

# PYTHIAN INTERNATIONAL



**Volume IX Number 14**

**Fall 2024**

## **A Message From Supreme Chancellor Donald Stamm**



Wishing everyone a joyous and safe Thanksgiving with loved ones.

Look for an article in our upcoming Holiday (Winter) issue.

## **A Message From Supreme Chief Gwen Rhodes**



What an opportunity....becoming Supreme Chief during a year when 55 resolutions were passed shaping the future of Pythian Sisters. After many years, the Sisters are making changes with the goal in mind of growing the membership and providing greater service to our communities.

I am honored to undertake this challenge and thank you for your confidence in me. As you are all aware, it takes all of us both individually and jointly to move forward. Communication is the key. We need not only to do better presenting ourselves to the outside world, but we need to do a better job of both talking and especially listening to one another at every level internally.

Those of you that attended the session in Roanoke have already seen or may have copies of the new larger edition of the Supreme Constitution and By-Laws. Remember that the copy passed out at the session will need updating to include the 55 changes. This is expected to be ready in early 2025. Once ready, you will have the option of printing it out yourselves at no charge or ordering a copy from Supreme Secretary Jona at \$30 per copy. The 8.5x11 size pages will be easier to read and will reduce the expense of future updates.

Another major change includes allowing men to become members of Temples. They will be allowed to become full members with voice and vote. This includes becoming Officers. Specific details will be included in the updated version of the Constitution & By-Laws. To become a member, they will be required to meet our basic requirements for membership: a person must be 16 years of age, speak the English language and be of good character.

Our new Ways & Means chair is Supreme Junior Dawn Dibble. Currently we have available giraffe and rose pins, tickets for 2 quilt raffles and the 25/25/50 drawing. More to follow. Dawn can be reached on [dawnkfour@gmail.com](mailto:dawnkfour@gmail.com).

My altruistic project is Youth Mental Health. Every corner of our county seems to be wrestling with this issue. Any action gives us an opportunity to be seen as community leaders. Co-chairs of the project are PSR Jennifer Hensley and SPSC Yolanda Chatwood. They will be providing us a toolkit. To get started we will focus on an Awareness Campaign and Community Building. This should be available soon.

Looking forward to working together with each of you to accomplish our goals. If I can be of service, I can be reached at [GwenRhodesPLEF@gmail.com](mailto:GwenRhodesPLEF@gmail.com)

In PLE&F, Gwen Rhodes, Supreme Chief

## **A Message From Supreme Secretary Dan Cowan**

Wishing everyone a joyous and safe Thanksgiving with loved ones.

Look for an article in our upcoming Holiday (Winter) issue.

## **A Message From Editor Michelle Videlock**

For those who don't know me, allow me to introduce myself and the PI team. My name is Michelle Videlock and I am a PSR from Maryland (Sisters) and secretary of Lyon's Truth Lodge 170 (Virginia).. Supreme Chancellor Donald Stamm has asked me to take on the job of editor of the Pythian International online magazine. This change is meant to ease the workload of the Supreme Secretary by making this a standalone committee. This is wonderful opportunity as I love creative efforts such as this. Here is the first draft of the refreshed publication.

As always, it contains information about what is happening at all levels of the order, including messages, articles, fundraising and pictures (installations, charity donations, events, etc.). Here are some of the highlights about what's new:

1. An emphasis on including BOTH the Knights AND Sisters;
2. Inclusion of the Supreme Chief and Chancellor's programs;
3. A section called "Ask a Pythian" where we will share answers to questions submitted by members of both the Knights and Sisters to the extent possible (questions regarding secret work and ritual will be addressed offline);
4. Opportunity for other Supreme officers and committee chairs of both the Knights and Sisters to offer their messages and perspectives;
5. An area for acknowledgements and thanks; and,
6. A closing inspirational thought/poem.

