



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 15, Issue 6

Second and Fourth Fridays

November / December, 2019

Acacia Lodge – 100 years

"Step into the Light of Freemasonry"

Grand Masters Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2018 – 2019

- W. M. - Tim P. Gallagher, 440-833-0088, tgallagher@marousbrothers.com
- S. W. - Ted Daly, 440-298-1666, tdaly@oh.rr.com
- J. W. - Mark A. Novak, 216-406-5856, markn95@gmail.com
- S. D. -
- J. D. - Craig Niederriter, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
- S. S. -
- J. S. -
- 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
- Chaplain - Jerald G. Dickerson, (440) 449-4639
- L.E.O. - David P. Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
- Marshall - N. Allen Paynter, 216-346-3162, mrclean274@aol.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 13 – Stated Meeting – Annual meeting and Election of Officers

Nov 22 – Stated Meeting – Awards Night

Dec 11 – Stated Meeting – Annual Installation of Officers

Dec 21 – Annual Christmas Party see article

Dec 27 – No Meeting

From The East



Season's greetings my Brother -

Another Masonic year has passed. By the time you read these lines our Grand Lodge Communication will have concluded, and our new 2020 Grand Line Officers, District Deputies Grand Master and District Education Officers are all assuming their newly appointed positions.

It will also be time for Acacia Lodge to vote for its next Worshipful Master and Line Officers for the 2019 – 2020 Masonic Year. Please join us on Wednesday, November 13th for our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Join us at our Annual Awards Night on Friday, November 22nd, and help us give thanks and praise to our honored recipients. Come back again on Wednesday, December 11th for our Annual Installation of Officers. And, last but not least, please don't forget to register your child, grandchild, or children for our Christmas Party on Saturday, December 21st at 1pm. There will be the usual food and refreshments as well as entertainment for all ages, and of course a special appearance from the man in red.

Before I sign off for the last time this year. I can't help but want to take one last moment to think of the loved ones lost this past year. Pray that the Great Architect of the Universe grants those effected with the strength and grace to overcome and find comfort in the hallow of his hand.

And finally, I would like to challenge you to join me in a charitable act and participate in "No Shave November". The proceeds from the cost of not shaving for one month will be donated to cancer research. And we will ask the Lodge to match the funds raised to help find a cure. Funds will be collected at our Installation of Officers on Dec 11th, or sent directly to our Secretary, WB James Cogan, 6130 Thistlewood Drive, Mentor, OH, 44060. You're also free to make a donation if you already don't shave?

Thanks again for all your guidance and support over the years!

Forever fraternal,

WM Timothy P Gallagher

"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do." - Pope John Paul XXIII

From the West

Dear Brethren,

Greetings from the West. I just came home from attending the 210th Ohio Grand Lodge Communication in Marietta, OH and will issue a full report at our next stated meeting. It has been many years since I attended this annual event and I had forgotten just how impressive our Grand Lodge is. Our Grand Lodge leaders are the most dedicated Masons. Masonry is in their blood, in their DNA and they are working tirelessly to improve our membership in Ohio and provide light to all of its members. It was great to see the Lodges represented and to see so many active Past Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Masters. I want to thank Acacia Lodge #651 for allowing me to attend. A couple quick points made by the Grand Lodge of Ohio. 1. They encourage all of us to complete your registration information on the Grandview webpage. They stress that this is an opportunity for all Ohio Masons to use and to communicate with each other almost in real time. It was indicated that only 38% of Masons registered have visited and completed their registration. Hopefully, in the upcoming year we can plan an IT education meeting on Lodge night where we can bring in several laptops or tablets and help get us all registered and begin using this tool. 2. Newly elected Grand Master, MWB Keith W. Newton's theme this year is "Step into the Light of Freemasonry". It is based on a sermon he heard several years ago and challenges us in taking the steps ourselves to spread the "light of Freemasonry" to others. As with all of our Grand Masters, MWB Newton is a dynamic individual who loves his family, friends and Freemasonry. I am extremely encouraged about this year and know he and the Grand Lodge will continue to build upon the program "This is Ohio Freemasonry" – "Not just a man, a Mason". 3. The outgoing Grand Master, MWB Jess N. Raines formed a procession, with a bag piper playing the funeral dirge and we marched up the hill to the grave site of Ohio's first Grand Master, General MWB Rufus Putnam. MWB Raines placed a wreath at the grave and spoke of Marietta's rich history in Masonry. It was a fantastic event and one that I will always remember.

Finally, just a note about our upcoming Christmas Party, please contact WB James Cogan, our

secretary early to make reservations and indicate the ages and gender of the children that you plan on bringing to the event. WE want to make sure that Santa provides an age and gender appropriate gift for them. The date has been listed in the newsletter and is December 21, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. @ Euclid Temple.

See you at Lodge, don't forget we now meet the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Friday of each month except January and February when our Lodge will be dark.

