

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



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## FABULOUS FIFTH DISTRICT HOSTS GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION APRIL 9

Due to limitations on how many persons can be served at Northwest State Community College, the Fifth Masonic District Grand Master's Reception this year has been moved to the American Legion in Napoleon. This much larger venue can seat up to 200 persons while maintaining social distancing. The date set is April 9 with a social hour beginning at 6 pm and dinner at 7pm. The cost remains the same as previously, \$25 per person for a delicious buffet dinner (prime rib being one of the meat selections). Reservations are due with payment on March 19. Checks should be made payable to the "Fifth Masonic District Association."

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). No tickets will be sold at the door.

## LODGES CAN HOST GRAND MASTER'S ONE-DAY CLASS

As a result of the major disruption the pandemic has caused in our lives and particularly our Masonic activities, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard A. Dickerscheid has developed a set of guidelines for one to three lodges to host a Grand Master's one-day class.

Approval must be given by the District Advisor. The District Deputy assigned to the lodge and the District Education Officer must be in attendance. There are other details/requirements that need to be met, but they are very reasonable in making new candidates members of the craft. There can also be some benefits to the lodge in meeting annual requirements of the code.



## ANNUAL BREAKFAST TO SUPPORT DIABETIC KIDS' FUND

The annual Pancake-Sausage breakfast to raise funds for the Grand Council Diabetic Kids' Fund is tentatively being planned for Saturday, April 24 from 8-11 am. We are proud that Diabetes Youth Services in Lucas County is a group which receives support for their camp from Grand Council. With only one of the seven camps in Ohio conducting a camp last summer due to the pandemic, limited funds were dispersed. However, the need to assist youth financially who otherwise would not be able to attend camp will continue to increase once the pandemic has subsided.

Diabetic Kids' camps allow young people to be "normal" as they spend time with others with diabetes. Doctors, nurses and other health professionals work with the kids on ways to control their diabetes. Camp also provides a safe place for parents to send their children for a few days with the knowledge that their child is safe.

## Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival Postponed

Traditionally the York Rite Festival is held in Findlay on the first Saturday of May. At a recent virtual meeting of this committee, it was decided that, under current circumstances, the festival should not be held as usual. The committee plans to meet again in early April to determine if an alternate date in August might be a good choice.

## Changes in address

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



Omega Lodge's newest MM, Dakota Valdez (center) with WM Chase Williams (left) and W.B. Danial Hall (right).



Omega Lodge #564-1st Sat 9 am/Bkft@8:30 am  
Chase Williams, W.M. Luis Rivera, Sec.

Greetings Brothers!

I hope you all are doing well and staying healthy. Hopefully you survived the snow and cold. By the time you are reading this, our inspection will already be over. If you didn't already know this, the Grand Master of Ohio was in attendance that night. The Officers and I were very excited and honored that he was able to make it! We worked very hard to make sure we put on a great EA Degree.

In other news our newest Master Mason, Dakota Valdez, was the candidate at Bryan's Inspection. They put on a very nice MM Degree. WB Dan Hall and I were in attendance. I have added a picture of us 3 from that night.

We are getting things around for our 3 Gun Raffle and tickets will be ready very soon! If you are interested in tickets, please let me know. My number is 419-438-3770. Let's hope we can continue to have in-person meetings. It has been a weird year, to say the least. If it has been a while since you have been to Lodge, we would love to see you again!

Fraternally,  
Chase Williams WM



Sherwood Lodge had the honor of raising Br. John Hayes of Findlay Lodge (2nd from left). He is RWB Tim Hines' half-brother. On each end of the photo are RWB Bill Pacak, DDGM and W.M. Kevin King.



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

Brethren,

We are now well into 2021-a year that is still shrouded in mystery. What will come of it? Will it be much like the dismal 2020 or will we see positive steps toward emerging from this pandemic? Many things are still unknown. But that is how we experience much of life. We don't know the outcome, nor are we sure of tomorrow. But we as Free and Accepted Mason's continue to work to live as good men, committed to build ourselves into something better.

