



# THE SPRIG OF ACCACIA



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ACCACIA LODGE NO. 51



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As we begin the year 2023, my wish is to make Accacia Lodge more better than how I met it. Also I will love to work on retention of new Brothers already in the Lodge. And to build on the existing activities we already have going on in our lodge. Visitation and Brotherly love messages, calls and cards will be regularly sent to our older members who cannot make it to our meetings.

As Master of the Lodge I will be opening all stated communication on the EA degree so all our brothers can attend. I will also try to work closely with and support our fellow Masonic organization, like the Eastern Stars, Scottish Rites, The Shriners et Al, for the greater good of all.

My Brothers, I cannot do these without you all, as I will need help all the above mentioned. I am looking forward to a great year with you all my Brothers.

With Fraternal Love

Worshipful Master

Umarou Yayah

## FROM THE EAST:

BY WM UMAROU YAYAH

My Brothers:

I would like to use this opportunity to thank our newest Past Master Eddie Clymer for his hard work and dedication to our Lodge Accacia #51. I would like to thank you for your confidence in me to be the Worshipful Master of this Lodge for the upcoming calendar year 2023.

As we begin a New Year at Accacia Lodge let us all make it a better year. To this I would love for all my brothers to remember that Free Masonry is not just a group of gentlemen who come together once a month for meeting. But an unending journey of seeking more enlightenment through constant learning and education. As I told you all moving to the East is just the beginning of my own journey in Masonry.

*FROM THE WEST:*

BY BR ADAM MARTIN SW



Greetings from the West Brethren!

Wow how time flies. 2022 flew by us and we had a fantastic year at Accacia! I am proud to say that we raised 3 new Master Masons this past year, have 8 Entered Apprentices currently going through degrees and 2 more waiting to receive their Entered Apprentice. Thank you to those who helped keep things moving!

I wanted to take a moment to talk about the duties of the Senior Warden in regards to the lodge:

#### 1. Lodge Harmony

- a. I put this first because I think it is one of the most important things in the lodge. As Senior Warden you are the eyes and ears of the Worshipful Master in making sure the members are enjoying their experience.
- b. I will be reaching out to as many as I can to make sure the Lodge is meaningful to you and to see what we can do better this year so I can inform the WM.
- c. I also encourage you to reach out to me should you need anything or have any suggestions.

#### 2. Mentorship

- a. I didn't know this until about 6 months ago but the Senior Warden is in charge of the Mentorship program.
- b. My goal here is to get this back on track and get our incoming Brothers mentors who will guide them to be outstanding Masons.
- c. I have already reached out to many of you and I applaud your efforts thus far. Keep up the great work and I hope this year we can get this program a well oiled machine.



#### 3. Ritual Instruction

- a. Another thing I did not know what the Senior Warden should be ensuring that ritual instruction is being handed down from position to position (i.e. Sr. Deacon advises Jr. Deacon on ritual). If you know me you know I am very passionate about perfecting our ritual. If you have questions about your role please come and talk to me.

#### 4. Lodge Recognition

- a. Have you ever wondered when the Senior Warden says "To pay the craft their wages if ought be due"? What does that mean in our time? Well it boils down to recognition in the lodge and advising the WM of that. More to come.

#### 5. Planning for next year

- a. I left this last not as an exhibit of unimportance but more that I want to show what a Senior Warden does first and foremost. This planning is usually done on the side with talks amongst the officers.
- b. Be rest assured I have started planning for next year and I will be posting my goals, tradition prevailing, after next year's elections.

Thank you for all of your support for Accacia Lodge #51! We have a great lodge with great members and I look forward to serving this year as Senior Warden.

Fraternally,  
 Brother Adam Martin  
 Senior Warden  
 Accacia Lodge #51



*FROM THE SOUTH:*

BY WB LLOYD CHENEY JW



Greetings from the south! As the Junior Warden represents the glory and beauty of the day I would like to commend the examples of the beauty of Accacia Lodge.

Every year since becoming a member of Accacia No. 51 the lodge has grown in membership and in its deeds of Faith, Hope, Charity, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

We have a sustained growth in membership. We continue to do things necessary to attract members and aspirants to our lodge. So many of these new brothers also enthusiastically join other bodies of Masonry. This is the way to grow the network of Masonic membership and strengthen our brotherhood.

