



# THE OHIO DEMOLAY STAR

November 2019

## —DIRECTORY—

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Logan Willeke, Deputy State Master Councilor

Ja'Ron Barber, State Marshal

Dad Jeff Rannebarger, Ohio DeMolay Executive Officer

Noah Brown, State 2nd Preceptor

Corey Snodgrass, 2nd District Chairman

Robert W. Thomas, Eminent Prior

Dad Doug Cope

**Brothers of Ohio DeMolay-** I hope that those who attended State Paintball had a great time. The day was nice and we got a lot of games in. Everyone seemed to have a great time and that's what is important. Speaking of good times Winterfest is next month and I'm very excited to see you all in Sandusky at Kalahari. This is an event we enjoy every year and most importantly we have an initiation to bring in new members to our order, which is the best youth organization in the world for young men 12-21. We all know how fun Kalahari is but it would be so much better with more of us there. I encourage all of you to sign up and to bring candidates to join DeMolay. On the topic of membership, **Ohio DeMolay is 20 members away from reaching 100 new members for the year.** For us to reach 100 new members on the year is a huge milestone, and by doing this we'll also reach positive membership for the second year in a row. Brothers, DeMolay is fun, but how much more fun would it be if we had more people to make these life long memories with. In the next 2 months getting 20 members as a state is something that we should all strive for. It would not only give us a boost in membership but it would allow us to share this great organization with more young men who could become lifelong brothers. This is a

goal that I want Ohio DeMolay to reach because this would certainly help us in Laying the Foundation for the future of our order. DeMolay has come to mean so much to each of us and reaching this milestone is something that we can all be proud of. I encourage each of you to talk to friends, relatives, and neighbors about DeMolay and helping us in our final March to 100 members. We set a goal earlier at the beginning of the calendar year and we have a chance to reach it. **I BELIEVE IN ALL OF YOU.** We as a state can do this. We as Ohio DeMolay have a chance to do what few other jurisdictions have done this year. With all of our combined efforts we can achieve this goal and continue to have Ohio DeMolay be a leading jurisdiction in DeMolay International. Let's get to 100 together brothers.

*~Ryan Cope, State Master Councilor*

**Greetings Brethren of Ohio DeMolay!** We are almost in November and that means that Winterfest is right around the corner. Make sure you are telling all of your friends about the great time we will be having at Kalahari! I couldn't really think of anything super important to write about this month until this past weekend.

I traveled to Grand Lodge on Thursday the 17th for the Grand Masters banquet with Brothers Ryan Cope and Trevor Cutts. We had a great time at Dinner and Ryan had great speech representing Ohio DeMolay. The following day the three of us, along with Dad Rannebarger, traveled down to "Almost Heaven" West Virginia for our yearly Regional meeting with the other jurisdictions in Region 4.

Shortly after we arrived the International Master Councilor arrived along with the State Officers of West Virginia and Michigan. Trevor and Ryan both brought a card game called "Uno Flip" and all of us started to play. After a few minutes it seemed like I had known all of them since I was 12 years old. That is how powerful the Brotherhood in DeMolay is. I sat back and thought to myself "This is exactly what the Order of DeMolay is about! Being able to bond and have a good time with the brothers from your chapter, district, state and even around the world."

So, to all of my Brothers reading this, I want you to know that you can always have a good time with your Brothers no matter where you are or what you are doing. You can have fun playing paintball and have a good time performing with your brothers in the DeMolay degree. One piece of advice that I would give to you is don't be selfish, don't keep DeMolay all to yourself because one of your friends may need it and enjoy it just as much as you do. So I challenge you to tell at least one of your friends about DeMolay and invite them to Winterfest in December. Thanks for reading and I will see you around!

*~Logan Willeke, Deputy State Master Councilor*

**Hello brethren, this is your State Marshal Ja'Ron Barber.** I've got something I need to tell you guys about how to make the most of your DeMolay experience, at least in my opinion.

