



Celebrating 155 Years of Pythianism

The New

Pythian International

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WINTER 2019



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

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, the New Year, whatever you celebrate! And, importantly have good health.

Much of the joy is planning, preparation, parties, and being together with family and friends. Maybe it's the sparkle of a tree or lighting candles, the fond ear-to-ear grin from receiving a card or gift, or the excitement of New Year's Eve revelry.

Maybe treat yourself to see what Make-A-Wish does so marvelously to bring Hope, Strength, and Joy to a suffering, despairing child- a magical moment in their life, living a fantasy. *Cont. on page 2*

Grand Lodge Conventions Winter/Spring 2020

All dates, Locations and positions have not been finalized

South Carolina February 6-7
Columbia SP Mead

Supreme Council Meeting Saturday, Feb 29, 2020 - Newark, NJ

Nebraska March 29-30
Hastings SIG Schwartz

Oklahoma April 5-6
Tulsa SIG Schwartz

Maine April 23-25
Bangor SS Morris

New Hampshire/Vermont
ST Ast

Florida
SMA Ward

British Columbia May 14-15
Harrison Hot Springs SP Mead

Massachusetts May 21-22
Peabody SVC Brown

Texas June 5-7
Fort Worth SC Fierstien

Tennessee June 12-14
Pigeon Forge ST Ast

Arizona
SP Mead

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Supreme Chancellor's Message

Cont. from front page

Then, as the clock strikes 12, what is ahead for an even brighter New Year, so full of promise. Change life, make a difference, and take advantage of the opportunity. Make and take the time, and all will look up.

This is a challenge for health, family, and to reach others.

Let there be peace and focus on the environment.

Have a Merry and a Happy, and make it happen, personally and for all! Be Safe as you celebrate and throughout the year.



*From the
Supreme Secretary's Desk*

Snow, it's that time of year. Some people like it, others not so much – I fall into the category of “Not so Much”!

It's also that time of year when the Grand Secretaries will start thinking about sending the blank Annual Report Forms to their Subordinate Lodges. Brothers, the more accurate the reports, the better handle we have on our membership.

The next Supreme Council Meeting (February 29, 2020) will be held in Newark, New Jersey, at the same hotel we'll be visiting for the 2020 Supreme Conventions... Not my job, but I'm here to remind you to make your reservation early. You'll find the information you need at the end of this issue – the reservation link will be sent in the same email, but as a separate attachment.

Wishing all of our members and their families the very best for a safe and joyful Holiday Season – and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Allen S. Morris, KGS
Supreme Secretary



*From Supreme Secretary
Connie Edwards*

It seemed like only yesterday the we were celebrating the holidays. Then it might be that as we grow older the time passes faster. The children are grown up, the grandchildren are in college, and I thought I would have more time for myself. Will rethink that again!

I would like to send this greeting to all my Pythian Family:

Wishing you joy to light the season, peace to brighten each tomorrow, and love to warm you through the year!

Happy Holidays to each of you!!

Connie F. Edwards, Supreme Secretary



A word cloud of Christmas greetings in various languages. The most prominent words are "Noel" (green), "Christmas" (red), "Merry" (red), "Joyeux" (red), and "Vesele" (green). Other words include: Tchestita, Nollaig, Shona, Kerstfeest, Kaledu, Koleda, Buon, Weihnachten, Kala, Natal, Vanoce, unnepeket, Kersfees, Natale, Kristnaskon, Gledileg, Jol, Geseende, Christouyenna, Keshmish, Froehliche, Dhuit, Karacsonyira, Vrolijk, Kellemes, Linksmu, Hyvaa, Hari, Gajan, Sretan, joulua, Selamat, Bozic, Mele, and Jul.



NEW HAMPSHIRE/VERMONT IN THE NEWS



Attached are some pictures of our fun event for the New Hampshire and Vermont Grand Convention in New Hampshire on May 4th 2019. Some of the pictures are of the Cog Railway and its view the group picture is all the Sisters and Knights who wanted to ride a train up Mt Washington.

If you thought it got a bit breezy on the top of Mt. Washington



Attached is a picture that was sent from the cooks in Danville. They just did the Autumn in the Green in Danville, VT and had a booth where they sold stews and squash soup, estimated over 2,000 people showed up for the event . The booth they had set up was surrounded by posters to join the Knights of Pythias. The picture below was from the Community event that was earlier in the year.

PS, we told the food was amazing.



