

NORTHEAST INDIANA MASONIC NEWS

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



OCTOBER 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
Edon Lodge #474

Worshipful Master

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

Secretary

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

ANGOLA MASONIC LODGE #236

Angola's next stated meeting is on Tuesday, October 7. A meal will be served at 6:15 PM, with the meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.

PAUL FRIEND 50 YEAR AWARD OF GOLD



Paul Friend, who joined the Masonic Fraternity in Angola in September 1975, received his award of gold, for being a member for 50 years. Friend and his wife Inger moved to Angola in 1974 and eventually Paul joined the Masons in September 1975 in Angola. The above are the attendees.

Pictured above is (front row 1 to r): Randolph Seipel, Grand Master of Masons of Indiana; Paul Friend; Glen Rogers, Worshipful Master of Angola Lodge #236; Mark Blue; A. J. Hocker; Wynn Hensel and Ian Mountfield. Second row: Steve Bates Senior Grand Warden; Danny Patterson; Trent Heidorn; Benton Davis; Mike Anderson; Chris Baker and Mark Catellier. Back Row: Jan Minick, Secretary of Angola Lodge #236; Tim Billow; James Davis and Bill Zimmerman.



What a special evening it was in having Grand Master, Randolph Seipel to present the 50 plaque, pin and life membership card to me. I listened closely to his words in the presentation, and they meant a lot to me.

A little background now. Paul Friend and his wife Inger moved to Angola, because of an opportunity for Paul to transfer within Indiana to continue his work as a County Extension Agent in 1975. Being born and raised on a farm in neighboring DeKalb County, it enabled me to relocate close to my large family (of 8 brothers and sisters) – which I strongly desired.

One of my family members was brother Donald Friend, who lived in Auburn and was very active in Masonry. Of course, he wanted me to petition a Masonic Lodge, which was accomplished with the work of Dean Goranson, Harold Hoolihan, J. William Meyers, Jim Patterson, etc who at that time were active in Angola and knew my brother well – so they all went to work. I did petition in the summer of 2025 and was accepted into the brotherhood.

In 1975 my brother Donald Friend, was the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and a class was organized to bring in new York Rite Masons in the fall, in his honor. Well.....in order for me to join York Rite also, it was necessary for me to get my three Masonic degrees on three consecutive Tuesday nights, which I did - even learning the questions and answers – which I was able to do at that time. The rest is history!



PAUL FRIEND YORK RITE 50 YEAR AWARD OF GOLD

Received September 4, 2025 - Angola Masonic Lodge

Two nights after Friend received the Award of Gold from the Masonic Lodge, Angola York Rite held a special event for Friend to receive his 50 year awards of gold from the Grand York Rite bodies of Indiana. Above is a picture of the attendees.



What a pleasure it was to have Joseph Sparks, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana; Todd Carpenter, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons; and Steve Maxwell, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Indiana to present the plaques, 50 year pins and membership cards for the three York Rite groups.

It was a great evening to receive the 50 year honor from these distinguished Masons. I appreciated those on the sidelines for attending. These Masons have worked hard in the vineyards of Masonry over the years. It is special as one works with these craftsmen in the ritual work.

Over the years I have had the pleasure to work in the east serving as High Priest for 7 different years, Illustrious Master for 4 different years, and Eminent Commander for 4 different years in Angola York Rite.



Friend family: Above is a picture of the Angola Lodge presentation which included Steve Bates, Senior Grand Warden; Randy Seipel, Grand Master; Glen Rogers Worshipful Master; wife Inger, Paul Friend, grandson Aiden and daughter Katrina.



Friend family: Above is a picture of the York Rite presentation which included Grand Commander Joseph Sparks; daughter Katrina Buchanan; Son Brent Friend, Paul Friend, and wife Inger Friend.

Rusty Nail Degree

Angola Masonic Lodge #236 held a Rusty Nail degree, under the leadership of Glen Rogers, Worshipful Master of Angola Lodge #236. 16 Masons from Angola, Star, Northeastern and Concord Lodges attended.



Attending included: Front: James Davis, Jimmie Milleman, Glen Rogers, Jay Minick, Benton Davis, Tyler Johnson, Larry Sailors and Bill Zimmerman. Back: Joe Frymier, Ken Bates, Jim Rosenbury, A. J. Hocker; Ken Brost and Bob Spidel. (Paul Friend picture taker}

Worshipful Master Glen Rogers promoted the training and was one of the instructors. Others assisting in instructing were James Davis, Jay Minick, Jimmie Milleman, Benton Davis and Paul Friend.

