



**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

# FEBRUARY 2026

Volume #113 | Issue 2



## ***WE SHINE, WHEN WE SHRINE***



2026 POTENTATE  
**BRANDON GOULD**



FIRST LADY  
**KAREN GOULD**



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Al Koran Shriners



## FEBRUARY 2026

## MARCH 2026

- 2nd** - Mid-Ohio Shrine Club Meeting
- 5th** - Krazy Kops Beer Brewing Event
- 9th** - Hunters Meeting
- 17th** - Mariners Meeting
- 18th** - Massillon Shrine Club Meeting
- 22nd** - BS Unit Steak Gathering
- 23rd** - Krazy Kops Meeting at Teamz
- 23rd** - Legion of Honor Meeting
- 25th** - Lakewood Shrine Club - Cleveland Yacht Club

- 2nd** - Mid-Ohio Shrine Club Meeting
- 5th** - Mansfield Shrine Club Meeting
- 9th** - Hunters Meeting
- 11th** - Lakewood Shrine Club Meetings
- 17th** - Krazy Kops St Patty's Parade in CLE
- 17th** - Youngstown Shrine Club Parade in Canfield
- 18th** - Massillon Shrine Club Meeting
- 19th** - Youngstown Shrine Club Meeting
- 23rd** - Krazy Kops Meeting at Teamz
- 25th** - Hillbillies Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				





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# POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

**Brandon Gould**

*2026 Potentate*



## Greetings Nobles and family.

What a great first month we've had. At our first meeting, we received five petitions and one restoration, and we initiated three new members. This year is truly getting off to a strong start.

I want to thank each of you for the support you have given me over the years, and I look forward to an outstanding year for Al Koran. I have already been busy installing three units and am excited about the travels ahead across the Realm—visiting with my fellow Nobles of Al Koran as well as my counterparts throughout Shrinedom.

Coming up this month, I'll be hanging out with the Krazy Kops at the Brew Kettle, enjoying some great fellowship while brewing a few beverages. Please note that there will be no business meeting on the 16th.

**Remember: We Shine, When We Shrine.**

# POTENTATE CHALLENGE

LIMITED EDITION:

## 2026 CHALLENGE COIN



**THE CHALLENGE:** BE THE TOP  
SIGN SIGNER ON A NEW PETITION  
IN 2026

# 48 REMAINING

YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR  
COIN AFTER THE CANDIDATE  
RECEIVES HIS COLD SANDS



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# RECORDER'S MESSAGE

It is nice to see that we have started the new year on such a positive note. We read 5 petitions and one request for restoration at our January business meeting. We finished positive for membership in 2025 let's keep the growth going.

At Imperial Session 2025 our request to change to our bylaws was approved and we are now only required to have quarterly business meetings. Our Potentate has indicated that we will probably have more than the required four, probably six in 2026, but don't think this frees up a third Monday of the month for you, because IS Gould has plans. He is planning on family get-togethers such as potlucks and other fun events suitable for the entire family. Stay tuned for information on these events.

The only way you are reading this is because you are using your computer or phone to get the newsletter. There is just so much more we can do with an electronic version, and it doesn't cost any more to add these things, so it keeps the costs under control. Additionally, please use the website, it should be your first stop for information on upcoming events and all other things Al Koran.

Speaking of costs, I am sure you are as aware as the rest of us regarding the increasing costs of everyday items. We appreciate your continued support of Al Koran Shriners. For those of you experiencing financial restraints, please let the Recorder know if you need help with your dues. We have programs in place to assist you in maintaining your membership.

Speaking of dues. Please check to see if you have paid your 2026 dues. I have approximately 125 Members who have not paid for 2026. As of January first, those of you who have not paid are considered to be 'NOT in good standing', and should not be attending events, or holding office in any Club or Unit.

While we as Shriners support one of the world's greatest philanthropies, Shriners Hospitals for Children, the Shrine was originally formed for Fun & Fellowship. So, get involved this year in the Fun and Fellowship, you won't be sorry you did.

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

**Tom Klecan P.P.**

*Recorder*





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# TEMPLE UPDATES

Great men  
wear a fez.



## Membership Update: December 2025

	Members	Associates
<b>December 1st</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>4</b>
Creations	2	0
Restorations	1	0
Affiliations	1	0
Demits	0	0
Suspensions	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Deaths	2	0
<b>December 31st</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>4</b>

Total Membership:  
**739 Nobles**



## Nobles Lost to the Black Camel December 2025

Illustrious Sir Kenneth A. Weidig  
Noble William Thadeus

*Reports are posed as received  
Not necessarily in chronological order.*

## Donations In Memory Of:



### Donation From:

Norm Melchreit  
Norm Melchreit

### In Memory of:

Raymond Wilson  
IS Kenneth Weidig





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# TEMPLE UPDATES

## AL KORAN CAMP SHIRTS 2026

Small.....\$51.35

Medium.....\$51.35

Large.....\$51.35

X Large.....\$51.35

2X Large.....\$53.20

3X Large.....\$56.90

4X Large.....\$58.75



Embroidered Name and Title add \$4.00 per shirt  
Print as it will appear embroidered

Name

Title

Name

Email

Phone

All orders will be prepaid by cash, check, or credit card (a 4% processing fee will be added if paid by credit card)

Send order to: [leepilous@gmail.com](mailto:leepilous@gmail.com)

Questions call Lee @ 216-406-0232

**Find the Order Form for the Al Koran Camp Shirt 2026 at:**

<https://alkoranshriners.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Shirt-order-form-1.pdf>



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Hospital Transportation Drivers Needed

Yes, Al Koran is still transporting our special children to our hospitals.

We primarily transport to Shriners Children's Erie and Shriners Children's Ohio. Occasionally we will have transport to our Chicago or Philadelphia Hospitals. Shriners Children's Erie no longer does inhouse surgeries, and if orthopedic surgery is necessary, it is usually done in one of those two locations.

We are doing **2 to 3 transports a month** out of the Cleveland area and about the same in the Mansfield area.

Please **contact Noble Michael Brookins** if you can assist.

