



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 6, Issue 2

Second and Fourth Fridays

March / April, 2009

"REACH" --- Grand Masters Program

From The East



On February 27, 2009, we were inspected in the Entered Apprentice Degree. While the inspection went well I was disappointed with dinner attendance.

There will only be a few more occasions to enjoy a meal with your Brethren. As of now there are a few dates you may want to put in your calendar.

On May 8, 2009 we are planning a "Mother's Day Dinner" I will need reservations, with payment no later than April 25th, at \$10.00 per person - Menu to be announced.

On the night of May 22, we will have a "Chili cook off". At 6:30 we will gather in the dining room and sample the member and officers "best efforts" at making Chili, and a winner will be "crowned". After "dinner" we will retire to the Lodge room, where our D.D.G.M. will present the Grand Masters' program.

On June 12, 2009 we will be hosting a Table Lodge. At 7:30 we will be opening a Lodge of Entered Apprentices' in the dining room. This is an interesting ceremony, and if you have never attend a Table Lodge, you should try and Join us, I am still deciding on a menu for this evening also, maybe a spaghetti dinner, but that is still in the planning stage.

For the summer we are planning the annual Golf outing, as well as a family picnic.

The first meeting back, in September there is a "Friendship Night" in the planning, but this is up to the membership, if you don't have a friend or two you would like to invite, there is not any real reason to plan this, PLEASE let me know your thoughts, as this is YOUR Lodge

Don Ritchie

Worshipful Master

From the West



Hello Brethren,

What a winter 2008-2009!! As I am writing, it is again Blowing, Snowing and Cold. I am ready for a short trip South. So I am flying to Florida in March and will visit Family and Friends. If I visit with any of the 110,000 Ohio Masons while I am there, I will report on them in my next Sprig of Acacia article. The older I get the better the idea of getting away for the winter months and enjoy some golf and fishing. I am beginning to think the Ohio Snow Birds have the right idea.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, our Lodge Inspection should be history. From what I experienced at our February 13, 2009 EA rehearsal, we should be in good condition.

If you read and remember the last Lodge Newsletter I spoke on considering an annual contribution to Acacia Lodge over and above Annual Dues. I would like to recapitulate.

"January will bring a new year and hope to all for a turn-around to prosperity. Along with many of you this year, our lodge finances have also been hurt and I hope we can continue to offer the same kind of quality programs and meals as in past years. If by chance you have been blessed with good fortune and need to share with someone on your holiday list, Acacia Lodge would welcome your thoughtful financial gift to our lodge charities or lodge operating expenses. Please consider one or both. Remember, many of you are Endowed Members because of an anonymous brother who generously left us the funds to make you such, whereby your dues are paid each year by the plan in perpetuity. Please consider a contribution of \$25, \$50 or \$100.00 donation each year or set up an Estate Planning donation in your personal Will, to Acacia Lodge #651 F&AM, if your finances permit." Brothers, thank you for generous consideration and we hope to hear from you soon.

Ohio Grand Master Charles R. Murphy has ordered that all Ohio Lodges participate in a State Wide Open House scheduled for Saturday March 21, 2009, where Non-Masons and Family are invited to attend and learn about

Freemasonry. I am pleased to report that Acacia Lodge #651 along with Collinwood Lodge #582 and Raymer-Covenant Lodge #683 will combine efforts and host the Open House at the Euclid Masonic Temple on Tungsten Road from 1-4PM. Mt. Olive Chapter #189, Royal Arch Masons; Euclid Masonic Temple High Twelve Club; Nottingham Chapter #269, Order of Eastern Star; and Euclid Assembly #83, International Order of Rainbow for Girls will also support and host this event for our area. If you have a Friend, Co-Worker or Family member that you would like to sponsor into the Fraternity, Invite and bring them to the Masonic State Wide Open House on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Tell that special person, "You would make a good MASON". You'll be glad you did.

Don't Forget, Acacia lodge meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month, with the exception of July and August. We would enjoy seeing you again.

Robert J. Hibjan, SW
 E-Mail: rhib@sbcglobal.net
 Let me know how you are doing.

