



# Al Koran Shriners News



## *Bru and Melissa*



# The Al Koran

published monthly by  
Al Koran Shriners  
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### ELECTED DIVAN

Potentate ..... Bru Lewis  
Chief Rabban ..... Michael Spisak  
Assistant Rabban ..... Brandon Gould  
High Priest & Profit ..... James Barone  
Oriental Guide ..... Michael Krake Jr.  
Treasurer ..... Jay Flack  
Recorder ..... Thomas Klecan, P.P.



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Frankel, President  
Ronn Murphy, PP  
Dan Andrews  
Mike Miranda

### AL KORAN EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Jay Flack, Treasurer and Sheila Flack

### SUBMISSIONS

All articles, advertising and suggestions should be sent to the address listed below and marked ATTN: Al Koran Magazine or email to: [alkorannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alkorannewsletter@gmail.com)

### MEMBER INFORMATION

For information on Dues, Assessments, Regulations or to report Illness or Death of a Noble please call the Business Office as listed above.



Bru Lewis, Potentate

Greetings Nobles and Ladies! Well its February already, officers Installed, and here we go. A big thank you to the Installation Team of Illustrious Sirs Al Paynter, Mike Davison, and Mark Bollinger. If you missed the Chief Rabban Seminar this past November, we have some new primary goals established for 2024. Number one after the support of our Children is (you may have guessed it) to increase membership, primarily among younger men. Everyone is always talking the membership talk, now let us walk the walk. If you do not change anything, do not expect anything to change. A special committee has been formed and consists of “younger” Nobles who are aligned with Clubs and Units having a history of success in obtaining new young members. *Every event that our Clubs and Units have should include an aspect of driving membership.*

With the average age of an Al Koran member currently over seventy, we older folk cannot “think” like nor are we physically active like young Nobles. Let the younger Nobles drive us! To develop younger interest we must involve and “turn loose” the younger Nobles to recommend and develop fun events. Events we would never think of like axe throwing, combat paintball competitions, stud poker nights, pool playing, bourbon and cigar events, increased stag events, bourbon / craft beer gatherings, video-game nights, etc. Most of us cannot imagine being involved in events like this, we do not think like this, but this is what the younger members thrive on to build the fellowship and camaraderie that is so needed for us to grow.

We are planning a “Lunch with the Potentate” event in the next couple of months. This will be on a Saturday, with invitations for two representatives from each Club and Unit to attend, with lunch paid by Al Koran. During this gathering we invite your representatives to an “open mic” opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns and unite together for the good of Al Koran as a whole, and especially for the good of what we are all about, the Children. Details will be forthcoming.

Lady Sheila Flack (Jay our Treasurer’s Lady) has graciously offered to have some programs for the Ladies during the business meetings. My wife Melissa cannot due to work obligations.

We welcome two fresh faces to the Al Koran officers, our new OG, Noble Mike Krake President of the Youngstown Shrine Club, and Noble Jason Kita, as Captain of the Guard. Please warmly welcome them into our AL Koran officer family.



Bru Lewis, Potentate  
*Something to Wrap Your Love Around*

## Official Call of the Potentate

The next regular monthly business meeting will be **FEBRUARY 19, 2024** to be held at **Berea Masonic Center** (Quarry Lodge), 366 Eastland Road, Berea. Dinner will be served at 6:00 with **RESERVATIONS** called in to Recorder Tom Klecan...by the previous Thursday.

Bru Lewis, Illustrious Potentate  
Thomas Klecan P.P., Recorder

*Es Selamu Aleikum*

## Divan Directory



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**Recorder**  
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Email: klecantom@hotmail.com

## Calendar of Events

### FEBRUARY

- February 12 - Board of Directors/Divan/Hunters
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 16 - Treasurer's Birthday
- February 19 - Business Meeting

### MARCH

- March 11 - Board of Directors/Divan/Hunters
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 - Business Meeting - Ladies Program

For a detailed **Calendar of Events** see Al Koran Website

## *Paper Deadline!*

For those of you that submit materials for the Al Koran News:  
I need your letters, ads and photos in a timely manner,  
so that I can assemble the newsletter with  
enough time for artwork, layout, printing & mailing.  
**Deadline is 2nd Wednesday each month.**  
*Thank You, Jay Flack., Editor & Publisher*

# FOR SALE!

## 2006 Ford E-150 Van

- 145,000 miles
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Al Koran office.**

## From the Recorder

If you have already paid your dues, you need not read this, but it is somewhat informational.

It is 2024, so to those of our Nobility who have yet to pay their dues please do so now, at the time of this writing there were over 175 of you.

