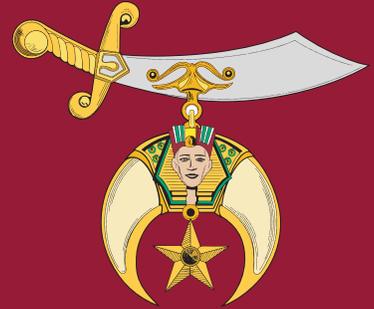


The Arabian



The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

Houston, Texas | April 2020



Illustrious Ruben Robles

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

by Illustrious Ruben Robles

Nobles and Ladies, I pray that everyone and your families are well during these difficult times. Who could have imagined that this could be possible, that the Corona virus would shut down our country's economy and change our way of life. Arabia Shrine Center will continue to stay closed to everyone until further notice from the Potentate. The Office remains open with Illustrious Sir John Olivarri, Grace and Melissa as they continue working from home by remote access.

Our first priority is the safety of our Nobility and our Shrine Families. We will not have any Shrine Unit or Club meetings in person through the month of April, only through Zoom video conference calls. The April Arabia Stated Meeting has been canceled and If we cannot meet at the Shrine Center during the month of May, we will have our Arabia Monthly

Stated Meeting using the Zoom Video conference call as described in General Order #2.

Our Imperial Potentate Jeff Sowder has issued General Order #2 which allows Shriners International to use a Video Conference call secured method to have Shrine Stated Meetings and Units and Clubs meetings.

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WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING?

by The Centers for Disease Control and 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.

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
Dennie Jackson (Elaine) Treasurer
John Olivarri, P.P.(Grace) Recorder

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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

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Ben LaBlanc 2018-2020
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Arabian Newsletter 2020

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BRENHAM Keith Killgore 979-777-8606	MONTGOMERY COUNTY Jonathan Ramirez 936-232-4551	TOMBALL James Leigh 281-546-6273
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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
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	MOTOR CORPS Larris Nolan, PP 281-830-4611	

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

by **Illustrious Ruben Robles**

(continued from frontpage)

There are several video conferencing available and Zoom is the preferred method by Shriners International. Zoom is free for 40 minutes calls and are limited to 40 people. You might hear that this service is being hacked and we choose not to use the free Zoom service.

Arabia has Purchased Zoom Pro which is a secured Video Conference Call that can allow up to 300 members and is acceptable by Shriners International under General Order #2. We will use Zoom video conferencing to conduct our Arabia monthly stated meetings and for the Units and Clubs meetings. Chief Of Staff Dale Dickman with the assistance of the Chief Administrator Thad Miner with your Potentate and Divans had individual Zoom group meetings with all the Arabia Unit/Club Presidents and Secretary's introducing them how they can conduct their meetings using the Zoom Video conference.

Effective immediately, the Units and Clubs are encouraged to have their regular stated meetings as scheduled on the Temple Calendar using the Zoom Conference Calls. The Club meetings will be hosted by the Chief Ambassador Richard Ventrca and the Unit meetings will be hosted by the Colonel Jim Clark. The Presidents, Commanders and Captains will conduct their meetings within their agenda following Temple Protocol. The Colonel and Chief Ambassador will have the ability to assign a Unit or Club officer to host their meetings, once they are familiar on how to use Zoom under General Order #2 guidelines.

Your Recorder and I with the help of an appointed committee have written an approved procedures on how the Zoom Conference will be used at Arabia Shrine as described under General Order #2. This procedure will be posted in the Arabian under the Recorders Article and will be distributed to all the Nobility, Units and Clubs. Get signed up for the free Zoom app at the App/Play Store on your iPhone/Android, Tablet or computer.

Zoom has proven to work very well, I have been in secured zoom meetings last week for 2 days, Monday and Tuesday, for 8 hours each day with the Pre-Convention Plan Committee Meeting for Imperial Session 2020 in Kansas City.

Nobles, we are facing restaurants closing and we must remember to support our local IHOP stores and buy takeout orders as they support our Hospitals for many years. It is our turn to support them during this crisis. When you go and pick up your order, wear a Shrine shirt or cap and let them know that it is Arabia Shriners turn to support them.

