



*Celebrating 160 Years of Pythianism*

The New

# Pythian International

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*A Message From  
Supreme Chancellor*

*D. Mark Mead, KGS*

Last year I created a Challenge coin for the 2022-2024 term. I had been selling them to raise funds for ALZ support. However, do you know the history behind this coin and the tradition of how they are given to individuals to recognize their hard work and “excellence” of going above and beyond! Below is a quick history behind the Challenge Coin.

The intent of the challenge coin is to continue the tradition of the military in the spirit established by an American flying squadron in World War I, and to foster "esprit de corps" among the men and women who make up the military. Coins symbolize the uniqueness of the military professional, the sacrifices made and the pride within each member that drives them in their efforts to serve their country.

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered

medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore around his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

*Cont. on page 2*

*Cont. from front page.*

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through “The Coin Challenge” in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive. Even today, this is a long-standing tradition within the military. A challenge can be initiated ANY TIME, ANYWHERE, by drawing your coin, holding it in the air, displaying it on a hard surface, or dropping it on the ground and verbally acknowledging to the person or persons that you are initiating a COIN CHECK.” If the challenged persons cannot produce their coin, they are required to purchase a drink of choice for the member who has challenged them. If the challenged member produced their coin, then the challenging member is required to pay for the drink. Failure to pay for the drink is a despicable crime and will require that an individual turn in his or her coin to the issuing authority.

Today, we provide Challenge Coins to recognize individuals for hard work, perseverance, and professionalism. This well-rounded object has been a symbol among military members, both U.S. and foreign for generations. It has maintained its value for more than 100 years of ritualistic practice of informally recognizing an individual’s successes and selfless dedication. Individuals who have received a Challenge Coin will treasure them with pride for recognition of selfless dedicated service. To many, this small token is often considered “gold.”

Now you know! – I have sold over 600 Challenge Coins since the start of my term. I plan to have a few remaining up until the convention.



*From The Desk of  
Supreme Secretary Allen Morris*

Annual Reports are coming into the office, but many more are still to follow. These reports are the only indication we have relative to the number of subordinate lodges and members there are throughout the Supreme Domain. Those numbers, specifically the dues paying members, help determine the dollar amount of the per-capita tax we pay to the Supreme Lodge. The other determining factor is the Biennial Budget that will be proposed and ultimately adopted at the 2024 Supreme Convention in Roanoke, Virginia. Please remember, the deadline for the filing of the Annual Reports is March 31.

Additionally, please keep in mind that the end of May is the deadline for all regular filed legislation to go before the floor of the convention. If all things go as planned, the Supreme Lodge Manual for the 2024 Supreme Lodge Convention will go to press on Monday morning, June 3.

Below are two QR Codes. Give them a try and let us know what you think.

Stay well.



[www.pythias.org](http://www.pythias.org)



[www.pythias.org/invitation](http://www.pythias.org/invitation)

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## **Grand Lodge Conventions What we know as of this writing 2024**

### **Supreme Council Meeting Washington, DC April 6, 2024**

Nebraska April 13  
Hastings SP Van Boening

Maine April 27  
Gouldsboro DSC Spencer

New Hampshire/Vermont May 4-5  
Gorham DSC Warren

British Columbia May 8-10  
Courtenay SOG West

Florida May 11  
Fort Myers PSC Brown

Massachusetts May 17  
Norwood DSC Winer

Tennessee May 31-Jun 2  
Pigeon Forge SMA Knutson

Arizona June 1-2  
Tucson

Texas June 7-9  
Longview SC Mead

New York July 7-9  
Westchester SVC Stamm

West Virginia July 11-13  
Bridgeport SIG Shink

Indiana July 11-13  
Lafayette SC Mead

### **SUPREME LODGE/TEMPLE CONVENTIONS Roanoke, Virginia August 1-August 7, 2024**

Iowa August 23-24  
Des Moines

Ohio September 5-7  
Worthington

# SUPREME LODGE CHARITY

## 2022-2024

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Walks are held in over 500+ communities across the nation now through November. The walk supports the following services: 24/7 helpline (800-272-3900); Care Consultations; Community Education; Caregiver training; professional training and support groups.

