



# THE SPRIG OF ACCACIA



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ACCACIA LODGE NO. 51



Greetings from the East!

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to our Senior Warden, Lloyd Cheney, for his dedicated work in initiating and steering the success of this newsletter in recent years. With the passing of the reins to our Junior Warden, David Martin, I am confident that we are in capable hands. I extend my gratitude to both of you for your unwavering commitment to Accacia.

As we step into 2024, we have an exciting year ahead with numerous events and activities planned. Here's a glimpse of what to anticipate:

- Two Master Mason Degree Cycles
- Food events:
  - Pancake Breakfast
  - Flag Day Feast (a new yearly event)
  - Spaghetti Dinner
  - Awards dinner
  - Strawberry Fest booth
- Two family nights
  - Bowling night
  - TBD (Survey results are coming in - leader is a Saints Game)

These initiatives are the result of collaborative efforts, and I hope to see all of you actively participating in these events. Congratulations to our newest members, Brother Tim Miller and Brother Rich Purcell, on receiving their Entered Apprentice Degree. Your journey in this historic fraternity is a significant step, and I look forward to witnessing your progress within our lodge.

A warm welcome to Brother Jay Desio, who has recently affiliated with Accacia from Wisconsin. We are thrilled to have you join our lodge.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in our recent officer installation. With around 90 guests in attendance, it was truly heartwarming. To those who have already been recognized in the lodge, I won't delve into details again, but thank you for contributing to the specialness of that day.

A special acknowledgement to all who contributed to completing the handicap ramp, with particular thanks to WB Jerry Johnson, WB Lloyd Cheney, and WB Ryan Lowry for being the driving force behind its completion. Brethren, I encourage each of you to provide continuous feedback throughout the year. Whether it's to me or my primary officers, your input is invaluable. Our goal is to serve you and the lodge, so please don't hesitate to reach out if there are ways we can improve.

I am honored to serve as your Worshipful Master this year, and I extend my gratitude for electing me to this position. Rest assured, I will do my utmost to uphold the dignity of the office and serve the lodge to the best of my abilities.

With Fraternal Love,  
Adam Martin  
Worshipful Master



*FROM THE EAST:*

BY WM ADAM MARTIN



## FROM THE WEST:

BY WB LLOYD CHENEY

Greetings from the West!

It is always exciting to begin a new Masonic year and looking at our lodge calendar this one is going to be epic. WM Adam has already set the tempo by planning out a great calendar of meetings, events and opportunities for great and good work within our community.

Harmony being the strength and support of all societies more especially our own I have included an article from the Grand Lodge of Mississippi (Richard B Stevens PM, Ebenezer Lodge #76) that I found especially poignant. "One dictionary defines musical harmony as "the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect"

Note that musical harmony doesn't mean that every musician is sounding the same note at the same time. Instead, harmony means that different musicians play different notes yet still produce a pleasing end result when all the notes are played together. To do this, each musician must understand what the other musicians are doing if the group is to play in harmony.

In Masonry, harmony isn't the state of full agreement by all parties on every detail. As Masons, we are taught to strive for harmony in the lodge. We are to work together to produce a pleasing end result. However, harmony doesn't mean we are to stay silent about important issues for fear of offending someone, nor does maintaining harmony require us to stay silent when someone says or does something we believe is detrimental to the lodge, to another Mason, or to the speaker himself. In fact, as Masons we are required to speak up in those situations.

So what is harmony? I suggest that harmony is the ability to speak, to listen, and to disagree without being disagreeable.

When we speak, we should attempt to temper our words as much as possible, especially if the subject at hand is one on which the speaker and listener might disagree. We should be clear in our speech, yet avoid inflammatory language. When offense is given inadvertently we should be quick to recognize that and make such amends as we can.

As listeners, we should pay attention to the content of the speech and do our best to ignore harsh words that may be unintended or said in the heat of the moment. It's always better to ask for clarification than to assume ill intent. I have a friend, a Brother Mason, who has a heart of gold. He is a good, kind man of boundless charity and a drive to work for the betterment of the world around him. He also has a distinct talent for saying the right thing the wrong way with the wrong words at the worst possible time.

