



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 15, Issue 1

Second and Fourth Fridays

January / February, 2019

Acacia Lodge – Celebrating 100 years

"Invest" --- Grand Masters Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2018 – 2019

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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

- Jan. 11 Stated Meeting – MM Practice
- Jan. 18 Deadline for donations – see article regarding Andy's 9ers baseball team
- Jan 19 District Leadership Mtg. – 9 – noon – Parkside Lodge
- Jan. 25 Stated Meeting – MM Practice
- Jan. 27 Type Written Ritual – Euclid Masonic Temple – See Article
- Feb. 8 Stated Meeting – Inspection in the MM Degree
- Feb. 22 Stated Meeting – Washington's Birthday
- Feb. 23 Education Summit – Euclid Masonic Temple

From The East



Greetings from the East.

I hope this edition of our news letter meets you well. So much has happened this past year. The lodge had to say goodbye to a number of good men as they moved on from one station of life to the next, and we also bid our final fair wells to beloved Brothers and their family members. As we reflected and struggled at first to fill in the ranks of which the absents of such hard working masons and significant loved ones, was not something that would be easy to overcome. It is through the determination of the human spirit that we find the strength to carry on. My sincerest condolences go out to all the brethren who have traveled on to the Celestial Lodge above and to all those Brothers who have lost someone close to their heart. In retrospect it's a celebration of life when we think back to fonder days.

I am very pleased to say that the lodge still had much to celebrate and we all received decorations from our Past Grand Master Eric M. Shau in recognition of our efforts and contributions to the Special Olympics. The extra efforts from our dedicated core of officers as well as our regularly attending members lead to our timely recovery from our recent membership losses. These efforts did not go unnoticed, and we were also awarded most improved lodge in the 22nd District by the Grand Lodge of Ohio and presented by our resident DDGM RWB Gregory Kita.

Acacia Lodge's Masonic year had many highlights and we rallied through to the end, hosting one of the most favorably attended Awards Night and Annual Installation of Officers that I can recall in my infant Masonic experience. We did very well in honoring our distinguished membership and lent the proper love and respect to our officers, awardees, and their families.

We have been challenged by our DDGM to improve our LEO program and the challenge was accepted. This being our 100th anniversary gave rise to an appropriate LEO program topic which will concentrate on the history of the lodges that lead to our current subordinate lodge, that of Acacia Lodge #651. What better way to prepare for the honor of our 100th Reconsecration, the details of which are still being sorted.

We have much to look forward to this coming year. We still need capable men to continue our work, visit regularly, share their thoughts, and help continue to keep this lodge strong. It is always the right time to do the right thing.

As always, I look forward to seeing you and I invite you to stand with me between the pillars.

Happy New Year!

WM Timothy P Gallagher

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.



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
James R. Federer	November 5, 2018
Robert E. Youngblood	October 27, 2015
Nicholas Tome	July 17, 2016
Eric Rohde	November 5, 2018

They rest from their labors

Masonic Information

Masonry is practiced worldwide. There are over 2 million Masons in North America and nearly 5 million worldwide.

Freemasonry has no single spokesman; Freemasonry is made up of many individuals in numerous organizations, all subordinate to the Grand Lodge within their jurisdiction (i.e. state). None of these members or organizations can speak for Freemasonry; that is the responsibility of each Grand Lodge within its jurisdiction.

Freemasonry is made up of many organizations Masonry has many groups, each with a special social, educational, or philanthropic focus. A man becomes a Mason in his local Lodge. Then he can join any of the following Appendant Bodies; the Scottish Rite, York Rite (which includes the Royal Arch, Council and Knights Templar), Shrine, Grotto, Tall Cedars, etc.

14 U. S. Presidents were Masons: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Teddy Roosevelt, William Taft, Warren Harding, F. D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence 8 were Freemasons.

Of the 55 members of the Constitutional Convention, 9 were Masons.

Brother Benjamin Franklin obtained finances and guns for the American Revolution from leading French Masons and the French government.

Major General Benjamin Lincoln of Revolutionary War fame, who received the sword of Cornwallis at the surrender of Yorktown, was initiated on Christmas Day, 1780, in St. Andrew Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts.

