

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2023  
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Mar-Apr

## FABULOUS FIFTH DISTRICT HOSTS GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION MARCH 31

The Fifth Masonic District will welcome our Grand Master and Grand officers at a reception to be held at the VFW Post in Defiance. The VFW is located across the street from the Masonic Complex. The date is March 31 with a social hour beginning at 6 pm and dinner at 7pm. Due to rising food costs, it will be necessary to charge \$30 per person for a delicious buffet dinner. Reservations are due with payment no later than March 15. 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 Walter Harper, 5th District President at 419-231-7429 or [walterh2@live.com](mailto:walterh2@live.com). Reservations are necessary as no tickets will be sold at the door.

## OPEN HOUSE and ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOR DIABETIC KIDS' FUND, APRIL 22, 8-noon



The lodges and all Masonic bodies meeting in Defiance are hosting an open house on April 22, in support of the Grand Master's plans for the year. Be sure to invite any friends or family to visit our recently refurbished lodge room. There are many in the Defiance community who admire our building and are inquisitive of the interior. To make this event more attractive to those who might attend, Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council is also hosting its annual Pancake-Sausage breakfast to raise funds for the Grand Council Diabetic Kids' Fund. We are proud that Diabetes Youth Services in Lucas County is a group which receives support for their camp from the Grand Council. This year the Grand Council is dispersing \$64,000 to seven camps for the upcoming year. The need for financial assistance to youth who would otherwise not be able to attend camp will continue to increase.

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 will be safe.

Invite family and friends to enjoy a great breakfast. A donation of \$5 will be accepted at the door.

## SCOTTISH RITE REUNION TO BE IN DEFIANCE – APRIL 29

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Toledo is coming to Defiance for their annual Spring Reunion. The 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> degrees will be portrayed beginning with registration at 8:00 a.m. Current members are encouraged to attend and any Master Mason who desires to continue his journey in Freemasonry by joining the Scottish Rite may do so by petitioning on-line at [www.toledoaasr.com](http://www.toledoaasr.com) or by contacting the Valley of Toledo office at 419-893-2942 or [secretary@toledoaasr.com](mailto:secretary@toledoaasr.com). Any current Scottish Rite Mason will be glad to assist.

As not all details of the reunion are finalized, visit the Toledo Scottish Rite website for updates.

## Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival to Be Held May 13

Plans are being laid to again conduct all the York Rite Degrees in one day (with exception of the SEM) at the Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival in Findlay. Any brother wishing to continue his Masonic journey in the York Rite may petition his local York Rite body and receive all the degrees and orders in one day.

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 [rettig@metalink.net](mailto:rettig@metalink.net).



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

Greetings Brothers!

As I write this, our Inspection is still a week away. We have practiced a lot and hope we put on the best Master Mason Degree that we can for our candidate. Ultimately, all of the degree work that we do is about the Candidate. Fun Facts: Out of our Omega Members, 29 brothers live out-of-state, 15 brothers live in Ohio, but over an hour away, 78 brothers live in or around the Defiance area, 19 brothers are 50-year members, 5 brothers are 60 year members. We have had a bunch of Petitioners this year and that helps, but to keep the Lodge growing and going strong, it takes a group effort. This is especially true with some of the younger brothers. We need to start learning lectures, charges, and parts in the Master Mason Second Section.

The Grand Master has set a date April 22 as the date for a State Wide Open House. All the Defiance Masonic Temple Bodies will all be having an Open House together at the Temple. It will be in conjunction with Oc-Co-Nox-Ee's Diabetic Kids Fund Breakfast. This is a great opportunity to have friends and family come out and learn more about Masonry. Hopefully it might lead to some men wanting to petition the Lodge. Please mark this date on your Calendars.

The Officers and I are planning to do a few fun events this year, possibly a corn hole tournament, and other fun events for some fun Fellowship! If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, come on back and visit. Masonry is fun!!! It is the greatest fraternity in the world and you all should be proud to be part of it! If anybody has any questions or would want to reach me give me a call 419-438-3770 or send me an email c.williams9109@yahoo.com.

Fraternally, Chase Williams WM



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

Greetings Brethren!

What wonderful weather we've had upon us! The groundhog predicted 6 more weeks of winter but God has blessed us with warmth and sunshine. There's plenty of time for all four seasons to hit us within the same day yet!

It's been another busy inspection season for our lodges and the other York Rite bodies, I have had another great year of learning and enjoying much more travel and meeting Brothers across Northwest Ohio. What a great experience it has been! I have been able to represent and share what Sherwood Lodge is all about and learn from Brothers in other Lodges and appendant bodies, seeing things that different Lodges and bodies encounter.

When I took on Worshipful Master again this year, I set a goal of six new members. To date, we have gained one new plural member and, at the printing of this newsletter, we have one new member progressing through the degree work. It's going take some work to hit my goal. I am good with that, although as the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." So what does that mean? It means that an entire community must provide for and interact positively with a child for that child to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. Isn't that what we are supposed to do as Freemasons? The Lodge is our village. Our friends and Brothers are the children. We need to lead and encourage them as we "raise" them into Masonry. We want to grow our Lodges and share that experience while encouraging the growth and commitment within our community. And not just within the community of the Lodge, but within the community we live in. And share our support with them and to gain the support of our community.

Brothers, being a Mason is MUCH more than a title or something to put on a resume. We get what we put forth and we reap what we sow. So let us plant the best seeds and water and nourish them! Pull the weeds and see our community raise the best and be well known for the fruits of our labor!

May the Lord bless and keep us next to his heart.

