



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 12, Issue 5**

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

**September / October, 2016**

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

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2015 – 2016

- W. M. - Mark Novak, 216-406-5856, markn95@gmail.com
- S. W. - Errol W. Savage, (216) 410-0421, errolsavage@hotmail.com
- J. W. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
- S. D. - Robert Roffe, 440-760-4031, febes1@roadrunner.com
- J. D. - Chris Malinoski, 261-310-1233, cmalinoski@aol.com
- S. S. - Craig A. Niederriter, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
- J. S. -
- Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268, jasonelliott91@aol.com
- Secretary - James R. Cogan, P.M., 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, 440-760-4031, febes1@roadrunner.com
- Marshall -
- 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

- Sept. 9 Stated Meeting –
- Sept. 23 Stated Meeting – Fellow Craft Degree
- Sept. 29 Night at the Range – see article
- Oct 8 Halloween Hay Ride
- Oct. 14 – 15 Grand Lodge Communication – Kalahari Resorts
- Oct. 14 Stated Meeting –
- Oct. 28 Stated Meeting – Fellow Craft Degree
- Nov. 11 Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting and election of officers
- Nov. 18 Annual Awards Night – open to family and friends

“The secret to living well and longer is: Eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure.” ~ Tibetan proverb

## From The East



Greetings Brethren,

When I was in school, my first writing assignment for the new year was usually to tell everyone how I spent my summer vacation. I thought I'd use that template in letting everyone know how we spent our very busy summer at Acacia Lodge! We began with a fishing trip in late June on Lake Erie which I detailed in my last newsletter article. Then, in July, we had our annual picnic at Pioneer Waterland. Despite some iffy weather, several generations of Acacia Lodge, friends, and family, enjoyed an afternoon of picnicking, swimming, and go cart racing at the new and improved fairgrounds. A good time was had by all.

In August, we attended a Lake County Captains game on August 6 and our annual golf outing on August 13. Both events were well attended by brethren and their families. The Captains outing was for the second year in a row and the golf outing has been a long standing tradition since before I joined Acacia. I am proud to say we kept both traditions going!

Come September, we will be back to our usual routine of Stated Meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Euclid Masonic Temple. As always, we will be serving a complimentary dinner at 6:30 with a business meeting to follow. Events to look forward to include two Fellow Craft degrees before the end of our term. Although we have numerous officers capable of delivering the Fellow Craft lecture, I would invite anyone who has not given that lecture in a long time to step forward. We'd love to hear your work! If interested, please contact me asap so we can schedule the degree.

In October, a number of Officers and other brethren will be attending Grand Lodge in nearby Sandusky, Ohio on October 15 and 16. To those scheduled to attend, I can't wait to see you there! For those unable to make it, we will provide you with a full report on the proceedings. Our very own Right Worshipful Brother Eric R. Schau, of the Twenty Second District, is slated to be installed as the Deputy Grand Master for the 2016-17 Masonic year!

Finally, we have two important events to which I would like to invite the brethren and their families. On Saturday, October 8, Acacia Lodge will have fifty ticket available for the famous Lake County Farm Parks Halloween Hay Ride. This was well attended by families last year so let us know if you can make it—ticket are first come, first serve. Also, on

Friday, November 18, Acacia Lodge will be hosting its Annual Awards Night for the new Masonic year. Dinner is at 6:30, with the event to follow in open Lodge at 7:30. More details to come in next month's newsletter!

Fraternally,  
Worshipful Master  
Mark Novak

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### In Memoriam

<b>Brother</b>	<b>Passed</b>
Wor. Bro. John C. Ponn	July 18, 2016

*They rest from their labors.*

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### Where's Your Article for the Newsletter?

I try on occasion to sit at my compute and write something that might be published in the Lodge Newsletter. I receive a number of newsletters from various associations and sometime an article is found that is worth reprinting, these are excerpts from a local amateur radio newsletter.

**Traditional journalism is fading;** social media is replacing it. Nearly half of all Americans receive some form of local news via a mobile device, and 46 percent of them get their news online at least three times a week. Online newspapers officially surpassed their print counterparts in ad revenue in 2010.

**New AP Stylebook released:** The 2012 edition of the Associated Press guide for journalists and writers features more than 270 updated and new entries. There's a new broadcast chapter and expanded social media chapter.

**98% of Americans mistrust Internet:** A study of 1,900 persons by Harris Interactive reports that 94% say "bad things can happen as a result of acting on inaccurate information online." Most were concerned about wasting their time, getting a computer virus, losing money, risk of fraud, and damaging their credibility.

**Young readers** under 30 (71%) get their news via computer or handheld devices compared with 51% of adults according to *Pew Research*. While newspapers are cutting staff, there are many new on-line news sources such as Patch.com. Many include citizen news reports and are looking for interesting stories. So write up your own stories and send them in to the Sprig of Acacia!

WB Don Ritchie

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### Range Night

On September 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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Due to circumstances beyond our control Friendship Night has been cancelled. We will let you know when it is rescheduled. Please continue to look for good men who would make good masons.