The American flag was ordered made by Brother George Washington. It was sewn by Betsy Ross, whose husband was a member of St. John Lodge, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Out of fifty-one Grand Lodge jurisdictions in the United States, twenty-seven have eighteen years old as their minimum age requirement to become a Mason. Six have nineteen years old and eighteen have twenty-one years old as their minimum age requirement.

Most people are aware of the fact that the Statue of Liberty was a gift of the French people after their own republic came into existence. However, many are not aware that there is a Masonic link to the statue. Frederic Bartholdi, a Mason, designed it and the Grand Lodge laid the cornerstone of its base with Masonic Ritual.

Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., a member of Clear Lake Lodge # 1417 in Texas, when he stepped onto the surface of the moon, carried a special deputation from his Grand Master to claim the moon as being in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Other astronauts who were Masons include John Glenn.

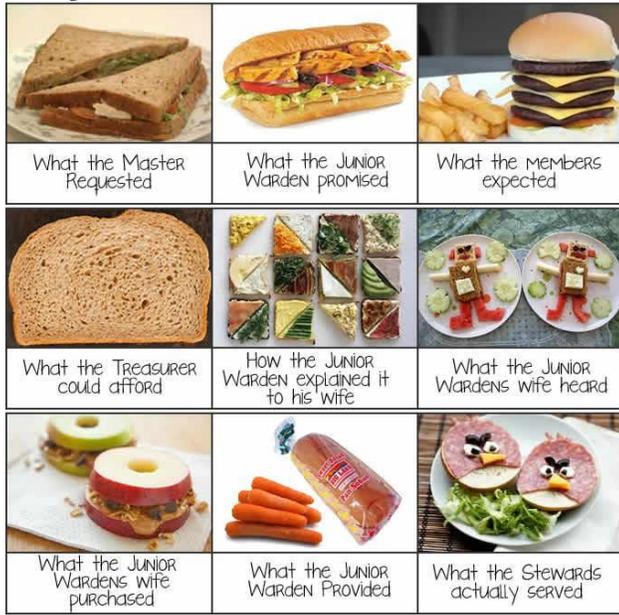
Fraternally,

WB Don Ritchie



WB Russ Toll celebrating 89 years of life helped install WB Emerson Key as Master of East Gate lodge. WB Mark Novak assisted and Errol Savage watched the evening's events.

The Ancient and Accepted Mysteries of the Masonic Feast



Typewritten Ritual

On Jan. 27th the 22nd Masonic District will hold an unusual Typewritten Ritual event at Euclid Masonic Temple hosted by Collinwood Lodge #582 and Acacia Lodge #651. A light refreshment will be served before the 2:00 p.m. start of the reading of the Entered Apprentice degree Opening and Closing, First Section of the EA degree including circumambulation followed by Q & A of the lecture and charge. After the EA degree we will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall for dinner. We will then reconvene in the lodge room for the reading of the Master Mason degree Opening and Closing, First and Second Section of the MM degree including circumambulation and walking parts followed by Q & A of the lecture and charge. Additional details will be posted on the District Website.

ZEN TEACHINGS

*Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead.
Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow.
Do not walk beside me for the path is narrow.
In fact, just leave me alone.*

Awards Night at Acacia Lodge

Awards Night was held on November 16th where Wor. Bro. Dave Ponsart received his 35 year award. And, Wor. Bro. Don Ritchie and Wor. Bro. James Cogan received their 40 year awards.

The service awards for fifty years and above were presented by Rt. Wor. Bro. Greg Kita, DDGM of the 22 Masonic District with the assistance of Wor. Bro. Tim Gallagher, DEO and our Wor. Master Tim Gallagher.



Wor. Bro. Delmas Schock received his 50 year pin from his lovely wife.



Rt. Wor. Bro. Robert J. Hibjan received his 50 year certificate from Rt. Wor. Bro. Kita, his wife, Kathy, and family look on.



Bro. Joe Jambor received his award from RWB Kita with his family providing support.

Bro John Chrien receives his 75 year award.



