



SHRINER

AL MENAH SHRINERS OASIS OF NASHVILLE DESERT OF TENNESSEE
P.O. BOX 78545 • NASHVILLE, TN 37207 • 615.226.7766 • 1.877.505.7766

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THE GREATEST WEEKEND EVER

HONORING

ILLUSTRIOUS SIR MELVIN MEADOWS & LADY GAYLE

STARTS FRIDAY MARCH 25 AT 5:00 PM

ROOM 3004 & 3005

RADISSON HOTEL AT OPRYLAND

WITH SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH

POTENTATES RECEPTION

11:00 AM-2:00PM ROOM

3004 & 3005

PRESENTATIONS @ 12:30



THE GRAND BALL STARTS @ 8:00PM

AFTER DINNER @ 6:00PM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 226-7766

AL MENAH TEMPLE
OASIS OF NASHVILLE
DESERT OF TENNESSEE

P.O.Box 78545 • Nashville, TN 37207
 Phones 1.615.226.7766
 1.877.505.7766
 www.almenahShriners.org

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PAST POTENTATES

- * Charles Barham
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- * J. Harry Murphy
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- * John D. Whalley
- * Jack Norman, Jr.
- * Albert Bennett
- * Clyde R. Watson
- * Marshall S. Whitley
- * James J. White
- * G. Cooper Holt
- * J. Coleman Hayes
- * Donald R. Dunning
- * J. P. Foster
- * Gale Robinson
- * C. V. Cramb
- * J. Nelson Bryan
- * Robert Battle
- * Jerry N. Tate
- * Fred H. Gay, Jr.
- * James A. Campbell
- * Claude G. Southall
- * W. B. Lawson
- * Gale Robinson
- * J. Dudley Phillips
- * M. Norris Jenkins
- * James F. Scalf, Jr.
- * William B. Jones
- * Jack C. Phelps
- * David P. Brumfield
- * Zack S. Parrish, Sr.
- * Robert E. Newman
- * George Cook
- * R. Parker Graham
- * H. Parker Toler
- * R. T. McNaney
- * James L. Ham
- * Charles H. Williams
- * William D. Jones
- * John L. Weaver, III
- * Gale B. Robinson
- * Joe Bell
- * Ronny L. Greer
- * Charles E. Cardwell
- * J. Franklin "Jay" Scalf, III
- * Conley Dykes
- * David Smith
- * Jim Cain
- * Michael Martin
- * Johnny Dudley
- * David Wantland

* Deceased



Wow!!! This year is up and running fast with great enthusiasm. Two months under our belts and the excitement and involvement from the nobles and ladies is like a shot of adrenalin and truly heart felt. Our unit captains are leading the temple efforts in the clean up, fix up and paint up to our unit rooms. Thanks for taking the paint brush and running with it guys. Billy Burgess is hands on in the clean up vision by starting in the kitchen, stop by and see what you can do. We will be proud of our new clean temple by working together and giving Al Menah a facelift, it is so past due and needed.

A special thanks to our on the ball SHRINER'S editor, Gary Graf, for getting our February news out by February 1st. This is a powerful link in our chain of success and communications. Keeping our brothers informed of what's going on at Al Menah so they can join us in the work and fellowship. March is moving forward with our Director General working on parades, Potentate's Ball and keeping our captains informed on our upcoming events. Thanks Kenny Loftis. We are honored by the acceptance of our Potentate's Ball invitation by the Imperial Potentate George Mitchell and his first lady Deanna. They both are looking forward to being in Nashville again and spending time with our nobles and ladies.

In visiting each Shrine club I carry our plaque to promote sales. I also carry a blue lodge petition and a shrine petition because we are always looking for a few new masons. I challenge each one of you to do the same. Lets all try to be builders of our great fraternity. Johnny Dudley is traveling many miles promoting membership and he deserves a special pat on the back for a job well done. Our spring ceremonial is Saturday April 16th and registration is at 2:00p.m. Give a petition to a good candidate and lets show him the wonderful things he can be apart of in helping our children in our hospitals.

