



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 15, Issue 4

Second and Fourth Fridays

July / August, 2019

Acacia Lodge – Celebrating 100 years

"Invest" --- Grand Masters Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2018 – 2019

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- 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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- 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

- June 28 Stated Meeting – Steak Fry
- July 19 100 yr Dinner – Cabin – see article
- July 20 Night at the Captains – see article
- Sept 13 Stated Meeting -
- Sept 27 Stated Meeting -

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again." - Og Mandino

From The East



Greetings again my Brother,

Northeast Ohio is experiencing record rainfall as well as much of the surrounding areas. It's been hard to keep up with the lawn work to say the least. Lake Erie surface elevation is 30" higher than usual and the extra water is inundating many low lying coastal areas and marshes. We experienced this first hand during our Annual Fishing Charter of which I was in attendance and happy to say I feasted on fried perch this Fathers Day. Allow me to share it with you some of the other great things we've recently accomplished and touch base on a few items we are diligently working to promote.

This was truly a significant year in our history. Most significantly we held our 100th Reconsecration Ceremony and celebrated a truly wonderful afternoon with some of Ohio's most decorated Masons, our families and our friends. Grand Master Jesse Raines was in attendance along with his wife and his line of Grand Lodge Officers and their spouses. Special thanks to Linda Daly and WB Ted Daly for providing entertainment for the ladies. Their arrangements incident a live performance of "the Unsinkable Molly Brown". Describing how she famously survived the sinking of the Titanic. Special thanks to Carla Ponsart and WB Dave Ponsart for helping host the Painesville Chapter Rainbow Girls for preparation and serving of the meal and the young men from DeMolay for their help in the kitchen. Acacia Lodge will further celebrate this momentous occasion with a summer reception. Stay tuned for those details.

Our little league team has begun their tournament season and are battling their way to the Little League World Series. The abundant amount of rain this spring-summer did not facilitate good baseball weather and has slowed their progress a bit, but they've tasted victory this year and will continue to represent us well. Our best wishes go out to those boys. Go Andy's Niners!

The lodge has completed its Degree Obligations for the year and will have our last Stated Meeting before summer break with a cook-out at the Euclid Temple on June 28th.

The temple has made some recent improvements including an entirely new metal roof system, new lobby ceiling and lights, new soda pop machine, and a new drinking fountain. Come check it out if you haven't had the chance yet.

We'll be reorganizing and cleaning out the storage room to make room for our proposed library and historical repository. We have a few picnics planned this summer including Night at the Captains Stadium and Family Picnic (amusement park/location to be determined).

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, the secretary, or any officer if you have a serious interest in any of our events or if you just need a ride to a meeting. We are here for you.

Your friend and brother,

WM Tim Gallagher.

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.

Register for your Grand View Portal

All members should register their account in Grand View and keep their information current. All that is needed is a connection to the internet and your dues card in your hand!

Go to freemason.com and click-on "Members" in the upper right corner. Then click "Member Registration". Input the information from your dues card and click "Register". Finally, enter your email address and your password. That's all there is to it!

The 6th Annual Acacia Fishing Charter

We again had our Annual Fishing Charter through Wildwood Charters, headed by Worshipful Master Tim Gallagher, inviting brethren, friends and family. With a terrific turn-out we had 10 brothers attend, 3 visiting friends and family members.

Gathering in the early morning at the Chagrin Marina we stocked our poles and gear on the boat and headed out. Within minutes of getting out on the lake we drop lines and the first fish was caught, a smaller perch followed by a walleye. Drifting along the shoreline near CEI, we had nibbles, a line caught on the bottom and more walleye.

After wetting our whistle, we headed out further from the shore. Trying to find where the fish were hanging out, radar detects some at 30 feet deep. With lines in again we all try to reel in the big one.

With 6 years in the making, WB Errol snags one of the most beautiful big mouth bass, possibly the best catch of the day.

With lunch in hand, and refreshments on the boat edge we enjoy a great lunch, of a 6 foot sub from Allesci's, chips, cookies and other snacks. After lunch we headed back in towards shore again for a bit more drifting. Changing our lures for perch fishing, and using minnows we start to pull in a few. As the sun is directly overhead at noon, we hit a small lull in the day, and no one was catching anything. The hour-long wait was interrupted by Jason's daughter catching the smallest fish of the day (she did great). As the clock was ticking down to the last few minutes of us having to return to the marina, Worshipful Master Gallagher was catching perch by the minute. He caught one, reeled it in, drops his line back in and boom another one within seconds. The last few minutes of the charter there were 7 fish caught, it was amazing!