The best motives can often be hidden by a poor choice of words, or often by using words that have different meanings for the speaker and the listener. Just as it is incumbent upon a speaker to recognize that offense has been given, it is just as important for the listener to realize that not all offense is intentional, and to try and forgive those who trespass against us. Today, before we take offense, let us at least pause long enough to ask ourselves "Just what did the other person mean by that?". If need be, ask for clarification. In other words, let us stop, think, and measure the situation and the intent before we stop, think, and measure our response. That way, like the musicians, maybe we can speak and act in harmony in our lodges and in our lives." I hope that this bit of wisdom reminds us all to work together for the noblest of contention of who best can work and best agree.

Fraternally

WB Lloyd Cheney





**FROM THE SOUTH:**

BY BR DAVE MARTIN

Greetings from the South! As the Junior Warden, I read once that we should take to heart that as the sun rises in the east to start the day and it continues its journey until it is at its meridian height representing the hottest part of the day. When our body starts to feel it is very hot, it then signals us that it is time to rest from the heat for a bit to protect ourselves. The sun also sets in the west to signal that the day is over. It is important to know when it is the appropriate time to work and when it is the appropriate time to rest. It is about balancing your life. When I started my Masonic journey, I was in desperate need to balance my life. Masonry has given me the tools needed to stop and take a moment and recognize that the present is the most important moment in your life, the past is gone, and the future has yet to arrive. This has helped me to balance my mind and soul and to appreciate the glory and beauty of the day. I hope that Masonry is giving you the same tools and guidance to balance your life.

**CONGRATULATIONS WM ADAM MARTIN AND THE OFFICERS OF ACCACIA NO. 51 ON YOUR INSTALLATION! HERE'S TO A GREAT YEAR IN 2024!**

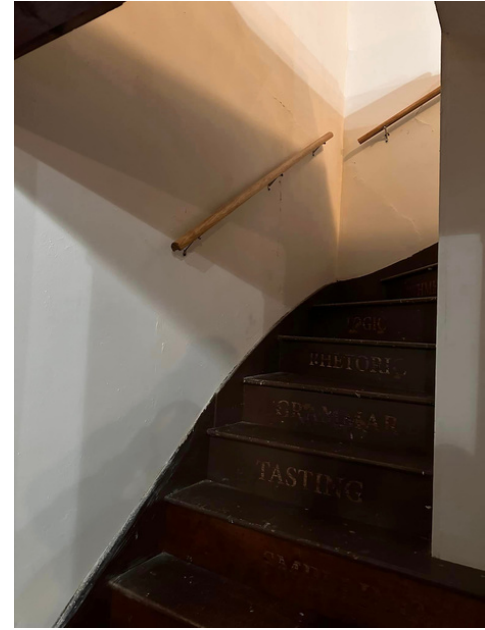


- 2024 OFFICER LINE**
- Worshipful Master: WM Elect Adam Martin
  - Senior Warden: WB Lloyd Cheney
  - Junior Warden: Br. David Martin
  - Secretary: WB Ryan Lowry
  - Treasurer: WB Paul Maxam
  - Senior Deacon: Br. David Mencarini
  - Junior Deacon: Br. Mitchell Born
  - Senior Steward: Br. Juan Carlos Rubayo
  - Junior Steward: Br. Jay Pine
  - Chaplain: Br. James Brewer
  - Marshal: Br. Heath Mast
  - Lodge Education Officer: Br. Steven Miller
  - Tyler: WB Russ Meister





**Lodge restoration and improvements highlights from 2023**





**Accacia's annual family and friends picnic was well attended**



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





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



### By the Light of the Moon



Accacia Lodge is the last moon lodge in Minnesota. On August 30-31, 2023, the moon was given a trifecta of labels. A full moon, a supermoon, and finally a blue moon. As a result, it was called a super blue moon. The next super blue moon is set to occur in 2037.

“Stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held on Wednesday of the week in each month in which the moon is full.”

Article I, Section 3 of Accacia Lodge No. 51 Bylaws. Adopted in 1865.

Accacia Lodge holds its Stated Communications (i.e. Regular Meetings) on the Tuesday closest to the Full Moon, thus we are known as a “Moon Lodge.” At the time of the lodge founding, this was for a two-fold purpose: One was for the benefit of those who did not have calendars and could tell when Lodge was to meet by watching the waxing of the moon. The second was that on most lodge nights they would be aided in their travel to and from lodge by the light of a bright moon.

Even with the addition of paved roads, street lights, automobiles, day planners and GPS, this is a custom the lodge has continued to this day.



## LODGE EVENTS



On December 19th, 2023, we closed the lodge of sorrows, with the following brother not responding to the call of the workman:

Dale Yost, February 21, 2023.

### Upcoming Events:

February 21st, Feast of Council

May 5th, Pancake Breakfast

June 14, Flag Day Feast

June 21-22, CG Strawberry Fest

August 13th, Lodge Family Picnic

October 5th, Spaghetti Dinner and Sportsman Raffle

Happy New Year!

Wishing you and yours a prosperous and successful New Year.



Accacia Lodge will host a booth this year at the Cottage Grove Strawberry fest on June 21 and June 22 2024. Participation in this event at Kingston Park will give us an opportunity to showcase our lodge and reach more people for our community outreach efforts and help boost ticket sales for our charitable giving fundraisers such as the Spaghetti Dinner and Sportsman Raffle.



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

BY BR STEVEN MILLER



### HEARTWOOD, SAPWOOD AND ROOTS:

There are three parts of a tree which are very important to its survival. At the center of the trunk is the heartwood. It is the oldest, strongest portion of the tree. The core that keeps it standing tall. The sapwood, on the other hand, is the newest growth. Nutrients pass through it to the heartwood, which cannot survive without the sapwood.

If the tree is properly cared for, the sapwood will eventually become part of the heartwood, adding to the strength and viability of the tree, helping to ensure its future. The sapwood, in turn, cannot survive if its life were not fed and supported by the tree's roots, which spread out widely into the surrounding earth, bringing the best of the available nutrients to the sapwood and keeping itself alive. These three basic and necessary parts of a tree can be easily compared to three basic and necessary parts of a Masonic Lodge. The heartwood, at the center of a Masonic Lodge, could be said to consist of the Past Masters, the long time members and perhaps the senior officers. They have the most experience and are the strength and backbone of a Masonic Lodge.

The sapwood would be the candidates, newer members and perhaps the junior officers. They help those in the center to do their jobs and make it possible for them to survive. Masonically, if properly cared for and encouraged, these brothers will eventually become part of the heartwood, adding to the strength and viability of the lodge, helping to ensure its future.

The roots, neither of these two parts of the lodge would survive for long if not fed and supported by our roots in our communities. We must spread out widely, making the world aware of our good works and bring the best available good men to the doors of our lodges, so that the tree of Freemasonry may continue to thrive. Let us recognize the importance of our older as well as newer members. Let us give equal attention to our candidates as we do to our Past Masters. Let us constantly remember that our reputation, image and service in our communities are vitally important for the nourishing of our future growth and strength. The heartwood, sapwood and roots -- just as important to the success of every lodge as they are to every tree.



# LODGE BEAUTIFICATION AND RESTORATION

In the year of the light 6023 Accacia Lodge #51 was blessed with talent, drive, initiative and funding from our brothers of Accacia so that we were able to complete many projects. The ramp construction was completed with the help and assistance of a team of talented individuals who knew the great importance of this task. We have many brothers who are appreciative of this ramp and the ability that it will provide as assistance that is needed to attend functions at our lodge. The handicapped parking space is completed as well. Thanks to the brothers who helped Special thanks to WB Jerry, WB Lloyd, WB Ryan, and many brothers who completed the ramp. The windows and trim work was completed in the main lodge room. Thanks to WB Doug for installing the new door that allows the ramp participants access into our lodge. Thanks to the brothers who helped clean the lodge, helped paint and refurbish the balcony, and other projects in the lodge. Future projects consist of replacing the lodge room carpet, the upstairs kitchen will also be getting renovated. We have already added new lighting fixtures and will update the remaining windows to match the new ones in the main lodge room. The next phase is to start downstairs and update 8 windows and add window wells with drainage material. We also plan to update the restrooms. 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: RYAN LOWRY**

**Accacia Lodge  
11094 70 St S  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016**

Write Building Fund in the memo line.

