

NORTHEAST INDIANA MASONIC NEWS

Paul Friend PM, Angola Lodge #236
Editor (260-402-6122)



JUNE 2025 EDITION

MASONIC LODGE OFFICERS - 2025

Lodge

Angola #236
Star #225
Northeastern #210
Forest #239
DeKalb #214
Ashley #614
Concord #556
Kendallville #276
Meridian Sun #76
Leo #224

Worshipful Master

Glen Rogers
Ray Tracey
Chris Sanders
Eric Tracey
William Ternet
Scott Barnhart
Danny Patterson
James Hess
Ray Hoover
Daniel Sparling

Secretary

Jay Minick
Dave Hardiek
Tim VanZant
Bob Tracey
Quentin Young
Jim Carper
Jim Rosenbury
Aaron Wade
Lee Ray Owen
David Roose

Do any local Lodges have an interest in doing the “Rusty Nail” degree, which reviews the signs, meaning of the signs, working tools and their meanings, words, etc. of the three degrees? It takes several members who would be assigned tasks to give and explain. It would be given to those who want a better understanding. If so, contact Glen Rogers, WM of Angola Lodge who has expressed interest in setting up the degree sometime in the future.

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCES - MASONIC PARTICIPATION

Throughout Indiana on Memorial Day many Masonic veterans took part in services that helped us remember the ultimate sacrifices many in the past have made for our country. To all who have known military members who have sacrificed their lives, we give thanks. Also we thank those that have served our country and have returned safely.



The picture above shows Matt Wignall (left), member of Angola Lodge #236 who proudly served as MC for the Angola Memorial Day program on May 26. Below is the honor guard, which includes Alex Dobson (second from left) of Angola Lodge #236.

Thanks go to all Masonic brethren, wheresoever dispersed, who patriotically participated in a Memorial Day activity. Your service is greatly appreciated.



TO ALL MASONIC MEMBERS – PAY YOUR DUES

If you have neglected to pay your 2025 dues, please do so soon. Your Lodge Secretary would appreciate it.

ANGOLA MASONIC LODGE #236 NEWS

ANGOLA LODGE STATED MEETING – JUNE 3

There will be a light meal at 6:15 with the meeting starting at 7:00 PM. Worshipful Master, Glen Rogers invites current members to attend to hear about future activities of the Lodge and encourages your participation.

ANGOLA LODGE HOSTS SOCIAL NIGHT

Angola Masonic Lodge #236 hosts a social night for any Lodge member who wishes to attend. It provides a lot of fellowship for those attending. One can eat a meal and/or have a cold drink as the visitation takes place. Attending the May 20 event at Monument Pizza in Angola included (l to r): Mark Blue, Brant Moore, Jay Minick, Tyler Johnson, Bill Zimmerman, A. J. Hocker, Trent Heidorn and Mark Catellier. The next social night date has not been set yet!



STAR LODGE #225 (ORLAND) HAS GUEST SPEAKER ON FLAG PROTOCOL



Dominic Hamblin a Masonic Lodge member from Ft. Wayne presented a program on flag etiquette at its' last stated meeting. Dominic was recently elected as the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana.

NORTHEASTERN LODGE #210 (FREMONT) NEWS

Northeastern #210 continues to have Monday morning coffee and donuts at their Lodge. The group assembles around 8:00 AM and dismisses after the last joke or story is told, usually around 9:00 AM. Newcomer's welcome to attend - there is great fellowship, and you will learn what is going on in Masonry from the various Lodges that attend.

NORTHEASTERN LODGE TO ASSIST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members of Northeastern Lodge invites Masons, community members and families all to a fundraiser for the Fremont Fire Department on June 7. Attend if you can.

Please join us for a

Breakfast Fundraiser

Saturday
June 7th, 2025
8-11 am

Rugiono's
101 E Toledo St
Fremont, IN

FREE WILL OFFERING

All proceeds benefit:
Fremont Fire Department



 Sponsored by:
Northeastern Lodge #210 F. & A.M.