For everybody who decides to read this, cherish those moments you have with your brothers across the state. You may see them only once every month for a two hour event, and that's fine, those are the moments that make this organization great. Sure you can bring your friends to these events and eventually into your chapter, but the people who will make an impact on your life are those you don't see all the time. Now, don't take this as me saying to not bring your friends, by all means KEEP bringing your friends. I'm just telling you to not let those experiences outside your chapter got to waste. For example, some of my favorite brothers are from the Dayton and from the Cleveland area, some of whom I see only once every once in a while because of work or other reasons, and it is always a fantastic time when I see them and get to hang out with them, even if for just a few hours.

So, my point is to meet people outside of your chapter and build up worthwhile experiences with them that you both will remember one day when eating Frosted Flakes at your own respective tables.

*~Ja'Ron Barber, State Marshal*



**Grand Bodies / Region 4 / Kenton Chapter / Advisor Renewal**

**October has concluded and it has been a busy month for Ohio DeMolay.** The month started with State Master Councilor, Br. Cope attending the Grand Council Royal and Select Masons banquet where Dad Steven Hill, Sr. DeMolay, concluded his term as the Grand Illustrious Master. Later that week, the State Master Councilor attended the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and Grand Commandery, Knights Templar joint banquet. At both dinners he represented Ohio DeMolay and brought comments to the over 200 attending. The end of the month, he was joined by Deputy State Master Councilor Br. Willeke and State Scribe, Br. Cutts in Marietta for the 211th Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. They welcomed Dad Jeff Shaw, Sr. DeMolay and Past Executive Officer of Ohio as the new Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, RAM, Dad Robert Hagar, Sr. DeMolay, as the new Grand Commander of Grand Commandery, KT and Dad Keith Newton, Sr. DeMolay as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Ohio DeMolay is proud of these Dads and wish them success as they begin their terms.

I would also like to extend my sincere "Thank You" to the members of the chapters, the State Officers and the advisors who drove to Marietta to form an "Honor Detail" to welcome Dad Newton for the Installation of Grand Lodge officers. Dad Newton had hoped to have some DeMolays present and was very appreciative of those who arrived on Saturday, October 19th to honor him in that manner.

The State Elected Officers were not able to attend the Installation of Dad Newton, as that October 19th date started the Region 4 meeting in Charleston, WV. They were accompanied by the State Officers of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and West Virginia (Region 4). They represented Ohio very well in their presentation to the other jurisdictions. They were pleased to be able to visit with Br. Tyler Moyer, International Master Councilor. All learned information about the continued plans for the International Congress.

After spending the day in Canal Winchester on October 12 in State Painball, the State Council and other DeMolays travelled to Kenton in Hardin County to initiate new members and re start Kenton Chapter. Thank you to Dad Onions and the members of Kenton Chapter for the meal before the initiation. The dinner was tasty and the Initiation went very well and we are glad to welcome the new members of Kenton and wish them success as they "lay the foundation for their future".

**ATTENTION ADVISORS** – November 30 is the last day to renew your Advisor registration for 2020. Please understand that the ones who will suffer if you are not registered are the DeMolays. It is a short time to complete the Change / No Change form. If you miss registering on the 30th, then the whole process starts over again; the online training, the background check and associated fees. Please share this with your advisors to take care of this before it passes too quickly.

We look forward to seeing you at Winterfest on December 6th and 7th.

