

Saladin



News

April 2010 Issue

Saladin Shrine, 4200 Saladin Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546 Phone (616) 942-1570 Fax (616) 942-6374

From the Potentate's Desk

In retrospect...For the Nobles unable to attend the February Stated Meeting, I would like to offer a brief summary of where we are in the decision of how best to have a place which meets our Fraternal/Operational needs and best stabilizes the financial future of our Temple.

Information regarding how Imperial Laws impact this decision making process was given out and discussed. There are procedural guidelines which govern this process which address what can be done and how it is to be done. Information on the option of moving back to the downtown Masonic Building was brought to the Nobility by multiple presenters as well as informational handouts.

The floor was then opened for discussion of what had been presented with several Nobles coming to the floor to participate in the discussion. I feel this option has been thoroughly discussed

Preliminary information was given out on the option of leasing/buying/constructing a building which fits our present needs by way of handouts of various properties available. A question and answer period regarding this information ensued. The Nobility's criteria for further information needed on this option was established.

All those attending the Advisory Board and Stated Meeting were urged strongly to be sure that the handouts and related information were a primary item on their next Shrine Clubs agenda.

In preview...In preparation for the April 24th Advisory Board and Stated Meeting, the Divan and other volunteers are developing presentations and handouts to help us understand the complex leasing/buying/construction option's pros and cons. Information on how each option would impact the operational budget will also be given.

As we progress...When the Nobility is comfortable that each option has been thoroughly discussed and we have the information to logically move forward, the next step, per Imperial Law, would be the petition phase. In a nutshell, a petition requesting a vote of the Nobility to resolve to pursue one specific option would have to be signed by 100 Nobles. This completed petition must then be presented to the Potentate, who, following a strict timeline, must schedule a meeting to deal with the petition and, again, following a strict timeline, notify the nobility as to the date and purpose of the meeting. At the meeting, the resolution would be brought to vote with a 2/3 margin of those present and voting required for passage of the resolution.

YITF

Ill. Sir Jim Lentz

2010 Shrine Circus Wrap-Up

The Shrine Circus in Grand Rapids is now history and a Circus Wrap-Up meeting has been held and planning has already started for our Circus in 2011. We really could have used many more Shrine volunteers to cover many of the jobs at the Circus performances. We needed more Nobles and other volunteers to sell programs, to be ushers, to work the concession stands, to guard the entrances and exits, to help at the animal rides and to sell tickets and tokens, to name a few areas needing workers. If we do not have Shrine volunteers to cover ushers, then we have to pay Delta Plex to furnish them. If we place people in the food concession stands, the Saladin Temple gets reimbursed at an hourly rate. This would be an additional fund-raiser for the Temple.

We are also taking steps to better utilize the Volunteers that show up for one or two performances. We have at least four days and 10 performances to cover with workers, so you can see that it requires many hands to cover all the activities. Our heartfelt "Thanks" go to everyone that helped with the activities this year.

Our 2011 Circus is scheduled for March 10-13 and we look forward to your support at that time. Please, don't wait for a personal invitation. Put these dates on your calendar and come to the Circus at the Delta Plex next year.

Also, it is never too soon to start obtaining ads for the Shrine Circus Book especially with those businesses that set their advertising and contribution budgets for next year in August – October of this year. If you need Ad Forms just let us know. Again, thank you to everyone who supported the 2010 Circus,

Your Divan

From the Chief Rabban Dale Lentz

Well, the very busy first three months of 2010 have quickly flown by. I know a few people that could use a little "down time" right about now, just for a few days. But, there are Shrine Clubs and Shrine Activities to visit and attend to, the Vidalia Onions to get shipped and distributed and, before you know it, it will be time to go to the Imperial Session in Toronto, Canada.

You know, the old saying about "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray." Well, it look like the Mini-Ceremonial slated for Charlevoix on April 10 is being cancelled due to lack of candidates. Also, I understand a Walk-In Clinic scheduled for May 19 is being considered for cancellation due to a lack of local volunteers to help get the work out regionally and to get it organized locally.

Hey, Nobles, the Officers and Staff at the Temple in Grand Rapids can't do everything!

If we want new members, and we really do need new members, we need your help in rounding up the Candidates. If we want to find more children that need the help of our Shriners Hospitals for Children, we need a little help from the Shrine Clubs in the geographical area where the Walk-In Clinic is to be held.

Its way past time that we just "Let George do it." "George" has been carrying the load for a good many positions and activities and he needs a little help. It takes more than a little "lip service" to accomplish the tasks of our very important work. The "work" that we, as Shriners, like to point to as Shriners and say "we do that" or "we did that." Won't you consider stepping up to helping with these very important tasks? Remember, many hands make for light work for everyone and we can all stand back and be proud of what has been accomplished, because we all had a hand in it.

