



The Sprig of Accacia



A Message From The East

Greetings from the East!

Welcome to the first edition of The Sprig of Accacia newsletter for the 2025 masonic year. As we step into 2025, we have an exciting year ahead with numerous events and activities planned.

Here's a glimpse of what to anticipate:

- We have started this year's lodge degree cycle. We will have only one MM degree this fall with at least two EA degrees and Two FC degrees

Food events:

- o Toys for Tots Drive and Turkey Fry which was held in December
- o Hiram Award Night for WB Russ Meister
- o Pancake Breakfast
- o Flag Day Feast
- o 159th Annual Family Picnic and Awarding Scholarships
- o 160th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner
- o Spaghetti Dinner and Sportsman's and More Raffle

Brotherhood and Family Events:

- o Brotherhood Night at 3rd Act Brewery
- o Family Camping Event
- o Outside Family Movie Night
- o Brotherhood Poker Night
- o Range Day for Brothers
- o Family Bowling Day

Lodge Renovations:

- o Handicap Restroom
- o Upstairs Dining Room Renovation
- o Downstairs Restroom Renovation



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 Joshua Duran and Brother Ofuoma Ikogho, 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.

Congratulations to our newest Master Masons, Brother Tony Stegeman, Brother Gabe Hutton, Brother Dante Dean, Brother Thomas McGill, and Brother Tru Olstad. Welcome Brothers! I would also like to welcome our new affiliated brothers that have joined in recent months and extend my personal thanks for joining our lodge.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in our recent officer installation. With around 100 guests in attendance, it was truly heartwarming. Thank you for contributing to the specialness of that day. The new mural of King Solomon's Temple was unveiled and is spectacular. Thanks to the group collaborative effort in its design and Bro. Heath Mast and his wife for making this mural come from a vision to reality.

This year we are continuing to build on our mentorship program. Brother Justin Ortega has been assigned as our prospect manager. Brother Justin has developed a very detailed pre and post mentorship plan and has started its implementation with this new degree cycle. Thank you, Brother Justin, for taking on this important work of pre and post degree membership management. Our Senior Warden, Brother Dave Martin will oversee this program along with the assignment and managing mentors for our new members.

The 2025 Sportsman's and More Raffle tickets will soon be distributed. This is our key charitable fundraiser and over the past 5 years has raised nearly \$20,000 for scholarships and other charity distributed to our community. Like last year, there will be a brotherly competition for ticket sales. Top seller gets his dues paid for the next year and second place will get half their dues remitted by the lodge.

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,
Lloyd Cheney, Worshipful Master

A Message From the West - Proximity to Prosperity by Bro. David Martin

As a Mason, are you in proximity to prosperity?

When we hear the word prosperity, our minds often drift toward money, gold, or material wealth. But that's not the kind of prosperity I'm talking about. Freemasonry is not a shortcut to riches or financial success. It never has been. The proximity to prosperity I'm referring to is something deeper, more enduring — one grounded in ethical living, personal growth, and fraternal connection. It's about being near the kind of people, ideas, and environments that help you thrive. It's a prosperity of the spirit, the mind, and the heart.

In our fraternity, we emphasize values like integrity, friendship, respect, and service. These aren't just abstract concepts; they are practical virtues that, when actively applied to daily life, can create meaningful and lasting success. Not just in career or finances — but in our relationships, character, and contentment.

Being in proximity to good men—men who challenge you to be better, who share wisdom, who walk the same path of self-improvement—can be transformational. That closeness can shape your thoughts, your habits, and your outlook on life. It can even spark new ideas and fresh ways to approach the challenges we all face.

Freemasonry encourages self-reflection and personal development. As we labor to improve ourselves, we build confidence, resilience, and clarity. And as we grow, we naturally become better equipped to support others and contribute to the shared prosperity of our Lodge and community.

Through brotherhood, we gain a network of support—friends and mentors who offer guidance, encouragement, and, when needed, a firm reminder of the values we've sworn to uphold.

So I ask again: Are you in proximity to prosperity?

I hope that in your Masonic journey, you not only find spiritual and personal fulfillment in the company of your Brothers, but that you also actively contribute to that same prosperity for others. That's the kind of wealth that truly endures.



Supporting Those Who Serve:

Accacia Lodge No. 51 is proud to announce the donation of its 12th Fire Suppression Tool to the City of Cottage Grove Public Safety. This brings the Lodge's total contribution to \$12,000, made possible through partnerships with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Minnesota Masonic Charities.



