

The Arabian

The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

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Ralph "Corky" Bynum (Ruthann) Assistant Rabban
Eddie O. Reed (Marty) High Priest and Prophet
Bobby Hyde (Jamie) Oriental Guide
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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)

will give their recommendations to the Divan at the August Board Meeting for approval. As you all know, the Shrine Center is 78,000 square feet and because of Covid-19, the Shrine Center remains closed because it is impossible to disinfect and is not safe to meet for our Shrine family and for rentals to the public.

Because of Governor Gregg Abbott mandate on June 3rd of Stage 2 allowing restaurants to open at 50 percent capacity, I have allowed the Clubs and Units to meet at a restaurant during the summer months. Units and Clubs are encourage to meet at a restaurant that will allow a large attendance of Nobles and Ladies. Please coordinate with Chief of Staff Dale Dickman and Colonel Jim Clark or Chief Ambassador Richard Ventrca, so I can have a Divan member attend your meetings. This will allow more of the Clubs and Units members to attend or you can continue with the Zoom Meetings.

As we gradually start to meet again, please take every precaution to wear your mask and use social distancing. Be safe during the summer break.

Ruben Robles
Potentate 2020
Arabia Shriners
Houston, TX

FROM THE CHIEF RABBAN'S SEAT

by **Noble Rick Peña**

Come one, come all - there is a carnival coming to town! Join us for a family day of fun. We are looking forward to spending quality time with you, your families and our community! As you know our Circus had to be canceled so we are looking forward to having a festival to help raise funds for the Temple. There will be food, games, bouncy houses and more. If your unit or club would like to sponsor an event, please let our 2020 Circus Chairman, Rick Peña know. We will

also have a silent auction, live auction and passing of the crowbar.

Your event can be something that you think up, or we have a few ideas. The idea is for us to HAVE FUN. This will not require much on the club or units part to put together, we will do the set up. You will just need to furnish the supplies needed for the event. For example, sack race - supply the sacks. We will cover the tables, tickets, prizes and signage. Booths will be set up inside with the exception of a few outside.

Booths Already Sponsored:

Dunk Booth - Baytown Shrine Club
Food - Director's Staff
Elote/Roasted Corn - Legion of Honor
Cake Booth - Daughters of the Nile
Corn Hole Toss - Alchemists
Balloon Pop - Clown Jewels
Egg Race - Tomball Shrine Club
Face Painting - Marty & Sandy Rodriguez
Wheel of Fortune - Henry & Ceci Gohlke

Booth Ideas Open for Sponsors:

Pony Rides
Bouncy House
Skee Ball (labeled buckets, ping pong balls)
Shooting Gallery (bookshelf or ladder, targets, nerf guns)
Hole-in-One - putters and balls (the hole-in-one green is already provided)
Giant Connect 4 (large piece of fabric, blanket, tablecloth, 2 different color plates, velcro)
Duck Booth (large tub or water basin, rubber ducks)
Tick Tack Toe Toss (tennis balls, cloth backdrop, velcro, tape)
Hula Hoop Toss (hula hoops, helium filled balloons, strings, adhesive)
Ring Toss (upcycled bottles, rings) or anything you can think of!

Saturday, August 22nd @ Arabia Shrine Center
Games & Silent Auction - 1pm to 5pm with Live Auction to follow at 5:30 pm

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Yours in Faith,
Rick Peña
Chief Rabban
2020 Circus Chairman



ARABIA SHRINERS PRESENTS

SHRINE CIRCUS FESTIVAL

August 22, 2020

2020

ARABIA SHRINE CIRCUS

A DAY FILLED WITH FUN AND GAMES

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST PHILANTHROPY

| | |
|---|---|
| ARABIA SHRINE TEMPLE 10510 HARWIN DRIVE HOUSTON, TEXAS | GAMES & SILENT AUCTION: 1 - 5 PM LIVE AUCTION: 5:30 PM |
|---|---|

Donations are Not Tax Deductible and Benefit Arabia Shrine Center
For more information please call 713 664 3437 or visit www.arabiashrinecircus.com

LOOKING ON AS THE ASSISTANT RABBAN

by Noble Corky Bynum

I hope this article finds all of you doing well. It has been a pleasure to have been able to interact with so many of you on Zoom. I want to thank everyone that has come to the Shrine Center to help pass out food. What a great way for us to serve our community! My Lady Ruth Ann and I are looking forward to seeing everyone as things begin to open up and we can once again meet together! Until then, please stay safe and 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 Shriners' Children.

Yours in the Faith,
Corky Bynum
Assistant Rabban

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 June 1, 2020 we will be allowed to do just that with some restrictions.

I'm sure my associates on the Divan will cover the "Farmers to Families" effort in great detail. It's been fun, and we provided a lot of food for those in need.

The Imperial representative for the concerts has contacted me and we are officially canceled for the year. The only events on the calendar that have been authorized at this time are the Arabian Knights Cook off on October 11, 2020 and a Circus Festival on August 22, 2020, this one should be great fun for everyone.

