

# THE BLADE

by Scimitar Shriners



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®

*Official Philanthropy of Shriners International*

Volume 57, Volume 1

BI-MONTHLY

January 2024

## Scimitar Shriners Installation of Officers



January 6th 2024  
Photographs at 12:30pm  
Installation at 2:00pm



[www.ArkansasShriners.com](http://www.ArkansasShriners.com)

### VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER AND DANCE

February 3, 2024 Scimitar Shrine

Cocktail hour 5:30-6:30—Dinner 6:30

Music and Dancing to follow

\$50 per couple- \$25 single

B.Y.O.B.

Scimitar Shriners Headquarters

631 W. Riverfront Dr

NLR, AR 72114



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**Scimitar Shriners**

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**New patient referrals:**

SHC-St. Louis: 314-432-3600

SHC-Shreveport: 318-222-5704

**Potentate**

Rickey Brandon

**Chief Rabban**

John Robinson, PP

**Assistant Raban**

Chris Underwood

**High Priest & Prophet**

Kyle Lutgen

**Oriental Guide**

Stuart Thomas

**Treasurer**

Joe Diederich, PP

**Recorder**

Bruce Anible

**First Ceremonial Master**

Shane Alexander

**Second Ceremonial Master**

Chris Fitzhugh

**Director**

Cole Fitzhugh

**Marshal**

Adam Bates

**Captain of the Guard**

Tony Ferro

**Outer Guard**

Craig Laine

**Chaplain**

Dennis Stevens

## POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

Nobles, Ladies and Families:

I cannot believe 2023 has passed and we are starting 2024! First and foremost, I want to say thank you all for your confidence and trust. Lady Kim and I are very excited for this New Year. We cannot do this alone and with your help and guidance this will be an incredible year.

I have to say a huge Thank You to Past Potentate Illustrious Sir Eddie Butler and First Lady Holly. I am so glad you allowed us to tag along with you throughout the last year and learn and prepare for this upcoming year.

As I look forward to 2024, I want us to continue with the momentum we have built. We will grow membership and take care of our kids. This year will be about "Taking care of our kids and having fun doing it!". I really want to build on fellowship, as I have been in Scimitar for over 15 years, I really enjoy sitting around and hearing Noble Wayne and Lady Joan Launius, Past Potentate Charles and Lady Ruth, and Past Potentate Dennis Stevens talking about what they did at CSSA, SCSA and Imperial back in the day. I want us to build those relationships and tell those stories years from now.

Throughout this year there are a lot of upcoming events. Installation of Officers on January 6, then February 3 we have the Valentine's dance and before you know it will be June and we will be on a Potentate's cruise to Mexico, I hope to see everyone on the high seas. Lady Kim and I look forward to serving you and working with you all this year. We have worked hard to prepare for this year, and I know this will be an incredible year. Again, thank you all for your vote of confidence.

"We will do more in 2024"

Yours in Faith

Illustrious Sir Rick Brandon

**The Blade Content Deadline**

The deadline for submitting content for the next issue is February 25, 2024

Please send all content requests to:

[mrsyb420@gmail.com](mailto:mrsyb420@gmail.com)



**The Big Buzz Chili Cook-Off**  
**Benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children**  
**January 27, 2024 at The Big Buck Classic**

**Chili Entry Registration Form**

Cook-Off Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee**

The entry fee will be \$25.00 per Chili Team. Each team should have no more than two (2) members.  
Each team will be provided with two (2) tickets to the event.

**Space will be limited, so sign up soon!!**

**Registration/Payment Information**

Register and pay online at [ArkansasShriners.com](https://ArkansasShriners.com)

or

Complete this form with entry fee check and mail to the address below.

Scimitar Fun Raisers

P.O. Box 877

Perryville, AR 72126

For questions or more information, please e-mail Dave Livingston at [Scimitarfunraisers@gmail.com](mailto:Scimitarfunraisers@gmail.com)

**Proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children**

***Scimitar Shriners – “Having Fun, Helping Kids!!”***

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **JANUARY:**

- 3rd Fun Raisers
- 6th Scimitar Installation of Officers
- 8th Bedouin Meeting
- 9th Directors Staff Meeting
- 10th Divan Meeting
- 11th Nomad Shrine Club Meeting
- 12th Stated Meeting 7:00pm-Dinner 6:00pm  
Clown Meeting-& Misfits Meeting 8:30-9:30 Temple  
Ladies Meeting
- 17th SCSA Planning Meeting
- 18th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting & Hot Springs Yacht Club Meeting
- 20th D.O.N.
- 22nd Finance Committee Meeting & Ft. Smith Shrine Club Meeting
- 23rd North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting
- 25th Spring River Shrine Club Meeting
- 27th Big Buck Classic Chili Cook Off

