DON’T LET THIS HAPPEN TO US!
MELHA NEEDS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Melha must increase its membership if it wants to survive.
Find out how you can help save Melha on Page 5.

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TAKEN
Need for Melha Members

Sunday, June 24
Military Band Star
Splended Concert
This is a free concert and runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. See ad on page 3 for additional details.

Friday, July 13
Melha Family Picnic
Another Melha fun event where you can bring your entire family and enjoy the food and festivities. See ad inside for details.

Saturday, August 11
Wales 250th Anniversary
parade: No details available.

Wednesday, August 22
Stated Meeting
All Nobles invited to attend for all the information about Melha's events and activities and other business.

Sunday, September 2
Melha Family Picnic: Another Melha fun event where you can bring your entire family and enjoy the food and festivities. See ad inside for details.

Melha CALENDAR

Saturday, June 9
Legion of Honor Flag Day at Melha. Flag burning begins at 8:30 a.m., ceremony begins at 11 a.m. See Legion article for details.

Friday, June 22
Chowder Bowl Classic
All-Star Football Game. Played at Springfield College.

Sunday, June 24
Military Band Star
Splended Concert. This is a free concert and runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. See ad on page 3 for additional details.

Wednesday, June 27
Stated Meeting: Bring your Fez and dues card and find out what’s happening at Melha.

June 28 July 5
Imperial Council Session
Takes place this year at Charlotte, North Carolina.

Friday, July 14
Pioneer Valley Shrine Club.
The club is having a “kegger,” see details in their article inside.

Wednesday, July 25
Stated Meeting: Melha members always encouraged to attend.

Thursday, August 2
Hanover Weekend: Take part in the fun and festivities at Hanover, always a good time. See ad on back page.

Saturday, August 11
Wales 250th Anniversary
parade: No details available.

Wednesday, August 22
Stated Meeting: All Nobles invited to attend for all the information about Melha's events and activities and other business.

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Melha Family Picnic: Another Melha fun event where you can bring your entire family and enjoy the food and festivities. See ad inside for details.

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MELHA NEEDS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP NOW!

This Could Be The Most Important Melha News You Will Ever Read

Melha’s membership has suffered large losses in the last five years and it is a subject of grave concern for the leadership of Melha. A Task Force has been assigned to study the losses and make plans to reverse the trend.

Melha, however, turns to you as a member for your help in solving this problem. You can help solve this critical situation because it is up to all of us Melha Shriners to take part.

The Task Force, along with the Divan, Membership Committee, the Public Relations Committee and a corps of Nobles are dedicated to finding remedies but that is not enough—you are they key to the solution.

What can you do to help? First, please read the spread on Page 5 which presents the membership situation in some detail along with thoughts to increase membership over the next five years. Nobles, we need your help at this time, the future of Melha depends on your participation in every way you can, we’ll be counting on you.

Our involvement with the Shrine over the years has been a rewarding one, the many good times we have had doing all the things we do, the difference we have made in the lives of children in our area and from other parts of the world.

We think it is important work, we know you will want to help.

There are some easy things you can do to help us meet our membership goals, some of them are detailed in the stories inside.

We know we have a large task spread out before us, we know it is going to be difficult along the way, but we also know that it is something that needs to be done . . . and done right now!
Potentate’s Message

Greetings Nobles

My how time flies when you’re having fun! First, I want to thank all who either helped or attended the Pote’s reception. Anna had a blast and will remember it throughout the rest of our lives. There’s still an awful lot of chatter going around about the entertainment that night (Cher). If you enjoyed her performance wait until you see the whole show she does with Sonny. She’ll be coming to Melha on October 20th—keep the date open and get those reservations in early, I’m sure it will be a sellout.

Circus, what can I say but thank you all for everything. We had an exceptional ad book this year. I’m told it’s going to exceed $78,000. The acts were some of the best we’ve seen in 20 years, every person who attended the show said the same thing: “What a great show.” We could never be as successful as we were with the circus if it weren’t for the help of everyone. I’m not going to attempt to try to name individuals because I would forget someone and I don’t want any hurt feelings, please know that I and Melha are extremely grateful.