### 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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### Do you know where to find this lost brother?

The last newsletter mailed to Brother David W. Smith, living in Spring, TX was "Return to Sender - Vacant".

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Internet went down and I had to spend time with the family.  
They seem like good people.

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# The Value of Being a Freemason

What are the reasons men have given for joining Masons and the value of being a Freemason?

Most have heard the purpose of Masonry is “making good men better men”. However, how to make men become better men is subjective.

In Freemasonry the values we profess which can help us become better men include:

- Improving ourselves mentally and spiritually.
- Building our ethical values and practicing moral behavior.
- Inspiring and motivating curiosity and education through rituals, symbols, discussions and lectures and using the tools of operative Masons to teach men how to live.
- The belief in a supreme architect of the universe and immortality of the soul.
- Bonding to develop mutual trust and respect.
- Brotherly love and caring about for each other and widows and orphans.
- Offering mutual assistance and help to our community.
- Avoiding conflict and maintaining peace and harmony.
- Promoting religious and racial tolerance and equality without regard to wealth or status.
- Respecting each other’s opinions.
- Binding obligations to be truthful, charitable, and to keep Masonic secrets.
- Being responsible for our choices and actions.
- Increasing our self awareness, self development, self confidence, and esteem.
- Receiving and giving mentoring to and from our brothers.
- Striving for Humility, Unselfishness, Fidelity, Virtue, Patriotism, Honor and Justice.

When most men are together in social situations, they tend to discuss sex, work, sports, politics, religion, the economy and with the exception of anger usually do not express their deep or personal feelings with each other. Men often bury their deep feelings under machismo armor. This is the result in part by the different way boys and girls are treated as they express their feelings. When a boy is admitted to an emergency room crying, in order to stop him from expressing his feelings, he is frequently told to be brave and/or be a “big boy”. In contrast

when a little girl cries she is told “that’s O.K. honey” or “it is alright to cry”. There are many ways in which parents and teachers (at least in previous generations) and TV programs currently support it is acceptable for girls to express feelings but boys are supposed to be tough or stoic and hide many of their feelings. In addition, many men have not learned how to deal with a woman’s feelings (i.e. crying) and often will comfort her without discussing her emotion or will change the subject or leave. When Masonic brothers develop trust, tolerance and brotherly love, they are more likely to openly express their true feelings with each other. We have witnessed our Masonic brothers openly express deep feelings of hurt, pain, sadness, loss, pride, anxiety etc. both in open and closed Lodge. Masonic brothers have cried in front of their brothers. Men in other all male settings are less likely to let their hair down. Psychiatrists and sociologists confirm this does not usually happen until a group of males meet on a regular basis over a long period of time and develop trust in themselves and each other. A Masonic Lodge provides this opportunity which is not present in most social situations.

Because there has been erosion in our society of what is masculine, (2) (3) another value in being a Freemason is the opportunity to develop a stronger and clearer male identity. Margret Mead spoke 40 years ago about how traditionally a woman’s role was to give love and nurturing and the male’s role was to make out at work and sex. She saw roles of men and woman changing and beginning to be less defined. She noted more women were entering the work force and more fathers were involved in child care and nurturing activities. In the United States men in the labor force have gone from 70 percent in 1945 to less than 50 percent today. Women have overtaken men in college and graduate school and young single childless women in some of the largest metropolitan cities earn more than their male peers. In elementary and high school, male academic performance is lagging. Boys earn three-quarters of the D’s and F’s. By college, men are clearly behind. Only 40 percent of bachelor’s degrees go to men, along with 40 percent of master’s degrees. Some businesses now support paid paternity leave. The recent recession has decreased jobs in manufacturing and construction and other former male industries. Women have taken some of those positions. Today woman are wearing clothes that were once considered masculine. They wear business suits and ties which in previous years were only men’s attire. When we mentor our younger Masonic brothers, we have the opportunity to improve their concept of what it is to be male. We can help them regain their masculine identity and pride as men. We also can encourage them to succeed in school, be better fathers and secure and hold sustainable jobs.

In conclusion there are many values in being a Freemason. In addition to making good men better men than they might have been, Masons can develop trust which can result in being open with each other about what they really think and feel. Because of the erosion of male identity in our present culture, as Freemasons we can improve our self concept and masculine identity.

By Stan Shapiro MD,

Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN .

**TRESTLE-BOARD**

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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September 9, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting –</b>
September 23, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting – Fellow Craft Degree</b>
September 29, 2016	<b>Lodge Night at the Range – Atwell’s from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>
October 8, 2016	<b>Halloween Hay Ride – Lake Farm Park</b>
October 14 – 15, 2016	<b>Grand Lodge Communication in Kalahari Resorts</b>
October 14, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting –</b>
October 28, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting – Fellow Craft Degree</b>
November 11, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Memorial Service</b>
December 9, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting – Annual Installation of Officers</b>
December 23, 2016	<b>Stated Meeting -</b>

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James R. Cogan  
6130 Thistlewood Drive  
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