



# A WHISPER FROM THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER FROM THE OASIS OF SYRIA SHRINERS

VOL. 1, NO. 1

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2020

## MASA PRESIDENT JOHNNY BITZER VISITS SYRIA SHRINERS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Illustrious Sir Johnny Bitzer, Jr., P.P., of Osiris Shriners, was elected President of the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association at a virtual session of the Association, held by ZOOM, Saturday, September 12. Syria Shriners was honored to receive Illustrious Sir Bitzer twice recently, when he visited to attend our Second Oktoberfest, Saturday, October 24, and returned three weeks later to attend the Highland Ball, Saturday, November 14.

Illustrious Sir Johnny was accompanied by several Past Potentates, Nobles and Ladies from Osiris Shriners, furthering the long-standing close relationship we enjoy with our neighboring Temple from Wheeling, West Virginia. While the coronavirus pandemic has dampened many of our opportunities for "Fun & Fellowship" this year, our Osiris neighbors participated in the creation of a new Noble at our Oktoberfest event, and helped the Syria Highlanders Pipes & Drums celebrate their 64th Anniversary last month.

The MASA President presented Illustrious Sir Don Taylor and First Lady Eleanor with a gift during his November 14 visit, and Illustrious Sir Don responded in kind, with the presentation of his 2020 Potentate's gift.

All of us at Syria Shriners wish Illustrious Sir Johnny good health, safe travels, and every success during his term as President of our regional association, and we hope to host him often during the remainder of his tenure. We very much look forward to supporting his MASA Spring Meeting, April 22-24, in Wheeling, and the annual Fall Convention of the Association, September 8-11, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, when our units look forward to participating in competitions and the parade.

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| NEW YEAR'S EVE                        | 2  |
| POTENTATE'S MESSAGE                   | 3  |
| FROM THE<br>RECORDER'S DESK           | 4  |
| ROADRUNNERS                           | 5  |
| NOTES FROM SC-ERIE                    | 6  |
| 2021 KICKOFF                          | 7  |
| NIGHT AT THE RACES                    | 7  |
| THANK YOU FROM THE<br>2019 FIRST LADY | 8  |
| CARAVAN 2                             | 8  |
| RODE RIGS                             | 9  |
| CARAVAN 20                            | 10 |
| CAMEL WHEELS                          | 11 |
| ELECTION RULES                        | 11 |
| 2021 STAG                             | 12 |
| 2021 GALA                             | 13 |
| OL VEREIN                             | 14 |
| DANCING QUEEN                         | 15 |
| CALL FOR<br>ANNUAL MEETING            | 16 |

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE

As most of you know who attended our first quarter events, it looked like Syria was going to have a fun year, a year that was going to accomplish many good things and keep Syria heading in the right direction.

For example, in February, we had nearly 300 people attend our Valentine Dance. It's been a long time since we have had so many people having such a good time. As we all know, once COVID-19 arrived, everything changed. Many of our events were forced to be postponed or canceled, including our Alaska cruise, which had 86 people going when it had to be canceled.

This adversity didn't stop our Divan and Board of Directors from working very hard trying to keep Syria afloat. There were many hard decisions that had to be made, not all of them popular, but they were all made with Syria's best interest in mind.

I think Syria is very lucky to have Bob Addleman, Recorder and David Gardy, Treasurer handling many of the day-to-day decisions. These are very trying times. and there is no substitute for experience.



Bob Addleman's Thunder Thursdays and weekend concerts were a great success. I can't say enough about Bob, members of the Divan, Daughters of the Nile, especially Peggy, Betty, Joanne, and Lisa, and we had Nobles like Al Douglas who did whatever he could to help make this event a success. Without these people, this event could never have happened. In the future Thunder Thursdays may turn out to be Syria's largest fundraiser. It's a shame that these concerts had to end in mid-October.

