

# DEFIANCE YORK RITE BULLETIN

DEDICATED TO THE FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS OF THE DEFIANCE MASONIC TEMPLE



Volume 2024  
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May-June

## OPEN HOUSE & BREAKFAST WELL ATTENDED

Nearly 100 people in the Defiance community visited the Defiance Masonic Center on Saturday, April 13, and enjoyed the annual Diabetic Kids Fund breakfast sponsored by Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council. Thanks to the efforts of the officers and companions, all the sausage, pancake mix, eggs, orange juice and milk were donated to the cause. The Holgate Lions Club and the Defiance Diabetic Club once again sponsored the advertising for the event.

The open house was also highly successful with a number of visitors commenting that they have often admired our building and were curious to see the inside and learn a little more about our fraternity. Several people did request petitions, so there is a possibility that we may gain a few brothers.

Commendations are in order for the brothers who also joined with us to prepare the breakfast, to those who worked diligently to prepare for the open house, and to those who welcomed visitors into our Masonic Home.

Congratulations to Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council for another successful fund-raising breakfast. Added to the member donations and peanut brittle sales, more than \$1,200 will be contributed to the Grand Council Diabetic Kids Fund this year.

### SAVE THE DATES:

- Friday, May 17—District Awards Night at Liberty Center Fire Station, T-315 Co. Rd. 8, Liberty Center, Catered Picnic-Style Dinner \$15 per person
- July 27—Tour of Historic Detroit Masonic Temple Bus Trip. Cost yet to be determined. Watch Grandview and 5th District website for details.



New Chair lift

### Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival to Be Held May 11

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.

**Rettig's Ramblings**

It's been a while since I have had the opportunity to write comments for our bulletin, but I do want to comment on a few of my observations. This has been a great year for the 5<sup>th</sup> District as well as the lodges in Defiance. Nearly every lodge has had degree work this year and the brothers coming into our lodges are quality brothers who are sharp and wanting to get the most from Freemasonry. Impressive!

Our Temple Board has been active in maintaining the beautiful historic building we enjoy. Previous issues of the newsletter have included a request for financial support for our building fund and some brothers have responded with donations or pledges, which is much appreciated. Recently new chair lifts have been installed at a cost of over \$20,000 to replace the old chair lifts that were no longer working well and that were old enough that parts were no longer available. The boiler has required expensive maintenance. There are other projects needed to keep our structure in great condition.

Our recent open house again impressed visitors who visited our facility. If you are financially able, please consider supporting the building fund that we may continue to be an "eye catcher" in the community.

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.



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

Greetings Brothers!

I hope all is going well. There is quite a bit going on for Omega Lodge. On May 4, we have an EA degree being given along with 50- and 60-year awards being presented at the same meeting. On May 11, Omega Lodge and Sherwood Lodge are holding another open house for the Lilac Festival and are also encouraging any of the other bodies that meet at the Defiance Temple to feel free to join us. On May 21, we are holding a MM degree at our stated Tuesday night meeting. On Saturday, June 1, we are holding a dual MM degree. We have 2 more petitions that have investigation committees assigned and could have several more EA degrees before the end of June and probably a FC degree.

Over the summer we are also looking at completing some fun events including a cookout, fishing tournament and having a Lodge gun range day, but dates have not yet been determined.

Fraternally, Jim Hanna, WM



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

Greetings Brothers,

As spring is upon us, so is the crazy weather and plenty of rain! But it has not stopped us from being very busy in our quest to seek more light.

Masons in both Sherwood and Omega Lodges as well as the Temple Board have been very busy working to improve the Temple. We are replacing lift chairs, repairing the building and sprucing up things throughout. Thank you to Brothers from BOTH Lodges and the other bodies for working together to make OUR Temple one to be proud of!

Congratulations and welcome to two new Brothers who have been raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, Michael Hart and Omar Martinez. We also welcome new plural members, Brothers Anthony Gotti, Matthew Gloor, and Timothy Bidlack. I am proud and honored to have all of these Brothers as a part of Sherwood Lodge and to strengthen us in our many endeavors.

As we approach the time when we go dark for a couple of months, remember that our Lodges are never really "dark." They are full of light, brotherly love and affection that makes good men better. There is plenty going during the summer. If you want help finding these events, contact your Lodge officers and we will be happy to assist you.

