

Fort Wayne York Rite News Letter – March 2023



Hello Sir Knights and Companions All,

I am starting to get spring fever as the days start to get longer. We had our Battalion 2 Winter meeting on February 11th in Auburn at Apollo Commandery. It was a great turn out with over 35 Sir Knights in attendance. Our day started off with a terrific lunch prepared by Benton Davis after which our VEDGC Randal Ellington laid out his roadmap for the ensuing year as Grand Commander if elected this April. After Sir Knight Ellington had completed his itinerary he thanked everyone for attending. We next assembled in the lodge room for the Indiana Templar Academy program presented by our Grand Commandery Officers and Volunteers. The Templar Academy covered the different uniforms that can be worn and the proper placement for the jewels and other items that can be worn on our uniforms. There was good interaction between the instructors of the ITA and the members receiving the instructions. It was a great day.



On February 15th we had our February Stated meeting. A delicious dinner was provided of fried chicken and mashed potatoes. We opened on Council in full form by the Illustrious Master Jeff Woodward who conducted the business of our meeting.

We had a Fort Wayne York Rite Officers meeting on February 22 at 6:30pm at Scott and Aplin LLC Law Firm. Our Junior Warden Bruce Scott graciously offered to let us use his facility for our officers meeting. We had a great turn out and plans for the upcoming year were discussed in detail. Dates to remember are Past Commanders and Ladies night are set for June 22nd at 6:30 pm with Dinner at 7pm at the Fort Wayne Masonic Temple. Additionally, Fort Wayne Commandery plans to march in the 4th of July parade in Angola.

On February 23rd Grand Lodge Officers held a membership meeting at the Fort Wayne Shrine. It was well attended with many lodges around northeast Indiana in attendance. Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Lentz started the program with our Junior Grand Deacon Steven Bates providing critical information regarding declining membership after which he turned the meeting over to the floor for ideas that might help boost our membership. Several Lodges spoke and offered many ideas. I feel the meeting was a great success and there is talk of future meetings.

Saturday February 25th marked the first day of the 2023 York Rite Tri-State festival. It was the 50th year for the Tri-State Festival hosted by the Yeomen of York. It was a fantastic day of fellowship and degree work. There were over 100 brothers in attendance which included 39 candidates. I would like to thank the officers of Jackson Michigan York Rite for the wonderful hospitality that they gave to all of us in attendance.



First Saturday of Tri-State Festival.

The second and final day of our York Rite Festival was in Bryan Ohio where the Commandery Orders were given. A great day was had by all. A special thanks to Ohio Commandery in Bryan Ohio for their great hospitality during this event. We are looking forward to seeing our new Sir Knights at our next Stated Meeting.



Our Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Lentz was in attendance and wished all of the Sir Knights well in their search for further light in Masonry.



Our next Stated Meeting is Wednesday March 15th and I hope to see everyone there.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Fraternally,

Dan Patterson, EC, EHP
Jeff Woodward IM
Fort Wayne York Rite
260-760-1878