Unfortunately, it’s time to talk about MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP!!!! I was very clear at this year’s annual meeting when I stated MEMBERSHIP will be a top priority this year, and for a very good reason. As you can see the cover of this month’s Melha News, it says it all, gentlemen. If we don’t turn our membership numbers around NOW, 13, Longhill St. could be going on the real estate market. As you read this month’s edition of The Melha News, PLEASE read very carefully the series III. Edgar did for us on the membership issue (See Page 5). It’s time to let everyone know we have a very active MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE in place working to come up with new ideas on how to recruit, retain, and keep new members active. I want to thank Ill. Edgar Gelnas for taking on the very difficult task of heading up this project for me, and also thank you to the rest of the Task Force members for their time and talents. This is NOT a Divan issue, gents, it’s a Melha issue. The numbers don’t lie, fellows, please try to become a virtual mentor, this is one way everybody can help NOW! Anyone interested in becoming a virtual mentor now can contact Ill. Phil Thomas in the Melha Office. It’s one of the easiest ways to help immediately, making contact with these new prospective members on the computer is a snap.

We have some very good entertainment coming up in June and July: the boxing match on June 14th, Joe Canata and his show, the Chowder Bowl football game on June 22nd, and our very own Military Band will be doing a summer holiday concert for us right here at Melha on June 24th. Imperial Session starts July off and there’s our 4th of July parade in East Longmeadow.

I’m going to cut this a little short this month to give more space to our membership article. So with that, thank you to all for everything you do for our hospitals and, of course, Melha.

“We’re only here for a good time not a long time.”

Russell Mitchell
Potentate, Melha Shriners
This edition of The Melha News is devoted to membership — the most pressing issue Melha ever has had to deal with. Statistics show that in just a few years — by the end of 2015 — our membership could be down to approximately 500 members. That is a sobering thought. We need to have a concerted effort to turn this negative trend around, and that only can happen if we bring in new members, many of them. We cannot relent on the real need to increase membership.

Please take the time to read the spread on membership on Page 5 to find out what is going on and then it will become time for you to take action.

That action requires you to help save Melha and what it means to all of us. . . you can help us do that by bringing in a few new members this year. Don’t stop and think about it, just do it! It’s that urgent!

If you have any ideas to help Melha increase membership, please contact any one of the Task Force members mentioned in the membership articles, you can send them by email to the Melha News Editor at themelahnews@comcast.com and those ideas will be discussed by the Task Force. It’s up to you. . . .

The Task Force will likely be looking for Nobles to help with projects associated with their efforts to increase membership. If asked, we hope you will say yes . . . .

• There has been a date change for the State Police Boxing Team, the new date is June 14, 2012. See details in ad on Page 9.

• Melha will be busy and active all summer. We’ll be at the Imperial Session in Charlotte, and you’ll find plans for this year’s Hanover Weekend, the Family Picnic and other events in this issue. . . .

• We should mention the Northeast Field Days are coming up this September in Bangor, Maine, the home of Paul Bunyon. Details will appear in the September issue. Plan to attend a fun time Down East.

• We extend our condolences to Ill. Robert Marshall, Melha’s 2003 Potentate, on the loss of his First Lady, Nancy. She will be missed.

• The next issue of The Melha News will be the September issue. We wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer and look forward to greeting you again as Fall approaches.

The deadline for the September issue will be August 12th. . . . And remember, think, talk and do membership, it’s so important.

You can make a contribution to the Renovation Project by sending a check to the Melha Office made out to the Renovation Fund.

To date the total amount contributed to the Renovation Fund is $36,080.48

HOSPITAL NURSING HOME HOSPITAL
Art Duncan – Mercy Hospital, Room 438
Joe Surprenant – at home
Mike Grabowski – 155 Mountain View, Holyoke, MA 01040
If you know of a Noble who is sick or hospitalized, please notify the Melha Office at 413-736-3647 or contact Chairman David Duncan at 413-384-9786, email admin@melhanews.com, or Co-Chairman Brian Prefontaine at 413-527-3106, or email him at jb4mail@comcast.net

PARADE INFORMATION

Monday, May 28, Memorial Day Parade, Auburn, MA.
Bus leave Melha at 8:00 A.M. sharp. Parade forms at 10:00 a.m. @ Dooley’s Cleaners, 177 Auburn St. Food will be provided by American Legion Post 279 following parade. Units please call Bob Waltemire with a count.

