

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2025  
Issue 5  
Nov-Dec

## WHAT? CHRISTMAS ALREADY?



Being an organization based on Christianity, Defiance Commandery will hold its annual York Rite Christmas Observance on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 pm. This event is open to the public so it is a chance to allow friends, neighbors and family a glimpse into what it means to be a Mason.

The Worshipful Masters from Omega and Sherwood Lodges along with the High Priest from Ensawocsa Chapter, Illustrious Master from Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council and the Commander of Defiance Commandery will be hosts and will have an opportunity to introduce distinguished guests of their respective bodies. A potluck dinner will follow with meat and beverage provided.

The Christmas Observance includes a memorial service for members from Defiance who passed away since our last service. Rev. David Orr whom we sponsored to travel to the Holy Land a few years back will bring the Christmas message.

Following the service, there will be time for fellowship at a potluck meal in the dining room. Meat and beverages will be provided. **Family and friends are encouraged to attend.**

## GRAND MASTER APPOINTS 5<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT LEADERS TO SERVE IN 2025-26

At the 216<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, MW Brother Shawn Johnson was elected and installed as Grand Master for 2025-26. As his representatives for the 5<sup>th</sup> Masonic District, he has commissioned RW Brother James Parsons and RW Brother Dennis Richardson to carry out the duties of DDGM. Worshipful Brothers Craig Szczublewski and Ryan Bleck will serve as District Education Officers. RW Brother Bob Rettig was re-appointed District Advisor.

Congratulations and thanks to these brothers for accepting these leadership roles for our District. MW Past Grand Master Steven Grindle will conduct the open installation of RWB Richardson and WB Bleck in Wauseon on Friday November 7, at 7:00.



Dennis Richardson  
District Deputy  
Grand Master



Ryan Bleck  
District Education  
Officer

## PAST MASTER'S CONVOCATION TO BE HELD IN WAUSEON ON DECEMBER 6 AT 9 a.m.

All Worshipful Masters elect are required to attend a Past Masters Convocation, not only to receive the Past Masters Degree, but also to learn what the Grand Master would like to accomplish this year with their help. Along with the DDGM's presentation for the masters of the lodges and the degree, the DEO's will conduct an LEO conference at 9:00 and also provide a seminar at 10:30 for the Deacons and Wardens of our Lodges. Both sessions are open to any brother wishing to attend.

**FROM THE TEMPLE BOARD** We recently had a rather large issue concerning bats in the Temple and the rental units. We incurred a cost of approximately \$6500. Our Treasurer, Tim Bidlack, consulted with a pest control company that has taken care of the problem. He also has consulted with the insurance company and no claim can be made.

Much as the same with the roof that is leaking. When I was on the roof, and Brother Bidlack at a different time, we both noticed a soft area. I did take note of several seams on the rubber roof as well as curled corners that will be a problem as seen already. (Continued at bottom of page 3)



Omega Lodge # 564-First Sat 9 am/Breakfast at 8:30 am  
Gary Ries, W.M. Luis Rivera, Sec.

Greetings Brethren,

We will start November (1st) with our annual meeting and election of officers. We will have our usual great breakfast before our 9:00 meeting, when we will elect our new officers. Our installation will be open to family and friends on November 18 jointly with Sherwood Lodge. On November 27, the Hicksville Lodge will be having their annual MM Degree followed by a great sausage/pancake breakfast. Lodge opens at 6:00 a.m. I've been there and back home by 10:00 in time to help with Thanksgiving dinner. Hicksville has been doing excellent work and it would be good for our officers to witness, since that will be our inspection degree.

Again I encourage everyone to join our communication tool "Team Reach" to stay informed of all our lodge activities. To join, search for the "TeamReach" app., then for Omega Lodge, use group code "GMHA2025".

Hope you all have a great Thanksgiving, remembering how blessed we are to live in this great country. And I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

This is my final communication as master of your lodge. I am really looking forward to a new young group of officers and seeing new and fresh ideas they will bring to our lodge.

Fraternally, Gary Ries, WM



Sherwood Lodge # 620—First and Third Monday  
Scott Carwile, W.M. Wayne Cripps, Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

It looks as if fall has fallen and winter isn't far off. By the time this reaches everyone, I will have completed my fourth year as Master of Sherwood Lodge and will be assuming a new role. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve my Brothers and I wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Inspection season is coming quickly. I'd like to wish ALL Lodges the best of luck on their inspection night. This goes for the York Rite Chapter, Council, and Commandery bodies as well. If you are able to, please attend and show your support to the other Lodges and bodies in the District.

I will close by thanking the members of Sherwood Lodge and the officers who served with me over the past four years. We have made some great accomplishments and we have shared some hard times. I am blessed to say that we raised several Brothers together and, heavy-heartedly, we lost a few Brothers too. But, WE as brothers continued to keep our working tools polished and our focus has stayed on the positive as we have worked together and encouraged the strength and growth of Masonry. You have been MY rock that has helped me to launch my quest to seek further light. Throughout the rest of my journey, and until it is time for me to lay down my own working tools, I will ever be grateful to you!

To the new heads of the bodies, around the third week of December, be prepared as it will be YOUR turn to write an article for the newsletter... And may the Great Architect of The Universe watch over you, guide you, protect you, and bless you!

Fraternally, Scott Carwile, PM Sherwood Lodge #620

### OES NEWS!



It was great to see the 2026 Grand Officers and Deputy Grand Matrons installed at Sharonville at the end of September!