To find a walk near you click this link: <http://alz.org/KOP>

Start a team. Enter your zip code. Choose your walk and click "Start Your Team"

Enjoy the fellowship while supporting a worthy cause.



# LITTLE PRINCE LODGE 79 MOUNDSVILLE, WV PYTHIAN FOUNDER'S MONTH PROCLAMATION

On January 16, 2024, Mayor Sara Wood-Shaw, City Manager Rick Healy and the Moundsville City Council proclaimed the month of February as Pythian Founder's Month in the City of Moundsville, West Virginia.

It was resolved that the Council of the City of Moundsville, Marshall County, State of West Virginia, to help commemorate the historic 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order Knights of Pythias, hereby proclaims February 2024, as PYTHIAN FOUNDER'S MONTH, and invites the citizens of Moundsville, in the State of West Virginia, to support and to further the activities of the Knights of Pythias of the Domain of West Virginia, and to help them improve the quality of life.

Moundsville Council also noted that the Order was the first fraternal organization chartered by an Act of Congress. Council members and others in attendance were given a brief history of the Little Prince Lodge including the fact that the lodge was founded in Moundsville on October 12, 1892. The lodge has met continuously since its founding.



Pictured L to R: Mayor Sara Wood-Shaw; Jim Kudlak, Sec. 79, GS Domain of WV; Ralph Clark PCC; Bill Powell CC; George Davis Treasurer; Rick Healy City Manager.

# QUILT OF VALOR



Connie F. Edwards, PSC, was honored to make a Quilt of Valor, for a veteran. There were 15 quilts presented that day, with Connie's being one of them. Picture with Connie is Virgil Weers who received the quilt that Connie made. It was an honor to be able to do this. Since doing the quilt Connie has made 10 Prayer Shawls she has given to friends, family, and others. She might be forming a group to make prayer shawls at her church. Faces light up when they receive these gifts.



## **FDR RANK INITIATES 16 NEW KNIGHTS**

FDR Lodge 613 hosted a three in one rank, Friday, December 8, 2023, at its AOH Brooklyn Castle Hall. Our order initiated 16 new Knights (including six women): two from FDR #613: Mike Adler and FDR first woman member, Lily Mossberg; Harmony #709: Michael Genyuk; PUBCC #616: Randy Watson; Rex #551: Sidney Goldberg and Sheila Brier; Majestic #109: Barry Kolker; NCO #854: Harvey R. Gold and Alan Trugman; Knickerbocker #510: Michael Schwartz, Martin Ricketts and Gladys Garcia Ricketts; North Shore #824: Haim Suartz; and Genesis Lodge #64: Helene A. Guber, Sherry Gruber-Daulman and Roselyn Gruber.

The Grand Ritual Team led by PDSC and Past Imperial Prince Sir Roger Siegel and PDSC and Imperial Prince Sir Michael Sukenick coordinated the program and served respectively as Chancellor Commander/Master of Ceremonies and Vice Chancellor. The other participants included Prelate PDSC Erwin Grill, Master of Work DGC David Salem, Secretary PACDGC/ CGTrib Corey Bearak, Pythagoras: PACDGC Herb Smith, Master at Arms PACDGC Warren Nadel, Inner Guard CDGC Robert Fletcher, Outer Guard GOG Paul Barth, Speaker on the Floor: GMA Brian Klasewitz, FOIL GS Steve Gold, Monitor PDGC Harold Fox, Maker of the Motion PCDGC Robert Banks, Seconder PCDGC Ted Pashko, Prosecutor SIG Craig Shink, Defender Against the Motion: Sir Jordan Levy and (Helper) GIG Craig Kligfeld. Craig, Roger and Mike handled the "Steps".

Grand Vice Chancellor Errol and Grand Secretary Steve Gold presented the new Knights with Pythian Certificates in honor of their initiations.