Wednesday, July 4, East Longmeadow 4th of July Parade.
Parade forms at 9:30 a.m. Steps off at 10:00 A.M. sharp. No buses.

Saturday, August 11, Wales 250th Celebration Parade.
Bus leaves Melha 8:30 a.m. Parade steps off at 10 a.m. More information will be given to Unit Heads at Stated Meeting.

STATED MEETINGS

Stated Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, July 25 and August 22, for the purpose of conducting the business of the Melha Shriner, as well asballoting on individuals for initiation, obligating candidates, and for the dissemination of information to the membership on matters relating to current Shrine events.

All Nobles are invited to attend, all Unit and Club leaders are required to attend. Please wear your Fez.

Russell Mitchell
Potentate
Attest: Philip E. Thomas, PP
Recorder

This is a free concert in the Butterfield Auditorium (donations will be accepted). Bring your own snacks. Cash Bar and a 50/50.

No reservations needed, bring your friends and enjoy the music of our own Military Band as they salute our Nation with Star Spangled Music.

BUTTERFIELD AUDITORIUM

Events taking place in the Butterfield Auditorium in June/July/August:
Sat., June 2: Tag Sale & Craft Fair
Thurs., June 7: Daughters of the Nile Full Session
Sat., June 9: Outside rental
Fri., June 15: Joe Canata concert
Sat., June 16: Eastern Star Mon., June 18: Chowder Bowl banquet
Sun., June 24: Star Spangled Concert
Wed., June 27: Stated Meeting
Thurs., June 28: Daughters of the Nile Patrol Rehearsal
Thurs., July 12: Hadi Ladies Picnic
Fri., July 13: PVS Pizza Night
Sat., July 14: Outside rental
Sat., July 21: Outside rental
Sun., July 22: Riders Picnic
Wed., July 25: Stated Meeting
Thurs., July 26: Daughters of the Nile Patrol Rehearsal
Thurs., Aug. 2: Daughters of the Nile Full Session
Tues., Aug. 7: LOB picnic
Wed., Aug. 8: DON Supreme Quen Visitation
Thurs., Aug. 9: Hadi/Directors Picnic with Ladies
Sat., Aug. 11: Divan Picnic
Fri., Aug. 17: Hospital Run Setup
Sat., Aug. 18: Hospital Run Setup
Sun., Aug. 19: Hospital Run
Wed., Aug. 22: Stated Meeting
Thurs., Aug. 23: Daughters of the Nile Patrol Rehearsal
Sat., Aug. 25: Directors Picnic
Every Monday: the Highlanders
Every Tuesday: the Military Band
Every Tues/Thurs/Fri mornings BNI
Any errors should be reported to Detra in the Melha Office at 413-736-3647.

One of the flying acts in this year’s Melha Shrine Circus.

The Military Band plays “Give My Regards to Broadway” at their concert before the performance opening night of the Melha Shrine Circus.

BUTTERFIELD AUDITORIUM RENOVATION PROJECT

The Military Band plays “Give My Regards to Broadway” at their concert before the performance opening night of the Melha Shrine Circus.
Charles R. Walczak Named Interim Administrator at Springfield Hospital

Charles R. Walczak, an Erie native with extensive health care administration background, and administrator of the Erie Hospital, recently accepted the role as new interim administrator of the Shriners Hospitals for Children—Springfield. The Springfield administrator's position opened up when Mark Niederpruem became administrator for SCHC-Chicago. Chuck started in this dual role in February and travels to Springfield two to three days a week.

Mr. Walczak joined SHC in 2009 from the University of Pennsylvania Health System where he served as director of strategic planning for the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania. In that role, he was responsible for leading and facilitating strategic planning and business development, as well as ensuring the successful completion and adoption of strategic and tactical planning.