Our lodge has also grown in its commitment to the community with our continued construction and building improvements. We have been recognized and awarded for our preservation efforts. These improvements not only help our lodge but it demonstrates to our community that Freemasonry is alive and thriving here in Minnesota.

Last but not least we need to continue this outreach to our friends in the area and build those relationships that will assist us in performing the tenets of our institution. I happily look forward to the coming year and to continue this great and good work.

With Fraternal Love and Affection,

WB Lloyd Cheney - Junior Warden

## **CONGRATULATIONS WM UMAROU YAYAH AND THE OFFICERS OF ACCACIA NO. 51 ON YOUR INSTALLATION! HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR IN 2023!**





**Series of photo highlights from 2022**



**Accacia No. 51 received Cottage Grove Perservationist of the Year Award**



**Accacia's annual family and friends picnic was a huge success!**



**Accacia's annual spaghetti dinner and raffle was very successful!**



**Many Accacia Brothers helped with bell ringing for the Salvation Army**



## CONGRATULATIONS WB JERRY JOHNSON 2022 HIRAM AWARDEE ACCACIA LODGE NO 51!





**LEO:**

## The Master's Secret

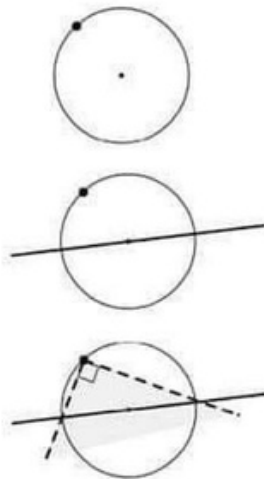
### How to "Try the Square".

Early Egyptian monuments are carved with a symbol representing the power and wisdom of the creator. It consists of the Alpha and Omega in the center of a circle, embordered by two upright parallel perpendicular serpents. These upright parallel perpendiculars are also known to Masons as the "Rods of St. John". This ancient symbol came into Masonry through the operative practice of "trying the square".

To start the geometric construction, put a dot on a circle anywhere.

Draw a straight line across the circle right through the center, at any angle.

Connect the dot with the points at which the line through the center cuts the circle, the result is a perfect square in the corner of a right angled triangle.



"Trying the Square" was the Operative Master Mason's great secret, the knowledge that separated him from a journeyman and ensured him his wages as due. It was by trying the square that he made proper plans and tested the working tools of the Fellows of the Craft; if he tested often enough, it was impossible either for the tools or the work "to materially err".



## CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING UPDATE!:

BY WB LLOYD CHENEY SD

Greetings Brothers and Friends of Accacia Lodge No 51! As I reported in a previous edition of The Sprig, 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. WB Ryan Lowry drew up plans for the deck and due to the length of run requirement, we opted to add the ramp to the rear of the building.



Brother Dave Martin joined WB's Mark Simmonds, Doug Weisbrod and Lloyd Cheney and poured the foundation footings for the new ramp.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE CONTINUED:

BY WB LLOYD CHENEY SD

The ramp footings were poured this past spring. Spring 2023 will proceed with ramp construction. There will be handicapped marked parking spaces near the ramp as well.

We also will 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 it will complement our center room featured checkered carpet that is west of the altar.

The upstairs kitchen will also be getting a renovation. We have already added new lighting fixtures and will change all new windows to match the new ones in the Lodge. We also plan to completely update the sheet-rock walls and ceiling and paint the room and with new til on the floor, the room will gleam!

The next phase is to start downstairs on the basement windows and window well replacement. Eight windows will need replacement and we are adding in window wells with drainage material.

We also plan to do 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 remove 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. Anything our Brothers can do to help us with this ongoing project would be most appreciated. We are asking for some donations to our construction fund and those brothers and friends that are able we would very much appreciate the monetary support.





**CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING FUNDS ARE NEEDED!**

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!

Welcome our newest Master Masons:

Br. Alex Diamond

Br. Mitchell Born

Br. Richard Michel

Along with our newly made Master Masons, we have grown our lodge with other Master Masons who now have joined our lodge:

IBGC Jerry Johnson (a longtime supporter of our lodge officially became a member in 2022)

Br. Dave Mencarini joined our lodge

Br. Juan Carlos Rubayo Suarez joined our lodge

We also have seven new Entered Apprentices:

Br James Brewer

Br Walter Henry

Br Anthony Keller

Br Heath Mast

Br Jay Pine

Br Max Rouillard-Horne

Br Peter Tobin

We have three candidates who will likely take their degrees via the One Day to Masonry in January.