Nobles, if you dues have not paid by January first, you are (technically) not in good standing. You may not attend events, or hold an officers position in the Temple, or a club or unit.

So, how do I know if your dues are paid?

Imperial sends out several reminders throughout the year, via email, regular mail, and post cards, to those who have not paid their dues, if the information we have to contact you is correct you should be receiving those.

Otherwise, one of three other ways can be used, first you can go to [shrinersinternational.org](http://shrinersinternational.org) and log in, if you do not have a log in you can create one on this site. You will need your shrine ID, it comes with your dues reminders, both electronically and by hard mail. You can use that log in to access Webfez which will allow you to see if your dues are paid, you can also use Webfez to change your address and other personal information. Secondly, you can go to the App store on your smart phone, and search for Myfezcard viewer; again you will need your shrine and member numbers. By downloading this app, which is free, you will have your dues card with you as long as you have your phone with you. If the card is gold, you have not paid your dues, if it is black you have. Finally, you can call or contact the office, which information is listed below.

The Fezcard viewer is a really nice app to have, it can be scanned at any event, especially the Imperil ones, and you are automatically registered as attending that event. Also, as soon as your information is updated in Webfez, by your temple it is available on your viewer, when it is scanned.

For those of our Nobility, who are struggling with health or financial issues, please contact the office, we would like to keep you on our rolls if that is your wish; we have several options for payment of dues available.

Finally, although there is no automatic senior remittance available after 50 years of membership, we do have dues payment options available for those of you who wish to remain in the fraternity, but may not have the financial wherewithal to do so. We also have some options for those of you who may not be getting out as much as you would like.

But, please remember, we cannot do anything for you if we do not hear from you.

Also, please remember to make our wishes known to your family, we have had members who, after long year of service to our fraternity and our philanthropy, but who no longer maintain their own financial resources, who have been suspended for nonpayment of dues simply because their family's do not know we have the resources to keep them on the rolls.

I'm done complaining about dues, although I'll be dealing with them all year.

You can reach me by e-mail at [klecantom@hotmail.com](mailto:klecantom@hotmail.com), [clevelandshriners@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandshriners@gmail.com), or call the office **440-546-9866** and select #1 Recorder. -- Tom Klecan PP - Recorder, Al Koran Shriners

### DECEMBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP

| DECEMBER 1st   | 805 Regular | 5 Associates |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Creations  | 2           | 0            |
| Restorations   | 0           | 0            |
| Affiliations   | 0           | 0            |
| Demits   | 2           | 0            |
| Suspensions  | 16          | 0            |
| Resignations   | 0           | 0            |
| Deaths   | 0           | 0            |
| DECEMBER 31  | 783 Regular | 5 Associates |
| <b>Total Membership as of DECEMBER 31, 2023 ....</b> |             |              |

**788 Nobles**

### DONATIONS

#### In Memory of Richard Hoffman

Carol Carr

#### In Memory of Howard & Richard Claes

Jennifer Russell

### IN MEMORY

*Nobles lost to the  
Black Camel*

#### **November 2023**

Noble Howard W. Claes  
Noble Donald E. Fugate  
Noble Richard N. Hoffman  
Noble Bernard F. May  
Noble George Potz  
Noble Paul W. Wright

*Note: Reports are posted as received,  
not necessarily in chronological order.*

## Mariners Log

By Bob Stanley M.S.A.

Several Mariners were seen at the Greater Cleveland Boating Association Boat Show. When its time for the boat show, you know Spring is two months away and our boating season is right around the corner.

This Scribe has received word from Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear's Office that Mariner Mark Cain has received a Commission as a Kentucky Colonel from Governor Beshear. Mark joins the growing list of Al Koran Shriners who are Kentucky Colonels. Congratulations Mark.

Sunshine Chairman P/C John Baker has informed me at this writing (January 1) that sick bay is empty. With Winter upon us, stay warm, safe, and healthy.

There will be no Mariners meeting in February. Instead, the Mariners will try to do some ice fishing on Lake Erie. If you plan to venture out onto a frozen lake, remember the words of the OHIO D.N.R., There is no such thing as:

- 100% safe ice
- Two inches of ice, stay off
- Four inches of ice is for walking or ice fishing
- Six inches of ice is for snowmobiles and ATV'S
- Eight to Twelve inches of ice is for cars and small trucks

If you are going ice fishing, dress accordingly, let your family know of your destination on the ice, and please be careful.

The Mariners extend our best wishes and support to our new 2024 Potentate Bru Lewis. With Bru at the helm, let us make 2024 go down as Al Koran's greatest year.