CONCORD LODGE #556 (SPENCERVILLE) NEWS

Concord Lodge & OES Scholarships

Scholarship Recipient will be at Concord's Dinner – June 10th @ 6:30 pm

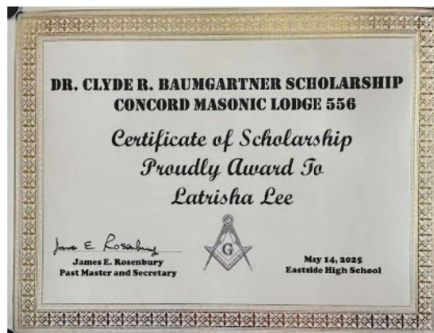
**Concord Lodge 556 gives the Dr. Clyde R. Baumgartner Scholarship (\$750)
&
Spencerville OES 386 gives the Jim & Arden Dwyer Scholarship (\$1000) to an Eastside
High School graduating senior.**

This year, both organizations gave their scholarships to the same student,
LaTrisha Lee from St. Joe!

LaTrisha will be attending dinner at Concord Lodge for our June stated meeting night Tuesday June 10th at 6:30 pm. She will be talking about her college and career choices. We would like for all of our local Concord members to attend as well as everyone from the Spencerville OES to come and meet both our scholarship winner. Please let Jim Rosenbury (586-822-5407) know so we can get a good count for dinner.



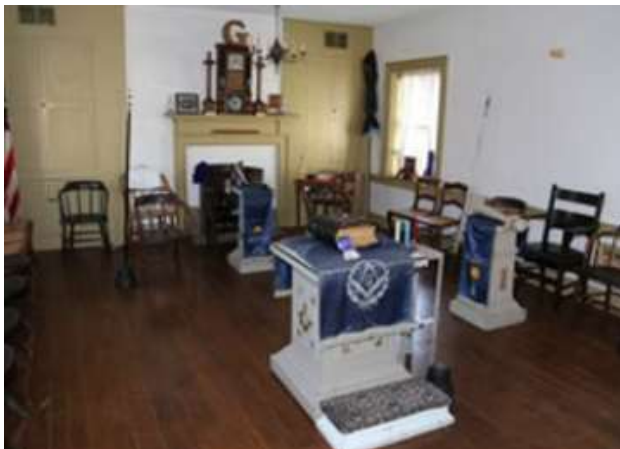
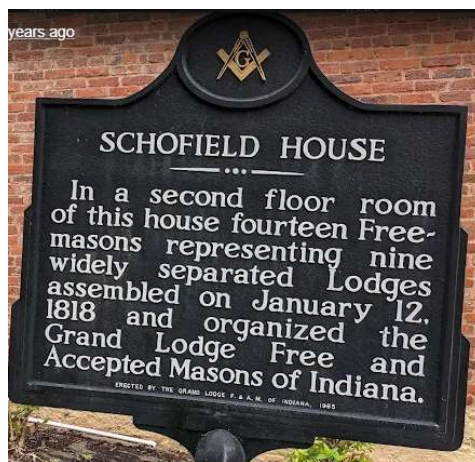
Jim Rosenbury presents Concord's Scholarship



Bev Kraft presents Spencerville OES's Scholarship

Concord Lodge Hosting a Guest Speaker – July 8th Stated Meeting Brother Ron Buskirk, WM Schofield Lodge 1818

Concord Lodge 556 will have Brother Ron Buskirk, WM Schofield Lodge 1818 be a guest speaker to talk about the Schofield House in Madison, IN where the Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed on January 12, 1818. Indiana Grand Lodge owns the building where Masonry started for our state. Brother Ron is also on the Board of Directors of Compass Park. Brother Ron will be discussing the Schofield House and its history. More information can be found at: <https://www.schofieldhouse.com/>



Concord Lodge and Spencerville OES Made Donuts – May 17th

Concord Lodge and Spencerville OES along with help from the Hearten House for Women (Auburn) made donuts for sale during the State Road 1 garage sale on Saturday May 17th. Donuts were sold at the Lodge, little league park in St. Joe, the Pizza restaurant in St. Joe, and Forest Lodge 239 helped sell the donuts in Butler. It was also national Police week and donut donations were made to several police departments. Donut donations were also made to two nursing homes.



CONTRIBUTED

Teacher appreciation winner

Emily Davis, a first-grade teacher at Riverdale Elementary School for 10 years, was recently recognized by the Spencerville Order of the Eastern Star with a teacher appreciation award.



CONTRIBUTED

Teacher appreciation winner

Patsy Harper, a special education resource teacher at DeKalb Middle School for six years, has been recognized with a teacher appreciation award from the Spencerville Order of the Eastern Star.

Spencerville OES 386 to Purchase ICAN Service Dog

The Spencerville OES is donating \$5000 to purchase and train a service dog to be placed with an Indiana Veteran. The service dog is to be placed sometime this fall. The dog's name will be Faralee in honor of Faralee Baininger who will be 103 years young in September. Faralee is the original donut maker that started the OES donut stand 75 years ago. Faralee has just returned from Arizona from visiting her daughter.