Mr. Nathan Henry

Mr Joshua Duran

Mr. Kevin Schenemainn

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

Brothers Juan, Rick and Alex also became Nobles in Osman Shriners in December 2022!. Welcome Nobles!

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





## Upcoming Events and Activities!

Accacia Lodge has many events and activities that are coming up for remainder of 2023!

We are going to need work crews for help with:

- **Degree Work** - We are deep into our degree cycle and will be conducting two Fellow Craft and two Master Mason degrees by the end of March 2023
- **Lodge Clean up** - Basement and a deep clean of the Lodge in April 2023.
- **Construction:** Work crew for the ramp construction starting in May and continuing throughout the summer.
- Work crew for floor and upstairs kitchen renovation.
- Work crews will be needed for the carpet and renovation of the main lodge room, balcony, and window casework.
- We are once again conducting a **Sportsman's Raffle** this year! With more prizes. The gaming licenses are being applied for and the funds from this endeavor go to our charitable giving. Last year's raffle brought in an amazing amount for charitable giving. Current plan is to seek dispensation from Grand Lodge and licenses in February 2023 to get a head start on selling tickets this year.
- **Family Picnic and Open House** are being planned. This August will be continuing this event that grows every year. It truly is becoming a event that allows our families, other lodges and our community to meet and share fellowship, food, and fun.
- **Scholarships** - If you have an HS Junior or Senior that is going onto school and of good character attributed to Masonic principles please have them contact the lodge, Master of the Lodge WM Umarou Yayah or Secretary WB Loren Murphy
- **Pancake Breakfast**
  - **MAY 7, 2023 - 8AM - NOON**
- **Spaghetti Dinner and Sportsmans Raffle**
  - **OCTOBER 14, 2023 - 4PM to 7PM Raffle at 6PM**
- **Degree Work!**



### St. Patrick's Day Ceremonial & Celebration

**Saturday, March 18th, 2023**

2:45 PM – Candidate Registration  
 3:15 PM – Candidate and Significant Other Orientation  
 4:00 PM – Open Ceremonial and Fezzing  
 5:00 PM – Social  
 5:30 to 6:30 PM – Dinner\*

\*(Dinner cost is \$20; Kids under 12 dinner cost is \$15. First Line Signer and Significant Other Dinner free.)

Initiation cost \$250 which includes 2023 dues, initiation fees, Fez, Candidate and Significant Other Dinner

OSMAN SHRINE EVENT CENTER  
 2750 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY Eagan, MN. 55121

RSVP by March 8, 2023  
 to Osman office at 651-452-5660




Discover what it means to be a Mason and a Shriner



Join us on  
**March 4, 2023 1-4 pm**

**A Place To Unwind**



3rd Act Craft Brewery  
 4120 Radio Drive  
 Woodbury, MN 55129

We all need a place to relax, so why not do it with a fresh craft beer in your hand, brick fired pizza & pretzels and games for all. The beer is brewed right on site and the pizza and pretzels are made in 3<sup>rd</sup> Act's brick oven right at the bar. They even have homemade root beer brewed on site.



Sponsored by Osman Shriners  
 For further information please call: 651-452-5660

beashrinernow.com



Shriners Brotherhood  
 Fun Philanthropy  
 Family



### You are Invited to the St. Paul Valley Feast of Council 2023

**February 15th, 2023**  
 Social: 5:30 PM  
 Buffet Dinner: 6:00 PM  
 \$35.00 per person

Honoring the Founding Members of the Ill. Jerry & Peg Oliver Scholarship Fund and St Paul Valley 2022 50 Year Member

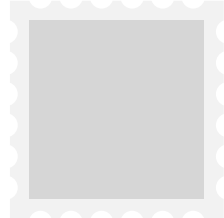
Ladies and Guests are Welcome  
 RSVP to 651-222-2676  
 secretary@stpaulsr.org no later than Feb, 10th, 2023

Lost Spur Event Center  
 2750 Sibley Memorial Hwy.  
 Eagan, MN 55121

Dress Code - Cap, Jacket and Tie



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. Dinner at 6:00 PM

Next 3 meetings: Apr 19 - 7:00 PM, May 17 - 7:00 PM, Jun 14 - 7:00 PM

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

 @accacia51  @accacia51  <http://www.accacia51freemason.org>

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