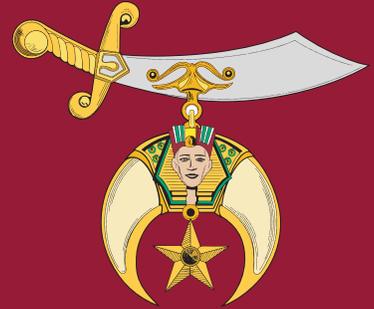


The Arabian



The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

Houston, Texas | May 2020



Illustrious Ruben Robles and First Lady Bea

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

by Illustrious Sir Ruben Robles

Nobles and Ladies,

Lady Bea and I hope you and your family are well during these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic, as we are challenged as your Divan, Masons and Shriners to make difficult decisions regarding our Shrine activities.

March 18, 2020, Shriners International sent all 197 Potentates and Recorders a memorandum clarifying the activities regarding questions that have arisen related to what a Shrine Temple should do in response to their Grand Master taking action related to "masonic activities" within their jurisdiction.

Shriners International believes it is in the best interests of the Shrine, our Members and the Masons within the jurisdiction, to have the Shrine Temple adopt any restrictions on activities provided by the Grand Master of their State. This approach provides clarity and consistency throughout Freemasonry within a jurisdiction. It also promotes unity of action and demonstrates Shrine support of the Grand Lodge.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Messages from the Divan -----	2
Chief of Staff Message -----	3
TASC -----	4
Patrol Unit -----	4
The Alchemist Unit -----	5
Imperial Session Update -----	6
Social Distancing -----	6

**NO STATED MEETING
FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

From The Arabian Staff



We want to wish all the mothers in our Arabia Shrine Temple a very Happy Mother's Day! You guys do so much for us. Thank you for all that you guys do!

The Arabian

The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

P.O. Box 420549
Houston, Texas 77242 or
10510 Harwin Drive
Houston, Texas 77036
Telephone: 713 664 3437
Fax: 713 664 3439
www.arabiashriners.org

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 PM, M-F

ARABIA SHRINE CENTER DIVAN

Ruben Robles (Bea) Potentate
Rick Peña (Naomi) Chief Rabban
Ralph "Corky" Bynum (Ruthann) Assistant Rabban
Eddie O. Reed (Marty) High Priest and Prophet
Bobby Hyde (Jamie) Oriental Guide
Dennie Jackson (Elaine) Treasurer
John Olivarri, P.P.(Grace) Recorder

IMPERIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Jerry Gantt, P. P. Past Imperial Potentate
Ruben Robles Potentate
Rick Peña Chief Rabban
Ralph "Corky" Bynum Assistant Rabban
Eddie O. Reed High Priest & Prophet

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michael Hatley 2018-2020
Ben LaBlanc 2018-2020
Travis Aldridge 2019-2021
Albert (Bubba) Hyde 2019-2021
Stephen Aganan 2020-2022
John "JJ" Johnson 2020-2022

ARABIA CIRCUS OFFICE

Telephone 713 664 3437

Rick Peña Circus Chairman

ARABIA BUSINESS OFFICE

Telephone 713-664-3437

Melissa Freeman Office
mfreeman@shriners-houston.org
Grace Olivarri Office
grace.olivarri@shriners-houston.org

THE ARABIAN

Maynard Fernando Chief Editor
Stephen Aganan Graphic Designer/Editor
Michael Paul McDaniel Photographer

The Arabian Newsletter 2020

SHRINE CLUBS

BAYTOWN Robert "Bobby" Wilson 713 539 8584	HOBBY Jeffrey Lewis 713 857 5927	SAN JACINTO David Hankins 713 898 7016
BRAZOS VALLEY Charles Lee 281 636 4193	LAKE HOUSTON Jack Morrison 281 798 3289	SOUTHEAST James Gorden 281 216 8053
BRENHAM Keith Killgore 979 777 8606	MONTGOMERY Jonathan Ramirez 936 232 4551	TOMBALL James Leigh 281 546 6273
COLORADO VALLEY Glenn Leist 361 594 3643	NEW CANEY Joe Melton 281 689 6377	WALLER John McGaughy 281 770 5499
FORT BEND Henry Gonzales 281 799 2045	SAM HOUSTON Michael Dowden 936 662 0327	WESTSIDE David Frishman 281 391 2589