Sherwood lodge has completed a beautiful inspection. Congratulations my brothers for the hard work and dedication during this difficult time. Many of you exhibited great effort and time to study. All the extra practices and time devoted to this did not go unnoticed. It is my hope that we did more than just learned lines but instead we let the ritual sink into our being and begin to change us. It is my hope that we looked at our working tools as not just lines to learn, but as a way to improve ourselves. After all, that is central to Freemasonry: making good men better. To that end, I echo our Grand Master, we must "use the tools." As we look toward brighter days, remember to always walk uprightly, being truthful and honest men, as we live our lives in plain view of the world, so that, when people see us, we shine brightly as Masons.

Fraternally Yours,  
Kevin King, WM



Companions all,

Recently MEC Smith issued Edict 2020-8a and followed that with an explanation for the rationale behind issuing that Edict. Apparently there was either a misunderstanding of the Code, or a miscommunication of how we should proceed with inspections during this difficult season. MEC Smith recently had some discussions with other Grand Officers regarding blanket exemptions for Districts/Chapters that do not feel safe holding in-person degree inspections. The primary concern was for the precedent that they would be setting by having blanket exemptions issued, as these issues aren't addressed in the code; despite the current pandemic. However, according to the code, he is permitted to issue individual dispensations for any Chapter that has a legitimate health concern about an in-person degree inspection. Please reference section 100.02 of the code. If the health status within the state or counties change and our Chapters wish to hold an in-person inspection, as long as it's scheduled to take place before May 31, the Chapter will be in compliance with the code. MEC Smith does, however, have the option of issuing a dispensation, if needed, for inspections to take place in June. I don't think that any of our Chapters want to be doing Degree work that late in the year, so we're going to try to get them knocked out as quickly as we can. I am going to be contacting the High Priest of each Chapter to schedule a time to do that. To maintain the health and safety of each of the Chapters, in accordance with Edict 2020-8, no visitors will be allowed to attend the inspections. Edict 2020-8a further stipulates that the term "visitors" also includes Chapter members who are not officers of the Chapter or performing some aspect of the degree work.

It looks like we are going to have a busy couple of months ahead of us, but with everyone's cooperation, I'm sure that we can make it thru without too many headaches.

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



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

Dear Companions,

Assuming there will be no changes in restrictions or guidelines regarding Covid-19, we will be honoring a 50 year and a 60 year member on April 15, 2021. I would urge you to join us in making this a special night in Masonry for these two companions.

We are also considering the breakfast to raise funds for the Diabetic Kids Camps. The tentative date is April 24 with serving from 8:00 am to 11:00 am with tickets at a \$5 donation.

No SEM degree is scheduled this year due to pandemic concerns.

Fraternally, Bob Rettig, Recorder



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

Greetings Sir Knight's,

The Grand Encampment as well as our Grand Commandery had "shut down" most activities in our commanderies as a precautionary measure to limit the transmission of the coronavirus. Therefore, our inspection, originally scheduled for February, was postponed and will likely be rescheduled with only the officers in attendance. For our annual Easter Observance, Defiance Commandery will attend worship together at St. John's United Church of Christ, Holgate at 10:15 am on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Bob Rettig, Editor

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ONESELF IN FREEMASONRY

The Spring Reunion for the Valley of Toledo, A.A.S.R., was scheduled for April 17 in Defiance. It was necessary to cancel this reunion. Any brother desiring to become a 32nd degree mason can still begin his journey in the Scottish Rite by visiting the website or contacting the Valley of Toledo executive secretary. He will work with you to get started and many of the degrees can be witnessed virtually. Currently the initiation fees are waived, but a petition needs to be submitted to the Valley or online soon. Contact any Scottish Rite member for assistance.

*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.*



Defiance York Rite  
Association  
125 Clinton Street  
Defiance, Ohio 43512

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
March	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	Tri-State Fest., Angola	Council, Red Cross, Malta
	8	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	11	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting
	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
	18	Weds.	6:30	1st Arch Assoc. (virtual) Mtg.	
	26	Tues.	6:00	1st Arch Dep. Grand Masters Mtg.	The Barn, Archbold
	28	Sun.	10:15	Defiance Commandery	Easter Observance at St Johns U.C.C. Holgate
April	1	Thurs.	7:30	EnSaWocSa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	3	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	5	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	8	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting
	9	Fri.	7:00	5th District Grand Master's Recept.	Napoleon Amer. Legion
	12	Mon.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	15	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Awards
	19	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	24	Sat.	8:00	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Pancake Breakfast