



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 18, Issue 3

Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday

May / June 2022

"Reflect on Freemasonry" Grand Master's Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2021 – 2022

- W. M. - Chris Modica, (440) 339-7092,
c.modica@yahoo.com
- S. W. - Ted Daly, (216) 308-2572,
TDaly@gatewayelectric.com
- J. W. - Jeffrey H. Day, 440-449-2944,
jeffreyhday@yahoo.com
- S. D. -
- J. D. - Craig Niederriter, 440-884-1376,
lowhorseman@aol.com
- S. S. - Chris J. Rieger, 216-548-4005,
c.j.rieger@hotmail.com
- J. S. - David W. Kemp, (440) 796-6584,
davidkphoto@gmail.com
- 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. - Chris J. Rieger, 216-548-4005,
c.j.rieger@hotmail.com
- Marshall - N. Allen Paynter, 216-346-3162,
mrclean274@aol.com
- Organist - Stephen A. Mietus, 330-592-3054,
hkmietus@gmail.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

- May 11 Stated Meeting – Inspection
in Fellow Craft Degree
- May 14 Magic Gives Back – See
article
- May 27 Stated Meeting – EA
Degree on a Candidate
- June 8 Stated Meeting
- June 24 Stated Meeting
- July 13 Stated Meeting
- July 16 Captains Game – see article
- July 22 Stated Meeting

From The East,



Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to some warm weather and sunny skies. Acacia Lodge is back in the full swing of all things masonic and is working hard for our brethren. Since our last newsletter, Acacia Lodge has raised two new Master Mason's and has another potential Brother being Initiated (May 27) after our annual inspection.

Our annual Inspection will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. All the officers hope to see as many of you attend as possible. It's a great time to come out and reignite that "Spark of Masonry". It's also great to just be amongst the brethren and enjoy one another's company. We understand that some of our brethren have difficulties driving to our meetings, remember call us and we will see that you receive a ride to our meetings. Join us for dinner at 6:30 p.m. (even if you are not able to stay for the meeting, it's not a problem at all). The brethren would rather see you for dinner then not see you at all.

The officers and I are still hard at work planning multiple events for all in the future. Again, these events are done for you, your Families and also for potential men who may be interested in joining a lodge of Freemasons. There are some really exciting events coming up and will be listed on our Trestleboard. We are looking forward to see you at these events.

At our meetings, our Lodge Education officer has been very busy putting on some great programs, he has also set up some outstanding speakers. Recently, on April 15th we had the opportunity to host four Euclid Police Officers as Guest Speakers. They explained how the Euclid Police Department is conducting community outreach. They were able to answer questions from the brethren. We are planning on more speakers and guests to talk on a variety of topics (if you have any suggestions, please let me or any of our officers know).

Brethren, this is a great time to be a Mason in Ohio and an even a greater time to be a member of Acacia Lodge. Keep an eye out for our emails and ear open for the Robo Calls that inform you about everything that is happening within your Lodge. Until we meet, stay well and be safe.

Fraternally,

Christopher W. Modica, Worshipful Master

From the South

Dear Fellow Masons,

Benjamin Franklin passed away on April 17, 1790 (232 years ago). He is one of the most famous Freemasons to have ever lived. This article is part one of the story of his masonic life taken from the files of The Grand Lodge of Ohio.

“Benjamin Franklin was fervently dedicated to the craft as an active Mason for 60 years, but he made a lasting impact on American society with his inventions, discoveries, and accomplishments. An intellect, author, editor, inventor, scientist, politician and most importantly, Freemason, it’s no secret that Bro. Ben Franklin has left his mark on American History. Born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, MA as the fifteenth of seventeen children, Bro. Franklin grew up with the intent to pursue a career in journalism. He started his career as an apprentice printer for his brother, James Franklin, “the creator of the first independent newspaper” in the colonies. At age 24 he then continued on to work for the Pennsylvania Gazette, where prior to his initiation he would make light of Freemasonry in writing. Some historians believe that this was his way to promote himself to his district’s lodge. He was initiated in either 1730 or 1731 at St. John’s Lodge of Philadelphia.

Once he was a member, his style of writing changed in the Gazette, where his tone shifted towards tremendous praise about Freemasonry in America, especially in Pennsylvania. We often refer to these writings when learning about the beginning of Freemasonry in the United States.

It’s no surprise that Bro. Franklin made an impression on the brothers of St. John’s Lodge quickly, due to his wit, public servitude, courageousness, and outgoing personality. Only a year after joining, he was a member of the committee drafting by-laws of St. John’s Lodge; on June 24, 1732, he was appointed Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and then Grand Master in 1734, according to his personal records. In 1735, he was elected Secretary, an office which he held for three years. As we know, typically several years of service occur before a brother receives any recognition in Grand Lodge.”

In our time on earth today we could use a fellow mason like Ben Franklin to help us address the

challenges we face in life. I will conclude his masonic story in our next issue of “The Sprig of Acacia”.