Preceding the degree was a breakfast served by Benton Davis and Judy Milleman. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Sitting around the table were: Bob Spidel, Ken Brost, Jim Rosenbury, Benton Davis, A. J. Hocker, Tyler Johnson, Bill Zimmerman, Larry Sailor, Joe Frymier and Ian Mountfield.



At the other end of the dining room was Jay Minick, Judy Milleman, Jimmie Milleman, Ken Bates, Glen Rogers and James Davis.



PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR A HOST OF THE DECEMBER 27, 2025 FEAST OF ST. JOHN

Put December 27 in your calendar! A host lodge is now being pursued for this festive event. FYI – the recent year hosts have been: 2024 – Ashley; 2023 – Angola; 2022 – Concord and 2021 Orland.

Let it be known if your Lodge is willing to host.

Concord Lodge #556

Sunday October 5th - Grand Master Pilgrimage Day at Schofield House, Madison, IN.

Summit City Lodge 170 in Fort Wayne is sponsoring a bus trip to the Schofield House for the Grand Master's Pilgrimage Day. The bus will leave Summitt City Lodge at 8:00 AM with coffee and donuts. Lunch will be at the Schofield House. The bus will return in the afternoon. The cost is \$50.00 per person says Jim Rosenbury. Contact Jerry DeLeon at 260-710-1855. There are only 40 seats on the bus. First come, first serve.

Concord Lodge #556 Upcoming Activities

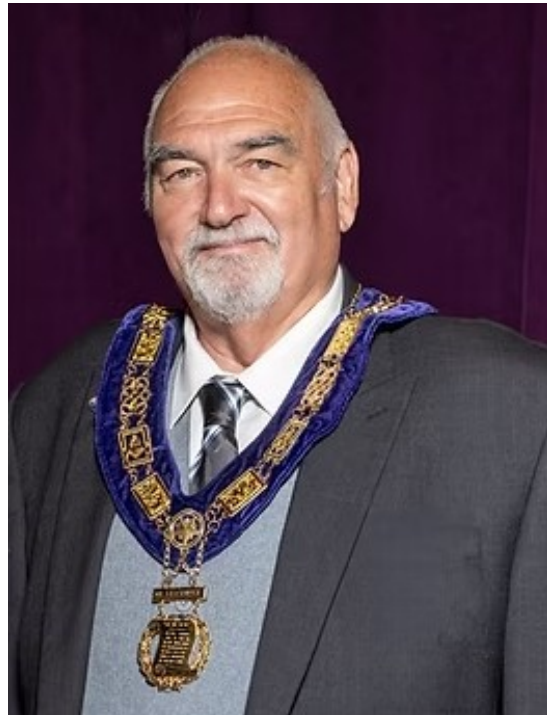
Tuesday October 14th, stated meeting

Dinner provided by Dutch Heritage at 6:30 pm, Lodge at 7:30 pm.

On October 14th stated meeting, Worshipful Brother Grand Lecturer Denny Davis, PM will be at Concord Lodge 556. Brother Denny will be doing a presentation on Masonic Etiquette during the Masonic Education portion of the meeting. Concord Lodge 556 is inviting all Lodges to attend for the presentation from the Grand Lecturer. Concord Lodge will defer the normal business to the November stated meeting to allow as more time for Brother Davis's presentation. Please provide a count so Concord Lodge can have the proper amount of food for dinner.

**Jim Rosenbury, Sec - 586-822-5407
(text)**

Concord556@outlook.com



Thursday November 20th – Lodge of Instruction

Concord Lodge 556 will be having the annual Lodge of Instruction with Wayne Lodge 25 at the Fort Wayne downtown Masonic Building. This is the first time ever that Concord Lodge will be having the Lodge of Instruction in the downtown Ft. Wayne Masonic Building and we are looking forward to it. Concord will be closing on the MM degree. Lodge at 7:00 pm. More details will be coming.

MERIDIAN SUN LODGE #76 (LAGRANGE) RAFFLE

Meridian Sun is having a raffle to help with the finances of their Lodge. In fact they are having TWO raffles.

The winning tickets are to be drawn Friday October 10. This is their final announcement of the raffle – so you have time to contact a local member for a ticket or two.

EDON LODGE (OHIO) #474

Edon Lodge #474 held a FC degree on Monday September 8 at the Bryan Ohio Lodge, for two candidates. A light meal preceded the degree. The Master Mason degree is in the planning and will be announced later.

Edon Lodge now meets at Bryan Lodge for its' meeting since the Lodge building in Edon had some building maintenance issues.