From the High Priest and Prophet Scott Sanford

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who supported and worked the circus this year. This is an enormous enterprise and requires a lot of participation.

Since my last column, the Divan participated in the Great Lakes Shrine Association conference. There was a membership presentation which identified the Shrine website and how to use it. I would like to encourage every Noble to log on to beashrinernow.com and review the material presented. If you are aware of anyone who is interested in being a Shriner, please refer them to this site. The site will explain all the steps necessary to become BOTH a Mason and a Shriner. In addition, the site provides a list of virtual mentors to assist in the process. As membership chairman, I have materials that I can provide to anyone who need them to assist in promoting the membership in your local areas.

On July 24, 2010 Saladin will be conducting a mini ceremonial in Kalamazoo. I would like to schedule a one day "Street to Shrine" in conjunction with this event. In order to accomplish this, we will need a Blue Lodge in Kalamazoo to request dispensation from the Grand Lodge to conduct this event. We could bring in new candidates and also finish the work of other candidate in progress from all over our jurisdiction. I frequently hear from Masons everywhere that it is difficult to get enough people together to conduct the degrees. If there are lodges out there that perform particular degrees well, I would like to hear from them as to whether they would be interested in such a program. The first order of business however is to get a sponsoring lodge to obtain dispensation from the Grand Lodge. If any lodge is interested in the please contact me at once so that we can get the ball rolling. As pointed out to the Shrine Club president at the last Advisory Board meeting, we are in DIRE need of new members and as our membership continues to age, we will find it harder and harder to support our fundraising programs. The Kalamazoo mini ceremonial is a great place to kick start our new membership drive!

From the Assistant Rabban Jeff Higley Sr.

Well the circuses are done. I personally want to thank all of the Nobles, their Ladies and everyone else that attended and/or helped at any or all of the performances that have happened so far in Battle Creek, Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. If you missed any of the shows you missed a great time and it was a fun time. Denise and I enjoyed the company of all of the Nobles and Ladies at the shows that we attended. Even if only 1 or 2 members of your club or unit can attend, please show up next year so you can enjoy the same fun that the rest of us had. Also, June 12 is the Allegan/Ottawa Shrine Club's Circus. If you have the time please show up and help. I'm sure that they would love to have the help.

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Assistant Rabban – continued

We are still working on more information that will hopefully be passed out at the next stated meeting, regarding our possible move. If you can not attend, please have someone pick up the information for your or let one of your club officers pick it up. You can then make copies for the members that may not be there.

Now that parade season is here please show up to as many parades that your club./unit has scheduled for this year and enjoy the fun that the units have. Remember that many hands make light work.

Hope to see you all at the next stated meeting April 24th with your fez on. If you or your club/unit needs anything please call or e-mail me. If I am available I will do my best to assist you.

From the Oriental Guide

Dan Soullier

I am truly sorry I was not at the Grand Rapids Circus, But Tabitha and I were at Oriental Guide Training, in Tampa. So you do not think that I sat in the sun for 4 days, it rained two and was cold for one: added that I was also in education meeting for 8 hours every day that we were there.

What did I learn? I learned that 63% of Shriners polled said that they became a Shriner to help the children. I also was told that 16% joined the Shrine to have fun. Most of you would say, "So what is wrong with that?" The Shrine was started in 1872 as a venue for Masons to have more fun; "Fun" being the Noble Purpose. The first hospital appeared 50 years later; the hospitals being our Noble Cause. The question we need to answer is "Has the Cause overshadowed the Purpose?" Do we still really have fun or do we live for the Cause?

When you go to a club or unit meeting, after you read the minutes, hear the treasurer's report, and discuss business, do you eat dinner and go home or do you talk about Bob's tie or rib Marge about putting up with Dave for 40 years?

Do you stress about selling your two tons of onions or laugh and joke while selling them?

When there is a parade, if you are able to walk, do you wave at the on-lookers and smile or reach out to the audience with a giant grin and handshake?

When you see a Shriner in a Masonic brother, do you invite and pay for him and his family to a jovial picnic, with some games, friends, and good food or just tell him about the hospitals and ask him to join?

OG Continued

Do we look forward to the next fundraiser or do we look forward to seeing each other during the fundraiser?

I know we have not forgotten what "Fun" is, because I have met Nobles from Alaska to Hawaii, from Maine to Texas, and from Washington to Washing D.C...and I have had fun, friendship and fraternity with all of them. They taught me that the Cause is an extension of the purpose and not the other way around.

So what did I learn? In my brief travels, if I were to leave you with anything, I'd say, "Be serious about our Fun and Joyous in our Cause, for one makes us a better family and the other produces better men...and women.