SHRINE UNITS

ALCHEMIST James Fristoe 512 525 9044	DIRECTOR'S STAFF Albert Hyde 832 266 8650	ORIENTAL BAND Camdon Lipe 832 435 0138
ARABIAN KNIGHTS Rene Quinones 713 552 5544	GOLFERS Tony Macias, PP 281 685 5929	PATROL Mike Sevilla 832 434 2228
BOWLERS Rick Gallier 713 829 1957	GREETERS Willie Rodriguez 832 278 5484	PROVOST GUARD David Ashley, PP 281 650 7455
CIRCUS ROUSTABOUTS Dale Dickman 936 581 3347	HOT RODS Paul Weber 713 899 7035	SHENANIGANS Russell Mayfield 281 426 7432
CLOWN JEWELS Marvin Lutz 713 417 5783	LEGION OF HONOR Alvaro Alvarado 832 701 9989	SPORTSMEN John Calhoun 210 669 8246
	MOTOR CORPS Larris Nolan, PP 281 830 4611	

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

by **Illustrious Sir Ruben Robles**
(continued from frontpage)

If a Grand Master cancels all masonic activities in a jurisdiction, Shriners International encourages Temples, Clubs and Units to abide by his ruling.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Paul Underwood of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas has sent a Proclamation on April 27, 2020 with a directive that every Master Mason received, suspending all Masonic activities only to hold elections and installation with strict guidelines.

As Potentate of Arabia Shrine, it is my intention to abide by this proclamation and suspend all Arabia Shrine Stated Meetings, Units and Shrine Clubs Meetings, including "in person" fundraisers, until further notice by the Potentate.

We will continue to meet through Zoom as we have been doing, as of last month, which has been very effective. I encourage all Units and Shrine Clubs to conduct your Zoom meetings this month by Contacting Chief of Staff, Dale Dickman, with the Units contacting Colonel Jim Clark and Shrine Clubs contact Chief Ambassador, Richard Ventrca, to schedule your Zoom meeting as indicated on the Temple calendar.

On May 18th at 6:30 PM, Arabia Shrine Center will conduct our regular Stated Meeting through Zoom with several Guest speakers. Your Recorder, Illustrious Sir John Olivarri, with the assistance of Chief Administrator Thad Miner will host this meeting. They will send an invitation for your RSVP. Your reply is necessary if you plan on attending as there is a lot of work to put these meetings together.

I want to wish a safe and Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers from our Shrine family.

Yours in the Faith,

Ruben Robles
Potentate
Arabia Shriners

FROM THE CHIEF RABBAN'S SEAT

by **Noble Rick Peña**

I hope that this article finds each of you, your Lady and your family and friends all doing well. This Coronavirus - COVID-19 still has each of us at home more than we want to be. In talking to several of you we're all doing household chores that needed to be done for quite some time. I believe that most of us wish we could be elsewhere, but according to our Medical Doctors and Specialists, we are where we need to be. In the meantime, your DIVAN is only a phone call, text or email away. Please reach out to us if you need anything.

"Please Mark Your Calendars" for Saturday, August 22, 2020, for our Circus fundraiser themed Carnival festival, silent and live auction at Arabia Shrine Center. This is going to be a fun filled day beginning at 1:00 p.m. Our Silent Action begins at 12:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. Our very own Arabia Temple Auctioneer - Noble Dan Walker will begin our Live Action at 5:30 p.m. We will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, popcorn and sodas. I would like to ask each Club and Unit if they will sponsor a game such as: Dunking Booth, Cake Booth, Coke Ring Toss, Fishing, Throw the Football Through a Tire, Basketball Toss, or any game you can think of. Please send me your game idea so it can be marked as "taken". As you can tell this will be a day of Fun and Fellowship. Please plan to invite Your Family, Your Friends, Neighbors, Lodge Brothers, Church Members, etc. Let us know and we can pick up your silent or live auction items.

I am committed to the Temple, the Nobles and their Ladies, our hospitals and our children. We, as your DIVAN are here to work for you, so please get with us with ideas and or concerns. Some of these ideas could take someone like yourself to step up and help, but don't let that stop you with your ideas.

I'm only a phone call or email away, so call me at 713 545 9204 or email me at with any questions that I may be able to help you with. Please leave me a message with your name and a call back number, and I will call you back as soon as I can.

Sincerely,
Rick Peña
Chief Rabban and
2020 General Circus Chairman



LOOKING ON AS THE ASSISTANT RABBAN

by Noble Corky Bynum

It has been pretty quiet around here. I have enjoyed keeping up with many of you through Zoom and I hope to continue seeing you all participating as best as we can until we can come together again. My lady, Ruth Ann, and I pray for everyone's continued safety and health. If there is anything that I can do to be of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you all for everything you do to support our Arabia Shrine Center and the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Yours in the Faith,

Corky Bynum
Assistant Rabban

THE ORIENTAL GUIDE'S OUTLOOK

by Noble Bobby Hyde

At this time we are in a different time than any of us have ever been through before. The good thing is things are starting to open up again and that gives us a light at the end of the tunnel that we hopefully soon will be able to meet in person again.

As always, we are still working on membership and try to grow Arabia. Just a reminder if you have not paid your dues, you can still contact the Shrine Center and pay the dues. If you are having a hardship right now feel, free to reach out to me and we will see what we do to help you.