The February business meeting of Al Koran Shrine will be held on Monday, February 19. The location will be in the official call of the Potentate in the February Al Koran Magazine on page 2.

For any information concerning Mariners meetings, dates, membership, or activities, contact Commodore Ronn Murphy P.P. at 216-702-6785

To all the Al Koran Shriners and their ladies, the Mariners and our ladies wish everyone in Al Koran Shrine a Happy Valentine's Day!

God's Speed!

## SAVE THE DATE

The Ohio Shrine Association cordially invites you to mark your calendars for the highly anticipated annual meeting scheduled to take place on **April 26th and 27th**. We are pleased to announce that this event will be held in Perrysburg, Ohio. Kindly ensure that this important gathering is duly noted on your calendar. Thank you for your attention to this matter. -- Ronn Murphy, VP, PP

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## **Legion of Honor**

The Legion of Honor Unit meets the 4th Monday of every month, except for the months of November and December due to the holidays. Our meetings are held at 6 PM at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 9549 Highland Drive, Brecksville, Ohio 44141.

Our membership is composed of military veterans and associate members. The associate members are not veterans but volunteer to help our unit to achieve our goals. At the present time, several of our associate members are very active. If you are a veteran or you would like to help out as an associate, please contact Jack Conner, Adjutant, P.P., at 440.590.5260.

## **Hunter's Unit**

Well February is here and probably the coldest month of the year, but Spring is about 6 weeks away. That means we will start getting the Trolley Trailer ready for this year's parades. We can get the trailer ready but we have one other thing to do. Yes, we will need someone to pull it. Sooooo, this was one of a number of things that we had to resolve. So look around for someone that has a pickup and would like to get involved with the Hunters. Of course, we will need participants that will join us in riding in the trailer.

There are a number of events planned for the Hunters, and one is the Kid Fishing Day at the Western Reserve Community Center in Medina.

Last year there had to be at least 25 or more kids in attendance even with the cold and rain. But that didn't stop them from pulling in a number of various types of fish. Well, it is scheduled for May 4th this year. Weather should be a whole lot better. This event is open to the public and the hope is to have 50 young fishermen participating on that day. Rods and bait are furnished by Jeff and Tom (Jeff's Father) Miller and all they want are young sportspeople.

We are planning a St. Patrick's Day dinner, in March, in conjunction with the Hillbillies. Most on our Club are Hillbillies, so we can just add a few more in attendance. But right now we don't have enough info to get it in this paper.

## **Hillbilly Crooked River Clan**

Congratulations to the new Officers and we are looking forward to an eventful new year. Our Christmas Party and Installation was held on the 24th of January and the February article was needed by January 11th. The time element is not in our favor. So the article is being written before the event. But we had a good turnout at our last meeting with Christmas music that was supplied for background. Christmas ham followed the tradition, along with plenty of side dishes and desserts to finish the meal. We then held our usual Hillbilly Installation which was led by Ill Mick Davison and a team of members. A few remarks were made and then we started with the gift exchange. All in all everyone had a good time and we even had white lighting to toast with, if they wanted. The officers were Raban of the Clan Russ Arndt. Keeper of the Cob is Ill Al Paynter, Keeper of the Quill Frank McEvoy, with Ill Ronn Murphy as Keeper of the Still. We have good officers now let's get started with the activities.

Right now, and this is tentative, we will be celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on the 16th of March at The Harp (Irish Pub). They will be serving Corn Beef and cabbage with all the fixings and green beer. Where is this restaurant? Glad you asked. It is in Cleveland at 4408 Detroit Rd. We will, if everything goes according to plans, be giving details at the Installation.

We have a few that have been waiting to join the Hillbillies and it looks like February could be a great time to do this. If you have thoughts of joining the Hillbillies, don't hesitate. We have one fee to join and that is \$35.00 and no yearly dues. We do collect \$2.00 at the meeting to cover expenses. If you have questions, call Russ at 216-905-5629. We are meeting at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, in Brecksville, at 9549 Highland Dr. This is not just for the men. We have just a many women that bring the men. In fact I think we have more women in attendance at our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month and our next meeting will be February 28th. **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Lakewood Shrine Club

As we stand at the threshold of a brand new year with newly installed officers, the members of Lakewood Shrine Club extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to our esteemed shrine community. May the coming year be filled with joy, unity, and continued dedication to our shared mission.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with laughter, prosperity, good health, and the enduring spirit of fellowship. We hope to see each of you at one of our events which are on the 2nd Wednesdays each month. We meet at the Cleveland Yacht Club and start with cocktails at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:00pm, and entertainment or speaker at 7:00pm. Please see our advertisement for reservation information in this newsletter.