After energizing conversations with Supreme Chancellor Don, Supreme Chief Gwen Rhodes and SPSC Yolanda Chatwood (who has graciously offered to be the liaison with the Sisters), I am confident that this will be a worthwhile effort. My husband Dan is also on the team. We can't do it alone, however. We need EVERYONE to help make this a success.

Please don't hesitate to submit suggestions, updates/corrections and content. The dedicated email for submitting articles is: [pi@pythias.org](mailto:pi@pythias.org). The dedicated email for submitting questions for the "Ask a Pythian" section is [askapythian@pythias.org](mailto:askapythian@pythias.org). Ultimately, this is YOUR magazine. No one can tell our story better than we can! I hope you are as excited as we are about this project. I look forward to hearing from and meeting everyone.

## **A Message From Supreme Membership Chairman Dan Videlock**

I wish to thank SC Donald Stamm for appointing me as the Supreme Lodge Membership Chairman. I will do my best to grow the membership.

I contacted the Supreme Secretary and got the membership numbers for the last 10 years. I was shocked how fast the numbers are dropping.

### **Membership Loss over the last 10 years**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>
2012	17,134
2013	16,897
2014	16,039
2015	15,562
2016	15,461
2017	14,188
2018	14,076
2019	12,684
2020	12,194
2021	11,650
2022	12,360
2023	11,506

That is a **32 percent loss in 10 years, Almost 5000 members**. We have gone from 17,134 to 11,506 members. We don't have much time.

I am not the most eloquent writer so let me get to the point.

To make it worse the average age of the members is higher and many members have additional membership, which makes the numbers seem higher, therefore the attrition will be even faster in the coming years.

What we have been doing has not been working. **The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.**

### **We have to Change!**

I know there is a lot of resistance to women joining the order. We could at least double our numbers by simply looking at our families and bring in your wife or daughter or granddaughter into your lodge. They could bring in their spouse and kids also. As a member of the Oddfellows, I have seen how the admission of women has made the order better.

I know you love this order or you would not take the time and dedication to be a member. If you are willing to change then you will ensure the future of this order.

We also need to recruit younger members. I was at my lodge meeting and at 68 I was one of the younger members there. It won't take too many years until they won't have enough members to have a quorum. Next time you are at a meeting look around and think about this. Recruiting younger members means using social media to attract them. **Younger people live and die by their cell phones.** Change the way you communicate so they are included. One way to get the ball rolling is to ask a younger member of your household (child or grandchild) and ask them to assist you in getting your lodge info and good deeds onto social media. By the way Facebook is free. A lodge I belonged to in Maryland did not want to be on Facebook. I did it anyway and a month later someone found us on Facebook and rented our lodge hall for \$500.00. If we don't adapt we will fade away.

When you get a new member you need to create a welcoming environment so they can contribute.

Every lodge has the "naysayer". They need to be stopped. We need a "**CAN DO**" environment vs a "can't do".

Typical excuses are:

It will never work.

We have always done it this way we aren't going to do it differently.

We have never done it this way.

Get behind them and be part of the team. Give them something to do. Put them in line or on a committee. Take advantage of their talent, energy and enthusiasm.

The worst thing you can do is get a new member and squash them at every turn. Eventually they will stop trying to help the lodge and you will lose that member.

Reach out to inactive or former members. They may want to contribute.

One of the problems is nobody knows who the Pythians are. An easy way to get favorable reputation for your lodge is anytime you donate money or time, get pictures of the donation or volunteer work. Doesn't matter if it is \$5.00 or \$50,000. Present the check in person (not just a check in the mail). Write up a press release send it to the local newspaper, social media and the Pythian International. Let people know our good deeds. If you send lodge member to Habitat for Humanity to help with a house get pictures and put it on your social media as well as a press release.

Keep your website up to date. New pictures and correct current officer information that can be easily accessed shows an active lodge. If the latest pictures and contact info on your website are more than 1 year old, your social media is stale.

Does your town or city have a parade or other opportunities to highlight the KOP? Take advantage of **Free publicity**. Pile in a vehicle, a couple of bags of candy, an American flag as well as the Pythian flag, wave and smile and let people know you exist.

