

DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2020
Issue 5
Nov-Dec

WHAT? CHRISTMAS ALREADY?



The 2020 York Rite Christmas Observance will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4:30 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. There are people who would come if invited simply to see the inside of the building.

The Worshipful Masters from Omega and Sherwood Lodges along with the High Priest from Ensawocsa Chapter and Illustrious Master from Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council will be hosts and will have an opportunity to introduce distinguished guests of their respective bodies. Defiance Commandery's involvement will be dependent upon Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment permitting meeting and activities to resume.

The Christmas Observance includes a memorial service for members from Defiance who passed away since last year. In keeping with the purpose of the observance, there will be a Christmas message and music. Pastor Kevin King from Ney Church of God and a former Holy Land Pilgrim, will bring the message.

GRAND MASTER APPOINTS LARRY LYNE AND RE-APPOINTS BILL PACAK AS 5TH DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

At the 211th Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, MW Brother Rich A. Dickerscheid was elected and installed as Grand Master for 2020-21. As his representatives for the 5th Masonic District, he has commissioned RW Brother William "Bill" Pacak and RW Brother Larry B. Lyne to carry out the duties of DDGM in the 5th District. RW Brother Bob Rettig was re-appointed District Advisor.

Congratulations and thanks to these brothers for accepting these leadership roles for our District.



JIM PARSONS APPOINTED 5th DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER

Worshipful Brother James E. Parsons has accepted the appointment by the Grand Master of District Education Officer in the 5th Masonic District for the ensuing year. He joins WB Martin Lawrence in conducting the education program in our district.

Our congratulations to all our Grand Lodge 5th District appointments.



*Installation of 5th District
DDGM and DEO will be on
November 13 at 7:30 at
Napoleon Lodge. Dinner at
6:30 pm.*

EASTERN STAR APPOINTMENTS
Past Commander of Defiance Commandery Al Lawrence was appointed as Grand Chaplain and his wife Dee Lawrence was appointed as Deputy Grand Matron for Districts 6 and 7. See article on page 2 for a full report from Grand Chapter OES.





OES NEWS!

Wow! Do we have news to tell? Grand Chapter was held on Saturday, September 26 at the Robert's Centre in Wilmington. It was a very different session! Everything was condensed into one day instead of three. Attendance was limited to 300 members. Of course, "social distancing" and the wearing of masks were necessary.

Group pictures were taken beginning at 7:30 a.m. Then came the meeting for the OES Home. Election of Trustees included the re-election of Becky Thatcher to a four-year term. Becky is a dual member of Fulton Chapter (Wauseon) and Deshler Chapter.

The opening of Grand Chapter included no drills involving Grand Pages, Grand Aides, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Grand Representatives, etc. Grand Officers and Spouses/Traveling Companions were introduced followed by the Grand Officers in-coming drill as they were "Puttin' On The Ritz." The only piece of legislation introduced involved inserting the word "pandemic" into the Bylaws. Voting on this will occur during the 2021 Session.

At 7 p.m. members gathered for the Installation of Grand Officers for 2021. Carol Gramm Wise from District 8 is the Worthy Grand Matron! There was a lot of excitement in our group when we saw Al Lawrence was Grand Chaplain and Bonnie Chapin was Grand Electa! Al is a dual member of Deshler Chapter and Fulton Chapter (Wauseon). Bonnie is a member of Bryan Chapter. From neighboring districts, Rita Follas of District 8 is Grand Marshal and Scott Nelson Barrett of District 26 is Grand Organist. Our Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of the Officers!

Carol's Personal Secretary, Millie Holzer, was presented at the altar. She was then given the commission of Grand Representative of Tennessee in Ohio. Blessings and Safe Travels to you Millie!

Completing the day's activities was the presentation of the 2021 Deputy Grand Matrons. Again there was great excitement as Dee Lawrence was announced as Deputy Grand Matron of District 6 and 7. (See the photo of Dee and Al) Dee is a dual member of Fulton Chapter (Wauseon) and Deshler Chapter.

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful Fall colors. See you along the way.

Millie Holzer



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

Hello, my Brethren!

I hope you are all well and staying safe! Our meetings are every first Saturday at 9 AM and 3rd Tuesday at 7:30. We are looking to have some degree work in our upcoming meetings and need your help. Please contact me and let me know if you are willing and I can tell you what we need.

Our gun raffle this year was a success and will be looking to do it again next year. Thanks to all that bought tickets to help support our scholarship fund and Special Olympics. We are also looking to revitalize our basement to have social gatherings but we will need some help. Again, please message me if you are interested and can help in any way.

