



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 13, Issue 6

Second and Fourth Fridays

November / December, 2017

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

Acacia Lodge Officers

2016 – 2017

- W. M. - Errol W. Savage, (216) 410-0421, errolsavage@hotmail.com
- S. W. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
- J. W. - Mark Novak, 216-406-5856, markn95@gmail.com
- S. D. - Chris Modica, 440-298-1666, c.modica@yahoo.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@sbeglobal.net
- Treasurer - David Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
- Chaplain - Jerald G. Dickerson, (440) 449-4639
-
- L.E.O. - James L. Burnett, Jr. 440-796-8330 J.Burnett@twc.com
- Marshall - Hugh Sullivan, (216) 321-4840 hughnix@gmail.com
- 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 10 **Stated Meeting** – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
- Nov 17 **Annual Awards Night**
- Dec 2 **Annual Christmas Party**
- Dec 8 **Stated Meeting** – Annual Installation of Officers
- Dec 22 **Stated Meeting** –
- Jan 12 **Stated Meeting** –

"Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom." - John Adams

Awards Night

What: Acacia Lodge's Annual Awards Night

When: November 17, 2017, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Awards at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Euclid Masonic Temple,

27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid

On Friday, November 17, 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.



ACACIA LODGE #651

Come one come all

Christmas Party

What: Acacia Lodge's Christmas Party

When: December 2, 2017 from 1 to 4 PM

Where: Euclid Masonic Temple,

27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid

RSVP – by November 20th 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 below article is from a very good masonic website, www.freemasoninformation.com

What are the most common blunders that occur in the Masonic lodge? They might not be as uncommon as you think.

Ritual Without Meaning

Too many times, we are more concerned about performing the ritual perfectly without understanding what it means. I know many men that give great lectures, but will confide that they don't even know what something means. Ritual for the sake of tradition is worthless. Ritual for the sake of enlightenment is valuable. An understanding of the ritual's meaning is far more important than just memorizing it.

Fellowship Without Frivolity

Whenever Masons decide to hold a function for fellowship, a discussion typically ensues about how to make the function have the smallest impact on the lodge's coffers and the wallets of the members. This results in paper plates, meager meals, and boring events. To spend money wisely in order to make fellowship a grand time is wise for the lodge that wants to be successful.

Quantity Without Quality

A lodge with seven great men that believe in the Masonic ideals and actively labor to improve themselves — and therefore the lodge — is far better off than a lodge with one hundred men that show up to lodge just to show up to lodge.

Education Without Philosophy

Many times, we think of Masonic education as being a lesson on the local lodge's history, a famous Mason, the history of the world wide fraternity, or how to do the ritual properly. But if no philosophy is covered in Masonic education, then little self improvement is accomplished. Discussing Masonic lessons in terms of philosophy, ideas, and a man's conduct is what truly transforms men into Masons. It is important to discuss topics that are foreign to a lodge's membership and it is sometimes even necessary to challenge our preconceived ideologies through Masonic education.

Charity Without Connection

Big institutional charities often require that fund raisers be conducted and large checks written to the people that actually perform the charity. This type of charity is devoid of self improvement because it has no real connection. If we extend our hands to our needed Brethren and devote our own skills and time to their problems, then we are engaging in true, meaningful charity.

Frugality Without Discretion

Frugality is not a tenet of Freemasonry, a cardinal virtue, or a Landmark. It is okay for the lodge to spend its funds on worthwhile activities that will enhance the Masonic experience of its Brethren. Not everything should be done in the cheapest way, a habit to which we have become accustomed.

Leadership Without Competence

A man does not deserve to be Master of the lodge solely because he has spent a certain amount of years in the lodge. We elect leaders without any regard for the skills that they possess to function in that capacity. Only competent, qualified men should be elected to preside over the Craft.



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Julius J. Takacs	July 14, 2017
Fred T. Fechuch	October 25, 2011
Henry R. Malm	September 12, 2017
Harvey Sussel	September 27, 2017

They rest from their labors.

