

# Saladin



# News

August 2010 Issue

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## From the Potentate's Desk

### FROM THE JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> STATED MEETING

A motion was brought to the floor to increase annual dues by \$40.00. This motion, per our bylaws, will be discussed and voted on at our next Stated Meeting.

Highlights from the ongoing Temple discussion included commonalities of all options being considered if the Temple is sold, which include having to pay Capital Gains taxes, moving fees, possible storage fees and costs related to building or remodeling. Differences noted were the amount of the initial outlay for securing a different location, the square footage of the location to be remodeled and the resulting annual operating costs.

### THE PETITIONS ARE OUT

The petitions are out to all clubs for the Nobles to sign regarding their choice of relocation options. The petitions are due back to the Temple by **August 28th** for validation and tabulation. As you are aware Imperial Law mandates that 100 valid signatures are obtained to bring any option before the Nobility for vote.

### PARADE MERIT POINTS

I have been asked by several Nobles why no parades were designated as Potentate parades this year. My reasoning is that all parades are equally important to the Shrine Clubs from the area in which the parade is being held. The local parade is one of the only opportunities for visibility for the Shrine Clubs in the communities in which they operate. My goal is to increase participation in ALL parades. This year you will earn 25 points for each parade you participate in (up to a max of 100 points) however if you participate in a total of 7 or more parades you earn a bonus of 100. All parades listed in the pocket calendar book are considered approved parades

### NEXT STATED MEETING

**August 28<sup>th</sup> Please RSVP to Donna by August 23<sup>rd</sup> as lunch is being catered.**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 10 AM | Advisory Board (please make sure the SC President or his designee are in attendance) |
| 12 PM | Lunch Provided for Nobles and Ladies together.                                       |
| 1 PM  | Stated Meeting (Ladies to gather in the Past Potentates room)                        |

Topics to be brought before the Nobility at this Stated Meeting will include:

1. Motion to increase dues - discussion and vote
2. Proposal from the Divan regarding method for safeguarding revenues from the sale of the Temple, should it be sold.
3. Information on the petition process

YITF

III. Sir Jim Lentz

## From the Chief Rabban – Dale Lentz

The first week in July was spent in Toronto, Canada, attending the Imperial Shrine Council Session. A good deal of work was accomplished and some good and some bad information received.

Two new Temples were chartered. One in Puerto Rico and one in the Philippines. This make a total of 193 Shrine Temples world wide. There are others in the process of being established in other countries, currently operating under dispensations until they attain the Imperial Membership requirements.

On the flip side, membership is still in a decline mode overall and is of great concern. In the last six years, from 1/1/04 thru 12/21/2009, total national Shrine membership declined from 457,747 to 340,040, a loss of 117,699 members or 25.7%. On a closer to home note, the Shrine Temples in our region are declining at a faster rate. Elf Khurafeh (Saginaw) 36.0%; Moslem (Detroit) 36.7%; Saladin (Grand Rapids) 33.9% and Zenobia (Toledo) 40.1%. But, with only about 18% of Masons in Michigan being Shriners, there are still over 30,000 Masons that are potential Shriners. Let's encourage these Mason to join us.

All 22 of our Shrine Hospitals for Children are still operating, although some services have been moved from certain hospitals and consolidated with other hospitals and services at some hospitals have been greatly reduced. Due to the economy, our Endowment Fund is currently at 6.35 Billion, still down about 2 Billion Dollars, and the budget for our hospitals has been substantially reduced accordingly. Third Party Pay (Insurance) is still being pursued and insurance billing programs are currently in place at four of our Shrine Hospitals, (Lexington, KY; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR and Spokane, WA). Insurance Billing Programs are being established with the understanding that there will be No Co-Pay or Charges to the Family and that it will Not Affect and Doctor Decision Regarding Patient Care. The first insurance billings went out in June of this year. In time, this can potentially be of great financial help to our hospitals.

As you can see, we still have a great deal of work to do regarding membership and our hospitals. It will take some time and effort; but, We Can Do It, if we all work together.

## From the Assistant Rabban – Jeff Higley Sr.

The ceremonial is over now and hopefully you had candidate or two, if not get one for the next ceremonial. The summer is upon us and picnic time is here, so don't forget to go to your club's or any other club's summer picnic, invite a potential new mason or shirner and his family to join you.

