



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 13, Issue 3**

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

**May / June, 2017**

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

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2016 – 2017

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- J. S. -
- Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268, [jasonelliott91@aol.com](mailto:jasonelliott91@aol.com)
- Secretary - James R. Cogan, P.M., 440-257-6964, [coganj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coganj@sbcglobal.net)
- Treasurer - David Ponsart, 440-953-1726, [grocerydude@att.net](mailto:grocerydude@att.net)
- Chaplain - Jerald G. Dickerson, (440) 449-4639
- L.E.O. - James L. Burnett, Jr. 440-795-8330 [J.Burnett@twc.com](mailto:J.Burnett@twc.com)
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- Organist - Stephen A. Mietus, 330-592-3054, [smeitus@neo.rr.com](mailto: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 12 **Stated Meeting** –
- May 14 Mothers Day
- May 17 Range Night – see article
- May 26 **Stated Meeting** –
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Acacia Fishing Trip (Sandusky) – see article
- Jun 9 **Stated Meeting** –
- Jun 23 **Stated Meeting** –
- Jul 8 Captains Game – see article

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." - Aristotle

## From The East



Greetings Brethren,

Over the last twenty years we have conducted far more Masonic Funerals than initiations. This is a trend that is not going to change anytime soon. Masonic membership is half of what it used to be at its height and based on the age of our average membership it will continue to rapidly drop over this next decade.

Acacia's own membership was at 788 men when I joined in 1996. Of those men less than one hundred are alive today. With the merger of five additional lodges to Acacia our total membership is still only 400. Increasingly we will see our numbers decline. Like all fraternal organizations, we do not have new members joining at a rate that will compensate for the members lost to death.

I've often asked what will the future hold for Acacia? I have no way of knowing, but I look forward to the future with feelings of anticipation and excitement, mixed with apprehension. Increasingly we will have to do more with less. I believe the one year in, one year up profession of line officers will have to end, it's simply not sustainable. The expectation of an officer progressing each year, will undoubtedly lead to mediocrity at best. Increasingly men will have to serve several years in a given station.

Mentors are desperately needed, but good mentors are in short supply. Simply telling an officer what he is doing wrong, is not mentoring. Fewer and fewer men amongst the Craft will mean that more often than not volunteers will be needed to fill in basic stations.

Finances are not a problem for Masonry, but appropriate financial decision will continue to be a concern. Building maintenance will be a burden; appropriate uses of our buildings will be a nagging question.

While these are all items that will be a challenge, they are also opportunities to reclaim our heritage or reinvent our future. While past mistakes have left a great deal of damage, I look forward to a future filled with potential promise.

Please be part of the discussion, and possible solutions. If you are able attend your lodge meetings and be active.

Lastly Brethren, please continue to keep in your prayers, our members who are ill, infirm, aged, and alone. If you are able, continue to reach out to them, either through visits, phone calls, letters, or even in just your

good thoughts. Let's not go through this by ourselves, but instead let's be united to one another.

Fraternally,  
Errol Savage

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### In Memoriam

<b>Brother</b>	<b>Passed</b>
Bro. Charles E. Cowell	2-7-2017
Bro. Mack D. Hoch	3-13-2017
Wor. Bro. Charles E. Ross	4-11-2017
Bro. Joseph R. Bako	3-17-2017
Bro. James A. Davis	1-16-2017
Bro. Robert Hagy	4-24-2017

*They rest from their labors.*

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Brother John Healy a retired Cleveland police officer brought in a police sniper rifle. He talked about the use of this weapon and answered questions posed by the brethren.

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### Need Help?

Do you know a Brother or a widow who needs assistance with aging in any way, please refer them to the Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center at 1-877-881-1623. It's a toll free call and they can connect him or her with the services they need.

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"I love you, and because I love you, I would sooner have you hate me for telling you the truth than adore me for telling you lies." - Pietro Aretino

### From the Northeast Corner:

I would like to start off by sharing just one of the many reasons I am proud to be a member of Acacia Lodge. Acacia lodge has contributed to many wonderful Charities during this current year. Our Lodge has donated financial assistance to the Ohio Masonic home, sponsored a Special needs Olympian, Nurses On A Mission, Youth Baseball, Flood Relief, Grand Lodge of Ohio Scholarship fund, Grand Lodge of Ohio Charitable fund, multiple worthy Distressed Master Masons, and many others.