Recognized easily, second from the right, is Chief Supreme Tribune Toby Balivet

ROCHESTER JAY LODGE NO. 639

Camp Good Days and Special Times, commonly called "Camp Good Days", is a residential summer camp which provides summer camping experiences for children, adults and families whose lives have been touched by cancer and other life challenges. The camp was the 4th organization of its kind and is one of the largest in the United States. As of 2010, the camp has served more than 43,000 campers from 22 states and 27 foreign countries.

Camp Good Days provides activities and services for children, adults and families who have been affected by cancer and other life threatening illnesses. These include programs for children, Adult Oncology Programs, Family Programs and Brain Tumor Family Retreats. All services are free of charge for participants.

Members of Rochester Jay Lodge No. 639 help with fundraising efforts and by volunteering to help prepare the camp for use each season.



Gary Mervis, Chairman and Founder of Camp Good Days and Special Times in Rochester, NY, accepts a check from CC Mark Alderman; PACDGC Sir Bruce Nelson; Lou Babin; PACDGC Sir Art Cassidy; and PACDGC Sir Saul Rasnick of Rochester Jay Lodge No. 639 on behalf of the Pythian Camp Committee of the Grand Lodge of New York.

2019 SIR STANLEY BROWN AWARD NEWEST HONOR FOR PCDCS ROBERT KAUFMAN

On October 29, 2019 Wendell Willkie Lodge #473 honored Past Chief Deputy Supreme Chancellor Robert Kaufman, with the 26th PGC Sir Stanley Brown Memorial Award.

The Grand Chancellor, many past recipients of this special honor, and many past and current members of Grand Council came from near and far to support this most worthy Pythian.



Pictured at left, Bob holds his Award which was presented by PDSC Sir Lloyd Merson (r)

FDR RANK INITIATES 12 NEW KNIGHTS

FDR Lodge 613 hosted a three in one rank, Sunday, October 13, 2019, not at its Brooklyn Castle Hall, but at [Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056](#) Union Hall arranged through FDR member Chief Grand Tribune (“CGTrib”) Corey Bearak. Our order initiated 12 new Knights: seven from FDR – Levon Baghdasaryan, Glen Bock, Eddie Cassel, Scott Cheslowitz, Luke Diamond, Edward Gabrielyan, and Jim Quent – and Neil Astrow (Knickerbocker #510), Steve Nelson (Island Lodge #623), Jack Schwartz (King Solomon Utopia #400), Stuart Siegel (Genesis Lodge #64) and Rich Weber (North Shore Lodge #824).

Grand Lodge Ritual Chairmen Past Deputy Supreme Chancellors Sir Roger Siegel (also Imperial Prince of the Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan (“DOKK”)) and Sir Michael Sukenick (also DOKK Imperial Basha) coordinated the program with FDR membership chair Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor (PDSC) Craig Shink.



Our new Knights pictured with Grand Chancellor Randy Silverman (right). (Photo courtesy of CGTrib Corey Bearak, FDR Lodge #613.)

FDR Membership Chair Craig Shink credited FDR brothers Eric Diamond (four including his son), Shawn Bibian (two) and Dave Stein (one) for recruiting the new FDR knights.

ATU Past President I. Daneek Miller, a current New York City Council Member, is a “graduate” of Pythian Camp. ATU 1056 represents 1900 active Maintenance and Transportation members in MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division and several hundred retired members.

PUBCC RANK INITIATES FIVE NEW KNIGHTS

Pelham Brotherhood University Coop City Lodge #616 hosted a three in one rank, Friday, November 8, 2019, at its Co-Op City Castle Hall. Our order initiated five new Knights: Thomas Tortorella Jr., Vaughn Holloway, Thomas Tortorella Sr., Keith Lehrer, and Sean McNearney.

Grand Lodge Ritual Chairmen Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Roger Siegel (also Imperial Prince of the Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan (“DOKK”)) coordinated the program with Grand Chancellor (GC) Randy Silverman. PDGC Robert Fletcher served as Chancellor Commander for the proceedings.



Our new Knights pictured with Grand Chancellor Randy Silverman (sitting left), Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Roger Siegel (sitting right) and PDGC Robert Fletcher (standing center). (Photo courtesy of PUBCC Lodge #616.)

PYTHIANS DELIVER FOR NASSAU COUNTY VETS

On Tuesday, November 12, 2019 the New York Knights of Pythias Humanitarian Fund presented a donation of \$1,500.00 to the Nassau County Veterans Food Pantry operated by the Nassau County Veterans Services Administration (VSA).