WB Ted A. Daly, Senior Warden

From without the Inner door:

I have had the pleasure of being your Tyler for 8 years now. In my time serving the Lodge as your Tyler I also assist where needed as many of us do. I help prepare, serve, and clean up after every meal. I have seen our meeting go from 10 men to 30 and back to 10 per meeting. The eb and flow is expected, especially when we are losing members every year to the celestial lodge above faster than we add new candidates.

There are many obstacles in our way with regards to membership. The most important one, in my opinion, is the stigma surrounding our craft. The internet is overflowing with negative and outright misinformation about Masonry. People tend to read a few sentences about us online and that's all they need to read to be "sold" on Masonry being evil.

Overcoming the stigmas being attached to our craft is the biggest challenge we face in the future. So, I implore all of you to spread the love that Masonry have shown all of us. Share the good we have learned, share the craft with everyone around us. Word of mouth is still the best advertising in the world. Live the tenets of our profession in our daily interactions with the outside world to show the value of being a Freemason. So, let's use what we have learned inside our Masonic Halls in the world at large and grow as a lodge.

Thank you brethren,
Brother Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

"Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask.
Act! Action will delineate and define you."

- Thomas Jefferson

Stone by Rob Morris.

When the SPIRIT came to Jephthah,
Animating his great heart,
He arose, put on his armor,
Girt his loins about to part,
Bowed the knee, Implored a blessing,
Gave an earnest of his faith,
Then, divinely-strung, departed,
Set for victory or death.

If a rude, uncultured soldier
Thus drew Wisdom from above,
How should we, enlightened Laborers,
Children of the Sire of Love.-
How should we, who know "the Wisdom
Gentle, pure, and peaceable,"
Make a prayerful preparation
That our work be square and full!

Lo, the future! One can read it,-
He its darkest chance can bend:
Lo, our wants, how great, how many!
He abundant means can lend:
Raise your hearts then, Pilgrims, boldly
Build and journey in His trust:
Square your deeds by precepts holy,
And the end is surely blest.

Vainly will the builders labor
If the Overseer is gone;
Vainly gate and well arc guarded
If the All-Seeing is withdrawn;
Only is successful ending
When the work's begun with care; ·
Lay your blocks, then, Laborers, strongly,
On the Eternal Rock of Prayer,

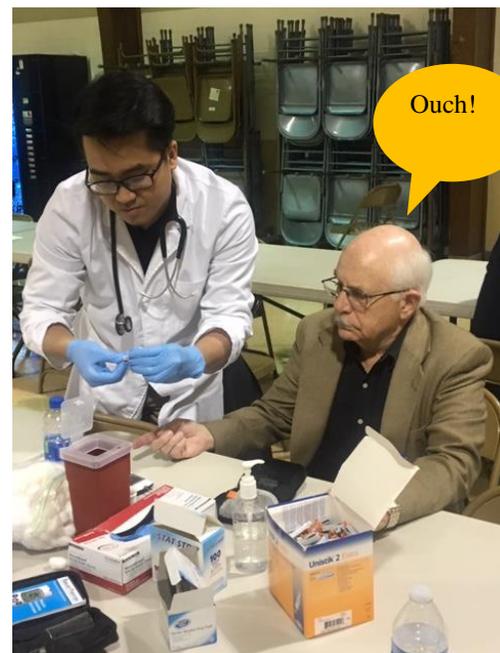
Need a Ride?

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.

"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."
- Abraham Lincoln

Health Screening:

On Wednesday Oct 9th Stated Meeting Acacia Lodge was visited by nursing students from Cleveland State University's School of Nursing. The student nurses came to inform our brethren about the two top killers of American men, High Blood Pressure and Diabetes and to screen them for these killers. The nursing students performed blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Nurse students Kelly Prosky and Beto Pham were led by Associate Professor of Nursing Joan Niederriter, Ph.D. (and more additional letters than can be found in alphabets cereal). Dr N. as we affectionally call her, happens to be the wife of an Acacia Lodge member who wants to stay anonymous. The Students inflated BP cuffs, squeezing muscular masonic biceps down to the bone. Masons fearlessly offered up their index fingers to be pricked and bleed. Frequently these simple blood pressure and sugar checks find a person whom had no idea they needed medical attention. Fortunately for Acacia the student nurses found our members to be A OK! Acacia Lodge thanked them for their service with a donation to BSNs on a mission, a Cleveland State Student Nurses group who makes annual health care missions to third world nations such as Dominican Republic and Peru.



WB Al Paynter giving his blood to improve his health.



Blood pressure testing with Bro. Rev. Weller

Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.

Why can't you trust atoms?
They make up everything.

All mushrooms are edible. Some are only edible once.



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
William Semenik	October 1, 2019
<i>They rest from their labors</i>	

Awards Night

What: Acacia Lodge's Annual Awards Night
When: November 22, 2019, Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Awards at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Euclid Masonic Temple,
 27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid

On Friday, November 22, 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 make your reservations at 440-257-6964 by November 15th.

