



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 6, Issue 4**

**Second and Fourth Fridays**

**July / August, 2009**

**"REACH" --- Grand Masters Program**

## From The East



Cecelia and I had the pleasure of escorting RWB Terry W. Posey, Deputy Grand Master, and his lovely wife Cheryl to the 22nd Masonic District Grand Master's Reception on May 16th. A nice evening was had by the fourteen members of our Lodge and their ladies that were able to attend.

Now that our Table Lodge is "a thing of the past" and "Past Masters Night" is scheduled for the last meeting of the "season" before we go dark for July and August, we can start our planning for the Lodge Golf Outing and a Lodge Picnic. Details will be sent out when finalized.

The first meeting after our summer break, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have our second reading and vote on the changes to our By-laws and Resolutions. We will have a "Friendship Night" on September 18<sup>th</sup> (Special Meeting) where you can invite someone you think, "would make a good Mason" to join us for dinner and information on our great fraternity. Reservations are a MUST for this event, as I am planning a Wiener Schnitzel dinner, the cost will be \$6.00 per person, with the Lodge picking up the cost of all invited Non-Masonic guests.

Enjoy the Summer and sun, take a vacation, renew your internal batteries and be prepared for an active Fall.

Don Ritchie  
Worshipful Master

## **Fact of the Day**

In the Middle Ages, the belief that birds chose their mates on St. Valentine's Day led to the idea that boys and girls would do the same. Up through the early 1900's, the Ozark hill people in the U.S. thought that birds and rabbits started mating on February 14, a day for them which was not only Valentine's Day but Groundhog Day as well.

## From the West



Hello Brethren,

We are fast approaching our Lodge summer recess. No Lodge stated meetings for the months of July and August, but behind the scenes the Lodge Officers are planning for the future of Acacia Lodge. I am very pleased with the Lodge Officers that follow me and I believe the Lodge will be, for the better, in the future.

At the June 26, 2009 stated meeting of Acacia Lodge, we will discuss recommended changes, additions or deletions to some of our Lodge By-Laws and Resolutions. Since this meeting will be the first of two meetings required for change, we will review the content and read it once again on September 11, 2009 and vote for approval. Come to Lodge and hear what is planned.

The Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, RWB Terry Posey will be presenting his program for the 2010 Grand Lodge Year, to the Lodge Officers for the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Masonic Districts on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at the Chagrin Falls Masonic Center. We are anticipating that RWB Posey will be elected and installed Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, at the October 16 / 17, 2009 Grand Lodge session in Toledo, Ohio. We will keep all of you informed as to the content of his program.

With summer recess comes summer activities for our Lodge members and family. Coming up on July 25, 2009 is our Lodge 9 Hole Golf and lunch. See attached flyer. On August 21, 2009 the Cuyahoga County Blue Lodge Association is selling tickets for the Cleveland Indians versus the Seattle Mariners at Cleveland Stadium with the Grand Master of Mason's in Ohio throwing out the first pitch. See one of the Blue Lodge Association Officers, Current District Deputy Grand Masters or me for tickets.

Ticket price is \$15.00 each. Make this event a Family Outing and order now for great seats.

We have a piano in the Dining room in need of repair. This piano is used for musical entertainment for our dinners, table lodge and other activities. The cost to repair or replace some internal parts is estimated at \$200.00 - \$400.00. Can you help the Lodge with a donation to repair our piano? \$25, \$50, \$100.00? Many of you are endowed members of the Lodge and do not pay annual dues. Please try to help us out on this.

In closing, I pray you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September at Acacia Lodge.

Robert J. Hibjan, SW  
E-Mail: [rhib@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhib@sbcglobal.net)  
Let me know how you're doing.

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.

**Thomas Jefferson**

[Google LIFE Photo Archive - http://images.google.com/hosted/life](http://images.google.com/hosted/life)

Search millions of photographs from the LIFE photo archive, stretching from the 1750s to today. Most were never published and are now available for the first time through the joint work of LIFE and Google.

**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](mailto:coganj@sbcglobal.net)

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



**In Memorium**

**Brother**

**Passed**

Brother John W. Walls	08-08-2008
Brother James V. Capodici	01-16-2009
Brother Wilbur L. Hewitt	01-01-2009
Brother Harold A. Beal	05-06-2009

*They rest from their labors.*

"The best thing about animals is that they don't talk much." - Thornton Wilder

**NOTICE TO ALL BRETHREN**

Your lodge is in the process of recommending a number of changes to its "By-laws and Resolutions" and will have the second reading and vote on September 11, 2009. To save space, only the sections that are being changed are printed below. A copy of your current By-Laws can be found in the back of your 2007 Membership Directory.

**By-Laws**

**ARTICLE II**

The stated meetings of this Lodge shall be on the second and fourth Fridays. No stated meeting will be held on Good Friday, the day after Thanksgiving or the Friday of Christmas Week. The hour of assembly shall be 7:30 P.M. Special meetings may be called as provided by section 21.03 of the code.

