

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

*DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE*



**Volume 2023**  
**Issue 1**  
**Jan-Feb**

## YORK RITE CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE WELL ATTENDED



A great effort was put forth by all those participating in our annual York Rite Christmas Observance to make it one of the more meaningful services ever. Under the leadership of our Eminent Commander, Matthew Gloor, not only were we reminded of the "reason for the season", but we also remembered those of our Masonic family who entered eternal life since our last Observance. Pastor David Orr, a former Holy Land Pilgrim, delivered a message centered on why God chose the shepherds to be among the first to receive the news of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Photos courtesy of Michelle Elson.

### GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION - March 31

**The Fifth Masonic District Grand Master's Reception this year will be** held at the Defiance VFW Hall in Defiance, across the street from the Defiance Masonic Complex. The date set is March 31 with a social hour beginning at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. With recent increases in food costs, ticket prices are yet to be determined, but it is hoped that 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 Walter Harper, 5th District President at 419-231-7429 or [walterh2@live.com](mailto:walterh2@live.com).

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](mailto:rrettig@metalink.net).



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

Greetings Brethren,

I hope you all had a Great Christmas and New Year. The first of the year means Inspection Season for the 5th District. This year our Inspection Degree is Master Mason. Our Inspection will be on 2/23/23. All of the participants in the Second Section have to be Omega Lodge Members so we will be needing help filling all of the parts.

We have a good amount of Degree work ahead of us. It is always great to see New Brothers joining the Fraternity. I personally plan to travel to as many of the other District Lodges Inspections as I can. If any of you would like to ride along, get hold of me.

I hope everybody is doing well and staying healthy.

Fraternally, Chase Williams WM



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

Greetings Brethren!

At the time of this writing the Holidays are upon us. A nice winter snap has arrived and the bone chilling temperatures and windchills are upon us. Except for Denise and I - we're enjoying the coolness in the Florida air for a few days.

As we take time with our families through this season, I hope and pray that we all remember the real meaning of the reason for the season. The Great Architect of The Universe has laid out His plan for us and, by His will and grace, I pray that we are all kept safe, warm, and healthy in this New Year.

We have much to do and lots going on. Every Monday night is devoted to Stated Meetings and/or practice for our inspection in the EA Degree. Once again I will stress this to ALL members of Sherwood Lodge that this is a VERY important event and we need you to be there! ALL speaking parts are to be handled by OUR Lodge members and it would be nice to have our Lodge members that aren't doing speaking parts to be in the many supporting roles available.

We are currently working on a few new members to our Lodge as well. Last year we brought in four new Master Mason's and I have set a goal for six new members and/or raisings for 2023. Ever hear the old saying "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well "It takes a Lodge of Brothers to raise a Master Mason!"

Starting January 2, 2023 we will be opening and practicing EA Degree for our February inspection. Last year we worked VERY hard and this year is not any different. Our goals are to be the best that we can and work further towards our goals of the Grand Masters' Award.

And remember, "The Doors Are Open" so let's get together and make things happen for OUR Lodge!

Fraternally yours! Scott Carwile, WM Sherwood #620

Edon Lodge will host Grand Lodge officers in the reconsecration of Edon Lodge #474 in Bryan on April 1, 2023. All Master Mason are invited to attend this celebration of 150 years of Freemasonry in Edon.

### Changes in address

Please contact Bob Rettig at 419-784-6364 or [rettig@metalink.net](mailto:rettig@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!

### Notice

Due to a significant increase in printing costs, we are changing our format somewhat to allow a more reasonable cost to produce this publication. Please feel free to let us know if this acceptable to you or if you prefer the earlier format. Our goal is to keep our membership informed of Masonic activities in Northwest Ohio at minimal cost to our members. Your comments/suggestions are appreciated.



Greeting Companions:

By the time you get this newsletter, Santa will have come and gone. So I am praying that we all have a great new year. As far as Chapter goes, we can start the new year off right by attending practices on our meeting night January 5, 2023. We may be able to do some practices on Sundays after Council practices and before inspection which is January 21. I have talked with the Illustrious Master of Council and there are some things we need to work out as to times and days of the practices which we can do on January 5.