Indiana Masons will be invited to attend to observe the tactics of the Ohio version of the Master Mason degree, at it is different from Indiana tactics.



ANGOLA YORK RITE NEWS

YORK RITE STATED MEETING

The next stated meeting for Angola York Rite will be on Thursday, October 2. The October meeting will be opening on the Commandery, with Mike Anderson, Eminent Commander presiding. Bring your sword and a ballcap. A practice will take place for the upcoming Inspection.

There will be a light meal at 6:30 PM, the stated meeting will follow. Following the stated meeting will be practice for the Order of the Temple and the reception of the 10 man opening.

2026 TRI-STATE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON: **MASTER MASONS CAN JOIN YORK RITE**

Saturday, February 28, 2026 – Chapter and Council Degrees in Michigan

Saturday, March 7, 2026 – Commandery Orders in Ohio

PUT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND HOLD OPEN!!

The Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio are invited to attend to be introduced to the candidates. Comments will be received from these distinguished guests.

REMEMBER: Candidates are welcome from all three states and will be receiving the degrees and orders from excellent ritualists, which will leave a lasting understanding of Masonry when it concludes.

2025 ANGOLA YORK RITE PRESIDING OFFICERS

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

Angola York Rite Council #27 – Jay Minick as Illustrious Master

Angola Commandery #45 – Mike Anderson as Eminent Commander

Jimmie Milleman is the Secretary/Recorder of all 3 groups

ANGOLA PRECEPTORY #2 YEOMEN ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for Angola Yeomen of York Preceptory #2 will be on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Angola Lodge #236. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be served starting at 9:00 AM. **PUT THE DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR!**

This is the same date as the Annual Inspection for Angola Commandery #45 and Apollo Commandery #19. Any York Rite member is invited to attend. The inspection will start after a noon meal.

GRAND YEOMEN OF YORK OF INDIANA NEWS

A NEW OHIO PRECEPTORY IS BEING PLANNED

A new Indiana Preceptory Yeomen of York being investigated in the Toledo Ohio location. Plans are being made now and will probably be started before the end of 2026. More news later.



POKAGON SHRINE CLUB & MIZPAH SHRINE NEWS

The next Pokagon Shrine Club stated meeting will be on Thursday, October 16 at the Glendarin golf course clubhouse. The evening starts with buying your own meal at 6:15 PM (optional to eat at meeting site), with the meeting starting at 7:00 PM.

POKAGON \$500 MEAT RAFFLE WINNER



The local Shrine Club finalized its' \$500 meat raffle with Joe Heidenreich of Columbia City being the winner. He poses with Paul Friend, local Pokagon Shrine member with his gift card from Albrights of Corunna.

Profits made are used to support the Shrine Circus expenses and other Shrine philanthropies.

POKAGON SHRINE CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Shriners that live in Steuben County are automatic members of the Pokagon Shrine Club (there are no dues). All are invited to the Shrine Club Holiday Party, which is set for Saturday, November 15. An invitation, with a need to respond, will be sent out soon.

The party will be a festive event, starting with a luscious evening meal, followed by a short report from President Jeff Stanford of the activities of the Club this past year. Also a representative from Mizpah Shrine will be present to install the 2026 Officers.

The party will be held at the Zollner Golf Course dining room in Angola. The meal will be a variety of meats, salads, deserts and drinks.

Ladies are invited. Plans are in the making to have families that have had the services of the Shrine hospitals to attend and talk about their experiences with the medical teams.

POKAGON SHRINE CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2025 ARE:

Jeff Stanford	- President/Treasurer
John Tchinski	- Secretary



STATED MEETING

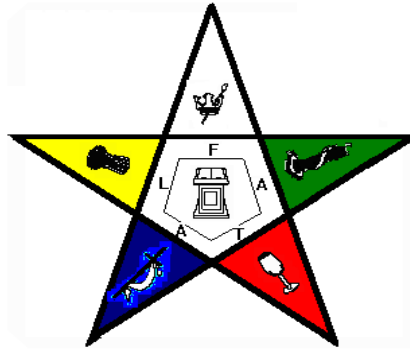
The next Ft. Wayne Scottish Rite meeting is on Tuesday October 14, at the Mizpah Shrine building in Ft. Wayne. There will be a meal from 6:15 PM to 7:00 PM (ladies invited), with the meeting to follow.

The November stated meeting will be on Tuesday November 11. Meal at 6:15 PM, followed by the meeting.

The next membership class will be held on Saturday, November 15 at the Mizpah Shrine Center in Ft. Wayne starting at 8:00 PM, with the day's events ending at 3:00 PM.