We had a great captain, good fishing and the best friends to enjoy our great lake fishing charter. I am looking forward to next year and hopefully will catch something more than someone else's line. See you then!!!!!!

Fraternally, Andy Nimmo

Photos from our fishing trip:



Greetings from the West,

Dear Brethren,

As you know, our Lodge just celebrated its 100 year anniversary, with the Grand Lodge performing a re-consecration ceremony to officially acknowledge this major accomplishment. This year starts the 101st year of Acacia Lodge and begins a new chapter in our Lodge's life. As your Senior Warden, it has been customary to move up in the officer's line as the Master of the Lodge. Anticipating your approval, I have put together a plan and budget for the upcoming year and have presented it to our current Master, Treasurer and Secretary for their review and comments. After their review, I will place it in the hands of the current budget committee and trustees for further review and approval. I am establishing a theme for the year as the "Renaissance" or Rebirth.

Our Lodge is in the process of passing legislation to make a few major changes to improve our attendance and participation. First, it has been submitted for a formal reading to change the bylaws to revise our stated meeting nights from the 2nd and 4th Friday to the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Friday. I am in favor of this modification and helped bring it to an upcoming formal vote. Several members of our Lodge have indicated that Friday evenings often conflict with their responsibilities at home, forcing them to miss Lodge and/or make a decision between Lodge and home. With both parents working, family time on the weekends is precious and necessary.

Another proposed change that is being formally submitted is to "go dark" during January and February, the two coldest months of the year, and have Lodge open in July and August. I am also very much in favor of moving forward with this change as well. Some of our senior members move south during the winter or are reluctant to travel during the winter months. This change would permit them two months of nice weather to attend Lodge.

Please join me in supporting these changes and most importantly, continue to be a part of the Acacia's "Renaissance", the rebirth of our Lodge. I have listed several outside activities this coming year that I think will be enjoyed by our spouses, significant others and families. I plan on having a



Everyone attending this event caught some fish and had a great time. Plan on attending our next fishing trip.

One of our brothers:

You may have already received the latest edition of The Ohio Beacon. Please check out the last page article "Theater Group Entertains at WRMC" you will see our very own WB Russ Toll's picture. He is part of this group of thespians.

ZEN TEACHINGS

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

couple of bus trips, a theater night, Music Box Supper Club dinner and entertainment, and an Autumn Leaves tour in addition to our usual annual favorites of the Family Christmas Party, Valentine Dinner, and Picnic. Let's make this a year to remember.

God Bless All of You,

WB Ted Daly, Senior Warden



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Oliver J. Hlavac	May 7, 2019
James R. Pack, Sr.	May 18, 2019

They rest from their labors

Special Invitation to our Members



The Brethren of Acacia Lodge #651 are cordially invited to attend our celebration of the 100th Year of our founding on July 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the "The Cabin of Willowick", 28810 Lake Shore Blvd., Willowick. Please make your reservations for you and your date by calling 440-257-6964 by July 16th.

"And Give Them Proper Instruction"

By Alphonse Cerza

We are again indebted to Worshipful Brother Cerza for providing a thought-provoking paper. This is one he wrote many years ago, but which bears the stress of time.

The Worshipful Master is constantly being reminded by the ritual that he has a solemn duty "to set the Craft to work and give them proper instruction." The two key words "work" and "instruction" naturally go together. In recent years, unfortunately, the word "work" has been applied only to the ritualistic work of the Craft. In its broadest sense it really means all types of Masonic work. The aim of Freemasonry is to teach men to live uprightly, do good in the community," and by their work to set a good example. Since the word "mason" implies work and Freemasonry glorifies the dignity of work, we can reasonably assume that the Craft should devote its attention to the kind of work which will help fulfill this aim. There is no question that the Masonic ritual is the foundation of the Craft. In it we find the message that Freemasonry has for the candidate, its philosophy, and its moral teachings. If one knows these lessons fully and completely, he is indeed a wise man. Too many of us are concerned more with perfection of the words rather than securing a full understanding of the spirit and the meaning of the ritual. Let us not make the mistake of believing that the ceremony of initiation makes a man a Mason. True, this ceremony is vital and necessary, but unless the lessons of the ceremony and the spirit of the ritual is understood it is nothing. For example, for hundreds of years in the ancient world there were a number of associations that we now call the Ancient Mysteries. These organizations had a number of things in common. One element stands out above all others: the belief that the ceremony of the Mystery purified the candidate. This basic belief more than any other factor brought these organizations to an end. Let us learn one lesson from this page of history: The ceremonies of the three degrees are of no value unless they are understood by the candidate and are grafted into everyday life. An informed and enlightened membership is a better and more successful one. This is not idle talk. Brother William H. Knutt, in 1952, at the Mid-West Conference on Masonic Education, gave a report in which it was clearly shown that when the great depression of the thirties came along, the jurisdictions in which the Craft had been offering educational programs lost the least number of members. The Craft should be put to WORK. That there be perfection in the ritual, that members receive instruction in the ceremonies of the Craft,

