

# GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF INDIANA



Jim Fairchild, MEGHP

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Chapter Officers

James H. Fairchild	Grand High Priest
Dennis Schraeder	Grand King
Matthew Lowe	Grand Scribe
W. Kris Phillips	Grand Secretary
Mary Evens	Grand Treasurer
Joseph H. Villarreal	Grand Caption of Host
Jason Miller	Grand Principal Sojourner
Tim Brinkmeyer	Grand Royal Arch Captain
Chris Gamblin	Grand Master 3rd Veil
Graid Huber	Grand Master 2nd Veil
David Leach	Grand Master 1st Veil
Brian Hooten	Grand Chaplain
Mike Doxee	Grand Lecturer
Dale Foreman	Grand Guard

[Grand Chapter website link](#)

# Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Indiana



David Miller, MIGM

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Council Officers

David Miller	Grand Master
James Catania	Deputy Grand Master
James Davis	Grand Principle Conductor of Work
John C. Gray	Grand Treasurer
David R. Ulrich	Grand Recorder
Charles D. Wood, Jr.	Assistant Grand Recorder
Todd Carpenter	Grand Captain of the Guard
W. Keith Stiner	Grand Conductor of the Council
Frank Capler	Grand Steward
Bruce Bush	Grand Chaplain
Chuck Combi	Grand Sentinel
Charles Bowling	Grand Lecturer
Christopher Gamblin	Grand Organist

[Grand Council website link](#)

# Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana



Phil Whisner, REGC

## 2022-2023 Indiana Grand Commandery Officers

Phillip D. Whisner	Grand Commander
Randal P. Ellington	Deputy Grand Commander
Randy J. Darling	Grand Generalissimo
Joseph L. Sparks	Grand Captain General
Archie Smallwood	Grand Prelate
Robert Frazer	Grand Treasurer
Edward E. Fodrea	Grand Recorder
Dominic Hamblin	Grand Senior Warden
Jonathan M McCracken	Grand Junior Warden
Dathan Reed	Grand Standard Bearer
Scott Sacek	Grand Sword Bearer
Douglas Patmore	Grand Warder
Mark Elder	Grand Sentinel

[Grand Commandery website link](#)

# York Rite Newsletter

## April 2022

To be removed from this mailing list, send a reply with "Remove" in the subject line.

*Leadership is not a position or a title, it is action and example.*

## Upcoming Events

Don't forget to make your Reservations

**May 6**—Royal Arch Degree at Crawfordsville Chapter #40. 6p dinner. 7p degree work. Contact [Joe Sparks](#).

**May 8**—Scottish Rite Orchestra Concert 3p. Contact [Don Reynolds](#).

**May 14**—St. Columbia Knight Masons Council #118, Ft. Wayne Masonic Temple 10a. Contact [Mike Doxsee](#).

**May 14**—Royal Arch Widow Degree at Grant County Chapter #55. 5p Degree. 6p Table Chapter. Contact [George Ingles](#).

**May 14**—Central Indiana Freemasons Association, Plainfield Lodge. 6:30 Dinner 7:15 meeting. Contact [Adam Campbell](#)

**May 17-18**—Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Scottish Rite Cathedral, Contact [Grand Lodge](#).

**May 18**—Royal & Select Master Degrees, Homer McDaniel Council #108, Dinner 6:30p, Degree 7p. Contact [Phil Stroud](#).

**May 21**—Order of the Temple at Elkhart Commandery #31, 9:00a. Contact [Ron Ross](#).

**May 21**—Grand Chapter Instructional, Noblesville Masonic Temple, 5p Dinner, 5:45 Instructional Contact [Graig Huber](#).