A Month of Roisings

January was a meaningful month for Accacia Lodge No. 51 as we fulfilled one of the Craft's highest callings: the making of Master Masons. Early in the month, Brother Tony Stegeman was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason "on sight" by Most Worshipful Grand Master Foster Solem in a special home ceremony, as he continues his courageous battle with cancer.

Later that month, Brothers Tru Olsted, Tom McGill, Gabe Hutton, and Dante Dean completed their degrees at the Grand Lodge One-Day to Masonry event.

We welcome these Brothers into full fellowship and celebrate a strong start to the year.



A Message From the South - Reflections on Fellowship by Bro. 'Cob' Mencarini

Brethren,

As Junior Warden, I've come to appreciate that the real heart of our Lodge lies not only in ritual or routine, but in the quiet strength of our fellowship. Sitting in the South offers a unique perspective — it's where labor meets refreshment, and where the balance between work and rest is honored. In that balance, we find community.

Masonry teaches us to be ever mindful of the needs of our Brothers — to provide nourishment not just for the body, but for the spirit. Whether it's a shared meal after Lodge or a casual conversation between degrees, these are the spaces where Brotherhood grows. Not with fanfare, but with presence.

This spring invites us — as it always does — to reconnect, renew, and re-engage with one another. For some, that might mean returning to Lodge after time away; for others, it might be taking the time to reach out to a Brother, old or new. Whatever form it takes, our strength is found in showing up.

I also invite you to keep an eye on our calendar — we've scheduled a Brothers Night on May 29th at 3rd Act Brewery in Woodbury. It's open to Masons and prospects alike. No agenda, no formalities — just an opportunity to gather and enjoy one another's company outside the Lodge room.



Honoring a Legacy: WB Russell Meister

Named 2025 Hiram Award



It is with great pride and heartfelt joy that we announce the 2025 Hiram Award recipient for the 160th Anniversary of Accacia Masonic Lodge No. 51 —Worshipful Brother Russell Meister!

This prestigious lifetime achievement award honors those who have demonstrated unwavering dedication, service, and love for the Craft. WB Russ embodies all of that — and so much more. With nearly 35 years of Masonic service, WB Russ has become a pillar not only of Accacia No. 51 but of the entire Metro East Masonic community. His journey through the fraternity has been marked by leadership, mentorship, and a deep fraternal commitment that has impacted countless Brothers.

We are thrilled to recognize your lifetime of service and to celebrate this honor with the entire Accacia family.

Let's come together to celebrate a truly Masonic life well-lived.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
April 11-12	Annual Communication	All Day
April 19	Pancake Breakfast	8:00 AM-12:00 PM
April 22	Stated Meeting (Dinner at 6:00pm)	7:00-9:00 PM
May 13	Stated Meeting (Dinner at 6:00pm)	7:00-9:00 PM
May 15	Fellowcraft Degree	6:00-8:00 PM
May 29	Brothers Night 3rd Act Brewery Woodbury	6:30-8:30 PM
June 10	Stated Meeting (Dinner at 6:00pm)	7:00-9:00 PM
June 14	Flag Day Feast	
July 8	Stated Meeting (Ames Room Grand Lodge of Minnesota)	7:00-9:00 PM
August 12	Annual Family Picnic	5:00-7:00pm



**ACCACIA LODGE NO 51
FLAG DAY FEAST!
JUNE 14, 2025**

- US FLAG DAY CEREMONY 3:00 PM
- COME CELEBRATE OUR FLAG AND LEARN FLAG HISTORY AND ETIQUETTE.
- HONORING OUR EAGLE SCOUTS AND EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

**BURGER OR BRATWURST
WITH CHIPS & DRINK \$8**

**11094 70TH ST S
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016**

★★★★★★



HERE WE MEET
ACCACIA LODGE #51
COTTAGE GROVE, MN
WHEN THE MOON PUTS



MINNESOTA
FREEMASONS
ORG. 1853



**BURGER OR BRAT
W/ CHIPS & DRINK
\$8**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025

**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: \$11
Kids 12-Under \$6
Kids 3-Under Free**

**11094 70th Street South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016**



MINNESOTA
FREEMASONS
ORG. 1853



HERE WE MEET
ACCACIA LODGE #51
COTTAGE GROVE, MN
WHEN THE MOON PUTS



**KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT
9:00AM TO 10:00AM**

SCAN TO PAY ONLINE