As a representative of one of the recipients of Acacia's generosity I would personally like to thank the brethren of Acacia Lodge on behalf of the **Concord Youth Baseball League** for providing a sponsorship for one of the 42 teams the League has this year. This sponsorship supports the local youth (age's 7 – 8 years old) and is a great way to get our name out to the public.

With that being said I will be coaching the team that will proudly wear "Acacia Lodge F&AM #651" on the backs of their jerseys, if anyone would like to attend any of the numinous games we have this season starting May 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing to July 1<sup>st</sup> please feel free to contact me. All the games will be held at Lamuth Middle School in Concord, Ohio. Please visit the baseball website, [www.concordyouthbaseball.com](http://www.concordyouthbaseball.com) for additional information. My contact information is listed below should you have any questions. Until next time my Brothers.

Chris Modica, Senior Deacon  
440-339-7092, [C.Modica@yahoo.com](mailto:C.Modica@yahoo.com)

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### From without the inner door:

As Tyler, I have noticed a sharp decline in attendance over the past 12 months a lot of that is due to the age of our membership and I understand with inclement weather and the unending march of time all work to reduce attendance.

I'm calling upon all of our newer and younger members to participate, come enjoy the fraternal bonds of fellowship that we have for each other.

Help serve food, drive a member to a meeting, or take a more active role in the activities of the Lodge anything you can do will assist the lodge. But more

importantly show up to our meetings, they are what keeps us together. There are enough younger members to have 20 to 40 men at each meeting, attending lodge in good numbers keeps everyone involved and makes the meeting more enjoyable.

Fraturnally

Brother Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

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### **Night Out at The Captains**

Our third annual night out at the Lake County Captains will be held on Saturday, July 8th at 7:30 p.m. Plan to attend and enjoy a baseball game, fireworks, food and fellowship for the low price of \$10 per person.

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 9<sup>th</sup>. Email [grocerydude@att.net](mailto:grocerydude@att.net) or call 440-488-5231

Fraternally,

Wor. Bro. David Ponsart, Treasurer

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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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### **ACACIA LODGE FISHING TRIP**



Our first fishing trip has been scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>, the boat shoves off at 2:30 p.m. and we will fish until dusk.

Cost will be \$25.00 per person and includes boat, food, refreshments and prizes. Our boat is called the "Explorer" and can manage 60 guests.

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. Rental of the following items can be made at the neighboring bait shop – \$10 Rod & Tackle rental fee or a fishing license (\$19 for a year, \$11 for the day).

Spread the word. This event is open to family and friends who would enjoy an afternoon on the water and fun of trying to outwit a fish.

Make your reservations (440-257-6964) as soon as possible and before May 21<sup>st</sup> (this will allow us the time to purchase food, refreshments and prizes

### **Location –**

Dispatch Charters and Tours  
East Washington St.  
Sandusky, OH 44870

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### **For Those Who Don't Know Everything**

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

{ I know a lot of people like that }

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

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Brethren,

It's been a while since I last wrote; I'm in a position now where I need the lodge more than it needs me. Being in this position where I'm by myself, I cannot understand why a man that is alone in his home with no wife or children won't come to the lodge. Our wonderful secretary tells you in each publication that we will pick you up and you will be fed and informed on various subjects after every free meal.

My suggestion is that the members of our fraternity share some subjects of their life which he might believe to be of interest. Every person has a story or hobby that he could share with his lodge brothers. Most Speakers were professional and some non-masonic but even at that were interesting and well received.

I tried this in my Chapter of Royal Arch Masons years ago and it worked well. If you're interested, let our Worshipful Master know and let's get started.

Fraternally,

WB Tom Daly

**TRESTLE-BOARD**

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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May 12, 2017	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
May 14, 2017	<b>Mothers Day</b>
May 17, 2017	<b>Range Night at Atwells in Painesville – see article</b>
May 26, 2017	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
May 27, 2017	<b>Acacia Fishing Trip (Sandusky) – see article</b>
May 29, 2017	<b>Memorial Day</b>
June 9, 2017	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
June 23, 2017	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
July 8, 2017	<b>Captains Game – see article</b>
July / August	<b>We are planning a golf outing and a lodge picnic</b>

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James R. Cogan  
6130 Thistlewood Drive  
Mentor OH 44060

