



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

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Second and Fourth Fridays

March / April, 2016

"Freemasonry, A Brotherhood Of Values" --- Grand Masters Program

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2015 - 2016

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TRESTLE-BOARD

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

- Mar. 11 Stated Meeting - MM Practice
- Mar. 12 St. Patrick's Day Party - See
Article
- Mar. 13 Day Light Savings Time Starts
- Mar. 19 Leadership Meeting - Rocky
River Lodge - 9:00 a.m.
- Mar. 25 Stated Meeting - MM Practice
- Apr. 8 Stated Meeting - MM Practice
- Apr. 16 Leadership Meeting - Stonington
Lodge - 9:00 a.m.
- Apr. 22 Stated Meeting - Inspection in
the MM Degree
- May 13 Stated Meeting -
- May 20 Grand Masters Reception
- May 21 Family Bowling Night - See Article
- May 27 Stated Meeting -
- May 28 CCW Class

From The East



Greetings Brethren,

As we work toward Inspection and putting forth a Master Mason Degree, it's time to be reminded that Masonry is not all about work. It's also about the social events! I'm happy to report that Acacia Lodge had a very successful night this past January 29 at Quicken Loans Arena for our annual Lake Erie Monsters Night. Twenty brethren, family, and friends were in attendance. We had excellent seats behind one of the goals and all enjoyed the Monsters eke out a 3-2 win. Thanks to all who were able to attend.

Looking forward, Acacia will be hosting another annual event — our St. Patrick's Day Party at the Euclid Masonic Temple on Saturday, March 12 from 6 - 8 pm. A traditional dinner of corned beef and cabbage will be served at 6 pm and a special performance by an Irish dancing troupe will follow around 7 pm. Last year this event drew over sixty people and a good time was had by all. The dinner is complimentary and friends and family of Acacia brethren are welcome!

Come May, we will be holding one of our traditional Family Bowling Nights on Saturday, May 21 at Wickliffe Lanes, located at 30315 Euclid Avenue. The event will last from 6 - 8 pm. Tickets are only \$5 for adults and just \$2 for kids 12 and under. The evening will include a complimentary dinner, three games of bowling and shoe rental. This event has always been well attended in the past and I am sure this year will be no different.

Finally, Brethren, a reminder to please keep the welfare of Acacia Lodge in your thoughts and prayers. I am happy to report that WB Jim Burnett is at home recuperating from his recent surgery with his wife, Beth. He is in good spirits and is thankful to the Lodge for your well wishes. Also, RWB Dick Davis and his wife have moved to the Ohio Masonic Home in Medina. Also, WB Russell Toll who lost his wife in January is in Medina. I have talked with these brethren and they assure me that they very much appreciate your well-wishes.

Faternally,

Mark Novak, Worshipful Master

"Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish." - Sam Walton

From the West,

This month marks the 20th anniversary of my E.A. degree. I remember so well, asking my friend **Tom Daley** (my brother's father-in-law) to come watch my initiation. Little did I know he would be presenting me with my apron, and eventually plural joining our lodge. That night was so special to me I was so proud to be made a Mason.

I remember with nervous anticipation asking my DeMolay advisor **Bob Roffe** for a petition on my 19th birthday. Meeting with first the membership, and then investigation committee, "talk about giving someone the third degree!!!!" I think I had it three times! Upon being brought to light I saw each of my DeMolay Mentors, **Mitch Antoon, Dick Spotts, Sheldon Thorpe**, and too many others to name for the purposes of this article. Most of them WW II veterans. All positive influences. They took the time to give me positive instruction, and I was at least smart enough to listen to them.

They are nearly all gone now. I have tried to continue their legacy by following their advice, bringing in men to our lodge who are worthy of membership. I have brought in 9 members of the craft. I am proud of each of them. Currently 5 are serving as officers in our Lodge. Who are they and how do they continue the proud legacy of Acacia Lodge?