216-978-8673 or Mbrook@me.com



## Important Notice: Scammers Emails

Recently, our Illustrious Potentate Brandon Gould received notice that his name was **being used for scammers email**, saying this:

*"Thank you for your response. I truly appreciate you getting back to me. Here is what I want you to do for me because my schedule is quite full. I have been working initiative and would like to surprise few of our diligent members with gift cards today. I already have the list prepared, and you are included as one of the recipients as well. To preserve the surprise, I would appreciate keeping this confidential until all the gift cards have been delivered via email. Please let me know if you are able to help by purchasing the gift cards and sending the details to me by email. I will, of course, ensure that you are reimbursed promptly. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Fraternally,  
Illustrious Brandon M. Gould  
Potentate*

**Please know, no one from Al Koran Shrine** will ever ask you to purchase gift cards or spend money for Al Koran, and that a message like **this is a SCAM**.

**If you receive a message like this:**

- Block the Contact that sent you the message
- Report the Spam Message in your email
- Contact the Divan to inform them of the email.



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

AL KORAN SHRINERS

# **Sweet Vidalia Onion Fundraiser**

## **\$15 / 10 LB BAG**

Order through your Local Club or Unit by:

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



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# THE FEZ & THE FINE PRINT

## Greetings fellow Nobles.

Having just finished my term as Potentate, and having accepted the position of Assistant Recorder, I have been asked by our Potentate to wear another “hat,” if you will. After serving Al Koran Shrine worthily for several years as our Temple Attorney, Noble Ben Farah is stepping down from that position. I have been tapped as his successor.

Noble Farah worked closely with his predecessor, Noble John Kohler who, along with John's law partner, Norm Paynter, had represented Al Koran Shrine as our Temple Attorneys for at least the last 50+ years. I was fortunate to have joined Al Koran Shrine in December 1991 during the class that was named for John Kohler. The two of us became very good friends, and John offered me my first job out of law school. I am proud to be a part of this legacy.

I envision this monthly column in our newsletter as a place to disseminate relevant changes in Shrine law, edicts from our Imperial Potentate, and “things to watch out for” so that we can make sure we are following the Imperial Code. I will also be adding humorous tidbits about the law that might be interesting or funny, but not particularly relevant to anything. So here goes...

## The Serious Part:

Effective January 1, 2026 Imperial Sir Brad Koehn has made changes to General Order No. 1 regarding Shrine gaming activities, including raffles. Any and all fundraising activities by the Temple or its clubs and units must be submitted to the Temple Attorney via the attached “Temple Fundraising Activity Approval Form” for my review and approval prior to beginning the gaming or raffle activity. (A fillable version is available online). Also attached are the memo from John Piland, Executive Vice President, as well as a brief history of General Order No. 1. If anyone has questions about how to complete the form please contact me.

## The Not-So-Serious Part:

Did you know that it is illegal to walk your cow down Lake Road in Bay Village, Ohio or that it is illegal to catch mice in Cleveland, Ohio without a hunting license? Stay tuned for more useless knowledge...

## The Fez and the Fine Print

*Practical Law, Shrine Governance,  
and the Occasional Legal Curiosity.*

**Michael Spisak P.P.**

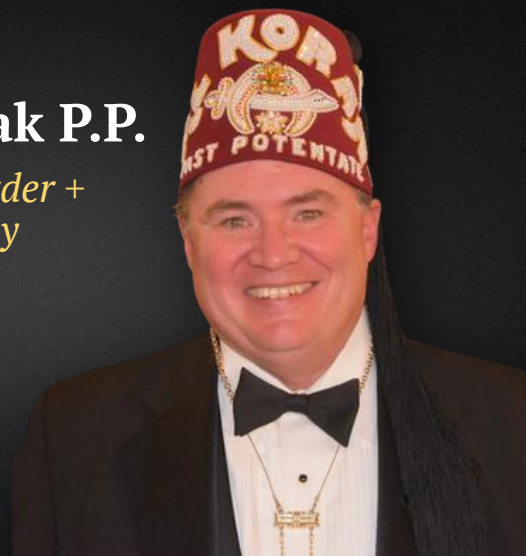
**Temple Attorney**

(216) 225-0703

mjspisak@gmail.com

**Mike Spisak P.P.**

*Assistant Recorder +  
Temple Attorney*



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# SHRINERS

## INTERNATIONAL

OFFICE OF  
**JOHN C. PILAND**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO  
813-281-0300

MEMBER  
ANSAR SHRINERS  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Temple Potentates, Chief Rabbans, Records, and Attorneys

FROM: John C. Piland, Executive Vice President

DATE: December 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Changes to General Order No. 1 Regarding Gaming and Raffles

Imperial Sir Brad Koehn made changes to General Order No. 1, Series 2025-2026, and provided a short video describing the need for these changes to make sure that Shrine gaming activities comply with applicable laws.

In order to accomplish that goal, gaming activities and events require the temple attorney to review the activity to be sure that it is planned to be operated lawfully. This change became effective upon the issuance of General Order No. 1, Series 2025-2026. Because some gaming activities were already in process or planned to start immediately, we still accept the current form used for fraternal fundraising.

However, effective January 1, 2026, we will require a new fraternal fundraising form be completed to fully implement this change. A copy of this new form is attached for your use. You are strongly encouraged to have your temple attorney, or an attorney you hire for this purpose, review the required written description of the proposed gaming activities or raffles so that he can render his written opinion and advice thereon.

An information form entitled "Raffles, Bingo, or Gaming as Fraternal Fundraising" is attached which should help you understand the new requirements.

You are well advised to immediately begin working with your temple attorney so that you can timely submit gaming/raffle applications or registration forms to units of government. Should you have any questions, please direct them to Matt Noell, Director, Temple Accounting/CFO via email to [mnoell@shrinenet.org](mailto:mnoell@shrinenet.org).

Thank you for your efforts to be sure that Shrine gaming and raffles fully comply with all applicable laws.