Thanks to Barry and Sandy Molasy, Phil and Debbie Parman and their committee for a beautiful Valentine Sweetheart Dinner and Dance. Love is in the air, and if you missed this event you missed an unbelievable great time that was had by all. Thanks to Mike Martin, Kenny Norman and their committee for the most delicious meal ever, "Way to go team". Special thanks, to the Demolay and Buena Vista Lodge, for a great job serving the dinner. Please keep me in your prayers for God's guidance, and as always Al Menah in your hearts.

Yours in the Faith,
Melvin Meadows



Friday, March 25

Radisson at Opryland • Room 3004 & 3005 • 5 p.m. Hospitality

Saturday, March 26

Radisson at Opryland Room 3004 & 3005

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Potentate's Reception

12:30 p.m. Potentate's Presentations

4:15 p.m. First bus departs for Al Menah Shrine Temple.

Al Menah Shrine Center 5 p.m. Unit and Club Room Visitation and Hospitality

6 p.m. Grand March

6:45 p.m. Banquet

8 p.m. Dance the Night Away with Orchestra "Radio Daze."

Midnight Ready for more? After Glow at Radisson Hotel

*Hotel Information Radisson at Opryland 2401 Music Valley Drive Rate: \$89 per night
(includes two complimentary breakfasts)*

Reservations: 800.395.7046 Deadline: March 11

Make banquet reservations by calling 615.226.7766. Admission for banquet is \$25 per person, payable by cash, check or credit card. Seating is limited.

Banquet reservation deadline: March 21.

Dress for Banquet and Ball is Tuxedo or Dark Suit. Bring your Fez



The Ringmaster Project for 2011 is a circus ringmaster kit which consists of a special watch with the logo, a black t-shirt with the logo, and traditional circus treats.

There is a watch for men and a watch for women. T-shirts come in sizes medium to 4X Large.

The donation is \$150 per circus kit. Please contact Chief Rabban Dennis Belford 615-826-8823 (home) or 615-305-4559 (cell) or you can pick up an order form from the office. At sign up you will need to specify if you want a man's or woman's watch and also what size t-shirt.

Thank you for your support with this project.





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Do your part to insure the future of Shrinedom and the continued care for the children, FIND A SHRINER TODAY. If he is not yet a mason better yet, introduce him to the Masonic family. Attitude, Attitude, Attitude may yours be positive and proud that you are a member of the greatest charity on earth.



PETITION FOR INITIATION AND MEMBERSHIP AL MENAH SHRINERS

To the Potentate, Officers and Nobles of Al Menah Temple, situated in the oasis of Nashville, Desert of Tennessee: I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____
Lodge # _____, located at _____, _____, which is a Lodge recognized by or in amity with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. Furthermore, I have resided at my current address for not less than 6 months, as required by the Bylaws of The Imperial Council. I respectfully pray that I may be made a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, and become a member of your temple.

If I be found worthy, and my request is granted, I promise to conform to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Imperial Council and the Bylaws and Ceremonies of your temple.

Birthplace _____ Date of Birth _____

Were you ever a DeMolay? _____ If so, what was the Chapter name and Location? _____

Profession or occupation _____

Have you previously applied for admission to any temple of the Order? _____

If so, what Temple? _____ When? _____

Residence Address _____

Business Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Business) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Wife's Name _____

Date _____, 20____ Signature: _____

Print Full Name Here: _____

Name in Full, initials are not sufficient

Recommended and Vouched for on the Honor of:

Noble _____

Noble _____

Send applications and fees to:

**AL MENAH SHRINERS
P.O. BOX 7845 • NASHVILLE, TN 37207**

**Spring Class
April 16, 2011
There is room for a
few more candidates**



CENTER NEWS

CLOWNS

Howdy do, Brothers, the clowns are off to a pretty good start this year with lots in the works. Captain Waynick has a fun filled agenda for the unit so we can proudly shine in 2011. We have SESCA mid-winter in Chattanooga this month and hopefully we will have many clowns travel up and compete for our unit. The Potentate's Ball has been set for Saturday, March 26 at the temple with dinner starting at 6:30pm. The cost this year will be \$25.00 per person for the dinner.

Well, the ISCA mid-winter did not go too well for our brothers Stringbean and Slapstick this year. They were packed up to go and at the last minute flights were cancelled due to extreme weather. There is no doubt both would have placed high in competition as they are OUTSTANDING clowns. Sorry guys, maybe next year.

