



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 8, Issue 6

Second and Fourth Fridays

November / December, 2011

"The Future Of Freemasonry Is Up To You"--- Grand Masters Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2010 - 2011

- W. M. -** Mark Novak, 216-406-5856, man0579@aol.com
- S. W. -** Errol Savage, errolsavage@hotmail.com
- J. W. -** Robb Bartholomew, 724-966-2708, drwrbart@windstream.net
- S. D. -** John Wood, 216-341-3673
- J. D. -** Michael Kerestesy IV, 440-392-9157, kerestesy@att.net
- S. S. -** Stephen K. Gregory, 440-946-0080, sg@datavoice.net
- J. S. -**
- Tyler -** Todd Jenkins, 440-391-2279, jenkto23@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
- L.E.O. -** Craig A. Niederriter, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
- Marshall -**
- Lecture Dir. -** Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426

TRESTLE-BOARD

All stated meetings start at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated - Reservations for Dinners are required

- Nov 11 Stated Meeting - Annual Meeting and Election of Officers - Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 18 Special Meeting - Entered Apprentice Degree
- Dec 9 Stated Meeting - Annual Installation of Officers - Dinner at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to James Cogan, 440-257-6964
- Dec 17 Annual Christmas Party - RSVP to James Cogan, 440-257-6964 - See below article.
- Dec 23 Stated Meeting
- Jan 13 Stated Meeting - Awards Night - Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

From the East



Brethren,

Acacia Lodge is heading for a busy conclusion to our 2011 Lodge year. I am happy to report that four of our newest brethren -- Bros. Rob Malm, Dustin Malm, Chris J. LaRue, and Chris A. LaRue -- are making steady progress in their journey through Blue Lodge. All four brethren were passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft at our September 23rd meeting. I had the honor of conferring this degree on all four candidates, and W.B. Bruce Turner returned to give a fantastic F. C. lecture and charge. I am also happy to report that these four new Fellow Crafts gave excellent exams at our October 14th meeting. Again, special thanks to W.B. Bob Roffe for taking the time to tutor them. His efforts showed through in their successful exams.

Of course, no journey in Masonry is complete until one receives the Master Mason degree. To that end, I am happy to announce that we will be raising Bros. Rob and Dustin Malm to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Friday, October 28. We will have a special start time of 6 p.m. that evening to ensure that each Brother receives the full experience of being raised to this sublime Degree. W.B. Tom Daly, our Ritual Coordinator, is hard at work putting a team together for this event; I encourage every Brother reading this to get in touch with him and volunteer to take part. It will be a great evening.

In other news, the Grand Lodge of Ohio held its 202th annual Grand Lodge Communication in downtown Cleveland on October 14-15. Those present were myself, Senior Warden Errol Savage, Junior Warden Robb Bartholomew, W.B. Bob Roffe, and Bro. Jason Elliott. We had a great time seeing Grand Lodge business concluded for the 2011 year. We also saw the Installation of our newest Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Kevin Todd, on Saturday. Other highlights of the event included a tour of the Terminal Tower observation deck and some excellent meals at some of Cleveland's finest restaurants.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that Acacia Lodge will be holding its Annual Meeting on Friday, November 11th at 7:30 p. m. As always, this will be the last Stated Meeting of our Masonic year. All brethren are welcome to attend and see for themselves the state of our Lodge. I am confident that all will be satisfied and I look forward to seeing everyone wrap up our Masonic year. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Fraternally

Mark A. Novak, WM

"By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong." - Charles Wadsworth

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 Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Brother Burt E. Skeel	2011
Brother Warren H. Howell	03-14-2011
Brother Herman Alexander	05-08-2011
Brother Glenn R. Andrews	02-10-2011
Brother Kenneth Stough	02-29-2008

They rest from their labors.

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.

The Traveler's Report

I had the pleasure of travelling to Albuquerque the first week of October to attend the International Balloon Fiesta, soak up some much missed sunlight and to open the door for my best friend from school to seek **Light in Freemasonry**.



Well as fate would have it the trip was extra long and it was apparent I brought the rain along with

me. First day sprinkles were followed by an inch of rain the next day and eight tenths of an inch the third day. That's over one third of their annual total! It kept raining off and on most of the week pretty well ruining the Festival. Oh well, they were none the less glad to have it and I went on about my real purpose for the trip.