He spent three years as executive administrator of the Women's Health Care Group of PA, in Oaks, PA, and Academic Urology in Wayne, PA, both large practices serving the Philadelphia region. He also served as vice president of orthopedic and neuroscience services at Main Line Health Systems in Bryn Mawr, PA.

Prior to moving to the Philadelphia area, Walczak spent 14 years at Hamot Medical Center in Erie, most recently as vice president of operations. He also served as Hamot’s executive administrator for orthopedic, neuroscience and surgical lines.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in management and a Masters of Business Administration degree, both from Penn State University.

Chuck shares his home in Erie with his wife, Anne-France Walczak, M.D., and their nine-year-old daughter Gabrielle.

New England Patriots Players Make Off Season Visit to Boston Shriners Hospital

Niko Koutouvides (#90) and Rob Ninkovich (#50) volunteered their time on a Friday afternoon and to visit with Shriners patients and families. Both Ninkovich and Koutouvides delivered gift baskets donated by Baskets of Hope, a non-profit organization that donates age appropriate gifts including toys, games, and craft items to hospitalized children.

Baskets of Hope has an established relationship with the NFL, which began when Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, became involved in the program. Koutouvides said that a friend he used to play with told him about the “Baskets of Hope” program and connected him to the organization.

While visiting Shriners Hospital in Boston, Ninkovich and Koutouvides handed out stuffed animals and gift baskets to all of the patients. The 2012 AFC Champions spent the afternoon painting the Patriots Logo with patients in the playroom, tossing the plastic football around and competing in (and losing!) a push-up contest with a patient during his physical therapy.

Brandon Cavallo, a ten-year old student and actor from Revere, made a large donation to the Child Life Department at Boston’s Shriners Hospital a few months ago. The unique thing about Brandon is that the money he used to buy the gifts for the kids was money that he earned from acting—all $765 of it! Brandon earned the money performing in a commercial and also as “Tiny Tim” in a professional production of “Christmas Carol.” Proving he’s no Scrooge, he decided to use that money to help fulfill the wish list requests for the kids at Shriners.

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What is the name of the concert featured in the Melha Shrine Center article? The concert featured in the Melha Shrine Center article is called “The Memories.”

What is the date of the event at the Melha Shrine Center? The event at the Melha Shrine Center is on June 15th.

Where can I find more information about the concert at the Melha Shrine Center? For more information about the concert at the Melha Shrine Center, you can call 413-736-3647.

What is the name of the group performing at the Melha Shrine Center event? The group performing at the Melha Shrine Center event is called “The Memories.”

What is the name of the actor who made a donation to Shriners Hospital? The actor who made a donation to Shriners Hospital is Brandon Cavallo.

Who are the New England Patriots players who made an off season visit to the Shriners Hospital? The New England Patriots players who made an off season visit to the Shriners Hospital are Niko Koutouvides (#90) and Rob Ninkovich (#50).

What is the name of the non-profit organization that donates gifts to hospitalized children? The non-profit organization that donates gifts to hospitalized children is called “Baskets of Hope.”

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Melha Critically Needs More New Members:

Melha Membership in a Downward Spiral

The 5-Year Trend Indicates What Happened to Membership; You Must Help Us Reverse It

Take a careful look at the chart at the right. It records the astonishing decrease in membership over the last five years.

Melha is at a crossroads presently, membership trends over the last several years indicate that if the trend isn’t corrected and reversed now, we likely will face what almost seems unthinkable but inevitable. We must take steps now to insure the future of Melha in the Springfield area. Membership problems plague many organizations nationwide, we are not unique. If we do something positive about it NOW, however, there is a likelihood that we can correct, slow down and, perhaps, even reverse the decline.

The solution for reversing Melha’s membership decline lies strictly in your hands as a member of Melha. And it is something you need to do something about NOW! While the Divan officers and the Membership Committee have

We MUST do something NOW!