See everyone in January. Till then, stay healthy, safe and, by all means enjoy life's journey.

Fraternally Walter Coffman, High Priest



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

Companions,

The Peanut Brittle program continues to be a huge success. Many thanks to the 14 Companions who participated in the making of and packaging of the product. They produced 818 lbs. of Peanut Brittle, 34 lbs. more than expected. The profits continue to support the Diabetic Kids Fund. A special thanks to M. III. Steve Hill for organizing the event.

Oc-Co-Nox-Ee #55 (SM) Inspection is on Jan 21 @ 1pm with lunch at noon. Our Companions are diligently learning their parts, so come out and support our them. Upcoming inspections in the 1<sup>st</sup> Arch are as follows: Wauseon #68 (RM) Jan. 18 @ 7:30 pm, and Bowling Green #24 (SM) Mar. 16 @ 7 pm. If you have not received the 1<sup>st</sup> Arch Calendar Tri-fold, they are available at the Temple. We would love to have you represent our Council at the inspections. Other upcoming activities: Tri State York Rite Festival (Michigan City, MI—Chapter & Council) Feb. 25, Tri-State Festival (Bryan-Commandery) Mar. 4.

Oc-Co-Nox-Ee members, along with other Defiance area bodies, participated in the Christmas Observance held on December 11, 2022. A great meal and fellowship followed the service. Thanks to Eminent Commander SK Matthew Gloor and Defiance Commandery #30.

For those who have not heard, R. III. Companion Bill Kerr took ill the beginning of November. He has made significant progress and is recovering at home. He is hoping to be back on the road in the New Year. I have spoken with him and he wishes all a joyous and safe holiday.

As we recover from the pandemic of the couple of years, our families are getting back together for their traditional Holiday festivities. I would like to wish all of our Companions a joyous holiday and a prosperous New Year.

Fraternally, Eugene Bitler, Illustrious Master



Defiance Commandery #30 Second Thursday 7:30 PM  
Matthew Gloor, Commander      Danial Hall, Recorder

Sir Knights, Greetings.

The Holidays are behind us, I hope you were blessed with much and grateful for all. Our Christmas Observance was attended by over 60 SK's and other Masons and their families and what a great time we all had. Rev. Orr conveyed a wonderful Christmas message. Millie's piano music and a solo by SK Al Lawrence was pleasant to hear by all.

The NW Division Commandery inspections start this month on January 7 at Norwalk and will continue for the next 14 Saturdays. Our inspection is February 18 with lunch served at noon and the Full Form Opening and Order of the Temple to follow. February 10 is the cut off for meal reservations with our recorder SK Dan Hall. I look forward to seeing all of our Sir Knights at our inspection. Starting Sunday January 8 at 2 pm we will have practices for 6 Sundays in preparation for our inspection, the last one being Sunday February 12.

Remember to donate to the Eye Foundation if you can.

Fraternally, SK Matthew Gloor, Eminent Commander



Defiance York Rite  
Association  
125 Clinton Street  
Defiance, Ohio 43512

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
Jan.	2	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice EA
	5	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Practice MkM Degree
	7	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	10	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	12	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice O of T
	16	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice EA degree
	17	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	19	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Practice SM
	21	Sat.	10:00	Ensawocsa Chapter	Inspection (MkM)
	21	Sat.	1:00	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Inspection (SM)
	21	Sat.	5:00	NW Division CTA	Meeting (Fremont)
Feb.	2	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	2	Thurs.	8:00	1st Capitular District	Association Meeting
	4	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	6	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice EA degree
	9	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice Order of Temple
	10	Fri.	7:00	Sherwood Lodge	Inspection (EA)
	14	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	16	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Stated Meeting
	16	Thurs.	8:00	First Arch	School of Instruction
	18	Sat.	12:00	Defiance Commandery	Inspection
	21	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	20	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	23	Thurs.	7:00	Omega Lodge	Inspection (MM)
	26	Sat.	9:00	Tri-State Festival (Angola)	Chapt. & Council Degrees