



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 7, Issue 3

Second and Fourth Fridays

May / June, 2010

"Freemasonry – It's all in the Family" --- Grand Masters Program

From The East



The weather is changing and becoming really nice outside as many of Acacia Lodge snowbirds are returning to their Ohio home from the winter months. Come and visit your Brothers at Lodge.

The Lodge Bowling Party held on March 5th turned into a great success. Brother Arnie Smith was our Adult Big Bowler and his son for the Young Bowlers. Prizes were given out for colored head pin strikes and top scores. The food was plentiful and all had a great time.

The Annual Inspection of Acacia Lodge was held on March 26th and was attended by more than 80 Master Masons. More than (60) attended the dinner before the 2nd Section of the Master Mason degree. Included in the total count, we were pleased to receive eleven (11) Acacia Lodge Past Master's. The Lodge Officers did a great job and a very good report was sent to us from our District Deputy Grand Master, RWB Mitchell L. Alperin and a very good report from our District Education Officer, WB Henry Mankowski. Good job Bro. Craig Niederriter. We also were delighted to receive into our Lodge, 14 Master Mason's from Doric Lodge #630 from the Great State of Pennsylvania. Many Thanks to Bro. Robb Bartholomew as my Lodge Ambassador in scheduling their visit at our Annual Inspection. Dates are being discussed to visit Doric Lodge #630 in Pennsylvania to witness the Master Mason Degree, sometime in September. If you would be interested in attending, please call me at 440-248-3497 or WB James Cogan at 440-257-6964. My e-mail address is rhib@sbcglobal.net and Jim's at coganj@sbcglobal.net. In order for us to have a great group of Master Masons attend from Ohio, please let either Jim or I know if a week day would be good, like a Thursday, or if you could only attend Friday or Saturday.

Our Lodge's 90th Anniversary Dinner/Dance was held on Saturday April 10th at Sterles Slovenian Country House restaurant and attended by 60 plus members, friends and family. WB James Cogan served as Master of Ceremonies and Kathy Hibjan as my Lodge Ambassador. I was informed by many that the food was great, the program very informative and the music and entertainment topped off the evening. Also many Thanks to RWB James C. Matilo, the dean of our Past Master's, for a history lesson on the Lodges combined to form Acacia Lodge #651 and the various locations we called our Masonic meeting home.

I reported in the last edition of the Sprig of Acacia, that we were trying to purchase a new Piano. I wrote to the other Masonic Bodies in the Euclid Masonic Temple and only received a verbal reply from Collinwood Lodge #582. I am disappointed in the lack of response I received, and it looks like we might have to go ahead on our own to purchase a new piano for our musical enjoyment. In addition to our last reported piano fund contributors is WB Del McLaughlin, by donating (2) Grave Sites at Acacia Park Cemetery. The proceeds of the sale of these sites will be entered into the Piano Fund. If you or someone you know would be interested in purchasing either of these grave sites, please call WB James Cogan at 440-257-6964.

Brother Craig Niederriter and WB Robert Roffe have informed me "A Salute to our Armed Forces" evening is planned for Friday May 14, 2010 and is expected to be a great evening to recognize and salute our Military Active Members and Veterans. A Flyer has been developed and should be part of this mailing for your consideration. If you are a veteran and are planning to attend the dinner and program, please call or E-Mail your reservations soon. This is an open affair to all family and friends, especially if you are serving or have served in any branch of the Armed Forces. Reception and seating will commence at 18:30 hours (6:30pm)

with dinner served promptly at 19:00 hours, (7:00pm). Price for this home made dinner is only \$8.00 each. RSVP is requested by May 7, 2010. Call or E-mail your reservation to Bro. Craig Niederriter, 440-884-1376, niederriterc@aol.com; WB James Cogan, 440-257-6964, coganj@sbcglobal.net; or WB Robert Roffe 440-760-4031, febes1@adelphia.net. A short program will follow dinner and music will be provided for the evening.

Our District Education Officer of the 22nd Masonic District, WB Henry G. Mankowski, will present a program called "Are you smarter than an Entered Apprentice" on Friday evening June 11, 2010. Please come to Lodge on this night and help us play and win the game.