Here is Melha membership information for the years 2007-2011 provided by MDS (MDS Support System is the Membership Development Specialist.) They provide all the membership stats:

- Beginning Count: 1510
- End Count: 11
- Total Members: 1509
- Affiliations: 3
- Restorations: 17
- Suspensions: 66
- Expired: 43
- Resigned: 6

We cannot afford to allow further large declines, we must correct the trend and do something now, we need to take steps to begin to see an increase in numbers and we must do that NOW! It all begins with you! You may ask, what can I do? The answer is simple and easy. It’s something you can do anywhere and with anybody you know, whether it’s in the Shriners, what it has to offer and what our Shriners Hospitals do for children.

Creating Interest

They are plenty of literature available at Melha for you to pass along, or give anyone the Shrine website address (www.melahashriners.com) and have them take a look at what the Shrine is all about and what it does. There is an abundance of information on the website. It’s as easy as inviting a friend and his lady to a Melha event and have them take a look at what the Shrine is all about and what it does. The purpose of our website is to educate the public about the Shrine and what it offers, what our Shriners Hospitals do for the children in our communities.

We are looking for an influx of new Shriners to make a difference in everything we do.

Further declines in membership will jeopardize every aspect of Melha. It creates a lack of attendance at events, makes partaking more difficult and makes covering our expenses very difficult. It will mean perhaps closing our beautiful facility in Springfield to seek a smaller headquarters and all that entails.

If you think Melha is worth saving, invest some of your time in seeking members among your family, neighbors, co-workers and people you know in every phase of your life. There is the only way Melha can continue.

Don’t say it’s something you intend to do. We cannot delay our efforts, we need to increase membership NOW!

Being a Melha Shriner means a lot to those of us who have invested much of our time to it because, without a Shriner, we all got back so much more than we gave.

Being a Shriner is something we want to share with others, we’d like to see our family members, friends and coworkers, people we know and like, wearing a Melha Fez and sharing the good times with us. It’s as easy as talking about it and offering help to all and all of them to go through the membership process and, before you know it, you’ll be watching as a Fez is placed on their head.

But you shouldn’t confine this activity to only those who are close to you. You can talk about being a Shriner and about our hospitals anywhere you may be — the office, the school or establishment anywhere. Your enthusiasm can be infectious. You might carry around a couple of Shrine brochures and have them filled out and return them.

And the Shriners website hosts a variety of interesting and informative pages that will explain anything anyone needs to know. Tell them to check out www.beashrinernow.com.

Plain and simple, however, is the fact that this is something we must do NOW. We’d all love to see a big crowd at our next Ceremonial, you among them, watching one or more of your family and friends being Fezzed and joining the ranks of the Melha Shriners.

Does Melha Have a Plan in Place to Increase Membership? What Exactly Is Happening?

An eight-man Task Force was established at the beginning of the year to explore ways and means to increase Melha membership from the Shrine Center’s point of view. The Task Force has been meeting regularly since then.

This year’s Paper Crusade paper is an example of what the Task Force is planning. This year you will find two pages devoted to membership, the Potentate’s Message in that paper as well as a full page asking the public if they have thought about joining the Shriners. It has realized that Melha needs to take every opportunity to reach the public with that message, at the Circus, the Chowder Bowl, parade or wherever Melha has contact with the public.

If you have any ideas which you think might be useful to the Membership Task Force, do not hesitate to mention them to any of the eight individual members of the Task Force, they will be happy to bring the subject up in their meetings. The Task Force is exploring things that have not been tried before — the need for new members is urgent — what will you be doing to help?

Recording, Pete Spaulding, P.P., Edgar Gelinas, P.P., Moderator, Peter Mangnognoli, Membership Chairman and Brian Scott, Chief Ambassador.

What makes membership so critical at this time?

The statistics show that if Melha’s membership continues to erode at 18% per year, by the end of 2015 — just four years — our membership will be 559 members.

Read that paragraph again. At 559 members Melha will not be able to exist with any real viability. What kind of dues will it take for those 500 Nobles to keep Melha in operation?

The Task Force is discussing who and where we can get the word out. Melha can reach potential members in the community, the use of existing brochures you can hand out.

Does Melha Have a Plan in Place to Increase Membership? What Exactly Is Happening? By the end of 2015 our membership will be 559 members. What would the dues have to be to keep it growing?