Bobby Hyde
Oriental Guide

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HIGH PRIEST AND PROPHET

by Noble Eddie O. Reed

Here we are again waiting for the Stay at Home Order to be lifted. I know everyone is anxious to get out and about, so am I. Sounds like May 1, 2020 we will be allowed to do just that with some limitations. I'm ready.

I received a call this past Monday from the Past Commander at Willis. They are canceling the Chili Cook-Off for 2020 and will pick it back up next year. Put those special recipes up in a good place.

I haven't heard anything from my contact on the concerts. I assume since she gets her direction from Imperial that the Imperial Potentate will most likely make the call. Of course, that depends on the bands and the venue's acceptance. The two concerts still on schedule for us to assist with CD sales are:

- August 13, 2020, Cynthia Woods Pavilion "Breaking Benjamin"
- September 12, 2020, Cynthia Woods Pavilion "Foreigner"

I'll keep you posted on the schedule as I'm updated.

I want to share this to you "[I Believe](#)".

As the Journey Continues,
Eddie O. Reed
High Priest & Prophet

FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF

by Noble Dale Dickman

Hope that everyone is safe - I don't know about you but I am tired of the quarantine and social distancing, and the disruption that goes with it all. Having said that, I also want to enjoy fellowship with you again as well - so I guess I will continue to follow the guidance. To that end, the use of our "video-conference" tool seems to be a great idea and is at least allowing the members of our Units and Clubs to continue to meet, take care of business, and plan for that comes after the virus. I hope you continue to use it throughout the Spring and Summer.

I would encourage you to plan for the late Summer and Fall activities - we all know that you can't just snap your fingers and make something happen, and if we wait until the quarantine is lifted to begin planning for an event - it may not happen the way you want it to! By the way - Circus Roustabouts will have their Annual Meeting (at the Temple) on 22 August (time to be announced) - for the purpose of electing officers for the 2021 Circus.

Stay Safe,

Dale Dickman
Chief of Staff

INSIDE VIEW OF THE TOMBALL AREA SHRINER CLUB (TASC)

by Noble Jim Leigh

What do you get when you combine people who want to make a difference, a Texas town outside Houston, and the Shriner mission to help children? The answer is the TASC - Tomball Area Shiner Club. We are a group of Nobles and families that meet monthly every fourth Thursday.

We started 2020 with several fun celebrations during our meetings. We took time in our meetings to thank Travis and Nikki Aldridge for serving faithfully over the past three years as our President. In addition, we held a basket raffle at our meeting raising over \$150. The basket was presented to our Potentate Ruben Robles and his First Lady Bea as a thank you for their service to our Arabia Shiners across the greater Houston area. We are thrilled to welcome two new sets of members Ben LeBlanc and Lady Alissa along with Marvin Lutz and Lady Cindy.

Our Club celebrated one of our members obtaining a position with the Divan, Robert (Bobbie) Hyde and Lady Jamie as Oriental Guide. Also, Richard and Lady Mary Jane Ventrca as Chief Ambassador, John Hinders and Lady Jackie as TASC Ambassador, and Albert (Bubba) Hyde and Lady Glenda Hyde serve on the Board of Trustees joining Travis Aldridge in his 2nd year.

What's coming up for our Club is our first ever meeting in May held over the computer using Zoom. We continue planning our flagship activity, Christmas in July. In late July, our TASC members will travel to the Shriners Hospital for Burned Children in Galveston. As a result of Tracy and my participation over the last several years, the comments "it is all about the children" has taken on a much stronger meaning.

My hope is that everyone is doing well. As Nobles, we are designed to be an important part of our community and Shriners' activities. It has been very hard to stay at home during this crisis. But after 60 days and counting this will only make our next meeting even more special.

PATROL'S FIRST ZOOM STATED MEETING

by Noble Captain Michael P. Sevilla

After hibernation for more than two months, Patrol had its first virtual meeting amidst the lockdown, social distancing, and stay home orders. Last April 27, 6:30PM, we opened the virtual meeting with the attendees enumerated below. A prayer was offered by Noble Randy Carter and Social Lt. Art Valdez led the pledge of allegiance to the US and Texas flags. After the introduction, the Captain checked with the members who have been ill. The Captain wished everyone good health and gave everyone a chance to say hello and give updates. It was good to see some of the members of Divan and Patrol, staying safe and fit. Noble Greg mentioned we will prepare for next year's TSA drill competition. Social Lt. Art Valdez reported he and the Military Lt. John Randy Morgan have been coordinating to have sumptuous meals during stated meetings, hopefully SOON!

