



Celebrating 157 Years of Pythianism

The New

Pythian International

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*From the
Desk of Supreme Chancellor
Joel D. Fierstien, KGS*

True to Our Principles

As we struggle to overcome what the coronavirus pandemic has brought to our world, turn to our history and principles, Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence and Community Service for commitment and guidance. President Abraham Lincoln wished our founders well, seeking to end the bitter divisiveness of the 1861-1865 war to save the union. This remains viable to the present with society quite polarized. Practicing FC & B and promoting Community Service are important to keep in mind as we become more active. Health, safety concerns, and a vaccinated population are paramount as we go forward.

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Grand Lodge Conventions 2021

What we know as of this writing

Massachusetts May 20-21
Peabody SVC Brown

Supreme Council Meeting June 5, 2021 Newark, New Jersey

Tennessee June 4-6
Pigeon Forge SIG Stamm

Texas June 11
Mineral Wells DSC Tim Hood

Indiana July 15-17
Lafayette SS Morris

Pennsylvania August 21
Dunmore DSC Charles Swartz III

Supreme Lodge Convention August 26 - 31, 2021 Newark, New Jersey

Ohio September 2-4
Fairborn

Iowa September 10-11
Des Moines

New Jersey September 12
Monroe Township

Michigan September 16-18
Lansing

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Supreme Chancellor's Message

Cont. from front page

Promoting the Order, recruiting, and meeting may be ambitious, but are vital to recovery and growth. As we look to where the Order is headed, there are new lodges in California, Missouri, and Georgia, and bright potential in the Philippines, India and other places arising from the website.

The re-scheduled supreme lodge convention is around the corner as time flies by. Everyone should be making plans and hotel and banquet reservations for what will be historic and so crucial to moving ahead, furthering our function of continuing to work to bring the community together. Daily news gives cause for optimism. Work through overcoming our obstacles.

Stay, safe, healthy, and look to what we may do for our future as we stay committed to our principles.

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER
COMMUNITY.**

STAY SAFE! STAY HEALTHY!



*From the
Supreme Secretary's Desk*

Brothers, Sisters, All:

It would appear the Supreme Lodge Convention is finally going to happen. By the way, this is still the 2020 (80th) Supreme Lodge Convention that has been postponed at least three times: from August 2020 to October 2020, to May 2021, to August 2021. Four date changes? I thought the third time was a charm? So much for old sayings.

For those of you who are local, there will be a Supreme Council Meeting on Saturday, June 5, at the Airport Marriott – the same hotel the convention will be held at. Please let someone know if you are planning to attend so we can accommodate your posterior with a chair at the meeting. It would also be good to familiarize yourself with the layout of the hotel.

Speaking of the convention, we will be attempting to accomplish six days' worth of work into five days. Attached within the email, you will be receiving will be a copy of this issue of Pythian International and all of the information you'll need for the upcoming Supreme Lodge Convention. Please make your reservations as soon as you're able to assist the Convention Committee and the Hotel in making your stay enjoyable.

STAY SAFE!

Fraternally,
Allen S. Morris, KGS
Supreme Secretary



*From Supreme Secretary
Connie Edwards*

The most talked about topics are the weather and the virus. If we had a fairy godmother, she could give us perfect weather and make the virus go away. Since there is no fairy godmother, we must put up with all things good and bad. And I have no little elves to mow my yard, so I better finish this and get to mowing.

With spring, annual reports are due and I am seeing that Grand Temples are planning on having Grand Sessions this year. They may be only one day or several days, but the Sisters are trying on having sessions. I know I have missed meeting with the Sisters in my state and attending meetings in other states. Maybe we can start to travel again, safely.

This year my family has increased with two granddaughters getting married and then in March a great-grandson was born to one granddaughter, I see families increase, but our order is decreasing. Temples are closing, members dropping out and I know some of this is due to the virus and not being able to meet has not helped. We need to put on our thinking hats and try to come up ways to get new members. Knights and Sisters need to work on this together, we all are in the same boat. If ideas come up, share with other Temples or Lodges, let us see if we can increase our membership to keep our order going.

The next two months are active with special days: Mother's Day, graduations, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, birthdays, weddings etc. I'm wishing each of you a fun summer with family and friends. Please remember to wear your masks, even if you had your vaccination shots you could still get the virus, so be careful and safe.

