

THE BLADE

by Scimitar Shriners



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children®**

Official Philanthropy of Shriners International

Volume 60, BI-MONTHLY

September 2026



**SCIMITAR
SHRINERS**
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Scimitar Shriners FUNRAISERS BBQ

**GREAT BBQ
FOR A
GREAT
CAUSE!**



BBQ PLATE
Includes: Pulled Pork,
Baked Beans, Coleslaw,
Bread & Dessert

**\$15
PER PLATE**

SAFETY

 **SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10, 2026**

 **5:00 - TILL**

 **RIGGIN**
22161 Donna Cove
Mabelevale, AR 72103

**All proceeds benefit Scimitar
Shriners Funraisers Unit**

 **FOR MORE INFORMATION**
scimitarfunraisers@gmail.com

CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES. ★ THAT'S WHAT SHRINERS DO.

The Blade is published bi-monthly by:

Scimitar Shriners

PO Box 255
North Little Rock, AR 72115

Website: arkansasshriners.com

Telephone: 501-565-5992

Email: admin@scimitarshrine.com

New patient referrals:

SHC-St. Louis: 314-432-3600

SHC-Shreveport: 318-222-5704

Potentate

Chris Underwood

Chief Rabban

Kyle Lutgen

Assistant Raban

Shane Alexander

High Priest & Prophet

Stuart Thomas

Oriental Guide

Craig Laine

Treasurer

David Moore

Recorder

Bruce Anible

First Ceremonial Master

Adam Bates

Second Ceremonial Master

Andrew Robertson

Director

Cole Fitzhugh

Marshal

Shane Simmons

Captain of the Guard

Tony Ferro

Outer Guard

Steven Rose

Chaplain

Gary Lanier

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

The last few months the Nobles of Scimitar, their Ladies, Divan, and myself have been busy with membership and relations with the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. In June we had a Grand Masters Reception with over 80 people in attendance and most recently held a Ceremonial at the Scottish Rite Building with over 130 in attendance. These events were orchestrated by a few talented people and the Scimitar Board of Directors thanks them for all their hard work.

In July, many of us attended the 152nd Imperial Session held in Tampa Florida. The weather was perfect and we even got some beach time in. Just a few short weeks ago, Illustrious Sir's John Robinson, Charles Thomas, Lady Ruth, and myself traveled to Davenport IA for CSSA. Again, the weather was perfect and we enjoyed seeing old friends, the competitions, and the parade. If you've never attended, its a must on your to do list.

On September 25-27 we will be having the Potentates Ball weekend at the Aloft Hotel in Little Rock. We plan to have the Hillbilly Degree, Water Buffalo Degree, and maybe a few other degrees with the Ball being held on Saturday Night. Lady Krista and I look forward to seeing you all there for our last big event. We also have the Golf at the Rock Tournament on Saturday Sept 12th and look forward to seeing you there as well.

I have been truly blessed to be the Potentate of Scimitar and its been an amazing year for our Organization. I thank each one of you for all your hard work and dedication to bringing our membership back above water and organizing the events that keep us moving forward. Keep up the great work Nobles and Ladies! Yours in Faith,

Christopher Underwood
Potentate Scimitar Shriners
[608-792-8792](tel:608-792-8792)
Potentate2026@yahoo.com

" IT ALL STARTS WITH US!"

The Blade Content Deadline

The deadline for submitting content for the next issue is October 25, 2026.

Please send all content requests to:

mrsyb420@gmail.com

LOST IN THE DESERT

Mark Berry

John Davis

Robert Driesel

Kevin Elliot

Phillip Harris

Bruce Martin

Anthony Small

Gary Davis

Otto Diederich

Marvin Durden

Darren Fariadacunha

James Linthicum

Austin Underwood

MEMORIALS

Kevin Hambel:

Consolidated Insurance

Gerald Giattina:

Gardner & Lynn Burton

Archie Neal:

Wayne & Joan Launius

David & April Moore

Dennis Stevens & Jane Archer

Martha Kage:

Dennis Stevens

Wayne & Joan Launius

BLACK CAMEL

Floyd Weems Jr.

Virgil Fiser

MEMBERSHIP

I hope everyone has had a great summer. Membership has been busy since the last Blade Article. We attended the Imperial Session in Tampa from July 10 – 17, 2026. We had the Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas Lampirez and Right Worshipful Richard Smith, Grand Junior Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas attend with us. The Grand Master was well received by the nobility and he and R.W Richard Smith enjoyed themselves. The Grand Master also attended the Grand Master Summit and Membership Hall of Fame Luncheon and said it was very informative. There are changes coming for Membership. Imperial Sir Larry Lieb is revamping Membership. More to come later.

On July 27 th the Potentate and I attended the Ft. Smith Shrine Club Meeting at Van Buren Lodge #6. President Chip Cooksey and the Ft. Smith Shrine Club Members cooked BBQ Ribs and the fixin's. Thank You for a great meal Noble Chip and Ft. Smith Shrine Club. Approximately 40 people attended the Membership Presentation. We had several brethren petition for membership and show interest. I would like to say Thank You to Noble Ricky Gwin who is the Master of the Lodge for allowing us to use the lodge that night.

Then on August 15, 2026, we held the Arkansas Shrine Ceremonial at the Scottish Rite Building. We had 22 Nobles participate in the Ceremonial of which 6 were new candidates. Even the Grand Master participated. All had fun and enjoyed the day. The Demolay cooked and served the meal. Ill. Sir David "Hollywood" Adams headed the event and did a superb job. Lady Mary Lutgen, Lady Jennifer Adams and Lady Lynn Burton headed the lady's event. Ill. Sir Gardner Burton headed the cast for the Ceremonial. A Big Thank You to all who helped put on the ceremonial.

