



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 12, Issue 6

Second and Fourth Fridays

November / December, 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,
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- J. D. - Chris Malinoski, 261-310-1233,
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- S. S. - Craig A. Niederriter, 440-884-
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- J. S. -
Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268,
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- 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,
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- 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

- Nov. 11 Stated Meeting – Annual
Meeting and election of officers
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Nov. 18 Annual Awards Night – open to
family and friends
- Nov. 23 Widowers and Single Masons
Dinner
- Dec. 9 Stated Meeting – Installation of
Officers
- Dec. 18 Annual Christmas Party - Sunday
- Dec. 23 Stated Meeting - Education
- Jan. 13 Stated Meeting
- Jan. 27 Stated Meeting

Money isn't everything,
But it sure keeps the kids in
touch.

From The East



Greetings Brethren,

This will likely be the last time I address all of you from the “front page” of the Sprig of Acacia. For the past two years I have had the pleasure of serving you and Acacia Lodge from the East. It has been a fun twenty-four months and I would like to thank all of you for the support I have received. Masons truly meet on the level and it is there where Acacia Lodge has performed its best work.

I have worked closely with our Officers these past two years and I am confident they will continue to do Acacia Lodge proud in their upcoming leadership roles. Please make sure to support them as much as you can by attending meetings, participating in degrees, and showing up to social events!

Acacia Lodge will have a busy two months as we close the current Masonic year and enter another. On Friday, November 18, we will be honoring some of our most senior Brethren with our annual Awards Night. This event is open to the public. Come out and see our awardees and several distinguished guests, including our District Deputy Grand Master. There will be a complimentary dinner served at 6:30, with the event itself to follow at 7:30. All are welcome.

Please also join us on Friday, December 10 for Acacia’s annual Installation of Officers. I will be turning over the gavel to the new Master of the Lodge and seeing a new corps of Officers installed. It should be a great night!

Please also note that between November 18 and December 10, Lodges throughout the 22nd District will be holding their Installations. These will take place throughout Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. You can get the times and date from the 22nd District’s website. Remember—the more Installations we visit, the more likely we will be to have great attendance at our event!

Fraternally,

Mark Novak, Worshipful Master

"The very reason for the First Amendment is to make the people of this country free to think, speak, write and worship as they wish, not as the Government commands."

- Bro. Hugo L. Black, Birmingham Temple Lodge No. 836 F.& A.M.
Birmingham, AL, USA, Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S.



In Memoriam

Brother

Passed

Bro. David A. Dornback	February 18, 2016
Bro. Frank J. Mirti	March 13, 2015
Bro. Ronald G. Platten	January 23, 2016
W. B. David E. Mumaw	October 3, 2016
Bro. Ted E. Dickens	January 9, 2016
Bro. James P. Bosley	September 17, 2016
Bro. Martin J. Kovalik	October 13, 2016
Bro. Cecil R. Worthington, Jr.	February 15, 2016

They rest from their labors.

Changes to the Grand Lodge website:

The Grand Lodge of Ohio webpage has been split in two. The webpage with information for members, including Secretaries, Treasurers, LEOs, Masters, DDGMs, and DEOs is now:

www.gloho.com. The document library and petition verification are under the Tools tab.

The webpage for non-Masons seeking information about Ohio Freemasonry is now:

www.freemason.com

Fraternally

Shriners News

The Shriners Hospitals for Children are doing very well. We are seeing more kids this year than last year. Our Erie Orthopedic Hospital has recently purchased a low dose x-ray machine, which is great for children that need repeated x-rays. Al Koran Shrine transports children back and forth to the Erie Orthopedic and Cincinnati Burns Hospitals for their follow up visits. We need volunteer drivers. If you have any free time and would want to do something that is very rewarding please consider becoming a volunteer driver. You do not need to be a Shriner to be a volunteer driver. Both men and women can volunteer. If you would like more information about this, please call Mike Davison, Hospital Admission Director, 440-546-9866 or 330-608-2414 (cell). This can be one of the most rewarding things you can do as a Mason, helping children.