Our September 27 Oktoberfest was so successful that we had to schedule a second one, October 24. We were honored to welcome Ill. Sir Johnny Bitzer, President of the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association, and several Past Potentates and Nobles from Osiris Shriners that day. It was also gratifying to initiate a new Shriner at the Oktoberfest event, showing him and his Lady the "Fun and Fellowship" that is Imperial Sir Jim Smith's credo during this Shriners International year.

I want to thank Randy Hobaugh and Al Tedeschi for doing such a great job chairing the "\$25,000 Holiday Cash Give-A-Way." I also want to thank Fritz Richardson and Lee Pfeifer for giving up their time every Friday selling tickets at Rogers.

As this year comes to an end, I want to wish Don and Debbie Green a successful 2021 and hope that he has the support of all our Nobles. I want to wish all our Nobles and their families a "Happy and Healthy" new year.

Again, thank you for all your support.

*Don & Eleanor Taylor*



## *From the Recorder's Desk*

Greetings, Nobles, Ladies, and friends of Syria Shriners.

As we approach the end of this "Year of the Pandemic," and ready to embark on "Year of the Pandemic 2: The Sequel," I find myself experiencing an attitude of extreme gratitude. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you for the betterment of Syria Shriners, despite the enormous obstacles that have been laid in our path. I am grateful for the "never quit" attitude displayed by the stalwart Nobles and Ladies who rolled up their sleeves to help us salvage revenue opportunities in an otherwise dismal year for the Pittsburgh Shrine Center from a business standpoint.

Our rental business was decimated by the pandemic and the recovery response from the County and the Commonwealth. Our annual fundraisers, from the First Choice Wine Festival, to the North Hills Home Brew Festival, to the Sportsmen's Bash, were

forced to be canceled. We knew we needed to do something to try to get some dollars in the door.

Enter Miller Lite Thunder Thursdays, and our ticketed concert series, that kept the Pittsburgh Shrine Center Pavilion jumping, and our cash registers ringing, all summer long. We appear to have discovered a new fundraiser for 2021 and beyond, based on the unmitigated success of our summer music events. Thanks to all who helped, attended, or otherwise supported the series. We hope we can count on you again next year. If an abundance of caution kept you away this year, we hope you will feel comfortable coming out in 2021.

I am grateful for our Pittsburgh Shrine Center staff, who stuck with us despite the layoffs and prolonged office and building closures we have endured this year. Thanks to our office and facilities personnel for doing their part to help us keep the lights on. We appreciate your place in the Syria Shriners family.

I am grateful to you for sticking with us through this period of reduced member benefits and services. It was never our intention to be diminished to such a great extent, and we realize we're not back to full capacity yet. A return to pre-pandemic normalcy is not yet in sight. When the calendar rolls to 2021, it will mark a new year, and a new administration for Syria Shriners, but it most certainly will not mean an end to the public health crisis which confronts our Temple, the Pittsburgh Shrine Center, and society at large. We will need to remain flexible and agile moving forward, as we navigate the next chapters in the coronavirus saga. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

I am grateful to have had the joy of fellowship with our Nobles who were visited by the Black Camel this year. Like you, I mourn their loss, but celebrate the good times we had together while basking in the glow of fraternal fun with these outstanding Shriners.

Finally, I am grateful to remain in relatively good health, and for the love and support of my lady, Peggy, without whom I am not certain I would have been able to get through this trying year.

Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Don Taylor and First Lady Eleanor for their leadership in steering Syria Shriners through this challenging year. Best wishes to Chief Rabban Don Green and Lady Debbie, as they accept the mantle of leadership in another equally challenging time.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and Happy New Year! See you at the Annual Meeting.

Yours in the faith,

*Bob*

# What a COVID-19 Year for the Roadrunners!

by Al Douglas, Hospital Transportation Chairman

The 2020 Roadrunner operation stopped in mid-March. On June 1, our hospitals reopened for patient transportation and on June 9, Syria transported our first patient to Erie. The hospitals Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Erie then came out with new rules, each location was different. Then Erie hospital transportation was to cease. But a few days later with new regulations, from Imperial headquarters, we were in operation again.