**May 24**—Royal & Select Master Degrees, Anderson Council #69, 7p. Contact [Max Maupin](#).

**May 25**—Mark Master Degree at Joshua Chapter #158. 7p. Contact [Tim Brinkmeyer](#).

**May 26**—Ascension Day Ceremony at Greenfield Commandery #39. 6:30p. Contact [Larry Gray](#).

**June 2**—Royal Arch Degree at Greenfield Chapter #96. 6:15 Dinner, 7:00 Degree. Contact [Larry Gray](#).

**June 4**—Prather Chapter #157 Centennial, 11a, Contact [Brian Lewis](#)

*A special thank you to Carson Smith for providing up to date information for the upcoming events.*



Lady Sherry, CT, wife of Steven J. Barton  
Companion and Sir Knight Thomas L. Bartelt  
Lady Lillian Bridenhager, widow of Charles Bridenhager  
Lady Jean, widow of James N. Butler  
Lady Brenda, wife of Charles L. Combi  
Lady Charlotte, wife of Harley Eggers  
Companion and Sir Knight Randy J. Darling  
Companion and Sir Knight James R. Dillman  
Companion and Sir Knight Randal P. Ellington  
Companion and Sir Knight John T. Fleming  
Lady Nancy Foreman, wife of Dale A. Foreman  
Companion and Sir Knight Wayne L. Ithier  
Companion and Sir Knight Thomas D. Johnson  
Companion and Sir Knight Mark A. Kester, Sr.  
Companion and Sir Knight Charles P. King  
Companion and Sir Knight Richard A. Kroemer  
Companion and Sir Knight Stephen P. Kroman  
Companion and Sir Knight David L. Jenkins  
Companion and Sir Knight Steven A. McKim

Lady Samantha Patterson, wife of John W. Patterson  
Companion and Sir Knight Jeffery A. Ping  
Lady Pamela, wife of Dennis H. Rigsby  
Lady Cindy Rider, Lady of Edward L. Sebring  
Lady Jean, wife of Ronald D. Simpson  
Companion and Sir Knight Charles A. Smelser  
Lady Ann Tornese, wife of Lin Tornese  
Companion and Sir Knight Lin Tornese



Franklin & Betty Boner  
Larry & Rita Gray  
Dustin & Marna Derickson  
Joseph & Jane Hedges  
Charles & Karen Johnson  
David I & Donna Miller  
Ronald & Jean Simpson  
Clay & Norma Stahlka  
Philip & Connie Whisner

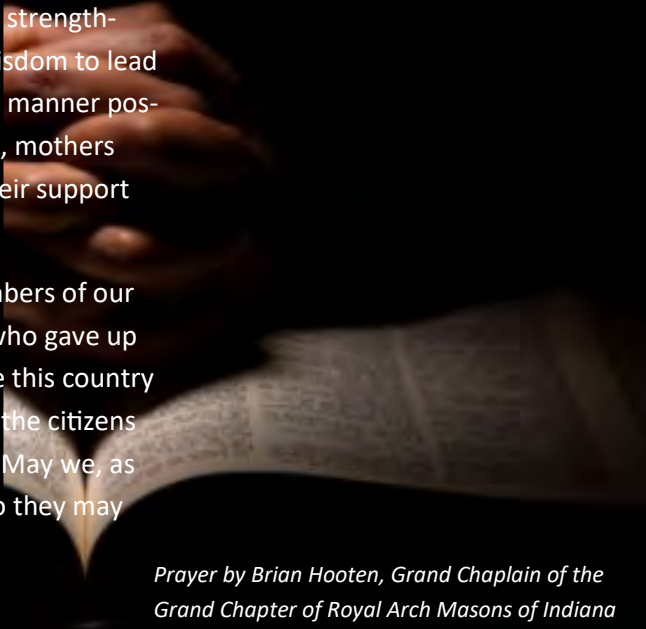


Most Gracious Lord, Supreme Architect of the Universe,

We ask that you be with all of the new officers for the Grand Chapter Indiana Royal Arch Masons, The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Indiana, to guide and strengthen them through their year of service. May you give them the wisdom to lead all members so that all organizations grow exponentially in every manner possible. As we come into the month of May, please bless the wives, mothers and grandmothers of all members of the York Rite for without their support and guidance, we cannot survive.

Dear Lord, we ask that you place your loving hands upon all members of our armed forces throughout the world and let us remember those who gave up their lives, especially on Memorial Day. Their sacrifices has made this country the freest one in the world. We also ask for a special blessing for the citizens of the Ukraine. Please guide them in their time of greatest need. May we, as companions, give these great people all the assistance we can, so they may return to peace and harmony.

In your son's name, Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen



Prayer by Brian Hooten, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Indiana

Grant County Chapter #55

On April 19, Grant County Chapter #55 held their Chapter degrees for nine newly exalted Companions. Congratulations to Grant County members: Jefferey, James, Lincoln, Michael and Justin. Congratulations also to the new members of Noblesville Chapter #120: Justin, Eric, Dino and Elliot.