The gun raffle tickets are ready to sell, please call me or any Divan member to get tickets. We are selling the tickets for \$10.00 each and this is for a chance to win 1 of 5 guns (Browning and Thompson, also a gun cabinet made by one of our own nobles). The drawing will be on November 8, 2010. We all need to come together to support our temple. The petitions are out for buying, building or moving downtown. I see that the easiest move may be downtown. But that will not fix our problem only put it off for a few more years. With a move downtown we will have to 1) sell the current property, 2) pay to remodel the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 3) sell all of the tables, chairs, plates, utensils, and everything else but the office equipment. 4) Also we will have to pay capital gains tax on the sale of the current property, plus hire people to move us. Also in the most recent drawing done by downtown the statue will be in the hall outside the proposed offices on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, not outside as presented before. Our big problem is we need more members! We all have new or old neighbors that live in our communities that might join if asked. Have you asked anyone or top line signed a petition in the past 5 years? If have or not you may be able to help fix our problem. At imperial session it was stated that we need more visibility. The move downtown will not help tat as it is a historical building and is limited to what can be done to the exterior. Also remember that a prudent investor would need to see the past 5 year's financials before buying into an existing business to make sure they are in the black and not losing money. These have not been turned over to us and we only hear the numbers. As Henry Miller (American author and writer, 1891-1980) said "In this age, which believes that there is a short cut to everything, the greatest lesson to be learned is that the most difficult way is, in the long run, the easiest."

If you have not attended your clubs meetings lately please do as they need your help to raise funding for the Hospitals. Remember that many hand makes light work. Hope to see all of you at the next stated meeting August 28<sup>th</sup> with your Fez on.

## From the High Priest and Prophet – Scott Sanford

Imperial is over and no major policy changes to Imperial law were made. By the time you read this we will have added about 15 new Nobles to our ranks by way of the mini-ceremonial in Kalamazoo. It is essential that we get these new Nobles involved as soon as possible by way of their local Shrine clubs and units. If you are a top line signer, make sure that you take your candidate to the first meeting of the Shire club so he can be introduced to other local Shriners. There are all kinds of activities going on this summer so show the new Nobles around.

There will be a one day Masonic all degree day on October 23, 2010 in Grand Rapids at the Masonic temple downtown. If you have friends that are interested in joining the Masons and the Shrine but who do not have the time to go through the degrees over an extended period of time, that will be a great opportunity to have their work done in a short period of time. In addition, the degree work done at the all degree day is always of the highest caliber performed by first rate ritualists!

## From the Oriental Guide - Dan Soullier

My vote does not matter...What's one vote?; I'm so p\*\*\*ed off I'm not going to vote...that'll teach 'em. How many of us have thought this way? How many of us acted on these thoughts?

First, how many of us feel we are blessed to live in a county and be part of a fraternity that gives us the benefits of "one man, one vote?" To think, we gather and are allowed to vote on a resolution, just to vote. Next we all know things in the Shrine are changing,; yes that awful "C-word" Why do think have to change? Why can't it be like the "Good-old days?" I say, "yes, those days "were" good, but they "are" old." If it will ease your mind, do not think of things as changing, but evolving.

The difference begin is one who sees change, sees a work of art at the beginning and then at the end then either appreciates it or criticizes it. The one who sees the evolution is "The Artist," for only the artist knows what it takes to create the necessary changes to form the end piece. When you participate and vote, you go from being the critic to the artist and the partial master of destiny.

For those of you who are wondering where I am going with this: Yes, I am asking you to come to the Stated Meetings and VOTE. The Divan is aware that there are nobles with health problems, scheduling problems, and financial difficulties...but I have a solution. Get together, as a club, see who can come and decide how that majority want to vote on any given subject...then send your representative and...VOTE.

This person is not just one vote, but one voice to speak where there was not a voice before. Orators such as Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson knew that one impassioned man can sway the minds of many. There are a lot of important decisions to be made in the up-coming years and its up to the nobility to VOTE on them. Saying, "I did not vote, so its not my fault"...is wrong, if you do not VOTE then it is your fault if you feel that the proper decision was not made for the good of the Temple, the Nobility, and the Children we care for.

Remember two things:

1. The Divan is an extension of the nobility and all critical decisions are not solely made by them, they are made by the nobility.
2. If the temple is not cared for, then the temple ceases to exist, and if there is no temple, then there are no clubs.

