

EMIRAT

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Kamel Tales

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WRITTEN BY
EMIRAT SHRINE

SHORT HISTORY

150 Years of Fun and Fellowship
The history of Shriners International is the story of individuals who came together in the spirit of fun and fellowship, who would lay the foundation for a worldwide fraternity and establish a globally recognized pediatric specialty health care system.

In 1870, a group of 13 Masons would regularly meet at the Knickerbocker Cottage in New York City. Often, discussion turned to forming a new fraternity for Masons, based on the tenets of Freemasonry but with the added elements of fun and fellowship.

Walter Fleming, M.D., and Billy Florence, an actor, were among the members of the group. Florence had been on tour in Europe and attended a party given by an Arabian diplomat. The exotic style, flavors and music of the Arabian-themed party led Florence to suggest this as the theme of the new fraternity, while Dr. Fleming and other members of the group then drafted the ritual,

designed the emblem and costumes, formulated a salutation and declared that members would wear the red fez. The name of this new fraternity was the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

While the fraternity's first official meeting was in 1871 at the Knickerbocker Cottage, a meeting in 1872 established the first chapter, Mecca Shriners, on September 26. Today, there are more than 200 chapters in countries around the world.

Founded as the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the organization has grown and evolved over the decades. In the late 1900s to early 2000s, the fraternity was referred to as Shriners of North America, given that chapters were in the U.S. and Canada. In 2010, a resolution was passed to replace the name with Shriners International, reflecting the fraternity's worldwide presence.



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IMPERIAL SESSION 2023



A SPECIAL IMPERIAL SESSION LIES BEHIND US.

The first evening was very quiet for the Potentate and his Lady Katja, so they had time to talk too many of his counterparts and the Imperial Potentate Kenny Craven and his First Lady "JJ". They were able to present a small gift to them as the both attended OG School 2019 and have been friend's ever since. Both received a jersey of the German National Soccer Team with the number 1 2023 and their name. Imperial Sir Kenny being sports fan, put it on right away and everyone in the lobby cheered.

The second day In Charlotte it was time to get down to business, Ill Paul registered the Iowa Representatives. Immediately after that they had a working breakfast with the leadership of Shriners Children`s, where we could achieve concrete facilitations in our future processes, more on this later in the news-letter.



A SPECIAL IMPERIAL SESSION LIES BEHIND US.

IMPERIAL SESSION 2023

The next couple of day's many reports and votes were on the agenda. It was noticeable that some temples changed location after selling their building(s). The declining membership numbers are having an effect on the Shrine, but more importantly masonry as whole is on the decline. At the end of the day if men are not coming in the front door of the blue lodge and doing the degrees, they are not coming into the Shrine. It is all the more important that we as EMIRAT Shriners continue to grow.

The decreasing number of members, and the higher costs for many years lead to the first adjustment in per capita, which of course affected our temple and every Noble. This was also the lengthy discussion during the entire session.

The two biggest votes, were per capita and the budget. When the budget was first present it had a deficient of 1.2 million dollars and they did not know where they were going to get the money to cover it. It had been reported earlier that we had to sell off a quarter of our assets just to pay our bills this year. The budget for 2024 did not look any better if something was not done to fix it.



Pictured: Emirat's Potentates Night out with the Representatives and Ladies.

According the leadership at Shriners International they are always looking for ways to cut cost and have cut a lot of cost, but the bottom line was we needed a per capita increase to balance the budget or thousands of new Shriners coming in that were paying per capita. This was tabled until the vote on per capita was completed.

Vote on per capita, after a lot of discussion the first vote on raising the per capita by \$ 30.00 was taken and it failed by 5 votes. The next day a Noble that had voted against it asked to have the call brought up again and re-voted on as he thought it over and decided to change his vote. By voice vote all in attendance agreed, but with an amendment that the per capita be raised by \$ 20.00 instead of \$ 30.00. The vote was taken to reopen the call and then the amendment was reintroduced, which started another long discussion.





This Award is for 2022 and really goes to Ill Sir Yannis and his Team.”

Barely off the stage after picking up the goal award for membership, we had to go back on stage to receive the award for winning the Fun & Fellowship Competition. Here our thanks go to the Sicilia Shrine Club whose contribution led to this.

