



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road  
9857

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-

**Volume 16, Issue 4**

**Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday**

**September / October, 2020**

**"Step into the Light of Freemasonry" Grand Masters Program**

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2019 – 2020

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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

Sept. 25 – Stated Meeting

Oct 14 – Stated Meeting

Oct 18 – Covered Bridge Tour

Oct 30 – Stated Meeting

Nov 11 – Stated Meeting – Annual  
Meeting

Nov 27 – Stated Meeting

Dec. 9 – Stated Meeting – Instllation  
of officers



From The East,

Greetings Brethren,

The signs of Fall are upon us: Football is back and we are hoping for a turnaround with our beloved Cleveland Browns; the air is turning a bit cooler and leaves are changing colors and falling; the time is here to start preparing for another Cleveland winter, and we are once again meeting in the Lodge room after several months of successful online meetings. A big thank you to all who have participated and helped keep the Lodge going.

To celebrate the season of Fall, we have planned a bus trip on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> visiting the covered bridges of Ashtabula County. The following information is from the Ashtabula County Visitor's Bureau: "*As you pass through one of Ohio's historic covered bridges, the past and present collide. Ashtabula County, in Ohio's northeast corner, is considered the covered bridge capital of the state and is home to 19 of these unique structures. Some look upon these engineering feats and appreciate the craftsmanship and ingenuity of the builders. Others are in awe of the simple beauty of the historic structure as part of the landscape: magical and colorful crossings set against the area's rolling hills and vineyards. Covered bridges offer a one-of-a-kind look at a bygone era.*"

All necessary social distancing practices will be in force. The trip also includes dinner following the tour at the Geneva State Park Lodge, a beautiful facility with delicious food. Currently, the bus will only allow 22 passengers restricting our attendance. The tickets are \$10.00 per person. You are welcome to follow the bus if you are concerned about the virus and/or join us for dinner only as it will be @ 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. (depending on the bus driver.) The cost is still \$10.00 per person.

I am hoping you will join me on this one of a kind trip!

Additionally, we are planning an FC degree for our meeting of October, 14<sup>th</sup> Please plan on attending and encourage those taking part in the degree.

Stay healthy and safe.

Fraternally Submitted with Warmest Regards,

Worshipful Master Ted Daly

“We make a living by what we give.” – Winston Churchill

## Shriner News:

The Shriners are alive and well and we will still be meeting at the Brecksville Masonic Temple for the foreseeable future, once we are able to have meetings again. We had voted to move the Berea Masonic Center, but it had to be voted on at the Imperial session, which did not take place. The Shriners are still under the Imperial order not to hold meeting, parades, or other events. So this has been the most uneventful year in our history.

The Shrine Hospitals are doing well, but Shriners cannot drive the children to their appointments yet. This really hurts because taking care of our special children is what Shriners are all about. The Shrine Cincinnati Burns Hospital is still planning on moving to Dayton Ohio, but that has also been affected by the corona virus situation.

The Shrine Ceremonial, where we take in new candidates, is still planned for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at the Berea Masonic Center. The initiation cost is only \$50.00 with a fez and next year's dues. So if you were ever thinking about joining the Shrine now would be a Great time. If you have any questions or if you would like a petition please call me at 216-346-3162.

The Shrine Korvette unit, our little orange cars, has only had one parade this season. They had a modified parade at Chesterland on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We were really limited as to what we could do, as the parade route was limited to only one lane of route 306, which really cut down on what we could. But least we got to run the cars once.

The Al Koran Shrine Legion of Honor has been working on getting a Shrine monument honoring all of the services installed at the National Cemetery at Rittman for two years. The VA red tape and the corona virus has really slowed the process down. You would not believe what you have to go thru to get a hunk of stone similar to what is already their approved.

Shriners are really looking forward to get back to doing what we do. Having fun and helping kids.

Al Paynter PM

Past Potentate 2005

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“Greatness it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice,” – Jim Collins

Source: Emessay Notes: August 2020

## Life's Detours Find Help From the 24 – Inch Gauge, Anchor and Ark

“Douglas Vernon Jones, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, provides more advice for Masons, traveling the roads during this pandemic, in his column in the Virginia Masonic Herald, Summer, 2020:

Detours can be inconvenient, even painful, but they can also take us to places we otherwise would not have gone. Detours can lead to new discoveries, unexpected pleasures, and they can remind us that when we slow down, the view can be entirely different.

It is not easy, but maybe we should embrace the detour, enjoy the scenery we have managed to miss along the way and simply savor what has been there all along.

Maybe the detour away from the treadmill of daily routine and activities is an awakening of sorts drawing us back to the lessons of the Twenty-Four Inch Gauge, reminding us just how much we need balance in our lives.”