Accacia Lodge has many events and activities that are coming up for remainder of 2024!

We are going to need work crews for help with:

- **Degree Work** - We are deep into our degree cycle and will be conducting a Fellow Craft and a Master Mason degrees in February and April
- **Construction:** Work crew for the floor and upstairs kitchen renovation will start before the summer.
- We are once again conducting a **Sportsman's Raffle** this year with new and improved 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. The current plan is to seek dispensation from Grand Lodge and licenses in February 2024 to get a head start on selling tickets this year.
- **Family Picnic and Open House** are being planned. This August will will be continuing this event that grows every year. It truly is becoming a picnic 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 Adam Martin or Secretary WB Ryan Lowry)
- **Pancake Breakfast**
  - **MAY 5, 2024 - 8AM - NOON**
- **Spaghetti Dinner and Sportsmans Raffle**
  - **OCTOBER 5, 2024 - 4PM to 7PM Raffle at 6PM**

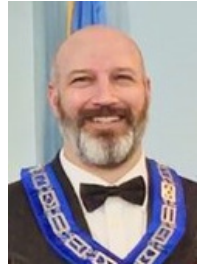
**SECRETARY'S CORNER:**

BY WB RYAN LOWRY SEC

Greetings to all!

Welcome our newest 2023 Master Masons:

Br. James Brewer  
Br. Walter Henry  
Br. Heath Mast  
Br. Peter Tobin  
Br. Jay Pine  
Br. Max Rouillard-Horne



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

IB Joe Amos  
WB Wiley Davis  
Br Steven Miller  
Br Jay Desio

We also have 2 new Entered Apprentices:

Br Tim Miller  
Br Rich Percell

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

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





# Upcoming Events and Activities!

**JOIN US FOR A MASONIC MEMBERSHIP EVENT!**






**ST PAUL VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE**

# IBBO NIGHT

Prepared by **BRS KRECKLAU, CHENEY & MARTIN**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 6:00 PM**

**200 PLATO BLVD E. ST PAUL, MN 55107**  
 BBQ RIBS, CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS, MAC & CHEESE, BBQ BAKED BEANS, AND COLESLAW.

**CASH BAR**

**\$20/Mason NON-MASONS FREE**

**All Masons & Interested Good Men Invited**  
 RSVP TO THE VALLEY SECRETARY:  
[SECRETARY@STPAULSR.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@STPAULSR.ORG)

**ST PAUL VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE COUNCIL OF KADOSH FEAST OF COUNCIL**




**SAVE THE DATE**

**FEBRUARY 21 2024**

**5:30 PM SOCIAL 6:30 PM DINNER**

**GUEST SPEAKER: 1B GREG VOKOVAN 33**

**THE LOST SPUR GOLF & EVENT CENTER**  
 2750 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY EAGAN MN 55121

**RSVP TO VALLEY SECRETARY - SECRETARY@STPAULSR.ORG**

**\$35 PER PERSON LADIES/SIGNIFICANT OTHERS ARE INVITED**

**SCAN QR CODE TO PAY ONLINE OR RSVP AND SEND CHECK FOR \$35 TO ST PAUL VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE**

**BECOME A SCOTTISH RITE MASON**  
**SPRING REUNION BEGINS**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**  
**ST. PAUL SCOTTISH RITE**

**Scottish Rite Creed**  
 Human progress is our cause,  
 liberty of thought our supreme wish,  
 freedom of conscience our mission,  
 and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.