As a part of Chapter, Council, Commandery, and Omega Lodge, I thank everyone for the fine job done at the Open House and the Council's Annual Pancake and Sausage breakfast.

Finally, we have had a rough but exceptional year for Sherwood Lodge! We have endured much together and made it through. I ask that we continue to remember our Brothers and their families near and far in our prayers. Remember our country, our leaders, our servicemen and women, and our public service workers. May the Great Architect of the Universe perform the wonders of His works, bless us with healing and health, guide and protect us according to His will. Amen!

It is my wish that you all have a great, safe, and healthy summer!  
 Fraternaly, Scott A. Carwile, WM Sherwood #620



Greetings Companions,

I hope all are doing well. Summer is knocking on the door. As we complete another successful year, I am happy to say it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as High Priest. A hearty Thank You to all who helped to make it a great success.

We will be electing officers at our May meeting and installation will be in June. I have spoken with a couple of Companions and they are willing to be our next King and Scribe. This is a good chance to move forward and get new line started. Come out to vote and give them our support. Also, dues notices will be forthcoming.

As we prepare for the summer shutdown, let us not forget to keep our connection with our brothers providing friendship and brotherly love.

Upcoming Event: May 11, 2024 - Northwest Ohio York Rite Festival, Findlay, OH  
Fraternally, Eugene N. Bitler, High Priest



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

Companions,

This year went by fast for the most part, it seemed like just a couple of months ago we were coming back from summer break and going to Grand Council and now it is election time again. It has been a pleasure to be the Illustrious Master for the past year. We had a good year with a nice attendance at Christmas Observance, a good Inspection, and a great Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser. Then to finish the year with a successful Super Excellent Master Degree done in conjunction with Bryan and Wauseon Councils.

With all the above completed, it brings us to the time of the year where we get to select and vote on the individual who will lead the Council for the next year. This will be determined at to the May Meeting and officers will be installed at the June meeting. I am sorry to say that I will not be around to help with those things as I am moving to the State of Georgia to be close to our kids and grandkids. It is with a heavy heart to say goodbye for now. I will always be grateful for all the brothers and companions who I have learned from and who have assisted me to be the Mason that I have become.

Respectfully yours, Illustrious Master, Danial Hall



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

Sir Knights,

Wow another Temple year almost over. I have enjoyed serving our Commandery for the last two years as Commander. This has been an enjoyable time in my Masonic journey and most memorable. I am glad to welcome our newest SK, Robert Coop, to our York Rite bodies in Defiance. Bob has already offered to fill an office in each of the bodies. We will have election and installation of the next years officer corps in June.

We will be starting Drill team practice soon as we want Defiance #30 back in the mix. We have had a few SK's retire from our drill ranks and are looking to fill them with new SK's. I will be reaching out to you and asking if you would help us in the near future, so when you see my number pop up, feel assured we will be talking about drill team building. 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.

Matthew G. Gloor, Eminent Commander

**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!

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.



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### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

	Date	Day	Time	Who	What
May	2	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Stated Meeting
	4	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Service Awards
	6	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	9	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Election
	11	Sat.	8:00 am	NWO York Rite Festival	Findlay
	14	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	16	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Election
	17	Fri.	6:00	5th District Awards Night	Liberty Center Fire Station
	20	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	21	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	MM Degree
June	1	Sat.	9:00	Omega Lodge	Dual MM Degree
	3	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	6	Thurs.	7:30	Ensawocsa Chapter	Election & Installation
	11	Tues.	7:30	Temple Board	Stated Meeting
	13	Thurs.	7:30	Defiance Commandery	Installation
	15	Sat.	12:00	1st Arch Reunion	Lions Shelter House, Napoleon
	15	Sat.	4:00	1st Capitular District	G. Kings School, Browning
	15	Sat.	5:00	1st Capitular District	GHP Reception, Browning
	17	Mon.	7:30	Sherwood Lodge	Stated Meeting
	20	Thurs.	7:30	Oc-Co-Nox-Ee Council	Installation
July	28	Tues.	7:30	Omega Lodge	Stated Meeting
	20	Sat.	9:00	5th District, Fulton Lodge	Outdoor MM Degree
	27	Sat.	TBD	5th District	Tour Detroit Masonic Temple