We are needing some assistance with one of our projects at the Shrine Center. Our food truck known as "Big AL" is in need of blasting and painting on the exterior. If you know of anyone who could help us out with this repair please contact me. The truck is mobile and can be taken to their site.

Please continue your CDC recommendations for the Covid-19 virus.

As the Journey Continues,

Eddie O. Reed
High Priest & Prophet
eoreed48@aol.com
713-542-3231

THE ORIENTAL GUIDE'S OUTLOOK

by Noble Bobby Hyde

This month has been a great month for Arabia Shrine. We have brought in new Nobles and had some of our old Nobles come to get their membership restored. As we go through this time with our city starting to reopen.

I would like all of our members to remember that if you know any brother that might be interested in the Shrine to take time to talk to them and see if they would want to join the Nobility. The membership team is working hard to get new Nobles but I would like to remind everyone that all Nobles are part of the membership team. If you need any help, feel free to reach out to the membership team or myself, we are always here to help. I am glad to see our nobility has been looking for new Nobles during the Covid-19 issues, because it shows no matter what, Arabia's Nobility is always working on growing Arabia's membership.

My Lady and myself are looking forward to seeing everyone again. You all stay safe and remember that we are here for anything you need.

Bobby Hyde
Oriental Guide

FROM THE RECORDER

by Illustrious Sir John V. Olivarri, PP

Before you read my message, I want everyone to think about all the good times you have had at the Shrine Center working together. . Now that you have a smile on your face and cannot decide which time was better, let us see what we need to do to get back to those days. I guess we can start by putting some days on your calendar. By now everyone should know we will not be doing a circus.

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But your Chief Rabban and his Lady have not given up. Rick is planning to have a carnival to bring us back and have some old fashion fun. That will happen on August 22, 2020 and needs all Units and Clubs to pitch in.

Next, you can put September 27, 2020 that is when the Assistant Rabban and his Lady will host the 2021 circus kick-off. By now, you can see where this is going. Yes, while all the city is sleeping, your Divan is thinking about making Arabia Shrine stronger. The COVID-19 has hit the city hard and all of us are doing what we are told to do. The last two weeks, Arabia Shrine has given out food and milk to those in need. The Nobles, Ladies, Past Potentates, and Divan have worked hard to do this. Your Chief of Staff Dale Dickman has put in many hours to make this a success. We will be doing one more on Saturday June 13, 2020. Thanks to all who have been helping.

And finally, I leave you with November 14, 2020. This is the day Arabia Shrine celebrates our First Lady's Luncheon. Yes, this is when we say thank you to First Lady Bea Robles for all her hard work to make Arabia Shrine stronger. Yes, we will always be stronger because Arabia Shrine is one hell of a team.

So, I leave you all with the definition of a team:
Together----Everyone----Accomplishes----More

Grace and I want you all to be safe and may God Bless you.

John V. Olivarri, PP
Recorder

FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF by Noble Dale Dickman

Noble Presidents & Secretaries,

First - I hope this communication finds you and your family, as well as the Nobles and their families of your Shrine Club or Unit in good health and safe. If any of your members or their families are ill, please remember to notify the Shrine Office so that we can get the word out, and add them to the prayer list.

Second - The Shrine Center remains CLOSED in accordance with the Grand Master's proclamation; however,

1. The Potentate knows that most of the Clubs and Units go "dark" during the summer and we have been "dark" since March - but there is nothing that says you can't meet during the summer months either! Accordingly, the Potentate is encouraging Shrine Clubs to resume their normal meetings in restaurants. Fellowship is a key component and besides you have Club or Unit business to take care of.
2. The Potentate is also encouraging Shrine Units to meet in restaurants as well, as their normal meeting location (Shrine Center is CLOSED).
3. The Potentate reminds everyone that during meeting, you should be mindful of the Grand Master's proclamation, and accordingly practice "social distancing", and wear a mask etc. Pictures are okay - but PLEASE remember that the picture should reflect that we (as Masons and Shriners) are complying with the Grand Master's direction - so be careful what you post to social media!
4. Should you desire to meet on a date different than your normally scheduled meeting - the Potentate will approve that change. Please notify me, when you schedule a meeting, so that we can note the change of meeting date.
5. Also, please provide me the date, time, and location of the meeting as the Potentate desires to have a member (one Couple) of the Divan attend your meetings.

Third - The Potentate is also encouraging Shrine Clubs & Units to participate in parades during the summer and fall. The Colonel will distribute information regarding "know" Parades/Activities; however, if you know of a parade is in your local area, please let the Colonel (Jim Clark, 936-443-3561 [jimclarkpe@gmail.com] know about it so he can sign Arabia Shrine up and get the word out to the other Units and Clubs.

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NO MEETINGS FOR THE SUMMER

John V. Olivarri, PP
Recorder

Ruben Robles
Potentate

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Fourth – The Grand Master has allowed a very limited exception to allow Blue Lodges (that meet in the Shrine Center to do so) to meet for stated meetings, elections and installation. The limitations address the number of people who may attend, social distancing, masks, etc.