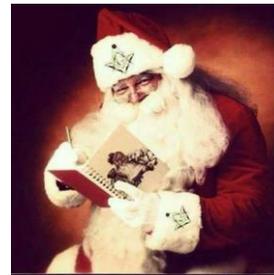
*Remember our Veterans
 Especially on November 11th, Veterans Day*



Why are many coin collection jar banks shaped like pigs?

BECAUSE

Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks.' When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.



ACACIA LODGE #651

Come one come all
 Christmas Party

What: Acacia Lodge's Christmas Party
When: December 21, 2019 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.)

This year we have the **Flower Clown** making balloon figures for the children.

Also, we have **Rick Smith, Jr.** – internationally recognized Cleveland magician. Rick Smith Jr. has demonstrated his amazing abilities in front of national television audiences and has appeared on many television shows including Ellen, Shark Tank, Time Warp, America’s Got Talent, and The Tonight Show.

Special Guest appearance by the man from the north.

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



Dear Acacia 651 Lodge Members,

Recently I read an article that invited the public to learn about the history, teachings and mysteries of Freemasons in New Hampshire. The Nashua Temple is holding an open house on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. It will be interesting to see how many people attend and what their comments may be.

In the article, the question: “What is Freemasonry?” was asked. The following is their answer:

“At its core, Masonry is a system of initiation which is divided into three Degrees. The Degrees exemplify lessons of morality and Brotherhood that will be familiar to most but are presented in a meaningful, dramatic, and personal way. This unique experience is intended to impart serious lessons to the candidate while strongly connecting the individual to every member of the fraternity in a shared experience.

In many ways, Freemasonry is the original social network. It is a place where men, regardless of their age, financial status, religion, sexual orientation, or political leanings can meet and relate in a deep and meaningful way. Unlike modern social media, however, discussion of religious dogma or politics are strictly forbidden in Masonic meetings.

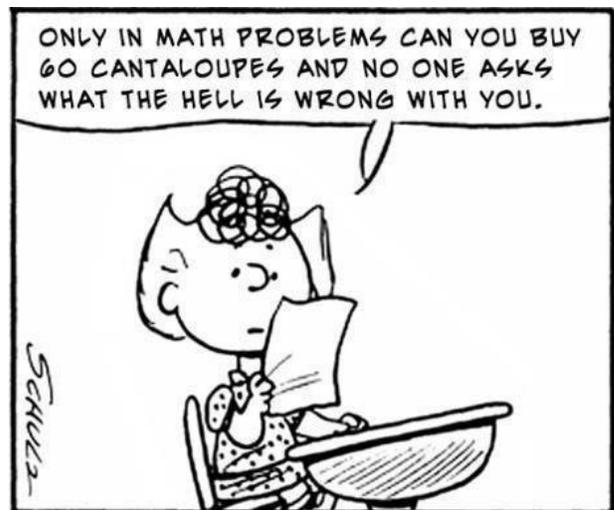
Masonic Lodges are places for person growth; a place for men of all walks of life to join in harmony for the good of all. For many, Freemasonry is a unique opportunity to share in fellowship and fun with those they might not have otherwise ever met. For some, it is a connection to a family legacy or a historical tradition. All in all, it is a way of life: positive, supportive and benevolent.

The main qualification to become a Freemason is believe in a Supreme Being. While Freemasonry’s lessons come directly from the Judeo-Christian tradition, it is open to men of all faiths, utilizing those traditions as a vehicle to convey the moral and spiritual teachings it contains.”

It is time we share our story with those men who would make a good Mason. Invite someone to lodge for a free dinner, 6:30pm on the second Wednesday or fourth Friday of the month. And or, attending one of our upcoming social events may be even more inviting for someone who is meeting us for the first time. Either way, our future depends on us securing new members. You never know, it could easily be a life changing event for you and someone you care about.

Jeff Day
Acacia 651 Lodge Member
jeffreyhday@yahoo.com

A butterfly gets pulled over by the cops for speeding. He hands the cop his driver’s license with a photo of a caterpillar on it. “Sorry, it’s an old picture.”



TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

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November 13, 2019	Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
November 22, 2019	Awards Night
December 11, 2019	Stated Meeting – Annual Installation of Officers
December 21, 2019	Annual Christmas Party – 1 – 4 p.m. See Article
December 27, 2019	No Meeting per by-laws
Jan. and Feb. 2020	No Meetings - Dark
January 25, 2020	District Leadership Meeting
February 14, 2020	Valentine’s Day Party – Hofbrau Haus for members and significant others
February 18, 2020	Sprig of Acacia – Articles are due for Mar/Apr
March 11, 2020	Stated Meeting – Planning Review
March 27, 2020	Stated Meeting – Guest Presentation – personal financial planning

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060

