

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2024  
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 Kevin King, a former Holy Land Pilgrim, delivered a message focused on "Change." Photo courtesy of Michelle Elson.



Sir Knights from Defiance and Bryan Commanderies around the Triangle. In the East, left to right are Danial Hall, Illustrious Master of Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council, Matthew Gloor, Eminent Commander of Defiance Commandery, Gene Bitler, High Priest of Ensawocsa Chapter, and Scott Carwile, Worshipful Master, Sherwood Lodge.



Past Illustrious Master Gene Bitler presented Ill. Comp. Dick Coffman with the "Council Man of the Year" Award this past fall. Sir Knight Coffman was also awarded the prestigious Meritorious Service Award from the Grand Commandery. A well-earned honor for SK Coffman!

## GRAND MASTER'S RECEPTION - APRIL 5, 2024

**The Fifth Masonic District Grand Master's Reception for 2024** will be held at Birchwood Meadows near Swanton. The date set is April 5 with a social hour beginning at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. While plans are just being laid, ticket prices are yet to be determined, and it is hoped that the cost will remain 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 Josh Chapin, 5th District President at 419-799-9247 or [chapin243@yahoo.com](mailto:chapin243@yahoo.com).



Omega Lodge #564-1<sup>st</sup> Sat 9am/Bkft 8:30 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 7:30pm James Hanna, W.M. Luis Rivera, Sec.



Greetings Brothers!!

Omega Lodge is going to focus on getting non-active Brothers more active this year. I would also like to see at least 5 new Brothers raised for the 2024 year. One other thing that will be focused on will be activities that will keep existing active brothers engaged. This will include fun activities such as a fishing day and several scheduled game nights.

James Hanna, WM

Dee Lawrence was recognized with the prestigious Companion of the Temple Award.

Pictured: Steven Roth, Deputy Division Commander, Al Lawrence, Past Commander, Dee Lawrence, Tracy Roth, Lady of Steve Roth, and Matt Gloor, Eminent Commander Defiance Commandery



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

Greetings Brothers!

The New Year is upon us and with it the start of the inspection season for the lodges in the 5th District. Sherwood Lodge takes the lead with our Annual Inspection as we kick off on January 12 at 7 pm at the Defiance Masonic Temple. Refreshments will be provided.

Not only do I encourage ALL of the Sherwood Brothers to attend our inspection, but I ask that we get as many Brothers together as we can and attend ALL the other Lodge inspections. What a GREAT way to show the Brotherly love and support to our Brothers in the other Lodges in our District, and a great way to meet other Brothers and learn more about our craft!

Going into my third year as your Worshipful Master, I'm still dedicating myself to making our Lodge a strong part of Masonry and our community. I can send you emails, texts, call you, beg and plead with you to come to Lodge, whatever.... The bottom line though, it's up to y-o-U.

In just 6 months, we go dark. We are required to have just ten meetings during a Masonic year. With 2 meetings per month, this is a cake walk. I want to combine meeting our requirements and still have fun. As WM, I can't do it all alone. We will have met our required meetings and our Inspection is the earliest possible in 2024. Then we can focus on "Making Lodge Fun: again. We have already added more fellowship and great food opportunities to our meetings. Now we need more guys to come and enjoy it with us. I'm not asking for you to take a chair, just a seat on the sidelines. I want to see you before the day I have to stand in front of your friends and family performing a Masonic Funeral Service.

Finally, if you have not received your Yearbook, contact me and I will see that you get one. You need this to know about your Lodge and District Officers and events. You all receive my texts and emails and have my contact information available.

Fraternally and Sincerely, Scott Carwile, WM



### OES NEWS!

Installation of Officers for the three chapters in District 7 were held in October and November.

There are a few officers remaining to be installed. For various reasons they could not be present on the nights of installations.

December meetings were fun times with ugly sweaters, laughter, and fellowship. The Deputy Grand Matron visited each chapter and presented information. Bryan Chapter hosted a Friendship Night for all chapters in districts 6, 7, 8, and 26 on December 18.