George Ingles



Anderson Chapter #52

Anderson Chapter is well represented at the Indiana Grand Chapter RAM session. Congratulations to the new officers! We look forward to a great year under your leadership!

Anderson York Rite Facebook Page



Job's Daughters

On April 2, Job's Daughters Bethel #44 had an absolutely incredibly Official Visit with Initiation in Crown Point. These girls are doing amazing things up in the region. If you have a chance, go up and visit them.



Indiana Job's Daughters Facebook

Speedway DeMolay

Members of the Speedway DeMolay visited with Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha at Butler University on April as part of the LCA-DeMolay Partnership.



Speedway DeMolay Facebook

Old Words on Restored Old Velum

FORT WAYNE—  
Almost exactly 169 years ago, Ft. Wayne Commandery No. 4 received their charter. Since then, it has hung on the walls of three different Masonic Temples, surviving a fire in one of them and



suffering water damage, said Gram Commander Ed Fodrea, KCT, who is also a Past Commander of the commandery. Not only could it seem miraculous that it survived at all, Fodrea said, but the document has been conserved by an expert of national renown and now, in late April, it will be moved to Muncie, there to permit Ft. Wayne Commandery’s officers to open on the Order of the Temple, after which the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Indiana will open and conduct this year’s Grand Conclave.

And it will be that old document, those words printed on velum, a thin form of untanned calfskin, that will authorize that to happen.

Ft. Wayne “Encampment” No. 4 was chartered on May 13, 1853, by the “General Grand Encampment” Knights Templar of the United States. In those days, the state-level bodies were known as Grand Encampments, to which “General” was added to the title of the national governing body, as is still true of the General Grand Chapter and Royal Arch Masons and the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

Beginning about a year after Ft. Wayne was chartered, national leaders saw the need for a change and named local bodies Commanderies, and state bodies Grand Commanderies, but retained the “Grand Encampment” wording for the national body, only dropping the “General”.

As said above, velum is treated, but untanned, calfskin. As a natural substance, it is constantly being affected by slight changes in temperature and humidity, shrinking or expanding accordingly—and remember, this particular piece of velum had gone through three building changes, a fire, and water damage. The effect on the Ft. Wayne Charter was that it acquired a series of wrinkles across the velum. The official seal of authenticity, in the lower left corner, was an embossed paper seal attached to a strip of black ribbon, and the ribbon was attached to the charter

by being woven in and out of the seven horizontal cuts in the velum. And that is where the worst damage lay: one of those maybe two-inch cuts had been ripped to seven inches long.

In 2013, when SK Bobbly Roberts, KCT, was Grand Commander, the charter was deemed too fragile to be moved to the Grand Conclave site, and that charter's authority was conveyed there by a photo-copy. Later in 2013, SK William W. Pond, a physician who was eminent commander at the time, decided that after 160 years the charter was in need of conservation, so he set out to make it happen. A PowerPoint presentation he completed after the restoration explains the whole process.

Pond said he first showed it to a framer in Ft. Wayne, then to a binder of rare books in Manchester, and both agreed it needed specialized care, so Pond began a nationwide search for such an expert.

He ultimately found Tahe Zalal, senior paper conservator with Etherinton Conservation Services in North Carolina. Zalal found the document had been nailed to a piece of cardboard by 151 small nails. Pond thinks that may have been done to stretch it back into shape after it received water damage.

In any case, Zalal carefully cleaned it, repaired the tear with painter’s tape, humidified it, removed the tape, then, four times, put it between sheets of blotter paper and used a press to flatten it out, starting first with light pressure to quickly remove the humidity, letting it rest, then pressing it again with heavier pressure. The tear and other weak spots were then repaired with “Japanese paper and wheat starch paste.” The result: the “cockling,” as its wrinkled state was technically called, was removed and the charter is flat and full-sized again.

Zalal matted the charter, put it in a new frame and protected it with glass which blocks 99% of ultraviolet light.

And now, all Sir Knights in attendance will be able to see what a charter for a vintage “encampment” looked like 169 years ago.