PGWM Diann Stienbarger with Faralee Baininger

Dinners Before Stated Meeting to Continue

For several years now, Concord Lodge has a dinner before the stated meetings to foster fellowship. Members of the Spencerville OES are invited to join. Also, non-members and potential candidates are welcome to attend and meet the Lodge Brethren. Second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm is the dinner time. All local Concord Lodge and Spencerville OES members are encouraged to attend. Plan on attending even if you haven't been to Lodge in a while. We would **LOVE** to see you.

Concord Lodge Kitchen and Restroom Project Completed

Concord Lodge Brothers and friends embarked on a kitchen and restroom remodeling project that began in January 2024. A little history about Concord Lodge, which was chartered on May 25, 1880 and met in a downtown Spencerville building which was a grocery store on the first floor. On December 31, 1949, the building had a fire and the store, its contents, and the Concord Masonic Hall that was on the second floor were destroyed. The members at the time said they would build a new building, by themselves, which they did completing in the mid 1950's and this is the current building being used today.

To save some cost of the remodeling project, the current Lodge Brothers complete most of the work in-house replicating the self-reliance spirit of the Concord Lodge Brothers who built the Lodge building. The project included expanding the old men's restroom by extending it eastward on the north wall and making it the women's restroom. The old women's restroom was improved and it is now the men's. In the kitchen, cupboards doors were removed and refinished.

New appliances were ordered from Compass Park. New counter tops installed along with new additional cupboards. The backroom was cleaned and the old, metal cupboards were put there for donut equipment storage. Additional shelves were added in the backroom. The floor was repolished. Other work was also completed. A file is being put together of the work that includes many pictures.

2025 Concord Lodge #556 Officers

The following Brothers are the 2025 Lodge officers. Thank you for serving the Lodge.

WM: Danny Patterson, PM
Sec: Jim Rosenbury, PM
JD: Darryl Oster
Chaplain: Benton Davis, PM

SW: Randy Drake, PM
Trea: Richard Lentz, PGM
SS: Blake Myers, PM
Tyler: Jim Davis, PM

JW: Ryan Hull
SD: Denver Laub
JS: Doug Cheek, PM

Trustees: Randy Drake, PM (1 year), Mike Gettys, PM (2 years), Blake Myers, PM (3 years)

EDON LODGE #474 ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Edon (Ohio) Lodge #474 will have two candidates for an Entered Apprentice Degree on Monday, June 2. Interested Masons are invited attend. You will see how the Ohio EA differs from the Indiana EA tactic wise and word wise from Indiana.

Note: Edon Lodge now meets at the Masonic Lodge in Bryan, Ohio (117 North Lynn Street, Bryan). The landlord of the Lodge building in Edon was not willing to maintain the building, so the Lodge was forced to relocate to Bryan.

There will be refreshments at 6:30 PM, with the degree starting at 7:30 PM. Wyatt Zulch is Worshipful Master and Kyle Long is Secretary. The candidates are Austin Batt (son-in-law of Shad Zulch) and Wes Mayer.



ANGOLA YORK RITE NEWS

York Rite Stated Meeting

The next stated meeting for Angola York Rite will be Thursday, June 5, with the opening on the Council, with Mike Anderson, Illustrious Master presiding. There will be a meal served at 6:30 PM before the meeting.

There will be NO stated meetings in July and August. Thursday, September 4 will be the first meeting after the summer break.

York Rite Chapter Instructional Planned

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Grand Chapter Instructional – 3rd Veil NORTH-East (Corrected information)

10:00 AM EDT Assemble / 12:00 PM EDT Lunch

Fort Wayne Masonic Temple / 216 E. Washington Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46802-3122.

Instructional for York Rites in Steuben, DeKalb, Allen and Huntington Counties

Contact: Joe Pask 219-256-4938 jpask1964@gmail.com

2025 ANGOLA YORK RITE PRESIDING OFFICERS

Angola York Rite Chapter #58 -- Brant Moore serving as High Priest

Angola York Rite Council #27 -- Mike Anderson as Illustrious Master

Angola Commandery #45 -- Jay Minick as Eminent Commander

Jimmie Milleman is the Secretary/Recorder of all 3 groups

YEOMEN OF YORK



ANNUAL MEETING OF INDIANA GRAND YEOMEN OF YORK TO BE HELD SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025

The meeting will be held at Hancock Lodge #101, 661 Tague Street, Greenfield, IN. Opening will be at 10:00 AM, followed by the meeting and dismissed after a lunch at the Lodge.