Friendship Night is scheduled for June 18, 2010. Bring a non-mason to this program presented by Brother Chad Simpson, Director of Program Development for the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm with program starting at 7:00pm in the Lodge room. We will open a Lodge of Master Mason's at 5:30pm, conduct our business and close lodge in order to join our guests. This is the first of two notices on our Stated Meeting starting time.

Acacia Lodge has scheduled a Table Lodge, June 25, 2010 and confer a Entered Apprentice Degree on a new petitioner beginning at 5:00pm. Dinner will start at 6:15pm for the little price of \$8.00. After dinner in the dining hall we will commence with the Table Lodge, an Old Time Masonic Tradition, such as the "Feasts of the Holy Sts John" is one of the noble old traditions of our Craft. The Seven Toasts, singing together, and sharing the old tradition will make it for a most enjoyable evening. Our main speaker will be WB Tim Daley who will speak on Mason's during the Civil War. Tim is curator of the Masonic Library at 3615 Euclid Ave. and Director of the Soldiers and Sailors monument on Public Square. Tim has a great deal of knowledge of Military History. If you have never attended a Masonic Table Lodge you are in for a treat if you attend June 25, 2010 at the Euclid Masonic Temple in Euclid, Ohio. Call your reservation in now. We will only sell 64 tickets and prepayment of dinner tickets are mandatory. An early sell-out of this event is predicted so, call in or E-mail your reservation followed by your payment

to WB James Cogan. Send your check to James R. Cogan, 6130 Thistlewood Dr., Mentor, Ohio 44060. We will not consider your attendance until we receive your dinner ticket payment. You may also purchase your ticket at one of our prior meetings.

Summer events to bring your Family and Friends to is:

July 17, 2010 Summer Picnic at Pioneer Water Park in Chardon, Ohio. Only \$8.00 each

August 14, 2010 Annual Acacia Lodge 9 hole Golf Outing. Free Lunch. You pay only for golf. We will try to book Green Ridge Golf Course once again. Liquid refreshment around the Course with performance awards and Free Lunch.

As you can see, we have an aggressive agenda set up for YOU. We have a number of new petitions and more degree work. Please come out and help your officers.

The Grand Masters One Day Class was a huge success on Sunday April 18, 2010. We now have 5 more new Master Mason's of Acacia Lodge because of it. Grateful THANKS AND CUDO'S to WB Robert Roffe and WB James Cogan for their organizational abilities and full support in taking over the responsibilities of this all day affair. Thank you to our Officers and Cast for their outstanding performance in the Master Mason Degree which we were responsible in performing. All three degrees were conferred by 7 Lodges participating in the One Day Class. They are; Acacia Lodge #651; Forest City Lodge #388; University Heights Lodge #738; Solon Lodge #757; Golden Gate Lodge #245; Heights-Lion Heart Lodge #633 & Collinwood Lodge #582. Congratulations to everyone for a job WELL DONE.

That's all for now.
Hope to see you in Lodge
Fraternally,
Robert J. Hibjan, WM

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.

Cuyahoga County Memorial Lodge

For many years it was apparent that there was a need for a Lodge in Cleveland, Ohio, to conduct funeral services for sojourning Masons. The local Lodges often performed the services. Many times this was an imposition to them, because the request from the family for a Masonic Service would reach the Board of Relief only the day before. It would take many hours of telephoning to find a Lodge that would be able to perform the service and assemble the needed brethren. Because of this, the Board of Relief, after many meetings, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Ohio for a charter for a Memorial Lodge.

At the Grand Lodge Communication, October, 1953, held in Cincinnati, they adopted a resolution granting permission to establish a Memorial Lodge in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The Lodge will not conduct degree work. Its sole function is to provide Masonic Funeral Services for Masons in "Good Standing", holding membership in Lodges outside of Cuyahoga and adjacent counties. The Grand Lodge of Ohio also stipulated that all members of the Memorial Lodge will be appointed by the Grand Master annually.

