



TUNIS NEWS

April, 2017
Volume 004

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



Welcome to spring everyone! Well at least that is what the Calendar tells us.....

This is the first of four quarterly Tunis Newsletters that we plan to distribute to the extended Tunis family at the end of each calendar quarter.

In this edition we will bring you an update on our plans for the year, steps we are taking to improve our communications and operations and an update on what is going on in the some of the clubs and units.

Ill Sir Peter Rippstein will be updating us on the plans for our hosting the Northeast Shrine Association in August as an official part of the Ottawa 150 celebrations of Canada's sesquicentennial birthday.

As part of this nationwide celebration, on August 17, 18, and 19 we will host the fifteen Shrine Temples in the northeast region in a series of business meetings, friendly competitions and family friendly social events featuring an extensive ladies' program. Additionally, in concert with the normal NSA activities, we are holding our Annual Ceremonial and Potentate's visitation! The Team has a lot planned so all

of our Nobles and their families should have lots to see and do!!!!

Peter's article on this exciting weekend ties directly into an update on Membership from the Committee on what initiatives they have underway.

On the administrative side of the ledger we have articles covering the newly struck Tunis

Communications Committee and Ill Sirs Ellis Lindsay, Perry McConnell and John Hawkins review

and updating of the Tunis Clubs and Units Reference Manual. Additionally, Noble Gary Tristram and Ill Sirs Dennis Saikaley

and John Ruffo will provide an update on their work on the Financial Strategic Plan.

From the Clubs and Units Noble Scott Wilson is providing an update on the nearly endless number of social events, trips and get-togethers that S.M.A.R.T. currently has scheduled, while President Rob Smith provides an article about what the Nobles in Brockville have been up to.

So we hope to give you a good hardcopy overview of what are members are doing. Please, if you have pictures and/or a story surrounding an event please let us know and we will add you into the next edition of the Newsletter. If you have something time sensitive you want to share and get promoted sooner, contact Barb and Perry in the Office! The website has been upgraded and they have it up and running!



Noble Hashem El Sayed

Before I close I am pleased to be able to announce that Noble Hashem El Sayed has been named our first Shriner of the Quarter. Noble 'Sam' seems to appear everywhere and he is never sitting on his hands!

At our Installation in January he stayed and helped clean up upstairs after the reception. At the NSA mid-winter meetings he volunteered to pick up attendees flying into Ottawa; he worked late into the evening in the Hospitality room and attended the business meetings. He is an active SMARTIE and

assisted with the development of the Membership presentation used with the Clubs and Units. I am very pleased to be able to give him this award!

Last, if you like the way this Newsletter is evolving please let those that have taken their time to supply an article or given their time to put it together a word of thanks. If you have a comment or suggestion, please direct them to me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Wood', written in a cursive style.

Ill. Sir Dave Wood
Tunis Potentate, 2017

TUNIS KLOWNS READY TO ROCK N' ROLL

The Tunis Klowns are starting to get excited about the upcoming Northeast Shrine Association (NSA) Field Days this August 18 and 19 in Ottawa. This coincides with Canada's 150th birthday celebration, the Tunis visitation and the 2017 Ceremonial. Many events are planned for these celebrations, but I will focus on the preliminary plans of the Brockville-Ottawa Klown units.

There are 15 Shrine Centres in the NSA and each has one or more klown units. Tunis has two: the Brockville Klowns and the Ottawa klowns and will have at least 15 of our klowns dressed 'in-face' for fun and frolics.

We expect upwards of another 30 visiting klowns for this event.

On Friday night, the 18th August, we will have a Balloon Sculpture competition. This is for single, and multiple balloon creations. The exact time and location have not be finalized at this time, but the Rideau Centre is a prime potential location. This will be followed by a “Balloon Jam” at the host hotel, the Lord Elgin. We hope to ‘decorate’ the Lord Elgin with lots of colourful new sculptures.

Saturday will be a very busy day; the klowns will be up early, pressing their costumes and putting on their ‘face’. At 8:00 am we will have a clown competition, sometimes known as ‘the Beauty Contest’ to pick the best looking clown (costume and make-up) in the 4 traditional clown categories: Whiteface, August, Character and Hobo. Time and place are still to be finalized.

After this, the klowns will assemble on Wellington Street for the Shrine parade. We will step-off at 11 am and follow the Governor General’s Foot-Guards from Parliament Hill to the Drill Hall on Laurier Street. A little ‘R and R’ with visiting klowns will fill the afternoon.