Let's please remember our sick brothers and fellow clowns. We have far too many under the weather and they, as well as their families, need our support. Please remember our ladies, the kids we work so hard for, and our foundation, our Masonic lodges and bodies. We would not be here without them.

**Keep on grinnin'
Kenny "Rags" Wilce**

WILSON COUNTY

The meeting for the Wilson County Shrine Club is on the 4th Thursday at 6 p.m. each month and is held at the Ponderosa Restaurant on 231 South in Lebanon. Brother James Bragg is president at the time. Nickey Baggett was elected president at the last meeting and will be installed as such. Brother Joe Williams is secretary. The Wilson County Shrine Club is very involved with community affairs such as the Wilson County Fair. A long time tradition of the WCSC is the Christmas party for the disadvantaged children, which is held at the Ward Center at the fair grounds each year. This was started years ago with the help of the Sloan family. Brother Melvin Sloan always brings some entertainers from the Opry to entertain the children, who have a big time. Brother James Bragg had a pace maker installed on February 1st and is said to be doing fine. Let's keep him in our prayers. If you have any information or questions about the Wilson County

Shrine Club, please let me know you may contact me at 615 449 4511, cell 615 948 1203 or email unclehershel@bellsouth.net
Hershel Butts

PERRY COUNTY

Nobles, please come join us this spring at one of our monthly meetings. We meet the 3rd Thursday each month at 6:15 p.m. in Linden TN.

We have set the date for our annual "Pee Wee Parnell" golf tournament in Lobelville TN for Saturday June 4th. Details will be included in the April and May edition.

The annual sale of Shriner Hospital papers is the most important thing we do here in Perry County. Our roadblock dates are tentatively set for Thursday May 12th in Lobelville TN and Friday May 13th in Linden TN. The sale of \$100 plaques continues through the year. Any Noble not involved in the sale of Shrine papers and plaques is welcome to come join us.

**Chuck Beasley
Secretary**

FLYING FEZZES

Several members attended the John C. Tune Airport Fly-In and Chili Cook off, January 29, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the airport. Glad to see Charles Moore, BV Lawson, Austin Bond, Mike Stansbury, and myself enjoying all the great airplanes for viewing. We also would like to welcome our new reserve members, Don Drayton and Tom Ratner to our club. The Flying Fezzes are gearing up to have a great year for the paper sale starting April 28th. Several members have already started work on the plaque sales. We plan to make this our biggest year in paper and plaque sales.

Remember please contact Commander Tommy Walker, or come by our room at the Temple prior to the sated meeting each month if you are interested in joining our great club.

**Jack Patterson
Administrative Officer**

MOTOR CORPS

Just a short note to let all know that we are trying to start another division with in the Motor Corps. If we can get enough interest, it will be a group of off road 4-wheelers at least 350cc. the one to contact is Roger Vaughn at 615-351-9393.

D&B MOUNTAINEERS

The D & B Mountaineers wish to pledge our support to Potentate Melvin Meadows, his Lady Gayle and members of the Divan in all

their activities & endeavors during 2011. Remember Nobles, it's all about the Hospitals and the Kids. The Mountaineers Unit is planning an overnight trip to visit the Shrine Hospitals at Lexington, KY and Cincinnati, OH, details will be forthcoming. We are expecting and looking forward to participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade at Erin, TN on Saturday, March 19th. We regret the passing of our Good Friend and Brother, member Bobby Haley.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Lady BJ and the Haley Family. He will be missed.

Till Next time.

**Charlie Bracey
Captain**

NEW HOBBY

Interested in scrapbooking? We are starting a group to meet at Al Menah Center. Our first meeting will be Friday, March 18th at 9 am till 3 pm. We will determine at that meeting the best time for everyone to meet thereafter. No fees, no stress, just fun and fellowship with friends. Bring a sack lunch. Beginners welcome! Scarlet Morgan (who is a Creative Memories Representative) will have supplies available and will lend a hand if you need it. Please RSVP to reserve your place and help her prepare for the day of fun. You may email her at scarlet.morgan@gmail.com or call her at 812-2548 (cell phone). If questions, you may reach me at 851-7898.

