

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2021  
Issue 1  
Jan-Feb

## Hi Ho Hi Ho—It's Back to Work We Go

M.W. Grand Master Dickerscheid has recently issued EDICT 2021-4 permitting the return of limited in-person meetings. This does not apply to counties coded as purple. Virtual meetings when permissible by this edict are highly encouraged and a minimum number of attendees at in-person meetings is encouraged. However, there are situations when lodges have business to be conducted that is not permissible in a virtual meeting i.e. voting on officers or candidates and degree work as examples. The Grand Master does remind us that stated meetings cannot be cancelled per Ohio Masonic Code.

Currently, the only brothers who can attend stated, special and inspection meetings are degree participants, lodge members, District Advisor, District Deputy Grand Masters, District Education Officers and Grand lodge officers. The Grand Master does outline some other guidelines in his edict. His major concern is that we do our best to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

*Brothers, stay safe and follow CDC, Local and State Pandemic Protocols.*

## GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION - APRIL 9

The Fifth Masonic District Grand Master's Reception this year will be held in the Voinovich Room at Northwest State Community College, Archbold, Ohio. The date set is April 9 with a social hour beginning at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Due to the pandemic planning has been delayed, but it is hoped the cost remains the same as previously.

This is a great opportunity to meet the leaders of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and their ladies. To make reservations contact your lodge secretary. For questions contact Luis Rivera, 5th District President at 419-576-7516 or [luis.a.riveraj@gmail.com](mailto:luis.a.riveraj@gmail.com).

## TRI-STATE YORK RITE FESTIVAL IN ANGOLA INDIANA

Any Master Mason choosing to improve in Masonic knowledge by becoming a member of the York Rite may petition a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council Of Royal and Select Masters, and a Commandery of Knights Templar. He may elect to take each of the degrees/orders in the respective local body or attend a one- or two-day class. The first of these opportunities is available on Saturday, February 27, 2021 in Bryan, Ohio where the Chapter and Council degrees will be portrayed. The Commandery orders will follow on the next Saturday, March 6, in Angola, Indiana. One advantage of this festival is that the candidate can experience the degrees/orders being portrayed by the three jurisdictions participating. Another festival coming up a little later in the year on May 8 is the Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival held in Findlay. This is a little longer day, but each of the York Rite degrees/orders are portrayed that day.

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**TEMPLE BOARD NEWS**

Greetings All,

I hope this message finds you all well! In this crazy, scary year I hope you all are doing your part in not only keeping yourself but your family safe. I hope that during the holidays, you reflected on the things that you should be thankful for. I know that I did, as I feel blessed and thankful for not only my friends and family but also my lodge family.

The temple bodies should be able to meet in January but be prepared for that to be delayed. This is not only for your well-being but for the well-being of others. Be on the lookout for messages from your respective body for updates.

I wish you and your families well in 2021!!

Lou Rivera,  
Temple Board President

**Scottish Rite to Hold Spring Reunion in Defiance**

The Spring Reunion for the Valley of Toledo, AASR is planned for April 17, 2021 at the Defiance Community Theater. This is to be a joint reunion with the Valley of Fort Wayne.

Any Master Mason may further his journey in Masonry by petitioning the Valley and becoming a 32° Mason. Any Scottish Rite Mason can provide you with a petition or, better yet, visit the Scottish Rite website and petition online.

Of course, the pandemic may dictate whether this event can take place and a decision will likely be made early in the new year. Watch for future announcements.

**Tri-State continued from pg 1**

All Master Masons are encouraged to consider improving themselves in Masonry by becoming a part of Scottish or York Rite Freemasonry.



Omega Lodge #564-First Sat 9 am/Breakfast @ 8:30 am  
3rd Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
Chase Williams, W.M. Luis Rivera, Sec.

Greetings Brothers!

First, trusting that you had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

For those who don't know me, my name is Chase Williams and I am the new WM of Omega Lodge #564 for the 2021 year. I am very excited about the New Year, being that this is my first time in the WM Chair. Hopefully we will be able to get back to somewhat normal and be able to meet in person again! The virtual meetings that have been held have been productive but it just isn't the same!

The first of the year we will be selling our Gun Raffle Tickets again and the proceeds will go towards Omega Lodge Charities. The raffle has done well for us previous years and we look forward to doing it again! I would like to congratulate all the new officers of all the bodies and I hope everybody is well and staying healthy!

