

A Message from the IMPERIAL POTENTATE

March 2013

Dear Shrine Masons,

Participating in the various associations' mid-winter meetings has given me the opportunity to stress increasing membership as the TOP Priority. We can accomplish this by promoting more family fun, more fellowship and certainly more brotherly LOVE in our temples and emphasizing these points when we share our Shriners stories with prospective members.

Attending the Midwest Shrine Association Mid-Winter meeting in Duluth, Minn., was an invigorating experience - daytime temperatures were in the teens. Imperial Officers who traveled with me were Imperial Sirs Jim Smith, Jim McConnell, Dale Stauss, PIP/Chairman of the Board Doug Maxwell and PIP Gary Dunwoody.

The business meeting, conducted by President/PP Steve Kavacic and Secretary/Treasurer PP Del Koons, was well organized and effective. In addition to the serious business of the meeting, we had some Shriner fun. MSA's midwinter boat races are always a highlight. This year was no different – the races were a lot of fun, as was the encouragement to participate provided by our chief medical officer Dr. Ken Guidera. For his many efforts on behalf of our organizations and his enthusiasm, he was presented with an Imperial Potentate medallion.



The Midwest Shrine Association has a lot to celebrate. Five of Midwest's temples have achieved GOLD status in increasing membership. Many others are at the silver and bronze level! This Midwest Shrine Association has the potential of having all its temples reach GOLD status in a couple years. We'd like to challenge other associations to aspire to a similar goal!

The 139th Imperial Council pre-convention meeting in Indianapolis was next on the agenda. The Indianapolis Team, under the direction of Director General Jeff Zaring and Deputy Director General Bill Rasner and their ladies, Margie and Vicki, are well prepared. Schedules, area maps, tours, ticket information, hotel listings are available on the website. Check it out at www.imperial2013.com.

Deputy Imperial Potentate John Cinotto and I, along with our ladies, Jan and Margaret, hope you all plan to be with us from June 30th to July 4th.

The parade will be on Monday evening and the clowns will be leading the parade. Many of our ladies groups have clown units and they have been invited to participate in the parade, too. All of the clowns will be in front of the color guard. We hope to set a Guinness World record with the most clowns (851) in a parade.



Photo courtesy of the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association

Next, we visited the Spokane Shriners Hospital. Our time there included a donor development recognition event. We also met with Board of Governors Chairman Von Chimienti, acting Administrator Craig "Patch" Patchin, and Chief of Staff Paul Caskey, M.D. Discussion topics included needed improvements to the operating rooms, parent housing and parking.

We attended the Pacific Northwest Shrine Association Mid-Winter meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Calam Shriners, led by Potentate Rob Turnipseed, hosted the meeting. The meetings were well attended with a full agenda prepared by President Gordon Brewer and Secretary/Treasurer PP Larry Tipton. Other Imperial Officers in attendance were Deputy Imperial Potentate John Cinotto, and Imperial Sirs Bill Bailey, Jim Cain and PIP Bob Turnipseed.

As always, there was a lot of fun and great fellowship for everyone. Isn't that what we're all about - "Fun with a purpose?"



From Spokane, we traveled to the Conference of Grand Masters in Kansas City, Mo., with Imperial Officers EVP/PIP Jack Jones, Chris Smith, Jerry Gantt, Dale Stauss, Deputy Imperial Potentate John Cinotto, PGM Jeff Sowder and PGM Trustee Bobby Simmons.



Imperial Sir Jack Jones and I had an opportunity to address the West Coast Conference of Grand Masters on Saturday concerning the problems in Arkansas and South Carolina.

Monday morning, our Imperial Officers and Trustees were introduced at the assembly of Grand Masters. Tuesday morning we hosted the Frank S. Land Memorial Breakfast. My remarks stressed working together to bring our by-laws closer in an effort to eliminate the many problems we have had in the past with various Grand Lodges.

This is the speech I presented to those in attendance (320+) –

Remarks by Al Madsen – Frank S. Land Breakfast – Feb 19, 2013

Distinguished Head Table, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Sirs, Illustrious Sirs, fellow Nobles, Brothers and Guests.....

It is my great honor to be here today at the Frank S. Land Memorial Breakfast.

Shriners International has been pleased to sponsor this breakfast for more than “50” years.

It is a wonderful opportunity for the leaders of our Masonic family organizations to get together and renew and strengthen friendships.

This year’s breakfast is even more meaningful. We are in Kansas City, the home town of Frank S. Land. If we had to select an individual who represents the bonds shared by Masons and Shriners, Frank S. Land would certainly be a clear and excellent choice.

Frank Land was a very active Mason with deep roots in his community and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. This concern led him to found the Order of DeMolay, an organization dedicated to helping young men develop civic and personal responsibility, as well as leadership skills.

Frank Land, like many Master Masons, went on to become a Shriner. The Shriners fraternity was founded to provide “family fun and fellowship” for fellow Master Masons, and that remains its purpose today – with the addition of supporting our philanthropy – Shriners Hospitals for Children.

In the 1954-55 Imperial Year, Frank S. Land served as our Imperial Potentate. Clearly, he represents and symbolizes the bonds between Shriners and Masonry, and the commitment we share to improve our communities and the world around us.

The Masonic principles of brotherhood, relief and truth are at the core and basis of Shriners International.

We have been part of the same family – the Masonic family of organizations – since day one – one hundred forty years ago. The Shriners organization is proud and honored to be a member of this family.

Shrine Masons are committed to improving the lives of children, especially through our philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children. What began 90 years ago as a single hospital built in response to the needs of children struggling with the after-effects of the polio virus, is now a health care system with 22 hospitals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico caring for children dealing with all types of orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay for services.

Our staff conducts innovative research to improve treatment protocols, and provides excellent education opportunities for medical professionals.

In 2012, Shriners Hospitals for Children spent \$2.2 million per day on that commitment to provide expert medical care to children.

We know that our Masonic brothers also contribute to, support and take pride in that effort, and we thank you.

Together, through Shriners Hospitals for Children, we have given hope and healing to more than 1 million children since the first Shriners Hospital opened in Shreveport, La., 90 years ago.

We recently heard a story about a family in Pennsylvania. A young girl was born with only one hand, and her grandmother was having difficulty finding medical assistance for the child. She turned to a friend, who was a Mason. He contacted his Lodge Master.

The Master contacted a Shriner, who also happened to be a Past Master at another Lodge in the area. The Shriner contacted our nearest hospital offering the appropriate services to the family. And today, the little girl is learning to use her new prosthetic hand, which she has named "Lefty."

We accomplish great things when we work together.

Every family, at times, experiences some difficulty and discord. Again, the Shriners fraternity, the Blue lodges and the Grand Lodges have recognized one another and worked together in a spirit of amity and harmony for one-hundred-forty years. Shriners and Masons share a brotherhood, camaraderie and commitment to the same ideals.

This is not a perfect world, and there is not a perfect family. However, true brothers and families choose to work together when there are difficulties or disagreements.

It is my fervent hope and my deepest wish that Shrine Masons and Masons both remain within the Masonic brotherhood, committed to open, respectful dialogue, to resolving any differences that may exist, and to continuing to make the world a better place – together.

May God bless us and keep us working together in amity.

THANK YOU.....

Ararat Potentate Wayne H Spencer and the divan officers hosted The Imperial delegation at dinner Monday evening. It was an excellent opportunity for shared conversation and fellowship. We thank them for their warm welcome and great hospitality.



After the conference we traveled to International Shrine Clown Association Mid-Winter meeting in Huntsville, Ala. Other Imperial Officers in attendance were Wayne Latchut and Jim Cain, along with their ladies, Jan and Janet. Association President Mark Burgad, a Noble from Naja Shriners (AKA Buzzy), and Incoming President George Pipes (AKA Patches) provided a super program of competition including entertaining skits. The "Powder Puff" category included three lady clowns.





The Records Seminar in New Orleans didn't let the rainy weather detract from an enjoyable dinner cruise on the "Mighty" Mississippi. The lead entertainer, saxophone player Jerry Embree , was made a Shriner the next day. He will enjoy Jerusalem's ceremonial scheduled for April 27.

An outstanding program was prepared by PP and President John Williamson and Secretary Phil Johnson. Other Imperial Officers in attendance were Deputy Imperial Potentate John Cinotto and Imperial Recorder/PIP and EVP Jack Jones and Imperial Chief Rabban Dale Stauss.

In closing it's important to again mention that Imperial Session is coming up fast. Please get to know the candidates running for Imperial Outer Guard and Shrine Hospital Trustee, so you can make the best, most informed choices. They are:

Outer Guard candidates:

1. Joe Savaglio, PP - Kismet Shriners
2. Kenny Craven, PP - Omar Shriners
3. Paul Frank, PP - Philae Shriners

Trustee candidates:

1. Anthony West, PP - Zamora Shriners
2. James Doel, PP - Tunis Shriners
3. Dr Brandt Bede, PP and Trustee Emeritus - Afifi Shriners
4. Douglas Maxwell, PIP, Chairman of the Board - Moolah Shriners

My next Message will contain information on Sports/Athletic Committee, Oriental Guide and Assistant Rabban Seminars and visits to Hejaz, Egypt and Sahib temples.

Yours in the Faith,

Alan "Al" W. Madsen
Imperial Potentate

Note: We ask that you please insert this message in your temple newspaper or magazine.

Keep membership "number one" priority by promoting family fun, fellowship and brotherly love!