ANGOLA YEOMEN OF YORK SUMMER MEETING

The summer meeting for Angola Preceptory #2 will be the next event for its' membership. The date and venue is currently being planned, probably in June or July 2025. Director General Wayne Cripps, from Ohio, is currently organizing the date, time and venue for this meeting. It will include the ladies with a meal. More information later.

The Annual Meeting for the Angola Yeomen of York Preceptory #2 will be on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Angola Lodge #236. Put the date in your calendar.

FUTURE YORK RITE DATES

**Saturdays, February 28 (Michigan) and March 7 (Ohio), 2026
Tri-State Festival Continues into its 53rd year
MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR**

KNIGHTS OF THE YORK CROSS OF HONOR (KYCH)

Knights of the York Cross of Honour is an honorary group of York Rite Masons who are dedicated to serving the Masonic Fraternity as a Labor of Love. No individual should aspire to membership in KYCH, when he has done the required work, and done it well, he will be invited to membership. Those who labor properly will be rewarded by being invited.

Membership in the Knights of the York Cross of Honour cannot be applied for, it cannot be bought or sought. In order to be considered for membership, a proposed candidate must have served as:

**Worshipful Master of a Masonic Lodge
High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter
Thrice Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Masters
Eminent Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar**

The meaning of membership in K.Y.C.H. can best be explained by a closing statement of Most Eminent Knight Donald E. Friend, Grand Master General, at his Convent General Session in 1995 , "As a Knight of the York Cross of Honour, you are a proven servant of the Masonic Fraternity , your inspiration has come from your Past, your duty is in the present , your Hope is in the Future, I ask you always to remember—In all you do , In all you say, In all of your actions, take a good look at yourself, you are someone's impression of Freemasonry ".

KYCH has a local Masonic group centered in Ft. Wayne known as Indiana Priory No. 8. It was chartered on October 24, 1939 and has been going strong ever since.

From a few records I have, Angola and Auburn York Rite has had members who have served as Eminent Prior (head of the Priory) which would include:

Shubble Boggs	Auburn	1972-1973
Donald Friend	Auburn	1983-1984
Estelle Smith	Auburn	1992-1993
John D. Myers	Angola	2008-2009
Tim Knafel	Auburn	2019-2020
Jim Davis	Angola	2022-2023

Donald E. Friend of Auburn went on to be the Most Eminent Grand Master General of the Convent General of the USA in 1995.

Currently progressing through the KYCH lines to become Eminent Prior include in the future: (Below l to r)

Brant Moore	Angola York Rite	(current Council Lecturer)
Mike Anderson	Angola York Rite	(current Prelate)
Jim Milleman	Angola York Rite	(current Herold)





SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY – FT WAYNE

NEXT VALLEY EVENTS – STATED MEETING

The next Ft. Wayne Scottish Rite meeting is on Tuesday June 10, at the Shrine Horse Grounds near Columbia City (985 SR9).

This will be a social event (not a regular stated meeting) with an “Appreciation Dinner”, which will include delicious food and fellowship. The meal starts at 6:00 PM and will end around 8:00 PM.

Stated meeting into the summer are on Tuesday, July 8 and Tuesday August 12 at the Scottish Rite Building. Both include a meal from 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM, with the meeting to follow.



POKAGON SHRINE CLUB & MIZPAH SHRINE NEWS

POKAGON SHRINE STATED MEETING

Jeff Stanford - President/Treasurer
John Tchinski - Secretary

Pokagon Shrine Club will have a stated meeting on Thursday, June 19, at the Glendarin Golf Course dining room. Order from the menu, starting around 6:15 PM. Meeting to follow.

REMEMBER: POKAGON SHRINE CLUB MEETS ON THE THIRD THURSDAY!

POKAGON MEAT RAFFLE TO CONTINUE IN 2025

The local Shrine Club will again be having a \$500 meat raffle as its' money maker this year. Albrights of Corunna will be the source of the winning ticket drawn. The award will be a gift card, from which one can purchase anything in their store.

Profits made are used to support the Shrine Circus expenses and their other philanthropies. Tickets are now printed and ready for distribution. Get ready to assist. Call Paul Friend to get tickets for you to sell or to buy personally. Call 260-402-6122.

The Sportsman Gun Raffle is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, at the Shrine Horse Grounds near Columbia City.