If you have a Pythian Sister Temple associated with your lodge support and include them. They will support you. We are all working together to grow the order.

**Choosing members for your lodge should be based on character alone.** Will this person be an asset to GROW our lodge and the Pythian order?

SC Donald Stamm also wants to encourage lodges to hold membership events. There is money available from the Supreme Lodge to assist in these events. There will be form to submit to get funds available.

I know change is difficult. It is uncomfortable. But the potential rewards and longevity of this order are at stake. **It is time to think outside the box.**

I would like to request some info ASAP.

List of all chairman of membership for the domains.

I am here to help. Reach out to the officers of the Supreme Lodge. Working together is how we can reverse this trend. Enclosed is all my contact info. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, ideas or need my help.

Daniel Videlock PSR

Supreme Chairman of membership

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## **Supreme Chancellor's Program**

Wishing everyone a joyous and safe Thanksgiving with loved ones.

Look for an article in our upcoming Holiday (Winter) issue.

## **Supreme Chief's Program**

### **EMPOWERING MINDS: YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**

This project is designed to empower our youth by equipping them with the knowledge, resources and support they need to care for their mental health. In this effort, we hope to foster their communities to understand and prioritize mental health. Co-chairs PSR Jennifer Hensley and SPSC Yolanda Chatwood will be distributing information and ideas on how to proceed.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership has been an ongoing concern and needs the efforts of everyone. We have a great opportunity with our recent change that allows men to become members. They must meet the same criteria as women by being 16 years of age and of good character. They do not need any relationship with current or past members. Co-chairs PSR Sarah Howatson (US) and Louise Marshall (BC) will suggest ideas for you.

### **WAYS AND MEANS**

Do we have a deal for you! Currently available are both giraffe and rose pins for \$5.00 each. We also have a stunning red t-shirt that features the logo of Sisters, Knights, Nomads and DOKK's for \$20-\$22. We are offering raffle tickets for two quilts and the 25/25/50draw plus many other items. You will receive information soon from chair Dawn Dibble, Supreme Junior.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

We also encourage you to make donations to the Endowment fund which funds the educational scholarships we offer to Pythians including their children and grandchildren. Details to apply are available from your secretary. Letters of acknowledgement are sent to recipients or their families.

## Directory of Supreme Officers

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Sitting Past Supreme Chief Yolanda Chatwood  
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## Our Good Works

### SUPREME LODGE/TEMPLE



Congratulations to Supreme Chancellor Don Stamm and Supreme Chief Gwen Rhodes who were installed during Supreme Convention in August at Roanoke, VA. Best wishes for a successful term that is everything you dreamed it would be and more.



Meet the new Supreme Lodge, 2024-2026! SC Don Stamm, SVC Tim Van Boening, SP Wayne Knutson, SMA Craig Shink, ST Alan Ast, SIG Michael West, and SOG Richard Clark



Meet the new Supreme Temple, 2024-2026! SC Gwen Rhodes, SS Roxanne Beatty, Supreme Junior Dawn Dibble, SM Lori Loughmiller, SS Jona Cowell, ST Jill Unger Moder, SP Catherine Ann Jenkins, SG Karmen Kennerly, and SPGC Yolanda Chatwood

## INDIANA



Welcome to the Kenneth Norris Honorary Rathbone Class!! (L to R) Doyle Proffitt (33), (front) Timothy Tribbett (576), Michael Nugent (2019), Beau Burtner (124), Mike McKenzie (124), Wayne Hansen (3-5-7 & GMA), John Winger (124), GC Ken Norris (253), Scot Theobald (124), Travis Lyall (PC – 33), Garrett Gonczy (492), Robert Shirk (394), Ronald DeLeon (3-5-7) and GS Denny Adams. Not pictured is Page Bruce Smith (33). Crescens Lodge also was honored to have the Rathbone Bible present for the new Knights to take their obligations on. Once again.....WELCOME TO THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS!!