Pythian Humanitarian Fund co-chairs PCDSC Robert Kaufman and SR Sir Jerry Bernzweig accompanied by their spouses Renae and Bubbie respectively, delivered the check to Christine Sohmer of the Nassau VSA.



MONTE BELLO LODGE #10 FLORENCE ALABAMA CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY 2019 IN A BIG WAY

The Monte Bello Lodge #10 in Florence, Alabama has been supporting community projects and celebrations since our Charter was first approved in 1873. Like many of our brother lodges we have great respect for our service men and women and are always looking for ways to recognize their sacrifices. This past Veterans Day was no different, our Lodge celebrated in large way in Florence Alabama to show our appreciation to our current fighting men and women, as well as our Veterans and those who have passed but sacrificed so much for us in the name of God, Country and Freedom.

Our Lodge began this Veterans Day celebration long before the day arrived. Brother Tommy and Rand Chapin, a father and son team, have been responsible for so many of the upgrades at our Veterans Park Memorial Gardens and Monuments for seventeen years as volunteers. Because of their efforts this Memorial Park is first class in honor of our Veterans and those who have given and sacrificed so much in the Twentieth and Twentieth-First Centuries. Monuments honoring Veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and as of this Veterans Day, a Monument honoring those who currently serve and have served on the Global War on Terrorism. In addition, within the Gardens is an area displaying the names of two hundred twenty-five Florence-Lauderdale Countians who lost their lives in these wars and now four names who have given their lives in this the Global War on Terrorism.

Another major player in these festivities was Brother Robert Steen. Brother Robert coordinated festivities at the ceremony in the park and around the community. Brother Robert is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and served in Vietnam. As a result of Brother Robert's efforts local schools in the area were provided with speakers that shared their sacrifices and wartime stories. In addition, because of Brothers Robert, Randy and Tommy students from area schools were given the opportunity to have a guided tour of the Memorial Gardens and Monuments including various war artifacts and a museum located on-site. Many of our Lodge Brothers are warriors and have done many things to protect our freedoms. They are very free with their time to insure that not only our young people but the general public understand the many sacrifices so many have made to maintain our liberties and freedoms. The message is always freedom isn't free but comes with a cost and often times a high cost.

Brother Robert spoke at the Florence Middle School on the Friday before Veterans Day about honoring our Veterans. Brother Ed Yeilding, a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, was also out talking about his military experiences, which includes flying an SR-71 aircraft coast to coast to be delivered to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, that also resulted in a speed record. Brother Ed Chaney spoke at the Shoals Christian School that same day talking about his experiences in Vietnam during that war. Brother Ed was a Lance Corporal in the Marines and in July, 1969 while out on patrol stepped on a landmine while going to the aid of a fellow Marine who had already stepped on a mine. Brother Ed lost his left arm and leg on that day, but Ed has

never given up since that day and travels around trying to encourage others. After Brother Ed's presentation he received a standing ovation from the nearly five hundred students, staff, visiting Veterans and guest in attendance. Teachers and staff said that Brother Ed's presentation was very uplifting and that it is rare to hear such silence in a school assembly. Students were still talking about the presentation days after the program. It sparked interest in the kids enough that they wanted to talk with their grandparents who had served in Vietnam and other wars.



Brother Ed Chaney (left)



Brother Robert Steen



Father and Son team Brothers Randy and Tommy Chapin

Brother Ed was a keynote speaker at the Ceremony at Veterans Park on Veterans Day. Just like at Shoals Christian after his program Ed received another standing ovation from a crowd of approximately three hundred fifty including Veterans, families and friends of Veterans. The local paper did a frontpage story on the Ceremony and Ed's story. During the Ceremony twenty-one doves were released and an old vintage War World II plan flew over the crowd. It was a very moving Ceremony with great dignity and respect for those currently serving as well as for those who have served.

During the Ceremony Brother Robert was given a proclamation "Dedicating the Five War Monuments at the Florence-Lauderdale County Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park" by Florence Mayor Steve Holt. Without our Lodge Brothers efforts none of this would have been possible. After the Ceremony at the park our Lodge Brothers met at our usual Lodge meeting location for a fellowship luncheon and discussion. These activities certainly make you feel proud to be a member of the Knights of Pythias especially in Florence Alabama.