On Monday morning we renewed our acquaintance with the Grand Secretary of New Mexico, RWB Danny Calloway PGM and had the pleasure of meeting the Deputy Grand Master RWB Josh Lightle. Both are really nice guys and freely shared lots of thoughts with my friend Bill and I about the Lodges he might consider joining.

Monday evening I attended Montezuma Lodge #1 in Santa Fe, chartered in 1851 and the home of 11 PGM's. After surviving the embarrassment of leaving my wallet (and hence my dues card) behind in Albuquerque I was none the less examined and admitted to their beautiful Lodge and granted the pleasure of witnessing their examination of an Entered Apprentice who proceeded to stun the Brethren with absolute perfection.



This was nearly eclipsed by the thrill of being permitted to handle Kit Carson's 54 caliber Hawkins rifle which the Lodge is proud to own. He was one of their members and was killed the year he was raised.

On Tuesday I attended Edgewood Lodge No. 82, the newest New Mexico Lodge, chartered in 2003 and now the proud owners and builders of their own new Lodge along historic Route 66 in Edgewood, just east of Sandia Mountain from Albuquerque through Tijeras Pass. Bill went with me on this visit to see the Lodge and meet the Brethren and since it was their Past Master's night we enjoyed a tremendous steak dinner with the steaks fresh off their outside grill. He then went home and the Lodge proceeded to exemplify the opening of an English Lodge in the First Degree under the leadership of one of their members, Larry Davis, PM of Border Lodge, No. 2475 Farnham, Surrey, England, who was is full English regalia and conducted the lengthy and complex opening ceremony wherein the officers were escorted to their stations by the Stewards under crossed staffs with music. Opening and closing Odes were sung by the Brothers. English Lodges are very formal, much stricter and meet six to eight times a year with a practice session prior to each. Dues are about \$180 annually. All members are formally summoned by mail and are required to attend or give worthy excuse. Meals (about \$30) and alcoholic beverages are served by reservation only and those that are on the permanent reservation list are charged if they fail to inform the Dining Steward five days in advance that they will be unable to dine. Past Masters are expected to go on to Grand Lodge positions. The meeting was conducted from memory by the Edgewood Brothers who memorized the entire opening for this one and only use. Yes, it was spectacular and gave great testimony to their efforts.

Thursday evening after we returned from a quick day and a half trip to Taos, Angle Fire and Eagles Nest we visited Temple Lodge No.6, Albuquerque's largest and busiest Lodge. Stated meetings are held on first Thurs., E.A. work second Thurs., F.C. work third Thurs., M.M. work fourth Thurs., day off on fifth Thurs when they occur. How about that for a schedule! N.M has no time requirement between degrees so as soon as a candidate can prove his proficiency in open Lodge either short form or long

form (for bragging rights) he may proceed to the next degree. I doubt if many can get it done with only a week in between degrees but I'd bet the Brother that was examined in Santa Fe could pull it off if anybody could. He was absolutely stunning. The highlight of the trip occurred when my long time friend, Dr. William Valentine, submitted his petition to Temple Lodge No. 6. N.M permits any Master Mason to sign a petition so I had the great honor of being Bill's first line signer. RWB Danny Calloway was his second line signer and fulfilled the N.M. requirement that one signer be a member of the Lodge. I'm looking forward to witnessing the degrees although I'll keep that as a secret surprise for the First. May as well let him sweat it out a little bit! Isn't that what friends are for? I think I've run out of space. If you're curious take a look at www.nmmasons.org.

Fraternally,

Robb Bartholomew, J.W.

From the West

Greetings Brethren,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Senior Warden over the last year. I look forward to Acacia's upcoming elections. If the lodge chooses I will advance once again to the East, where I first served in 2002. I am excited at the thought of once again being Acacia's Worshipful Master. Brethren, I enjoyed being in the East so much that I served three years in a row. I had the best officers and Brethren work with me. I am so pleased that many of those Brethren have offered to come back to Acacia to serve with me once again.

Through the gift of my memory I am taken back 15 years ago, to when I petitioned Acacia and became its youngest Entered Apprentice ever. I can hear the friendly voices, and feel the warmth of the brotherly handshakes of so many of the Brethren who have left us for the Celestial Lodge. I hope those memories will never fade, and you and I together will make new memories for others joining our fraternity.

Brethren, look forward to another exciting year, filled with the activities that we did over those three years when I first served and some new ones. I look forward to building on the positive momentum that

has been increasing over the last few months under Worshipful Master Mark Novak's term. Our officer corps is young and full of energy. I am proud of these men and none of them are Past Masters. They should all be proud of themselves. Brethren, a breath of fresh air has entered Acacia Lodge. This is the youngest line of officers I have seen in any lodge in the district.