A sample ticket showing the details of the meat raffle is below:

**POKAGON SHRINE CLUB RAFFLE
"WHERE'S THE BEEF?"**

\$500 CREDIT FOR MEAT OF YOUR CHOICE

Drawing: Saturday, September 6, 2025

Shrine Horse Show Grounds at 5:00 p.m.

985 N. State Road 9, Columbia City, IN

Meat from Albright's One Stop Grocery

110 N Bridge St., Corunna, IN

Need not be present to win - winner will be notified

All proceeds to benefit Mizpah Shrine Temple

Raffle Information: www.shrine-sportsman.com IN LIC#001961

Payments are not deductible as a charitable contribution

TICKET PRICE: \$5.00 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20.00

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE CONTINUES

100 GUNS TO BE RAFFLED OFF
IN A 5 HOUR PERIOD
HAVE YOU PURCHASED A TICKET?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT
TO WIN A GUN

What a deal for gun enthusiasts!! Tickets on sale by several local Shriners. If you don't know Shriners, call Paul Friend at 260-402-6122. Raffle ticket costs are only \$20. You can buy in multiples. Each ticket you buy will be eligible to be drawn for all 100 guns.

Not only are the tickets good for the raffle, it gives one admission to the Shrine Patrol Grounds (in Columbia City) where the raffle will be held on September 6.

Once on the grounds you can eat all the hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, water, and soft drinks. FREE BEER ALL DAY!! They will have a PA system in place so you can hear the name who won each gun. THIS MAY BE YOUR YEAR TO WIN! You can win more than one gun.

Below is a listing of the 100 guns to be drawn!

MIZPAH SHRINERS

"13th Annual Sportsman's Raffle"

Saturday, September 6, 2025 • Shrine Horse Patrol Grounds

985 N. State Road 9, Columbia City, IN • 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

13th
Annual

13th
Annual

A GUN GIVEN AWAY EVERY 3 MINUTES!

This ticket eligible for all guns on back PLUS any additional add-ons

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

1. All local, State and Federal Laws will be adhered.
2. Must be 18 years old to purchase ticket.
3. Must be 16 years of age to be admitted.
4. "Sportsman Raffle reserves the right to substitute any gun at equal or greater value".
5. You must present ticket to enter or receive food.
6. Need not be present to WIN.
7. All firearms will be issued from *Rural King* 8801 US-24, Ft. Wayne, IN 46804.

*All proceeds benefit MIZPAH Shrine Temple General Fund • All winners will be notified by mail
Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions*

Shrine Information • www.Mizpahshrine.com

Price: \$20.00 (\$25.00 at the door)