Crescens #33 Charity Show A Huge Success! Jeff Humble proudly shows off his “Best of Show” winning hardware for his classic 1954 Chevy Belair 210 entry on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Crescens Lodge ‘s 18<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Cook-off and Car, Truck and Jeep show at Memorial Park in New Castle. There were 116 total entries, so picking the Best of Show was a very difficult job. The show also had 16 vendors and a 50/50 raffle. It is estimated at press time the New Castle Firefighters Children’s Christmas Fund will receive a donation in the \$2,000 area! It was a great day and many thanks the Firefighters Local Union #1722 and all the Pythian help from Crescens Lodge #33 and Venus Temple #50 & our DJ “CWB”, who happens to be a Knight of Pythias, and his wife for selling the 50/50 tickets.

## MARYLAND



Maryland installs Grand Temple: Front row left to right Tracy Sewell, GG Beth McKelvie, GS Kathy Brady, GC Mary McFarlane, SPGC Linda Skinner, GT Back row CA Jenkins SP Vicki Allen, DDGC Joyce Dilks, PSR Kay Bond, GS Julie Smith, PSR Carmencita Bell, GM. Catherine Ann, Kay and Julie were the installing officers and Joyce filled in as GS.



Maryland installs Grand Lodge: Standing (left to right) GVC Robert McElvie, Brosh Boshier, GIG Adam Young, GMA Andrew Young, GT Charlie Beatty, Sir Edward Fisher Seated (left to right) GOG Nick Rowan, GS Al Stevens, GC James Stansfield, SIG Michael West, Mark Heath

## OREGON



Grand Temple of Oregon new grand officers for 2024-2025: Grand Temple of Oregon officers for the new term 2024-2025: FR: Laurie Hoodenpyl, Grand Senior; Carol Jenkins, Grand Manager, PGM; Gwen Rhodes, Supreme Chief; Tasya Cantu, Grand Chief; Sarah Murphy, SPGC BR: Karen Ely Ellis, Grand Protector; Sherri Sievert, PSR, Grand Secretary; Heather Johnson-King, PGC, Grand Treasurer; Beverly Cox, PSR, Grand Junior; Arlene Kimball, PGJ, Grand Guard.





Group photo of all attendees at the Oregon convention with SC Gwen Rhodes sitting next to the new GC Tasya and SPGC Sarah.

**VIRGINIA**







Lyon's Truth Lodge #170 highlighted their proximity to Arlington National Cemetery by participated in a wreath laying ceremony on September 15. Presenters were PSC Mark Mead, CC Joy Sullivan, PC Daniel Sullivan and PC Samuel Sullivan. Other members were present as spectators.



Lyons Truth Lodge #170 of Arlington Va sponsored a Booth at the annual Clarendon Day Festival in Virginia on September 28th 2024. Present were Joy Sullivan CC, VC Debi McGhee and PC Daniel Sullivan, and PC Samuel Sullivan.

## **Upcoming Grand Sessions**

<b><u>State/Province</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
British Columbia	Revelstoke, BC, Canada	May 7-9, 2025
California	Santa Ana	TBD
Indiana	Lafayette	July 10-12, 2025
Iowa	TBD	September, 2025
Maine	Goldsboro	April 26, 2025
Maryland	Hotel 620, Hagerstown	September 12-13, 2025
Michigan	Lansing	September 11-13, 2025
Nebraska	Hastings	April 12, 2025
Nevada/Utah	Las Vegas, NV	September 12-13, 2025
New Hampshire	TBD	TBD
Ohio	Doubletree, Worthington	September 3-6, 2025
Ontario	TBD	April, 2025
Oregon	TBD	October, 2025
South Carolina	N Myrtle Beach	February 21-22, 2025
Tennessee	Pigeon Forge	May 30-June 1, 2025
Texas	Longview	June 13-15, 2025
Virginia	Norfolk, Doubletree Airport	October 2-5, 2025
Washington/Alaska	TBD	September 19-21, 2025
West Virginia	Best Western Plus, Bridgeport	July 10-12, 2025

***Note: Information is current as of printing and subject to update/change.***

## **Ask A Pythian**

The dedicated email for submitting questions for the “Ask a Pythian” section is [askapythian@pythias.org](mailto:askapythian@pythias.org). A Council member or other subject matter expert will address your question and we will print it here to the extent possible in a future edition. Please note, if the content is of a sensitive nature someone will reach out to you offline.