and that our degree work be retained is of vital importance. No fault can be found with the ritualistic work for it is the foundation of our Order. Fault should be found with the view that we stop our efforts with the conferring of the degrees. We are amiss in our duty to the Craft when we do not properly prepare our candidates and then abandon the newly-made Mason to his own devices. Lodges that devote their entire time to conferring degrees will soon find that quantity is not a substitute for quality. The quality of the membership is determined not only by the careful screening of applicants for the degrees but also in making the new member Mason in fact. This can be done by putting the new Mason to work. What his work shall be must be determined by the Worshipful Master. While the new member is receiving his degrees someone should try to ascertain his likes, his dislikes, his hobbies, his aptitudes, and his inclinations. If he has a fondness for ritualistic work, by all means put him to work in that field. If he likes to read introduce him to Masonic literature. If he likes to speak why not encourage him to become a Masonic speaker? All this effort will help make this member a better Mason for he will be doing what he likes. And the Craft will profit thereby. One method of discovering the talents of a member is a questionnaire. Each member is asked to answer certain questions so that the lodge may have information on his hobbies, whether he plays a musical instrument, likes to sing, is interested in amateur theatricals or has other interests. Thus the aptitudes, the likes, the inclinations of the members are ascertained. A resourceful Worshipful Master, by the use of the cards, can put practically every member to work at some time or other on a project to his liking. (A sample form can be found in the M.S.A. Digest, "Think Tank for Junior Wardens.") The matter of giving the Craft "proper instruction" can take many forms. Each method should be used to make sure that the Craft does receive proper instruction. Investigation Committee. Masonic instruction can start with the investigation committee. The applicant for the degrees can be told about our Masonic homes, about our Masonic charitable activities, and he should be given a booklet explaining the fundamental principles of the Craft. (See STB, May/83) Candidate Booklet. Many Grand Lodges have prepared a series of booklets for the use of the lodges while the

candidate is taking the degrees. These booklets can serve a useful purpose if they are placed in the hands of the candidates and meetings are held to discuss the material; in this manner it can be ascertained if the new member is reading the booklets. It will also give him an opportunity to ask questions that have arisen in his mind.

Posting the Candidate. The member who posts the candidate performs a most important function. He can render a real service if he will also discuss with the candidate the booklet he is supposed to be reading at that particular time. Discussion Groups. Discussion groups may be organized on the District level. They should be established primarily for the candidates, but all members should be encouraged to take part. The group could meet at different lodges in the district in accordance with a pre-arranged schedule. This would also help to encourage more attendance by members and will bring the lodges in the District closer together. Speakers. A list of speakers should be developed in each District so that they may be available for the lodges in the District as occasions arise. It may be discovered that there is among the members a real student who can from time to time make some valuable contributions to Masonic thinking. Book Clubs. Where there is a group of Masons that like to read, one inexpensive way to read Masonic books is to have each member of the group buy a book and then exchange books. In this way each member, for the price of one book, will have the opportunity to read as many books as there are members in the group. Study Clubs. If we can have successful ritualistic clubs, why can't we have successful Masonic study clubs? That the ritualistic clubs have done much to perfect the ritualistic work of many members is well known. The same could be done with groups that are desirous of studying Masonic literature, history, and other subjects. Research Lodges. There are a number of research lodges in the United States. The name is somewhat misleading. These lodges are really Masonic literary societies. Their main purpose is to study the history of the Craft and to issue reports on various phases of Freemasonry. (A listing of U.S. Research Lodges is available from M.S.A.) Undoubtedly, there are many ways of setting the Craft to work and giving them proper instruction. Only a few of these are discussed here. The ancient ceremonies of the Craft should not be set aside. The basic laws of

the Craft should not be changed. The times, however, call for a re-evaluation of the procedures of the Craft in fulfilling its part of the life of the community. What we need is more well informed Masons. This can be done by proper instruction and by putting every member to work at a task that pleases him.