IN Lic# 001961

MIZPAH SHRINE 2025 SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE LIST

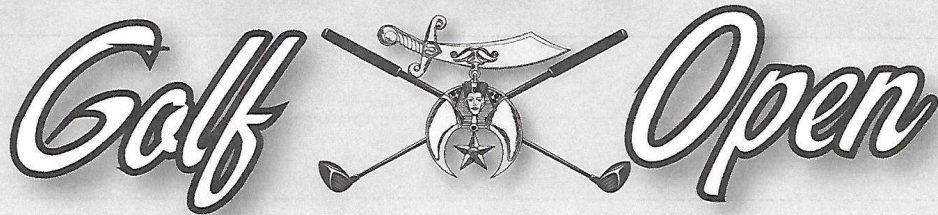
- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Mossberg Shockwave 590 20g | 21 CZ 612 12g | 41 Savage Arms 555 O/U 20g | 60 Bond Arms Roughneck 9mm | 80 Heritage RR 22mag/22lr |
| 2 Ruger 1022 Tactical 22lr | 22 Henry Golden Boy H004L 22lr | 42 Colt Python .357 Mag. Stain. 357mag | 61 Moss. Mav. 88-Security 12g | 81 G-Force Arms Huckleberry 410g |
| 3 Ruger American Ranch 7.62x39 | 23 Moss. Patriot Syn. 450 Bush. | 43 Win. XPR Hunter 7mm rem mag | 62 Heritage RR 22mag/22lr | 82 Ruger Mark IV Target 22lr |
| 4 Springfield 1911 MIL-SPEC 5 | 24 Moss. Mav. 88 - Security 12g | 44 Henry Gold. Silver H004SE 22lr | 63 Rug. 75th Ann. 10/22 Sporter 22lr | 83 NAA Mini Revolver 22wmr |
| 5 Henry Classic H001 22lr | 25 Ruger 1022 Camo 22lr | 45 CZ 612 12g | 64 G-Force Mares Leg RD GFLVR357P | 84 CZ P10 S 9mm |
| 6 Mossberg Patriot 7mm-08 | 26 Heritage RR 22mag/22lr | 46 Bond Arms Roughneck 357 | 65 CZ P10S | 85 Glock G20SF 10mm |
| 7 Bond Arms Grizzly 45LC/410 | 27 CZ P10 S 9mm | 47 Henry Classic H001 22lr | 66 Moss. Patriot Syn. 450 Bushmaster | 86 Ruger Sec 380 |
| 8 Tisas 1911 A1 US Army WWII | 28 Moss. 590 Shockwave 12g | 48 Moss. Mav. 88-Security 12g | 67 Tisas 1911 A1 US Army WWII 45acp | 87 Moss. Mav. 88-Security 12g |
| 9 Savage Axis XP 350 Legend | 29 Rug. Super Wrang. 22mag/22lr | 49 Ruger 1022 Carb. W/Viridian 22lr | 68 Bond Arms Cyclops 45-70 | 88 Bond Arms Roughneck 357 |
| 10 Ruger Sec 380 | 30 Spring. 1911 Mil-Spec 5 45acp | 50 G-Force Arms Huckleberry 410g | 69 Win. SXP Trap Compact 12g | 89 Rug. 75th Ann. 10/22 Sporter 22lr |
| 11 G-Force Arms Huckleberry 410g | 31 Sav. Arms 93R17 GV 17hmr | 51 Henry Big Boy Brass Side Gate 357mag/38spl | 70 Sav. Arms B22 Mag. Prec. 22wmr | 90 Ruger Super Wrang. 22mag/22lr |
| 12 Savage Arms 555 O/U 410g | 32 Henry Classic H001 22lr | 52 Ruger Sec 380 | 71 Tisas 1911 A1 US Army WWII 45acp | 91 Henry Classic H001 22lr |
| 13 Rock Island VR80 12g | 33 Weath. Van. Syn. 200win mag | 53 Ruger Super Wrang. 22mag/22lr | 72 Ruger Mini-14 Ranch 556 | 92 Savage Arms 555 O/U 12g |
| 14 Bond Arms Roughneck 9mm | 34 Diamondback DB 10 20" 308 | 54 Ruger Mark IV Target 22lr | 73 Mag. Desert Eagle 1911 45acp | 93 Moss. Patriot Synthetic 308 |
| 15 Moss. 500 Field/Deer Combo 12g | 35 Bond Arms Cyclops 45-70 | 55 Diam. db15 combo 556 & 300 blackout | 74 Moss. 590 Shockwave 410g | 94 Moss. 500 Grand Slam Turkey 12g |
| 16 Cent. Arms Canik TP9SFx 9mm | 36 Ruger Sec 380 | 56 Win. SXP Waterfowl Hunter 20g | 75 Ruger Sec 380 | 95 Mag. Desert Eagle 1911 45acp |
| 17 Bond Arms Roughneck 357/38 | 37 Win. SX4 Hybrid Hunter 12g | 57 Cent. Arms Canik TP9SFx 9mm | 76 Ruger Super Wrang. 22mag/22lr | 96 Bond Arms Grizzly 45LC/410 |
| 18 Savage Arms 93R1 GV 17hmr | 38 Sav. Arms 93R17 GV 17hmr | 58 Ruger Sec 380 | 77 Sav. Arms 93R17 GV 17hmr | 97 Ruger Mini-14 Ranch 556 |
| 19 Ruger 75th Ann. 10/22 Sporter 22lr | 39 Bond Arms Roughneck 357/38 | 59 Savage Axis XP 360 legend | 78 Ruger Mark IV Target 22lr | 98 NNA Mini Revolver 22wmr |
| 20 Heritage RR 22lr | 40 G-Force Arms Huckleberry 410g | | 79 Mag. Desert Eagle 1911 45acp | 99 Rug. New Model Black. Con. 357/9mm |
| | | | | 100 Ruger SFAR 308 Win. Semi-Auto. 38" |
| | | | | 101 Spring. M1A Scout Squad 308 |

Winners will be notified by mail and must pay sales tax. Winners may trade their gun for a gift card issued by Rural King for value paid by Shriners for gun.

Grand Prize #101 Spring. M1A Scout Squad 308 is non exchangeable. Drwg. order subject to change. Pictures of raffle attendee may appear in Mizpah Shrine publications.