## **FEBRUARY:**

- 3rd Valentine's Party
- 7th Fun Raiser Meeting
- 8th Nomad Shrine Club Meeting
- 9th Stated Meeting-7:00pm-Dinner 6:00 pm  
Clown Meeting & Misfits Meeting -8:30-9:30-Temple  
Ladies Meeting
- 10th Divan Training
- 12th Bedouin Meeting
- 13th Director's Staff Meeting
- 14th Divan Meeting
- 15th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting & Hot Springs Yacht Club Meeting
- 17th D.O.N.
- 21st SCSA Planning Meeting
- 22nd Spring River Shrine Club Meeting
- 26th Finance Committee Meeting & Ft. Smith Shrine Club Meeting
- 27th North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting

## THE MAGIC PILL OF MEMBERSHIP

Long, long ago, a study was conducted....  
What was everyone looking for in their life??

Answer: To be happy.

They wanted:

- ☐ Fellowship
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Role with the family
- ☐ Role with the community
- ☐ Chance to be a leader.

Today...

1. Masonic membership has been declining since 1950.
2. Shriners membership has been declining since 1979.
3. Loneliness among men has been increasing. Today, 20% of men have no close friends – not one!

*Who really cares if men are lonely?*

Because, we are all social creatures... The closer your relationships are, the better your life will be.

*What difference does it really make if men have friends or not?* Because with friends, everything goes better.

- ☐ You'll live a longer life (>30%)
- ☐ You'll have fewer illnesses
- ☐ Friendship triggers positive, mood-enhancing chemicals in your brain
- ☐ You'll be less stressed
- ☐ Lower blood pressure
- ☐ More resilient
- ☐ More optimistic
- ☐ More likely to have a healthier weight

Is your temple (or lodge) lodge in motion, or at rest?

What happens when your core membership declines to a point when you can hardly do the things you want to do?

If men are so lonely, why don't they just make new ones?

- ☐ Frankly, men stink at building social relationships. How long is the average phone call for a man?
- ☐ Men struggle to maintain current friends, much less make new ones.
- ☐ Worries about daily life and requirements
- ☐ "I just don't have time to socialize."
- ☐ Increased turn to alcohol or drugs
- ☐ Isolation: working from home, Reliance on Social Media
- ☐ Isolation: TV/cell phone addiction

Start doing things at the Lodge or Temple that build/strengthen relationships. Social excursions with the brothers & families; game playing, golfing, fishing, hiking, biking, etc. Time spent doing something in your club, group, or lodge. A good example, the old Laurel & Hardy movie, "Sons of the Desert". You can be a fool if you want – you are among friends!

We can make new friends!

- ☐ Calculate, and budget some time to spend with a friend.
- ☐ *"I am XX years old... I have about 20 years left. How do I want to spend the time I have left?"* Spend it with friends!!

In 2019, the average American spent 11 hours EACH DAY involved in "media" – either broadcast or social – 70-80 hours a week. What part of your remaining hours does this comprise?

FOCUS ON BUILDING/MAINTAINING FRIENDSHIP

The "Magic Pill" for the Shrine (and Lodge) is FRIENDSHIP.

Are there any side effects – Unintended consequences?

Freemasonry, and the Shrine are places where we still meet friends and deal with people on a person-to-person, face-to-face basis. You can't join on-line, or sign up to a Facebook group.

Our members (Shrine, Scottish Rite, and other appendant bodies) come from Blue lodges. We are fishing in a very small pond.

If you want to pick an ear of corn, where do you go? You go to a cornfield – where corn grows. Same principle works here, you go to a corn field if you want to pick an ear of corn.

DON'T WAIT -- YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT EAR OF CORN TO COME TO YOU.

MAKE MEMBERSHIP MORE THAN JUST A CONFERENCE THAT YOU ATTEND NOW AND THEN.

- ☐ Ask questions – be curious.
- ☐ Put time in with people.
- ☐ Find common ground with people.
- ☐ Check in with people.