The 4th of July was not only special for the American Nobles, it was special for Emirats as well. We marched with a small but fine delegation in this parade on the Charlotte zMAX Dragway. We were cheered, with the wave, started by Ill Charsten and Ill Paul, by the grandstand. Our Bavarians, Ill Sirs Charsten, Ward and Paul also our Lower Rhine Noble Volker were dressed in eye catching traditional dress from the regions in Germany.

After over an hour of discussion on the amendment the vote was taken and it was decided to vote on the call with the amendment.

This time the vote was taken the per capita increase was approved by 20 votes more than needed.

After the vote and acceptance of the \$ 20.00 increase the budget was presented again, this time with a different results, if all things go as planned there will be a surplus.

IT SEEMED LIKE THE LAST DAYS WERE ALL ABOUT EMIRAT.

FIRST ILL PAUL M. CURRAN WAS ELECTED
2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RECORDERS ASSOCIATION.
CONGRATULATIONS!

The Potentate, “I was honored to accepted the Gold Award for our membership.



IMPERIAL SESSION 2023



On the last day we presented the check for \$10,000 that you Nobles voted at the annual meeting.

Impressive for us personally were the many conversations with friends, counterparts and companions since 2019. We missed Imp. Past Potentate Bill Bailey, whose Fez was present on stage the entire time.

Before we left, Ill Paul and Ill Frank were able to meet the new patients Ambassadors, who sent you all a greeting, which you can find on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/emiratshriners>



EMIRAT SHRINERS

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Emirat Shrine representatives presenting Emirat Shrine's annual donation of \$ 10,000 to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (far right), Imperial Sir Jerry Gant and Imperial Potentate Kenneth "Kenny" Carven (far left). This makes the seventh year in a row that Emirat has made this donation. Fez's off to the Emirat Shrine Nobility for voting to make the donation and allowing your representatives to present the check.

Thank you to all the Ill Sirs, Nobles and Ladies who traveled with us for making us stand out so positively as EMIRAT Shriners and I look forward to 2024 in Reno. #doingmorein24.



Pictured: Emirata Iowa Reps with the Colorado Reps and their Ladies during Imperial Session





EMIRAT CIGAR UNIT

Pictured with Noble Jonny is the Manager of the Havanna Lounge Bremen, Olaf Janotta.

Dear Nobles, In June the Potentate of Emirata Shrine, Ill Sir Frank Ullmann, turned the charter of the inactive Cigar, Pipe & Whiskey Unit to Noble Jonny Henke. Many of you know that Noble Jonny hosts fund raisers every year with good cigars and whiskey tastings to raise money to help our children, so he was the perfect choice to try to reactivate the unit.

Noble Jonny normally holds his fund raiser(s)

at Havanna Lounge in Bremen. The event is co-sponsored by the Manager of the Havanna Lounge, Mr. Olaf Janotta, who provides the meal at no cost so attendees can donate more money to the cause.

Those who are members and wish to remain members of the unit or all Nobles who wish to support Noble Jonny, by joining the unit, should contact Noble Jonny as soon as possible. Noble Jonny is in the planning stages for events in the coming months and could use help in the planning and executing of the events.



We had an excellent day, and for the future Nobles, Ladies and children of Emirat Shriners can expect this to be a regular event at the German/Danish border, where every-one is welcome.

Some photos of the day...



NORTH GERMAN/DANISH SUMMER BARBECUE

The 1st of July 2023 we arranged the first northern German/Danish gathering of Nobles from the area for a barbecue. Nobles and their families were invited, and 16 of them travelled to Flensburg in Germany, close at the German/Danish border. Flensburg has a long history as a city (since 1284 status as a city given by duke Valdemar IV), and strong masonic roots with an impressive lodge. At 15:00 the guests arrived at Noble Sven and Lady Pias private home (not at the lodge), and everything was ready for a barbecue. Sausages, steaks, salads, snacks and drinking were well prepared and served. During the

day the newly created PowerPoint presentation of Emirat Shriners was presented for the Nobles, Ladies and children, and was accompanied by good comments and interesting questions by all.

Noble Mikael from Denmark with his excellent balloon skills, entertained and trained us in creating balloon animals, some of us tried to make giant soap bubbles, a “photo studio” was set up for fun pictures, and despite the temporarily rain showers the weather was descent.