Record, Pete Spaulding, P.P., Edgar Gelinas, P.P., Moderator, Peter Mangnognoli, Membership Chairman and Brian Scott, Chief Ambassador.

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The Task Force is discussing who and where we can get the word out. Melha can reach potential members in the community, the use of existing brochures you can hand out.
By Allen Zippin, Chairman

The 2012 circus was regarded as so many people as the best overall circus we have had in years. We had great acts and a great response to the performers from those who were in attendance.

Attendance continues to be a concern and we are looking at making some changes to some of the approaches we currently use. We can look for a reason for lower attendance, but I maintain that there are many reasons all converging on whether or not people attend. There is no one reason for attendance figures, whether they are positive or negative. There is no question that the many people who volunteered at the circus, the many people who sold ads and distributed programs, who all gave of their time, could to make the circus a success. Once again, our advertising received rave reviews from the public, the people who are knowledgeable about the media business and from our own Shriner as well.

I want to personally thank all of you—Shriners, families and friends—who worked so hard to make the circus a success. We have already had a meeting with the Harley Hand committee and ideas and recommendations for next year and we will get to work on that very soon.

Ticket sales were up, I don’t want to take anything away from the Shrine or what they are doing. It is great. But, think about it. I don’t see my old buddy Danke ever getting a minute, did I say “unfortunate?”

Although he didn’t pass away.

We are looking for an experienced drum corps style radiator player to take over the big bass drum, if possible. We are currently training a few bass drum players, but are very hard to reach butch’s level of expertise without years of prior experience. The ensemble will probably sound a lot different from now on. Good luck, Butch. Come back and join us whenever you can!

That’s it until September. In the meantime, Rock the Fez!

By Lance Whitecomb

Back from Florida—always have a great trip. I went to Egypt Temple in Tampa several times, and had the opportunity to meet the Imperial Potentate as well as many other Nobles.

I visited 5 different Masonic Lodges, and was able to see some degree work—the differences from the familiar Massachusetts rituals were very interesting, and I was invited to participate in a full costume! Third Degree as part of the 15 Fellow Craft.

My sister and I went to a fun “Adam’s Rib” table dinner held at the Citrus Shrine Club. It was a great meal and all of the toasts were fun to hear—a fine dinner indeed.

Don’t forget about the Memorial Day Parade in Auburn—it’s always a great parade with an enthusiastic crowd lining the route. Remember to visit your Lodges!
By Mike Sands

Our hearts, prayers and deepest condolences go out for the passing of the First lady of Melha 2003, Nancy A. Marshall. She died on April 8, 2012 while on vacation in Hawaii with her husband, Ill. Robert Marshall. To Bob and his family, our prayers are with you. Good Luck and Godspeed from the Highlanders.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Past Worthy Chief Gil Hunter on his receiving his 50 year pin from the Charles C. Spellman Lodge, AF & AM, in East Longmeadow, (now “the Meadows Lodge”), on Monday, May 7, 2012. Initiated April 9, 1962; Passed May 28, 1962; and Raised September 29, 1962. He was also Master in 1975. Congratulations Gill and a job well done.

Brother Nobles, we have a busy summer ahead of us. The Pipe and Drum Majors request that we have a good turn out for all events including rehearsals. It has been mentioned that we need floor support Melha to support the hospital which benefits the kids.

All of the upcoming events which are “can’t miss events” are: the first annual chili cook-off at Melha on May 20th, the Auburn parade on May 28th and the Massachusetts State Police Boxing Team event in Sturbridge on June 14th. All events support Melha to support the hospital which benefits the kids.

If you are still unsure how to get involved, the Yawn Rihla club is here to help. The Yawn Rihla club was formed to help new Nobles in their “New Journey.” With monthly informal meetings, fellows Nobles to help answer questions and fellow Yawn Rihla members going through the same process, there are many reasons to stay involved.

If you want to learn more about Yawn Rihla, send an e-mail to President Pete Magagnoli at pmaagagnoli@yahoo.com.

Brother Nobles who may need assistance. Send $1 or more to the Fraternal Fund in care of the Melha Office. Many Nobles have been enabled to keep their membership in Melha through your generosity. Please don’t forget them now.