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. The checking account and any Certificates of Deposit (CD's) of Acacia Lodge shall be carried with an accredited commercial bank (not a brokerage firm) that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and located within the United States.
2. Officers Gifts.
  - d. The Organist, when requested by the Master, will receive \$35.00 per event.
  - f. An officer newly elected to the line, not to exceed three (3) Officers in any one (1) term, may request reimbursement for the purchase of a suitable tuxedo. The Lodge will reimburse, not to exceed \$200.00, the officer upon receipt of the bill for the tuxedo. Provided, however, that any tuxedo purchased with the assistance of the Lodge remains the property of the Lodge and subject to immediate return with reasonable notice.
4. Each Master, when installed, shall appoint a Finance and Budget Committee consisting of not less than three members of the Lodge to serve for the ensuing year. It shall be their duty to prepare a budget and allocate the funds to cover the several accounts as set up. Such Budget and Allocations are to be made from, and not to exceed, the estimated dues (including endowment proceeds) plus interest and dividends from Acacia's investment portfolio for the year and shall be kept in such manner that a

reasonable determination of the amount of money in each account shall be available at all times.

Should you have any questions please contact WM Don Ritchie, 216-731-3030 or James Cogan, Secretary, 440-257-6964

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HowStuffWorks - [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)

HowStuffWorks explains hundreds of subjects, from car engines to ESP, using clear language and tons of illustrations. This site does the research so you don't have to.

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### **Grand Masters Class – What a success!**

On June 13, 2009 the Grand Master Class was held with five brethren from Acacia Lodge being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. After this extremely enjoyable event all were invited to attend a dinner at the The Cabin. After dinner RWB Robert Hibjan presented them with a framed copy of their Master Mason Certificate and their name badge. Their dues cards will be given to them when received by Grand Lodge.

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"People, when they first come to America, whether as travelers or settlers, become aware of a new and agreeable feeling: that the whole country is their oyster."  
- Alistair Cooke

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### **Etiquette Matters**

By - WB Robert Roffe, Trustee

Etiquette is very important in our daily lives and critical to our activities as Master Masons. When you study some of the synonyms for etiquette (propriety, protocol and decorum) you realize it teaches us how to act and best agree.

I would like to say a few words about the procedures in lodge or lodge edict. How we should conduct ourselves as Masons in Lodge. When one has a comment or question it is always directed to the MASTER of the lodge and only to him, if he requests some other member to respond the Master can then have you direct the question or comment to that person and that person only is to respond. Once they have responded then the discussion goes right back to the Master of the Lodge. On rising, to ask a question or make a comment, wait to be recognized by giving the correct due guard and sign and wait for the Master to recognize you. Under no circumstances should a member remain seated when addressing the Master unless they are unable to rise in their place.

When a brother has the floor, pay him the respect you would want when you speak! Do not set and make wise cracks, belittle or try to talk over them. Wait your turn and you will have an opportunity then to say your piece. We must follow the code of etiquette.

Sometimes the discussion goes off track from the original question and the Master must keep the brethren focused. Because of this a brother waiting to comment on a tangent topic may not be recognized by the Master. Being the Master of a Lodge is not an easy job, if you do not believe me just try it sometime. I know many who think they would be a better Master however they do not wish to work their way up by serving in the line. Maybe they would be great as Master. But until they are there we will never know how great they really could be.

I would also like to remind the brethren of Acacia Lodge # 651 that lodge business is just that! What takes place in the lodge must remain there and not be shared with those who are not entitled to this privileged information. Members can be charged with un-Masonic offenses for violating our code.

I am fairly new in lodge, only being a member about 41 years, but the need for adhering to proper Lodge Etiquette is essential to a well managed meeting. And the lack thereof will surely result in poor attendance and hard feelings.

Remember we meet on the level and are all equal. So may we, ever meet, act and part my brethren.

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*'With the closing of the volume and the opening of a door,  
Think not this lodge has ended, think what has gone before.  
Remember all those worthy men who as apprentice came,  
And who developed love and skill and worked in friendships  
name.*

*When you take up the working tools to gently put aside,  
Think not their work is ended, think how they were applied.  
Remember well the lessons taught, to craftsmen tried and true;  
Of masons worthy of the name and apron white and Blue,*

*When your tracing boards are covered and the columns laid at  
rest,  
Think not their teaching ended, think more a message blessed  
Remember the special meaning to master masons all,  
Of birth and life and learning and waiting for the call*

*With the sounding of the gavel and as the tights at last go out,  
Think not your lodge has ended, dispel all lingering doubts,  
Master, 'Wardens, 'Brethren, remember as you depart,  
Your lodge will live forever in every mason's heart.*

J.M. Kelley, P.G. Lect.  
february2000

Published in Mehr Licht!, Number 135 – August 20, 2007

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## 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.