“As we make this unexpected detour, I am reminded of the Anchor and Ark, emblems of a well-grounded hope and a well-spent life, ... *that Divine Ark which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbor...*”

Peace,

Jeffrey H. Day

Acacia Lodge 651, Education Officer

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### In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Charles E. Schmid	February 23, 2020
Kenneth H. Miller	May 20, 2016
Robert J. Hibjan, PDDGM	August 15, 2020

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*They rest from their labors*

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“The poorer we are inwardly, the more we try to enrich ourselves outwardly.” – Bruce Lee

## Euclid

Euclid is often referred to as "the father of geometry."

There is little that is actually known about the life of Euclid. He is believed to have been born sometime around the mid-4th century B.C.E. The only reference that is available on this comes from peers that reference him or those who were around him. This is considered odd by most historians since people who lived in time periods before, after and at the same time as Euclid have plenty of reference material written about them. This lack of information about Euclid has led some to speculate that he was actually a group of mathematicians living at that time and that the collection of theories that were provided by him, were actually provided by the group.

The only historical references to Euclid as an individual were not written until 4th and 5th centuries A.D. Even Archimedes referred to him as "ὁ στοιχειώτης" (the author of *Elements*).

Further confusion occurs due to the fact that there was a second Euclid at the time known as Euclid of Megara who was a follower of Socrates and was present at Socrates' death. The Euclid of Geometry fame was known as Euclid of Alexandria.

Regardless of whether Euclid was an actual person or a group of mathematicians, *Elements* which was written and attributed to Euclid, is one of the most important books on mathematics, specifically Geometry. *Elements* was used for nearly 23 centuries to teach Geometry. It wasn't until the 19th century that, what is referred to as, non-Euclidean geometry started to emerge.

For Freemasonry Geometry is a critical part of our symbolism. Euclid himself was written into the history of Freemasonry in the 14th Century Regius Poem which starts off talking about how Euclid trained the good families in Egypt in Geometry calling it masonry. In the poem, parents are worried that their children will not be able to find work and that they will not be able to support their children. They then ask scholars to teach their children. In the poem Euclid emerges as the greatest of the pupils and then teaches others in the ways of Geometry.

Euclid is believed to have passed away in the mid-3rd century B.C.E.

## **Today in Masonic History we discuss Cowans and Eavesdroppers.**

Cowans and Eavesdroppers are two common names used in Freemasonry.

We cannot have a masonic meeting without the words Cowans and Eavesdroppers being used. As Freemasons we are reminded on a regular basis to be on guard for both. But what are they really? The etymology of both words are lost to time, so let's look at them one at a time.

First let's talk about Eavesdroppers. The origin of the word is believed to refer to the water that drips from a roof, or eaves drippings. If you have ever seen a house or building that that doesn't have gutters on it, there is a line around the structure where the water running off the roof has eroded the ground. The idea of an eavesdropper came from someone who would stand so close to the structure that they would be on or inside that line and able to hear what was going on inside the house or structure. Another definition of eavesdropper, possibly due to Henry VIII, were people who would hide up in the beams of the house by the eaves.

Henry VIII had wooden figures carved and placed in the beams of his palace. The idea was to make all in his court feel like that they were being listened to and the information was being reported back to the King. This may have something to do with the fact that in old lodges, the Deacons were charged with checking the rafters of the meeting room with their staff. Making sure that no one was listening to the meeting and unlawfully obtaining the secrets of masonry.

Ironically a Cowan could very well be a successful Eavesdropper. The origin of the word Cowan is believed to be old Scottish. A Cowan was a person, often someone who worked as an operative mason, who was not part of a lodge and not formally trained. Extending from the fact that operative lodges were trade guilds (unions), a Cowan in modern terms would be a "scab", someone who either refused to join a union or in some way went against a union. A Cowan would be any individual who would present themselves as a Freemason, having never joined the Fraternity. In a real sense a Cowan is a clandestine Mason. A Cowan may have all of the right answers to be able to get in to the door of a lodge room, although never became a Freemason.

Albert Mackey stated in *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* that Cowan was a word that was uniquely Masonic in its origin.

Regardless of the origins of the words, Cowans and Eavesdroppers for Freemasons might as well be one word. It reminds us of our obligations to the fraternity and to remind us that we should be careful of who we let into our lodge room, and by extension those we let into our life.

## TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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Wednesday	October 14, 2020	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
Sunday	October 18, 2020	<b>Covered Bridge Tour</b>
Friday	October 30, 2020	<b>Stated Meeting</b>
Wednesday	November 11, 2020	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
Friday	November 27, 2020	<b>Stated Meeting Lodge</b>
Saturday	November 28, 2020	<b>Awards Night</b>
Wednesday	December 9, 2020	<b>Installation of Officers</b>
	Cancelled	<b>Christmas Party</b>
Lodge Dark	Jan. / Feb. 2021	<b>No Meetings</b>

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James R. Cogan  
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