All Nobles, families and friends welcome.

By Bob Salmon

On Friday night June 13th, the Pioneering Valley Shrine Club will welcome the Kegger. What is a kegger you ask? It is pizza, wine, music, and of course BEER with some other surprises included. The price of $15 per person includes: pizza, beer, wine, and Magic Al. The party starts at 6 PM and continues until the beer (3 half barrels) and the wine is gone and no one is left dancing or until 11 PM. This event is by reservation only. Please make reservations by sending a check to Bob Salman, 16 Skinner Rd., Broad Brook, CT 06016 — $150 623-4511 — or you may speak with any PVSC officer. There will also be a cash bar for those who don’t like draft beer or wine.

All reservations must be received by July 9th. Reserve your table early before they go fast.

6 PM – 11 PM at the Melha Shrine Center. Price: $15 per person

Circus Others: Thank You

Thank you to all who ushered at this year’s Circus. You did a great job and we don’t want to forget anyone so we won’t mention any names. A big thank you to anyone who got family members, Boy Scout troops and JROTC and friends to ushers. Working together makes everyone’s job that much easier. Thank you to all — Bob & Nancy Waltermire
By Paul Bryant

Saturday, June 9th is the day of the Flag Burning Ceremony. The ceremony begins at 1100 hours. We expect the Military Band to perform. The flag burning with locators of the Foxhole will be held at that time.

Parades scheduled for the summer are the Fourth of July parade in East Longmeadow on Wednesday July 4th. We have been informed that the parade now begins at the high school instead of that being the ending. The Hanover Maple Sugar Bowl parade is on Saturday, August 4th. The Wales 250th Anniversary parade is on Saturday, August 11th.

We will have a picnic on Tuesday, July 10th. The picnic will be at the usual time. We will get to enjoy the delicious salads and desserts that our ladies provide. We will decide at that time if there will be another picnic in August.

The Legion will hold its paper drive at two locations: the Stop & Shop on Riverdale Road in West Springfield and the Stop Rite on Hazard Avenue in East Longmeadow. The hours for both locations will be 0900 to 1900 hours meted out in two hour shifts. There is a sign-up sheet for this project.

Please bring your car and lend a hand. It only proves some of you care to support the Legion. We have the Pioneer Valley GTO Car Show on Sunday June 3rd at the Polish American Club on Route 57 in Feeding Hills. The Vintage Autos and Riders have also been invited to join us at this event. The car show starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM and admission for us is free. Make sure to bring your vehicle and be prepared to have a good time.

The next edition of the Melha News will be in September. I will highlight the upcoming events at the summer Hadji meetings. I will also contact the sub-unit Captains as a reminder of those events and they can pass the info along to their unit Members.

Should you have anything that you would like to know, may be interested in purchasing a Fez statue. The Go-Carts have rented space for their efforts to make this year’s circus a success.

Our unit expresses its sympathy to Ill. Dowell surprised Norman Martin as his personal angel in his time. Dowell had been a very active member of many local organizations and he will be missed by all those who knew her.

During the summer months we will be looking to fill vacancies for the “Rose” cast. We have the Pioneer Valley GTO Car Show on Sunday June 3rd at the Polish American Club on Route 57 in Feeding Hills. The Vintage Autos and Riders have also been invited to join us at this event. The car show starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM and admission for us is free. Make sure to bring your vehicle and be prepared to have a good time.

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Melha
RIDERS

By Mike Greenberg

I hear there has been some squabbling in the Club recently. Frankly, I don’t know or care how or why. The bottom line is we don’t need it and it has no place at Melha or in the Riders. Last week, I attended a third degree for a friend of mine who will be shortly joining the Shrine and the Riders. Elm Belcher did a great job with this candidate and as I sat there listening I couldn’t help but wonder why fellow Masons were in such disagreement and how these disagreements were being handled. It makes me not want to come to a Riders meeting. I suggest all involved attend a Blue Lodge Degree and remember what you were supposed to learn and then remember why we are all here. Enough said.

The good weather is here. Just a few quick reminders and notes before I head out the door. Dates to Remember. The Riders’ Picnic is July 22nd and the Hospital Run is August 19th.