GOLFERS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Mizpah Shrine
Directors



June 7, 2025 - 8am
Garrett Country Club

Team Name: _____

Golfer 1: _____ Phone: _____

Golfer 2: _____ Phone: _____

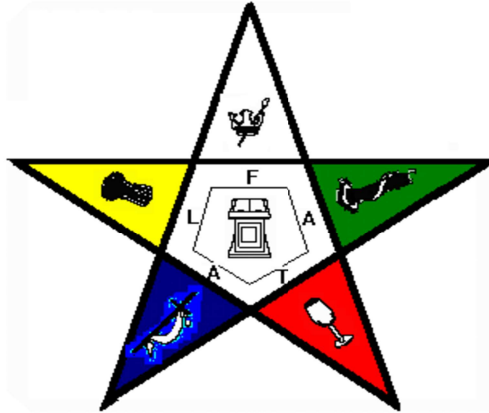
Golfer 3: _____ Phone: _____

Golfer 4: _____ Phone: _____

\$80 Per Player • Total Per Team is \$320

50/50 • Mulligans • Skin Game
Registration @ 7:00am • Tee Off @ 8:00am
Lunch at the Turn • Awards Following

Call in or send this form to:
Bob Tracey bob@pier1977.com (260) 414-2739
1015A Memorial Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Make Checks Payable to Mizpah Shrine Directors



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Ashley Chapter #229 meets at Ashley Lodge.

**Spencerville Chapter #386 meets on the 1st Thursday in Spencerville.
Dinner at 6:30 PM with meeting at 7:00 PM.**

**Sylvan Chapter #251 meets on the 1st Monday at LaGrange Lodge
Dinner at 6:00 PM with meeting at 7:00 PM.**

**Masonic members and your ladies should inquire with Phyllis Gaff
(Ashley) if you wish to join one of these Chapters.**

From Sweet Traditions to Leash of Hope:

The Enduring Legacy of Indiana OES

The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) in Indiana is a vibrant tapestry woven with threads of tradition, community support, and a profound commitment to making a difference. Two shining examples, the Indiana Grand Chapter and Spencerville Chapter #386, embody this spirit, demonstrating how a shared vision and dedicated efforts can create a lasting legacy. Their combined endeavors are currently making a tangible impact through their support of ICAN, an organization that transforms lives, one paw print at a time.

A Vision Takes Root: ICAN and the Grand Chapter

The journey to support ICAN in Indiana began in 2018, sparked by a project promoted by the General Grand Chapter OES. Diana Surfus, Worthy Grand Matron in 2018 of Indiana Grand Chapter of the OES, championed this initiative, igniting a wave of generosity across the state. Her tireless efforts have seen numerous groups contribute, organizing everything from golf outings with enthusiastic sponsors to lively bake sales at local festivals. Even a unique motorcycle event, spearheaded by a group of compassionate motorcyclists, has contributed to this vital cause, alongside Diana's own catering business. Since 2018, the Indiana Grand Chapter has stood firmly behind this important program, recognizing the immense value of ICAN's work.

Spencerville's Sweet Legacy: A Century of Donuts and Giving

While the Grand Chapter rallied around ICAN, Spencerville Chapter #386 continued its own remarkable tradition of charitable giving, one delicious donut at a time. The story of Spencerville's donuts is as rich and enduring as the Chapter itself. The first mention of these sweet treats at a Spencerville OES meeting dates back to February 27, 1922, served as refreshments for a modest \$1.80 a dozen.

The true turning point for their donut enterprise came in 1949, after a fire ravaged the Concord Masonic Lodge in uptown Spencerville. It was then that OES Member Joe Baidinger, drawing on the baking knowledge passed down from his father, stepped forward. Through the combined efforts of Joe and his wife Faralee Baidinger, along with many dedicated Spencerville Chapter members, a fundraising idea was born making donuts at the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair.

This sweet endeavor not only helped the Concord Masonic Lodge financially, but also united Masons and OES members, leading to the donation of land and the construction of a new lodge on State Road 1, dedicated on November 11, 1955.

Faralee Baidinger, a true visionary and a special member of Indiana OES celebrating her 103rd birthday this September 2025, is credited with creating the Spencerville Order of Eastern Star donut stand in 1947 at the Auburn Street Fair. Her foresight laid the foundation for a fundraising powerhouse that has sustained the Chapter's philanthropic efforts for decades.