Parades – The Al Koran Korvette Unit (little orange cars) is the primer parade unit of Al Koran Shrine. The Korvette Unit participated in 15 parades this past year, and we were the hit of the parades. Thru the parades that we participate in, we get donations, which we use to support the efforts of the Shrine and the hospitals. Acacia Lodge has three drivers, Don Davis, who is the director of the unit, Dave Lawrence, the son of Past Master Art Lawrence, and Al Paynter, Acacia Lodge Past Master, and Russ Koscica who was a driver and is now an associate member. We currently have several open cars. If you would like to have more fun than you are probably entitled to and would like some information on becoming a Korvette driver, please call Al Paynter, 216-346-3162. You do not have to be a Shriner to be a Korvette driver.

Hospital Donations – I am sure that you have seen the commercials for the Shrine Hospitals on TV. They are working and we are getting a lot of donations as a result of this. When you donate to the Shrine Hospitals, 92 to 94% of every dollar goes to the direct help of our research to help children. The families of the children never get a bill for the care we give the children. So, if you are able, please consider making a donation to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Al Paynter, Past Master and Past Potentate of the Al Koran Shrine

From Tom Daly, PM

Brethren, Let me take a quote by the insurance man on TV who said “I know a few things as I’ve seen a few things”. Having worked with the highly honored “John Robertson Fellow Craft Team” for nineteen years, I’ve concluded that each man does his part every time and it leaves the candidate highly impressed and never forgets that performance.

I have seen all degrees in Scottish and York Rites and as yet can’t say which was the best, but I am sure of one reason why I am impressed because they all practiced again and again. More Important was the candidates left highly impressed and proud of the title he then attained.

We obviously will be doing the Master Mason degree and if we don’t practice the candidates won’t get everything out of the degree he should and we may lose him.

The coordinator has to take charge, each has to know his part, the musician has to prepare and it is my recommendation that the Fellow Craft Team should do the same part at every performance.

I see many good things in our conferral and if each does his part every time, it will become a rewarding evening for all. A lot of good events are happening in our lodge and if we apply our efforts to our conferrals, we will have inspired members, and gratified petitioners.

Acacia #651 will become the envy in our district.

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.

Letter from one of our brethren:

To – James R. Cogan Sr, PM - Secretary Acacia Lodge #651

From - John Stricklin, Huntsville AL

Subject - Communication from the Deep South

I would like to report to the brothers at Acacia that I have been active here in Huntsville, Alabama. I have been a regular visitor at Helion Lodge #1 which has a very impressive 4 story Colonial style lodge building in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Some officers are referring to me as their resident visitor and I have had some comments of possible dual membership.

This is a very active lodge with over 400 members holding business meetings every other Tuesday and degree work activities on several Thursdays per month. The current Master came into office with a new top hat which reminded me of the stovepipe hat my father wore as Master of Covenant lodge #727 (subsequently Raymer - Covenant, then Acacia). It had belonged to my grandfather - and since I am 84 years-old we are talking of a hat which at the time was at least 50 years old and now might have been originally worn in the East over 150 years ago.

As #1, Helion Lodge was the first Masonic Lodge in Alabama, dating back to 1811 if I have my history right. It has apparently been very active ever since (400+ current members). They are involved in a lot of community projects, and the

lodge seems to be well respected locally and state-wide.

In addition I have been visiting Renaissance lodge #933 which is the newest lodge in Alabama. This lodge just got started and has had only had 3 or 4 formal meetings. They meet once a month in the same lodge building referenced above. This is the first lodge in Alabama operating as an "Observant" lodge under the 8 guidelines of Andrew Hammer. Dress code for members and visitors is "black tie", the Worshipful Master works in tails, and all officers wear tuxedos and white gloves. Objective of Observant lodges is to re-create some of the formality associated with lodge meetings of long ago. This involves lots of serious ritual, darkened meeting room with candles, background symphonic music and incense, washing hands before entrance and absolute silence for 15 minutes or so for contemplation before entrance of the Master. Lodge meetings are recessed from work to refreshment after going through the formal ritual and everyone goes to a nearby country club for formal dinner and many toasts with wine for all. A really different experience and somewhat reminiscent of the rituals I remember from the old days at Covenant Lodge, though for refreshment we only had coffee and donuts.