Fraternally Yours,  
Chase Williams WM



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

Brethren,

2020 has been a year for the books, and although I am writing this in December, you are celebrating 2021. My guess is that not much has changed. The world is still struggling with the very things it was struggling with on December 31, 2020.

However, we as Freemasons do not have the luxury of continuing unchanged. Our Grand Master MWB Richard A. Dickerscheid has chosen this years theme to be "Use the Tools". It is basic to Freemasonry that our "tools", when used correctly, will become a catalyst in our changing and developing as better leaders, better men and better masons.

How have you used the tools of freemasonry to better yourself? In what ways have the tools formed or developed your character? These are great questions we should be asking of each other. Then, in the midst of answering them, we can challenge one another to continue changing and growing. Making good men better. It's what our goal is as Freemasons. I hope you chose to continue to pick up the working tools as we move into 2021.

WB Kevin King

**NOTE:** The Sherwood Lodge will be having its inspection on February 12th 2021. We will be practicing at every meeting. Please come and help make our inspection the best it can be.

*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.*



Companions All,

Hopefully everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With the new year now upon us, we are hoping that this year will be unlike last year was. We haven't heard whether the Grand High Priest will allow in person Chapter meetings, but will let the High Priests and Secretaries know as soon as we get the word. We will be scheduling the degree work for Chapter Inspections shortly after we get the notification that we are a go for actual meetings and trust that the High Priests and Secretaries will get the word out as quickly as possible. In all probability, and in keeping with the current Edicts, there will not be a Travelling Trophy since only the Chapter being inspected (and Companions participating in the Degree work) will be allowed to be in the Lodge Room for the degree work. While that sounds like it might not be very much fun, it is helping to keep everyone safe as we continue to fight this pandemic. We'll have to see how the new year pans out and what all we will be able to do.

Let's continue to keep those who have been affected by coronavirus in our prayers. In one way or another, companions, we have all been affected by coronavirus so I guess what I am asking is that we pray for each other that we do our best to stay healthy and enjoy our lives as best we can. Hoping to see you all within the near future.

Wayne Cripps, DDGHP, 1<sup>st</sup> (er, I mean 8<sup>th</sup>) Capitular District



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

Dear Companions,

This is a very trying year we were planning a lot for this year and next if it wasn't for COVID-19 shutting everything down. With the Christmas season upon us, let's remember those who are with us and those not. Let next year be brighter.

Fraternally,

James Fruth, I.M.

As of this writing it is unknown whether our First Arch School of Instruction will be held in February or, for that matter, when any Arch activities will resume. During this "down time" I would encourage each of you to enroll in one of the education courses provided by all our Masonic bodies.

Bob Rettig, Recorder



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

Sir Knight's,

As of this writing, everything is shut down as COVID-19 has a firm grip on every aspect of our lives. Most of our meetings are on zoom, a video chat room. The Christmas season is upon us and a Merry Christmas and looking forward to the New Year.

Our inspection is in February 2021. It will be a short version.

James Fruth, E.C.

**We've been too quiet about our fraternity!**

Every Brother needs to become a spokesman for Freemasonry.

It's important to talk with non-Masons about who we are and what we do.

Seventy-six percent of new Masons joined because it is tradition in their family, someone they respected was a Mason or their friends or co-workers are Masons.

A Brother who knows of a man that he feels would make a good Mason should talk to him about our fraternity.

Help ensure the future of our great fraternity and your lodge...REPLACE YOURSELF!

<https://www.replaceyourself.org/>

**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.



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 MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

All meetings are tentative pending pandemic conditions and edicts from Grand Presiding Officers.

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
Jan.	2	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	4	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice FC degree
	7	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	11	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	13	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice O of T
	18	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice FC degree
	19	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	21	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Stated Meeting
	22	Sat.	4:00	NW Division CTA (Toledo #7)	Meeting (Toledo)
Feb.	1	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice FC degree
	4	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	6	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	8	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	8	Tues.	7:30	First Arch	School of Instruct. (Genoa)
	11	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice Order of Temple
	12	Fri.	7:00	Sherwood Lodge	Inspection (FC)
	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	Stated Meeting
	20	Sat.	1:30	Defiance Commandery	Inspection
	26	Fri.	7:00	Omega Lodge	Inspection (EA)
	27	Sat.	9:00	Tri-State Festival (Bryan)	Chapt. & Council Degrees