



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 6, Issue 5

Second and Fourth Fridays

September / October, 2009

“REACH” --- Grand Masters Program

From The East



As the summer is coming to an end, we need to think about the work and activities that are required of us in the next two months to complete a good Masonic year. .

At our first meeting on September 11th, we will be bringing the Brethren “up to date” on our lodge finances, your officers and financial committee have been working during the summer to answer some of the questions raise at our last meeting and we will report to the brethren on our activity. I will announce the appointment of our Trustee replacement. The final reading of the changes to the lodge resolutions will take place and a vote will be taken.

On the following Friday, September 18th, we will hold our “Friendship Night”, where you are invited to bring a friend who may have questions regarding freemasonry. We will have masons talking about their experiences, answer questions from the audience and have a good meal. We will have a \$6.00 Wiener Schnitzel Dinner, **reservations** are required by our September 11th meeting. Please contact either the lodge Secretary, James Cogan, 440-257-6964, or myself, 216-731-3030.

At the September 25th meeting we will confer the Fellow Craft Degree on one of our candidates. Also, we will confer the Fellow Craft Degree and the Master Mason Degree before the end of our Masonic year. These may be at one of our stated meetings or at a special meeting, stay informed by visiting our lodge website, www.acacia651.org.

Fraternally,
Don Ritchie
Worshipful Master

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"The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, and it serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world, with more than 120 million items. The collections include books, sound recordings, motion pictures, photographs, maps, and manuscripts."

From the West



Hello Brethren,

As I write to you, I cannot comprehend how fast the Masonic Summer Recess has flown by. I have been gardening, golfing, grass cutting, home improvement, etc. My golf game hasn't improved much though. Oh Well!!!!!! Back to Acacia Lodge planning for the rest of the year 2009 and 2010. I hope you will be a part of it.

Please remember to attend our September 11, 2009 Stated meeting as we will have our second reading on By-Laws and Resolution changes for Acacia Lodge. Your attendance is requested.

Several officers of Acacia Lodge attended the current Deputy Grand Masters program for 2010 on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at the Chagrin Falls Masonic Center. It is a challenging program with some new events to take place. One such program for Grand Lodge will be to bring back the District Education Officers position, in order to work more closely with the Lodge Education Officer for all Ohio Lodges. Another is to increase the Membership Awards program to those brothers who have achieved 35 & 40 Years in membership. Acacia has in the past supported the 25 year membership award and will continue to do so, but will add the 35 & 40 year award starting in 2010. I am sure you are aware that the Membership Awards prior to 50 years are sponsored by your Lodge and 50 years and above are sponsored by The Grand Lodge of Ohio. If all goes according to plan, our Annual Acacia Lodge Awards Night will be held on January 22, 2010 at the Euclid Masonic Center on Tungsten Road in Euclid, Ohio. Mark your calendar now to attend.

Our July Acacia Golf Outing was a very fun day. Despite the gray morning sky and threat of showers we were able to get in 9 holes of golf and a delicious lunch afterwards. Thanks to RWB James Matilo and WB Tom Parks for attending to our refreshment needs by driving the refreshment cart and Brother John Woods and Toni Willoughby for obtaining the food and cooking lunch and WB's James Cogan and Don Ritchie for organizing

and booking the outing. Thanks also to the golfers who supported our summer event.

As reported in the last edition of the Sprig of Acacia, our temple piano in the refreshment hall is in need of repair. I am asking each of you to please pitch in and send in a contribution of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00 or \$100.00 for this cause. It will really work and sound good for our future events if you will help us out. Send your check out now, made out to Acacia Lodge #651 and in memo area on check write in "Repair Piano". Send check to Acacia Lodge #651 C/O James Cogan, Secretary, 6130 Thistlewood Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060

Thanks to all of our members for their support in the past and now even more for your support in the future. Remember, it may be tough to accomplish a task for just one individual, but not if everyone joins in to make the job easy.

Acacia Lodge meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, with the exception of July and August 7:30pm, unless noted on the Trestle-Board.

Please support your Lodge by attending a meeting as often as you can.

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

"Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." - Albert Einstein

www.FamilySearch.org:

"FamilySearch.org is a non-profit service sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We believe that every person is important and that families are meant to be both sacred and eternal. We encourage all people to find their ancestors and preserve their family histories. To help in this great pursuit, the Church has been actively gathering and preserving genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years."