**Thanks,
Amy Moore**

GREETERS

Greetings All, the Greeter's unit had a great time welcoming the Keystone members to their annual dinner. A fine meal prepared, for some fine folks that care about our temple and its future. Members of the Unit also had a high old time welcoming Nobles and Ladies at the door of the Valentine's dinner and dance! You will next see us doing our part at the Potentate's Ball. That being said, a big welcome Imperial Sir George Mitchell to Al Menah Temple, Nashville TN., it is high honor indeed to have such dignified guests at our Potentate's Ball. In closing, we also wish to give a warm Greeter's Unit welcome to our newest members; Jerry V. Smith, Jim York and Ron Edmark. We expect great things going forward in 2011! You should too.

Robert O'Quin

LEGION OF HONOR

We would like to welcome new member Jason Wilmes and his lady Diana to the Legion of



Honor Unit, Jason who is still on Active Duty and stationed at Fort Campbell. Maybe he can teach us some new marches and veteran ideas. Our thanks goes out to Bob and Brenda Silva for the lovely luncheon they had for our unit down in Dickson on Feb. 19th. See things can really happen when you get these new members. It was good to see all our members that have been sick or had operations back at the meetings. We know that Gene Hardiman who had a eye operation is glad things have worked out great for him. At this time we have no more sick or shut ends and that's great with all this crazy weather we have been having. The Unit will be posting colors on Sunday March 13th at the Music City Sheraton for the Music City Reps Union. Let's keep all our Veterans in harms way in our prayers and hope they get home soon. Red, White and Blue.

Gary "Rooster" Drennon

PROVOST GUARD

First of all, thanks to Gary Graf for doing *The Shriner*, I now have a schedule. Be sure to sign up and pay your money for the Potentate's Ball, It will be March 26, 2011. If we have hospitality in the Unit room, we will need lots of unit support. The Spring Ceremonial will be April 16, 2011 at the Shrine. The Paper Sale will be April 28 thru May 1, 2011. We will need to be out in force. Continue to remember our sick: Beverly, Kay and Ms. Emma. We sure lost a true Shriner and friend when we lost Bobby Haley. He always had a funny story or joke. He will be missed.

Coach

CHIEF RABBAN

I know that I am in the majority and want winter to go away. The bad weather has inconvenienced many of us from doing what we want and need to do. One of those things is going to the Shrine Clubs. We have not forgotten you and hope to see you in the near future. Even though the weather has caused the cancellation of meetings, we still need to remember our obligation of selling plaques and supporting the hospitals. Our kids need us. It is heartwarming to hear the stories of where we have helped a child to be able to lead a normal life because of what we do. Continue the good work. One of the biggest events of the year is coming up and that is Al Menah's Potentate's Ball. It is a time for our temple to be beautifully decorated and our ladies to look more beautiful than ever. We hope to see you at this special event and other events throughout the year. Support our temple. Please con-

tact the office or me if you have any questions regarding the Ringmaster Club.

**Remember the kids
Dennis Belford**

HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET

The year 2011 is moving right along with little or no problems, unless you want to count the weather. The Valentine Dinner Dance went well, but that was expected with Noble Barry and his lady as its chairman. Most of the Nobles will be getting the tuxedo cleaned and pressed preparing for the Potentates Ball. Of course the ladies have been shopping for a new dress all year. These are the things that make it fun, and it is important this year to add some fun to the many projects and task ahead of the nobility. As the HP&P one of my jobs is to observe the things around me and those going before me, that I can learn from the good and profit from the mistakes, insuring when my time comes I am prepared. Finally, I wish all the Al Menah Shriners the strength and resolve to make our Plaque and Paper Sale the best ever.

Carl Barnes

PAST CAPTAINS

ATTENTION! If you would like to join a club with NO stress, we are right for you!! If you are a Past Captain or Past Director of an Al Menah Unit or Past Potentate, we would like to have you as a member! Also, if 2011 is the first year you have been Captain of your unit, you can come to functions this year as an honorary member. All of our functions include our ladies. For information contact Conley Dykes, President at 714-5817 or Kenny Loftis, Sec-Treas at 426-3400.