This brand new lodge has only 12 members but this includes 2 Past Grand Masters and 5 Past Masters so it is a pretty impressive group and they take real pride in performing all the memory work I - think they are going to become a showplace group to impress visitors --

Sincerely – John Stricklin, September 13, 2016

DISASTER APPEAL FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Drenching rainstorms have fueled massive flooding in North Carolina, an aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. The rampaging waters caused by the hurricane have resulted in protective levies breaking or leaking.

An Interstate highway has only recently been reopened and power outages persist in numerous areas of the state.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina reported that three Lodge buildings were heavily

damaged by the flooding conditions, and reports of damage or injury to Masonic families are expected.

The Masonic Service Association (MSA) has established a Disaster Relief Fund for North Carolina, with all donations received being transferred directly to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina to help those in need.

Please forward to the MSA donations to help our devastated Brothers, their families, and others in this stricken jurisdiction.

Please make checks payable to **MSA Disaster Relief Fund** and send to: Masonic Service Association, 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866. When remitting funds to the MSA in response to this appeal, please mark checks, "*North Carolina Appeal.*"

Also, donations may be made on MSA'S webpage – www.msana.com -- with the use of a credit card. Such donations allow relief funds to be available sooner.

MSA is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Thank you very much for your help.

Most sincerely and fraternally,
George O. Braatz, PGM
Executive Secretary

Knight of the York Cross of Honour

How many times have you heard the Senior Deacon introduce a Brother as a "K Y C H"?

Well, first things first, the brother should be introduced as "Worshipful Brother Tom Daly, Knight of the York Cross of Honour" **NOT K.Y.C.H.**

(I'm using Tom as an example because we all know him. However, W.B. Thomas R. Johnson is also a Knight of the York Cross of Honour)

What does it mean ?

What is a Knight of the York Cross of Honour?

The Knights of the York Cross of Honour is an invitational body within the York Rite.

To even be eligible to be invited into this Order, one must have served as Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge, High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter, Illustrious Master of a Council of Cryptic Masons,

and Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar.

While a member of Knight(s) of the York Cross of Honour who has served any of the Four Grand York Rite Bodies as presiding Officer is thereby a Knight of the York Grand Cross of Honour.

The last Grand Master to receive the York Grand Cross of Honour was MWB Michael Himes. And our recent Grand Master, MWB Norman J. Mick is a KYGCH

Grand Cross of Honour recipients in our district include, but not limited to, Merlyn Meredith, Robert Draye, Charles McCarty and Jack Hall.

The local bodies of the Order are called Pories. There is only one Priory in Ohio.

Presiding officer is called the Eminent Prior. The current Eminent Prior is Dan C. Arnold.

The state is divided into 4 districts; the northeast quadrant of the state (where we live) is District 3. There is a District Deputy Prior assigned to each District.

With thanks to the Registrar/Treasurer of Ohio Priory 18, Eminent Grand Recorder, I am not sure how many Knights of the York Cross of Honour there are in our Lodge. I know that W.B. Tom Daly and W.B. Tom Johnson are K. Y. C. H.

There are a few more that are "friends" of our lodge, W.B. Bill Koeckert, W.B. Barry Siegel and R.W.B. Bob Hager, just to name a few and, of course our late Brother W.B. James R. Price.

As you can see, these are the hard working members of our fraternity. But it is a relatively small number compared to the number of Brothers we have in our Lodge.

Knight of the York Cross of Honour is an EARNED Honour - versus "Illustrious 33rd" in the Scottish Rite, which is an Honourary title - an important distinction.