JCP

Attachments

cc: Brad T. Koehn, Imperial Potentate (via email to [bkoehn@shrinenet.org](mailto:bkoehn@shrinenet.org))  
Jim Cain, Imperial Recorder (via email to [jcain@shrinenet.org](mailto:jcain@shrinenet.org))  
Scott A. Schuster, Imperial Treasurer (via email to [sschuster@shrinenet.org](mailto:sschuster@shrinenet.org))  
Robert O. Kuehn, General Counsel (via email to [bkuehn@shrinenet.org](mailto:bkuehn@shrinenet.org))  
Laurie Spieler, Vice President Legal (via email to [lspieler@shrinenet.org](mailto:lspieler@shrinenet.org))  
Tony R. Krall, Chairman, Jurisprudence and Laws Committee (via email to [Tony.Krall@shrinenet.org](mailto:Tony.Krall@shrinenet.org) and [tkrall@meagher.com](mailto:tkrall@meagher.com))  
Matt Noell, Chief Financial Officer (via email to [mnoell@shrinenet.org](mailto:mnoell@shrinenet.org))

## **RAFFLES, BINGO, OR GAMING AS FRATERNAL FUNDRAISERS**

If your temple is considering gaming as a potential source of fraternal revenue for your temple there are several concerns the Divan needs to understand as well as a few to-do's beforehand, **in addition to, reviewing IRS Publication 3079, attached.**

1. Gaming is highly regulated at the state and local level and requires full compliance with very specific laws and regulations. If the temple is unable to understand or to fully comply with applicable gaming laws, the temple should not engage in the activity.
2. Effective October 1, 2025 General Order No. 1 now requires that a written description of the proposed gaming activities or raffle should be provided to the temple attorney to accompany his review of any application or registration as required by the General Orders, specifically to include the method and location of activity, a detailed description of the operations of the activity, and proposed advertising, which should include a statement of purpose and, if applicable, disclosure. Even if the activity occurs within the period of an existing license, and a new application is not required, the above-described information shall still be provided to the temple attorney for his review. The temple attorney must render his written opinion and advice thereon.
3. In conjunction with the temple attorney review, SI highly recommends the temple request its external CPA that completes the annual reviewed financial statements, review the proposed gaming for any additional bank accounts that may be required, accounting requirements to ensure the proper accounting and reporting of gaming receipts and expenses, the specifics of the reporting, and the remission of any monies that may be owed to federal, state and local agencies in conjunction with the gaming activity.
4. The temple Potentate must approve any application or registration to conduct any gaming activity or raffle, after receiving the advice of the temple attorney, and, additionally, as may be required by the temple bylaws.
5. A copy of the temple Potentate's written consent shall be sent to Executive Vice President, Shriners International. Further, such written material pertaining to the fundraising activity, as requested by the Executive Vice President, Shriners International, shall be promptly sent to him.

The importance of all gaming activities being carefully planned and conducted cannot be overstated. It is critical that all gaming activities are properly accounted for, and that all state and local filings, including bingo and raffle applications and required reporting, are completed accurately and timely. It is also critical for temples to know the winnings threshold of when they are required to issue a 1099-MISC or a W-2G to a winner. Equally important along with the aforementioned is the accurate and timely remission of any monies owed to state governments such as activity taxes regarding the temple's gaming activities. Most gaming rules are state specific, so it can't be overstated that you must know the rules of your state. It is simply not acceptable to comply with "most" of the applicable gaming laws and regulations. Absolutely full compliance with those laws / rules are required. The fact that some other group or organization conducts gaming in a certain way is not evidence that those operations meet legal requirements or that those operations somehow excuse a temple's failure to fully comply with gaming laws.

**The reputation and good name of the Shrine is irreparably harmed when Shriners fail to comply with the law. The public trusts Shriners, as men of character and compassion, to be outstanding stewards of the funds entrusted to our care and to meet all legal requirements.**



## TEMPLE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY APPROVAL FORM

**TO:** Potentate, \_\_\_\_\_ Shriners, located \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
TEMPLE NAME CITY STATE/PROV

**RE:** Temple Approval to Conduct a Shrine Fraternal Fundraiser

We respectfully request permission to hold the following Fraternal fundraising activity for the benefit of \_\_\_\_\_.

FUNDRAISER TYPE AND NAME

We understand that the statement of purpose and the disclosure published on any solicitation materials, tickets, programs, and documents, including all electronically transmitted material, regarding the use of proceeds shall read:

**Proceeds are for the benefit of (\_\_\_\_\_ Shriners)**  
**(\_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Club) activities. Payments are not**  
UNIT OR CLUB NAME  
**deductible as charitable contributions.**

### CHECK ONE

- ☐ **This fundraiser is not a gaming or raffle related activity.**
- ☐ **This fundraiser is a gaming or raffle related activity.** If this fundraiser is related to gaming or raffles **see pages 26 and 27 of the General Order No. 1, Series 2025-2026.** The section below; "Notice to Temple Attorney", will need to be completed.

**Sponsor of the activity:** \_\_\_\_\_  
TEMPLE, UNIT OR CLUB NAME

**Type of activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date(s) of activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To be held:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OR CHAIRMAN ONLY

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Cell** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

### TEMPLE OR REVIEWING ATTORNEY:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, attorney for \_\_\_\_\_ Shriners having received and reviewed the written description, contracts, applications or registrations, along with the applicable sections of the General Orders as noted above, am of the opinion that the laws \_\_\_\_\_, where the activity is to be held, support the Potentate's approval of the requested fundraising activity and have provided the temple Potentate a written opinion to that effect.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_, Temple/Reviewing Attorney

Potentate's Approval: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The completion of the above follows the Temple Governance section, along with the Shrine Fundraising policy and procedures of the current General Order No. 1, under the Fundraising Activities section.

**Do not use this form for fundraising events benefitting Shriners Hospitals for Children.**

**Received by Shriners International Headquarters:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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# 2026 INSTALLATION PHOTOS







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# JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS



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# CLUB/UNIT ARTICLES



## Massillon Shrine Club

Greetings from the Massillon Shrine Club. Hope this finds everyone well and are staying warm.

For your information the Massillon Shrine Club meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Massillon Masonic Center (Clinton #47). We have a nice dinner then a short meeting. All Shriners and their Ladies are welcome to attend. For more information contact Secretary Bill Kemp at [secretary@massillonshriners.com](mailto:secretary@massillonshriners.com).

At the recent 2026 Installation of Al Koran's Officers our Secretary Bill Kemp had the honor of making a presentation to Illustrious Sir Brandon Gould with two checks. The first one to Shriners Children's Ohio for \$1,250.00 and the second to Shriners Children's Erie also for \$1,250.00.

Let's all support the 2026 Potentate Illustrious Brandon Gould and the Officers of Al Koran. Together we can make 2026 an especially great year for our children.