You probably can't tell in the group photo, but Bro John Chrien, raised in 1943, slowly come back to life as we all took turns introducing ourselves and engaging him in conversation. Wor. Master Galligher lead the introduction, WB Bill Fletcher followed and went around the room one by one. RWB William Carter was situated just right to present the 75 Year Award and adorned his lapel with GM Jess Raine's Grand Lodge 2018 Invest pin. RWB Greg Kita took a knee to congratulate him and have his son David place the 75 Year Award pin just below the GM pin. The Wor. Master concluded by placing our Acacia Lodge pin just below the other two, and they all made him look very decorated like the hero he is.

His son David was a nationally ranked figure skater and told his father's story for us on his behalf. Among all the great things our brother did, son David told us a brief story about how Bro Chrien's brother was a published physicist, and it was my understanding that he was part of the Nuclear Regulatory Committee in the 1950s.

Bro Chrien wasn't able to speak. He was lucid enough at the end that we were able to shake his hand and hear him try to thank us. It's not often we get to experience such an awakening.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN SAID TO THE PSALMIST

TELL me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream ! —
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real ! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal ;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way ;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle !
Be a hero in the strife !

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant !
Let the dead Past bury its dead !
Act, — act in the living Present !
Heart within, and God o'erhead !

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time ;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate ;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Acacia Lodg Christmas Party - 2018

On Saturday, December 15th we celebrated our 100th Christmas Party at Euclid Masonic Temple. This year the Flower Clown provided entertainment for the children in the dining room.



Rick Smith Jr., the magician worked the dining room



Also, providing entertainment in the lodge room.



The finale was a visit from Santa.



How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

Lodge Education

My name is David Ponsart, and I am excited to take on the role as the Lodge Education Officer. Since this is the 100th year anniversary of Acacia Lodge #651, it provides us with a great opportunity to study the historical side of our great lodge. Acacia Lodge is great, and it has some rich history that we should be proud to tell the younger generations. That being said, I will need the help of several brothers! I need these brothers to help research our history and present this information at our meetings starting in January 2019 and throughout this Masonic year.

Also, I need the help of several brothers with the following project. We will present the future of Masonry in Ohio with the assistance of the new and innovative programs that the Grand Lodge of Ohio has developed for local lodges and new candidates. That being said, I need several brothers to volunteer to become candidate councilors and mentors. This is going to be an exciting and interesting year for our lodge, so I hope to see you at our 2019 meetings and events!

Let's get this year started!

Challenge #1:

Acacia lodge #651 is the result of the merger of 10 lodges that came together over the years. The latest merger occurred on July 30, 2013. Silver Cord Lodge #651 met in a lodge room above the Standard Drug Store on the corner of St. Clair and East 105th. Can you name the ten lodges that have come together to form our lodge that we love and know today as Acacia lodge? Come out to our first meeting in January to see if you're correct!

Fraternally,

Dave Ponsart, LEO

Your Help is Needed!

Brethren,

Brother Aries Crossley's 12 year old son, Cameron, is a member of the 2019 Andy's 9ers baseball team. This team has been invited to attend the national playoffs for the 12U group that includes teams from all around the United States and US Territories. Cameron's team plays out of Mayfield, Ohio and

will be playing in the nationals in Cooperstown, NY, next summer.

Acacia Lodge would like to support Brother Crossley and his son by purchasing a sponsorship for this team. The lodge has agreed to match any donations that our brethren can contribute. We will need you donation made out to "Acacia Lodge #651" with "Andy's 9ers" in the memo section. The deadline for your contribution is January 18, 2019.

The sponsorships that Acacia Lodge can purchase are grouped into three levels:

\$500 – "Base Hit" that includes logo on Team Banner, logo on Team website, Sponsor website link on A9 team website and A9 custom team hat

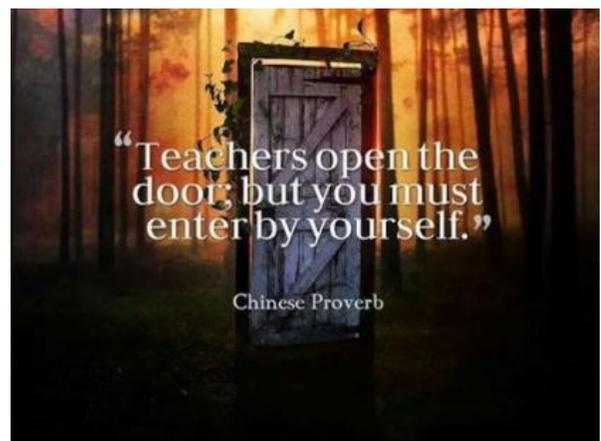
\$1,000 – "Home Run" that includes logo on team tent, logo on Team Banner, logo on Team website, Sponsor website link on A9 team website and A9 custom team hat