Connie F. Edwards,
Pythian Sisters Supreme Secretary

HERMION LODGE #27 – LEESBURG, FLORIDA

On Saturday 21 March 2021 at 1300 hours, five members of Hermion Lodge #27, Leesburg, Florida presented a check for \$2000.00 from the (Pythian Youth Foundation) of the Grand Lodge of Florida, to the Kimberly's Center in Ocala, Florida.

The "Tree of Life" photo has leaves and with our donation, one leaf will be Engraved with the Knights of Pythias as a thank you to our order.



In attendance from left to right were: Chris Van Dyne (Prelate); Juan Hernandez (Chancellor Commander); Dawn Westgate, (MNM) [Executive Director Kimberly's Center]; William H. Nicholson Jr. (Grand Outer Guard & Vice Chancellor of Hermion Lodge #27); Mike Colchiski (Outer Guard); & Mark Lepinski (Master of the Work)

Tree of Life



- In Loving Memory of
Patrick H. Duffy
1941 - 2018
- In Loving Memory of
Katherine Boyd
1941 - 2018
- In Loving Memory of
Sally Boyd
1941 - 2018
- In Loving Memory of
Theresa Boyd
1941 - 2018
- In Loving Memory of
Shirley G. Ansel
1941 - 2018
- In Loving Memory of
Barbara L. Korb (Granney)
1941 - 2018

On Thursday, 17 December 2020 the Hermion Lodge #27 Leesburg, FL visited Kimberly's Center in Ocala, FL to make a \$1000.00 donation. The center helps abused and sexually abused children. Their website is www.KimberlysCenter.org for detailed information on what they do for the children.

Hermion Lodge was represented by William Nicholson (VC) and Mark Lepinskie (MW). We spent over an hour with the Executive Director Dawn Westgate, as she took us on a tour of the facility and explained their operations on what they do for the children, she introduced us to the Clinical Director Robby Lapp, who gave us a break down of how mentally, psychologically and physically the center helps the traumatized children to recover, even into their adult years. If one has a flash back in their adult years, they can reach out to the center and receive help at no cost to the individual. I have attached photos of our visit and the donation ceremony and will send hard copy of this letter and photo quality pictures as well.



In the group photo you, will see a wall decoration of a tree with shinney leaves. This tree is called the "Giving Tree". Donations for this tree of \$1000.00 or more go the pay off the mortgage on the building, thus when it's paid off that money will be reallocated into the center for the needs of the children. I hope that Grand Lodge matches our donation or better. Donation and grants are the life blood of the center.

NEW JERSEY WORKING WITH LOCAL CHARITIES

In these trying times of covid-19 related suffering the New Jersey Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias Charity Foundation continues its project of encouraging support of Food Banks in New Jersey as more and more families are in need of help. Our Subordinate Lodges have stepped up and made donations to their local food banks while the Charity Foundation continues its program of providing matching funds annually in the amount of \$250 to bolster each Lodge's donations.

Here are the food banks that are currently being supported by local lodges; Battleground Lodge supports "Samaritan Center", "Feed all God's Children", and "Freehold Open Door"; Benjamin N. Cardozo Lodge supports "The Fair Lawn Food Bank", and "The Center for Food Action"; Fortitude Lodge supports "TASK" and "RISE"; Jersey Shore Lodge supports "Fulfill", (The Food Bank of Ocean and Monmouth County).

We hope all Pythians embrace this charitable project for the people in our Domains.

NEW JERSEY KOP, BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO LODGE #163/157

Strangers Helping Strangers – Just to Lend A Hand



With a history of community involvement to assist people with unmet needs, Cardozo Lodge #163/157 through the NJ KOP Charity Foundation, got involved with a local volunteer group that was started just a year ago. Strangers Helping Strangers was started by Chris Braitsch, a Middle School teacher in Garfield NJ, on March 30th, 2020. He aimed to create a volunteer group in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help people in need. Chris sent us a little history and description of his groups' efforts. Here is what he wrote:

“Since March 2020, we have purchased and delivered groceries to families in need throughout Bergen, Passaic, and Essex Counties, and are currently still responding to aid requests filled out by residents on our Facebook group page and website. In the heart of the pandemic, we would purchase and deliver PPE to frontline workers in hospitals, medical facilities, police departments, fire departments, and EMS workers. In addition, we would make energy snack bags on the go for the aforementioned front line heroes, filled with energy snacks and laminated letters or artwork from local middle school students.”