By the end of June, two van COVID-19 kits were made and stored with the van keys. The kit contains a list of questions to be asked to the drivers, patients, and parents before they enter the van. Plus, infrared thermometers were purchased, to be used on the foreheads of all, and recorded on patient trip log. Extra masks, hand cleaner, spray disinfect, and gloves were also included in the kit.

Many trips were scheduled, then canceled, and then rescheduled, but the number of summer trips were few. From early June thru end of August, drivers Joe Pauline, Terry Steinheiser, Don Wiles, Ron Plesh, George White, Al Douglas, and Richard Roell, had driven patients to hospitals. By September and October our trips were almost back to normal. Many of our drivers have medical problems and were not able to drive, but we did recruit two new drivers: Bill Woods, and G. Fredrick (Fritz) Richardson.

Bill Woods went to Cincinnati, for his first trip. He had to drive north for an Amish boy, then southwest to Cincinnati. Bill and Rich Roell left in the early morning dark, and arrived home late that evening, in the dark. Most trips are not that long.

On October 19, Fritz Richardson was headed to Erie for his first trip. Dave Travaglio was his partner, and they were to meet Andy B., another Amish boy. They arrived at his home early, in the dark. Mom came out to tell them that Andy was not feeling good, and the trip had to be canceled. Another trip to be rescheduled. About 15% of our trips get canceled and rescheduled during a normal year. It is much higher this year.

During September and October, several other drivers helped out, Max Smith, Bill Moisey, Shashi Patel, John Habel, and Mike Hoover all drove patients to our hospitals. Also, during these two months, 10 patients canceled and will reschedule their trips. For all of those trips, we had drivers scheduled to drive, and then they were disappointed when the trips were canceled. All but one were canceled before the drivers picked up a van.

## 100th Shriners Hospital trip for Ron Plesh



Thank you Don Wiles and Ron Plesh for volunteering during these troubling times. Don was one of the first drivers to train Ron, we're not sure how many years ago that was. On August 4, they had to get up early and drive northeast, to pick up David S. in Sligo, PA, then drive northwest to Erie. This trip was Ron's 100th Shriners Hospital trip. They had to pick up Dave, a 3 year old Amish boy that was in an accident earlier in the summer. He and his father were riding in their horse-drawn buggy, when a fast moving car passed them and frightened the horse. Off the road they went, out of control and crashed. Somehow the boy was tossed, and the buggy wheel ran over and broke his leg. It was a miracle

they both were not killed. I was told the driver did not stop. August 4 was the day to get the cast off and try walking again, a big success. He had to go back to be reevaluated again in September. It was a bright, sunny, happy day, and David, Ron and Don will remember it forever. Thanks guys.

We were all hoping to have a garage built for our hospital vans this year, but COVID-19 has derailed and delayed our plans. We have not stopped the collection of funds for this project. If your Unit, Club, Caravan can help, please donate to the **Syria Holding Corp.**, the special account to hold the van garage funds. We are half way to our fundraising goal. The Roadrunners thank you.

***We drive so kids can survive.***



## Notes from Shriners Children's – Erie

Notice the name change? Imperial is implementing a rebranding of the Shriners healthcare system, for many necessary reasons. Technically some sites (led by SC-Erie) are not really hospitals. As of now 6 of the 22 sites in the system are no longer qualified as hospitals; Shriners Hospital – Tampa is now Shriners Children's – Florida, SHC – Cincinnati is now SC – Ohio located in Dayton, etc. We will be known as Shriners Children's – Erie and will continue to provide our multiple services including; Outpatient Clinic, Surgery - both in-patient and out-patient (with partners Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, SC – Philadelphia, UPMC Hamot), Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Radiology, wheelchair fitting, Prosthetics and Orthotics (artificial limbs and braces), Nutrition counseling and support, Social Services and Family Support, and Gait Analysis and research Lab.