Niederwiener travelblog, April 23rd to 27th 2019.
On vacation with my friend Errol in Groton, Connecticut!!

I finally made it to the Coast Guard Academy's Admissions Office in Waesche Hall in New London, Connecticut. I figured that with my zeal for the Coast Guard and previous eight years of service as a Petty Officer



I'd be sure to getting all the necessary waivers to bring me into the class of 2023. Then history would be made as the first 68-year-old graduate. Man! *Was I ever wrong!* They said I was too fat, too old, too deplorable physically, too many health problems (Hey, now isn't a heart with four stents stronger than one with none?). REQUEST DECLINED, TOTALLY REJECTED!

I was broken hearted. We left the admissions office, walked across the lobby of Waesche Hall and into the smallest military museum I'd ever been to. The Coast Guard has been around since 1790, participated in every war, does so many missions mandated by congress that I

assumed the official museum located on the academy grounds would be a grand day long adventure! It took me two hours. My name was not mentioned once! Not once! Being electrocuted on



Using a dead man's stick

Yap Island (failing to use a "dead man's stick" to test that 440volt 3 phase main power was off, had nothing to do with it!), frozen on Lake Michigan (minus 23 degrees is not CG issue Speedo weather) and lost in New York City at 3AM (being drunk had nothing to do with it) doesn't seem to get a guy into the history books.

I admit to learning a few things about America's oldest military service. Such as during WWII Coast

Guard Cutters sank more Nazi U-boats than the mighty U.S. Navy. I also learned Waesche Hall and the new National Security Cutter Waesche are named for Admiral Waesche, Commandant during the second world war. "Admiral Waesche

saw his small peacetime fleet swell with Coast Guardsmen manning more than 750 cutters, 3,500 miscellaneous smaller craft, 290 Navy vessels, and 255 Army vessels. The Coast Guard participated in every major amphibious operation."

(www.history.uscg.mil/) He also introduced the helicopter to its first military usage and created the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The next day we went to the Navy Submarine Museum featuring the 1st nuke sub the U.S.S. Nautilus. It was closed. So, we went to Fort Griswold, where British troops bayoneted surrendering Americans in the Revolutionary



war. The Fort was open but too steep a walk for me and my 2/3rd foot. We went into New London to see Fort Trumbull Historic Site, Closed. Then to the historic Customs House where the first hearings for disposition of slaves that revolted aboard the slave ship Armistead was held (also an excellent movie). Open but closing in ten minutes. Right down the street was an awesome looking tattoo parlor in an old store front. I think from the 1870's. I was either getting a tattoo of a rose with "Joan" written on it or of a Hulu dancer on my belly, so she'd dance when I pulled my belly in and out. CLOSED for remodeling.

It was now getting towards dinner time. We decided to drive the scenic route up into Rhode Island to find a local place to eat. We stopped at an Italian restaurant in Westerly, Rhode Island overlooking the Pawcatuck River, Very nice. At about 6:50 I remembered we were going to attend a Masonic Lodge meeting. But it was an hour drive away, plus time to go back and change clothes, so we choose to just relax at our cottage.



That long drive really gets a man thirsty. First thing I did when we got in was to open the refrigerator to grab an icy bottle of my favorite caffeine free diet pop. (some readers are probably thinking I'm being sarcastic, but I'm not!). "Hey", says I, "this bottle is really warm!" The refrigerator was kaput. Next day we watched intimidating black clouds roll in. The winds picked up making flags stand out like a starched sheet. And then the lighting and the rain, lots of rain. So much rain we stayed inside and watched TV and wrote post cards. But I forgot the address list.



Our cottage, proudly displaying the flag of the State of Ohio.

That night as I closed the folding closet door it came of its track. It fell hitting me in on my handsome head.

Not the best vacation but it was an adventure in a place I'd never been to before.

Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education?

Well, check this out. Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895?

This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, Kansas.

It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, and reprinted by the Salina Journal.

8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, Kansas – 1895

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph
4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of 'lie, 'play,' and 'run.'
5. Define case; illustrate each case.

6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
7. - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1 hour 15 minutes)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. Deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. Wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3,942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1,050 lbs for tare?
4. District No 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6,720 lbs. Coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. Long at \$20 per metre?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus .
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.

- 7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
- 8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

The remainder of this article will be printed in our next issue of the Sprig of Acacia.

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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July 19, 2019	100th Year Celebration – see article
July 20, 2019	Night at the Captains
September 11, 2019	Stated Meeting
September 27, 2019	Stated Meeting

James R. Cogan
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