WMSON COUNTY

Isn't it great to be a Shriner? You are part of the World's Greatest Philanthropy. As we work on our calendar for the upcoming events, there is none more important than the Paper Sale and Plaque Sales. Please be thinking of places where you might sell a Plaque this year. We can sell Plaques all year long. We will organize the Paper Sale itself and I hope you will plan on helping sell papers 4/28 through 5/1. This is the one thing that we all said we would do when we became a Shriner. The paper sale will kick off with the Caravan stopping at Hiram Lodge early on March 28. I hope many of you can be down there to welcome the Potentate and his Divan that morning. We have a fun year planned with many

events going on. I hope you plan on being in Franklin for the Rodeo Parade on May 14. We hope to have several Shriners in the Parade again this year. Nobles, please remember to thank God every day for the freedom we enjoy in this Great Country! Shriners Help Children!

**Butch Mays
Secretary**

MURFREESBORO

The next meeting of the Murfreesboro Shrine club will be on Monday, March 28th at Logan's Road House in Murfreesboro. Dinner at 6pm, meeting will follow at 7pm. Hope to see you there.

**Craig Maddux
Secretary**

ORIENTAL GUIDE

Well, March is here and if all goes as planned, I will be in Tampa at the OG Seminar, learning how to better serve our Shrine Center and the Hospitals. I want to thank the Nobility for electing me to serve on the Divan of the greatest Temple in Shrinedom!

A little about me: I am a long-time resident of Nashville, a graduate of Nashville Public Schools (Hillwood High), David Lipscomb University and the Nashville school of Law. I have 3 daughters; Jennifer Ivey of Fairview, Angie Poag of Columbia and Jesse Gray, who lives at home with me and her pets. I also have 7 grandchildren. I am a member of Corinthian Lodge #414, the National Sojourners, the York Rite, and a 32 degree KCCH of the Scottish Rite. I have been a member of Al Menah since 1994, and currently in the Directors Staff and Past Captains.

My goal is to be responsive to the Nobility and to serve you and our Hospitals in the coming months and years. Remember to support your Blue Lodge and appendant bodies. This is where we will find our new members.

**Fraternally
Mike VanSant**

RBTSON COUNTY

The Robertson County Shrine Club meets on the 4th Thursday of every month @ 7:00 pm at the Greenbrier lodge. The price for the meal is 10.00 so come on out and enjoy great food and even better fellowship. If the weather is good this month we might even fire the ole grill up.



A short report on our Vision 2011 project. At the time of printing this Shriener, the project has raised half of the monies required to complete. Many of the building components have been donated and an abundance of qualified Nobles have offered their labor to build. The project date and dedication in May is becoming closer to a reality. Talk to your friends, get them onboard. With your continued support this needed project hopefully will be completed and in use by summers end.



Green Hills
2209 Bandywood Drive
Green Hills, TN 37215
615-386-0500

White Room
340 S. Cumberland St.
Lebanon TN, 37087
615-767-2901



Potentate's Ball Special
\$20 off in Stock Tuxedo placed
by 3-19-11
(Budget tuxedo not included)

Cool Springs
216 Seaboard Lane
Franklin, TN 37067
615-771-0949

Murfreesboro
1312 Memorial Blvd
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
615-890-0955

We will make every effort to be at your location at the appointed time. The Shrine office will call the day before to confirm with ambassadors the time and place. This years Caravan will not be open to the Nobility.