Dear Brother,

During the Deputy Grand Master's roll-out presentation, Right Worshipful Brother Schau mentioned three items that would be available on the Grand Lodge webpage, www.gloho.com:

1. A PDF of his presentation:
<http://www.gloho.com/images/news-images/2018-rollout.pdf>
2. Information regarding the 2018 Grand Lodge cruise: <http://www.gloho.com/news-info/313-2018-cruise>
3. The Replace Yourself Program:
<http://www.replaceyourself.org/>

You now have links for each of those items. This email has been sent to the District Advisor, DDGMs, DEOs, Masters, and Secretaries of the 22nd Masonic District. A similar email will be sent to the Wardens, and Senior Deacons.

Fraternally,
Chad Simpson

Brethren,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer. I wanted to let everyone know Acacia Lodge will be doing degrees for multiple new candidates this year. We have one new brother who was given his EA in his SC Lodge but due to his service in the Marine Corp. was unable to finish his degrees. He has petitioned Acacia lodge to complete his degrees and become a full member of the craft. Also, a "Lewis" will be petitioning Acacia Lodge. And, I have another petition out that should be returned soon.

I strongly encourage your attendance at all if our stated meetings but especially when we are conferring our degrees if you are physically able.

Our lodge has a Strong core of Officers that welcome anyone and everyone to assist in the ritual work. Especially the Master Mason Degree, even if it's a small part.

As we bring these young men into our Lodge and through the degrees it would be great for them to see our brethren on the sidelines and even assisting in the degrees. We are good / strong lodge working to improve ourselves. I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Let's continue to be one of the greatest lodges in Ohio.

Fraternally,
Chris Modica, Senior Deacon

From without the inner door:

Hail Brothers, I'm glad to be back as your Tyler this year as the past 8 years I have served outside the inner door keeping the cowens and eavesdroppers at bay. What I've noticed is that as in life change is scary but without change there can be no growth without growth that only leads to death and I firmly believe that the future of our lodge has to be centered around growth. We have to focus our energies on attracting new members, if you will show the youth of today the benefits of Masonry they will know why they should join. Some of the benefits are camaraderie among men, the lessons learned from the various degrees, and the desire to continue self education and learn more mysteries of the various degrees. We fine-tune ourselves by learning to be a better man by leading by example of the Almighty.

The opportunity for personal growth, personal enlightenment and how they can be a light in the darkness amongst their friends and family can be an important goal for our yet the named new members.

I'm going to make a call again to all of you who have not attended lodge to make an effort to see how your lodge is progressing.

Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

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.

Remember our Veterans



CHEAT, WRONG or DEFRAUD!

We have all heard these three words, if we are listening to our ritual work, but do we know what they mean? Here is the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of these three words.

CHEAT: To deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud.

WRONG: An injurious, unfair, or unjust act, action or conduct inflicting harm without due provocation or just cause.

DEFRAUD: To deprive of something by deception or fraud.

While the first and third are readily understood, the middle word is one that might require some explaining.

How do we “wrong” someone? Have you repeated something that someone else told you, without verifying the “story”?

While you may think nothing of repeating someone else statement about someone, IF it is not true, you could seriously injure that person, as other people thinking you know something you don't, could actually believe you.

We must all be circumspect in our words, actions and deeds.

Fraternally,
Donald A. Ritchie, P.M.

Holiday Shopping Tips for the Internet

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mails
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mails
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files; the files may contain viruses. Only open attachment from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the link you are actually directed to and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.

- Log on directly to the official website for the business identified in the e-mail instead of “linking” to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, of other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify if the message is genuine.
- If you are requested to act quickly or there is an emergency that requires your attention, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly.
- Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

Nine Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older

- #9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- #8 Life is sexually transmitted.
- #7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- #6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- #5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years unless you give them your email address.
- #4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- #3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- #2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- #1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." - Helen Keller

The Masonic Funeral, (As posted by the 22nd Landmark)

There are but a few occasions when we as Masons perform ceremonies and services that are in the public eye. Laying the cornerstone a public building, an open installation of our officers, the goodwill and charity we provide for a needy cause or individuals in distress are just a few of the examples.