*Pictured above Ritual Team member and new knights.*

*(Photo courtesy of CGTrib Corey Bearak, FDR Lodge #613.)*

Following the Ceremony, FDR Prelate, PCDGC Ted Pashko presented Warren Nade with his 50-Year Pythian Life Member Certificate.





# NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, was the Knights of Pythias 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program hosted by Benjamin N. Cardozo Lodge #153/167 Knights of Pythias. It was well attended with many speakers and proclamations from the Fair Lawn area and the State of New Jersey, all celebrating the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Order. Brothers, Ladies, Grand Council, and Guests all in attendance to celebrate this momentous occasion.



160th Anniversary Committee, L.to R: Sir Marvin Diner, David Judovin, Larry Morgenstein, CC Seth Diamond, Shawn Lindsay, and Harvey Weber



Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, Sir Marvin Diner, Assemblyman Chris Tully with our Proclamation



Shining Star Temple #1 Pythian Sisters Most Excellent Chief Andrea Platsky & Benj. N. Cardozo Lodge Chancellor Commander Seth Diamond

# New Jersey Donation

On Tuesday February 27, 2024, the New Jersey Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias Charities Foundation presented our annual donation to the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The Center is affiliated with the Rutgers University Medical School, and the Bristol Meyers Squibb Children's Hospital. We presented a Six Thousand Dollar check to the director of the Center, Dr. Thomas F. Scanlin and his Team who are attending to Cystic Fibrosis patients from newborn children through their adulthood. Dr. Scanlin gave us an update on the progress being made for new treatments, medicines, and clinical trials; all being performed to save the lives of and ensure the future of Cystic Fibrosis patients whom they treat. He thanked us for our donation and told us that the money would help the efforts of his team in both ongoing research towards newer and more effective treatments of CF and the treatment of current CF patients. One of the exciting innovations that they are working on is gene therapy and genetic manipulation to identify and possibly eliminate the "CF Gene" before it can take hold of newborns.

The staff includes pulmonary nursing staff, medical doctors, and our primary contact and patient advocate; Ms Erin A McElroy Barker, the CF Center Coordinator/Social Worker.

Charities Foundation Officers; Sir Jerry Weiner (President), Sir Marvin Diner (Treasurer), and Grand Secretary Sir David N. Bellask represented the Charity Foundation for this presentation. We were accompanied by Mrs. Rochelle Bellask (photographer) and Ms. Anna Paci; both supporters of the Knights of Pythias for many years.

The Knights in New Jersey and members of the Charity Foundation have supported the treatment and cure of Cystic Fibrosis for many years and have voted to continue our efforts to raise money and support this worthy organization into the future.



Left to right; GS Sir David N. Bellask, PSR Sir Marvin I. Diner, Dr. Thomas F. Scanlin, Ms. Erin A. McElroy-Barker, PCDGC Sir Jerry Weiner



THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF  
PYTHIAN INTERNATIONAL  
WANTS TO WISH ALL A  
HAPPY EASTER AND A  
SWEET PASSOVER.

SUPREME CONVENTION  
INFORMATION BELOW

# **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON THE 2024 SUPREME CONVENTIONS IN ROANOKE, VIRGINIA**

The joint conventions of the Supreme Lodge/Temple will be held at the Holiday Inn/Castlewood Suites/Valley View, in Roanoke, Virginia.

The Convention dates are from Thursday, August 1, 2024 through Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

The Room Rates for all rooms will be \$120.00 plus sales tax. This rate includes a breakfast buffet for 2 persons per room/per night.

For reservations, call 540-362-4500, ask for reservations, and say "**K of P 2024**".

There will be a shuttle service from the airport to the Hotel, and from the Hotel to the airport.

They have Queen Doubles, King Size Rooms, and Castlewood Suites, at additional cost.

There are limited Handicapped rooms and they will come on a first-come, first-serve basis. Same for First Floor Rooms

If we know ahead of time there will be motorized scooters at the Hotel. The committee is still looking into the cost.