If ever you are in the Florence, Alabama area on the 2nd or 4th Monday of the month please visit our lodge meeting at the Mongolian Grill, 121 Cox Creek Road at 11:30 a.m. for our lunch followed by our usual meeting which might include a local area historian or noteworthy personality with presentations about our area. Even if you cannot attend our Lodge meeting if you are in the area please visit the Veterans Park Memorial just down the road from the Mongolian Grill near Wilson Dam Road. It will certainly be worth your time. For more information about our lodge or meetings visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/KOPLodge10/posts/> or our Website at <https://knightsopythias.squarespace.com/al/monte-bello>.

IOWA MAKES DONATION TO SMALL TOWN FIRST RESPONDERS

The Grand Temple and Grand Lodge of Iowa supports the Kinderdine Fund. This fund was set up in the early 50's and helps a member(s) at the time. The Sisters and Knights have been supporting this fund ever since.

Donations are given to individuals, groups who do not have to be a Pythian. This is one way of getting the Pythian name out to others.

At Iowa's Grand Session in September it was voted to give the Standwood Volunteer Fire Department a donation of \$1000.00 to help replace lighting equipment that was 30-years old.



In the picture are members of the fire department, Chief Bill in the back in a light colored shirt and Supreme Secretary Connie F. Edwards. Connie presented the check to Chief Bill; then was given a tour of the fire department. The town is small and the funds are not always there to help replace old equipment.

MASSACHUSETTS ON THE MOVE

Canton Lodge #6 recently held a Halloween Motorcycle Run to benefit the Fisher House in West Roxbury. Fisher House is an independent facility located on the grounds of the West Roxbury VA Hospital. It provides temporary housing for veterans and their families while being serviced at the hospital. This service is provided at no cost to the veteran or his/her family.

The Lodge has been sponsoring the Motorcycle Run for many years – Fisher House does not receive any government funding, all of their funds are raised through donations.

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veterans families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.

These [homes are located](#) at military and VA medical centers around the world.

[Fisher Houses](#) have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.



L to R: GT Alan Zamansky, KGS; PDSC David B. Prager seen handing a \$5,000 check to Jennifer Deluca of the Fisher House; Mr. William Keisling; and GVC Richard B. Albert

NEW JERSEY STRIKES AGAIN

On Wednesday November 13th, 2019 The New Jersey Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, Our Charity Foundation, and the Norman & Gertrude Wolf Community Service Award Committee presented an almost Twelve Thousand Dollar donation to Make-A-Wish New Jersey at the Wishing Castle in Monroe Township, New Jersey. The wonderful feeling of helping to give life changing Wishes to critically ill children is an emotional and gratifying product of our charitable work. The work was first begun by PDGC Norman Wolf in the 1960's with his Pythian and D.O.K.K. Brothers as their Pythian "clown unit" by visiting children's hospitals, orphanages, and other children's facilities to brighten their days and their holidays. This culminated in the donation today made possible by the bequest of the Wolf family who have served to encourage community service by high school students through monetary awards over the years and this special donation today.

Our thanks for the help and encouragement of the Brothers and Ladies of our Pythian Family and a special thank you to Mr. Leonard Wolf for joining us from his home in Virginia for this special presentation, and his Sister Barbara without whom, this project would never have been able to be accomplished.



The photos of our check presentation include the entire Grand Council of the Domain of New Jersey, The Brothers of the New Jersey Charity Foundation, SC Sir Joel Fierstien, KGS; Mr. Leonard Wolf; and Mr. Jerry Murphy, Executive Vice President of Make-A-Wish New Jersey .



Left to right: SC Fierstien, KGS; Mr. Leonard Wolf; GS David N. Bellask, KGS; GC Elliot Frankfort; SR Marvin I. Diner, KGS

BATTLEGROUND CENTENNIAL LODGE #100



On Tuesday November 19th, 2019 Battleground Centennial Lodge #100, New Jersey Knights of Pythias installed their new officers for the 2019-2020 term, presented \$1,000 donations to each of three (3) local food banks/food pantries in their area, and more importantly honored one of its long time elder statesman members, known to all of the Brothers and their Families as Mr. Pythian - Leon Ben-Ezra, KGS. It was the pleasure of the Brothers and Ladies of the Lodge to spend quality time with Leon, give him a few special gifts, and reminisce about many years that we have had to enjoy his company, his warm smiles, and our mutual shared Pythian experiences.