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# CLUB/UNIT ARTICLES



## Legion of Honor

### New Officers elected for 2026:

Commander: Al Paynter PP

Att.: Frank McEvoy

Treasurer: Louis Fow

Officers will be installed at our February Meeting.

January Meeting canceled due to weather.



## Krazy Kops

### Top Shelf Basket of Cheer Fundraiser

Purchase Raffle Tickets for the Chance to win:

**\$300**

-or-

**The 6 Bottles  
of Liquor  
below!**

Contact Any Kops Member to Purchase tickets!

## Robert Burns Night

Our Potentate Illustrious Sir Brandon Gould at Robert Burns Night, hosted by West Shore Lodge #804, with Noble Earl Webster!



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## CLUB/UNIT ARTICLES



### Krazy Kops

Pictures from the Krazy Kops Holiday Party @ J Bella's in Strongsville!



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## CLUB/UNIT ARTICLES



**Krazy Kops**

**KRAZY KOPS**

# Beer Brewing Event

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF BEER BREWING,  
GREAT FOOD, & BETTER BROTHERHOOD!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH @ 5:30 PM**

**STRONGSVILLE BREW KETTLE**  
8377 PEARL RD, STRONGSVILLE, OH



**SIGN UP WITH:**

**MIKE FEKETE - FEKETÉ8@ICLOUD.COM**

**BRANDON GOULD - BMGOULD216@GMAIL.COM**



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# OTHER SHRINE GROUPS



**LADIES ORIENTAL SHRINE OF NORTH AMERICA**



## Ohio Shrine Association

Join us in 2026 for the next  
**Ohio Shrine Association Meeting!**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Antioch Shrine Temple in Dayton, OH

There will be a full Ceremonial with  
"Hot Sands" performed!

All members in good standing are  
invited along with Candidates!

***If elected, Illustrious Sir Ronn  
Murphy, PP will be installed as  
President of the OSA!***

## Kheedawee Court #6

We are passionate about helping Al Koran  
Shriners help kids.

The Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America  
(LOSNA) founded in 1903 promotes fun,  
fraternal fellowship, and philanthropic  
endeavors supporting Shriners Hospitals for  
Children by proudly donating over \$500,000  
yearly.

Check out their website:  
**[www.ladiesshrine.org](http://www.ladiesshrine.org)** for more info.

**Kheedawee Court invites all ladies over 18  
years old to join us in our mission to  
support Shriners Children's hospitals and  
clinics. If you would like more information  
please contact:**

**Susan Shultz, High Priestess**  
216.548.8625

**Carol Schulz, Associate Princess**  
216.389.3759





**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children

# ROSE BOWL PARADE

## Check out the Video of the 2026 Shriner's Hospitals for Children Rose Bowl Parade Float!

<https://shriners.vids.io/videos/8c9bdcb51e1be3c906/2026-rose-parade-day>





**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children

**ERIE HOSPITAL**

## The Elves Visit Shriners Children's Erie

In December, Daughters of the Nile Athor Temple No. 19 from Buffalo, NY helped kick off the holiday season at Shriners Children's Erie. Their members brought smiles, cheer and thoughtful gifts to patients and families in the waiting room, continuing a cherished tradition that has brightened the holidays at the Erie medical center for more than a decade. Their generosity is a heartwarming reminder that patients and families are supported by a caring community throughout the holiday season.



## Mark your calendars for the annual Shriners Children's Erie Telethon!

Get ready to celebrate and support Shriners Children's Erie at the annual Telethon! Join us on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Millcreek Mall. Tune in to the JET24/FOX66 Telethon and join us in supporting life-changing care for our patients. Your participation helps make a difference and we look forward to sharing more details as the event approaches.



<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/locations/erie>



Shriners Children's Erie





## Shriners Children's Erie Patient Ambassador, Winter, Featured In Leaders In Care.



Leaders in Care is Shriners Children's official magazine, sharing inspiring stories, updates and achievements from across the organization's network. The publication highlights the extraordinary care provided, advancements in pediatric medicine and the incredible patients, families and staff who make the mission possible. In the Winter 2025 issue, one of Shriners Children's patient ambassadors is featured for her inspiring journey.

Leaders in Care is Shriners Children's official magazine, sharing inspiring stories, updates and achievements from across the organization's network. The publication highlights the extraordinary care provided, advancements in pediatric medicine and the incredible patients, families and staff who make the mission possible. In the Winter 2025 issue, one of Shriners Children's patient ambassadors is featured for her inspiring journey.

### Cooking Up Confidence

For Shriners Children's Erie patient Winter, age 9, Christmas has always been about more than the meal itself. It is a cherished time spent in the kitchen with her mom, helping prepare a feast for the entire family. Winter has proudly served as her mother's helper since she was about 5 years old. These moments took on even greater significance after Winter faced a serious health challenge. A blood infection progressed into a complex condition that significantly weakened her muscles and nerves and ultimately required skin grafts. Following her initial hospital stay, Winter's care team recommended occupational and physical therapy to support her recovery and help her regain independence.

At Shriners Children's Erie, occupational therapist Kristen Ciacchini, OTR/L, and physical therapist Rachel Mauro, DPT, partnered with Winter to rebuild her strength, coordination and confidence. While therapy was challenging at first, Winter made steady progress in self-care skills such as dressing and grooming. Her sessions focused on improving range of motion, arm and hand strength and the fine motor skills needed for everyday tasks, including managing buttons, zippers and shoelaces.

Therapy goals were addressed through engaging games, crafts and functional activities, including cooking in the therapy kitchen, which helped make challenging work enjoyable. One area Winter initially found difficult was the sawing motion required to use a knife. Through therapy, she learned that using a larger knife with added downward pressure, as well as an adaptive rocker knife, made food preparation easier and safer. These adaptations helped Winter build confidence in a hobby she loves, allowing her to participate more fully in the kitchen and experience greater independence.

Cooking has continued to play an important role in Winter's therapy journey. This year, she is especially excited to use her skills while helping prepare Christmas dinner. From chopping vegetables to stirring stuffing, Winter will be side by side with her mom, continuing a tradition she has cherished for years.