\$2,000 – "Grand Slam" that includes logo on jersey, logo on team tent, logo on Team Banner, logo on Team website, Sponsor website link on A9 team website and A9 custom team hat

Your donations and Acacia's match will support a worthy youth group and spread our light in masonry.

These donations have to be received on or before **January 18' 2019**. Please send your donation to Acacia Lodge, 6130 Thistlewood Drive, Mentor, Ohio, 44060.

Remember Acacia Lodge will match your donation.



Ancient Freemasonry's Lessons for Today (The Past Master Lecture)

Freemasonry as known to our ancient Brethren was a series of moral lessons conveyed by secret ritual, miracle plays, dramas, music, ceremonies and symbolism. These lessons were taught in spare time, on church and civil holidays, and in the evenings.

Ancient Lodges consisted of groups of men working on the erection of great buildings. They not only designed and supervised the construction, but they also educated young men in the arts, sciences, and morals. Those who were so educated became great masters of engineering and architecture, and their designs, many still standing, have won the admiration of every age.

A modern version of this system would be found in our colleges of Architecture and Engineering, not in those who erect the buildings. Think of our ancient brethren as students looking for a thorough education in the arts and sciences and think of the Masters of the Lodges as their teachers.

The system of education used by our ancient Brethren was called the apprentice system. Young men of good character were entered in the Lodges as apprentices under the guidance of a Master known to be a good leader and teacher.

The Master was not only responsible for the technical training of his apprentices, but was also responsible for their moral and spiritual development. This phase of education, developed in the ancient Lodges in a long and complicated system of lessons dealing with religion, history, and morality, is the part of their educational system that has been passed on to us and is what we now refer to as "Speculative Freemasonry".

As the young apprentices developed their abilities the more ambitious aspired to positions of leadership, much as young men do today. They then became candidates for the position of Master. To achieve this they studied and trained themselves, and in order to advance they presented a piece of work of their own design completed under their own direction. This became known as their Master Piece. If it was accepted by the other Masters, and if their knowledge proved satisfactory, they were accepted as Masters, and when elected by the other Masters were allowed to preside over Lodges.

Among our ancient brethren the stonemason, who was not proficient in the lessons of architecture and engineering, was not allowed to learn the secret moral lessons of our Order, which distinguish it from other orders and have caused it to endure through the ages. Such Masons only worked in dry masonry, constructed without mortar. They were known as Cowans and never joined the Lodge. Men who have no sense of social duty, who have not learned to cement society with love, and who have no love for their fellow man can never understand Freemasonry.

We are the builders of spiritual edifices. During the course of our Masonic journey we will learn from those who have gone before us, and now will use that knowledge to make our world and ourselves a better place. Let us live our lives both privately and publicly in a manner that will inspire others, and let us realize that Freemasonry is a power today as in the past to build lofty character, to ennoble the mind, to purify the soul- in fact, to cause every man to travel the level of time upright and erect before God and our fellow man.

The above was taken from the Grand Lodge of Ohio website – Education Programs.

WHY?

Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

BECAUSE

In earlier times it used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

WHY?

Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

BECAUSE

Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

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.

January 11, 2019	Stated Meeting – MM Practice
January 19, 2019	District Leadership Meeting – 9 a.m. to Noon – Parkside Lodge
January 25, 2019	Stated Meeting – MM Practice
January 27, 2019	Type Written Ritual – Euclid Masonic Temple – See Article
February 8, 2019	Stated Meeting – Inspection in the Master Mason Degree
February 22, 2019	Stated Meeting – Washington’s Birthday
February 23, 2019	Education Summit at Euclid Masonic Temple
March 8, 2019	Stated Meeting – Entered Apprentice Practice
March 22, 2019	Stated Meeting – Entered Apprentice Degree

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060