The Ft. Wayne Valley has long prided itself on being a very special place as they build upon our Masonic friendships and enjoy a new journey as Freemasons. They stand together in good times and bad and strive to fulfill the Masonic obligation to care for one another through the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

If you are not a Scottish Rite Mason and would like to learn more or become a member, contact Paul Friend at 260-402-6122 or the Valley office at 260-423-2593.



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star are divided into districts in Indiana. Northeast Indiana (Steuben, LaGrange, Dekalb and Noble Counties) consists of 4 Chapters, in District 21 includes the following:

Ashley Chapter #229 meets at Ashley Masonic Lodge #614. The Secretary is Renee Andrews (260-750-2626). Email: renee6604@yahoo.com

Spencerville Chapter #386 meets at Concord Masonic Lodge #556. The Secretary is Becky Hoover (260-452-6743). Email: hooverbecky@hotmail.com

Sylvan Chapter #251 meets at Meridian Sun Masonic Lodge #76. The Secretary is Trenia Bowen (260-367-1658). Email: sylvan251@gmail.com

Prentiss Chapter #178 meets at Albion Lodge #97. The Secretary is Sheri Auld (260-343-1134). Email: sheriauld@yahoo.com.

This newsletter will be starting to put information about Eastern Star events/activities each month. The current list of the Records of the four chapters are mentioned above in case a contact person is desired. All Chapters will be receptive to Master Masons and their ladies or relatives, who would be interested in joining.

Masonic brothers are eligible to join along with their wives, daughters, widows of Masons, sisters and mothers. Minimum age is 18 years or older.

Spencerville OES #386 Fair Donut Stand at the DeKalb County Fair



One of this year's features was Fara Lee Baidinger who was the key Eastern Star member to start the donut stand at the DeKalb County Fair.

In 1949 the donut stand was started as a fund raiser. The Spencerville OES building had a major fire, so Fara Lee used her father-in-laws recipe to make and sell donuts to raise funds to rebuild. ALL HAND MADE AT THAT TIME!!!

On September 30, Fara Lee will turn 104 years old. To celebrate her 104th birthday, she handed out 104 free donuts at last week's fair.

Standing with Fara Lee is Becky Hoover, Secretary of Spencerville # 386 OES.

A Ft. Wayne television station did an interview of Fara Lee at the DeKalb County Fair. One can observe the interview using the following site:

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/the-original-donut-queen-celebrates-her-104th-birthday-at-the-dekalb-county-free-fall-fair/>

The DeKalb County Fair was September 22 through 27 and as always, the Spencerville OES 386 was there making donuts, along with many other volunteer sisters and brothers of the Eastern Star and Masonic Lodges. Over the years, there have been several portable stands used to make the donuts, below is the current outside version of the stand.



Left to right: Jim Rosenbury, PM and Sec (Concord 556), Senior Grand Warden Steve Bates (Converse 601), Kelley Ash (Concord 556)

On the inside of the stand, one can see one automatic donut makers. There are three fryers, lined up in a row, going at a time. It was a GRAND day on Tuesday September 23rd. Senior Grand Warden Steve Bates (bottom left) was in the stand to help make donuts along with Jim Rosenbury, Past Master and Secretary of Concord Lodge. Brother Bates is pouring the prepared batter into the automatic machine that forms the donut, and it travels toward to the packagers, frying for the necessary time.

On the right-side picture one can see Angie Dunakin (Spencerville Chapter 386); Grand Sentinel John Auld (Prentiss Chapter 178 Albion) and Carol Davis, Worthy Grand Matron (Hymera Chapter 289 Terre Haute),



The donuts are sugar coated. The warm donut melts in your mouth, with a taste one can never forget. The donuts are quickly packaged and await a customer. There is a CONTINUIOUS line awaiting the purchase of these savory treats. When all is working well, the stand can make 100 dozen an hour. WOW!

Below is Worthy Grand Matron Carol Davis showing off the treats.



Donut Stacking Contest

Each year at the fair, Spencerville OES sponsors a donut stacking contest where elementary students with a police officer stack donuts. A girl and boy that wins receives \$1000 put in a 501c3 college scholarship. Donations are made to the elementary schools' library fund and to shop with a cop fund. It is a fun day for everyone.



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	7:00 Meeting Refreshments follow
Star #225 (Orland)	2nd Wednesday	6:15 Meal at Lodge 7:00 Meeting
Ashley #614	1st Thursday	7:00 Meeting Refreshments follow
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.**