SPECIAL STARS

RECEIVE HONOR AN ATHLETE MEDAL FROM OWATONNA LODGE #62 KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Owatonna Lodge #62 Knights of Pythias continues its support of Special Olympics by working with the Special Stars (Bowlers) presenting six Athletic Medal Awards at the Special Stars Christmas Luncheon. The 31st year Luncheon was held at the West Side Irish American Club in Olmsted Twp, OH on Sunday, December 1, 2019. After a luncheon of over 150 in attendance, the six awards were presented by PGC Ronald Kiessling with the assistance of Brother Kory Krueger. Kellie Krueger was the photographer. After the awards were presented the Special Stars donated 100 pounds of Tabs to Owatonna Lodge for their McDonald House project; Owatonna Lodge presents them to the McDonald House in Cleveland, Ohio as the Lodge donates items to the McDonald house such as, tabs, toiletries, cash, etc. Thank you Special Stars for your help!



(L to R) PGC Ronald Kiessling; Danielle Short; Tommy Kirby; Jessie Elizabeth Wilson; Sherry Shirk; Debbie Kaptain; Doug Gelsinger; and Lodge Brother Kory Krueger presented Awards.

NORTH CAROLINA GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 2019-2020



Left to right: Junior PGC Bill Perham; GC Terry Washam; GVC Jim Clouston; SVC Bruce H. Brown, KGS; GP Edwin Homesley; GS Bill Washo; GT Steve Satsky; GMA Mark Sears; GIG Brent Davis; GOG Mark Wilson.



Meet the voting members of the North Carolina Grand Lodge Convention.

Photos taken by PSR Butch D. Gantt



80th SUPREME LODGE
&
65th SUPREME TEMPLE
CONVENTIONS
2020 SOUVENIR JOURNAL & PROGRAM



August 2 - 6, 2020

Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

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Please include name and phone number in the event of questions.
Information / questions - call 201-796-1058 and/or E-mail
crazero@optonline.net

DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2020

Make Checks payable to: Knights of Pythias of NJ / SUPREME
CONVENTION 2020

Mail Check to: Jeffrey Zerowin, KGS
3 Franciscan Way
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

QUICK PRICE LIST FOR THE 2020 SUREME CONVENTION

The room rate for the 2020 Convention at the Marriott is \$149.00 per room plus \$15.125% taxes as of today, subject to any increases that our wonderful State of NJ impose effective at the time of checkout, (\$171.54). The vehicle parking is the same as the original pricing listed, \$12.00 per day.

The Banquet meals are priced as follows:

Sunday evening and Wednesday evening, two of the entrees (chicken and fish) are \$75.00 and the steak (ordered to temperature) is \$80.00 per person. All are inclusive of taxes, gratuities, service charges, etc.

Flyers with all of the pertinent information will be sent out as soon as we get the reservation link (September 1st) for guests who should reserving their rooms directly with the hotel, and additional flyers for the Souvenir program and journal, the banquet meals, and the excursions that we will be planning for our guests and reserved through our committee.

MORE TO FOLLOW

THE GRAND LODGE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS OF THE DOMAIN OF NEW JERSEY



The Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias, Domain of New Jersey is once again proud to announce that we will be hosting the 2020 Supreme Lodge/Supreme Temple Convention which will be held at the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel in Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A. from Saturday August 1st, until Thursday August 6th, 2020.

We are planning the following, and you can additionally avail yourselves of the multiple transportation options in and around the Newark Airport area to go places individually or with small groups. There are always taxis, trains, and your personal vehicles at your convenience for dining, shopping, and historical pursuits. The hotel shuttle is always available if you want to venture to the food court and a few franchise restaurants in Airport Terminals A & B (before security checkpoints).

1. Trip to the exciting Liberty Science Center with their new Planetarium show.
2. Trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty by Statue Cruises Ferry.
3. Trip to the Newark Museum with Lunch or Dinner, TBD.
4. Tour of the Budweiser Brewery with Dinner, TBD.
5. Entertainment venues; The Prudential Center and the NJ Performing Arts Center, shows' schedule TBA.

All of the reservation forms and details will be forthcoming, so please keep an eye out for them in the near future.

Convention Committee: PDSC Sir Marvin I. Diner, and, PDSC Sir David N. Bellask - Co-Chairmen
e-mail:, carvinmarvin 529@aol.com & davespark70@hotmail.com

You also may be interested to know that for those who may need the service, the Supreme Temple is arranging to have mobility scooters pre-reserved for the convention. More details will be forthcoming, however if you want to get more information immediately please contact Supreme Temple Convention Chairperson Janet Huber at dokkip@tbaytel.net.