By Edward L. Sebring, KCT, KTCH, GPE, Editor

Anderson Chapter #52

Anderson Chapter is very happy to have advanced four brothers to the degree of Mark Master on April 21.

Eric Anderson Facebook



Job’s Daughters



Bethel #32 had their Official Visit on April 20.

Indiana Job’s Daughters Facebook



## Grand Chapter



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Indiana held their Grand Session at the Season's Lodge during the first weekend in April. On Friday night, Companions, ladies, and friends gathered together for Steve Maxwell's outgoing banquet. On Saturday, Companions attended the Grand Session meeting.



### A Message from Jim Fairchild, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

I look forward to working with all the Officers, elected and appointed, and appreciate any advice, ideas, honest man-to-man relationship that will grow this organization and create self esteem in all Companions who are willing to push themselves to learn the Ritual parts, however large or small, to help their Chapters perform the degrees for new candidates. I'm confident this can be accomplished.

Since March 13, 2020, the date of closure of all Lodges and Chapters, York Rite bodies, Appendant Organizations, and others throughout the State of Indiana, has created enormous problems. Re-starting Stated Meetings in September, with no degree work until November, has proved difficult at times. Winston Churchill said, "Success is not Final; Failure is not Fatal; It is the courage to continue that counts." Although we are on the road to recovery, we have all paid a high price for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Now is the time to re-invent our energy and ensure that the Grand Chapter will move forward. Will you Companions help me and my officers to be able to accomplish that?

My expectations for this year are: four District Instructions on Red Rubrics or Mechanics, with questions on Ritual on all four degrees. There will be one in the South to cover the eleven Chapters, two in the Central to cover the fifteen Chapters, and one in the North to cover the ten Chapters. These will be hosted by the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Masters of the Veils, and the Royal Arch Deputies in their assigned districts. We will also have four Table Chapters covering a Widow's Degree, 50-Year Award of Gold, a Re-dedication Ceremony, a Fun Table Chapter, and a fourth for our Philanthropy to cover Royal Arch Research Assistance. We will be doing other things like a Summer Picnic, a Valentine's Dinner for our wives, and a Black Tie fundraiser for our philanthropy.

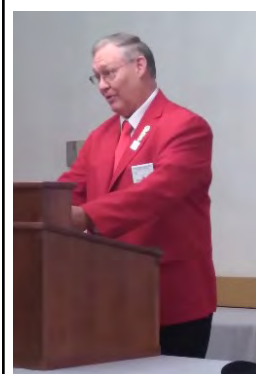
On April 9, we had a training session for all Officers, that I think went well. We are headed in the right direction. Let's all join hands and make this resurrection happen.

Fraternally and Sincerely, James H. Fairchild, MEGHP

Saturday evening, everyone gathered together once again for the Incoming Banquet.



The weekend concluded with church services on Sunday morning which were led by Brian Hooten, Grand Chaplain.



Most Photos  
by Steve Kroman



Speedway DeMolay



Speedway DeMolay had a great day working on Devon’s Eagle Scout Award, hiking, playing cards and eating chili.

Speedway DeMolay Facebook



Job’s Daughters

The Job’s Daughters were having a great time at their pancake breakfast. The Easter Bunny stopped by for a visit too!