For more details please contact one of the officers. By the way, your officers are doing a good job scheduling rides and supporting events at Melha and elsewhere. The wheelbarrel of cheer needs to be filled. There are paradises scheduled so get out there and do what you can to support the Club. Remember, if we all do a little no one needs to do a lot. There are a lot of things happening at Melha which are too numerous to list here. You should be getting regular emails from the Club. If you aren’t, make sure the secretary has your correct email address.

A big thanks to all who helped out at the circus. Special thanks to Tommy Miller who grilled up some exceptional steaks and sausages (at least that’s how he pronounces it). Remember to get your bike inspected by the end of May. To all those making the Journey to Lacomia in June we will be back at B. Maes (now called the Fireside Inn) in Guildford for another week of insanity. There is a rumor that Goodwill will be providing free room and board to all weary travelers but somehow I think there will be a price to pay.
AHLEM TEMPLE #84
Daughters of the Nile

By Olive Larson

We wish happy travel and a meaningful Supreme Session to Queen Holly and our other ladies who are going to Portland, Oregon. Ahlem Temple will welcome our Supreme Queen for a Ceremonial and Banquet on August 8th and a Shriners Hospital tour and luncheon on August 9th. We hope many of our ladies will plan to attend these events.

With kind thoughts for Scandinavian Nobles for making Melha proud. —Skowie

1. I want to thank all the Melha Family for the letters, cards and contacts to me and my lady Sharon during my hospital stay and home rehab. You really don’t think of them until something comes up. Thank you all, Nobles and Ladies for your concerns, which meant a lot.

2. Being Liaison to Suez and unable to attend due to surgery, I was concerned on our Grand Entrance, since we have been voted Number One in the past, strutting our other ladies who are going to our other ladies who are going to...
**The Clowning Around Page**

By Craig (Doc) Kazin

Well, the 2012 Melha Shrine Circus is in the books, and your favorite merry-men were in the thick of things as usual! From the “seat-of-our-pants” Volkswagen gag to the “no-pants-at-the-end” basketball gag, the Shrine Clowns were doing their usual nice job at the Big E Coliseum. Chief Clown Mike (Alley Oop) Mitchell would like to thank all of the clowns and their families for all of their hard work on our behalf.

**The Hazy/Lazy Lobster Fest Page**

By Alan Kinsley

Greetings my fellow Sons of the Desert. We must all admit, the circus was great. We saw some new faces and some old faces, and the whole band came together to really go out there and get those donations for the program books. Rumor has it there was some invisible tiger pictures and snake charming going on out there. The show was great this year and we all had some fun, more importantly we got to see our favorite honorary member Jackie Plouff.

**The Central Mass. Shrine Club Page**

By Ray Ronander

Hello from Central Mass. Just a quick note. June 21st we will be meeting at The Castle Restaurant 6 to 7 social, Meal at 7. Call Ray 1- 508-892-3753 for reservations. Have a great summer.

**The Legion’s Annual Washington Trip Set for November 1-4 Page**

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**The Overlook Life Care Community Page**

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**The Oregon band Page**

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Central Mass. (top) and Western Mass. (bottom) all-star football teams will be playing in this year’s Chowder Bowl All-Star Classic at Springfield College on the 22nd.

Mike Mitchell, Clown Chief, presents the Potentate with a Ron Lee Clown collectible.

The Potentate was presented a photo of his earlier days when he was active with the Melha Trykes.

—PHOTOS BY ED GELINAS, P.P.

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Central Mass. (top) and Western Mass. (bottom) all-star football teams will be playing in this year’s Chowder Bowl All-Star Classic at Springfield College on the 22nd.

The Potentate, Ill. Russell Mitchell, and First Lady Anna were honored at the Potentate’s Reception held at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on April 14th.

The First Family’s grandchildren.

Among the honored guests were Imp. Sir Ralph W. Semb who was Melha’s Potentate in 1987 and Ill. Jean Lacroix who was Potentate in 1972.

The Potentate was presented a photo of his earlier days when he was active with the Melha Trykes.

—PHOTOS BY ED GELINAS, P.P.