Nobles, remember that we are Masons and Shriners, and our obligation is to support each other especially our elderly by contacting and helping your fellow Shriner in need and also our Shrine widows. A simple phone call will brighten up someone's day. If you know of a Shriner in distressed, let your Potentate or your Divans know or call the office if they need assistance. All this information is on our website: arabiashriners.org

Yours in the Faith,

Ruben Robles
2020 Potentate
Arabia Shriners

FROM THE CHIEF

RABBAN'S SEAT

by **Noble Rick Peña**

Lady Naomi and I were devastated as well as each of you that our 2020 Circus could not take place this year. We want to say THANK YOU to everyone for the love and support you showed Lady Naomi and I as we were preparing for Circus. We are truly blessed! At Arabia, we take pride on working and preparing each year and I know we will miss it but again your health is far more important to us than Circus. Keeping our nobility, ladies and family safe is our main concern.

We are planning on having Arabia's 3rd Annual Monster Truck Show later this year in September. It is important that we keep this event going and more details will follow at a later date.

You all be safe,
Rick Peña
Chief Rabban and
2020 General Circus Chairman



LOOKING ON AS THE ASSISTANT RABBAN

by Noble Corky Bynum

I hope that this article finds you and your families healthy and safe. Lady Ruth Ann and I are doing well but miss seeing all of you. Our hope and prayer is that we will be able to see one another soon. Until then, our Illustrious Sir Ruben Robles come up a way for us to continue with our Club and Unit meetings through Zoom.

Zoom is an Internet application that gives us a way to host our meetings and conduct business. It also gives us an opportunity to see one another and connect. I encourage you to go to www.YouTube.com, watch some of the videos on how to use Zoom, if you're not familiar with it.

As you all know, my responsibility on the Divan this year is Clubs and Units. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. My email is CorkyBynum@yahoo.com and my phone number is 832-816-5681 - if I don't answer, please leave a message. I will return your call as soon as I can. I hope to see you all in person soon! Please take care and stay healthy! 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

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HIGH PRIEST AND PROPHET

by Noble Eddie Reed

I hope everyone is doing well and staying home during this crisis. I don't know about most of you but I'm pretty well caught up on most of my honey do list items. I'm not sure why but the more I accomplish, the longer the list grows. Statistically, there's something wrong with that.

I have at least one major project assignment that we had to just stop where we were at due to the shelter in place. Can't wait to get back at it and get that sense of accomplishment that drives most of us. We still have a few activities scheduled in late summer that have not been canceled at this point.

The Willis Chili Cook-Off was rescheduled to July 24-25, 2020. The Post Commander has set this date conditional upon the current health situation at the time. There are two concerts still on scheduled for us to assist with CD sales:

* 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 am updated. Just a little information on these concerts, they are a major contributor of funds for all Shrine Hospitals. There is a total of fourteen concerts whose funds go to the Houston/Galveston Hospitals. Twelve of which are performed in Texas and two in Oklahoma. When time comes, we'll need all the help we can get. You don't have to be a Shriner to assist but we are there to represent the Shrine. Wear your FEZ and let them know who we are and what we do.

I share this to you "[One Pair of Hands](#)".

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

THE ORIENTAL GUIDE'S OUTLOOK

by Noble Bobby Hyde

I have been doing some thinking since everything has slowed down in our lives due to what we are going through right now. The biggest thing it has made me realize is how much my lady and myself miss each and every single noble and their lady. We take for granted that we have the Shrine family that we have as a given sometimes but now a lot of us are realizing how important that family is. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the zoom meetings but looking forward even more for when we can actually get together in person again. If there is anything anyone is needing help with my Lady Jamie and myself are here for you. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Y'all be safe,

Bobby Hyde
Oriental Guide

FROM THE RECORDER

by **Illustrious Sir John V. Olivarri, PP**

These are trying times that have tested our families, individuals and communities. The center has been closed and will remain closed until our government gives us the OK to open. Our normal day now consists of very little contact with our friends and families. So, we have come up with a way of meeting to communicate. Attached you will see the procedure that will enable the center to have Units and Clubs Stated meetings. The Potentate has instructed us to use the application called Zoom. Our headquarters in Tampa are using it and it works well. Our main concern is that all of nobles and their families be safe. So, using this application gives us the tool to stay within the guidelines set by the local government.