CARAVAN DELIVERY ROUTE

Mon 3/28	7:45 AM	FRANKLIN	Wed 3/30	8:15 AM	SHELBYVILLE
Mon 3/28	9:00 AM	COLUMBIA / CENTERVILLE	Wed 3/30	9:00 AM	LEWISBURG
Mon 3/28	9:45 AM	MT. PLEASANT	Wed 3/30	10:15 AM	FAYETTEVILLE
Mon 3/28	10:20 AM	HOHENWALD	Wed 3/30	11:10 AM	WINCHESTER / ESTILL SPRINGS
Mon 3/28	11:00 AM	LINDEN / CLIFTON	Wed 3/30	11:45 AM	TULLAHOMA
Mon 3/28	1:00 PM	LAWRENCEBURG	Wed 3/30	2:30 PM	MANCHESTER
Mon 3/28	2:00 PM	PULASKI	Wed 3/30	3:30 PM	McMINNVILLE / ROCK ISLAND
Mon 3/28	2:30 PM	COLLEGE GROVE	Wed 3/30	4:30 PM	MURFREESBORO
Mon 3/28	3:15 PM	NOLENSVILLE	Wed 3/30	5:00 PM	SMYRNA / LAVERGNE
Tue 3/29	7:35 AM	ASHLAND CITY	Thu 3/31	8:30 AM	GAINESBORO
Tue 3/29	8:50 AM	CLARKSVILLE	Thu 3/31	9:15 AM	LIVINGSTON
Tue 3/29	9:50 AM	DOVER / BIG ROCK/ CC	Thu 3/31	11:45 AM	LAFAYETTE / RED BOILING SPRINGS
Tue 3/29	10:50 AM	ERIN	Thu 3/31	12:30 PM	HARTSVILLE / CARTHAGE
Tue 3/29	12:10 PM	WAVERLY / NEW JOHNSONVILLE	Thu 3/31	1:00 PM	WESTMORELAND
Tue 3/29	12:30 PM	McEWEN	Thu 3/31	1:30 PM	PORTLAND
Tue 3/29	1:00 PM	DICKSON	Thu 3/31	2:30 PM	WHITE HOUSE
			Thu 3/31	3:00 PM	SPRINGFIELD / GREENBRIER
			Fri 4/1	8:15 AM	COOKEVILLE
			Fri 4/1	8:45 AM	MONTEREY
			Fri 4/1	10:00 AM	SMITHVILLE
			Fri 4/1	10:30 AM	WATERTOWN
			Fri 4/1	11:00 AM	LEBANON / GLADEVILLE
			Fri 4/1	1:00 PM	GALLATIN / HENDERSONVILLE



Materials “Clean Out” Request

Third Party Pay Necessitates New Brochures, Promotional Materials

For immediate release: to temple newsletters, clubs and units

On July 1, 2010, Shriners Hospitals for Children® began accepting payments for care in our hospitals from health insurance companies (called “third party” payors).

While this is a new era for Shriners Hospitals for Children®, we have not changed our mission or the care we provide to kids. What has changed is **the way we talk** about how care is provided at Shriners Hospitals for Children®:

- We can no longer use the terms “free”, “no charge” or “no cost” when referring to care provided in our hospitals.
- We have replaced those terms with this phrase: We provide care “regardless of the patients’ ability to pay.”

It is Time to Clean Out!

Staff members in our hospitals and at Shriners International headquarters are busy eliminating all printed materials, banners, signs, etc., that use the terms “free” “no charge” and “no cost.” We need you to do the same in your temple and affiliated Shrine Clubs.

Effective immediately, all temples, clubs, units and individuals must recycle, discard and replace any promotional materials produced prior to 2010 that include the words “free” “no charge” “no cost” for care. This would include:

- Brochures and flyers (replacements can be ordered at www.shrinersvillage.com)
- Signage, banners, posters
- Vehicle signage (such as parade floats and Shrine vans)
- Websites
- “on hold” messages
- Videos, PowerPoint and other presentations

(This, of course, does not pertain to archive items you may have on display in your temple. That is part of our history. We only ask that you dispose of items that could potentially be distributed to the public, or used to provide current information to potential patients, donors and other supporters.)

How We Talk about the Care We Provide

This may be the hardest part. We must also remember to use new language when speaking to the public and to the media about Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Any presentations, speeches or interviews cannot contain the phrases “free”, “no charge” or “no cost.”

Here is a great paragraph that you can use to describe Shriners Hospitals for Children® when speaking to others.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research, and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients’ ability to pay.

If you have questions about this change, or need help to identify items to be replaced, or help to find replacement materials, please feel free to contact Shriners International Headquarters (email shrinepr@shrinenet.org or call 813-281-2300), or contact the director of public relations at the Shriners Hospitals for Children® nearest you.