Lakewood Shrine Club 2024 Officers



Lakewood Shrine Club President

## Al Koran Boosters

“Al Koran Boosters” help to defray the cost of publishing and mailing our magazine. To be a “Booster” please send a check, payable to Al Koran, for \$10 per person listed to Al Koran Headquarters. Names are listed for one year, after which it is time to renew. Renewal dates are shown after your name.

| BOOSTERS               | exp. date | BOOSTERS                   | exp. date | BOOSTERS                | exp. date |
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| John & Joanne Larson   | 2/1/24    | Al Budney                  | 1/1/25    | Mark & Debbie Bollinger | 4/1/25    |
| Joe and Joann Dugan    | 3/13/24   | Art Moore                  | 1/1/25    | Richard & Linda Saxby   | 11/1/25   |
| Dale & Carolyn Haas    | 3/1/24    | Creighton & Winnie Bradler | 1/1/25    | Norm Melchreit          | 12/1/25   |
| Ronald H. Mills        | 4/1/24    | Chuck & Barbara Bradler    | 1/1/25    | Fredrick & Mary Freer   | 1/1/26    |
| John D. Baker          | 4/1/24    | Mike Brookins              | 2/1/25    | Paula Bodenstern        | 11/1/26   |
| Dan Frenz              | 5/1/24    | Brunell “Bru” Lewis        | 2/1/25    | Gary Brookins           | 11/1/26   |
| Stan & Betty Updike    | 5/1/24    | Steve & Kim Behm           | 3/1/25    | Scott & Jana Grim       | 3/1/27    |
| William Miller         | 6/1/24    | Debbie Saiter & Fudge      | 3/1/25    | Roger A. Van Norstan    | 7/1/27    |
| Phil & Rita Welce      | 6/1/24    | Jay & Sheila Flack         | 4/1/25    | Joanne Larson           | 1/1/28    |
| James & Naomi Rice     | 7/1/24    | Virginia Briggs            | 4/1/25    | Sandy Angstrom          | 2/1/28    |
| Ford & Nadya Cole      | 7/1/24    | Rosemary Hixenbaugh        | 4/1/25    | Ralph & Eda Thadeus     | 7/1/28    |
| John E. Haught         | 7/1/24    | Barb Fyfe                  | 5/1/25    | Donald & Debbie Meuser  | 10/1/30   |
| Ken & Beth Weidig      | 11/1/24   | Evie Probert               | 6/1/25    | Norita M Hinerman       | 4/1/32    |
| Jack & Marge Conner    | 11/1/24   | Ray & Kay Wilson           | 11/1/25   |                         |           |



# Shriner Photos



*AR Gould and CR Spisak*



*Barone and Krake*



*Jean and Bill*



*PP and Family*

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# Onions Onions Onions



Yes, AI Koran will once more be selling onions, and yes the price remains \$15 for a 10-pound bag. And your assistance is needed. Last year we were forced to increase the cost of the onions to \$15 a bag to cover the costs of shipping and materials.

This is a fundraiser. I recently bought two popcorn bags from the Boy Scouts and paid \$35 for those two bags, which were not that large. Now that's a fundraiser.

Last year we sold about 300 bags and made about \$1500, not bad, but you can see that our supplies and shipping costs were not cheap. Also, \$2 goes to the club or unit selling the onions. I am aware many of you do not want to deal with the challenges of storing and delivering the onions, but fundraisers such as this are what keep us from having to raise dues.

So please get your club or unit organized to sell, or consider a donation to the general fund, with a little assistance we can raise a respectable amount of money for one day's work, and keep AI Koran in business, and your dues from going up.



*AK Erie reps with Roger Neff*



*Roger Neff getting Emeritus from Erie*



*Honor Guard*

## More Al Koran pictures



Jay and Mike



Dan getting fezzed



Install Room

### KHEEDAWEE COURT #6

## YOU'RE INVITED!!

Ladies of the Oriental Shrine cordially invite you to the Open Installation of our court at Massillon Masonic Temple **333 2nd St SW Massillon, Ohio** at 2PM on March 16, 2024. Please make reservations with Barbara Morse by calling her at **440-897-5286** by March 1, 2024. Hoping to see all of you there!

Lady Jeanne Kemp, High Priestess Elect  
Kheedawee Court No. 6



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# Lakewood Shrine Club

*Join Us*

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Cocktails 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Entertainment 7:00 pm

\$32 per person

The Cleveland Yachting Club



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