The Saturday evening banquet will be very special for us klowns. Awards for placing first, second and third in the competitions will be given by our President (Blair Hart aka Nifty) with the Potentate and hopefully the Imperial Potentate assisting. We anticipate about 18 awards. After this, our Imperial Potentate, (if available) will present Noble Craig McPhee, aka Krazy Krazy, with his 6000 hours-in-face award. This is a level of

commitment, which no other Shrine clown has achieved. Craig has been a very hard-working Shrine clown for more than 35 years. Our Potentate, Illus. Sir Dave Wood, will present Noble Wes Lewis, aka Fuz-Zee, with his 3000 hours-in-face award.



Finally, we will have Sunday morning breakfast with our visiting klowns and see them off, as they travel home, or to other events in Ottawa. It will be a very busy and exciting weekend and everyone is invited to come-out and applaud the klowns.

We know that many of you want to become klowns, but only a few of us are brave enough to put on the make-up. By clowning around with us on Friday and Saturday, you can **live your dream** for a few hours.

Reported by Tin Cup, 01/17

BROCKVILLE & DISTRICT SHRINE CLUB

Brockville and District Shrine Club has been a very busy; hosting social events such as a Chili night, coffee clubs and a breakfast brunch for Nobles and friends.

Nobles have been very active in the community; Shriners International Burn's



Awareness Week, 30 Hour Telethon for Palliative Care, and the Masonic / Shrine Curling bonspiel. The curling bonspiel was a huge success; St. Lawrence District Masonic Association donated \$1,000.00 to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Our general meetings have been very informative; we have had guest speakers from the Daughters of the Nile and the Rotary Club of Brockville, a Media appreciation night where local media celebrities received



Bruce Wylie 104.9 JRFM Radio

a certificate of appreciation for supporting and promoting BDSC and Tunis Shriners events, and Illustrious Sir Peter Rippstein did an excellent presentation on the

Shriners Hospitals for Children and presented Illustrious Sir Don Moore a certificate for his dedication to the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Montreal.

BDSC are hosting a St. Lawrence District DDGM appreciation night Saturday April 22nd.

Our April 26th General Dinner Meeting is our Master Mason's Night.

Our May 24th General Dinner Meeting; BDSC welcomes Rene St. Arnaud Director

of Research from the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Montreal as our guest speaker.

Hope to see you at our meetings.

President Noble Rob Smith

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues to focus on the task of recruiting 40 new Nobles to be part of the John Diefenbaker Class at our upcoming August 18, 2017 Ceremonial which this year will be held in conjunction with the NSA2017 Field Day events, Aug. 17-20. In honour of Canada's 150th birthday & as a perceived incentive for recruitment purposes the Divan has agreed to reduce the 2017 Initiation fee from \$275 to \$150.00. There is also the possibility of some of the other NSA temples providing candidates for initiation at our Ceremonial.

Our Tunis Shrine Degree Team has again been active and continues to be a valuable resource for Shrine awareness and recruitment potential. Please come out to support them if you are aware that they will be performing at your Lodge or within your District.

The Tunis SMART Team is once again available to give Shrine presentations at Lodges, Shrine Clubs & other organizations within our jurisdiction. They have recently presented at St. John's Lodge in Carleton Place and are booked to give presentations at the Brockville & District and Ottawa Valley Shrine Club Master Mason Nites. The team also continues to be active in promoting their various Shrine activities through social media

and the Tunis website. Please consider coming out to these events to show your support. Many of these events are family oriented.

We continue to encourage all Tunis Shrine Clubs to consider holding Master Mason Nites where prospective Masons & their significant others are invited to a Club dinner and a Shrine & hospital presentation. Advise your Nobles to go out to their individual Lodges and identify Masons who they think may be an asset to our fraternity. The Ottawa Valley Shrine Club was recently presented with the Tunis 600 Club trophy for having recruited more candidates than any of the other Shrine Clubs. Membership Co-Chairmen Ill. Sirs Peter Rippstein & Lionel Rowe will visit all of the Shrine Clubs in April to further promote membership recruitment initiatives.

We ask your support in assisting us to reach our recruitment target of 40 new Nobles for 2017. **Remember, you are all members of the Tunis Membership Team!**

NSA2017



Our Tunis sponsored NSA2017 Mid-Winter meetings were deemed a great success by all in attendance. The meetings took place at the

historic Lord Elgin hotel in downtown Ottawa and we hosted 53 attendees from 12 of the 15 temples within the Northeast Shrine jurisdiction. Among the attendees were Imperial Sir Gerry Gantt, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Imperial Sir Jim Cain, Imperial Assistant Rabban, Imperial Sir Richard Burke, Imperial Captain of the Guard, Noble Randy Rudge, Director of Membership Development for Shriners International as well as the GM of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, M. W. Bro John C. Green. Candidates for Imperial Outer Guard Ill. Sirs Gayle Bennington (Moolah) & Larry Lieb (Moslem) were also in attendance.