**SCAN FOR PETITION**



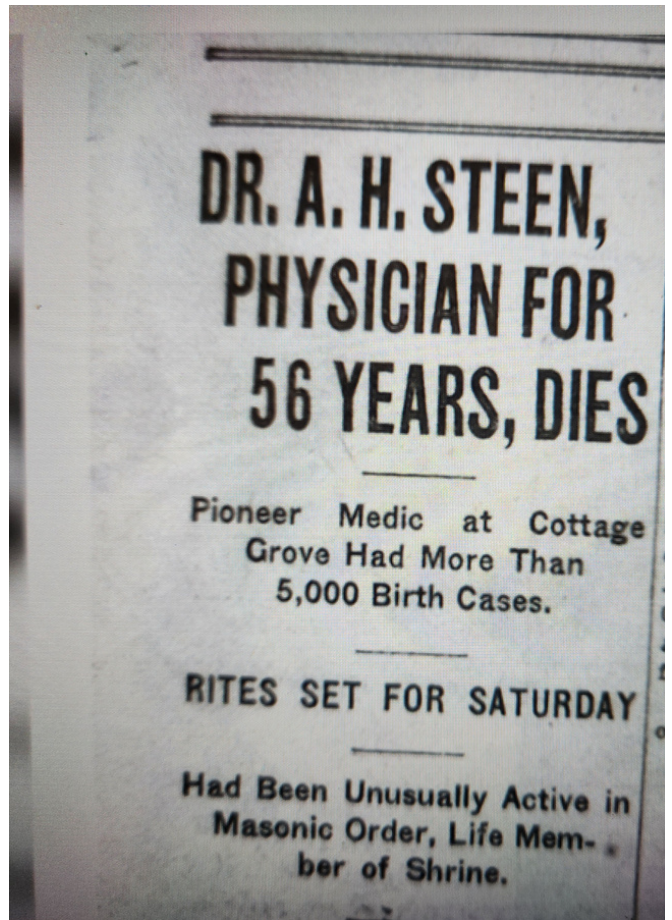
**CONTACT ADAM MARTIN, 32° K.C.C.H.**  
[SECRETARY@STPAULSR.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@STPAULSR.ORG)  
 A.A.S.R. OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION  
 ORIENT OF MINNESOTA, VALLEY OF ST. PAUL





Spotlight on a Past Master

Dr A.H. Steen, Past Master, Rural Doctor, One of the founding fathers of Cottage Grove, His Wife Eva. Scottish Rite certificate signed by the one of the fathers of the Scottish Rite. Albert Pike





*ACCACIA LODGE #51*  
*Upcoming Event*

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024**

**Accacia Lodge No. 51**  
**PANCAKE**  
**BREAKFAST**

★ 8:00 AM to NOON ★

Serving  
pancakes,  
sausage  
links and  
eggs made  
to order!  
Coffee,  
Juice and  
Milk.

Adults: \$15  
Kids 12-Under \$8  
Kids 3-Under Free

11094 70th Street South  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016



SCAN TO PAY ONLINE



**ACCACIA LODGE NO 51**  
**FLAG DAY FEAST!**  
**JUNE 14, 2024**

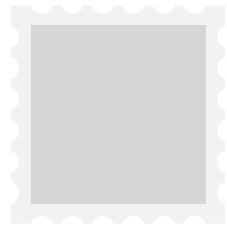
- FLAG POLE DEDICATION AT 3:00 PM
- OUR NEW FLAG WAS FLOWN AND TRAVELED ON THE USS MINNESOTA SUBMARINE
- HONOR GUARD BY OSMAN LEGION OF HONOR

**BURGER OR BRATWURST WITH CHIPS AND A DRINK FOR \$6 FOLLOWING DEDICATION**

11094 70TH ST S  
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016



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: FEB 20TH - 7:00 PM, MAR 26 - 7:00 PM, APR 23 - 7:00 PM

July meeting is at the Ames Room Grand Lodge, August is the Picnic

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



@accacia51



@accacia51



<http://www.accacia51freemasons.org>