Shriners Hospital for Children – Erie was started by Zem Zem Temple in Erie in 1922. Initially a facility for chronic diseases (Polio, Tuberculosis, etc.). It has evolved into a site for specialty Pediatric Orthopedic care. Fifteen Temples support SC-Erie including Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, and West Virginia. The Road Runners from Syria Temple continue to assist with transportation needs of our Kids. Nobles Harry Truax, Barry Hootman, M.D., and Jim Mitch are full members of the Board of Governors of Shriners Children's – Erie representing Syria Temple.

Health care is rapidly changing, but with improving technologies comes increasing costs. Telemedicine is being introduced into the Shrine System and is but one example of our commitment to quality care.

Unfortunately, in this time of COVID-19, Temple and caravan fundraising has been quite limited, secondarily decreasing SC – Erie donations. I encourage all Nobles to consider a donation to Shriners Children's – Erie during the upcoming holiday season. If sent to Syria Temple, it will be forwarded. Be assured it will be used for the betterment of the lives of our Kids.

Best Wishes in these difficult times,  
Barry D. Hootman, MD

## Syria Shriners Transportation Fund receives a large donation



On Tuesday, October 27, Washington Lodge No. 164, F. & A.M., presented a check for \$1,000 to support Syria Shriners Patient Transportation Fund.

Roadrunner Chairman Al Douglas received the gift from Noble Dave Richards of the Syria Provost Guard, and Washington Lodge, Chairman of the 17th Annual Blue Ride, held earlier this year. The annual ride is a joint effort between the Lodge and the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club, Chapter #16, of Washington, Pennsylvania.

The Blue Knights is a nationwide motorcycle club, comprised of law enforcement officers.

Pictured from left: Brother Rick Cross, Noble Alvin D. Douglas, Jr., Rodney Bush, Noble David Richards, Brother Mark Hamon, Illustrious Sir Donald J. Taylor, Potentate, and Illustrious Sir Robert T. Addleman, Jr., P.P., Recorder



**It's a Beach Party!**

**Join Don & Debbie Green  
for Syria Shriners 2021 Kickoff !  
One Team One Dream**

**"Fun in 21"**

- \*Enjoy a Fun Afternoon with Nobles and Ladies
- \*Meet the Members of "One Team One Dream"
- \*Play a Game of Beach Ball Volleyball
- \*Enjoy the Sounds of a Beach Party

**Saturday, January 9, 2021 at Shriners Center**  
**Doors Open - 11:00 am / Lunch - 12:00 Noon**  
**Dress: Casual, Beach Attire**  
**Cost: \$5.00/person      A Beach Style Picnic**

**Deadline for reservations is January 2, 2021**  
**Reservations Only: No Walk-Ins**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to Syria Shriners**  
 Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservations with check to: Gary Schwartz, 1014 Robinwood Dr., South Park, PA 15129

Proceeds are for the Benefit of Syria Shriners and are not Tax Deductible.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR **FIRST 2021 NIGHT AT THE RACES**

Our first NIGHT AT THE RACES will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2021. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, with dinner being served at 6:00 pm, and races starting at 7:00 pm. This fund raiser is open to the public so, please bring family and friends. Walk ins are welcomed and you can "pay at the door". Admission is \$20 per person and includes dinner, soft drinks, coffee, and beer. You can purchase/own a horse for \$10 and if your horse wins its race, you win \$50. There will also be a Trifecta, an Auction Race, 50/50's, Chinese Auction, and other small games of chance.

This is a Fund Raiser for your Pittsburgh Shrine Center, so, please SAVE THE DATE of April 10, 2021, and come out with your family and friends and enjoy a fun filled NIGHT AT THE RACES.

Watch for the next edition of **THE VOICE** for a sign up/pre pay from. Forms will also be available at the KICK-OFF.