The meetings allowed for great fellowship among all the attendees beginning with the Thursday night dinner at the Prescott Hotel in little Italy.

The Friday morning business meetings all went smoothly and greetings were presented by MPP Lisa McLeod, Deputy Mayor Bob Monette and M.W. Bro. John C. Green. This was followed by future NSA presentations, Cairo (2018) & Mazol (2019). The afternoon was taken up with hotel visits for the various NSA temple attendees.

Saturday morning featured the Imperial Membership presentation by Noble Randy Rudge as well as a SMART team presentation by our own Noble Scott Wilson. Both of these presentations brought forth great interaction among the attendees with new membership initiatives and concerns having been discussed. This was followed by an insightful presentation on our SHC health care system presented by Imperial Sir Gerry

Gantt and was also attended by many of our Ladies.

The afternoon was taken up with visits to the Carleton University Motor Corp competition site, Centurion banquet hall & the NSA2017 parade route.

By all accounts the weekend went very well for us and we anticipate a significant attendance & participation at the upcoming August 17-20 NSA2017 Field days.

It should be mentioned that any measure of success achieved over this weekend is entirely due to the diligent work performed by our NSA2017 planning Committee and those members who volunteered of their time to assist. The August NSA2017 Field Days Schedule & Ladies program are included in the newsletter package.

NSA 2017 FIELD DAYS

We now look forward to hosting our NSA2017 Field Days event with great anticipation. This is due in part to the positive feedback which we have received from the Mid-Winter meetings but also because we believe that we will be presenting a truly unique Canadian flavour program designed to conform to our country's 150th birthday celebrations.

As many of you are aware our Tunis Ceremonial will play an important role in our NSA2017 program which has been designated an Ottawa 2017 event and the 2017 class of new Tunis initiates will have the honour of being members of the **John Diefenbaker Class of 2017** in tribute to our late & former PM who was himself the first

Potentate of Tunis Shriners in 1975. We hope to again initiate a significant number of new Tunis Nobles this year and as an added attraction we have extended an open invitation to other temples throughout Canada and the Northeast jurisdiction to provide some of their own candidates for this historic occasion.

Our NSA2017 parade will be staged directly in front of our historic Parliament buildings and will start immediately after the Changing of the Guard Ceremony traditionally held on Parliament Hill during the summer months and will end at Ottawa City Hall.

Our Headquarters Hotel is the Lord Elgin hotel. In keeping with our Canadian theme it should be mentioned that the corner stone of this historic hotel was laid by former PM Mackenzie King in 1941.

Our Field Days will of course feature the traditional Motor Corp & Klown Competitions with the Motor Corp competitions to be held at Carleton University and the Klown competition site TBD.

Our NSA2017 Banquet will be held at the Centurion Conference and Event Centre and this year we also feature a special Ladies Program designed by First Lady Deb Wood as well as a Ladies Brunch at the National Arts Centre. You will be receiving further information & updates in regards registration, events and housing in future communications and at our NSA2017 website nsa2017.com.

It should be mentioned that any measure of success achieved is entirely due to the diligent work performed by our NSA2017 planning Committee and those members who selflessly volunteer their time to assist.



Ill Sir Peter Rippstein P.P. Director General
NSA2017

TUNIS HOSPITAL DADDY PROGRAM TUNIS AUTOMATIC DONATION SYSTEM – TADS

In 2015 the former Circus Daddy Program was converted to the Tunis Hospital Daddy Program. At that time the Daddy Program was changed from a Fraternal Fundraiser to a Shriners Hospital for Children - Canada Fundraiser in support of the Capital Campaign for the new Hospital. This year Tunis is adopting a new approach to the Hospital Daddy program. The Tunis Automatic Donation System (TADS)

WHAT IS TADS

TADS is an automatic donation program that is designed to afford Nobles, their spouses, family members and friends the opportunity to make donations to Shriners Hospital for Children – Canada on a repetitive basis.

The most important feature of TADS is that the program is automatic. It does not require constant attention to your donation commitment since it is automatically deducted from your bank account.

The full amount of your Donation is Tax Deductible. All donations/pledges are confidential.

As Shriners we are committed to support our children who benefit from the exceptional medical care and research activities of our Montreal Hospital.

TO MAKE A DONATION

For information please contact the Tunis Hospital Daddy, Noble Wayne Keech at 613-592-5069 or keech@rogers.com or Noble Lionel Rowe P.P. at 613-290-9651 or lwrltd@gmail.com. Information packages are also available from the office.