Mark Novak whom I've known for 25 years, joined our Lodge while in Law School. I was talking to him about Masonry, while we were still in DeMolay. I met **Craig Niederriter**, and **Jason Elliot** when I was a college freshman. Jason joined the Army and after his time in the service he graduated from college, all while raising his wonderful daughters. Craig started off in the service as an E-1, promoted through E-5, he was then commissioned as an Officer, retiring from Active Duty as a Major. **Craig's son, Tony**, is following in his father's footsteps. Tony enlisted an E-1 in the Marine Corps, served in Iraq, was promoted to E-6, graduated from College and is now a commissioned officer. Now active in his church, and his community, Craig and Jason also serve our Lodge as Officers. Jason as Tyler, and Craig, seeing a hole in the line came back as Senior Steward. **Steve Mietus** and **Chris Malinoski** (remember when Masons didn't have last names that ended in vowels? My how far we have come!),

are both Cleveland teachers, and both are active in their profession, Steve is a Union Steward, and former High School Principal, Chris, is a Union Officer, and actively involved in the school district. Steve is our organist, replacing another of my Mentors **Cy Chinn**, who was also a WW II veteran, and a Cleveland Teacher.

These men have all stepped up to serve our lodge, they also serve their communities, their churches, and their professions. They are successes within each of their necessary vocations. I'm proud of each of them. I believe they carry on the legacy of my mentors. They are Acacia Lodge.

Fraternally,
Errol Savage, Senior Warden

Brethren,

I would like to introduce myself to the members of Acacia that are not able to frequently attend lodge meetings. My name is Chris Malinoski and I am your new Junior Deacon. I served as a Steward last year and stepped up to the front to fill a vacuum created when previous members of the line were unable to fulfill their service due to personal issues. I was more than happy to help in a time of need; a choice I'm sure any Mason would make if they were able and the situation arose.

A little about me: I am an 18-year public school teacher in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where I met WB Errol Savage, who initially invited me to your lodge. I am nearing my two-year anniversary in Masonry, a fraternity that keeps me coming back for the fellowship and answers it provides. I am happily married to the love of my life, Lee. We have two children, Sophia and Padraig.

I am humbly grateful for the opportunity to serve you as an officer. I would like to thank the regularly-attending brothers for accepting me and helping me to the place I am currently at in Masonry. I look forward to meeting more brethren of Acacia Lodge on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Fraternally,
Chris Malinoski, Junior Deacon

"Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." - Albert Einstein

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.



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Bro. John Markulin	November 13, 2015
Bro. Vincent R. Garbo	January 14, 2016
Bro. Claude B. Davidson	February 19, 2016
Bro. Bruce H. Long	February 28, 2016

They rest from their labors.

Very Clever **Credit Card Scam!** This scam is actually very clever. Just when you thought you'd heard it all. Be very careful out there!

Beware of people bearing gifts. The following is a recounting of the incident from the victim: Wednesday a week ago, I had a phone call from someone saying that he was from some outfit called: "Express Couriers," (The name could be any courier company) He asked if I was going to be home because there was a package for me that required a signature.

The caller said that the delivery would arrive at my home in roughly an hour. Sure enough, about an hour later, a uniformed delivery man turned up with a beautiful basket of flowers and a bottle of wine. I was very surprised since there was no special occasion or holiday, and I certainly didn't expect anything like it. Intrigued, I inquired as to who the sender was. The courier replied, "I don't know, I'm only delivering the package." Apparently, a card was being sent separately . . . (the card has never arrived!) There was also a consignment note with the gift.

He then went on to explain that because the gift contained alcohol, there was a \$3.50 "delivery/verification charge," providing proof that he had actually delivered the package to an adult (of legal drinking age), and not just left it on the doorstep where it could be stolen or taken by anyone, especially a minor.

This sounded logical and I offered to pay him cash. He then said that the delivery company required payment to be by credit or debit card only, so that everything is properly accounted for, and this would help in keeping a legal record of the transaction. He added couriers don't carry cash to avoid loss or likely targets for robbery.

My husband, who by this time was standing beside me, pulled out his credit card, and 'John,' the "delivery man," asked him to swipe the card on a small mobile card machine with a small screen and keypad. Frank, my husband, was asked to enter his PIN number and a receipt was printed out. He was given a copy of the transaction. The guy said everything was in order, and wished us good day.