Lastly, in the 2000 election we missed having Al Gore as president of the United States by fewer than 500 votes; that is less than one-percent of Florida's population or less than one man in one hundred or one vote in one hundred...metaphorically...one vote DID matter.

Hope to see you at the next State Meeting.



## From the Recorder – Tom Cardwell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank PP Richard Higgins for all his assistance in bringing me up to speed with the varied duties and activities as the Recorder for Saladin Temple. He has been very generous with his time and made my job much easier.

As your Recorder, I hope to be able to continue providing you with whatever services you need. You can contact me by email at [tom.cardwell@saladinshrine.com](mailto:tom.cardwell@saladinshrine.com) by phone at (616) 942-1570 (office) or (616) 698-6127 (home).

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have had our Mini-ceremonial in Kalamazoo where we added several new members to Saladin. I encourage you to talk to your Blue Lodge Brothers about the Shrine. Our next Ceremonial will be on November 6<sup>th</sup>, following the Stated Meeting. The new "Official" Petition for Initiation and Membership is "Green" and dated *January 2010*. Be sure to secure the latest version, from the office or your local Shrine Club, so the candidate is aware of the current fee schedule.

I encourage you to attend the Stated Meetings since there is, currently, a plan to market the existing property and move to a new location. Following permission from Imperial to move, a vote will be taken at a Special or Stated Meeting to determine the new location. Time and place for this meeting will be mailed to the Nobility according to the process dictated by Imperial. There are three (3) petitions being circulated to either: build, buy or move to the downtown Masonic Center.



## From the Treasurer – Dave Neff

Potentate Jim recently issued a directive to the Officers of all the Clubs and Units of Saladin Temple, requiring that all charitable donations must be directed to the Saladin Children's Trust. The reason for the order was caused by the drop in our charitable giving over the last few years. As a public charity, which we are classified by the I.R.S., we are required to maintain a level of donation which equal 33% of the rolling average of the prior 5 years income. This is to demonstrate the support of the public in our endeavors.

In 2009 we missed our 33% requirement, only getting 24%. This year we are running far behind even that level. So we obviously need to get our act together. If we miss the mark two years in a row, we will lose our status, as our Trust will be badly hurt.

So it is imperative that we increase our giving to the Trust, and so the need to run every donation made by any club or unit through the Trust. This requirement will not change anything as far as the Club or Unit is concerned. If you wish to contribute to the local Boy Scouts, you can still do so. The only change will be that the money will be sent through the Trust, and the Trust will then send a check to the proper party. That way we can receive donation credit for the Trust. The Club or Unit will still be named as the donor, but the check will be a Trust check.

If there are any questions, please contact Sharon or myself and we will get your answers.

Potentate Jim also ordered that all Clubs and Units make their books and account available to the Treasure for review. It is obvious to the auditors that there are some questions about the accounts of the Clubs and Units that have persisted for a period of years and that need to be addressed so we can gain a clear picture of the financial health of the Temple.

In accordance with that directive, Sharon and I will be beginning a systematic review of all the books and accounts. We will be contacting you in the very near future to make arrangements to meet.

Again, if there are any questions, please contact my office.

## Calendar of Events

Summer is well under way and for our Shrine Clubs and Units that means parades, picnics and special events. Nobles and Ladies check your pocket calendar to see what events are happening in your area and participate as you are able and please be safe in your travels to and from events. Have fun and enjoy the summer festivities!

**August 28, Advisory Board and Stated Meeting**  
**10:00 –Advisory Board (please make sure that the SC Pres or his designee are in attendance)**  
**12:00 Lunch provided Nobles and Ladies together**  
**1:00 Stated Meeting (Ladies to gather in the Past Potentates office)**  
**RSVP to Donna by August 23<sup>rd</sup> as lunch is being catered.**

**September 22, Newsletter Deadline**

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## Club and Unit Updates

All Shrine Clubs and Units are encouraged to submit updates for inclusion in the Saladin Shrine News. The next newsletter deadline is **September 22**. If possible please submit your articles electronically to Jim Lentz at [jlentz47@gmail.com](mailto:jlentz47@gmail.com) with the subject line of Saladin News. Articles can also be mailed to Jim Lentz, 12463 170<sup>th</sup> Ave, Leroy Mi 49655 – please clearly indicate that this is for inclusion in the Saladin News as you can imagine I am receiving lots of Shrine related mail and do not want to inadvertently miss a newsletter submission. Hope to hear from you all.  
Jim