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.

"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." - Neil Postman



In Memorium

Brother	Passed
Brother Alvin E. Wahlers	02-08-2009
<i>They rest from their labors.</i>	

"To find yourself, think for yourself." - Socrates

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.

- 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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Below is an article from The Banner the newsletter for St. George's Lodge #41 in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, in 2000. Brother Kevan van Herd was the Editor, and it was an outstanding newsletter for Masonic information.

To Masons of the Future

By Bro. Earnest L. Carthan, PHA, and taken from the Masonic Monthly Newsletter.

We do not know ALL of your names. But we, Masons of the present, feel a powerful sense of responsibility toward you. The irony of this fact is that you need us, and we definitely need you. The future of our Fraternity literally depends on this truism.

You will be the ones, who, in the future, will carry on the work of masonry, and we want you to know that we will do our best to bequeath to you Masonry that is pure and undefiled. Thus it will be your responsibility to carry that tremendous torch of Light of this Fraternity through those future dens of ignorance and darkness.

Our days are marked with fears, tears, frustrations, and tragedies. There is a continuous increase in crime; there is also evidence of a moving away from tried and true values. Freedom, without which Masonry cannot freely flourish, is constantly being threatened by forces from without and within. Though there is cause and need of a constant and sincere vigil at our outer gates and inner doors.

But, with it all, we masons of today cling steadfastly to our Faith and Trust and to those principles and ideals, which have

been our basic strength down through the ages. Our promise and assurance to you is that we will do everything in our power to support and defend this courageous Spirit in the hearts of men, which Masonry stands for.

We pledge to you, that in the midst of all struggles and disappointments, that we will make whatever sacrifice is necessary to carry forward to you all that is embodied in the name of FREEMASONRY. May God continue to bless all of us in all our endeavors.

Words to live by: "Patience in the present, faith in the future, and joy in the doing.", George Perera

Traveling Lodge Brothers

Brother William "Bil" Montague was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in James B. Ruhl Lodge #731 in 1985. He was in the line of officers for a time while working as grounds keeper for a local golf course and a part-time Police Officer for Chester Twp. He has since retired and moved to Goliad, TX with his wife, Darlene. Bil has joined Goliad Lodge and the Shrines in his new home.



The Goliad Masonic Lodge # 94 recently installed new officers for 2009 – 2010. L – R : Bil Montague, Sr. Deacon; Howard Yeary, Chaplain; Steve Nelso, Sr. Warden; Don Angell, Worshipful Master; Joe Hooten, Jr. Steward; Kevin Milton, Jr. Warden; Robert Aikman, Jr. Deacon. (Note the Masters Tyle)

Brother Montague sent a few pictures from Texas to share with Acacia Lodge. Brother Bil said "It is the best thing to have a wife support you whole heartily, as Darlene does for me, in all the Masonic activities. We both attend Shrine two (2) times a month in Victoria and participate in all the parades with our Fire Patrol. Darlene is trying to get a big garage sale going in our little town to benefit the Blue Lodge during Market Days in Goliad.



Our Lodge at the Fannin Monument each year to commemorate the massacre.



"Ole Guy (Bil) in his little Fire Truck!!

If you are traveling or living out of our area and would like to share some of your experiences please send your photos and story to the newsletter editor.

The power of right choices, July 07, 2009, by John C. Maxwell

"...He will instruct them in the ways they should choose."
– Psalm 25:12

Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you. What will you do for your career: Who will you marry? Where will you live? How much education will you get? What will you do with today? But one of the most important choices you will make is who will you become! Life is not merely a matter of holding and playing a good hand as you would hope to do in a card game. What you start with isn't up to you. Talent is God-given. Life is playing the hand you have been dealt well. That is determined by your choices.

The talent-plus people are the ones who maximize their talent, reach their potential, and fulfill their destiny.

I was reading a book by Dr. Seuss to my grandchildren called "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" In it, I found a wonderful truth. It said,

You have brains in your head
 You have feet in your shoes
 You can steer yourself
 Any direction you choose.

I believe that with all my heart. My prayer is that you steer yourself in the right direction and make right choices that will empower you to become a talent-plus person, build upon the foundation of your abilities, and live your life to its fullest potential.

Maximize your talent by steering your entire life in the right direction.