A few weeks ago, it was voted upon by the Texas Shrine Association leadership to cancel the TSA 2020 in Amarillo. Illustrious John MacDonald, from his new home in Omaha, mentioned there will be no Bones and Victory Party this year. The Drillmen miss the practices and more especially will miss the camaraderie and the competition at the TSA. The Illustrious Potentate reported that Imperial Session will be postponed at a later date.

Continued on next page

NOTICE OF STATED MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next regular scheduled stated meeting of Arabia Temple that will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm via Zoom is **CANCELED...**

John V. Olivvari, PP
Recorder

Ruben Robles
Potentate

The Arabian

We thank the Arabia Shrine Leadership for providing the virtual meeting access and we look forward to the next month's virtual stated meeting, unless the precautions have been lifted.

From the virtual meeting, the Nobility miss everyone and the events at the Shrine Center. Our Illustrious Potentate Ruben vowed to have a BIG party after we are back from our normal lives.

Attendees were: Illustrious Ruben Robles - Potentate; Noble Corky Bynum - Assistant Rabban; Noble Dennie Jackson - Treasurer, Past Captain & Past President; Illustrious John Olivarri, PP - Recorder & Past Captain; Noble Jim Clark - Colonel; Illustrious John McDonald - PP & Past Captain; Noble Henry Gonzales - Membership Chairman & Past Captain; Noble Michael P. Sevilla - Captain; Noble Art Valdez - Social Lt.; Noble Greg Edmonds - Drill Lt.; Noble James Gorden - Past Captain; Noble Mack Bagwell - Past Captain & Past President; Noble Randy Carter, Noble Otto Akers, Noble Maynard Fernando, Noble Danny Baula, Noble Titus Madria & Noble June Tala.

ARABIA ALCHEMISTS

by Noble James Fristoe

The Alchemists unit has been on lock down since March (like everyone else!), but we haven't let that slow us down. Our Unit is ready and rearing to go, still keeping our focus on brewing great beer, helping make Arabia the best Temple in Texas, teaching young Masons their work, and making new Nobles.

We have had great success this year already. We hosted our Annual Chili Cook-Off, and a good time was had by all.



We were able to hold down the fort at our IHOP location this year as well. It was an absolute delight working with such dedicated employees and spreading the word about Shriners!



We have been hosting several stated meetings, as well as a social get together, on Zoom. It has been great to see all our brothers and keep in touch in these interesting times. It never ceases to entertain!



In preparation for our brew competition, we had already brewed three of our four beers (the last one is waiting



patiently in the room, ready for us to get brewing). Our wine was already a success internally, with Noble Jason Macik outdoing himself.

Our competition may have been postponed, but we will still get the chance to compete once our state organization

Continued on next page

The Arabian



(Texas State Home Brewers Association) sets the new competition date. We will be sure to update Arabia on the event, we want to see everyone out there!

Please feel free to come out to any of our stated meetings (1st Friday of

the month), we are a well-rounded group of brothers always looking for more folks to come and have a great time with us!

IMPERIAL SESSION UPDATE by Imperial Sir Jeffrey L. Sowder

Dear Nobles,

Based on data and opinions of public health experts and community officials, Shriners International has cancelled its 2020 Imperial Session, scheduled for July 2020, in Kansas City. In determining whether the 2020 Imperial Session could be responsibly held, the perspective of Shriners International was to take a global vision with local focus. The Imperial Session is truly an annual international gathering at one physical location. The Imperial Divan, the 2020 Convention Corporation, and the staff of Shriners International closely monitored developments and worked closely with the Kansas City Health Department in planning the 2020 Imperial Session. This planning was always undertaken with the hope and expectation that the convention would proceed, as long as it was reasonably safe to do so, based upon the trajectory of the Coronavirus and governmental quarantine and/or stay at home orders, actions based upon data and opinions provided by public health professionals.

Based on the information provided by public health professionals and recent governmental extension of existing public health orders, Shriners International determined that the safety of attendees and the safety of the community could not reasonably be provided on or before the start of the 2020 Imperial Session in Kansas City and therefore canceled the 2020 convention, due to the impossibility of safely hosting it.

Imperial Sir and First Lady, Jeff and Cheryl Sowder, are extremely sorry that they will not be able to personally welcome Shriners from all over the world to celebrate fun and fellowship in Kansas City. They have dreamed and planned for more than a decade to have Shriners join them for an incredible experience in Kansas City. While the worldwide pandemic prevents us from meeting in Kansas City and renewing our acquaintances, it does not prevent us from renewing our commitment to the important work of the Shrine.

Additional information related to governance issues for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children, in the absence of the respective annual meetings of each corporation, will be provided in the near future.

In spite of our disappointment, Shriners are encouraged to stay safe, stay strong, and stay involved with everything we can do now in preparation for doing more in the future.

Yours in the faith,

Jeffrey L. Sowder
Imperial Potentate

WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING? Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

When COVID-19 is spreading in your area, everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Visit www.cdc.gov for more information