All donation/pledges will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

Capital Shrine Club

Capital Shrine Club continues to enjoy strong support from its membership with monthly dinner meetings a time of pleasant social interaction and continuing commitment to our objective of supporting Shriners Hospitals for Children.

With the challenges of winter behind us, and spring in the offing the dinner meetings with our ladies are well attended. We are moving into our fund raising activities for the year with preparations beginning for Christmas cakes and shortbreads for the fall and participation in the Hospital Daddy program ramping up. Fred Haggart has volunteered to take on the cakes and shortbread sales in the fall and Wayne Keech has volunteered to take the lead on the Hospital Daddy program and organize the fall bus trip to the Montreal Hospital. The Capital Shrine Club was also approached to provide volunteers for the hospitality suite at the Northeast Shrine Association mid-winter meeting and we are pleased that our members “stepped up to the plate” and took on that responsibility. We are currently making plans for a trivia night,

probably in September, which in the past has been a well-attended fun event and also a significant fund-raiser.

Membership has not proven to be a major barrier with new members and their ladies from the capital region joining on an on-going basis. We cannot, however, be complacent in our efforts to invite new members to join, allowing the Capital Shrine Club to continue its activities on behalf of our children in the Shiners hospital system. If any Shriner and their lady would like to join us as a visitor at our dinner meetings they would be most welcome.

The spring is looking positive with a dinner meeting planned for Dunn's Restaurant on Bank Street on May 9th and the Prime Burger Bar on Baseline for our June 13th dinner meeting. We look forward to good participation for both these events. A continuing form of support for our success as a club is the participation of the ladies in our activities. Without their support we would not have enjoyed our current success nor would our dinner meetings be quite as pleasant.

Best wishes for a pleasant spring,

Dale Olm, PP 2015
President Capital Shrine Club 2017

TUNIS 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN Financial 2017 1st quarter Note

After the first quarter of 2017 the Chief Rabban held a meeting regarding the financial aspect of the 5 year strategic plan and I am happy to report that we are following the trends established in the plan

and spending continues to trend within budget.

The trends themselves all point to the need for more fraternal fundraising to offset the loss of the circus revenue and when some of these fundraisers take place this summer, we will be in a better position to know if there are further red flags that need to be addressed.

Keep posted for updates through this publication.

YITF

Noble Gary Tristram
Chief Rabban

TUNIS CLUB AND UNIT HANDBOOK

After a seven year wait we have finally updated the Tunis Club and Unit Handbook. There were many necessary updates as a result of Imperial Protocol and Bylaw changes plus insurance coverage, a new activity permission form and other lesser detail changes.

Copies of the new handbook will soon be available for Club and Unit Officers and an electronic copy will be available to any other requests.

The new version of the Handbook is a great reference document for the Club and Unit Executive and should be referred to on a regular basis.

If anyone has any questions on the content or interpretation of the material please give me a call at the office or on my cell anytime As

an appendix to the Handbook there is a sample of the new Activity Approval Request that is now a fillable form with a couple of extra questions to be answered. A paper copy of the form and/or the electronic version is available from Barb in the Shrine Office.



Perry McConnell, P.P.
Recorder

UP-COMING SHRINE EVENTS

April to August 2017

May 13th, 1:00pm - SMART Bowling
McArthur Lanes in Vanier

May 15th – 17th
SHC Montreal Hospital Seminar

June 2nd – 3rd
Legion of Honour Wreath Laying Ceremony
Ottawa Cenotaph

June 9th
Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
12 pm
2140 Walkley Road

June 24th
Tunis Motorcycle Poker run

July 9th – 14th
Imperial Sessions
Daytona Beach, FL

July 21st
Wayne McGarvey Memorial Golf
Tournament
Smiths Falls Golf & Country Club

June 24th, 2:00 pm
Hillbilly Clan 149 Annual Chow down and
Maw & Paw Hillbilly Degrees
Kinburn, ON

August 6th, 1:30pm
SMART Cirque du Soleil - VOLTA
Ottawa - ZIBI site (Eddy Bridge)

August 13th, 12:00pm
SMART BBQ
Noble Martin Dorner residence in Kanata

August 17th – 20th
NSA 2017 Field Days &
Tunis Ceremonial/Visitation

August 22nd
Tunis Annual Golf Tournament
Canadian Golf & Country Club

August 30th
Hillbilly Harvest Ball
Carp Agricultural Hall

**Please submit any articles, pictures etc.
for publication in future newsletters to
Barb Seabright, Administrative Assistant,
by mail to 2140 Walkley Rd., Ottawa,
ON., K1G 3V3 or by email to
admin@tunis179.org**