Todd Evans from Bryan Chapter was installed as the Worthy Grand Patron. Installed as Grand Electa was Diana Evans (Todd's Aunt) also from Bryan Chapter. Deputy Grand Matron for Districts 6 and 7 continues to be Linda Taylor from Palestine Chapter. An Educational Opportunity was held in Bryan on October 19 to greet the state officers and learn of plans for the coming year.

The Charities Director for District 7 is Gayle Wiyrick, a member of Bryan Chapter. Becky Thatcher, a dual member of Fulton and Deshler Chapters, continues to serve as Grand Representative of Alabama in Ohio, and Phyllis Geesey of Bryan Chapter continues to serve as a Trustee for the Eastern Star Home.

Installations are scheduled!

Nov. 15 Bryan at 2:00 p.m. Two on the same day!

Nov. 15 Fulton (Wauseon) at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 2 Deshler at 7:30 p.m. It really is December!

Your presence and support is always welcome. See you along the way.

Millie Holzer



Dear Companions,

Congratulations to Jared Jacques, our new District Deputy and to Scott Carwile, our new District Education Officer. I know that you will do a fantastic job. Our next stated meetings will be November 6 and December 4 at 7:30. We will not have a meeting in January because it will be New Year's Day. We will have an informal meeting on Saturday, January 3, right after Omega's stated meeting for a review of all our parts and what needs to be covered. We will be doing the Past Master degree for our inspection on January 17 at 10:00. There will be a lunch at noon. Thanks to all for maintaining the ship for me while I am gone and I will be seeing all of you soon.

Fraternally, Keith Winnie, High Priest

**GRAND HIGH PRIEST APPOINTS 1st CAPITULAR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

Upon his election and installation as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, Most Excellent Companion Robert Nilsen appointed Right Excellent Companion Jared J. Jacques as District Deputy Grand High Priest and Companion Scott Carwile to serve as District Education Officer. Congratulations to both of these companions on accepting the important roles of leadership in the 1st District.



Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council #55 Third Thursday 7:30 PM  
Keith Winnie, Illustrious Master Robert Rettig, Recorder

Dear companions,

The days are getting shorter and fall will soon be upon us. Our inspection will be January 17 at 1:00 in the Royal Master degree. We have 3 meetings before our inspection which gives us plenty of time to get our parts assigned to everyone and hopefully have our ducks in a row. I know we can get this done and have a great inspection. There will be a lunch at noon. Hope to see everyone there and have a good time.

Fraternally, Keith Winnie, Illustrious Master



Defiance Commandery #30 Second Thursday 7:30 PM  
Dennis Richardson, Commander Matthew Gloor, Recorder

Sir Knights,

Defiance Commandery #30 was represented at Grand Commandery by myself and our Generalissimo, Sir Knight Carwile. It was a great turnout. All Commanderies in the State were represented. Congratulations to our new Division Commander Sir Knight Timothy Roth and Deputy Division Commander Steven Brunn. The new Right Eminent Grand Commander is Sir Knight Ronald L. Ensell. His theme for the year is: Emmanuel – No Greater Love.

On to business. At our November meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>, we will begin practicing for inspection with full form opening. Each month we will continue to practice various sections of the Order of the Temple. If able, please plan to attend. We need your help and support. If you know of any companion who might be interested in joining Commandery, please have them contact me or any other officer. I'd love to have a live candidate for inspection.

In December, we will have our annual Christmas Observance on the 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30pm. At the time of this writing, not all of the details have been worked out. I can assure you that this is a fine celebration of our Savior's birth and great fellowship! Ladies, children, family and friends are all welcome!

Northwestern Division inspections begin in January. I will endeavor to post them in the next bulletin.

Dennis L. Richardson, Eminent Commander

**TEMPLE BOARD UPDATE**—FROM PAGE 1 We are becoming more self sufficient as we've raised rents to a more market-rate level. But still have some things to do.

As we work on fundraisers, I ask that if possible, we could see some additional donations come in for the building fund. We are working and trying very hard to preserve OUR Temple and any support is greatly appreciated. If you've not been in the building lately, come and see some of the things we've done! We do need the roof repaired, however, before we continue the interior work.

Thank you ever so sincerely! Scott Carwile

*We rely on presiding officers to supply information but, if you have Masonic-related news, please send that information. Items will be included on a space-availability basis. If you have questions or other comments, please contact Bob Rettig at 419-784-6364 or by email at rrettig@metalink.net.*



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Defiance, Ohio 43512

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### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
Nov.	1	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Election of Officers
	3	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Election of Officers
	6	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	8	Sat.	5:30	Grand Council Reception	Jackson, OH
	11	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	13	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Full Form Opening
	17	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	18	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Installation of both lodges
	20	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	R.M. Practice
	27	Thurs	6 am	Hicksville Lodge	Thanksgiving MM
Dec.	1	Mon.	7.30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	4	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	6	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	6	Sat.	9:00	5th District P.M. Convocation	Wauseon Lodge
	9	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	11	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	O. of T. Practice
	14	Sun.	4:00	All Bodies	Christmas Observance
	15	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	18	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	R.M. Practice
Jan.	3	Sat.	10:00	Ensawocsa Chapter	P.M. Practice

#### **Changes in address**

*Please contact Bob Rettig at 419-784-6364 or by email at [rrettig@metalink.net](mailto:rrettig@metalink.net) as soon as possible if your address or other contact information changes.*