\* Sing your heart out... The old club of Chanters was probably the best relationship-building group ever.

☐ Make your lodge or temple a place where men can find friends, make relationships, and end loneliness.

☐ Open your doors!

May the Peace be with you....

Tom Ezell, Membership Chairman

## THE BADGE OF A SHRINER

By the scimitar and crescent you wear upon your coat  
You proclaim that you're a Shriner. It's a sign for men to note.  
It's a symbol that your fellows have abiding faith in you;  
They believe that you are worthy and they trust in all you do.  
But I wonder, fellow Noble, as I meet you here and there,  
If you've really caught the meaning of the little badge you wear?

Are you mindful of its splendor? Are you watchful of its fame?  
Are you careful as you travel, not to bring it into shame?  
You proclaim that you're a Shriner, every passer-by can see  
That you've pledged to do the right thing, wheresoever you may be  
But, world-wide, your brothers suffer loss and injury from you,  
If you do the wrong act, which a Shriner wouldn't do.

By the token you're wearing, you're expected to be fine;  
We have taught the world it's something to be chosen by the Shrine;  
And the man who wears its emblem has his fellows' guarantee  
That a gentleman of honor he is known and pledged to be;  
And if he shall fail that standard by some thoughtless word or whim,  
All Shriners, wide world over, shall be put to shame by him.

By the scimitar and crescent which you so proudly display,  
You are bound to live and travel in a bigger, better way.  
You must dignify the emblem, so none whom you may meet,  
Be he friend or foe, may whisper that the Shrine is but a cheat.  
You must play the man at all the times, you must keep your conduct fair,  
And be worthy of the crescent and scimitar you wear.

-----

## MEMORIAL

### **Norman Glynn Davis:**

Jo Davis  
Michelle Redmond  
Laurie Wicktora  
Matt McHendry  
Andrea Callicott

### **Kenny Hamm:**

Dennis Stevens & Jane Archer  
Charles & Ruth Thomas  
Wayne & Joan Launius  
Cole & Jennifer Fitzhugh

## LOST IN THE DESERT

Broganlee Baker  
Gary Davis  
Robert Driesel  
Michael Foster  
Milton Goode  
James Hopson  
Johnathan Johnson  
Bruce Martin  
David Langford  
Vinny Pigue  
Thomas Rutherford  
Jacob Schmidt  
Ken Smeets  
Matthews Winters

Dustin Copeland  
Michael Dewberry  
James Epperson  
Mark Gillis  
Phillip Harris  
Charles Hodge  
Thomas Johnson  
Casey Kensinger

Tommy Radford  
Shannon Schiesser  
Chadwick Simpson  
Jody Urquhart  
Michael Woods

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Love to the Rescue, a song written by Scimitar Shriners Doug Driesel and Chris Underwood, along with Noble Jason Cloud of Texas and singer Flint Thompson, is sitting currently at No. 6 on the CDX positive country chart and is expected to climb again this week. This song was written for Shriners and adopted for the program "women impacting care".

2:33



CDX Charts - Dec. 11t...



CDX TRAction SOUTHERN GOSPEL & POSITIVE COUNTRY							
December 20th, 2023 Airplay Dec. 11th — Dec. 18th							
Last Week	This Week	Song / Artist / Label	Spins	+/-	Stations	Adds	Weeks On Chart
1	#1 WEEK 5	<b>A Million Miles</b> DOUG MATHIS CDX Records	150	-19	8	0	14
3	2	<b>Bethlehem, Virginia 1BC</b> STEVE BRIDGMON Bowie Country	115	4	5	0	9
5	3	<b>True Story</b> JON BRENNAN CDX Records	105	8	7	1	16
4	4	<b>Big Prayers</b> DREW BALDRIDGE Independent	99	-10	3	0	35
10	5	<b>Whiskey and A Prayer</b> LONDON HEIGHTS Independent	82	4	6	0	17
11	6	<b>Love to the Rescue</b> FLINT THOMPSON Lake Paradise Records	78	2	5	0	29
44	7	<b>Still To Come</b> TODD TIGHLMAN Artist Resource Services	66	+47 SPINS	4	3	23
15	8	<b>Rain In The Rearview</b> ANNE WILSON Sparrow/EMI Nashville	62	3	3	0	11
19	9	<b>Take A Stand</b> STEVE ANTHONY CDX Records	58	3	3	0	13



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