

# THE BLADE

by Scimitar Shriners



**Shriners Hospitals  
for Children®**

*Official Philanthropy of Shriners International*

Volume 56, Issue 2

BI-MONTHLY

March 2023

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**SCIMITAR SHRINERS HEADQUARTERS  
631 W. RIVERFRONT DR. NLR, AR 72114**

**EGG HUNT, TREATS, PETTING ZOO AND MORE!**

**PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 24TH  
501-565-5992  
ADMIN@SCIMITARSHRINE.COM**



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**New patient referrals:**

SHC-St. Louis: 314-432-3600

SHC-Shreveport: 318-222-5704

**Potentate**

Eddie Butler

**Chief Rabban**

Rick Brandon

**Assistant Raban**

John Robinson

**High Priest & Prophet**

Chris Underwood

**Oriental Guide**

Kyle Lutgen

**Treasurer**

Joe Diederich, PP

**Recorder**

Bruce Anible

**First Ceremonial Master**

Randal Dixon

**Second Ceremonial Master**

Stuart Thomas

**Director**

Cole Fitzhugh

**Marshal**

Adam Bates

**Captain of the Guard**

Tony Ferro

**Outer Guard**

Shane Alexander

**Chaplain**

Dennis Stevens

**The Blade Content Deadline**

The deadline for submitting content for the next issue is APRIL 26, 2022

Please send all content requests to:  
[mrsyb420@gmail.com](mailto:mrsyb420@gmail.com)

# POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

What a way to start off 2023! We have already had many opportunities to fellowship together, but I'd like to take a minute to highlight a few of them. We started the year with 2 great Stated Meetings. Thank you everyone for making it a priority to attend these. We had an extremely successful Chili cookoff at the Big Buck Classic. More than 40 teams registered, our very own Rebekah Curtis took home 2nd place, and we raised \$9,666 for our transportation fund, making this the largest chili cookoff we've ever had! We kicked off February with an awesome Valentine's dinner where we raised \$930 to go toward a hospital project. We rolled right into Super Bowl Sunday and had one of the biggest turnouts we've seen in several years. A lot of hard work goes into these events and I'd like to say a very big "thank you" to those who helped to make these events a huge success!

We have several opportunities for fellowship coming up. On March 31st, Lady Holly is hosting a family game night and we'd love to see you there! Come for a night of food, fun, fellowship and of course prizes! Cost is \$10/person to cover food. Please RSVP to [firstladyof-scimitar@gmail.com](mailto:firstladyof-scimitar@gmail.com) so she can plan accordingly. We also have our onion fundraiser going on right now and the deadline in March 31st. Onions are sold in 10# bags for \$12. Please contact Kyle Lutgen at 501-960-8271 if you have any questions.

We will host our annual Easter party for Shrine patients and children on April 1st from 1pm-3pm. We will have an egg hunt, goody bags, prizes and the petting zoo! Nobles, Ladies and clowns are encouraged to attend. On April 29th we'll have the new Noble ceremonial at 12pm with a new Noble lunch at 11am. Following the ceremonial is the annual crawfish boil and baggo tournament beginning at 3pm. This is a membership event so please bring anyone that you think may be interested in becoming a Shriner. Tickets are \$25/person (kids 8 and under free) and can be purchased from any Membership committee member. Don't worry if you don't like crawfish, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs and salad for \$15/person.

As you can see, we have a lot going on. That means several opportunities for your family to get involved and participate, to fellowship with friends and fellow Nobles, and to help build our philanthropy. It takes all of us to grow and I encourage you all to get involved. As I mentioned above, we're off to great start so let's keep it going! Here's to Family, Fellowship and Philanthropy in 2023!

Fraternally yours,  
Illustrious Sir Eddie Butler





## Nomad Shrine Club News:

Meeting Recap: Our first two meetings of the year were packed and eventful. Our January meeting included special guests from the Ladies of the Orient Shrine, and our February meeting included special guests from the Natural's Ballpark. More exciting news to come this summer about an event at the Ballpark.

Event Recap: Our Painting for a Purpose January event was a huge success and a lot of fun. We had a sold-out event, met some fun NWA locals that came to show support, and shared some Shriner Trivia with them. We held the patient Valentine party filled with ice cream, games, and prizes. 11 patients plus family and friends attended. For Shriner patient Shelby Moore, it was her first time attending a Shriner event. We loved making memories with our special patients! Enjoy our events collage below.

Upcoming Events: Nomad will be hosting a patient picnic on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Randall Tyson Recreational Complex in Springdale, Arkansas. We will be inviting local patients, family and friends to join us for yard games, hot dogs, and fun! All nobles and family are invited to attend.



## **HOT SPRING YACHT CLUB**

The Hot Springs Yacht Club will have a New Member Dinner at Hot Springs Lodge #62, Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6PM.