## Lady Sharon Wiltfong of *Saladin* Shrine Certified Shrine Van Driver – Shrinelines July 16, 2010

*Saladin* Noble Linn Wiltfong is happy as can be. You see his Lady Sharon has been duly certified as a Shrine van driver by Mike Rooze, *Saladin* Transportation Coordinator and instructor for “Coach the Van Driver II,” a course offered to all van drivers at *Saladin* under the Coaching Series. She is now officially certified as a driver and made her first trip of SHC – Chicago in late June. “This is important,” Noble Linn comments, “for many of our drivers are getting old, and it’s often hard to find drivers.” Sharon is *Saladin*’s first, officially-certified Lady van driver.

Robert Cotner, Editor



Congratulations Sharon on your accomplishment and for opening the doors for other *Saladin* Lady’s to become certified van drivers. Ill Sir Jim Lentz and Lady Nancy

## News From the First Lady:

First I would like to thank the Lady’s of the Divan for all of your help to make our trip to Imperial a memorable event for all. Sharing the hospitality room with our Orak counterparts turned out better than we could have anticipated.

I would also like to thank Vi Lentz and Denise Archer of Lakeland Shrine Club for their help with the yard sale fundraiser that raised \$60.00 in support of the First Lady’s project for this year. I could not have done it without you. To all of the Nobles and their Lady’s that donated items for this event a big thank you to you as well. I hope that other clubs and units are taking the opportunity to hold special fundraisers this summer in support of this worthwhile cause. We are getting close to having enough money to place the order for the AED device.

Lady Denise Higley has graciously agreed to share her card making skills with those attending the Stated meeting with their Nobles on August 28. Denise will have the supplies necessary for us to make our own cards and share with us some examples of her work to inspire us to get creative at home. Please plan to join the activities. In addition to the activities provided by Denise we will also be watching the new public relations DVD shared with us at Imperial, as usual, remember to bring your tissues.

To the Lady’s of the newly installed Nobles, please plan to come to the Temple on the 28<sup>th</sup> and meet your counterparts from throughout the *Saladin* area.

See you soon – stay safe and enjoy the summer picnics and parades. Lady Nancy



## Shriners International

Dear Nobles,

It's FEZTASTIC to be elected as your 122nd Imperial Potentate at our 136th Imperial Council Session in Toronto! We had an outstanding time and made a lot of memories during this fun-filled week. It is such an exciting time in the history of our fraternity and I am privileged to serve as your leader.

The new Imperial Year was kicked off with a lot of energy and excitement thanks to Illustrious Sir Barry McQuillan, the Director General of the Session, and his committee members. These gentlemen really know how to WOW the crowd! I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff at Shriners International Headquarters and the Oshawa Shrine Club, as well as the rest of the nobles and ladies of Rameses Shriners, for all of their dedication and support. These people put a lot of time and effort into making the Imperial Council Session a great success and I could not be more thrilled with the result.

Through the years, many of you have witnessed my enthusiasm for increasing membership in Shriners International. I am overjoyed to be taking on this role at a time when we are accepting two new temples into our organization, growing from 191 temples to 193. I truly believe that we can solve our membership dilemma, and feel that global growth will play a big role in turning things around. I am very excited about the prospect of adding a 194th temple, Emirat Shriners of Heidelberg, Germany, next year.

I am also ECSTATIC about the launch of modern new tools designed to make membership in Shriners International more enriching, such as Shriners Village, and more enticing, such as [beashrinernow.com](http://beashrinernow.com). With all of these wonderful new developments, I thought my long-time slogan, "Isn't it great to be a Shriner? It's Feztastic!" would carry over and be a great theme for my Imperial year. I plan to share this theme with the world every chance I get, in hopes I can motivate others to become more involved. With enthusiasm and hard work, we can expand our fraternity and continue our good deeds for many years to come.

As we move forward, I encourage you to continue doing everything you can to help the patients and families of Shriners Hospitals for Children®, and to keep having fun and enjoying the brotherhood you joined. As Imperial Sir Jack Jones would say, "UNITY WINS, and together we can achieve our goals." I also ask you to carry my theme with you everywhere you go, and help me get everyone on their feet and excited about who we are and what makes membership in this organization so FEZTASTIC!!

And it is a GREAT DAY TO BE A SHRINER.

Sincerely,

George A. Mitchell  
Imperial Potentate, Shriners International

