

J. Kendall Lawson

I am a father of three children: Jacob – 18, Jeff – 16 and Katie – 9. I have been married to my wife, Lady Jennifer, for almost 20 years. We reside in Kettering, OH. I am a member of the Pit Crew for the Fairmont Marching Band – we help the students get the marimbas and the electronics onto the field for game nights and competitions. I am also a swim official for the YMCA Swim League which my daughter is a member of the team at the Kettering YMCA. My family means the world to me.

I obtained both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the last 10 years, both from Wright State University, in Information Systems. I entered the military right out of High School and did not get to complete my degrees until that time was over. I am currently an Infrastructure Engineer for a company out of Cincinnati. I work with Information Technology on a daily basis. I really enjoy the people I work with and the job I get to do every day.

I served 14 years in the military – 4 in the US Marine Corps and 10 years between the Ohio Army National Guard and active duty Army. I started as a Marine in the Infantry as an Enlisted member and a Rifle Range Coach and finished my career as a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army as a MEDEVAC Blackhawk Pilot flying for Lonestar Dustoff out of Fort Hood, TX. I truly loved serving my country and the bonus was that I got to fly almost every day.

I was selected as a York Rite Emerging Leader from my work in the Craft in York Rite. This program is bestowed to members who demonstrate outstanding leadership. Out of all of the York Rite members in the United States the top .02% are selected to attend this Leadership Training. This equates to about 30 members attending each year of a three-year program. I have been very fortunate to be selected and I have been able to attend two of the three years to date with the third year being in March in Lexington, KY.

I am currently the Senior Warden for Millennium Lodge #779, Principle Sojourner for Victory Chapter #210, Junior Warden for Reed Commandery #6, Venerable Master of Knights of St. Andrew – Valley of Dayton Chapter, Scottish Rite and a plural member of Minerva Lodge #98.

I have seen some great change within Antioch Shrine since I became a Noble in 2013. I have witnessed more families become involved due to the work of the current and some recent Past Potentates, and I want to contribute more to these changes. I watched the Shrine go from almost being sold to renewing and reviving it, and I want to help find new, unique ways to bring additional members and funds into Antioch. I believe that change cannot occur if I sit on the sidelines. I need to be actively involved in change if I want to help make it happen. I am very dedicated, hard-working and passionate about the Shriner's Children's Hospitals and am very pleased by the work we accomplish as a whole. I plan to make tradition the foundation of the work I personally put into Antioch, while being fully supportive of the Divan and Potentate.