We started 2026 out with 273 regular members, as of the Ceremonial we are at 281 members. We have had several former members show interest in coming back into Scimitar. When you are at your lodge talk about the shrine and invite your brothers to come to events that are scheduled.

Upcoming events for September and October are as follows: Golf @ the Rock September 12 th , Potentate's Ball September 25 th – 26 th , Funraiser BBQ October 10 th , Halloween Trunk or Treat Party October 31 st . Invite your brother masons their ladies and friends to come to the events and see what Shriners are about.

Lastly, since the Shrine in Arkansas has been reclassified as an Affiliate Body by the Grand Master, I ask that you talk to the brethren and ask them to join or rejoin the Shriners and support the Worlds Greatest Philanthropy Shriners Children's. As Illustrious Sir Chris 's theme for the year says "It Starts with Us".

Fraternally Yours,
John Robinson, PP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER:

- 2nd Funraiser Meeting
- 8th Directors Staff Meeting
- 9th Divan Meeting
- 10th Nomad Shrine Club Meeting
- 11th Stated Meeting-7:00 pm- Dinner 6:00 pm
Clown Meeting & Misfits Meeting—8:30-9:30—Temple
Ladies Meeting
- 12th Scimitar Golf Tournament
- 14th Bedouin Meeting
- 17th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting, North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting
- 19th DON
- 24-27 Shriners Retreat
- 24th Spring River Shrine Club Meeting
- 28th Finance Committee Meeting
Fort Smith Shrine Club

OCTOBER:

- 7th Funraiser 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 Funraiser BBQ
- 12th Bedouin Meeting
- 13th Directors Staff Meeting
- 14th Divan Meeting
- 15th Faulkner County Shrine Club Meeting, North Pulaski Shrine Club Meeting
- 16-18 Scimitar Fishing Trip
- 17th D.O.N.
- 22nd Spring River Shrine Club
- 26th Finance Committee Meeting, Fort Smith Shrine Club Meeting
- 31st HAPPY HALLOWEEN

NEW

"FEED THE FAMILY" DEAL

FUNRAISER BBQ

We will be selling family packs this year. This includes: 1 pork butt (pulled or whole), 1 quart potato salad, 1 quart BBQ beans, 1 pint coleslaw and 8 buns all for only \$50. Contact any Funraiser to reserve yours today!



SHRINE FUN!



9.11.01
NEVER
FORGET



SCIMITAR SHRINERS

— ♦ POTENTATES ♦ —



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
25-27, 2026

ALOFT HOTEL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

*Fellowship, Fun
and Philanthropy*



SCIMITAR SHRINERS

POST OFFICE BOX 255, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72115-0255
PHONE: (501) 565-5992 FAX: (501) 565-5342
www.ArkansasShriners.com

Dear Imperial Sir's Illustrious Sir's Nobles and Ladies,

Lady Krista and I would like to invite you to Scimitar's Potentate Ball in West Little Rock Arkansas. This event will be held at the Aloft of West Little Rock located at 716 Rahling Rd Little Rock Arkansas starting September 25th and departing on the 27th. As seen in the attached itinerary we will have a weekend full of fun degrees, fellowship, and a live band on Saturday night.

The Aloft Hotel will be holding a block of rooms until Friday August 21st 2026 with the room rate of \$159 per night. All events will be held on premises. The Aloft offers a notable outdoor pool, cigar smoking area and Scimitar will have an additional Hospitality Room the entire weekend stocked with food and beverages.

The theme will be late 1980s early 1990s hairband with the slogan, "Party likes its 1990" so dress accordingly. The cost will be \$75 per person and would appreciate your RSVP by September 11th 2026.

We look forward to your attendance and making lifelong memories with us!

Fraternally Yours,

Christopher Underwood
Potentate 2026
Scimitar Shrine

RSVP

BY MAIL W/CHECK: 188 AR 56
ASH FLAT ARKANSAS 72513
TEXT INFO: 608-792-8792
CASHAPP: \$pastmaster2018
VENMO: @Christopher-Underwood-23

HELPING CHILDREN SINCE 1922

SCIMITAR SHRINERS

POST OFFICE BOX 255, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72115-0255
PHONE: (501) 565-5992 FAX: (501) 565-5342
www.ArkansasShriners.com

ITINERARY

LOCATION- ALOFT HOTEL 501-791-9999

716 Rahling Rd, Little Rock, AR 72223

Mention group rate code : POTENTATE BALL

Room rate \$159 per night Reserve by: August 21st

DRESS CODE: Potentates Ball " 80s-90s Hairband Theme"

Casual the remaining weekend

Friday- Dinner at surrounding restaurants with friends and counterparts

6-9pm Hillbilly Degree (open to all \$50ea)

4-12pm Hospitality Room Open

Saturday- 730am-930am Breakfast made by DeMolay (Donations)

10am-1pm Water Buffalo Degree (open to all \$50ea)

12-530pm Hospitality Room open

2-3pm Razorback Degree (open to all) \$20ea)

530-930pm Cash Bar in Banquet Room

6pm Banquet Introductions

630pm Dinner Buffet

7-11pm Live Rock Band " Flatliners"

930-12 Hospitality Room Open

Restaurants nearby:

Blue Ember Smokehouse 501-448-2886

US Pizza 501-830-6190

Sullivan's Steakhouse 501-817-3971

Arthur's Prime Steakhouse 501-821-1838

Chuy's Tex Mex 501-821-2489

Milanos Italian 501-236-5482

HELPING CHILDREN SINCE 1922

SCIMITAR SHRINERS



Post Office Box 255
North Little Rock, Arkansas, 72115-0255

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED