

DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2020
Issue 3
May-June

LIFESTYLES CHANGED BY THE CORONA VIRUS

Most of us have never experienced in our lifetime the profound effect the virus has had on nearly everything we are accustomed to doing. This bulletin was to have been printed and sent to your home in early May, however, contributors to the newsletter had very limited information to report, thus the delay. Even though things are beginning to reopen, we are still not sure of when things will resume some order of normalcy.

On March 16, our MW Grand Master declared that all masonic activities, meetings, and special events be cancelled through May 10, 2020. With the governor's "stay at home order" being extended through the end of May, it is still unclear as to what we can do until the Grand Master issues some directives.

While many of us miss participating in the events of our fraternity, we also realize that most of us are the most vulnerable sociologic group to suffer the severe effects of the virus.

As I review former May-June issues of the "Bulletin", we highlighted the Grand Master's reception, the one day class, the York Rite festival in Findlay and our 5th District awards banquet. Of course, these have all been cancelled, although the Grand Master still has intentions of visiting each district in a less formal venue to present awards. Also, the 5th District wants to recognize those who have earned recognition during the masonic year. No definitive plans are set, so be prepared with possibly a short notice to participate in these events.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE

At this time, we have \$40,000 available in the bank. We are negotiating with our neighbor (Steve Walker) to sell him half interest in our rear parking lot. If this comes to fruition, after getting through the legalities, we should have another \$10,000 to work with.

We have been reluctant to take on additional debt while we were not having income from two of our rentals. The good news is, we now have all three leased with steady income. When we get back to our regular meetings, we will consider starting the plaster and paint work in the lodge room. By doing so, our hope is that, when work is begun, it will generate some enthusiasm and additional donations.

We will need a couple people with some talent and knowledge in this area (so we can maintain the existing decor) to serve on the committee to coordinate this project. This is the critical part of our renovation so if you have a suggestion please convey to a temple board member.

WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO

In our lodges, Grand Master Newton has given his approval and instructions for conducting virtual meetings for the purpose of conducting the business of the lodge. This does not include any action to be taken on candidates. Lodges can meet during the summer even if their by-laws state them to be "dark" and lodges will not be disciplined for not holding the minimum number of 10 meetings this year.

Grand High Priest Shaw has issued similar directives for the Grand Chapter in regards to meetings. At the time of this writing, he has not addressed annual meetings, elections and installations, pending the Grand Master's decisions concerning the May 10 date. Continued on pg. 3

In these unusual times, we don't know whether we will be able to enjoy a baseball season. Here is a meaningful story from baseball history.

Teamwork is working together to accomplish what you could never do alone.

As the first man to break baseball's "color barrier," Jackie Robinson faced jeering crowds in every stadium. One day while playing in his home stadium in Brooklyn, he committed an error. He stood at second base, humiliated, while his own fans jeered. The short-stop, "Pee Wee" Reese, moved to stand next to him and put his arm around Robinson. The fans grew quiet. Robinson later said that Pee Wee's arm around his shoulder saved his career. His teammate was there to support and encourage him.

There are some days when we all experience humiliation and ridicule, even if it is not as public as Robinson's. It is important to support and encourage, to work together as a team. Even a small gesture, like an arm around the shoulder, could accomplish so much more than we ever thought possible.

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.



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

I miss you, my Brethren!

I hope you ll are well and staying safe! This virus is a scary thing but is also a blessing in disguise. It has forced us to slow down and reflect on the more important things in life, our families. It has forced us to take more walks and to observe nature and its splendor. It has also forced us to communicate in other ways that we didn't think were possible. It has forced us to look within ourselves to accomplish things we never thought we could do and to complete that honey-do list we have been putting off because of being too busy. All in all, it has made us appreciate the times when we were together and the times to come.

I pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy. Be men of courage. Be strong. We will prevail.

Please be on the lookout for any announcements for upcoming events. If you haven't made an account on Grand View, please do so by visiting: oh.grandview.systems/membership_registration.

May brotherly love prevail in you all,
Luis Rivera, W. M.