**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

# SIEF NOBLE ACADEMY



PRESENTS



*6th Annual*  
**MEMBERSHIP  
& MARKETING**  
*Virtual Event Series*



PRESENTS

**2026  
MEMBERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**

*Building the Future Together –  
One Stone at a Time*

**November 6-8**  
Washington, D.C. • Capital Hilton

## Registration is now open!

The Noble Academy Membership and Marketing Virtual Event Series presented by Shriners International Education Foundation is back for its 6th year, bringing fresh content, new speakers and practical insights to support Shriners and the greater Masonic community. Designed to strengthen membership growth and marketing efforts, this year's sessions offer real-world ideas you can put into action right away.

Join us across four dates and attend live for an interactive experience that allows you to connect with fellow learners and submit questions for our speakers. You can also watch on demand at your convenience. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, share and grow together.

Attendees will be sent a link to view each event in advance of the event.

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

**Thursday, August 20, 2026**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

**Thursday, January 21, 2027**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

## Save the Date! New Location!

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Noble Academy Membership Conference, presented by Shriners International Education Foundation, taking place in historic Washington, D.C., November 6-8. Look forward to new speakers, engaging topics and an exciting new location.

The conference will offer practical learning opportunities, fresh ideas and meaningful connections to support membership growth and engagement across our fraternity. All members are welcome to attend, especially those serving in leadership roles such as membership and marketing chairmen, club and unit leaders, Divan members and other members of the nobility growing and strengthening our fraternity. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Conference Venue: Capital Hilton

Our venue is a historic hotel in the heart of the nation's capital, less than two miles from the National Mall, Georgetown and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The hotel features onsite dining and a fitness center. A discounted rate will be available for conference attendees

**Visit the Conference Website**

<https://nobleacademyeducation.org/>





**SHRINERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

# NEWS/UPDATES

## Aleppo Shriners Medical Corps Saves Bystander During Holiday Parade

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Patrick Ventola (left)  
and Jeff Myung (right)



The Labor Day parade in downtown Marlborough, Massachusetts, had all the usual sights and sounds. Adults and children cheering merrily. Decorated vehicles honking and driving down the parade route. Phones snapping pictures. Participants tossing beads.

However, as the parade progressed, Patrick Ventola, head of the Aleppo Shriners Medical Corps, heard something else: a call on his radio. He had been driving forward along the parade in a golf cart while the Aleppo Shriners marched, per their tradition. As trained first responders, his corps was there to provide medical support to their fellow nobles if and when needed. "Our goal is just to keep everybody moving forward," he said. "We support the guys bringing in the money to help the kids."

But the radio call alerted him to another person in need of help: a bystander who had collapsed back down the parade route. Ventola, who comes from an EMS and construction background, immediately turned his golf cart around, drove against the flow of traffic and soon found the collapsed man on the lawn in front of a house on the parade route. Fellow corps members Jeff Myung and Ken Murnane Jr. joined him in attending to the patient. The trio found the man unconscious in a lawn chair and moved him to the ground to assess his condition. "We took vital signs, checked the guy's pupils for responsiveness, and, in an overdose, people usually have very pinpoint pupils about the size of a pen tip. It's a very good indication," Ventola said. The team determined that the man had overdosed and administered Narcan (naloxone), a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioids. "Narcan actually worked. It brought him back to, basically, a semi-conscious state," Ventola said. They felt the man's pulse return and then provided oxygen to stabilize his breathing. At that point, paramedics from the Marlborough Fire Department arrived on the scene. "The fire department was a little delayed getting to us because of the parade," he said. "If we hadn't been there, I highly doubt that person would be alive. It was good timing. He was still breathing but unresponsive. If we hadn't recognized the overdose, we'd have been doing CPR instead." The corps remained by the patient's side to assist and monitor until an ambulance arrived and took him to the hospital. The entire incident lasted about 10 to 15 minutes, according to Ventola.

Speaking on behalf of the trio, he was quick to credit his team. "It was a team effort. There were three of us," he said. "Jeff and Ken worked just as hard as I did. It's not about me." While Ventola loves what he does as a member of the corps, he notes that slow days are usually the best for everyone involved. "Our unit's very tight knit. There aren't many people who do what we do," he said. "On a good day, everybody else goes to work. On our good day, we show up and do absolutely nothing, and that's a good day for us. Because, if we're doing something, that means someone else is having a bad day." He added that the Aleppo Shriners Medical Corps just did what they believe in at the parade: "We see what we can do for others. It's all about helping people. A person's a person, in my opinion."

## ROSS & JOYCE BLACK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Ross and Joyce Black Scholarship was established to provide college or trade school scholarships to graduating High School Seniors.

### Masonic Requirements:

- Students must have a father, stepfather, grandfather or step-grandfather are members of the Valley of Cleveland
- **or** a member of a Masonic Youth Group

### Application Requirements:

- Complete the Black Scholarship Form
- Submit a current high school transcript + SAT/ACT Scores
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher or counselor
- **All Materials must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**



<https://aasrcleveland.org/the-ross-joyce-black-scholarship/>

## ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIP

The Abbott Scholarship is available for all current college students, undergraduate or graduate students, who meet the following criteria:

### Masonic Requirements:

- Current member of the Valley of Cleveland
- **or** a child/grandchild of a Member of the Valley of Cleveland
- **or** a member of a Masonic Youth Group

### Application Requirements:

- Complete the Abbott Scholarship Form
- Submit a current college transcript
- Minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- **All Materials must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**



[https://aasrcleveland.org/abbot\\_scholarship/](https://aasrcleveland.org/abbot_scholarship/)

## DONALD R. JAMES MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brother Donald R. James established an endowment fund to provide scholarships to qualified applicants who are pursuing a career in medicine, dentistry, or sports medicine. The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for consideration.