Indiana Job’s Daughters Facebook

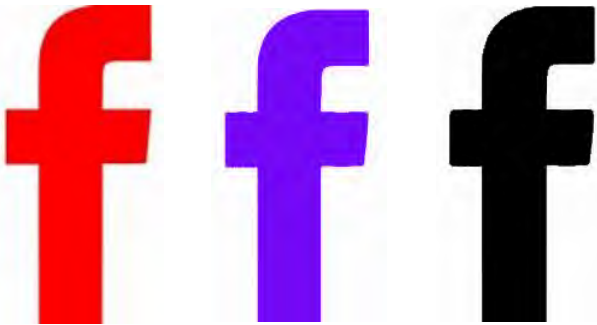
Noblesville Lodge #57

On April 5, Brother Jerry Matlock, PM, was awarded to Grand Master’s Award with Hight Distinction at their Stated Meetings. Brother Matlock, supported by his wife, Mary, served as the Worshipful Master for the past two years. Brother Jerry began his second term as Master in January 2020, having previously served as Master back in the 1980’s. When the pandemic stated and Lodge functions ceased, Jerry helped guide his lodge through the storm and helped resume activities when they were allowed to do so. Very quickly, Noblesville began to be a busy and active Lodge. When it came time for the 2021 Lodge Officer elections, Worshipful Brother Matlock was asked to continue on as Master for another year. 2021 proved to be a busy and productive year for Noblesville Lodge. Brother Matlock lead by example and guided his lodge through a pandemic, served as a mentor to newer officers and members of the Lodge helping them learn memory work and their roles, promoted community involvement, and encouraged and fostered unity between appendant bodies and Blue Lodge. The Brothers of Noblesville Masonic Lodge #57 are honored and blessed to have Brother Jerry as a member of brotherhood, and thank him for his years of service to their Lodge. They thank his wife, Mary, for supporting him and them over the past two years. You earned this distinction, Jerry!

Indiana Freemasons (Noblesville Lodge #57) Facebook



Facebook Links



Annual Spring Classic Golf Challenge

Sponsored by

Mount Moriah Lodge No. 77 F. and A.M.  
Saturday June 4th, 2022 2:00 pm Shotgun Start

Edgewood Golf Course

Come from another lodge to compete for the traveling trophy.



An abundance of prizes and contests throughout the day

Awards Ceremony and Cookout Dinner following play at Mt. Moriah lodge.

Top 6 Golf Events in the World.

Mt. Moriah Golf Challenge, The Masters, The Open, The U.S.Open, The PGA and The Players. Don't miss any of them.

Info Ed Witt 765-623-2909

Benefit Golf Tournament supporting Shriner’s Hospital for Children and the Mt. Moriah Support Fund.



## Manitou DeMolay

Members of Manitou DeMolay had a fundraiser called “Egg My Yard” They hid 1,125 Easter Eggs after dark so they were ready for the hunt first thing on Easter morning.



Manitou  
DeMolay  
Facebook

## Job’s Daughters

Members of Bethel #44 spent the day doing a painting workshop and having a lot of fun!

Indiana Job’s Daughters Facebook



## Angola Masonic Lodge

Angola Masonic Lodge is embarking on a huge project to replace the doors going up to the lodge and the store front doors and windows. The projected cost of the project is \$57,000. This is the final upgrade to the outside of the 100-year old building. The windows on the second and third floors, the roof and the brick tuck-pointing have been completed.

They are in the process of raising the last \$5,000 to complete this project. If you or your lodge would like to make a contribution, small or large, it can be made payable to Angola Masonic Lodge and mailed to Jay Minick at 1006 Bluffview Dr., Angola, IN 46703.



Angola Masonic  
Lodge 236 Facebook

## Easter Observance



Sir Knights of Prather Commandery #62 hosted an Easter Observance at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis followed by a walkabout and brunch.

Carson Smith

## Share with Us

Does your Lodge, Star, Chapter, Council or Commandery, etc. have an upcoming event that we can put on the calendar? Are having a fish fry or chili cookoff that you’d like to advertise? Did you just have a degree and you took pictures? Did someone in your lodge just get an Award of Gold? Let us celebrate with you! Send your pictures, upcoming events, flyers, birthdays, etc. to [Monica](#).





### Grand Commandery Trip

Grand Commandery hosts an Easter Trip in April. Unfortunately, the bus trip has not occurred for the past two year, but this year, several people made the trip in a van. On April 16, they were at Arlington Cemetery for the Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

*Grand Commandery Knights Templar of  
Indiana Facebook*



### Shirley Masonic Lodge #531

Shirley Lodge had a great turnout for their Easter Egg hunt!

*Shirley Masonic  
Lodge #531*

*Facebook*



### Job's Daughters



Bethel #8 had their Official Visit on April 19.

*Job's Daughters  
Facebook*

### Scottish Rite Valley of Evansville

Every Class, the Scottish Rite in Evansville replaces some of the older worn out costumes or props. They send a huge thank you to Brother Andrew Huffman for his work of their shield for the 32nd Degree Allegory.

*Scottish Rite Valley of Evansville  
Facebook*



### Welcome Home

On April 21, newly Installed Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Jim Fairchild, was received into his home Chapter, Greenfield #96.

*Larry Gray Face-  
book*



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bethel #135 on being chartered today and to the officers who were installed by the Indiana Grand Council of Job's Daughters International hosted by George Washington Lodge #325 in Bristol, Indiana.