Social Distancing, masks and gloves are now a way of life. Zoom allows us to see and talk to each other when having our different meetings. My Lady Grace and I pray that all of you stay safe.

YITF,
John V. Olivarri, PP
Recorder

UNIT AND CLUB MEETINGS

by **Noble Dale Dickman**

Over the last week, Potentate has hosted meetings with the leadership of Arabia Units & Clubs to introduce them to an application which allows "audio-visual" "private and secure" meetings by Shrine Units & Clubs, and ultimately Temple Stated Meeting will we all live within the constraints of "Stay-at- Home" and "Social Distancing". The idea being - to maintain FELLOWSHIP with our fellow Nobles.

We have demonstrated application for the Units & Clubs, and the Potentate is encouraging the Clubs & Units to schedule and conduct their meetings until the Corona virus restrictions are relaxed or lifted.

- Unit or Club Name
- Point of Contact with phone number
- Desired date for the meeting
- Meeting Start Time & duration of the meeting
- Statement that all who attend the meeting are "paid up" dues members of Arabia Shrine.

Once this information is received, I will assign a host for your meeting and the host will generate an invitation, forward that invitation to you for distribution to your Unit or Club members.

Remember, the only authorized users or individuals attending a meeting are required to be "PAID UP" members of Arabia.

Dale Dickman
Chief of Staff

FROM THE COLONEL

by **Noble Jim Clark**

The old saying, time will change all things has a whole new meaning since the Corona Virus (COVID-19) has come to greet the world with fear and destruction.

Life as we know it has changed forever! Who would have thought that in such a short time the world has come to a virtual standstill and the things we take for granted are lost or in jeopardy? Many people are suffering more from the effects of the restrictions than the actual virus itself. In Montgomery County, we have had 5 virus-related deaths and 7 suicides from the effects of job loss and or depression related to this pandemic.

My Brothers all is not lost! This is a test of strength and perseverance. GOD never gives us more than we can handle and He is always with us especially in times like these when it seems we can't go on. Shriners are well suited to handle diversity and challenge when things get tough is when we do our best work.

Continued on page 7

THE APRIL STATED MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELED

Please check your email and the website for updates.

John V. Olivari, PP
Recorder

Ruben Robles
Potentate

Arabia Shriners

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ARABIA SHRINE STATED MEETING ZOOM PROCEDURES

April 14, 2020

- A) Arabia Shrine Temple Stated Zoom Meeting will be the responsibility of the Recorder Illustrious Sir John Olivarri and will be hosted by the Recorder or Chief Administrator Thad Miner.
- B) The Recorder or Chief Administrator will send a Notice by Email to the Nobility of the Regular Scheduled Temple Stated meeting, two weeks in advance. Any Noble that will attend the Zoom meeting must reply by email to RSVP that they will be attending.
- C) The Recorder and Administrator will verify that all the Nobles attending the Zoom meeting are Current Paid Members of Arabia Shrine Temple.
- D) Once the Recorder or Chief Administrator approves the RSVP list, he will send an invitation to the approved list. Then 48 hours before the scheduled meeting, the Zoom Invitation (with the Zoom ID: Number with the Password) will be sent.
- E) Thirty (30) minutes before the Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting starts, the Recorder or Chief Administrator with the assistance of his office will accept the approved list of Nobles to the scheduled Arabia Shrine Stated zoom meeting and allow the Nobles to be accepted into the Zoom meeting.