Sherwood Lodge # 620—First and Third Monday
Jack Stevens, W.M. Keith Winnie, Secretary

Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing fine and all are healthy. Stay put for now, even though it is boring and everyone is eating snacks. Maybe the suit won't fit when we can finally get back to lodge.

If anyone is having problems with your ritual or any other problems Please call 419-395-1982 or maybe you just want someone to talk to. Stay well, and see you soon, we hope.

Enjoy your Masonry, It's Fun
Jack Stevens W.M.

OES NEWS!



If you marked your calendar with the information in the February article, find your "white out" and delete all of that!

Perhaps we can use this time to contact members via phone, e-mail, snail mail, etc. to see how they are feeling, what they are doing, and so forth. We could learn the latest "gossip" and share a laugh or two!

We promised to provide for and support each other. So – let's do just it!

Millie Holzer



Enawocsa Chapter # 89 First Thursday 7:30 PM
Wayne Cripps, High Priest Ken Crouch, Sec'y

Companions,

The Grand Secretary's meeting in May was productive. It looks like we won't be opening until at least May 31 (I am presuming that you have seen the Edict from MWB Newton). That will not change anything that we have in our Chapter, but Council and Blue Lodge will be pushing it a little bit. Also, July and August meetings might be a thing. Just giving you a heads up.

Wayne Cripps, High Priest



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

Dear Companions

I hope everyone is staying safe in these most unusual and different times. I also hope everyone is staying vigilant and washing those hands. None of us have seen anything like this except in history books.

Because of the edicts of the Grand Master of Ohio, and assuming there are not changes, the next meeting of Council will be June 18. That will be our annual installation of new officers. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Fraternally,

Keith Winnie, Illustrious Master



Defiance Commandery #30 Second Thursday 7:30 PM
Jim Fruth, Commander Ken Crouch, Recorder

Greetings Sir Knights;

Although we were fortunate to have our annual inspection prior to the "shut down" of activities, it was quite disappointing that we were unable to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ as a group. Easter is one of the holidays fundamental to all Knights Templar.

Assuming that we will be permitted to meet in June, Sir Knights will need to make leadership decisions as election and possibly installation may occur. Also to be discussed will be preliminary planning for drill competition at Grand Commandery.

Bob Rettig, Editor

WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO (continued from page 1)

Grand Master Manning has also given approval for virtual meetings. He has issued a dispensation to confer the short form SEM degree on those candidates not yet having received the degree who desire to become officers in the council. Annual meetings, elections and installations may be delayed until practical.

In compliance with the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment (our national Knight Templar organization), Grand Commander Hager has also provided for conclaves to conduct business of the commanderies via electronic means. In a General Order dated May 4, Grand Master Nelson prohibits any in-person conclaves of commanderies until further notice.

The Worthy Grand Matron has issued a similar directive for the Order of the Eastern Star.

Sisters, Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights, it is very evident that the leaders of all of our Masonic bodies have the utmost concern for the well-being and health for each of our members. Even though they are dedicated to promoting and strengthening the body over which they govern, they realize that the health and safety of our members are most important.

Changes in address

Please contact Bob Rettig at 419-784-6364 or by email at rrettig@metalink.net as soon as possible if your address or other contact information changes.



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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
	ALL MAY MEETINGS CANCELLED				
May	2	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	4	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	7	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	9	Sat.	8:00	NWO York Rite Fest.	Findlay
	11	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	14	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Election
	15	Fri.	6:00	5th District Awards Night	Bryan
	18	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	19	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Service Awards
	20	Thurs.	8:00	1st Capitular District	Annual Mtg. Wauseon
	21	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Election
	TENTATIVE JUNE MEETINGS				
June	1	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	4	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Election
	6	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	8	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	10	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Election
	15	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	16	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	18	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Election & Installation
	20	Sat.	4:00	1st Capitular District	G. King's School, Delta
	20	Sat.	6:30	1st Capitular District	GHP Reception, Delta
	20	Sat.	12:00	1st Arch Reunion	Lions Pavilion, Napoleon