For more information, please contact John Handshue at 412-877-4263, 412-461-3186, or [jjhpm@aol.com](mailto:jjhpm@aol.com).

## THANK YOU FROM THE 2019 DIVAN LADIES

by Phyllis Weiss, 2019 First Lady

During 2019 as First Lady, I received monetary gifts and support from the Units, Clubs, Caravans, and friends for my fundraising efforts. My project for the year was improvements to the Shrine Pavilion. Thanks to all of you for your help.

As many of you know, two commercial refrigerators were purchased and placed in the pavilion kitchen in May, 2019. And, this year much-needed new lighting was installed in the main area. The new LED lighting is much brighter, can be dimmed when needed, and costs much less to use.

This job would not have been possible without the help of four Syria Nobles. Jack Jones who designed the setup, and help from Lady Maureen, Al Tedeschi with his bucket truck, Gary Schwartz and Don Minnette. Thank you for all the time and labor you provided this project, it is greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, these improvements will attract more renters, and help raise much-needed money to keep the Shrine running



## WASHINGTON/GREENE CARAVAN NO. 2 PERSEVERES

by Al Tedeschi, Oriental Guide

We all know what was thrown into our laps this year. So, I will not even go there.

Caravan 2 did not take it sitting down. We started out by taking care of our first responders by delivering pizza to 15 different police, fire and ambulance stations in Washington County.

We managed to have a very successful golf outing thanks to Mark Martin, Harry Bertrand and crew. Also, to the Quick Silver Golf Club for providing us with a safe environment to be able to host an event of this size. Our Stag was also a huge success. Four people to a picnic table with a piece of Limburger Cheese between them guaranteed proper social distancing. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to all who worked and attended to make these events safe and successful.

The 2021 Leo W. Martin memorial golf outing will again be at Quick Silver on July 10, 2021, and our Stag will be on Aug. 28, 2021.

**WE WILL ALL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!!**



# ON THE ROAD WITH THE RODE RIGS

by Dennis Conrad

Well 2020 has come and gone, but not quick enough for all of us. You never want to wish time away because it's so precious and short, but because of COVID-19 I think we are all glad that 2020 is behind us and we can look forward to 2021 and hope that it brings a vaccine that will put and end to this pandemic. Unfortunately, the Rigs like everyone else has been side lined because of the virus no parades, hoagie sales, shredded Italian Beef or Pulled Pork sandwiches at the Vine Festival no nothing, but this has given us time to work on our Rigs and let me tell you there will be some surprises when we hit the road in 2021. We have been making plans to get back into the swing of things and do what we do best burn up the highways and by-ways of Western Pennsylvania with our road show and entertain the crowds specially the children on the parade routes. Get involved and Help out at the Shrine Center and also raise money for our Shriner's Hospitals for Children.

Rode Rigs Officers for 2021 are as follows.

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| President            | Joe Micikas   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. | Larry Barr    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. | Tom Becker    |
| Secretary/Treasurer  | Dennis Conrad |
| Parade Captain       | Don Wiles     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.  | Bob Plata     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.  | Bill Beaver   |

We are always looking for new members we have the Mini Rigs plus the Mini Jeeps each member owns and maintains and operates their own vehicle. We have loads of fun whether we are parading or just having fun at one of our social events. We have no membership fees no parade quotes and we also provide parts of the uniforms. So, if your interested in joining a motorized unit look no further give us a call and we can get you behind the wheel.

It just so happens that we have a Brand New Mini Jeep ready to parade it costs around \$2,500.00 so give us a call for all the details of how you can be parading in 2021 with the Rigs in your own Mini Jeep. For information call Joe Micikas at 724-344-0540 or Dennis Conrad 412-956-2245 or John Handshue at 412-877-4263.