Fraternally yours! Scott Carwile, WM Sherwood #620

Reminder Brothers, the Open House AND Diabetic Kids Fund Breakfast in conjunction with BOTH Defiance Lodges will be Saturday April 22, 2023 from 8 until noon. This is a GREAT opportunity to have friends and family and men interested in Masonry come out and see our Lodges and our York Rite bodies working together for a charitable cause!

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 and encouraged to attend this celebration of 150 years of Freemasonry in Edon and to meet the Grand Lodge Officers.

Thank you to **Jack and Carol Stevens** for agreeing to put the tabs the newsletters. Without their help, we would have had to resume paying for this to be done at the printer.



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

Greetings Companions:

As you already know, we have started to practice the Past Master Degree for our upcoming inspection. I would like to see all of us get to as many practices as possible so we can make a good showing for any new candidates we have this coming year. That brings me to the subject of candidates. We need to make an effort to confer as many as we can this year. The NW York Rite Festival will be held in Findlay on May 13, starting at 8 am, for those who would like that opportunity. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12 and March 20 is the first day of Spring. Let us make the last 4 months of this Chapter year be our best. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you. May all companions and families be well and full of Joy.

Fraternally, Your High Priest, Walter Coffman



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

Greetings Companions,

Oc-Co-Nox-Ee completed and passed its annual inspection on January 21, 2023. Rt. Ill. Comp. R. Wesley Webber, Jr. Deputy Grand Master, was in attendance along with MIC Steve Hill as our inspecting Officer. It was our honor to have them attend. The companions performed exceptionally well and the Council received a strong report. WELL DONE. For those who were unable to attend, we hope you are well and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Upcoming events:

March 16 - Bowling Green #124 Inspection 7:00 pm S.M. (subject to change)

April 21- Deputy Grand Masters Meeting at St Johns Church, Holgate at 6:00 PM.

April 22 - Pancake and sausage breakfast, to support Diabetic Kids Fund. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare, serve and clean up. Also on this day, in conjunction with both Defiance Lodges, an open house is being held at the Masonic Temple. This is a great opportunity to have friends, family and men interested in Masonry to come out and see the Lodges and our York Rite body working together for a charitable cause.

April 27 the Super Ex Degree, in coordination with Bryan #101 and Wauseon #68, will be in Wauseon at 7:30 pm. As always, the Councils are looking for our Companions' participation.

May 13 Northwest Ohio York Rite festival held at Findlay Masonic Center. (All Chapter-Council Degrees except SEM) Let's make an effort to get some candidates.

R.III. Comp. Bill Kerr is making significant progress and is recovering. He would love to hear from the Companions.

Fraternally, Eugene Bitler, Illustrious Master



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

Sir Knights,

Spring is upon us and we are all probably thinking about and planning all the outdoor projects and chores ahead of us. With that in mind, let us plan to attend our Easter observance on Sunday April 2. We will again meet at 10 am and attend St John's United Church of Christ, located at the corner of SR 108 and CR J, between Napoleon and Holgate. Dress uniform less sword is preferred if you have one.

We will be starting Drill Team practice soon as we want Defiance #30 back in the mix. A few SK's retired from our drill ranks and are looking to fill them with new SK's. I will be reaching out to you soon to ask if you would help us. When you see my number pop up on your phone, feel assured we will be talking about drill team building. We are roughly 4 months away from starting a new Commandery year. Election will be at our June meeting. If you are interested in participating in the officer line, reach out to me.

In closing, remember to let your light so shine that all may see it and we can be proud of our Fraternity and the fellowship we share. May God's peace be with you and watch over you all.

Fraternally, SK Matthew Gloor, Eminent Commander



#### OES NEWS!

It's Inspection Time for the Eastern Star! The schedule includes the following:

- March 27 Rawson Chapter (Mt. Cory) at 7:30 p.m.
- April 17 Bryan Chapter at 7:30 p.m.; April 26 Trinity Chapter (Lima) at 7:30 p.m.; April 29 Morris Chapter (North Baltimore) at 6:00 p.m.
- May 11 Deshler Chapter at 7:30 p.m.; May 16 Fulton Chapter (Wauseon) at 7:00 p.m.; May 18 Delphos Chapter at 7:30 p.m.; May 31 Lafayette Chapter at 7:30 p.m.

Just a reminder that Deshler Chapter meets on the first Tuesday, Bryan Chapter on the third Monday, and Fulton Chapter (Wauseon) on the third Tuesday. All chapters would appreciate your attendance at their meetings and activities.

Hope to see you along the way. Millie Holzer



Defiance York Rite  
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Defiance, Ohio 43512

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	
March	2	Thurs.	7:30	EnSaWocSa Chapter	Stated Meeting	
	4	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting	
	4	Sat.	9:00	Tri-State Fest., Bryan	Commandery Orders	
	6	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting	
	9	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting	
	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	
	20	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting	
	21	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting	
	31	Fri.	7:00	5th District Grand Master's Recept.	Defiance VFW	
	April	1	Sat.	10:30	Edon Lodge	Reconsecration
		1	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
2		Sun.	10:15	Defiance Commandery	Easter Observance at St Johns U.C.C. Holgate	
3		Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting	
6		Thurs.	7:30	EnSaWocSa Chapter	Stated Meeting	
11		Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting	
13		Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Stated Meeting	
17		Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting	
20		Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Practice SEM	
21		Mon.	6:00	1st Arch Dep. Grand Masters Mtg.	St. John's U.C.C., Holgate	
22		Sat.	8:00	All Defiance Masonic Bodies	Open House & Pancake Breakfast	
27		Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	SEM at Wauseon	
29		Sat.	8:00	Scottish Rite	Spring Reunion in Defiance	

### 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!