### Masonic Requirements:

- A Mason in good standing in the Grand Lodge of Ohio
- **or** a Member of the Order of Eastern Star in Ohio
- **or** a child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild of an Ohio Mason or Eastern Star Member
- **or** a Member of the Masonic Youth Group (DeMolay, Rainbow, Jobs, Pythagoreans, Grand Girls Assembly)

### Program Requirements:

- Be enrolled in a program leading to an MD Degree, DDS, or Vets
- **or** be enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in Sports Medicine.
- **or** be enrolled in an undergraduate program with a declared major of chemistry, biology, other life sciences, or if recognized by the educational institution, pre-med

### Application Requirements:

- Complete the James Scholarship Form
- Submit a current high school/college transcript
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale **or** passing grade in doctoral program
- **All Materials must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**
- **in 2025, we gave \$618,000 for this scholarship!!!**



### Email all Scholarship Materials to:

Brady Woodworth, Executive Secretary  
aasrcleveland@gmail.com

<https://aasrcleveland.org/the-donald-r-james-scholarship/>

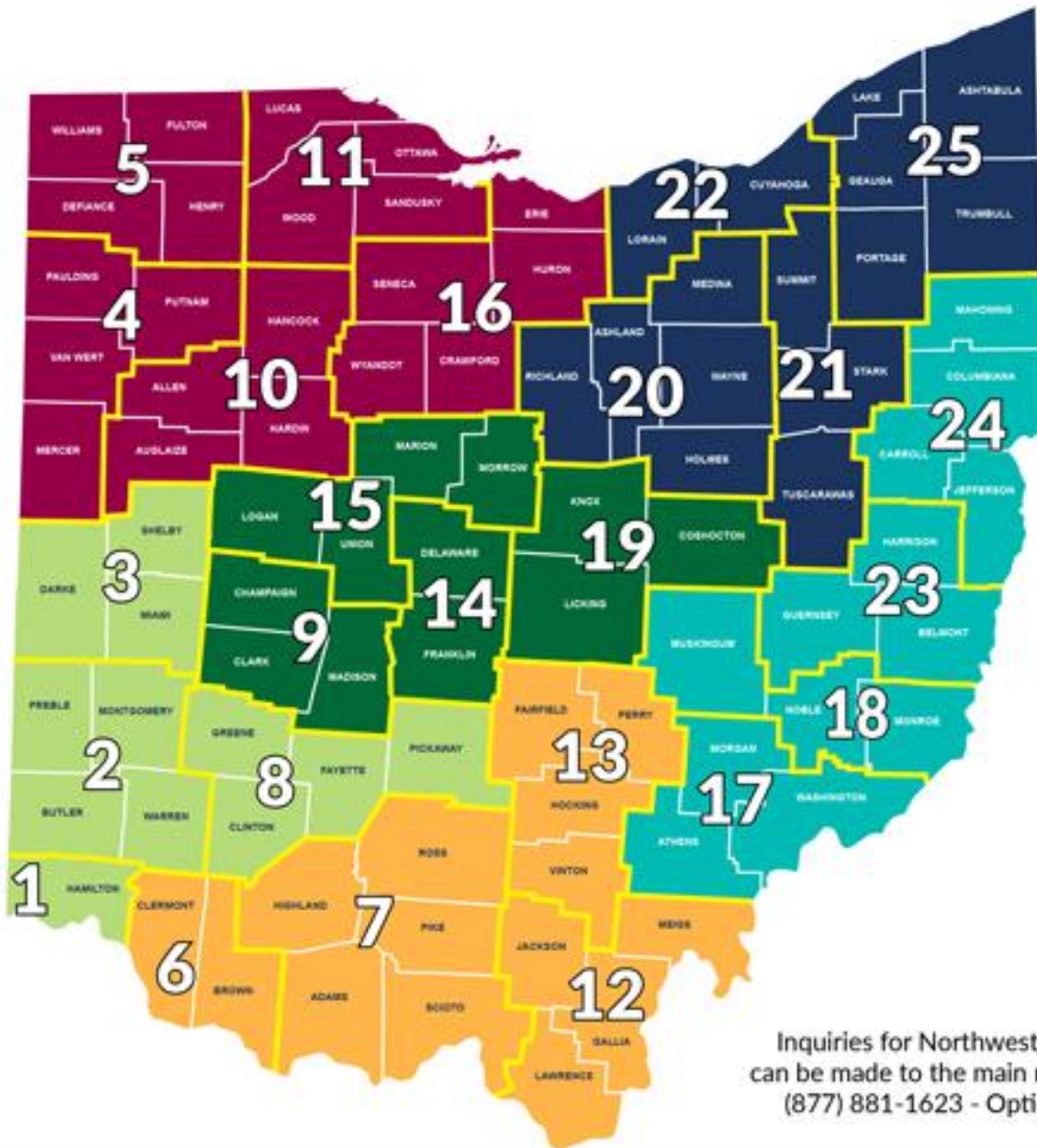






THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

# OMC RESOURCES



**Samantha Loy**  
Director, OMC Resource  
Center & NE Ohio  
Community  
Outreach Coordinator  
(937) 504-4407



**Rachel Lancaster**  
Intake Coordinator  
(877) 881-1623  
Press 4 for the  
resource center  
M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm



**Bobbi Schickler, CSA**  
Certified Senior Advisor®  
SW Ohio Community  
Outreach Coordinator  
& Masonic Bereavement  
Program Coordinator  
(513) 567-1100