The Rode Rigs would like to take this time to Wish You and your family a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

***Remember Keep on Truck'n for the Kids***



## DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

|     |        |        |   |                                   |
|-----|--------|--------|---|-----------------------------------|
| THU | DEC 3  | 7PM    | PGH'S PIANO MAN GERALD McGREW—NO COVER    | SHRINE CENTER RBALLROOM           |
| FRI | DEC 4  | 6PM    | CARAVAN 2 POTENTATE'S PARTY               | WASHINGTON FAIRGROUNDS PAVILION 2 |
| SAT | DEC 5  | 6PM    | SYRIA PATROL POTENTATE'S PARTY            | PUGLIANO'S RESTAURANT             |
| SAT | DEC 12 | 11AM   | CARAVAN 25 POTENTATE'S PARTY              | MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY      |
| SAT | DEC 12 | 8PM    | DANCING QUEEN—TICKETED                    | SHRINE CENTER BALLROOM            |
| THU | DEC 31 | 6PM    | NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY—TICKETED             | SHRINE CENTER BALLROOM            |
| MON | JAN 4  | 7:30PM | ANNUAL MEETING                            | SHRINE CENTER BALLROOM            |
| SUN | JAN 10 | 11AM   | CARAVAN 16 INSTALLATION                   | SHRINE CENTER MEETING ROOM        |
| SUN | JAN 10 | 5PM    | DIRECTORS STAFF INSTALLATION/POTE'S PARTY | SHRINE CENTER BALLROOM            |



## CARAVAN 20 PUSHES FORWARD

by Randy Hobaugh

We are now coming to the end of a very difficult year with many challenges for everyone, including Caravan 20. But we pushed forward and tried to complete a couple of activities.

### Family Picnic and 1st Annual Steeler Party

The Picnic was well attended, and I want to thank Ill. Sir Art Sarn for the use of his house. Next year, we will have our 2nd Annual Steeler Party and I hope the Steelers will at least play a game. The pictures will show everyone enjoyed the day. If you missed this one, you missed a great day of fellowship.



### Holiday and Bingo Party

At press time, the party has not yet been held. The party is scheduled for Sunday, November 29 at Pugliano's Restaurant in Plum. I will update more information in our next communication.

A Membership Meeting will be scheduled in early 2021. We need officers and new ideas to move our Caravan forward.

### 2021 Caravan 20 Officers

President - Noble Randy Hobaugh – 724-858-7158

1st Vice President - Noble Jerry Silverstein

2nd Vice President - Open

3rd Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Noble Gregory Kobasa

Secretary - Noble George Williams

Anyone interested joining Caravan 20, please contact any of the above officers or a Caravan 20 Member.

### 2021 Events Currently Being Scheduled – Dates will be finalized and sent soon

Caravan Corn Hole Tournament – Winning team will compete against the other Syria Teams

Syria Sportsmen's Bash – Shrine Center – This will be a fundraiser for Caravan 20

Summer Theater and Picnic – Apple Hill Playhouse and Lamplighter Restaurant

Annual Family and Steeler Picnic – Sarn Castle

Installation of Officers and Bingo Party

Nobles, while we would love to have you as a member of Caravan 20, you're still welcome to come join us for the fun and fellowship we offer even if you are not. Think about it and give our affairs a try.

In the meantime, Es Selamu Aleikum.

# CAMEL WHEELS YEARN FOR A PARADE

by Vic Perry

2020 – What can we say? In the past, this column would be full of parade details, describing the different towns the Camel Wheels visited and the people we met. We'd be talking about the delicious foods we sampled there and the joy we felt riding up and down the local streets. We'd be talking about the fun events and other social gatherings we participated in, whether as fund raisers or for just plain old good times. However, all that changed in a flash. Gone are the days where we could stand shoulder to shoulder with the public. It sure has been a rough year thus far. The Shriners have always been known to help the local communities and thrive on helping our fellow man. Our whole premise of existence rests with being with and assisting others for the greater good. As difficult as it is, now we must wait until it is once again safe to be with our fellow Shriners and those that need our help.