At the Commandery Christmas Observance, Dee Lawrence, Worthy Matron of Fulton Chapter, was awarded the Companion of the Temple from Grand Encampment. Dee and Al have done so much for the Eastern Star Chapters and the Commandery. Our congratulations to Dee on this recognition of her service!

Deshler and Fulton Chapters will not meet during January and February. Bryan will meet on the third Monday of each month.

Millie Holzer



Ensawocsa Chapter # 89 First Thursday 7:30 PM  
Eugene Bitler, High Priest Wayne Cripps, Sec'y

Page 3

Greetings Companions,

Goodbye to 2023 and welcome to 2024. I hope all had a rewarding holiday season. Preparation for our inspection has begun. Our inspection will be on 20 Jan 2024 in the Past Master degree. I hope we will have a good attendance for practice at our first meeting on 4 Jan 2024. Hope to see you there.

En-Sa-Woc-Sa members, along with other Defiance area bodies, attended the Christmas Observance held on 10 Dec 2023. Thank you to Defiance Commandery #30 for hosting the event.

Jan. 20, 2024 @ 10 AM En-Sa-Woc-Sa Inspection (PM)

Feb. 24, 2024 @ 9 AM Tri-State York Rite Festival, Bryan, OH

Mar. 25, 2024 @ 7:30 PM Hicksville, Inspection (MM) Hicksville, OH

Wishing all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally, Eugene N. Bitler, High Priest



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

Happy New Year Companions!

Welcome to 2024. This Masonic year is going by way too fast. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas as the Christmas Observance put on by the Commandery was a success. There were several members and families who were in attendance.

Our inspection is in just a few days, on January 20. It would be great to have all of our local members show up for the inspection. We will have a meeting on January 18 where I hope to do a full walk-through of the degree. Our degree is the Royal Master Degree, and we still need a couple of people to assist as Giblytes. These are non-speaking parts. The inspection will be start at 1pm following a lunch which is Soup and Sandwiches, which is combined meal between Council and Chapter. The next thing we have coming up after our inspection is our annual Pancake and Sausage breakfast. I hope you all will be able to make it for this fundraiser to help either in the kitchen or by donating and eating.

Fraternally, Danial Hall, 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 38 SK's and other Masons and their families and what a wonderful time we all had. Brother/Rev. King conveyed a wonderful Christmas message. Millie's piano music and a solo by SK Al Lawrence were enjoyed by all. SK Walter Coffman PC, KYCH, was acknowledged with the Commandery MSA award for his many years of service and dedication to us. Thank you Walter!

Our Deputy Division Commander, Steven Roth, was at our Christmas Observance to present Lady Dee Lawrence with the honor of the Companion of the Temple award, in recognition to her service to the Masonic fraternity and to Commandery in particular. Steve was assisted by his wife Tracy and Dee's husband Al.

The NW Division Commandery inspections start this month on January 6 at Eu-Tah #66, 24845 Woodville Rd, Millbury, Ohio and will continue for the next 14 Saturdays. Our inspection is February 17 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—contact our recorder SK Dan Hall. I look forward to seeing all of our Sir Knights at our inspection. Starting on Sunday January 7 at 2pm, we will have practices for 6 Sundays in preparation for our inspection. The last practice will be on Sunday February 11.

Remember to donate the Knight Templar Eye Foundation if you can.

Fraternally, SK Matthew Gloor, Eminent Commander

*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.*

#### 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 pay when newsletters are returned - Please help us be good stewards of our funds!



Defiance York Rite  
Association  
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Defiance, Ohio 43512

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
Jan.	4	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Practice PM Degree
	6	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	9	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	11	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice O of T
	12	Fri.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Inspection FC degree
	15	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	FC Degree
	16	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	18	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Practice RM
	20	Sat.	10:00	Ensawocsa Chapter	Inspection (PM)
	20	Sat.	1:00	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Inspection (RM)
Feb.	1	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	3	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	5	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Practice MM
	8	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Practice Order of Temple
	13	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	15	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Stated Meeting
	17	Sat.	12:00	Defiance Commandery	Inspection
	19	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	20	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	23	Fri.	7:00	Omega Lodge	Inspection (MM)
	24	Sat.	9:00	Tri-State Festival (Bryan)	Chapt. & Council Degrees