*~Dad Jeff Rannebarger Ohio DeMolay Executive Officer*

**If Ohio DeMolay was a cheeseburger, fun events are defiantly the meat of the burger.**

Everyone loves a good burger, but of course, it has to be done right. It would be impossible to entice a new member without showcasing the freedom in our order to plan whatever event we want. A burger can not be a burger without the meat, and when a new member wants to have a taste of DeMolay, they should most be most excited for the fun events. Now, most chapters naturally know how to plan a fun event, because they have been doing for years, but some chapters can have a hard time finding their pace in terms of consistent fun events. There is something you can do about it. My fellow state officers all have a master councilor term under our belt (or two, or three), as well as most of us having the PMC-MSA. We know how to plan a fun event, and we are not afraid to assist in organizing something for a chapter. I also recommend attending next year's ODLE session, most especially if you plan on becoming or continue to be a Councilor in 2020. If you haven't been, the councilor course does a great job of making aware of situations as Master Councilor and how to plan fun events. There are also a great number of teambuilding activities, like racing a cardboard boat. My favorite event that I had to plan was a Chuck E. Cheese outing- while DeMolay is an organization shaping us to be men, Denbrook had a great time acting like little kids again. Playing skeeball and eating pizza really took us back to our younger days. In the end, the utensils to make this ideal burger are right in front of you, don't be afraid to use them! You can do it!

*~Noah Brown, State 2nd Preceptor*

**Greetings from the 2nd District!** The 2nd District has been busy in 2019. I was installed as Chairman this past July, and I am still honored to have been chosen to represent the district. We started something new in the 2nd District this term: Chapter Representatives. These representatives are considered district officers, but they do not have specific positions in a meeting. Their job is to be a connection between the 2nd District Council and the chapter. In years past, we have had 6 district officers on the District Council. I made it a goal this year to have a district officer from each chapter. The easiest way to make that happen was if we made a change. That change was the representatives. I could not be happier to be Chairman of the 2nd District. Now let's continue to show Ohio DeMolay that we are one of the best districts in the state!

*~Corey Snodgrass,  
2nd District Chairman*





The state officers have planned an exciting weekend for you all at Winterfest this year at Kalahari, and if you have already registered you're really in for a treat! Here is a reminder for what you all will need to bring for the weekend:

- ▶ PRINTED TICKET
- ▶ Toothbrush/paste
- ▶ Shampoo/soap
- ▶ Deodorant
- ▶ Suit/dress shirts/ties/dress shoes - 1 day
- ▶ Undergarments
- ▶ Swim suit
- ▶ Comfortable shoes
- ▶ Shorts & T-shirts
- ▶ Snacks for your room
- ▶ Spending money
- ▶ And Your Excitement!

**Want to put an article, ad, comic or joke in the paper?**

Email it to brother Cutts at [OhioDeMolayStateScribe@gmail.com](mailto:OhioDeMolayStateScribe@gmail.com)



# OHIO DEMOLAY LICENSE PLATE

## SHOW YOUR DEMOLAY PRIDE!

Ohio DeMolay will soon have its own license plate! We need 150 pledges to buy the plate in order for it to get made. Anyone who wants to show their support and pride for Ohio DeMolay may purchase the plates.

There are additional fees, including a \$15 donation to Ohio DeMolay. Payment is not due until the 150 threshold is met and the plates are ordered.

If you have multiple cars, you can get multiple plates! A DeMolay, Mom, and Dad would count as 3 plates purchased.



**LINK:** <https://s3.amazonaws.com/odx-odps-content/links/bmv4820.pdf>

This link is to the Ohio BMV form you will need to fill out. Once that is done please send to:

**AJ Thomas**  
 1210 Chambers Road, Apt. 322B  
 Columbus, OH 43212

Dad Thomas, PSMC, will take care of the rest! Please share to anyone you may think is interested. There is no limit on the amount of forms that can be submitted so long as we get 150 pledges.

We will let you know when we reach 150 pledges, and HB 262 clears the Ohio General Assembly.

If you have any questions please contact Dad Thomas at: **419-203-9813**

If you signed up at Conclave, please contact Dad Thomas to ensure all of your information is received.





**Hello Ohio DeMolay!** My name is Robert Thomas, a Senior DeMolay and Eminent Prior of Ohio Priory #18, Knights of the York Cross of Honour. Many times I have been asked "What is the Knight of the York Cross of Honour?" It is an honor body for Freemasons for anyone who has served as Worshipful Master of their Blue Lodge, High Priest of their Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Illustrious Master of their Council of Royal and Select Masons and Eminent Commander of their Commandery of Knights Templar. After serving these four bodies (not necessarily in that order) they become eligible to be invited to join Ohio Priory.