The presentation of our Masonic Funeral Service is however a different public expression of our Craft. Unlike our cheerful undertakings, this ceremony is more solemn and somber. Often, the Brother was a dear friend and our connection to him transcends more than common membership in our organization. Other times, we knew him more by reputation and our final honoring of his life is just the right thing to do.

In either case, the Masonic Funeral Service is a personal celebration, recognition and appreciation of our Brother's life. We are honoring his contributions, no matter how small or large, to the Craft, his effects on the lives of family and friends, and most especially, the impact his influence had on our own journey and experience.

From the operative Mason's standpoint, the final tribute to a fellow workman was also observed with great reverence. The deceased Brother was a man they had worked side-by-side with for many years, perhaps even their entire lives. They eulogized his virtues and contributions to the Craft. They spoke of eternal life after death and the need to perform good work toward all humanity throughout the course of a man's life. The entire guild and their families turned out to mourn the passing of the Brother and offer sympathy and support to his family.

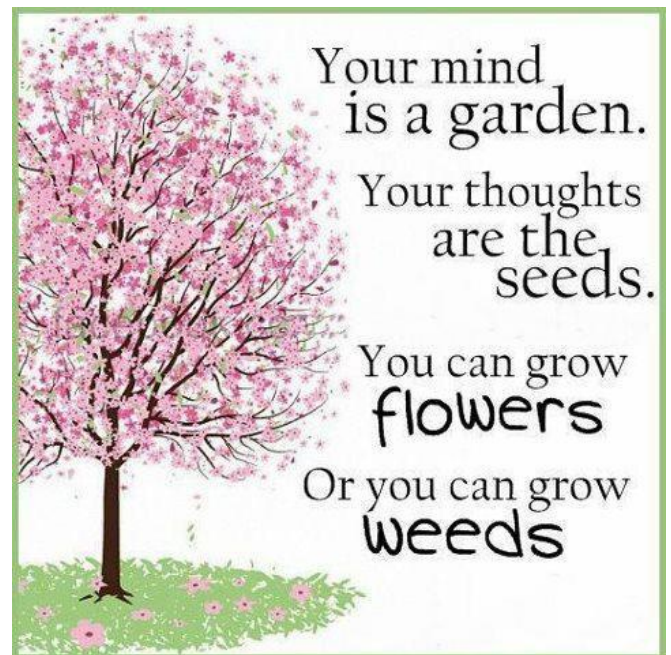
As Master Masons, we are all entitled to the "rights and benefits" of that title. That includes a well-attended Masonic Funeral Service. In many ways, attending these services are just as important as attending Lodge meetings, perhaps even more so. Since we cannot do anything more can do little more for our fallen Brother, the solemn service is really for the benefit of our Brother's family and friends. The well done service exhibits our genuine care and concern for one of our own.

Finally, an important realization is that this service is often a non-Mason's first true exposure to the wonderful traditions, beautiful and timeless rituals, and deep meaning behind our Fraternity. At this somber service, they will likely establish their opinions and form important perceptions of our organization. Surely, upon witnessing the ritual and ceremony, the public becomes curious as to who we are, what we stand for, and what we believe, as an organization.

Certainly, it is unfortunate when we learn of a dear Brother's passing, but pay him and his life the honor they deserve by attending his Masonic Funeral Service. Just as he looks down and is pleased with the remembrance and tribute his Brothers bestow on his life and his memory, so should your spirit someday enjoy that same honor when you have joined the Celestial Lodge on high.

James Burnett, PM

"If there is no wind, Row."



WHY?

Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

BECAUSE

This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
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