To our horrible surprise, between Thursday and the following Monday, \$4,000 had been charged/withdrawn from our credit/debit account at various ATM machines. Apparently the "mobile credit card machine," which the deliveryman carried now had all the info necessary to create a "dummy" card with all our card details including the PIN number.

Upon finding out about the illegal transactions on our card, we immediately notified the bank which issued us a new card, and our credit/debit account was closed. We also personally went to the Police, where it was confirmed that it is definitely a scam because several households had been similarly hit.

WARNING: Be wary of accepting any "surprise gift or package," which you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know or there is no proper identification of who the sender is. Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you yourself initiated the purchase or transaction!

Knowing the "Signs" and calling 911 can save your life. Reprinted from Reuters News Service.

(Reuters Health) - Many patients who have a sudden cardiac arrest may have missed warnings signs like chest pain and shortness of breath that, if caught earlier, could improve their survival odds. Sudden cardiac arrest happens when the heart abruptly stops beating, depriving the brain and vital

organs of blood, oxygen and nutrients. It can be fatal if it's not treated within minutes.

About half of heart attack victims may experience warning signs in the four weeks before their heart stops – and for nearly all who do; those symptoms tend to recur in the 24 hours before their heart stops. (Bro Niederriter says: “In 2001, I had symptoms several days before my actual ‘heart event’.) The trouble is only about one in five people who have warning symptoms call for help, the study found. When they did call 911, survival odds shot up to 32 percent, compared with just 6 percent for people who had warning symptoms and didn't seek emergency medical attention

People should be able to identify warning signs...”the classic description of chest pain or radiating pain in the left arm to include conditions like unexplained shortness of breath, persistent nausea, profound fatigue and light headedness, noted Dr. Venu Menon, a director of the cardiac intensive care unit at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. “Symptoms of chest pain and shortness of breath commonly reflect reduced blood flow to the heart which is also the mechanism that is ultimately responsible for the abnormal heart rhythms that cause cardiac arrest.”

Brethren, If six or more folks are interested, my wife Dr. Joan, Professor of Nursing at CSU and I will teach a heart attack prevention class and certify people in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Certification cost is \$20, and that covers materials and registration with American Heart Association. Contact me at niederriterc@aol.com.

Craig Niederriter, Senior Steward

New Puns for those with higher IQ's

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

Three, five, and seven, By Stan Shapiro MD, Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN

“Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation, every possession, a duty”. John D. Rockefeller

“When some men discharge an obligation you can hear the report for miles around” Mark Twain

Brother Jeffery W. Agan, Templar Lodge LEO and member of the Rochester Lodge #21, sent this informative article to me to be edited for this publication. It has an important message about our commitment to our brothers and God.

Oaths and Obligations Are Commitments.

Are the words in an oath or an obligation we just say or words that we live by. Ask yourself the following questions: Why do you say the pledge of Allegiance? What is the pledge? Repeat it aloud slowly and listen to the words. “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”. Are they just words? Do you say them because that is what we do? Did you mean what you said?

What is meaning of the word obligation? Webster's has the following definition: **Obligation:** Any debt, written promise, or duty. Use **obligation** in a Sentence

[See images of obligation](#)

[Search obligation on the Web](#)

As Masons each of us has taken an obligation more than once. So what did the repeating of this obligation mean to you? Were they words you repeated or were they words that had a purpose and a duty?

The Obligations that we took at each of the degrees that began our journey as Mason's were placed there because they had meaning and a purpose. The obligations that we took had a debt with them, a duty, and a promise to the members of the craft and God. Does the same weight apply to the obligations as they did the day the craft started, or when the operative members of the craft took their obligations? Each of us need to look inside of our self and see the reason we said these obligations and at the other oaths or obligations that we have taken. Do you live by the words of the obligation? If not, see if you can live by them. If you cannot then consider the possibility, Masonry is not the place for you.