## **Submissions Welcome!**



Give me your pictures, your articles, your updated information yearning to be published,

The dedicated email is: [pi@pythias.org](mailto:pi@pythias.org).

***No Submission Left Behind!***

***Holiday happenings???? Share pictures and articles of how we're spreading love and joy for the season.***

# Pythian Shirt Order Form

Description	Price	Quantity	Total \$
Short Sleeve T shirt Small	\$25	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt Medium	\$25	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt Large	\$25	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt XL	\$25	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt 2XL	\$25	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt 3XL	\$30	_____	_____
Short Sleeve T shirt 4XL	\$30	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt Small	\$35	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt Medium	\$35	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt Large	\$35	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt XL	\$35	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt 2XL	\$35	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt 3XL	\$40	_____	_____
Long Sleeve T shirt 4XL	\$40	_____	_____
Hoodie Small	\$60	_____	_____
Hoodie Medium	\$60	_____	_____
Hoodie Large	\$60	_____	_____
Hoodie XL	\$60	_____	_____
Hoodie 2XL	\$60	_____	_____
Hoodie 3XL	\$65	_____	_____
Hoodie 4XL	\$65	_____	_____
Polo Small	\$40	_____	_____
Polo Medium	\$40	_____	_____
Polo Large	\$40	_____	_____
Polo XL	\$40	_____	_____
Polo 2XL	\$40	_____	_____
Polo 3XL	\$45	_____	_____
Polo 4XL	\$45	_____	_____
<b>Subtotal</b>			_____
<b>Please contact us for shipping cost before submitting form</b>			_____
<b>Shipping</b>			_____
<b>Grand Total</b>			_____

Please to make checks payable "Donald Stamm".  
 Then Mail check and order form to: Michelle Videlock 14830 Watt Road Novelty Oh 44072

To reduce shipping cost it is recommended to consolidate order to a single point of delivery. Large shipments may incur additional shipping costs.

Ship to  
 Name  
 Address  
 Phone/email

Additional questions? Michelle Videlock 240-994-7581 Dan Videlock 301-980-5446



**LYON'S TRUTH LODGE #170 PROUDLY SUPPORTS SUPREME CHANCELLOR  
DON STAMM'S PROJECT (ALZHEIMER'S) WITH OUR 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
HANDMADE KNITTED BLANKET RAFFLE!**

**Tickets: \$1 Each or 6 for \$5**

**Drawing to be held during the Supreme Convention.**

**Make checks payable to: Donald Stamm.**

**Mail tickets and money to:**

**Supreme Convention Committee**

**Attn Michelle Videlock**

**14830 Watt RD.**

**Novelty, OH 44072**

**Colors: Blue, Beige**

**Size: Appx 43" by 47 square**

**Thanks for  
your support!**



## **Kudos Korner**

*Thanks, appreciation and congratulations for those "extra efforts"!*

Thank you Debi McGhee and Betty Gallahan for your help selling shirts during Virginia's Grand Convention!

## **A Parting Thought**

### **ME AND YOU...**

Laugh and I'll laugh with you.  
Weep and I'll weep, too.  
For whatever comes to assail you  
Is there to assail me, too.

Work and I'll work with you.  
Fight and I'll fight, too.  
For whatever barrier needs breaking  
Can be broken by me and you.

Think and I'll think with you.  
Love and I'll love, too.  
For these are the things worth doing  
And can be done by me and you.





**Stay strong. Stay true.  
Stay PYTHIAN!**