*Free-  
masons  
Kane  
Lodge  
#183  
Facebook*

### Website Links

Click on the picture







GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF INDIANA  
47th ANNUAL CRYPT REDEDICATION AND PILGRIMAGE  
July 15 and 16, 2022

FRIDAY, JULY 15

8:00am Hospitality room opens 8:00 am  
9:00 am (UPDATED TIME) GOLF OUTING: \$45  
Wooded View Golf Course 2404 Greentree N Clarksville, IN. 47129

GOLF REGISTRATION CONTACT :

Terry Smith, 4240 E. Whiskey Run Rd. Georgetown, IN 47122 (812-972-9079)  
or Lloyd Smith (812-267-2631)

SATURDAY, JULY 16

9:00 am Annual Rededication of the Cryptic Shrine at Indiana Council No. 1  
New Albany Temple 805 E. Market St., New Albany IN, 47150  
10:00 am Masonic Seminar in the Hotel Hospitality Room  
12:00 pm Leave for Cruise. \$40 per person  
Ohio Riverboat Excursion on the CQ Princess,  
5700 Captains Quarters Rd., Harrods Creek KY. 40059  
Boarding time 1:00 pm • Cruise begins 1:30 pm  
Children 12 & under Pizza Party on the boat--NO CHARGE  
5:00 pm Grand Council summer meeting  
Dinner on your own or enjoy the food & fellowship in the hospitality room  
8:00 pm Zanzibar and Zanzibar ladies orders to be conferred

Headquarters: Best Western Plus - Louisville North \$129 per night  
1405 Broadway St. Clarksville, IN 47129 (812-913-1601)

Cut-off date for hotel reservations : July 2, 2022

Group : Grand Council of Cryptic Masons. Make reservations directly with hotel

Cut-off date : Riverboat Cruise reservations : July 2, 2022

Payment MUST accompany Riverboat Cruise reservations

Payable to : Grand Council Cryptic Masons

Send boat reservations to :

W. Keith Stiner, 1805 W. 10th Street Muncie, IN 47302 • (Cell) 765-623-7114

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # reservations \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Total amt. enclosed @ \$40 person \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of children to attend Pizza Party (12 & under) \_\_\_\_\_

## Murat Shrine Clowns

The Murat Shrine Clowns of Indianapolis had a good time at the Compass Park Easter Egg Hunt.

Murat Shrine  
Clowns of  
Indianapolis  
Facebook



## Social Order of the Beauceant

Do you have an Inspection or Reception coming up and you don't want to cook? Let the Social Order of the Beauceant help. They are making homemade Chicken Pot Pie and Baked Spaghetti in 9x13 or 5x7 pans. These can be frozen until you need them. The 9x13 pans are \$25 each and the 5x7 pans are \$15 each. Order in advance. Orders due by July 25. To order or ask questions, email the [SOOB](#).



## Schofield House

On April 24, the Grand Master held his Pilgrimage to the Schofield House, the Birthplace of the Grand Lodge in Indiana. It was a beautiful day with gourmet hotdogs and good fellowship.

Stephen Kroman  
Facebook



## Congratulations!

Evansville Chapter #12 had a great evening on April 26 as they advanced four Brethren to the Mark Master Degree. Congratulations to the newest York Rite

Members!

Dennis  
Schraeder Sr.  
Facebook



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR

An Evening in  
**PARIS**  
ISH SODI FUNDRAISING GALA

Join us for a special evening, in your formal attire, Tuxedo or Dark Suit, and Evening Wear for the Ladies!

at The Sahara Grotto  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2022  
SOCIAL AT 5:30PM, DINNER AT 6:30PM  
7620 MADISON AVE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227

RSVP To: Ish Sodi Council #1855 U.D.  
James Catania • 317-679-5557 • 531 Glastonberry Lane, Mooresville, IN 46158  
Make Checks Payable to: Ish Sodi Council #1855 U.D.

