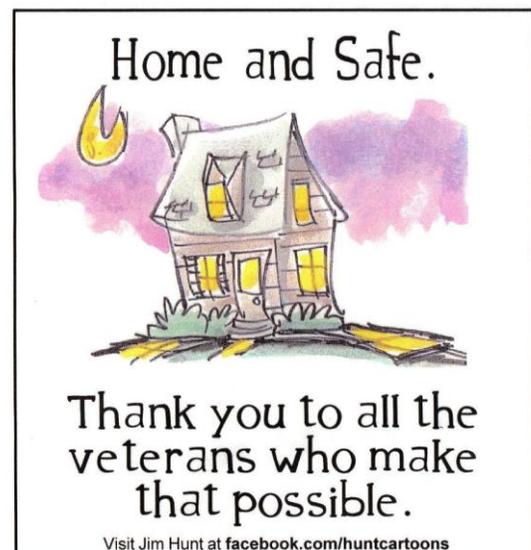
Where: Parkside Lodge #736, 10200 Memphis Ave., Cleveland, OH 44144

## 22nd Masonic District Leadership Events - where:

- Masons learn how to make their lodges better.
- Masons gain insight to become leaders.
- Masons network and fellowship with other lodges.

## Agenda - Attendees will:

- 1) Learn information about an effective inspection (30 min) – RWB Krapf.
- 2) Gain insight into **The Lost 30** (30 min) – WB Montgomery
- 3) Learn about the **Principles Proficiency (Alternative Proficiency)** (30 min) – WB Kita
- 4) Learn about and gain insight to the **Replace Yourself Program** (45 min) – WB Hieb
- 5) Understand the difference between asking a man to be a Mason and **Sponsorship/Selective Invitation** (30 min) – RWB Hall
- 6) Participate in a **Leadership Roundtable** – Your feedback make us all better Masons and a better Masonic District (15 min) – WB Hieb.



**TRESTLE-BOARD**

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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January 12, 2018	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – Degree Practice
January 20, 2018	<b>Leadership Meeting</b> – 9:00-11:30 a.m., Parkside Lodge #736, 10200 Memphis Ave.
January 26, 2018	<b>Stated Meeting</b> – Degree Practice
February 7, 2018	<b>Degree Practice</b> 7 – 9 Euclid Temple – no dinner
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