



THE SPRIG OF ACCACIA



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ACCACIA LODGE NO. 51



FROM THE EAST:

BY WM MARK SIMMONDS

From The East:

Greetings and thank you for your vote and confidence to lead this great lodge in the upcoming year. Some main items I would like to focus on are: mentorship and accountability to our petitioners and candidates, Way-fairing man and local lodge continuity, lodge preservation and family activities/involvement.

Mentorship: We need to select a few dedicated and eager brothers that are willing to continuously reach out and keep interested potential members engaged. We will be more closely following the Grand Lodges recommendations on mentoring and accountability.

Lodge Continuity: I plan to reach out to not only local lodges but various other lodges including:

Prince Hall, lodges in neighboring states, larger and well-attended lodges and try to encourage brothers to attend their meetings as well as give an open invitation to ours. Preservation: We need to begin to look at future renovations and large tasks that will need to be completed in the future and begin to set money aside for these larger projects.

Family Involvement: We need to make the lodge a place of not only welcoming brethren but also families I would like to start to do more family and friend orientated activities that will allow our partners and families an opportunity to meet fellow brothers and build a stronger bond.

I look forward to a very positive and memorable year and hope that the brothers, as well as their families, grow closer to one another and set the lodge up for future success.
WM Simmonds

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New Master Mark Simmonds Welcome Message!
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- LEO REPORT:
WB Ryan Lowry provides a great LEO Lesson as our new Lodge Education Officer.
- MEET OUR CANDIDATES!



WB Bob Eddy surrounded by Minnesota Grand Lodge officers, MWB Ethan Seaberg, SGIG Tony Krall, RIGC, GL Pursuivant & 2021 Osman Potentate Sean Gardiner, RWB Dayton Berg, RWB and IB Frank Spevak, RWB Keith Reiersen, WB Christopher Wendover, WB Clinton Christensen, WB Foster Solem, WB Terrance Schaffer, WB Charles Burst, WB Roger Putnam, and WB Nick Casci. Also present were Accacia Brothers and many Brothers and guests from around the area.

FROM THE WEST:

BY BR EDDIE CLYMER SW

Hello brethren!

My name is Edward (Eddie) Clymer, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Senior Warden of Accacia Lodge 51 for 2021.

I come from a line of active Masons and Eastern Stars including:

Harry Clymer (GGF)

Milbert Clymer (GU) Master '1922-23

Neil Clymer (F) Master '2017

Doug Weisbrod (BIL) Master '2019

Tommy Clymer (B) Member

Grace and Mary Clymer (Great Aunts)

- Queen Esther Chapter O.E.S.

Denise and Neil Clymer (M, F)

- Rainbow Chapter O.E.S.

I started my Masonic journey in 2014 and completed:

Entered Apprentice March 4, 2014

Fellow Craft April 16th, 2014

Master Mason May 10th, 2014

32 Degree Scottish Rite Master Mason with the St. Paul Valley of the Scottish Rite, April 2015

I am looking forward to getting back into normal Lodge activities this year, and tradition prevailing, excited to serve as Master in the coming year of 2022.

Br. Eddie Clymer SW

FROM THE SOUTH:

BY BR UMAROU YAYA JW

Over the years of being a Mason, it has been a great journey of friendship and brotherly love. The Masonic values of honesty and purity have been my watchwords, circumscribing myself with the compass to keep me within due bounds, using the square to remember to square my actions, and to walk plum and upright on my journey of making myself a better person. I couldn't have asked for anyone better than the brothers of Accacia Lodge to be on this journey with me.

Last year was one of the most challenging years of all time, a period that was ready to break and weaken the brotherhood, but we all pull together in the spirit of togetherness. We displayed great craftsmanship and made history last summer with the renovation of our Lodge. I cannot overemphasize how proud I was what we archived last year!

My goals for the Lodge this year are to see more community involvement in our Lodge, also reaching out to some of our less active members, and to let our Brothers and community know what we do. I also wish to see that we conduct more degree activities in the lodge as soon as the COVID restrictions are lifted.