WB Don Ritchie

The North Pole Lodge No. One

*'Twas the Night before Christmas, and down at the Lodge
not a gavel was stirring, and in the hodge-podge.
Of aprons and jewels and chairs East and West
You could savor the silence, most gladly divest
All metal and mineral, it mattered not,
Since Christmas was nigh and the coals were still hot.*

*In the hearth of your homeplace, all Masons abed,
As visions of trestleboards danced in their head;
When up on the roof there arose such a clatter
Our Tyler jumped up to see what was the matter!
He picked up his sword and ran fast to the door,
Three knocks shook the panels - he wondered 'What for?'*

*He answered the knocking with raps of his own,
And once the door opened he saw, with a moan
Of delight it was Santa, all jolly and red
Except for one notable feature instead!
Upon his large finger he wore what we knew
Was compass and square on a background of blue!*

*'Why Santa!' he shouted and lowered his blade,
'I see you're a Mason!' the Tyler relayed.
He looked toward the Master's most dignified chair
And said, voice near trembling, 'Most Worshipful there
Is a Gentleman properly clothed at the gate!'*

*The Master replied, 'Let's allow him - but wait!
You tell me a Gentleman, but I don't see
His Apron beneath that red suit, can it be
Our visitor hasn't been properly raised?
Must we offer a test that is suitably phrased?'*

*'I do beg your pardon,' ol' Santa said quick
As he pulled up his coat and displayed not a stick
But a cane with engraving, two balls did appear
And oh, what an apron, he wore and held dear!
Adorned like the Master's, complete with a sign
Of "The North Pole Lodge Number One" on one line!*

*"Now let this man enter," the Master declared,
And once in the Lodge room, the Brethren all stared,
For Santa was wearing a jewel not seen
For many a century - there in between
The fur of his coat and the splendid red collar
Gleamed two golden reindeer that shone like a dollar!*

*"It's Donner and Blitzen, who I must confess
"Are actually images brought from the West
By my Warden, a craftsman like none in the world!"
And with a great laugh from his bag he unfurled
An ear of fine corn, and some oil from the East,
"My friend I have plenty, tonight we will feast*

*On all that is good! We are Masons, kind sir!"
A murmur went throughout the Lodge, quite a stir,
As presents and promises flew from his sack!
This Santa, a Mason, showed he had a knack
For making this Christmas the best you could glean,
And soon even Deacons were laughing, they'd seen*

*On this very night only happiness reigned!
This jolly Saint Nicholas quickly explained
That only a Mason could be so inclined
To make all kids happy, make all people find
A Christmas so special, yes, Santa was right!
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

Brethren,

You are invited to attend our Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Memorial Service on November 11, 2016 the Euclid Masonic Temple. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and Acacia Lodge will open at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to 440-257-6964.

Remember our Veterans



ACACIA LODGE #651

Come one come all
Christmas Party

What: Acacia Lodge's Christmas Party

When: December 18, 2016 from 1 to 4 PM

Where: Euclid Masonic Temple,

27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid

RSVP – by December 11th to WB James Cogan at 440-257-6964 with the number of adults, children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, nieces or nephews, age and gender (Santa wants to make sure that he has the right gift for the children 13 yrs old and younger.)

Special Guest appearance by the man from the north.

Food, drinks, entertainment, and more!!!!!!



"The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

- Colin Powell

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

All stated meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated – Dinner is provided before each meeting at 6:30 p.m. and **reservations are required**. Please call James Cogan, 440-257-6964.

November 11, 2016	Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Memorial Service
November 18, 2016	Annual Awards Night – open to family and friends - RSVP
November 25, 2016	Widowers and Single Masons Dinner - RSVP
December 9, 2016	Stated Meeting – Annual Installation of Officers
December 18, 2016	Annual Christmas Party – Reservations required
December 23, 2016	Stated Meeting -
January 13, 2016	Stated Meeting -
January 27, 2016	Stated Meeting -

The reason politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to try to make a living under the laws they've passed.

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060