Fifth – I really appreciate all the help, from the Nobility (and their Ladies) and some of the Blue Lodges with the “Farmers to Families” program, which has allowed Arabia Shriners to distribute more than 53,200 lbs. of produce (apples, strawberries, iceberg lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, onions, carrots, squash) and 200 gallons of milk to those in need. The program is still going, although we are ONLY doing distribution on Saturday – I expect the program will continue through the end of the month. We are scheduled to distribute 1,600 boxes this coming Saturday! If any of your members want to help just come on out to the Temple at about 8 AM – we are normally done by 11 AM. Also, if any of your Unit or Club members, any Mason, members of your Church, or anyone in your community needs help – come on by, and pick-up some boxes – remember to come early as it goes fast!

Finally – the Potentate, and I sincerely appreciate everything you and your Unit or Club do – please let us know if we can help your Unit or Club in any way! By the way, the Circus Chairman is hosting a Carnival at the Temple (assuming the Temple is open by then) on August 22nd – please see the Arabian for more information, or contact Rick Peña directly.

Fraternally,
Dale Dickman
Chief of Staff

SHRINE CLUB UPDATE by Noble Richard Ventrca

I hope and trust that all is well with you and your families, as we tread through these uncharted waters. This has been a year filled with twists and turns that we could have never predicted. The good news is that we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel, and it looks like our lives are on tract to return to normal, or some version of a normal life.

The Shrine Center remains closed to all activity;

however, the Clubs have been cleared to start meeting in restaurants, with a couple of rules we must follow:

1. The Potentate reminds everyone that when meeting you should be mindful of the Grand Master’s proclamation, and accordingly practice “social distancing”, and wear a mask etc. Pictures are okay – but PLEASE remember that the picture should reflect that we (as Masons and Shriners) are complying with the Grand Master’s direction – so be careful what you post to social media!
2. Should you desire to meet on a date different than your normally scheduled meeting – the Potentate will approve that change. Please notify the Chief of Staff, when you schedule a meeting, so that we can note the change of meeting date.
3. Also, please provide the Chief of Staff the date, time, and location of the meeting as the Potentate desires to have a member (one Couple) of the Divan attend your meetings.

My Lady Mary Jane and I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Fraternally,
Richard Ventrca
Chief Ambassador

CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE by Noble Dale Dickman

These Nobles and their Ladies demonstrated what being a Noble and a Shriner is all about! In 5 days, beginning on May 19th, we have distributed more than 53,200 lbs. of produce and 200 gallons of milk. We are scheduled to distribute another 24,700 lbs. next Saturday (June 6th) – you are more than welcome to come on out and help!

I want to thank all of those who I listed below for their generous help, and if I have missed your name I humbly apologize – let me know and I will add you to the list.

Corky & Ruth Ann Bynum, Shawn & Liz Trader, Laris Nolan, Charles & Terri Gregory, Richard & Mary Jane Ventrca, Rick & Julie Gallier, Jim Owens, Bobby & Mary Wilson, Eddie & Marty Reed, Rick & Olga Villarreal, Sam Prudencho, Martin Reyes, Ruben & Bea Robles, Waylon Ward, Frank Hamman, David & Sue Hankins, George Olvera, Maynard Fernando

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Alan Duncan, Robert Kirkwood, Dan & Lori Mosley, Charles Hand, Willie Rodriguez, Otto Akers, Raul Rubalcaba, Bob & Norma Parks, Bubba Hyde, Bobby & Jamie Hyde, Thad Miner, Paul Weber, Mike & Shannon McDaniel, John & Grace Olivarri, Melissa Freeman, Raul Flores, Rick & Naomi Peña, Mike Sevilla, Jason Levin, Haley Levin, Emet Abanilla, Steve Cobb, David Cantu, Frank Villanueva, Bobby Herren, Todd Smith, June Tala, Tyson Smith, Kevin Clingan, Jerry Reisinger, Wayne Ward, Darrel Burroughs, Mary Alice Owens & Friends, Eli Aparace, A.J. DiCaro, Juvy Usero, Daniel Baula, Wayne Kirkland, Mark Miller, Adrian Martinez, John & Shawna Martinez, Leon Moore, Dennis & Marilyn Brando, Jun Pedro, Reginald Antonie, Dennie & Elaine Jackson, Delbert Richardson, Henry Gonzales, Jim & Kelly Clark, Dan Morales, Stephen Aganan, Jimmy Fristoe, John Hinders, Doug Dudley, Jim Dawson, Aturel Danz, Mauricio Aurayan, Coly Byran, Charles Ho, Dan Maines, Rene Manuguid, Roger Austria, Neil Balolong, Arnel Dauz, Joey Aguado, Jay Sadsad, Titus Madria, Howard Pham and son, Paul Almanza.

Fraternally,
Dale Dickman
Chief of Staff

Photos from the event are available at
www.arabiashriners.org

IMPERIAL SESSION UPDATE

by Imperial Sir Jeffrey L. Sowder

Imperial Session Canceled April 23, 2020

Dear Nobles,

Based on data and opinions of public health experts and community officials, Shriners International has canceled 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 Corona virus 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

Visit www.cdc.gov for more information