From the south, I present you with fraternal greetings to you and your loved ones.

Br. Umarou Yaya JW

"Freemasonry has no dogma or theology. It offers no sacraments. It teaches that it is important for every man to have a religion of his own choice and to be faithful to it in thought and action. As a result, men of different religions meet in fellowship and brotherhood under the fatherhood of God. I think that a good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by his membership in the Lodge."

BRO & REV DR NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

FROM OUR LEO:

BY WB RYAN LOWRY LEO

The first quarter LEO presentations will cover mysteries of the Holy Land and Early Christianity. My first lessons will include explorations of the Abrahamic Traditions. Please understand my musings as your LEO are an exploration of Truth. As such, I will look on all edges of belief for said Truth.

The first lesson is what does early Christianity teach us about Abrahamic tradition? What can excluded tradition teach us about divinity? The Nag Hammadi Library is a serious source that meets conflict at the point of Canon. What does it contain that we are missing?

What is it about Jesus' divinity that has humanity questioning the Church 2000 years later? The Talpiot Tomb is a discovery we must explore to understand where our history lies. For an alternate view on history, please stay tuned!

You will not be disappointed in your challenges. Please let go of your assumptions to find truth with me."

Thank you,
WB Ryan Lowry LEO



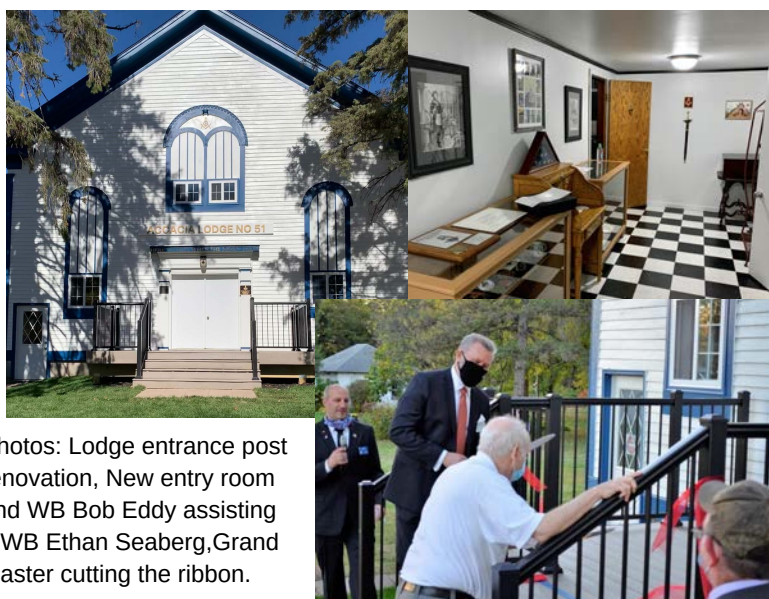
CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING UPDATE!:

BY BR LLOYD CHENEY JD

Greetings Brothers and Friends of Accacia Lodge No 51! 2020 despite its huge disappointments was a largely fruitful year for Accacia 51 in so much as the construction and renovation project that had been talked about for many years began in force.

This project would not have been possible without the generous monetary gift from the estate of WB Gordon Eddy and continued donations from his brother WB Bob Eddy. Continued Gratitude to the Eddy family for their help to our humble Lodge!

During the construction project, some costs did go beyond our budget. Other brothers working on the project stepped up and covered those expenses. We thanked those brothers as those costs were sizable. We also want to express gratitude to all who labored on this project and who put labor into it. Thank you all!



Photos: Lodge entrance post renovation, New entry room and WB Bob Eddy assisting MWB Ethan Seaberg, Grand Master cutting the ribbon.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE CONTINUED:

BY BR LLOYD CHENEY JD

This was just the first phase in a series of planned updates to the Lodge. We still need to complete our trim work and finish carpentry of the windows inside the Lodge room.