From More Light – Mehr Licht ©, Masonic Matters © and T.F.S. ©

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

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.

The Bible Gateway – www.biblegateway.com

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TRESTLE-BOARD

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

Sept 11	Stated Meeting – Review & Vote on 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 – Fellow Craft Degree
Oct 9	Stated Meeting –
Oct 16 – 17	Grand Lodge Communication- Toledo
Oct 23	Stated Meeting –

Special Dates:

Sep. 6	Labor Day
Sep. 13	Grandparents' Day
Oct 12	Columbus Day
Oct 17	Sweetest Day
Oct 31	Halloween

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

THE MASON

By Brother Dewey Wollstein

He is a man who is earnestly striving to become a better man.

He recognizes the good that resides in the heart of every brother. He knows that the faults he sees in others reflect his own imperfection, and he does not set himself up as a judge of his brothers.

The Mason is one who has learned of life's struggles, of its difficult paths, its disappointments, the price of holding fast to one's integrity, and yet maintains faith in the ultimate triumph of Good over Evil.

The Mason is a man of generous heart, mind and hand. He looks upon the opportunity to serve humanity as a joyous privilege.

The Mason is a man who demonstrates his love of country by being a good citizen, by obeying the law of the land, by being true to his country's ideals, and by his undying devotion and loyalty, both in time of peace and of war.

The Mason is a man who, by his acts and deeds, reveals his unswerving trust in the Infinite, Wisdom, Justice and Mercy of his Creator.

The Mason is one who maintains a stubborn attachment to duty, and is unyielding in his unceasing efforts to make a better society by making himself a better individual.

Words to live by: Anger is a poison that, left untreated, has the capacity to destroy the very closeness we seek from our family, friends, and co-workers.

Acacia Lodge Golf Outing

Our annual golf outing for 2009 is now history!

This year we had 17 golfers playing on four teams. The day was cloudy with the threat of rain when RWB Robert Hibjan started the event. Everyone was off playing when we experienced a little rain that luckily lasted for only a short time. The golfers were provided with liquid refreshments by RWB Jim Matilo and Brother Tom Park.

While everyone was out on the links Brothers John Wood and Tonie Willoughby started to cook lunch. The menu consisted of hamburger, hotdogs, bratwurst, baked beans, potato salad, chips, brownies and liquid refreshments. Special thanks to them and Karen Willoughby for using her delicious talent for our lunch.

After lunch the golf prizes were distributed:

- Low Score – WB Russ Toll
- High Score – Tom Daly III
- Closest to the Pin – Art Malecek
- Longest Drive – Jay Nocera
- Longest Put – WB Al Paynter
- Most Lost Balls – Chester Scott

It was a great event and everyone had a good time. Thanks to everyone who took part in our annual golf outing. See you next year!!

Words to live by: "He is far more blessed who gets along without things because he does not need them, than he who owns everything because he needs it all." Meister Eckhardt

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 11, 2008. Call W. B. James R. Cogan at 440-257-6964 or W.M Don Ritchie, 216-731-3030 with reservations and any questions.

Am I a Master Mason?

By M.W. Brother Dewey H. Wollstein

Many times the question comes to the forefront: "Am I a Master Mason?"

The fact that perfection on earth has never yet been attained may offer some degree of satisfaction, but we who ask the question are not thinking in terms of perfection! Rather are we

thinking in terms of those things which we could do which would make us better Masons.

We think in terms of a personal happiness that would naturally derive from living more the principles that make a Mason a Master.

Then follow other questions:

Do I speak of a standard of morality for others which I do not make an effort to attain for myself?

Do I presume to question the motives of others and to establish a pattern for them which is my own, but perhaps less desirable than the one they live by?

Do I look for little, unimportant things to criticize, and enlarge upon these, overlooking my own greater faults?

Do I look for the good that I know is in my brother, or only for the things that are his special weaknesses, while I dismiss my own faults as mere trifles?

Since man cannot reach higher than his aim, what is my aim?

Is it greater love or greater envy? Is it unselfish service or personal gain?

Is it courage to defend the principles of Freedom, Justice and Tolerance, or the cowardice of silence?

How great is the disparity between what I stand for and what I am willing to fight for?

How can I become more deserving of the title— "Master Mason"?

Words to live by: "Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them." Aristotle

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
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