A Priory consists of a line that lasts 11 years. They also meet 4 times a year in various locations within the state. The first 4 the officer serves as a District Deputy. Next the offices are Sentinel, Herald, Orator, Prelate, Warder, Deputy Prior and finally Eminent Prior. Offices may be skipped if there are vacancies in any one of these offices.

The state is divided into 4 Districts. The Districts are Northeast Ohio, Southeast Ohio, Northwest Ohio and Southwest Ohio. The officer line consists of members of each District.

Ohio Priory is part of an international body called Convent General that meets once a year in various parts of the country. Their leader is called the Grand Master General.

The charity that Priory supports is cancer research. Their funds go to Norris Cotton Research Center on the Dartmouth University campus.

This should tell a little bit of what is the Knight York Cross of Honour. I am proud to serve this wonderful organization.

*~Robert W. Thomas, Eminent Prior*

### My DeMolay thoughts...

On May 23rd, 1979 a shy and awkward 13-year-old arrived at the Xenia Masonic Center to be initiated into this group called DeMolay. 40 years later I still find myself in that building, now a Master Mason and Chairman of the Advisory Council for Ralph H. McMillan Chapter. The 40 years in between are a testament to the values and leadership skills this organization teaches.

Since my initiation I strive everyday to become a better person, leader, son, husband, and father than I was the day before. You see much of what I am and what I have personally achieved is because I knocked on the door of our chapter room some 40 years ago.

~As a person, I have tried to always remember to be Courteous to everyone I encounter. Sir and Mam apply to most everyone I meet regardless of race, age, sexuality, or religious belief. Always trying to remember to treat others as I would want to be treated.

~ As a leader, DeMolay taught me to think outside the box and plan for EVERYTHING. Well in my chosen vocation (The Fire Service) planning for everything is nearly impossible, but having the ability to think beyond the plan (outside the box) worked very well. From treating a patient on an Emergency Medical Call to Managing Search Operations at The World Trade Center Collapse, the teachings of Leadership I first learned in my DeMolay Chapter have served me well.

~ As a son, the First Precept is always subconsciously on my mind. My father was my hero, my role model, my mentor. When I followed him into the fire service and graduated from the Fire Academy, he pinned my badge to my uniform shirt. My mom is the first woman I ever loved. She is 80 now and I seek her approval and love as much now as I did when I was 13. Cherish your time with your parents or parental figures, for that time is limited.

~ As a husband, DeMolay is the reason I met my wife of 29 years. Wednesday August 4th, 1982, I asked a young Rainbow girl from Xenia Assembly (Lisa Denise Antol) to be my girlfriend. Why she said yes? I to this day have no idea. My wife Lisa (Mom Cope) was then, and still is today, way out of my league. Lucky for me she apparently didn't realize that at the time (shhhh she still doesn't realize it). Having manners, and being a gentleman even when your alone goes a long way fellas.....especially if your girl is out of your league. Always have that respect for womanhood.

~ As a father, the greatest gift God can give us is a child! Because of DeMolay I met a girl, who a few years later became my wife. I have carried many titles during my career in the fire service, but what is the title that means the most to me? Well I'll just say..... thank you Ryan for making me a DAD! Watching your DeMolay adventure has meant the world to me.

So, you see DeMolays virtues, teachings, values, and friendships are forever.

They don't stop being pertinent when you turn 21, but will follow you in every aspect for the remainder of your life. Take it from this old guy (who some say looks Vice Presidential) DeMolay is in fact The Best Organization for Young Men Between 12 & 21 in the World.

Yours in DeMolay Service,

*~Dad Doug Cope*



**LAY THE FOUNDATION  
2019-2020**

The Ohio State Council acknowledges the authority of and yields allegiance to DeMolay International, of which Frank S. Land was the Founder.