This is now a time to stop and plan for the future, as these restrictions shall surely pass. We can remember and appreciate what we had and plan on how we can make it better. Times like this make us realize how fortunate we have been and how good we felt when we were helping others. We actually yearn for ways we can be of service to those less fortunate. We should be inspired to make the Shriners stronger than ever when we are once again able.

With the holidays fast approaching, we should remember those Shriners for which the Black Camel had visited this past year and reflect upon the times we shared together. May they rest in peace.

In closing, we should especially hold our loved ones closer than ever and pray to our Supreme Being to guide us in the year to come.

## SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS PERTAINING TO ELECTIONS

### § 325.11 Election Regulations.

**(a) Electioneering.** A candidate for an elected office in a Shrine temple may print, publish and circulate during the year he is seeking the elected office, a résumé consisting of his educational background, his vocational history, and his Masonic and Shrine record. Except as provided in the prior sentence, the printing, publication, circulating or distribution of resolutions, letters, telegrams, tickets, email or other devices, by a unit, club, Noble, or group of Nobles, suggesting, recommending, opposing, or containing the names of proposed candidates for office in the temple is prohibited.

**(b) Expenditures Prohibited.** The expenditure of money for gifts, favors, or entertainment on behalf of a candidate for elected office is prohibited.

**(c) Violation.** For any violation of (a) or (b), the Imperial Potentate may suspend any offending Noble, and he may declare the election of the officers void and order a new election.

**(d) Notice.** At least one week prior to the annual meeting or any election, the temple Recorder shall mail to each member a notice thereof containing this section.

Amend. 2011

**§ 325.12 Postponed Election.** If it is impossible to hold the election as required, or if it appears to the Imperial Potentate proper, he may grant a special dispensation changing the date of the annual election



# SAVE THE DATE

## FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL SYRIA SHRINERS POTENTATE'S STAG

JOIN SYRIA NOBILITY IN HONORING SYRIA SHRINERS 121<sup>st</sup> POTENTATE

*When?*

**SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2021**

*Where?*

Syria Shriners Center  
Cheswick, PA 15024  
724-274-7000



It is not too early for Units, Clubs, and Caravans (or individuals) to make their plans and arrangements to attend/participate in the 2021 Potentate's Stag!

Come early for FUN and FELLOWSHIP! Visit and mingle with old friends and make some new friends. Bring your Masonic Brothers and your friends that you would like to see become Shrine Masons.

We have a full day of fun being planned. This year, the Stag will be a luncheon. Following lunch we have Potentate visitations and pictures. Enjoy your favorite desserts and beverages by visiting our Units, Clubs, and Caravans. We will then have our afternoon program and entertainment. After the program, many Unit Rooms, Club Areas and Caravan Areas will reopen for fellowship and socializing. The dress is casual for the entire day and evening. Unit, Club & Caravan shirts and Potentate shirts are equally acceptable.

- Doors open at 11:00 am
- Lunch starts at 12:00 Noon
- Potentate Rounds/Visitation to rooms and table areas begins at 1:30 pm
- Program starts at 3:15 pm
- More fellowship/socializing with Units, Clubs and Caravans 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Banquet tickets will be available for purchase after January 9, 2021

**Event Chairman, Robert W. Herbert, P.P.**

**Ticket Co-Chairmen, Gary Schwartz and Pete Highlands**

This event is for the benefit of Syria Shriners and is not Tax Deductible as a Charitable Contribution.



## OL VEREIN DISCOVERS ANTIVIRAL PROPERTIES OF LIMBURGER CHEESE

by Baron Leier von Pantzonfeier. Windy Yarn, is on assignment in the Federal State of Quarantine

After installing a new dictatorial regime in January, led by Präsident Dave Beery and Vize-Präsident Ron Gongaware, and Schatzmeister Ed O'Brien, the OL Verein faced an unprecedented challenge. For the first time in its long and malodorous history, the Verein was forced to cancel a scheduled quarterly rendezvous in its protracted collective love affair with soft-ripened cheese and Camel's Milk. In April, our Vereinsheim, Teutonia Männerchor was shuttered, and Vereiners were cloistered in their humble abodes in keeping with the stay-at-home orders of county and commonwealth public health authorities, so we were unable to meet at our usual time and place for the second quarterly meeting of the Year of the Pandemic.