HORS D'OEUVRES FOLLOWED BY  
DELICIOUS CHICKEN AND BEEF BUFFET

☐ \$40.00 Single ☐ \$70.00 Couple

\*Please be prepared to participate in the silent auction that will be hosted during this event, remembering that all proceeds will go to benefit the C.M.M.B.F.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER 15TH VIA EMAIL, MAIL OR TEXT



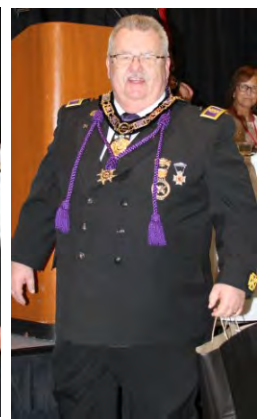
## Grand Commandery



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana held their Grand Conclave at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie during the last weekend in April. Grand Commandery and Grand Council shared the weekend. On Thursday, Companions, Sir Knights, ladies, and friends gathered together to for the Divine Service led by Grand Prelate, Dan Patterson. The Grand Commandery Banquet followed by the Grand Turoni completed the evening.

Grand Session, Election of Officers, and Installation were on Friday. The Drill Team Competition, the Ritual Competition and the Incoming Banquet for the new officers of the Grand Commandery and the Grand Council was held on Saturday evening.

*Photos from Indiana Grand Commandery and Peterson's Pics and Stuff Facebook*



### A Message from Phil Whisner, Right Eminent Grand Commander

It was a great honor to be installed as your Grand Commander at the 168<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Indiana. I am looking forward to a great year in 2022-2023 and to visiting your Commanderies. Remember, the Grand Commandery is here to serve you, the Sir Knights of Indiana, and we are here to help however we can. Don't be afraid to ask!

For those of you who don't know me, there is a short biography below. Even those of you who do know me may not know the story of how I came to be a Sir Knight, though. My wife Connie had several good friends who belonged to the Social Order of the Beauceant and they wanted her to join also. The criteria to be a member of Beauceant at that time was to be a wife or widow of a Sir Knight. Connie asked (told?) me to join Commandery so she could become a member of Beauceant, and I did so in 2001. I remind her once in awhile that she only has herself to blame for me being where I am now!

Biography of Grand Commander Phillip Whisner:

Phillip (Phil) Whisner, also known as "Bear", is an Indianapolis native, where he attended both high school (Warren Central) and college (Butler University). He retired from Allison Transmission where he was a journeyman tinsmith. He is married, with three grown daughters and five grandchildren. He enjoys attending various activities with the grandkids, attending Colts games with his wife, and golfing whenever he gets the chance. Phil is an active member of Southport United Methodist Church, where he helps lead a ministry focused on growing and providing fresh produce to the local community.

Phil was raised as a Master Mason in Wayne Guthrie Lodge #753 in 1986. He is twice a past Worshipful Master and served as Secretary for almost ten years. Phil was initiated into York Rite in 2001. He was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award twice and the Knights Templar Cross of Honor. He has served in numerous York Rite offices, participated in two drill teams, and is now humbled and honored to serve as Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Grand Commandery of Indiana.

Phil is a member of several other great organizations, including Indiana College #55 and

Robert Wood Priory, KYCH. He is an active member of Isley York Rite College #129 and was honored to receive the Order of Purple Cross in 2018. Other Masonic and York Rite bodies that Phil is an active member in are High Twelve International (past president of chapter #122 and current president for state High Twelve association), St. Bernard de Clairvaux of Grand Council Allied Masonic Degree, Holy Arch Knight Templar Priests, Red Cross of Constantine St. Basil Conclave, Tall Cedars of Lebanon (past Grand Tall Cedar, and recipient of the national Tall Cedar of the Year award), Royal Order of Scotland, and Sahara Grotto. Phil is also a member of Yeoman of York, Indianapolis Preceptory #4, where he is a past Director General and Grand Chaplain of Grand Yeoman of York.





# Grand Council

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Indiana held their Grand Session in Muncie at the Horizon Convention Center. Grand Council and Grand Commandery shared the last weekend in April. On Friday night, Companions, ladies, and friends gathered together for Sean Jones' outgoing banquet. On Saturday, Companions attended the Grand Session meeting. Saturday evening, everyone gathered together once again for the Incoming Banquet.

*Photos by Steve Kroman and Tony Peterson.*



David Ulrich was made a Companion of the Secret Vault.



Terry Bisping was named Cryptic Mason of the Year.



Don Olvey was named an Honorary Most Illustrious Grand Past Master.