**DeAnna Kinney, LSW**  
SE Ohio Community  
Outreach Coordinator  
& MVP Program  
Coordinator  
(740) 262-1974



**Trinity Davidson, BSW**  
Southern Ohio  
Community  
Outreach Coordinator  
(740) 970-7903



**Brooke Simonson,**  
MSW, LISW-S  
Central Ohio  
Community  
Outreach Coordinator  
(330) 410-7983





**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

# TEMPLE DIRECTORY

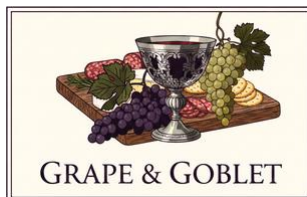


## 2026 DIVAN

## AL KORAN SHRINERS

### Divan + Appointed Officers

### Temple Information



### Clubs

### Units



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

**2026 DIVAN**

# Brandon Gould

*2026 Illustrious Potentate*

(440) 225-8205

bmgould216@gmail.com



**James Barone**

*Chief Rabban*

(216) 276-0086

jbar27@gmail.com



**Michael Krake Jr.**

*Assistant Rabban*

(330) 503-1164

mkrakejr@hotmail.com



**Jason Kita**

*High Priest & Prophet*

(330) 275-9460

jjkhbk@gmail.com



**Frank McEvoy**

*Oriental Guide*

(614) 377-1192

frankmcevoyshriner@gmail.com



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

**2026 DIVAN**

# Tom Klecan P.P.

*Recorder*

440-546-9866

clevelandshriners@gmail.com



# Victor Allen

*Treasurer*

(216) 533-0373

alkorantreasurer@gmail.com



# Michael Spisak P.P.

*Assistant Recorder, Temple Attorney*

(216) 225-0703

mjspisak@gmail.com







**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

# APPOINTED OFFICERS

**Dominic Lucarelli**

*Captain of the Guard*



**Chris Modica**

*Outer Guard*



**Dave Stelmach**

*Marshal*



**Dave Jones**

*Chaplain*

**Shannon Konold**

*1st Ceremonial Master*



**Tyler Tevis**

*2nd Ceremonial Master  
+ Potentate Aide*





**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

## TEMPLE DETAILS



### Al Koran Office

6801 Engle Road Suite 2  
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

**Phone Number:** 440-546-9866  
**For Recorder:** Press 1  
**For Treasurer:** Press 2



### Meeting Location

Berea Masonic Center

366 Eastland Road  
Berea, OH 44017



# AL KORAN SHRINE NEWSLETTER

## Submissions due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

**Submit Articles, Photos, & Videos to:**

Noble Brady Woodworth - Newsletter Editor  
[alkorannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alkorannewsletter@gmail.com)

**Read Past Newsletters at:**

<https://alkoranshriners.com/member-center/al-koran-shrine-newsletters/>



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





# AL KORAN

## Shriners

# AL KORAN CLUBS



## Hillbilly Crooked River Clan #16

### Officers:

**Raban of the Clan & Keeper of the Stil:** Ronn Murphy PP  
murphyrm2361@gmail.com

**Keeper of the Cob:** Al Paynter PP

**Keeper of the Quill:** Frank McEvoy

### Meetings & Events:

Various Dinners during the year, with Meetings on the Fourth Wednesdays at St Matthews Church at 6:00 pm for a Potluck Dinner

### Dues:

\$30 for Life Membership

**Dark in:** Nov. & Dec.

**Dress:** Casual

+ Ladies Welcome

### St. Matthews Church:

9549 Highland Dr,  
Brecksville, OH 44141

### Website:

<https://internationalshrinehillbillies.com/>



## Youngstown Shrine Club

### Officers:

**President:** Ryan Cresanto  
r.cresanto@gmail.com

**1st VP:** Barry Weigle

**2nd VP:** Andrew Hussey

**Secretary:** Jim Hazlett

**Treasurer:** Al York PP

### Meetings & Events:

Various events during the year, with Meetings on the Third Thursdays at the Youngstown Shrine Club

**Dress:** Coat & Tie (winter)  
Casual (Summer)

### Dues:

\$35 / year

### Address:

1735 W South Range Rd  
North Lima, OH 44452

### Website:

<https://youngstownshrineclubhallandpavilion.org/>

**Dark in:** Jan. & Feb.

**Stag** for Meetings



## Mariners

### Officers:

**Commodore:** Frank McEvoy  
frankmcevoyshriner@gmail.com

**Vice Commodore:** P/C Bob Kolar

**Rear Commodore:** Robert Frankel

**Treasurer:** James Dettmer

**Secretary:** P/C Ronn Murphy P.P.

### Directors:

Ronn Murphy PP, PC, PIC  
Bob Stanley PC, PIC  
Mark Cain PC

### Website:

<https://www.iasyc.club/>

### Meetings & Events:

Various events during the year, with Meetings on the Third Tuesdays at various Cleveland Yacht Clubs at 6:00 pm.

**Dues:** \$35 / year

**Dress:** Casual

+ Ladies welcome



## Mid-Ohio Shrine Club

### SHRINE CLUB

**President:** Mike Miranda

**Vice President:** Brandon Minor

**2nd VP:** Jason Rupp

**3rd VP:** Bru Lewis PP

**Secretary:** Jerry Snay

**Treasurer:** Bill Bragg

**Chaplain:** Scott Zartman

**Shrine Ambassador:** Terry Hamilton PP

**Trustee:** Brandon Minor

**Trustee:** Richard Snay

**Trustee:** Jeff Brown

**Masonic Ambassador:** Jason Brake

**Event Marshall:** Mike Seveigny

### Dues:

\$25 / year

**Dress:** Casual

**Stag** for Meetings

**Old Bag of Nails Restaurant:**

625 Lexington Avenue,  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

### Meetings & Events:

Various events during the year, with Meetings on the First Mondays at Old Bag of Nails Restaurant at 6:00 pm.



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners



# AL KORAN Shriners

# AL KORAN CLUBS



## Mansfield Shrine Club

### Officers:

**President:** Bruce Joseph

*jofotohio@aol.com*

**Vice President:** Phil Devoe

**Treasurer:** Randy Waddles

**Chaplain:** Harold Klopp

### Dues:

\$10 / year

**Dark in:** February

**Dress:** Casual  
+ Ladies Welcome

### Meetings & Events:

Various events during the year, with Meetings on the First Thursdays at the Baku Grotto.

### Baku Grotto Building:

747 S Main Street  
Mansfield, OH 44907



## Lakewood Shrine Club

### Officers:

**President:** Jim Cain

*JCain8564@gmail.com*

**1st VP:** Eric Butler

**2nd VP:** Dave Stelmach

**Secretary:** Mark Bollinger PP

**Treasurer:** William Schulz

### Dues:

\$50 / year

**Dress:** Coat & Tie  
+ Ladies Welcome

### Meetings & Events:

Monthly Dinner Meetings 2nd  
Wednesdays at various  
restaurants



## Massillon Shrine Club

### Officers:

**President:** Paul Samsa

*prez@massillonshriners.org*

**1st VP:** Joe Weisgarber

**2nd VP:** Mike Bonk

**Treasurer:** Jim Henderson

**Secretary:** Bill Kemp

### Dues:

FREE

**Dark in:** July & August.

**Dress:** Casual  
+ Ladies Welcome

### Meetings & Events:

Various events during the year, with Meetings on the Third Wednesdays at the Massillon Masonic Center at 6:00 pm.

### Massillon Masonic Center:

333 2nd Street SW  
Massillon, OH 44646

## Want to sign up for a Club?

Contact their Head Guy to  
learn more about their events!

## Want to start a new Club?

Contact the Al Koran Office  
with your ideas!