For years, operating the donut trailer efficiently posed a challenge due to limited membership. However, in a testament to the power of collaboration, 2000 marked a turning point. With the support of sister Chapters and local Masonic Lodges within their Northeast Indiana District, the donut operation transformed. Today, it takes an impressive 225 volunteers to run the start-up crew and three shifts per day during Fair Week, a true testament to the strength of their fraternal bonds.

Through the years, the proceeds from these beloved donuts have allowed Spencerville Chapter to support a variety of community projects. Their generosity has touched countless lives, assisting children and families, providing resources for teachers and schools, supporting youth groups and Boy Scouting, and aiding a variety of organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents across DeKalb County and Northeast Indiana.

ICAN: Empowering Lives, One Dog at a Time

The impact of the OES's support shines brightly through ICAN (Indiana Canine Assistant Network). ICAN is a remarkable organization that trains and places assistance dogs with individuals with disabilities, while simultaneously providing foundational life skills to inmates through their experience as trainers. It is the only ACCREDITED service dog training program based in Indiana, a testament to its rigorous standards and profound impact.

ICAN uniquely brings together three diverse groups to empower individuals to live more enriched and independent lives: children and adults living with disabilities, carefully screened incarcerated adults, and the compassionate canine. The training process is extensive, often spanning several years before a dog is united with its human partner, tailored to the specific needs of the recipient. These incredible dogs are trained in a wide array of skills, from picking up dropped items and retrieving objects from a refrigerator to pulling clothing out of a dryer for folding and fulfilling any specific requirements of the individual.

The cost of training each ICAN service dog is substantial, at least \$25,000 per dog, covering intensive training, veterinary care, quality nutrition, outreach and follow-up activities, equipment, and supplies. Clients are charged a modest \$2,500 for their service dog and for the vital follow-up service provided throughout the partnership's lifetime, typically 8-10 years. ICAN trains dogs for various critical roles, including diabetic alert dogs, mobility assistance, PTSD support for veterans, in-home skilled companions, autism support, and facility dogs for rehabilitation centers, schools, and court systems. This remarkable training is skillfully conducted by incarcerated individuals fostering a unique symbiotic relationship that benefits both dog and trainer.

A Legacy Honored: Faralee Baidinger

Faralee Baidinger's legacy, rooted in every donut made and sold, continues to inspire. Her vision and dedication have empowered Spencerville Chapter #386 to support this year over 32 community projects, impacting everything from children and families to schools, youth groups, and broader community well-being. Today, her legacy takes on an even more tangible form. Spencerville OES Chapter #386 recently presented a check for \$5,000.00 to the ICAN Service Dog project, directly supporting a very special service dog and its future training.

And in a heartwarming tribute to her enduring impact, this very special service dog will be named **Faralee!**

This remarkable story is a powerful reminder that one person, with the unwavering support of others, can indeed make a profound difference. It's a testament to the spirit of "Sisters and Brothers All," a guiding principle of the Order of the Eastern Star, where collective vision and dedicated action truly transform lives.



Photo: Diana Surfus, PGM, with Faralee and service dog Maggie in training with Deborah Cotton, ICAN instructor from Fort Wayne.

Join Spencerville OES Chapter #386

If you're interested in learning more about the impactful charitable work Spencerville OES Chapter #386 performs, and how we collaborate with other non-profits to enhance the community of Northeast Indiana, we invite you to connect with us. Discover how you can contribute to our efforts and become a part of our dedicated Chapter. For more information, please contact Becky Hoover at (260) 452-6743 or Richard Lentz at (260) 410-1169.

BLUE LODGE STATED MEETING NIGHTS FOR NORTHEAST INDIANA

Angola #236	1st Tuesday Dark July/August	6:15 Meal 7:00 Meeting
Northeastern #210 (Fremont)	1st Wednesday Refreshments follow	7:00 Meeting
Star #225 (Orland)	2nd Wednesday	6:15 Meal at Lodge 7:00 Meeting
Ashley #614	1st Thursday Refreshments follow	7:00 Meeting
DeKalb #214	1st Tuesday	7:00 Meeting
Forest #239 (Butler)	2nd Thursday	6:30 Meal 7:00 Meeting
Concord #556	2nd Tuesday	6:30 Meal 7:30 Meeting
Meridian Sun #76 (LaGrange)	1st Wednesday Exc Jan & Feb	6:00 Meal 7:00 Meeting
Kendallville #276	1st Monday	6:30 Meal 7:30 Meeting
Leo #224	1st Thursday	6:00 Meal 7:00 Meeting

**** Please inform Paul Friend if any of the dates or times for meetings and meals have changed.**