



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, 2017

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

Acacia Lodge Officers

2016 – 2017

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- S. W. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
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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. 10 **Stated Meeting** –
- Mar. 11 Leadership Meeting 9 a.m., Solon Lodge
- Mar. 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar. 24 **Stated Meeting** –
- Apr. 14 **Stated Meeting** –
- Apr. 16 Easter
- Apr. 28 **Stated Meeting** – Inspection in FC Degree
- May 12 **Stated Meeting** –
- May 14 Mothers Day
- May 17 Range Night – see article
- May 26 **Stated Meeting** –
- May 27th Acacia Fishing Trip (Sandusky)

From The East



Greetings Brethren,

Brethren, during these dark winter months it's been my privilege to have been able to visit many of our sick, infirm, and shut in members, or their widows. I say privilege because these men have trusted me to see them in their most vulnerable moments. Over the last 20 years of my membership I've formed many close friendships with these men and at times their families. I consider myself fortunate to see them in a time of illness, or decline.

Many of these men through either geographic distance, the infirmities of age, or death, have been separated from their families and friends. I often hear reoccurring themes, loneliness or loss, and sadly regrets. I know when they mention another member has visited or called them it brings them comfort.

Our membership is increasingly aging with more members over 90 then under 40. More and more of our members will be unable to come to us. Join me in making the effort to go to them.

Brethren, I know through commitments to our occupations, families, and other responsibilities we may not all have time to visit the sick and dying. If you can't visit or call, you can still reach out in your own way whatever that is a Think of You Card or perhaps through prayer.

Please join me Brethren in reaching out to our Brethren who cannot reach out to us. Visit them, call them, or pray for them, but please reach out to them.

Fraternally,

Errol Savage, Worshipful Master

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin- real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life. – Fr. Alfred D'Souza.

"Leadership consists of nothing but taking responsibility for everything that goes wrong and giving your subordinates credit for everything that goes well." - Dwight D. Eisenhower



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Bro. William E. Blake	8-15-2016
Bro. Bobby C. Nunley	2-22-2017
Wor. Bro. Robert L. Carpenter	2-28-2017.
Bro. Lawrence E. Gresh	2-22-2017

They rest from their labors.

Our Grand Lodge

A special Thank You to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. All too often we ask our friends and our Grand Lodge "What have you done for me lately?"

Over the last two years two of our brethren have fallen on hard times and were in need of assistance that fell within the guidelines of the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. Their petition for assistance was granted.

To date the Foundation has made 485 individual contributions, totaling more than \$680,000.00. It is imperative that this foundation continues to meet the needs of our worthy distressed brethren. Therefore, should you have extra funds and wish to make a contribution to a tax-deductible organization remember the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation.

A word from the West

I'd like to take just a moment of your time brethren and highlight some of the up and coming events for this summer. The sooner we put the word out, the more interest our events will gain within the Acacia Masonic community. The Master, events committee, and myself feel that the time is now to offer as many activities as possible. Having faith that the brethren reading this article might not only have the desire to gather and bring a potential new member into our circle of acquaintances, but also commit a portion of their time to help make these events as exciting and fruitful as possible.

One of the things that I feel has resonated throughout my time on the event committee is the desire of our members to come together and make

an event a part of each of them. Giving our activities that personal touch that I feel makes them Masonic in the first place. I ask that you use your personal interest in golf or fishing or cooking or shooting or whatever it is in your life that brings you joy, and share that part of you to help bring these events to fruition. Whether it's music or a certain game that fills in some of the time or a certain food that you would want to offer or beverage? It all helps to make it more interesting for everyone. Bono said it best, "it's the song that we've never heard that sounds the sweetest".

In addition to the wonderful dinners before our regularly scheduled meetings, the speakers and presentations before and after, the Range Nights, the Bowling Party, and Holiday Party's during our working seasons we are proud to announce all the events in the works to keep us close during the summer. The dates are subject to change, but should do well to give an indication of the exciting summers to come.

- May 27th Acacia Fishing Trip (Sandusky)
- June 10th Acacia Golf Outing
- July 22nd Acacia Fishing Trip (Wildwood Cleveland)
- August 19th Acacia Family Picnic (Pioneer Waterland)
- August 26th Acacia Fishing Trip (Wildwood Cleveland)
- Sept. 16th Cedar Point Picnic

We look forward to hearing from you and will hopefully see you at these events.

Faternally,

Bro. Tim Gallagher, Senior Warden

- Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
- Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- Why is bra singular and panties plural?
- Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?

Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?



Wor. Bro. Bill Montague sent us this photo of the first meeting he attended at the Grand Lodge of Texas Annual Communication in 2017. He had a good time meeting new brethren and enjoying the fellowship.



Bro. John Healy brought in an Eddystone WW 1, Masonic rifle to show the brethren. This is part of our continuing Acacia's commemoration of WW 1.