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





# AL KORAN Shriners

# AL KORAN UNITS



## Krazy Kops

### Officers:

**Director:** Mike Fekete  
mwfekete@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Mike Spisak  
**Treasurer:** Dan Andrews

### Dues:

\$50 / year

### Associate Dues:

\$25  
(Masons that aren't  
Shriners, relatives)

### Meetings & Events:

Parade Unit with 10 parades a  
year, monthly meetings the  
Fourth Mondays at Teamz at  
6:00 pm

### Teamz Restaurant:

6611 Eastland Road  
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

**Dress:** Casual

**Stag** for Meetings



## Bourbon & Stogies

### Officers:

**El Presidente:** Brandon Gould  
bmgould@live.com  
**Humidor:** Mike Spisak

### Dues:

\$25 / year

**Dress:** Casual

**Stag** for Events

### Meetings & Events:

Meet Sunday Afternoons at  
1:00 pm at Havana's Choice or  
homes of various members  
for Spirits & Cigars

### Facebook:

Al Koran BS  
(BourbonStogies)

### Havana's Choice:

170 Pearl Road  
Brunswick, OH 44212



## Hunters

### Officers:

**Chief:** Dan Andrews  
dandrews216@gmail.com

### Dues:

\$15 / year

**Dress:** Casual

### Meetings & Events:

Various Events throughout the  
year, Meetings on the 2nd  
Mondays of the month at the  
Al Koran Office at 7:00 pm

**Stag** for Meetings

### Al Koran Office:

6801 Engle Road Suite 2  
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130



## Legion of Honor

### Officers:

**Commander:** Al Paynter  
**Adjutant:** Frank McEvoy  
**Treasurer:** Louis Frow

### Dues:

\$10 / year (Veterans)

### Associate Dues:

\$10 / year  
(Non-Veterans)

### Meetings & Events:

Parades and various  
events during the year,  
with Meetings on the  
Fourth Mondays at St  
Matthews Church

**Dark in:** Sept. & Dec.

**Dress:** Casual

**Stag** for Meetings

### St. Matthews Church:

9549 Highland Dr,  
Brecksville, OH 44141

### Website:

[http://www.ialoh.org/  
home.html](http://www.ialoh.org/home.html)





# AL KORAN Shriners

# AL KORAN UNITS



## Lorain Shrine & Fire Brigade

**Officers:**

**Director:** Scott Croxford  
scott\_croxford@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Randy Radcliffe

**Treasurer:** Mike Moorman

**Dues:**

\$20 / year

**Dress:** Casual

**Stag** for Meetings

**Meetings & Events:**

Parades and various events during the year, with Meetings on the First Wednesdays at the Avon Lake Temple at 7:00 pm

**Avon Lake Temple:**

127 Lear Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012



## Korvettes

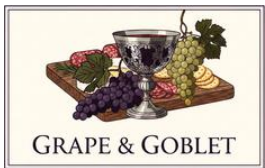
**Officers:**

**Secretary:** Mike Davison PP  
mikedavison123@aol.com

**Meetings & Events:**

Trying to get back into doing parades, but we need your help!

Contact us to hear about how you can be a part of this legendary Unit!



## \*\*\*New Unit! Grape & Goblet

**Officers:**

**Sommelier:** Jim Barone  
jbar27@gmail.com

**Decanter:** Mike Krake Jr.

**Events:**

for Nobles and their ladies to enjoy a night out learning about and enjoying wine.

**Stay tuned for more details!**

## Want to sign up for a Unit?

Contact their Head Guy to learn more about their events!

## Want to start a new Unit?

Contact the Al Koran Office with your ideas!



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





# AL KORAN

Shriners

# BOOSTERS

Arthur Moore	2/1/2026	Barb Kuchta	2/1/2028
William Reed	2/1/2026	Frank Berchek	2/1/2028
Bill & Mary Hubbard	3/1/2026	Evie Probert	3/1/2028
Parker & Bonnie Reynolds	4/1/2026	Ralph & Eda Thadeus	7/1/2028
Hugh Hively	8/1/2026	Gordon Hastler PP	3/1/2029
Al & Michelle Budney	10/1/2026	Joe and Joann Dugan	1/1/2029
Paula Bodenstein	11/1/2026	Ronald H. Mills	1/1/2029
Gary Brookins	11/1/2026	Joseph Wuitowicz	4/1/2029
Scott & Jana Grim	3/1/2027	Jack & Marge Conner	5/1/2029
Rosemary Hixenbaugh	4/1/2027	Evie Probert	6/1/2030
Richard & Linda Saxby	5/1/2027	Donald & Debbie Meuser	10/1/2030
Barb Fyfe	5/1/2027	Norita M Hinerman	4/1/2032
Roger A. Van Norstan	7/1/2027	George Anders	10/1/2034
Lee & Betty Pilous	12/1/2027	<h2>Want to become a Booster?</h2> <p>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. <b>We thank you for your support!</b></p>	
Joanne Larson	1/1/2028		
Norm Melchreit	1/1/2028		
Sandy Angstrom	2/1/2028		
Bradler, Charles & Barbara	2/1/2028		
Bradler, Creighton & Winifred	2/1/2028		



**AL KORAN**  
Shriners

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**Contact Noble Eric Butler  
for information 216-215-4911**

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Brook Park, Ohio 44135  
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Web: [www.jcmemorials.com](http://www.jcmemorials.com)

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Chardon, Ohio 44024  
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4202 Mayfield Road,  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121  
Eastside Office: **216-382-8150**

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Michelle Waldron, *Independent Licensed Agent*  
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[www.medicarewithmichelle.com](http://www.medicarewithmichelle.com)



<https://alkoranshriners.com/>



Al Koran Shriners





## Want to advertise your business in the Al Koran Newsletter?

Reach out to Tom Klecan, Recorder and we will have your advertisement in the next monthly issue!

clevelandshriners@gmail.com

### FULL PAGE AD

Have a full page-ad placed in the Monthly Al Koran Newsletter!  
Full-Color available!

- **\$75.00 / month**
- **\$900.00 / yearly**

### 1/2 PAGE AD

Have a 1/2 page-ad placed in the Monthly Al Koran Newsletter!  
Full-Color available!

- **\$35.00 / month**
- **\$420.00 / year**

### 1/4 PAGE AD

Have a 1/4 page-ad placed in the Monthly Al Koran Newsletter!  
Full-Color available!

- **\$15.00 / month**
- **\$180.00 / year**

### BUSINESS CARD

Have a business card placed in the Monthly Al Koran Newsletter!  
Full-Color available!

- **\$8.33 / month**
- **\$100.00 / year**