Ruben Robles

Potentate
Ruben Robles

John V. Olivarri

Recorder
John V. Olivarri

Rick Peña
Chief Rabban

Corky Bynum
Assistant Rabban

Eddie Reed
High Priest & Prophet

Robert Hyde
Oriental Guide

Dennie Jackson
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TEMPLE UNITS AND CLUBS ZOOM MEETING PROCEDURES

April 14, 2020

- A) Units and Clubs will conduct regular scheduled meetings as indicated on the Temple Calendar.
- B) The Unit and Club Secretary will email an invitation to their members one week prior to the scheduled meeting for all to RSVP if they will attend the Zoom meeting.
- C) When the Secretary receives the RSVPs, he will send this list to the Recorder's office to get confirmation that everyone on the list is a current Arabia Shrine Temple Dues paid member. This is only done once a year until the Secretary creates a current paid member list approved by the Recorder's office.
- D) 24 hours before the scheduled Zoom meeting, an invitation will be sent by the Host to the approved Unit or Club Arabia Shrine Temple paid members with the Zoom meeting ID # and Password. The time and date will be sent by email to the Unit and Club members for the current scheduled meeting that week.
- E) Colonel Jim Clark or Chief Ambassador Richard Ventrca will be responsible to host the regular meetings for their Units or Clubs by the direction and approval from Chief of Staff Dale Dickman with the assistance from Chief Administrator Thad Miner. The Colonel or Chief Ambassador may assign a temporary host from the Unit or Club for a scheduled meeting he desires with proper approval.

Ruben Robles
Potentate 2020
Ruben Robles

John V. Olivari
Recorder
John V. Olivari

Rick Peña
Chief Rabban

Corky Bynum
Assistant Rabban

Eddie Reed
High Priest & Prophet

Robert Hyde
Oriental Guide

Dennie Jackson
Treasurer

The Arabian

Take time to help a Brother, Widow, Noble or Neighbor in need! A phone call, a hot meal or a bag of groceries. A letter or a card to brighten someone's day may mean more than you will ever know. Make a difference today! Our whole mission in life is to help others and it is what we do best! So step up and take charge of our duty and do what others won't. Be proud to be a Shriner and know that we will make a difference every day! Yes, this is a call to action, let's make this happen!

Jim Clark
Colonel

SHRINE CLUB UPDATE by Noble Richard Ventrca

What a difference a month can make!! We started off the year with a bang. We completed two official visits before the virus made its appearance and shut our lives down. Unfortunately, most of us are in the "high risk" bracket, which makes it even more important to take the recommended precautions. However, that doesn't mean that we cannot be active in other ways. We should use this time to stay in touch with our Brothers and do what we can to assist them as our abilities will allow. Most of all, we should be in prayer for the health and healing of our nation, our hospitals, first responders, military and fellow Nobles. No one knows the time it will take for our normal lives to resume but when it does, it will be important to get back involved with our respective Clubs. We will have a lot of catching up to do and it will be important for us all to do our part.

Fraternally,
Richard Ventrca
Chief Ambassador

HOT RODS APRIL 2020 by Noble Paul Weber

The Hot Rods like everyone else is locked at home unable to participate in any activities. The Hot Rods favorite thing is parades and we missed going to several parades including the two St. Patrick's Day Parades, the Brenham May Fest Parade, the Weimar Parade and the Splendora Parade. We have our front wheels crossed (fingers) in hopes for Fourth of July Parade.

We have one car available for a new member, so if anyone is interested we would love to have you. Keep your distance one car length from each other. Please stay safe, healthy and God Bless.

Any Noble desiring information about becoming an Arabia Hot Rod, please contact any Hot Rod or give our Captain a call 713-899-7035. Under normal conditions, our meeting day is the first Thursday of each Month with a simple dinner at 6:00 pm and meeting at 7:00 pm. Please join us in the Unit Room at Arabia Temple.

Paul Weber
Captain 2020

HOT RODS MARCH 2020

2020 has started as a wonderful year for the Hot Rods. The Conroe Parade started the year off with six cars present for the Parade along with many other units. Two of our Parades were canceled due to the virus our country is facing. We now have twelve Hot Rods in the lineup with one being without a driver, anyone interested could get in a car immediately if they desire to be part of the "Pride of Arabia".

Paul Webber had our Potentate and his Lady as our special guest for the March meeting. Illustrious Sir Ruben Robles presented an open discussion with all Hot Rods present. Several members committed to a possible return to TSMPA in June with the help of Illustrious Sir and the Temple. All Hot Rod Members should consider supporting the Unit in this important task. After a well-planned pot luck dinner, the meeting was called and all members and guest were dismissed after a thoughtful Prayer.