Secretary's Corner



We need your help in keeping our member database current. Please remember to tell us when you move. Contact me by phone (440) 257-6964, snail mail or email

coganj@sbcglobal.net

Your Lodge Secretary, James R. Cogan, P.M.



In Memorium

Brother

Bro. William A. Hann
 Bro. Wilbert W. Kless

Passed

01-10-2009
 01-29-2009

They rest from their labors.

Masonic Funeral

The Masonic funeral is an event wherein the lodge can show the public about our fraternal bonds with the departed brother. The funeral can only be performed upon the request of the family. Our Masonic brethren must make their wishes known to their family and friends. Don't miss this opportunity for our lodge to pay our departed brethren the respect they are due. The Grand Lodge of Ohio provides a form to assist in this matter. The Masonic Last Rites Request form can be found on the Grand Lodge website, <http://www.freemason.com/html/forms.php>, or you can

contact your lodge secretary, 440-257-6964 and he will see that a form is mailed to you.

Grand Masters Class!

On June 13, 2009 the Grand Master will have a one day class for all individuals considering becoming masons. throughout the state of Ohio. This class will allow perspective masons to receive all three degrees in one day. This is an option that can be offered to Acacia Lodge candidates, but it is the candidate's responsibility to indicate whether or not they wish to attend a one day class or receive their degrees in their own lodge.

Also, we have an opportunity to contact some of our members who have started on their Masonic journey and for any number of reasons, have not been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. They will be offered an opportunity to continue their journey in our lodge or attend the grand masters one day class

If a candidate who wishes to attend the one day class, they will still have to complete a petition, the petition has to be read in lodge, the candidate has to be investigated, the petition has to be voted on and unanimously by our lodge. Therefore, it's imperative that any individual wishing to attend this one day class has to get their petition to our lodge, as soon as possible

The grand master of the state of Ohio has issued an edict that will allow lodges throughout the state to vote on petitions at special meetings prior to the one day class.

Any member who attends this one day class will also be invited to a dinner along with their family on the evening of the 13th this will allow the master and whoever he chooses to attend this dinner to talk to the family about freemasonry. Welcoming them into our fraternity and answer whatever additional questions they may have regarding this great fraternity.

Should you know of an individual who would like to become a Mason please contact James Cogan at 440 257 6964 or email him at Coganj@sbcglobal.net for a petition.

A Warm Masonic Tale

A tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings.

One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: "I can tell you more bout Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books.

Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire ."

They did that.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him."

They did that, too.

"Now, what do you See looking ahead?"

"The face of a brother through the flames."

"What do you Feel in front of you?"

"The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night."

"What do you Feel at your side?"

"The warm hand of a brother."

"OK. Now drop the hands, and turn around."

They do so.

"Now what do you See, looking ahead?"

"Complete darkness."

"What do you Feel, looking ahead?"

"A sense of loneliness, of being alienated".

"What do you Feel at your side?"

"Nothing at all."

"What do you Feel on your backside?"

"The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man.

"In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother.

When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you."

Author Unknown

The Stewards

By Harley Johnson, Past Master

"The other day I asked the old Tyler, 'who are the men with the white Rods?' I then found out they were the helpers of the Junior Warden in his duties of watching over the Lodge during refreshment. I took that to mean giving food both of nourishment and education. I looked at the rods they carried and wondered what the emblem was on top. I asked the old Tyler and he said they were 'Cornucopias, an emblem of great abundance of the Great Architect if the Universe, showing that learning will always lead to more and never end:'

"I began to wonder of what he was talking about, so I asked, and was told 'It means learning will not end, it only leads to more questions that you will want to answer.' Also, 'in old mythology it was a goats horn overflowing with produce that was used to symbolize plenty or prosperity.' He also reminded me of who I first say when entering the Lodge the first time making certain I was prepared to become a Mason and Lodge member.

"It was then I saw the other men and where they were seated and asked why. He then told me, 'it was time for refreshment;

a time to visit with others and that he would answer more questions, as best he could, at the next meeting'

"You can be sure I will be there."

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.

Newsletter Editor and Information

Editor: James R. Cogan – 440-257-6964

Email: coganj@sbcglobal.net

Lodge Website: www.acacia651.org

If you would like to receive your Lodge Newsletter by email please send your email address to the editor.