Members of Masonic Lodges may join the Memorial Lodge without demitting from their Lodge. Funeral Service used by the Memorial Lodge was thoughtfully and carefully prepared especially for the Memorial Lodge only, and is to be rendered in a dignified and creditable manner. A notice of each funeral will be printed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, to notify Masons that a Masonic Funeral is to be held along with the location and time. All expenses associated with the notifications and presentation of each Masonic Service will be assumed by the members of the, Cuyahoga County Memorial Lodge. It was hoped to secure at least, ten members from each Cuyahoga County Lodge, which would be almost 800 Masons. There is never a charge for a Masonic Funeral Service, to the family.

The Memorial Lodge is required to report each funeral and election of officers to the Grand Lodge of Ohio. A report is also required to be sent to the Cuyahoga County Blue Lodge Association.

The Memorial Lodge meets at 3615 Euclid Ave. Further information about current meeting dates, times and line officers, can be found in the 22nd Masonic district's directory or the 22nd District website, www.ohiodistrict22.org. Current membership dues are \$3.00 per year or \$30.00 for a Life Membership. Please contact William J. Rohlke, 440-353-3526, for additional information.

For more Information about Acacia Lodge 651 visit our web site at www.acacia651.org

A Salute to our Armed Forces



Please join Acacia Lodge 651 in a Coat-n-Tie banquet honoring members of the Armed Forces serving on Active Duty, or in National Guard and Reserve Forces.

Friday, May 14th, 2010

Reception and seating to began at 6:30 PM.

Dinner served at 7 PM

Choice of Baked Steak or Chicken Breast in a cream sauce.

A short program and dancing will follow.

At the Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid, Ohio 44132.

Service members please wear your "Class A" uniform Veterans are invited to wear their veteran's association hat. (Such as American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc).

A free-will donation will be collected to support the USO's fund raising efforts for the "Wounded Warrior Program"

If you know of a serviceman you'd like to have invited please call Bro Niederriter.

Tickets are \$8.00.

RSVP by May 7th to:

(Please give your choice of Steak or Chicken)

Brother Craig Niederriter 440- 884 1376

niederriterc@aol.com

Worshipful Brother Jim Cogani 440-257 6964

coganj@sbcglobal.net

Worshipful Brother Bob Roffe 440-760 4031

febes1@adelphia.net

From the West



Brethren,

The view from the West during the outset of RW Bro. Robert Hibjan's year as Master has been a busy one. Most importantly, we have been fortunate to initiate several new brethren—the lifeblood of the future of our Lodge. We have done it the traditional way, one Degree at a time over three months, and the "new" way as well, at the Grand Master's One Day Class on Sunday, April 18 at the Lyndhurst Masonic Center. There, we

worked with Forest City Lodge #388 and University Heights Lodge #738, and four other Lodges to put on three Degrees in one afternoon. New brothers Daniel and Nick Borelli (father and son!) even got to experience initiation both ways—I had the honor of conferring the E.A. degree on both Borellis at our first meeting in April. They were then (re)-initiated, passed, and raised on April 18 along with several other new brethren. (And speaking of fathers and sons, two other new brethren, Tony Niederitter and Michael Paynter are of course the sons of two of our most active brethren Craig Niederitter and Alan Paynter, respectively). It is always good to see Masonry extend from one generation to the next, especially this term.

Outside the Lodge room, RW Bro. Hibjan has kept our calendar full with several social events. I saw many of you reading this, I am sure, at the Maple Heights Lanes way back in March for Bowling Night. We also filled an entire banquet room at Sterle’s Country Home to celebrate our 90th anniversary as a Lodge. With family-style food and drink, no one went away hungry or unhappy. It was especially good to hear RW Bro. James Matillo, the Dean of our Past Masters, recount the proud heritage of Acacia’s five ancestor Lodges. If you missed either or both of these events, don’t worry because Acacia’s social calendar remains full going forward, through June and beyond. Traditionally, we refer to July and August as our “dark” months because we don’t have any Stated Meetings. It will be hard to call this upcoming summer dark, though, as we have a Golf Outing and Water Park outing scheduled, among other things. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

I would be remiss if I also did not mention our Inspection, which was one of the busiest (and most crowded) events I’ve seen during my five short years at Acacia. In between the three sections of the Master Mason degree, a steak dinner, and the introduction of several past and present Grand Lodge officers, we had the pleasure of visiting with 14 brethren from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Thanks to all those who made the trip up to Acacia by bus and special thanks to Bro. Rob Bartholomew for arranging the visit. We look forward to visiting Pennsylvania in the near future.