From the Recorder

Dick Higgins

The year is flying by for me, parades and starting. Flowers are peeking above the ground that was snow-covered only recently. The circuses are over and onions will soon be here. We need every Noble's help in making this fundraiser a big success. We face a huge decision in the near future. With a declining membership, declining income and higher taxation, will we be able to move elsewhere?

The Stated Meeting on the 24th of April will be very interesting. A decision will have to be made soon as to the direction Saladin will be taking. Your input can be heard if you attend. You cannot complain if you don't voice your opinion.

I was looking over some old information that I had gathered over the years. Did you know that I have been elected 16 times here at Saladin? I also have been elected 15 times to GLSA. GLSA stand for Great Lakes Shrine Association, which consists of 21 Temples in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and the province of Ontario, Canada. Being Chief Aid for PP's Hamill and Wagner back in the 70's started my illustrious partnership with Saladin Temple.

I recently advised the Potentate of Saladin Temple that effective July 1, 2010 that I would be resigning my position as your Recorder. I would like to thank all of you for your help in making this position enjoyable. My Lady Shirley and I both love you all

Calendar of Events

April 21 7:00PM Trust Mtg

April 24, Advisory Board and Stated Meeting
11:00 Advisory Board
1:00 Lunch
2:00 Stated Meeting & Ladies Activities

May 19 Newsletter Deadline

Check your calender book for parade and Shrine Club/Unit events.

2010 Communications to the Nobility

In an effort to save costs related to the printing and mailing of correspondence to the Nobility in 2010, correspondence, including Newsletters, will be distributed electronically to all Nobles who have an e-mail address on file with the Temple. If you received a hardcopy of this Newsletter and have an e-mail address, please contact Donna Baldwin at Donna.Baldwin@saladinshrine.com to have your e-mail information added to the Temple database. Your cooperation is appreciated. Ill. Sir Jim Lentz

From the Potentate's Lady

Needless to say I am glad that March has come to an end as it did not turn out anything like I had planned. I always look forward to March and the opportunity to volunteer and see everyone at the Circus. Trust me I would have given anything to be at the Circus instead of where I was. To all who stepped in and helped at the Circus, I wish I could have been there to thank you in person, but know that I appreciate all that you did and that we could not have done this without your support. Thank you too, to all who call or sent me cards, flowers and e-mails your well wishes were appreciated by both Jim and I.

A special thank you to Vi, Dale and Dick who without hesitation offered to take responsibility for the Circus Wrap-Up and Thank You event on March 20. Neither Jim nor I were in any shape to bring that event to fruition. You never know how important family and friends are until something unexpected like this happens.

Again, to all who helped at the Circus...thank you and I'll see you at the Circus next year!

Lady Nancy

2010 Vidalia Onions

The Vidalia Onion Program is being handled by Dale Lentz again this year. We have received great onions the past three years and the program is growing again, with more and more onions being ordered and sold by clubs and units. The Onion Farmer in Georgia that furnished those great onions to us will be our supplier again this year.

The pricing will be the same as last year - \$7.75 per 10# bag. We will get a quantity of 5# bags for those who wish to split the 10# bags for their senior or single customers. Now is the time to start taking orders for the Vidalia Onions. Pre-selling the onions move them out faster when they arrive the first part of May.

The choice of selling price is left up to the group selling the Vidalia Onions. The price of \$11.00/10# bag would give your club or unit a profit of \$3.25/10#bag. If you elect to sell them for \$10.00/10# bag, as in the past, you would see a return of \$2.25/10# bag.

Any orders, questions or comments should be directed to: Dale Lentz, 604 W Franklin Ave; Reed City MI 49677. E-mail dalelentz@yahoo.com Home phone: 231-832-5411, cell phone 231-250-8445.

Shrine Ladies

In the first newsletter I reminded you of the important role you plan in the *work* of the Shrine and challenged you to expand your involvement in the great work of Shriners and Shrine Hospitals. With summer just around the corner I encourage you to think about how you can help your spouse spread the word to others about the great work of the Shrine. Imperial knows that things need to change, that their fraternity and hospitals can not continue to be one of the "best kept secrets" around and Ladies you can be part of what helps Shrine to accomplish this goal. Shrine Clubs and Units participate in numerous community events throughout the summer which provide local Shrine Clubs with an opportunity to not only march in a parade but set up a booth to distribute literature regarding the hospitals *and* the fraternity. Ladies...you can help organize and staff these booths! If you have ideas about how Shrine Ladies can help *spread the word* please e-mail me at jlentz47@gmail.com so I can share your ideas with others. Lady Nancy

Lady Nancy's Program for 2010

Shrine Clubs and Units please remember that my program for this year is the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and I need your help. Please consider having a special fund-raiser in support of this year's program such as a 50/50 raffle, Club/Unit yard sale or bake sale or donating items to be raffled during events at the Temple. Thank you for your support!