Just like my first years as Master expect that I will call you, and ask that you return to lodge. I'll look forward to seeing you. For those of you that haven't been to Acacia over the last years join me in returning. The doors of Acacia Lodge now and forever are open to you. As in the past I have a large Ford Focus that has three empty seats, if I am not driving someone to Lodge I'll feel lonely, if you know of any of the Brethren that need a ride, please let me know.

Lastly Brethren, please join me in praying for our sick, lonely, and distressed Brethren, wherever they may be dispersed.

Errol W. Savage P.M.
Senior Warden

Newsletter Editor and Information

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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.

Grand Lodge was held in Cleveland, Ohio this year with



Most Worshipful Brother Bradford Goebel presiding. Acacia Lodge was represented by our Worshipful Master Mark Novak, Senior Warden WB Errol Savage, Junior Warden Bro. Robb Bartholomew and WB Bob Roffe.

Grand Lodge was very busy with a packed house (SRO).



MWB Kevin B. Todd was elected to lead the Grand Lodge of Ohio for the next year. The Grand Masters Theme for his year is "The Future Of Freemasonry Is Up To You".



WM Mark Novak (right), WB Bob Roffe (center) and Bro. Jack Rock (left) from Pennsylvania relaxing after a hard day voting at Grand Lodge.

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?



ACACIA LODGE #651

Come one come all Christmas Party



What: Acacia Lodge's Christmas Party

When: December 17, 2011 from
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Euclid Masonic Temple,
27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid

RSVP – by December 12th to WB James Cogan at 440-257-6964 with the number of adults, children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, nieces or nephews, age and gender (Santa wants to make sure that he has the right gift for the children 13 yrs old and younger.)

Special Guest appearance by the man from the north.

Food, drinks, entertainment, and more!!!!!!!

Please bring a desert to share with everyone!

Forgiveness

By Stan Shapiro M.D., Grand Lodge Education Officer G.L. of MN

It seems appropriate to write about this issue because it is not always easy to forgive ourselves or others and sometimes a brother will stop attending lodge because being near the brother that hurt him may be too stressful.

At one time or another many of us have been hurt by the words or actions of a Mason brother. The hurt can leave us with lasting indignation, anger, grudges, bitterness, resentment or sometimes a desire for punishment. However, if we cannot forgive, we may be the one who suffers most. Those of us who can let go of grudges and anger find letting go can lead to an inner peace, less stress, lower blood pressure, fewer symptoms of anxiety, depression and pain, and an improved sense of psychological and spiritual well being.

It is easy to hold a grudge when you feel hurt by someone you love, trust or respect. It is also easy to become sad, angry or confused. Dwelling on the hurt leads to a desire for an apology which when not received can cause resentment, hostility and a desire for revenge. These negative feelings crowd out positive feelings and you may get swallowed up in your own sense of injustice or bitterness. You may even lose the desire for the enriching connectedness with others.

Forgiveness is commitment to change. It is difficult. It may be easier if you remember times when you've hurt others and they have forgiven you. It may be especially hard to forgive a brother who doesn't admit wrong or apologize and admit his

sorrow. The process of forgiveness involves a decision to let go of the resentment and thoughts of revenge and to move away from your role as a victim. Think about how you reacted and how it has affected your life and well being. Later you can choose to forgive the person who you think offended you and no longer be the prisoner of the offending person or situation. Forgiveness takes away the power the offender has on your life. That can lead to feelings of understanding, compassion and empathy for the one who you feel hurt you. When you forgive you don't deny the other persons responsibility for having hurt you. Nor does it justify or minimize the wrong or excuse the act. However it can help you to focus on the other more positive things in your life and give you inner peace and may allow you to go on with your life including attending lodge.

Forgiveness can lead to reconciliation. You can grant forgiveness without expecting restorative justice. Ideally the offender offers some form of acknowledgement or apology or may ask for your forgiveness. Without reconciliation it can be awkward to attend lodge. However you can change your thinking, feelings and behavior even when the offender refuses to communicate with you. If you cannot forgive, you can discuss your feelings with your spiritual leader or an unbiased friend or mental health counselor. Remember getting the other person to change his behavior, actions or words isn't the purpose of forgiveness. Forgiveness is more about changing yourself.

As masons we need remember brotherly love includes having an open mind and heart.

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