We don't have a meal cost yet because the hotel uses an outside caterer to serve the Hotel. Information on the same will be published as soon as the menu and pricing have been finalized.

There will be a souvenir journal and Dan and Michelle Videlock will be handling that, per the Supreme Chancellor. Information on format, pricing, and cutoff date will forthcoming.

We still have questions unanswered and Our Supreme Secretary, after I know, you will know.

The committee is working hard to make your stay a pleasant one. Please have patience, in time all of your questions will be answered.



# 2024 Supreme Convention Meals Order Form



*Meals Deadline: July 15, 2024*

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Number of Meals</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
<b>Sunday, August 4 – 7:00 pm – Opening Banquet</b>			
<b>The Southern Charm Buffet</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>X</b> _____	\$ _____

*Garlic-Herb Roast Beef, Grilled Chicken with Champagne Sauce,  
Butter Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans,  
Southern Cinnamon-Brown Sugar Fried Apples  
Dessert: New York Cheesecake  
Includes Iced Tea or Water*

<b>Tuesday, August 6 – 12:00 pm – International Grand Secretary/Treasurer’s Luncheon</b>			
	<b>\$22.50</b>	<b>X</b> _____	\$ _____

*Open to Everyone*

*Salad Medley - Pasta Salad, Chicken Salad, Fruit, Crackers, Dessert tray  
Includes Soda or Water*

**Wednesday, August 7 – 7:00 pm – New Supreme Officers’ Banquet**

<b>The Southern Charm Buffet</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>X</b> _____	\$ _____
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*Lemon & Herb Baked Salmon Cakes, Garlic-Herb Crusted Roast Beef,  
Scalloped Potatoes, Jasmine Rice Pilaf, Green Beans  
Dessert: Seasonal Cobbler  
Includes Iced Tea or Water*

**Total Cost of Meals:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

[Please make checks PAYABLE to: Supreme Lodge Convention Committee](#)

**Please MAIL all order forms and checks to:**

**Sir Thomas E. Fain, PGC  
927 Glade Street  
Martinsville VA 24112**



**82<sup>nd</sup> Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias**  
**66<sup>th</sup> Supreme Temple Pythian Sisters**

Supreme Convention 2024 Souvenir Journal

August 4 – August 7, 2024 - Roanoke, Virginia

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Lodge/Temple Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Contact Cell Number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Mailing Address line 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Zip Code / Country)

**Advertising Rates:**

Ads are printed in color

Outside Back Cover	\$300.00	10-½" X 7-½" "Sold"
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Full Page	\$225.00	10-½" x 7-½"
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Please email Color-Ready Ads/Photos by (June 1, 2024) to: [lopear@erols.com](mailto:lopear@erols.com)

Questions? Contact Michelle and/or Dan Vidlock at 240-994-7581 or email: [lopear@erols.com](mailto:lopear@erols.com)

**Make Check(s) Payable to: VA Supreme Convention Committee**

**Mail Check(s) to: Michelle Vidlock - 14830 Watt Road, Novelty, OH 44072**

Do you have marketing items you'd like to add to the 2024 Supreme Convention members' gift bags? Send to S.T. Fulcher - 240 Hill-n-Dale, Martinsville, VA 24112

**(The deadline for inclusion in gift bags is July 1, 2024)**

**LYON'S TRUTH LODGE #170 PROUDLY SUPPORTS  
SUPREME CHANCELLOR MARK MEAD'S PROJECT  
(ALZHEIMER'S) WITH A HANDMADE, KNITTED  
BLANKET RAFFLE!**



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

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

**Make checks payable to: VA Supreme Convention Committee.**

**Mail tickets and money to:**

**VA Supreme Convention Committee**

**Attn: S.T. Fulcher**

**240 Hill-n-Dale, Martinsville, VA 24112**

**Color: Navy Blue**

**Size: Approx 42"**

**Thanks for your  
support!**