Special Thanks,

We wish to thank Brother Edward J. Falkenstein a 55yr Mason, living in Gig Harbor, WA, for donating his father's Masonic books to Acacia Lodge. We will add these to our current collection in the hopes of constructing an Acacia Lodge Library in the future.

SHRINERS NEWS

The Shriners Hospitals for Children are doing well. The Cincinnati Burns Hospital, which is one of the finest burns hospitals in the world, is also now doing other procedures, not just burns. They are doing such things as removing birth marks, port wine stains, floppy ears, and dog mauling injuries. They are growing skin to help repair burns injuries and can now even pigment skin.

As I have said before Al Koran Shriners transports kids back to the Erie and Cincinnati hospitals for their follow up visits. We still need some volunteer drivers to help transport the kids. I want to thank our Acacia Brother Fred Freer and his wife for stepping up and volunteering, they have already made several trips to the hospitals. You do not have to be a Shriner to volunteer. If you would like more information on being a driver please call Mike Davison, Director of Hospital Admissions, 440-546-9866 or cell 330-608-2414. This can be one of the most rewarding things you can do as a Mason, helping kids.



Parades - The Al Koran parade season is rapidly approaching. Our first parade is the Chardon Maple Festival which is on April 30th. We can still use some new drivers for the little orange Korvette cars. If you would like some additional information or you would like to try out one of the cars please call Al Paynter 216-346-3162. You do not have to be a Shriner to drive a Korvette car in a parade.



Hospital Donations - As I have said before the Shriner Hospital commercials on TV are working, we are getting a lot of donations as a result of this. When you donate to the Shriners Hospitals, 92% - 94% of every dollar goes to the direct help of or research to help children. The families of the children never get a bill for the care that we provide. So if you are able, please consider making a donation to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Fraternally,

Al Paynter, PM

Hello Brethren,

As your current Senior Deacon it is an honor to serve our lodge in this place. As you know part of my responsibility is to take care of candidate and to introduce and accommodate visiting brethren. This provides me with the opportunity to meet all who visit our lodge and to present our Past Masters at every meeting.

The Past Masters of Acacia Lodge are not only the foundation but the back bone of our fraternity. I am working hard to learn the years that they have served as Worshipful Master. So, as a Past Master please help me should I ask your help when I present you at the altar.

Remember, I will to continue to work hard to serve Acacia Lodge and our Fraternity.

Chris Modica, Senior Deacon

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.

Brethren,

In my seven years as Tyler of our lodge I have had the pleasure of meeting and greeting hundreds of

faithful brothers from all over Ohio. I look forward to greeting hundreds more in the future. I would like to look at the coming year that we have a great year planned. Many events and activities that are scheduled for the brethren, family and friends. I have had the pleasure of seeing so many brothers come together and make our events fun and enjoyable. I see what happens and the effect these events have on our senior members and it's beautiful. Watching grand children swim and play is priceless, riding a go-cart and racing each other is priceless. We have an enjoyable golf outing. And, who doesn't like fishing, beers, and shooting, (no beers at the shooting range of course). Acacia has been and always will be the example in our district for living our morals and virtues and expressing brotherly love and friendship as our foundation.

Thank you brother,

Jason R. Elliott, Tyler,

Range Night

On May 17th we will hold one of our favorite events "Night at the Pistol Range". This event is held twice a year at Atwell's Range in Painesville. We meet at 5:30 p.m. for a light dinner and a gun safety talk. The range has five lanes that can accommodate 3 people per lane. We rotate members to make sure everyone gets their chance. Guns are shared so everyone may try a different type of handgun. Ammunition can be purchased from the range or you can bring your own. Please call, 440-257-6964 to reserve you space.

Fraternally, James Cogan, PM

A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

"Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom; Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said...

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he would return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time.

Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories; every picture, every piece of furniture. Jack stopped suddenly...

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked.

"The box is gone," he said

"What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox: "Signature required on a package; no one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved:

"Jack Thanks for your time! Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most was... my time"

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with a friend," he said.

"Oh, by the way, Janet thanks for your time!"

Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

1. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.
2. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
3. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
4. You mean the world to someone.
5. If not for you, someone may not be living.
6. You are special and unique.
7. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you trust God to do what's best, and wait on His time, sooner or later, you will get it or something better.
8. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
9. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
10. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
11. Always remember the compliments you received.
12. Forget about the rude remarks.
13. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.
14. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

Author Unknown

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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March 10, 2017	Stated Meeting
March 11, 2017	Leadership Meeting – 9:00 to Noon at Solon Lodge
March 24, 2017	Stated Meeting
April 14, 2017	Stated Meeting
April 28, 2017	Stated Meeting – Inspection in the Fellow Craft Degree
May 12, 2017	Stated Meeting
May 14, 2017	Mothers Day
May 17, 2017	Range Night at Atwells in Painesville
May 26, 2017	Acacia Fishing Trip (Sandusky)
May 29, 2017	Memorial Day

James R. Cogan
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