Research in Spinal Cord Injury Improves Assessment and Treatment



A spinal cord injury (SCI) can be devastating. Generally resulting in some degree of paralysis and disruption of the body's voluntary and involuntary actions, the impact and implications of SCI last a lifetime.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is committed to providing expert orthopaedic and rehabilitative care to its patients with SCI. However, being able to offer the best care is dependent on accurate assessment and diagnosis, which requires being able to determine the exact level and extent of injury.

In pediatric SCI, this has been especially difficult due to the lack of pediatric-based tools; the standard test for assessing SCI was designed for adults. Researchers have found that age 6 may be the youngest age children are developmentally able to understand the instructions, and older children do not react well to some aspects of the test.

To fill the void in pediatric evaluations, researchers at Shriners

Hospitals for Children®, led by MJ Mulcahey, Ph.D., director of rehabilitation services and clinical research at the Philadelphia hospital, established the first assessment guidelines applicable to kids with SCI as young as 3 months old.

Funded by research grants from Shriners Hospitals for Children®, the pediatric version of the International Standards for Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury, known as WeeStep, is an electronic learning module that compliments the established assessment program for adults with SCI. The WeeStep provides evidence-based methods to evaluate and classify the level and implications of SCI in children, based on established childhood developmental guidelines.

These new guidelines will help professionals determine the level and extent of SCI and allow for reasonable predictions or expectations for neurological recovery and for developing the best medical care plan for each patient. The WeeStep is available to medical professionals world-wide via the American Spinal Injury Association Web site.

Another effort to increase understanding of SCI and related problems is the establishment of the Pediatric Research Center, which opened in September 2009 in Philadelphia. The 23,000 square-foot facility, located in the new Temple University Medical School Education and Research Building across the street from Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Philadelphia, will be used primarily for research in neural (nerve) repair and

rehabilitation, including the spinal cord, neuromuscular injury and brain injury. The Center is under the direction of Michael Selzer, M.D., former director of rehabilitation research and development for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Temple University and Shriners Hospitals for Children® aim to establish a translational research program where basic science developments can benefit children with neuromuscular conditions. Drs. Selzer and Mulcahey have strategically planned to connect basic science to clinical research so that new knowledge will be offered to children receiving care from Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

Currently, the health care system is funding approximately 12 research studies at the three hospitals with SCI programs involving different aspects of SCI, ranging from cell repair to quality of life issues. In addition, researchers at Shriners Hospitals for Children® share their expertise through academic affiliations at noteworthy institutions and by providing opportunities for post-doctoral researchers.

The emphasis on research and education is indicative of Shriners Hospitals for Children®'s total commitment to determining, as well as providing, the best care for children with SCI.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® depends on donations to fund all its programs, including research. For information on ways you can support this effort, please visit www.donate2SHC.org.

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Nobles Visited By The Black Camel

“There was a friend whose heart was good,
 He walked with men and understood.
 His was a voice that spoke with cheer,
 And felt like music on the ear.
 His was a smile men loved to see;
 His was a hand that asked no fee
 For friendliness or kindness done.
 And now that he has journeyed on,
 His is a fame that never ends—
 He leaves behind uncounted friends.”

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CALENDAR

MARCH — MAY 2011

3/14	Mon	Captains Meeting	AMSC 6:00pm
3/15	Tue	Stated Meeting	AMSC 8:00pm
3/26	Sat	Potentates Ball	AMSC
3/28—4/1/11		Paper Sale Caravan	Middle TN
<hr/>			
4/3—4/10		Potentate's Trip	Mexico
4/16	Sat	Spring Ceremonial	AMSC 2:00pm
4/18	Mon	Captains Meeting	AMSC 6:00pm
4/19	Tue	Stated Meeting	AMSC 8:00pm
4/23	Sat	Easter Egg Hunt	AMSC 10:00am
4/28-5/1		Paper Sale	Middle TN
<hr/>			
5/8	Sun	Hospital Day	Lexington
5/14	Sat	Mini Clinic	AMSC 9:00 am
5/14	Sat	Spring Party	AMSC 7:00 pm
5/16	Mon	Men's Golf Outing	Temple Hills
5/16	Mon	Captains Meeting	AMSC 6:00 pm
5/17	Tue	Stated Meeting	AMSC 8:00 pm
5/21	Sat	Fishing Tournament	Sanders Ferry 4:00am
5/27	Fri	Bar-B-Que	AMSC