“

It was an honor for me to represent the Nobles of Emirat Shrine and go on stage to receive the award for being a Gold Temple, but it is really Illustrious Sir Ioannis “John”

Kardassopoulos who was the Potentate that made it all happen with his team”

**In the words of
Illustrious Sir Frank**





FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Illustrious Sir Frank Ullmann, Potentate Emirat Shrine and III Paul M. Curran, Recorder Emirat Shrine, receiving the award for first place in the Fun and Fellowship Competition. Award winning video was submitted by the Sicilia Shrine Club.



JOINT BBQ

On 26 June 2023 the first ever joint BBQ between Emirat Shrine and The American Canadian Grand Lodge was held at the Hotel Arts in Saint Leon Rot.

The theme for the BBQ was Hawaiian and many members of both Organizations dressed for the occasion. The food was excellent, and our Fez's go off the Daniela, owner of The Arts Hotel for hosting the event and making sure everyone had enough to eat and had a great time.

A fund raiser was held and over 1500 Euro was raised, which was split between the Emirat Shrine Transportation Fund and the AGL Grand Masters Charity drive to support Brücke nach Kiew e.V.

Planning has begun for next year's joint BBQ, so if you missed this one you will not want to miss next year's event.





MEETING WITH SHRINERS CHILDREN

Ill Potentate Frank Ullmann and Ill Paul M. Curran, Recorder Emir-at Shrine, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Shriners Children's, Imperial Sir Jerry Gant (Middle Right) and Noble John McCabe Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Shriners Children's

During the morning of 1 July 2023 representatives of Emirat Shrine and Shriners Children's met over breakfast to collaborate on how best to serve the children that Emirat is sending to the hospitals. The meeting was very productive and gave the Emirat Shrine representatives an insight on the challenges that Shriners Children's is facing with the volume of children coming internationally to our hospitals.

We worked out a plan going forward which we both think will benefit both of us and our endeavor to help children needing our support and the help of Shriners Children's.



RECENT EXPANSION

Over the last two years, three new international chapters have been established: Salah Shriners in Brazil (under dispensation in 2021), Al Atfal Shriners in Mexico (chartered in 2022), and Lubnan Shriners in Lebanon (under dispensation in 2022). Each of these new chapters began as an international Shrine Club sponsored by an already established chapter. Through long-term growth practices, travel and strategic alliances with local Masonic leaders, the international development modality supports these clubs toward their dispensation and – ultimately – their charter.

Additionally, four new international Shrine Clubs have been created in the last two years in hopes of further international development over time: the Gabon Shrine Club (established as part of Mahi Shriners in 2021), South Africa Shrine Club (established as part of Mahi Shriners in 2022), Ivory Coast/Cote d'Ivoire Shrine Club (established as part of Karnak Shriners in 2022), and the Israel Shrine Club (established as part of Mecca Shriners in 2023).

Our international chapters have also seen the largest growth of new members over the last two years. Mexico, which has two chapters, saw 103.2% growth. Panama, which has one chapter, saw 5.7% growth. Brazil, which has three chapters, saw 17% growth. Germany, which has one chapter, saw 25.5% growth.

You can read the full article at this link: <https://www.shrinersinternational.org/en/news-and-events/news/2023/04/shriners-internationals-growth-around-the-world>



EMIRAT AND SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL PARTNER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN TURKEY.

Noble Refik, a Noble at large in Turkey, assisted in sending 3 children from the devastating earthquake in Turkey to Shriners Children in July, 3 more children will follow soon.

Ilayda stayed 80 hours under the rubble, hugging her mother with no light, no water and diminishing hope! Her father was lying next to them under a huge piece of wall and she was able to talk to him during the first 60 hours, but then no reaction...She and her mother were rescued after 80 hours but she left her father and her left foot and all good memories behind.

Cenk was great on computer-games using his hands very fast. Now he says he is trying to use his right foot for the second mouse he needs to use for these games. He did not give up after losing his mother and leaving his right arm under the ruins. He has been investigating the new techniques of prosthetic arms and wondering which one is suitable for him, especially the one that will allow him to command his new fingers individually!