The Lodge is located at

311 West Grand Ave, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Contact Shrine Club President, Robert Gronwaldt at  
281-840-2640

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **March:**

- 1st Fun Raisers Meeting
- 8th Divan Meeting
- 9th Nomad Shrine Club Meeting
- 10th Stated Meeting-7:00pm-Dinner 6:00 pm  
Clown Meeting-8:30-9:30-Temple  
Misfits Meeting-8:30-9:30-Temple  
Ladies Meeting  
SCSA Business Meeting (3/10-3/11)
- 11th Director's Staff Oaklawn trip
- 12th D.O.N.
- 13th Bedouin Meeting
- 14th Director's Staff Meeting
- 15th SCSA Planning Meeting
- 16th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting  
Hot Springs Yacht Club Meeting
- 18th D.O.N.
- 23rd Spring River Shrine Club Meeting
- 24th CSSA Business Meeting (3/24-3/26)
- 27th Finance Committee Meeting  
Ft. Smith Shrine Club Meeting
- 28th North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting
- 31st Family Game Night

## **April:**

- 1st Patient's Easter Egg Hunt
- 4th Fun Raiser Meeting
- 10th Bedouin Meeting
- 11th Director's Staff Meeting
- 12th Divan Meeting
- 13th Nomad Shrine Club Meeting
- 14th Mt View Folk Festival  
Stated Meeting-7:00pm-Dinner 6:00 pm  
Clown Meeting-8:30-9:30-Temple  
Misfits Meeting-8:30-9:30-Temple  
Ladies Meeting
- 15th D.O.N.
- 19th SCSA Planning Meeting
- 20th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting and Hot Springs Yacht Club
- 24th Finance Committee Meeting and Ft. Smith Shrine Club Meeting
- 25th North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting
- 27th Spring River Shrine Club Meeting
- 29th Ceremonial/ Crawfish Boil



Dear Mr. Launius and The Shriners Organization:

In 1989 my son, Jason, was 10 years old and diagnosed with an extremely rare disease called mucopolysaccharidosis. We were told he would probably not live past the age of 21, so we made it our mission to provide Jason with as much life as we could fit into 21 years.

This disease attacks the individual systems of the body and in Jason's case the first system it attacked was his connective tissue. He was unable to fully open his hands, bend his elbows or walk with his heels touching the floor. His feet so mishappen we were unable to find shoes to fit him.

I don't recall who suggested The Shriners, but I will forever be in their debt. The closest Shriners Hospital to our home in Reno, Nevada was in San Francisco, CA. Jason and I loaded up our 1963 Volkswagen bus complete with a "Save the Whales" sticker and headed to SF.

The Staff of the hospital couldn't have been more professional. They calmed my son and prepared him for surgery to release the tendons in his ankles to allow him to walk flat footed for the first time in his life. We were both treated like royalty despite not having a dime to our name! He was released several days later with casts on both legs and a glimmer of hope. Jason worked hard with physical therapy and within 6 months he was able to walk flat footed in his first pair of sneakers. Thanks to medical advancements, Jason is now 42, married with a beautiful daughter. Every day I get to speak to him is a gift from God and every step he takes is a gift from The Shriners! I have waited all tis time to meet a Shriner and express my gratitude to your organization. You gave my family hope and I will never be able to repay your kindness!

Pat Nichols Buff

## Scimitar Onion Sales

Orders Due by March 27, 2023

**10 LB Bag - \$12 Each**

Proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Children's (formerly Shriners Hospitals for Children)

To Order Click here:

<https://forms.gle/VPXS8mmxiGjvdi6q8>

or

Contact

Kyle Lutgen

[kylelutgen@protonmail.com](mailto:kylelutgen@protonmail.com)

501-960-8271



## **MEMBERSHIP**

Change is good, but often so hard, and the status quo can be so much more comfortable. Most of us can relate to this statement and apply it to ourselves. Change is hard but change is inevitable. Our Philanthropy changes daily and can leave most of us behind. Scimitar's Membership Team is here to help eliminate the status quo and continue growth within the organization. Just a few weeks ago, five members of Scimitar traveled to Grapevine, Texas for the 3rd annual Marketing Seminar. Although a lot of knowledge was gained through discussion with other Temples, implementing new ideas for growth can be the biggest challenge. The focal point of every discussion we had was to visit Masonic Lodges and provide them with information on what we do and why we do it. We all know that seems simply said and we sure know why we do what we do. So how do we implement growth? I say, JUST BRING ONE! If every member just brought one man and his family to the Crawfish Boil, problem solved. If we invite Masonic Lodges and invite them to join us, they will come! Last year was a blessing as we grew our membership to 307. Lets continue this growth by embracing change within ourselves and jump feet first in 2023!

Our membership event is the Crawfish Boil on April 29th. To buy tickets, contact Ill. Sir John Robinson, Chris Underwood or Stuart Thomas. The Membership Team is also selling raffle tickets for an AR-15 at \$10 each and will be selling these at the next Stated Meeting. If you would like to help at any event planned, go to the Scimitar Temple website calendar at [arkansasshriners.com](http://arkansasshriners.com) and contact any Membership Team Noble.

Remember, "IT STARTS WITH US!"

Chris Underwood

Membership Chairman

## **MEMORIALS**

### **Bill Runyun Jr.:**

Joe & Jan Diederich

### **Harold Balios**

Joe & Jan Diederich

Drew Illing

## **IN MEMORIUM**

**Harold Balios**





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