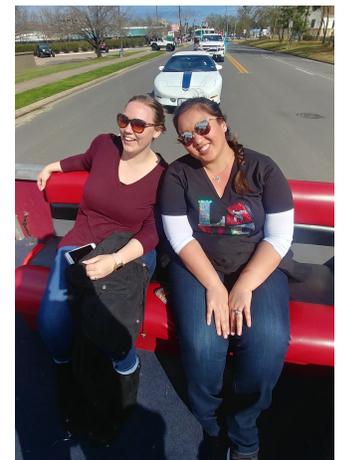
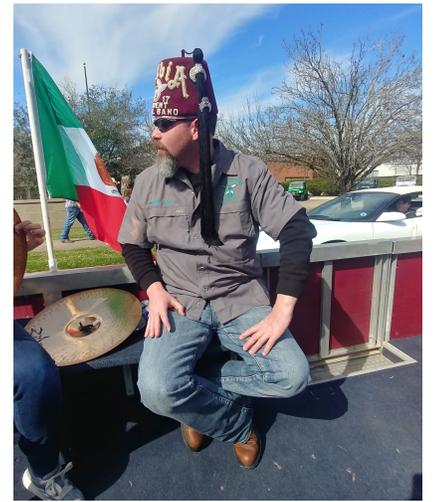
The Hot Rods still have many Parades lined up for the year, with the help of Paul Webber and Jim Clark, we may have more Parades this year than ever before. Know of a Parade we might like to attend, please let Paul Webber know about it. We are looking to show our colors this year in support of our Hospitals and our Temple.

If you have any interest in joining a Unit in the Arabian Shrine, please consider the Arabia Hot Rods, "The Pride of Arabia". For information contact any Hot Rod or call Paul Webber, Captain of Arabia Hot Rods at 713 899 7035.



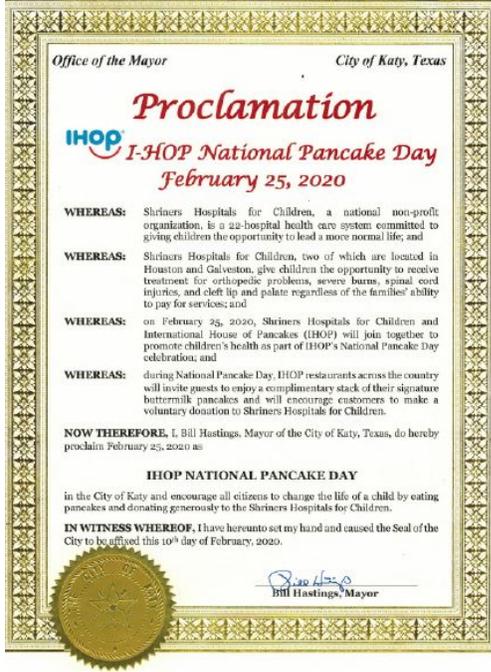
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ORIENTAL BAND UNIT



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WESTSIDE SHRINE CLUB



Westside Shrine Club encouraged people to participate in IHOP National Pancake Day to raise money for the Shriners Hospitals for Children at the IHOP Restaurant located in 19989 Katy Freeway at Fry Road. Led by Jeff Buchanan, club members encouraged customers to support the 22 Shriners Hospitals while IHOP donated free pancake stacks from 7am to 7pm. Club members from left are Keith Borst, Jeff Buchanan and David David Frishman.



SHRINERS 5TH ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE

**RAFFLE WILL RUN FROM
February through
July, 2020**

**WHERE
Drawings Held on
4/23, 5/28, 6/25, 7/23
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT!!!**

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT:

MICHAEL DEFRANCE – 936-718-2113

Tickets Only \$10 Each

Donations are not tax deductible
Proceeds Benefit Montgomery County Shrine Club Programs
Winners must be of lawful age to own a firearm

APRIL DRAWING



Taurus G3 9mm

May Drawing



Taurus 856 .38 Sp.

June Drawing



Ruger AR-15

July Drawing



Mossberg Shockwave

*Reminder if your
ticket is drawn it
is re-entered*