Yakup's left leg is amputated and has a graft on the right leg. He was transferred to Boston Shriners Hospital for Children with his mother and little brother Joseph, as there was no one else to leave little Joseph with, from their family!

Now there is a unique feeling of all these 3 children's, their family's and friend's; they all see Noble Refik as an angel sent by God to save their future and to let them smile again...

On February 6, 2023 two major earthquakes hit Southeast Turkey within 9 hours. In total 11 provinces were affected by these earthquakes and over 51,000 people have lost their lives. This is the officially announced figure but all evidence shows that the actual casualties could be over 100,000!

Over 13 million people were affected and left homeless, thousands of houses were destroyed, hundreds of thousands of people were injured -many of them being children under 18.





As Shriners we had to be active and help them as much as we can. So Emirat Shrine and The Grand Lodge of Turkey called upon Noble Refik to be the boots on the ground and be the main coordinator to find children we could help. Noble Refik did not waste a second and immediately started to work.

Noble Refik continues to work in the quarries - despite all obstacles he continues to find children and assist them in getting the help they might not receive to try and give them a better life-, he is in close contact with Ill. Sir Paul M. Curran, Recorder Emirat Shrine and Shriner's International.

Noble Refik Says: "The encouraging messages and grateful statements for the work I am doing are helping me to overcome all obstacles. I continue to work intensively for our mutual aim which is to be able to put a smile on the faces of these poor children, once again."

There are 3 more children ready to be accepted at Shriners Children's and many other in the preparation stage. There are so many other sad stories that need to be told so that people can understand the devastation that happened and how cruel life can be, What Noble Refik and the Shriners are doing to change these damaged lives, helping to change the lives of these poor children, who were victims of the earthquake. Bringing the "hope" they have lost back to them and letting them and their loved ones "smile again".

(Picture #1, llayda and her mother, embassy visa appointment)

(Picture #2, Cenk and his aunt, embassy visa appointment)





2023 FUN & FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION WINNER

The Sicilia Shrine Club – Emirat Shriners won the 2023 Shriners International Fun & Fellowship Competition.

The club entered the competition with 10 other events and was selected for the Cooking class for Disabled Children and Children treated by various Sicilian Pediatric Oncology Hospitals.

The event fell under the category Club’s Leisure Activities & Recreation and showcased the creative ways that the nobles of the Sicilian Shrine Club are coming together to find new ways to share and express the fun and fellowship our fraternity is known for.

On June 12, 2022 the Club organized the cooking class “Manine in Pasta” for Disabled Children and Children treated by various Sicilian Pediatric Oncology Hospitals co-hosted by the Club and the Italian Professional Catering Association, Ristoworld Italy <https://www.ristoworlditaly.it>

The scope of the event organized was to promote good fellowship among the members of the club as well as furthering the interest in our Fraternity with the other brethren and the general public.

During 2023 the Club organized many others Fun & Fellowship events and soon some of the members will be proposing a new Marvel Superheroes Unit.

On September 30, 2023 we’ll have our annual Ceremony and Potentate’s Ball at the stunning Palazzo Villarosa in Bagheria (PA) where we will hopefully have 9 Ladies initiated into the Daughters of the Nile of the Selket Club in Europe, Club of the Athaliah Temple No. 114 di Orlando, Florida.





17 April 2023

Dates for Ceremonials/Meetings 2023

14 Jan 23	Annual Meeting	Wiesbaden
15-22 Jan 23	Imperial Potentate	Cyprus
28-30 Apr 23	Ceremonial	Athens
12-14 May 23	Ceremonial	Stuttgart
26-28 May 23	Ceremonial	Romania
24 June 23	Potentate and Grand Master ACGL BBQ	St Leon Rot
2-6 July 23	Imperial Session	Charlotte NC
9 Sep 23	Stated Meeting	Wiesbaden
29-30 Sept 23	Ceremonial	(Bagheria)
Sicily		
20-22 Oct 23	Ceremonial	Istanbul
10-12 Nov 23	Ceremonial	Stuttgart
1-3 Dec 23	Ceremonial	Rome
TBD	Ceremonial	Cyprus

These are all the confirmed dates that I have for right now. As I get updates I will update this and send it out.

Fraternally,

Ill Paul, PP





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EMIRAT SHRINE