Fraternally and Peace,

Jeff Day, Junior Warden



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Wallace D. Otto	03-22-2022
Richard A. Gajdos	02-09-2022

They rest from their labors



Take me out to the Ball Game!

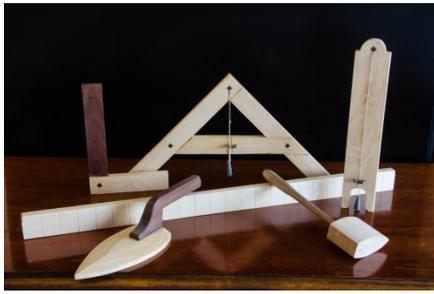
We will have our annual Lake County Captains outing on Saturday, July 16 this year starting at 7:00 p.m. The cost will be the same as in the past, \$10.00 per person. That will get you into the ball game and a wrist band for dinner that night.

New this year is that we will be in the right field loge area upstairs and will be limited to only 50 people. So please let me know if you are going and the number in your party as soon as possible. There is a bobble head give away for those who arrive at the ballpark early, when the gates open. This evening will be capped off with fireworks.

Please RSVP to David Ponsart, 440-488-5231, as soon as possible.

"Common Sense is not so common." - Voltaire, from *Dictionnaire Philosophique* (1764)

"No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his well-being, to risk his life, in a great cause." – Brother Theodore Roosevelt



BEHIND THE MASONIC SYMBOLS: MASONIC WORKING TOOLS

Becoming a Freemason is a lifelong study in learning to become a better man. It requires commitment, careful consideration, and daily mindfulness to live the fraternity's values each day.

Freemasonry is structured around symbols and lessons derived from the medieval stonemasons, intended to arm each Brother with the knowledge to build themselves into a man of integrity. The core theme Grand Master Richard A. Dickerscheid instilled within Ohio Freemasonry this year is "Use the Tools," a call for Brethren to use both physical and metaphorical tools to improve both their individual life and their communities. The below physical Masonic working tools not only hold practical power, but meaningful symbolism that Masons must carry through their everyday practice.

A prospective Freemason must complete three lessons called degrees before fully entering the brotherhood and becoming a Master Mason. When a man embarks on his Masonic journey, he is unformed, rough, and lacks the knowledge of an expert craftsman. At each degree, he learns more about Freemasonry, how to be a good man, and understand the Supreme Architect's design.

A few Masonic working tools, including a compass, level, and square.

ENTERED APPRENTICE

The first stage of becoming a Freemason is completing the first degree of the Entered Apprentice. In this degree, the candidate is inexperienced and lacking knowledge of the craft, like the rough stone from the quarry that needs to be shaped and polished before it can be used in the building. He is handed a common gavel, the tool workmen use to shape the stone or rough ashlar, and instructed that it is one of the working tools of the

Entered Apprentice. He is challenged to strike off the vices and distractions in his life which may lead him astray, away from what is truly important to living a meaningful and satisfying life.

The twenty-four-inch gauge represents time and is one of the first lessons for the initiate. He learns that we must use our time well, and he is instructed to divide the day into three parts with time for God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Exercising self control, making good decisions, taking action, understanding and fulfilling our duties whether as employees, husbands, fathers, or believers are all addressed by implication in the management of time.

FELLOW CRAFT

In completing the second degree, an initiate advances to the skilled craftsman or Fellow Craft. In doing so, he can test the work of the Entered Apprentice and use his skill to improve their Rough Ashlar into the Perfect Ashlar for use in the master's plan.

The tools of this degree consist of the square, level, and plumb. The square teaches a Fellow Craft to ensure they are right and just in their actions. It is among the most essential tools in Freemasonry, serving as a daily reminder for Masons on how to live their lives and treat others. For a more detailed description of the meaning behind the square, please read our blog on [The Square and Compasses](#). The level represents equality, teaching that all Freemasons are equal, share in one goal, and receive God's same judgment. The plumb is the tool of integrity, teaching a Mason the virtues of being just, honest, and upright through actions big and small. This degree cements a Mason's commitment to the core values of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

MASTER MASON

By the third degree, the Master Mason has learned to use all the tools of his craft to fulfill the plans of the Divine Artist, and he is then introduced to the trowel. The trowel is used by stonemasons to spread the cement that binds the stones of the building into one common structure. What binds men together?

Masons are bound together by certain common values and experiences. They share the knowledge they have learned in their progress through the three degrees, and their lives are thereby improved in physical, moral, and spiritual ways. They are united by brotherly love and friendship. Great ideas enrich

the mind and common experiences inspire the spirit, but it is the warm camaraderie and fellowship that draws men together and opens the door to friendships that last a lifetime. Thus, it is fitting that the final working tool presented to the Master Mason is the trowel to spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Friendship.

Brethren, we would love to hear your stories on what "Using the Tools" means to you, and which Masonic working tools you use most often in the craft. Please share them with us on our Facebook or Twitter pages at @GrandLodgeOhio.

Looking to explore the history behind more common Masonic symbols? We invite you to read our educational blogs on Masonic Coins, Operative vs. Speculative Masons, and the Cornerstone.

Mother's Day Trivia

1. On what day is Mother's Day celebrated in the United States?
 - a. First Sunday of May
 - b. Fourth Sunday of May
 - c. Third Sunday of May
 - d. Second Sunday of May
2. What President made Mother's Day an official national holiday in the United States?
 - a. George Washington
 - b. Woodrow Wilson
 - c. John F. Kennedy
 - d. Abraham Lincoln
3. Mother's Day is the biggest holiday in the United States for?
 - a. Greeting Card Sales
 - b. Flower Sales
 - c. Chocolate Sales
 - d. Long-distance Telephone Calls
4. What is the traditional Mother's Day flower in the United States?
 - a. Rose
 - b. Carnation
 - c. Sunflower
 - d. Tulip

Answers on page 5

"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default." - J. K. Rowling

First Father's Day – History and Trivia

- Father's day was first recognized by Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd (now known as "the mother of Father's Day") whose father had as a single parent, raised his six children. She conceived the idea of celebrating Father's Day while she was listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910.
 - In the year 1916, US president Woodrow Wilson approved the idea of observing an annual Father's Day. And in the year 1924, President Calvin Coolidge made Father's Day a national event.
 - After a couple of decades, President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day and issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers in the year 1966. Then in the year 1972 President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made the Father's Day celebration permanent. Since then this day is celebrated each year.
 - Father's Day is not a modern invention. It was first celebrated by a Babylonian youth named Elmesu, who carved a father's Day card out of clay, around 4,000 years ago. His special card was to wish his father good health and long life.
-

St. Patrick's Day Party

A couple of photos from our St. Patrick's Day Party that was held at the Music Box in the Flats. A good time was had by all with food and music by a fine Irish Band.



Our Worshipful Master, Chris Modica and his lovely wife, Christy



Patricia Cogan, WB James Cogan and WB Don Ritchie.

Answers – Mother’s Day

1. d. Second Sunday of May
2. b. Woodrow Wilson in 1914
3. d. Long-distance Telephone Calls
4. b. Carnation - The tradition started in 1906 when Anna Jarvis started wearing her mother's favorite flower, a white carnation.

The Feast of Saint John the Baptist



Freemasonry reveres two Saints John. Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist. The Feast of Saint John the Evangelist is on December 27th each year.

Saint John the Baptist in Christian tradition comes in preparation for Christ's arrival. The story of his birth is told in the Gospel of Luke.

John the Baptist's father was Zechariah a Jewish priest. Zechariah and his wife had no children and had gone past the age of child bearing years. When Zechariah was sent to the Temple in Jerusalem, he was chosen to offer up incense to Deity on the Golden Altar. He was visited by the Archangel Gabriel who informed him if he and his wife had a child, they were to name it John. Zechariah did not believe Gabriel and his voice was taken until after John was born. At the birth, the family was trying to decide what to name the child and Zechariah wrote "His name is John" and his voice returned.

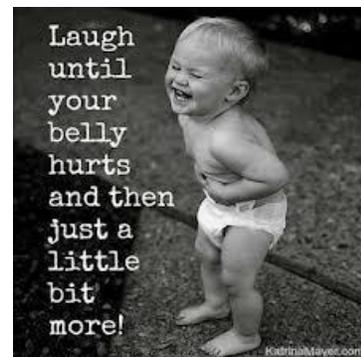
The feast day for most saints falls on the day of their death in Christian tradition since this is the day they enter heaven. The two exceptions are the Virgin Mary since she was pure from original sin at birth. The other is Saint John the Baptist who was cleansed of sin in his mother's womb.

In the Masonic tradition, John the Baptist is recognized as the patron saint of stonemasons in the Middle Ages throughout Europe. A guild of stonemasons and carpenters in Germany was called the *Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist*.

Moving forward to the founding of the premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717, it was formed on June 24th. In many lodges and Grand Lodges June the 24th was used as the day for the installation of a new Worshipful Master or Grand Master. In the 1700's in England this was generally done under the Antients or Ancient Grand Lodge of England.

The Euclid Police Raid The Euclid Masonic Temple!

Well not really, members of the Euclid Police Department visited Acacia Lodge to discuss their activities in Community Policing and to answer any questions that the brethren may have.



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.

Wednesday	May 11, 2022	Stated Meeting – Inspection in Fellow Craft Degree
Saturday	May 14, 2022	Magic Gives Back – Mentor, Oh
Friday	May 27, 2022	Stated Meeting – EA Degree on a Candidate
Wednesday	June 8, 2022	Stated Meeting
Friday	June 24, 2022	Stated Meeting
Wednesday	July 13, 2022	Stated Meeting
Saturday	July 16, 2022	Captains Game
Friday	July 22, 2022	Stated Meeting

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