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## 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.

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"Knowledge can be communicated but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, be fortified by it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it." - Herman Hesse

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## 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, rhib@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** -
- 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, 440-946-0080
- Lecture Dir.** - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426, tomedalyjr@netzero.net
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## TRESTLE-BOARD

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

- July 25      Golf Outing – See attached article  
Sept 11      Stated Meeting – Review By-Laws.  
Sept 18      Special Meeting – Friendship Night –  
                 Wiener Schnitzel dinner at 6:30 PM –  
                 reservations call Don Ritchie, 216-731-  
                 3030 or James Cogan, 440-257-6964.  
Sept 25      Stated Meeting –

## Special Dates:

- July 4      Independence Day  
Aug. 4      Coast Guard Birthday  
Sep. 6      Labor Day  
Sep. 13      Grandparents' Day

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

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## Masonic Stress Management

By Mike Hill, Past Master – Forest Lake Lodge #344; Forest Lake, MN

As Masons and everyday folks we face new challenges each day. It doesn't matter if we're working full time, part time or we're retired and just trying to enjoy the time we have. Every day we are faced by; employers, family members and friends who have better ideas on how we should live and work. When this occurs it is important to remember what experts recommend:

A lecturer explained stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it." "If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. "In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on." "As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again.. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work and/or tribulations of the day down. Don't carry them home. You can pick them up tomorrow. Whatever

burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can." "Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it!"

The lecturer then shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day.
- If you can't be kind, then have the decency to be vague.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- Never buy a car you can't push.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese..
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Birthday's are good for you. The more you have the longer you live.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.
- We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all have to live in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.....I did.

Words to live by: We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all have to live in the same box. From More Light – Mehr Licht ©, Masonic Matters © and T.F.S.

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## Acacia Lodge Golf Outing

**When:** July 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

**Where:** Green Ridge Golf Course, 29150 Ridge Road, Wickliffe, OH

**Cost:** \$17.00 per person (fee's, golf cart and refreshments).

**Also:** After the golf outing, around 12 noon, a cookout will be held at Green Ridge Golf Course. **Anyone can come to the cookout at no cost.**

Call W.B. Jim Cogan for reservations, 440-257-6964. This is a fun event for golfers and non-golfers. If you need clubs please let WB Bill Dornback know and he will bring what you need to have a great time. Trophies will be presented to winners in a number of areas.

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## Friendship Night

**Who:** Acacia Lodge members and your guest(s) [anyone you feel would make a good Mason].

**When:** September 18, 2008, Dinner at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM

**Where:** Euclid Temple, 27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid, Ohio

**Cost:** Brethren of the fraternity \$6.00, guests are free.

**What:** Friendship Night – “What is Freemasonry and why should I join this esteemed organization”.

Friendship Night is for any person you feel would make a good Mason. It is a night of information, entertainment, food and companionship. Look around and see if you do not know a man who would not benefit from the teachings of Freemasonry. **YOU DID!**

Invite your neighbor, son, grandson, friend, barber, any man you feel would be a good Mason!

**Reservations** will be needed by September 5, 2008. Call W. B. James R. Cogan at 440-257-6964 with reservations and any questions.

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Brother Casey Koester lives in Colorado Springs, CO. and would like to sell two cemetery plots in the Masonic section of Highland Hills Cemetery. If you are interested please send him an email at [Hatlady71@aol.com](mailto:Hatlady71@aol.com) or call him at 719-475-0614.

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### **2009 Pillars Program**

On June 27<sup>th</sup> the Deputy Grand Master Terry Posey presented his vision for the future should he be elected as Grand Master in October.

Some of the highlights of this meeting are:

- Reinstatement of the District Education Officers who will report to the District Advisor.
- The DEO will attend the DDGM Conference.
- The DEO will conduct workshops with the LEO's
- Should three lodges have candidates that would like to attend a Grand Masters one day class, they can band together to accomplish this desire. There will be stipulations that will be presented at a later date.
- Encourage the lodges to offer \$40 minimum allowable initiation fees to Veterans, Ministers and Safety Forces.

- Establish a Vietnam Masonic Memorial at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield through lodge and member donations – No Grand Lodge Funds.
- Request the lodges throughout the state to have an Open House every year.
- The Grand Lodge will add veteran pins for 35 and 40 year members. These will be provided to the lodges at a minimal cost.
- Suspension for non-payment of dues has claimed too many brethren and we should restore them through an innovative program. Details to follow.
- Lecture requirements for lodges should be with progressive line officers. If not then they should be given by a member of your lodge. Remember the lecture is given for the candidates benefit not the lodges.

“Freemasonry – It’s all in the Family”

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James R. Cogan  
6130 Thistlewood Drive  
Mentor OH 44060