If we allow members in the craft to just say the obligation to complete the degree, what does the future hold for the craft? Will there be a craft if the brother just says words that have no meaning or duty for him to

follow? When you enter the lodge the day you took your first steps in Masonry, what did you do before you took the first degree? Before you were allowed to seek entry, what were asked some questions into the lodge? Each asked on your honor do you.; So from the beginning of your journey as a Mason, honor was a key aspect of Masonry.

Brothers, the obligations we take as Masons are not mere words. The words of the obligations have a debt to them, a debt not just to the brothers of the craft but to the deity that each of us invoked during the obligations. So we must look again at the obligation we took and ask if we just did it so we could complete the degree. Did we say it with a true heart and understanding that our Deity accepted the obligation as a debt that each of us has to answer to on that day when we enter into that house not made with hands?

There was a time when a man's word was his bond, that if a man said that he was going to do something then he did it and when there was a sense of honor. A lack of honor among men is one of the reasons for the issues we have in society today.

Without honor there is little chance that a society can continue. If a king or ruler wanted to do away with a group or person they had people present false witness against them. If the society has honor, it makes it harder for the leaders to find people who are willing to lie.

Brothers of the craft owe it to our brothers that have gone before us to honor the craft and to ensure that we only allow brothers into the craft that understand that the obligations are not just parts of the degrees. The words have meaning and a debt that will be paid one day.

It is important that each of us to think before we act and to think when we say the Pledge of Allegiance. Are they just words or do you mean what you are saying? Remember the Pledge is a form of an obligation. Never take an oath or obligation without realizing it is a commitment to our brothers and God and is based on our honor.

LIFE IS NOT THE
WAY IT'S SUPPOSED
TO BE... IT'S THE
WAY IT IS... **THE**
VeryBestQuotes.com
WAY WE **COPE** WITH
IT, IS WHAT MAKES
THE DIFFERENCE.

Upcomming Events – mark your calendar and make your reservations at 440-257-6964:

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner (Corned Beef, Cabbage and Potatoes)

"Irish Dancer"

They will be teaching the children and guests some of their dance routines)

Fun, Fellowship and Friendship

Family, friends, and neighbors are all invited!

No Cost to attend – there will be a Free Will offering for Acacia Lodge Charities.

Reservations a must!

Please call

James Cogan, 440-257-6964



Family Bowling Night, May 21st, Sliding Into Fun at Wickliffe Lanes, 30315 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, Ohio. Cost of \$5.00 per adult, children under 12 \$2.00. The evening will include a complimentary dinner, three games of bowling and shoe rental. Reservations required – call James Cogan, 440-257-6964.

CCW Class

Our lodge brother, Mike Januszczak (retired Cleveland Police Officer), has offered to teach a Carry Concealed Weapons Class for our lodge brothers and their families. Bro. Januszczak has reduced the cost for this one day class to \$100 per person. This includes the class, tests and range time.

Every student will need to provide their own weapon and ammunition. (Brother Mike will have some extra weapons but you will have to pay for the ammunition.)

Only twenty people per class, the classroom training will be held at The Euclid Masonic Temple and the range time will be held at the Grays Armory, 1234 Bolivar Rd., Cleveland. Please call James Cogan, 440-257-6964, with your reservation.

Class will be held on May 28th, if more than twenty want to take the class another class will be held at a later date.

TRESTLE-BOARD – tear off and post on you 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.

March 11, 2016	Stated Meeting – MM Practice
March 12, 2016	St. Patrick's Day Party
March 19, 2016	Leadership Meeting – Rocky River Lodge – 9:00 a.m.
March 25, 2016	Stated Meeting – MM Practice
April 8, 2016	Stated Meeting – MM Practice
April 16, 2016	Leadership Meeting – Stonington Lodge – 9:00 a.m.
April 22, 2016	Stated Meeting – Annual Inspection MM Degree, 5:00 p.m. – Dinner 6:00 p.m.
May 21, 2016	Family Bowling Night, 6 to 8 p.m., Wickliffe Lanes, 30315 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe
May 28, 2016	CCW Class 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Starts at Euclid Masonic Temple

"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects." - Albert Einstein

"To talk well and eloquently is a very great art, but that an equally great one is to know the right moment to stop." - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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