Undaunted, our intrepid Kaisers auf die Käse resumed regular activities with our annual Swim Party at the third quarterly meeting in July. At that juncture, Allegheny County had forbidden the consumption of alcohol on the premises of any business in that jurisdiction, so we fled to neighboring Butler County, and the palatial estate of Bob and Pam Barkus, which, as good fortune would have it, features a swimming pool. Accordingly, for the first time since the days of Jim and Clara Bowen, the Verein had a Swim Party that actually featured water other than that which runs from a tap, or is captured in a plastic bottle.

As the customary cuisine at the Swim Party is grilled cow parts, we were happy to see that Past Präsident Ed "the butcher" I-L-O had eschewed Florida in the summer, had survived the arduous journey from Seven Springs to wilds of Butler County unscathed, and possessed copious quantities of cow parts and the requisite side dishes imported from Somerset County for our gustatorial pleasure. Der bürgermeister, and resident grill master, Dom Pascucci skillfully applied the flames to the flesh of the bovine species, and the satiated Vereiners didn't even notice when he fined them until their wallets were emptied.

The Swim Party also featured the initiation of the Colossal Class of 2020, a gargantuan group of eight new Vereiners, initiated in full form beside the pool at Schloss Barkus. Tom Edwards, Ray Hess, Bill Johnston, Bill Magnotti, John Paglialunga, Bobby Reddinger, Terry Steinheiser, and Mike Taylor were introduced to the mystery of our most Sacred and Secret Society by Herr Kapitan von der Kopf, Past Präsident und Sekretär Bob Addleman, ably assisted by the lovely "CAB" Whitaker and Robert Nelson. It was during this sanctimonious ceremony of Pumpnickel and Circumstance that our curd-loving curmudgeons learned of the wondrous antiviral properties of Limburger and Liederkrantz. We are delighted to report that Past Präsident Jim Wehrheim was miraculously delivered from the ravages of the novel coronavirus, and Jim and all of the other Vereiners have been virus-free ever since.

We reported our findings to the Centers for Disease Control, the White House Coronavirus Task Force, and Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Dr. Rachel Levine, who were all so impressed that there has been a nationwide run on Limburger cheese. The OL Verein maintains a strategic stockpile of stinkiness, however, so we were able to successfully stage another outdoor quarterly meeting in the friendly, physically-distanced confines of the Pittsburgh Shrine Center Pavilion in October.

At the Swim Party, Don Reisch and Bob Sabilla were arguing over whether the October meeting date, on the second Monday of the month, should pay homage to Indigenous People or Christopher Columbus, so in typical OL Verein fashion, der führer Dave Beery decreed that we would celebrate Oktoberfest, and that there would be a program offering comparative theories as to the discovery of the Americas. It is no wonder that attendance was lower than usual, but we blamed the pandemic, and members exercising "an abundance of caution."

We will have it again this month, when we celebrate Weihnachtukkahkwanzivus (Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Festivus) on the second Monday at the Shrine Center. We're hoping the cheese, in addition to its powerful antiviral benefits, will keep Krampus away from our shoes until next year, when we hope Windy Yarn will return to tell his own lies.

# ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021, 7:30PM

PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER BALLROOM

**2021 DUES CARD REQUIRED FOR ENTRY**

*Donald J. Taylor*

DONALD J. TAYLOR  
ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE

ATTEST: *Robert T. Addleman, Jr.*

ROBERT T. ADDLEMAN, JR., P.P.  
RECORDER

SYRIA SHRINERS  
1877 SHRINERS WAY  
CHESWICK, PA 15024