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 Jr., W.M. Wayne Cripps, Secretary

Brethren,

It is a great day that is dawning on Ohio Freemasonry. 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for everyone. This year has caused us to cancel meetings when we normally would have met, and has caused us to meet when we normally would have been dark. Through this time, life has changed and adapted and few things look the same.

However, regardless of how the world continues to change and evolve, one thing stays the same; your ceaseless commitment to live simply, love generously, care deeply, and speak kindly. Because of your commitment to our beloved fraternity, freemasonry continues to draw good men and make them better.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation for all of you who make your personal growth a priority as you continue to attend lodge meetings. I also want to encourage others to invest in their lodge. As we approach our new Masonic year, we do so with eager expectation. Sherwood Lodge #620 will be holding elections on November 2, followed by installation on December 7.

Again, thank you for everyone's hard work and dedication to Ohio Freemasonry. May we ever live to be shining examples of the tenets of freemasonry to those around us.

Fraternally yours,
Kevin King, Sr. Warden



Greetings Companions All:

I pray that all are doing well during this time of COVID-19 and, like me, you must be hoping and praying that we get back to some degree of normality. We will be practicing at each meeting (1st Thursday of the month at 7:30) for the inspection this coming January 16, 2021. You all should have received a list of the cast and, if those who have a part from that list and will not be available for the inspection, please contact Walt Coffman (419-439-6647 or coffmanwalter1211@gmail.com) and thank you for your participation and aid. It is appreciated.

I have several edicts from the Grand High Priest and will bring them up at the meeting where we can discuss them. See you when I see you, be safe, be happy and enjoy yourself.

Walt Coffman, High Priest

Companions,

MEC Smith has issued several edicts. The one that most affects us is that this year we will not necessarily have to have 80% of the cast being from the Chapter being inspected. While it would be good if we could have 80% or more from our Chapter, the expectation is that we want to put on the best degree possible for any new Companions. We will have most of the inspections completed by the New Year, pandemic issues and lock-downs notwithstanding.

As a reminder, there will be a District Association Meeting on November 5 at En-Sa-Woc-Sa Chapter. Please make every effort to attend as this is also our stated meeting night and we want to show the rest of the District that we can hold our own, so to speak.

Inspections coming up will be Nov. 21 at Northwest Chapter #45; Nov. 30 at Haley Chapter #188; Dec. 2 at Wauseon Chapter #111 and Dec. 5 at Hicksville Chapter #188. There will also be a York Rite Christmas Observance on Dec 13. Since the Grand Encampment has not yet released the Commanderies to meet, this year's Observance will be hosted by the York Rite bodies. Speaking of Christmas, MEC Smith has declared that from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3 there is to be no unscheduled meetings or degree work as we celebrate the Christmas season. Please spend time with your families and remember the reason for the season. God Bless!

Wayne Cripps, DDGHP 1st (er I mean 8th) Capitular District



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

Dear Companions,

Attendance at our first two meetings has been good. Let's keep it up. We plan to present service awards at our November 19 meeting. One companion is eligible for a 50 year award and two have attained 60 years of service. The cast is set for our January 21 inspection in the SM degree and we will practice at our December meeting.

Ish Sodi, Bob Rettig , Recorder



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

Greetings Sir Knights,

No comments received.

Grand Encampment edict to prohibit any meetings etc. is still in effect.

Changes in address

Please contact Bob Rettig at 419-784-6364 or rrettig@metalink.net as soon as possible if your address or other contact information changes. We have to pay when newsletters are returned - Please help us be good stewards of our funds!

We will be electing officers at our December Temple Board meeting. It is imperative that the presiding officer and two trustees from all bodies are present at that meeting on December 14 at 7:30 P.M.



Defiance York Rite
Association
125 Clinton Street
Defiance, Ohio 43512

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit Number 335
Defiance, Ohio 43512

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY**
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
Nov.	2	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Election of Officers
	5	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting (Practice)
	5	Thurs.	8:00	1st Capitular District	Meeting in Defiance
	7	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Election of Officers
	9	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	12	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting ?
	16	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	17	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	19	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Awards Night
Dec.	3	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting (Practice)
	5	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	5	Sat.	1:00	5th District P.M. Convocation	Bryan Lodge
	7	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Installation of Officers
	10	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting?
	13	Sun.	4:30	All Bodies	Christmas Observance
	14	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Election of Officers
	17	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Inspection Practice
	21	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting

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.