The Lodge room itself needs some updating. We will replace the carpet and add a center floor feature of a Mosaic black and white oblong checkered square.

- We currently have the material to finish the window trim work.
- The carpet costs and installation will be around \$4325 (\$1325 for carpet and \$3000 for installation).

Next, the City of Cottage Grove has said we must have a ramp on our deck and front entrance. This was in the original plans but we had to adjust for the size of the deck and cost. This addition will be added this coming summer.

- The cost of the ramp will be around \$900

The next project on the list is the renovation of the upstairs kitchen. This project has already begun with the update in lighting. However, we plan on swapping all new windows to match the new ones in the Lodge. We also plan to completely re-sheetrock the walls and ceiling and paint the room. We then will tile the floor and the room will gleam!

Tile has already been purchased for this project. We will need eight windows, twenty sheets of rock and trim, etc.

- The cost of this project is estimated at \$1830 in total.

We then move downstairs to the basement windows and window well replacement. Eight windows will need replacement and we are adding in window wells with drainage material.

- The estimated cost for this part of the project is around \$1800 to \$2000.

The last major thing for 2021 and yes I know this is a heavy load but the Lodge really needs this and more, is a restroom renovation. We want to keep two restrooms because it is useful for our pancake breakfasts, dinners, and other fundraisers we do. Also, the Eastern Star likes to have a separate facility.

We plan to demo the whole existing restrooms and salvage our toilets, urinal, etc. We will rebuild larger restrooms with new cabinets, pedestal sinks, new sinks, new mirrors, and new lights. So we will need wallboard, lumber, light fixtures, mirrors, cabinets, pedestals, etc.

- Cost estimate: \$1200

Our estimated building costs for the 2021 projects come in at \$9055. Anything our Brothers can do to help us with this ongoing project would be most appreciated.

We are planning on fundraising for the construction and building fund, however, we also are asking our brethren for assistance in this undertaken. Accacia 51 is alive and growing! We just need to care for our building so we always have a place for our Lodge.

Donations can be made directly to the Lodge via the Secretary: Loren Murphy

Accacia Lodge

11094 70 St S

Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Write Building Fund in the memo line.

SECRETARY'S CORNER:

BY WB LOREN MURPHY SEC

Greetings to all!

I would like to introduce you to our current line up of Candidates!

With luck, we will be able to conduct these men through the degrees of Masonry this year. COVID and 2020 have really stalled our degree work but we do have a fine selection of Candidates.

ACCACIA CANDIDATES

Joshua Duran - St. Paul, MN

Dylan Foster - Bloomington, MN

Andrew Gillen - Oakdale, MN

David Gjerdi - Hasting, MN

Ernesto Juan Lopez - Minneapolis, MN

Dante Luopa - Cottage Grove, MN

Michael Swanson - Hastings, MN

We also have two Entered Apprentices that are waiting to pass on to FellowCraft Degree and then to Master Masons.

ACCACIA ENTERED APPRENTICES

Douglas Henry - Maplewood, MN

Clifford W Schrader II - Wyoming, MN

Accacia Lodge is very fortunate to have so many good men seeking the light of Masonry and found a home in our humble Lodge.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.



Holiday Lodge Charity

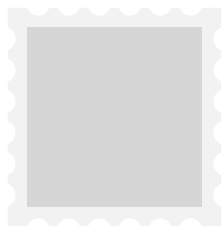
This past Christmas Accacia #51 donated over \$1000 in gifts and gift cards to a local family of eight in need. The family signed up via a local organization, was reviewed and selected.

The Brothers of Accacia were very happy to make Christmas special for a family that has experienced tough times in 2020.

Faith. Hope. Charity.



ACCACIA LODGE No. 51
11094 70TH STREET SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016



NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™

Lodge Meetings - Tuesdays nearest the full moon.

Next 3 meetings: Jan 26 - 7:00 PM, Feb 23 - 7:00 PM, Mar 30 - 7:00 PM

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook, also our website is:



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<http://www.accacia51freemason.org>

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