

THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

HISTORY

The Order of Knights of Pythias is a great international fraternity which was founded in Washington, DC, February 19, 1864, by Justus H. Rathbone. The primary object of fraternal organizations is to promote friendship among men and to relieve suffering. The distinguishing principles of the Order of Knights of Pythias are "FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE".

The Order began during the Civil War, and its founder believed that it might do much to heal the wounds and calm the hatred of civil conflict. President Abraham Lincoln, being advised of the contents of the ritual and its teaching, said: "The purposes of your organization are most wonderful. If we could but bring its spirit to all our citizenry, what a wonderful thing it would be. It breathes the spirit of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. It is one of the best agencies conceived for the upholding of government, honoring the flag, for the reuniting of our brethren of the North and of the South, for teaching the people to love one another, and portraying the sanctity of the home and loved ones. I would suggest that these great principles be perpetuated and that you go to the Congress of the United States and ask for a charter, and so organize on a great scale throughout this nation, and disseminate this wonderful work that you have so nobly started. I will do all in my power to assist you in this application and with your work."

An application was made to Congress for a charter, and the Knights of Pythias was the first American Order ever chartered by an Act of the Congress of the United States.

The story of Damon and Pythias

Is a Greek legend where Damon and Pythias were historical characters living about 412 B.C. Damon opposed the rule of the king of Syracuse because he gained the throne through fraudulent means. The Syracuse king then condemned Damon to death for his opposition. Pythias asked that the king grant Damon a stay of execution allowing him to say goodbye to his wife and child. He also volunteered to face execution if Damon did not return. Each was willing to die to save the other's life. Their loyalty to each other, the adventures that beset them, and the outcome of this noble friendship form the basis for one of the most beautiful stories of history as exemplified in our rituals.

HOW WE HELP IN OUR COMMUNITY

CHARTER ORGANIZATION FOR
CUB SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS

WE ALSO SUPPORT:

GASTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

READ AND RIDE PROGRAM
SPORTS, CLASSROOMS,
ELEMENTARY PTO, BOOSTERS,
ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
(FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILY)

GASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE
BIKE HELMET GIVEAWAYS
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAPATO SHOWDOWN

CAR SHOW
PTO CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
GRFD PANCAKE BREAKFAST
PARADE & STEAK FEED

LOCAL FOOD BANK

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

www.gaston-knights.com

www.oregonpythians.org

www.wapatoshowdown.show

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

GASTON LODGE #104



A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION
FOR THE COMMUNITY
BY THE COMMUNITY

PROVIDING FRIENDSHIP
CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE

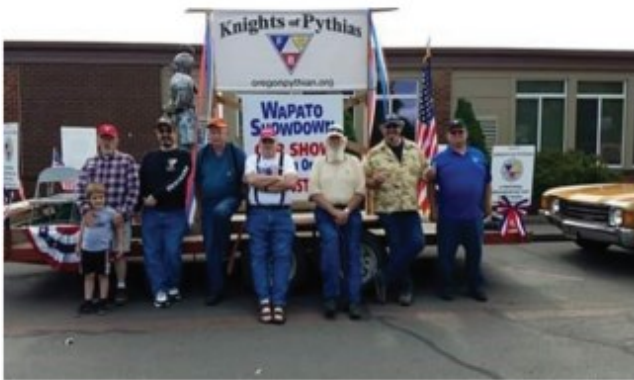


GASTON LODGE HISTORY

Knights of Pythias Gaston lodge #104 was chartered on November 8th 1908 by Joseph Westcott, Rock Hull, Charles Westcott and Dr. James A. Baker. The building was built in 1914, then had major renovations starting in 1992. Our membership currently holds steady at over 50 strong.

Our major fundraising event, held annually in late August, The Wapato Showdown, was established in 1997 and quickly became a major event in Oregon. This event takes place in the City of Gaston's Brown Park and participants come from far and wide to attend hosting a record 503 vehicles as our record in 2004.

PARADES



Most of the lodges in Oregon gather with our parade float to participate in local and holiday parades.

CONSIDER JOINING THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS



New members are sought in the 10 remaining lodges across Oregon. The Gaston lodge #104 hosts dinner and a fraternal gathering every Wednesday evening between 6-8 PM. You may contact a member or seek information for all lodges under the LODGES tab at:

www.oregonpythians.org

Membership is open to any male 18 years of age or older, of moral character, a believer of a supreme being, able to read and write, and he must believe in the maintenance of order and the upholding of constituted authority in the government in which he lives. He must not be a professional gambler, or be unlawfully engaged in the sale or distribution of illegal substances.



The Wapato Showdown

Is perhaps the biggest thing that has brought this small town together and has made a real destination in late August for car enthusiast's and spectators alike. This is a great fundraising opportunity for the youth in the community from scouts, athletic teams to freshman through senior class. Some events that have been included are, Corn Hole Tournament, Farmers Market, Parade and Steak Feed. The main event on Saturday includes the Gaston Fire Department pancake breakfast, an all class car show including motorcycles and vintage campers. Plenty of activities happen all day including raffles for all ages, loud pipes contest, engine blow and don't forget the Beer Garden with plenty of refreshments and food. The day wraps up with plenty of trophies awarded by our many sponsors, followed by live music in the beer garden.

This car show brings the community together and builds good character for our youth through fundraising activities, parking spectator cars and a variety of raffles.



SOME OF OUR LONG TIME SPONSORS



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