I want to close this Article with thoughts and prayers for our Worshipful Master and his family.

RW Bro. Hibjan has planned a year’s worth of events in the past four months and has contributed his time and energy towards making this an excellent Masonic year. We wish him a speedy recovery and are looking forward to seeing him in the East again.

Fraternally,

Bro. Mark Novak

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.

Acacia Lodge Officers

2009 – 2010

- W. M.** - Robert J. Hibjan, PDDGM, 440-248-3497, rhib@sbcglobal.net
 - S. W.** - Mark Novak, 216-406-5856, man0579@aol.com
 - J. W.** - Ted Daly, P.M., 440-974-1185, tdaly@oh.rr.com
 - S. D.** - Jeffrey W. Heston, 216-289-9674, deeworld42@yahoo.com
 - J. D.** - John Wood, 216-341-3673
 - S. S.** - Tonie Willoughby, 440-842-4223, toniew3@att.net
 - J. S.** - Michael Kerestesy IV, 440-392-9157,
 - Tyler** - Todd Jenkins, 216-229-1702, jenktodd23@yahoo.com
 - 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, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
 - Marshall** - Stephen K. Gregory, 440-946-0080
 - Lecture Dir.** - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426, tomedalyjr@netzero.net
-

WHY DO TOASTERS ALWAYS HAVE A SETTING THAT BURNS THE TOAST TO A HORRIBLE CRISP, WHICH NO DECENT HUMAN BEING WOULD EAT ?

TRESTLE-BOARD

All stated meeting start at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated

May 14	Stated Meeting – Armed Forces Recognition Dinner
May 28	Stated Meeting – Fellow Craft Degree
June 11	Staten Meeting – Entered Apprentice Degree
June 18	Special Friendship Night – Dinner and special program for non-Masons
June 25	Stated Meeting – Table Lodge and EA Degree.
July 17	Summer Family Picnic at Pioneer Waterland, Water Park, Chardon, OH
August 14	Acacia Golf Outing at Green Ridge Golf Course.

Special Dates:

May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 9	Mothers Day
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Fathers Day
July 4	Independence Day

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



In Memorium

Brother

Brother Robert Lupton
Brother Carl F. Pohle

They rest from their labors.

Passed

04-16-2009
12-09-2009

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.

Cool things I didn't know:

1. Q: Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?
A: 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 bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

2. Q: Did you ever wonder why dimes, quarters and half dollars have notches, while pennies and nickels do not?

A: The US Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metals. Dimes, quarters and half dollars are notched because they used to contain silver. Pennies and nickels aren't notched because the metals they contain are not valuable enough to shave.

3. Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

4. Q. Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Old Master's Wages

I met a dear old man today
Who wore a masonic pin
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges were worn and thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat,
To give the old brother his due
I said "I see you've traveled east",
He said, "I have, have you??"

I said, I have and in my day
Before the all seeing sun
I played in the rubble
With jubala, jubilo, and jubalum.

He said don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true.....
And if you've traveled as you said
You should give these things their due.

The work, the sign, the token,
The sweet masonic prayer.
The vow that you have taken
You have climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a mason are never paid in gold
But the gain comes from contentment
When you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations
For almost 50 years
It has helped me through the hardships
And the failures full of tears...

Now I'm losing my mind and body?
Death is near, but I don't despair
I've lived my life upon the level
And I'm dying on the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew
And the old man in the park today
Has changed my point of view.

To all my masonic brothers
The only secret is to care
May you live upon the level
And depart upon the square.

**WHY DO YOU HAVE TO "PUT YOUR TWO CENTS IN" ...
BUT IT'S ONLY A " PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS" ?
WHERE'S THAT EXTRA PENNY GOING TO?**

Religious One Liners

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he
is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up
and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power
behind us.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace
of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes
us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to
discourage him.

May God and His Son bless you from today on out!

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060