Acacia Lodge Officers

2008 – 2009

W. M. - Don Ritchie, P.M., 216-731-3030,
dritchie@dr.com

S. W. - Robert J. Hibjan, PDDGM, 440-248-3497,
rhjb@sbcglobal.net

J. W. - Mark Novak, 216-406-5856,
man0579@aol.com

S. D. - Ted Daly, P.M., (440) 974-1185,
tdaly@oh.rr.com

J. D. - Jeffrey W. Heston, (216) 289-9674,
deeworld42@yahoo.com

S. S. - John Wood, 216-341-3673

J. S. - Tonie Willoughby, (440) 842-4223,
toniew@cox.net

Tyler - Michael Turjanica, 440-442-1371

Secretary - James R. Cogan, P.M., 440-257-6964,
coganj@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - N. Allen Paynter, P.M., 216-381-0614,
mrclean274@aol.com

Chaplain - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426,
tomedalyjr@netzero.net

L.E.O. - Craig A. Niederriter, 440-884-1367,
lowhorseman@aol.com

Marshall - Steven K. Gregory

Lecture Dir. - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426,
tomedalyjr@netzero.net

TRESTLE-BOARD

- Mar. 21 Lodge Open House – See above article.
- Mar. 27 Stated Meeting – starting at 7:30 PM
- Apr. 10 Stated Meeting – starting at 7:30 PM
- Apr. 24 Stated Meeting – starting at 7:30 PM
- May 8 Mothers Day Program - Dinner 6:30 p.m. \$10.00 per person, reservations required contact James Cogan, 440-257-6964.
- May 22 Stated Meeting – Chili cook off?. At 6:30 and the DDGM Program at 7:30 PM
- Jun 13 Grand Masters Class – See Article

Special Dates:

- Mar 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- April 10 Good Friday
- April 12 Easter Sunday
- May 10 Mother’s Day
- May 16 Armed Forces Day
- May 25 Memorial Day

New Candidates are needed and welcome – help us make a good man better

The Tenets of Freemasonry: Mere Words or Good Guidelines?

By: L.C. Addison II

Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth, what fine and lofty words indeed! These are the principal tenets of our wonderful institution. They form the foundation on

which our Masonic lives are founded. So let's examine what these words mean.

Brotherly Love is a combination of the philos, which means love (or philia) and adelphos, which means brother. It refers to the type of bond that we may experience with a family member or close friend. It denotes more than just a superficial relationship but rather one of deep compassion, affection and understanding. To have Brotherly Love for someone means that we truly care about and value that individual as we would a member of our own family.

Relief can be defined as a removal or lightening of something oppressive, painful, or distressing. A synonym would be welfare. It refers to [our] genuine care in our Brother's welfare. For to be able to lift a burden from a Brother's shoulders or have one lifted from our own, would indeed a joyous thing and strengthen our bond with each other.

Truth, ah what a word! Truth is derived from the old English word "trēowth" which means fidelity and taken closely from the old English word "trēowe" which means faithful. It can be defined as sincerity in action, character, and utterance and the fidelity of a standard. It is a reminder that our words, actions & character should be one of integrity. They should embody the highest standards of morality and the image of our Creator.

Yet, while it is nice to know what they mean, do we really need to use them as a guideline? In other words do we need to follow these very closely in lives, both daily & Masonic? My answer would be an emphatic, YES!! For how would we really be able to care for our Brother's family in the unfortunate event of him being indisposed to do so? Or, how could we care about our Brother's welfare if we didn't even like the man himself? Better yet, if we weren't sincere with one another in our words & actions, how would our Brother know who we really are? KNOW THY SELF; a common inscription found over the door of many ancient & some present ante room doorways, is a reminder that before we cross the threshold of Freemasonry, we must first possess these things in ourselves. Because Freemasonry doesn't endow us with these tenets, it deepens and gives us an appreciation for these qualities that we should already have in practice.

In closing, these words embody the basic and highest levels of humanity: They exude the qualities that our Creator implanted in us for most beneficent purposes, and that is why they form the principle guidelines of our wonderful institution of Freemasonry.

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060