Continuing to honor and help the frontline workers, we developed an initiative where we would buy food at full price from several local small businesses and donate them to Hospitals etc. We serve the homeless with food, clothes, and toiletries as often as possible. Additionally, we also started Pop-Up produce markets and evening Dinner Distribution events in several towns. We have had many events to benefit communities such as Census events, school supply events, youth events, etc. We have recently formed the Strangers Helping Strangers Youth Group, as the youth are an extremely important solution to the world's problems. Throughout all of this, we have realized how willing folks are to volunteer, in any capacity, to help others. They start off as strangers helping other strangers, but we all end up as friends.

L to R: Bob Huffman, Chris Braitsch, Natalie Fucil (Strangers Helping Strangers Youth Group President), Bob Schlegel, presenting Cardozo Lodge donation on the anniversary of our Grand Lodge, March 16, 2021.

Follow Strangers Helping Strangers on their FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/528729531401036/permalink/777141029893217/>

TEXAS IS ON THE MOVE

Mineral Wells Lodge # 212, Grand Domain of Texas, preformed Long form Three Rank initiation session on Amon Billops at their Castle Hall on Saturday March 27, 2021.



Left to Right: Donovan Burkhalter (Prelate); Clarence Choate (Pythagoras); Brett Wright (Pictorial); Walter B. Choate (Chancellor Commander); Amon Billops (Candidate); Doug Liles GC (Master at Arms); Blevins Choate GOG (Senator); Walter S. Choate PGC (King); Dakota Veach (Vice Chancellor); James Choate (Senator)

RESTORING TALISMAN LODGE (OREGON) MEMBERSHIP AND BUILDING



Over the last several years Talisman lodge located in Grants Pass Oregon, has fallen in disrepair, and losing membership. Oregon's Grand Chancellor Scott Swartout chose the rebuilding of Talisman's membership and repairing the lodge building as his Grand Chancellor's project. Scott assembled a team of knights from several lodges throughout Oregon to evaluate the building and identify the issues and formulate a plan to repair the problems found.

They found the roof leaking in both meeting rooms; attic vent screens missing, and electrical issues. The pump that supplied water from the lodge's well needed replace, and the septic system's drain field needed repaired.

The lodge members being young but active within the lodge didn't have the long-term leadership to rely on for help with the everyday activities, Scott enlisted several knights from seven other lodges to become dual members of Talisman lodge and willing to attend business meeting and help restore the lodge back to what it once was. Since all the dual members are over 200 miles away, it was decided to hold the monthly business meeting remotely with the local members. Plans were made to meet at the lodge every 3 months for a 3 to 4-day work party followed by an in-person business meeting.

During the work parties, members removed all the wallboard and debris along with the carpet. Another group inspected the roof, found damaged roofing causing the leaks and repaired the areas, they were able to install screens in the 8 attic vents to keep the owls out. Another team cleaned out an onsite storage building and helped remove the deconstruction material and acquired miscellaneous items, at the end of the day, we were able to fill a 30-yard dumpster and 5 pickup loads of items for donations. Work continued with preparing the ceiling joist for sheetrock, added more wiring for lighting, ceiling fan and wall outlets and switches. Sheetrock was installed, and

ready for taping, texturing, and painting. Several members kept busy trimming back the trees, shrubs, and debris from around the property.

At the last work weekend as we were cleaning up the property, we had several neighborhood members stop by inquiring about the lodge and Knights of Pythias. We explained what the Knights are, how we're involved within our communities. Three of the neighbors were impressed with our community involvement the work conducted at the lodge along with asked for an application for membership. So far, we received 1 application back for review.



GASTON LODGE #104, 3 IN 1 INITIATION

GASTON, OREGON

Gaston Lodge #104 held a 3 in 1 initiation ceremony initiating 8 new members for their lodge, plus 3 new members of Delphos Lodge #39 Forest Grove, Oregon.

Gaston Lodge's Chancellor Command Bill Sneathen officiated the initiation with several of the lodge members and Grand Officers participating with the various parts to help make the ceremony a rememberable first activity as a Pythian!



Front row, left to right: Mike Steward, Gaston; Andy Johnson, Gaston; Josh Nihart, Delphos; Pat Nihart, Delphos; Jerry Hoodenpyl, Gaston.

Back row, left to right: James Hoodenpyl, Gaston; Nick Atwood, Gaston; Marcus Waage, Gaston; Chuck Hartmann, Delphos; Scott Hoodenpyl, Gaston; Far Right: Grant Warren.