
August 2019

Minaret



Utah Shriners

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF EL KALAH SHRINE

It would be easy to step back, consider our overall membership numbers, be overwhelmed, and lose heart. Or, we can each decide to do our part, work as hard as we can to promote our fraternity, and be, one by one, a powerful force for growth and change. I hope you believe that you can make a difference -

Jeffrey L. Sowder

Jeffrey L. Sowder
Imperial Potentate

Elected Divan

Robert Shupe, PP	Potentate
Ronald W. Finner	Chief Rabban
David Brown	Assistant Rabban
Michael Clark	High Priest & Prophet
Jeremy Estes	Oriental Guide
William Voorhees	Treasurer
Al Hokins	Recorder
Michael Stahle, Rory	Trustees
Youngberg, Jason Varner, PP	

Appointed Divan

Danial Drew	First Ceremonial
Chuck Mitchell	Second Ceremonial
	Director
Gary Felkner	Marshal
	Captain of the Guard
	Outer Guard
Chuck Warren	Chaplain

Appointed Positions

	Temple Attorney
Chuck Mitchell	Temple Membership Coordinator
James Sweet, PP	Minaret Editor
William Voorhees	Temple Transportation Coordinator
Scott Anderson	Temple Hospital Chairman
Danial Drew	Temple Public Relations Coordinator
William Voorhees	Temple Office Manager
Robert Shupe, PP	Temple Donor Relations Coordinator
William Blycker	Temple Photographer
Carl Fauver	Hospital Screening Clinic Coordinator
	Temple Web Master

El Kalah Shrine Hospital Board Members

Scott Anderson, Al Hokins, Rick Graham,
Robert McKenzie, Hugo Rodier, Brett Crockett, Merlin Larsen

Kenn Ware, Kelly Hansel,	
Bill Voorhees	Recorders Emeritus
William C. Nelson	Treasurer Emeritus
Richard Bond	Director Emeritus

Living Potentates

1985 Jerold R. Cochran	2000 Kelly A. Hansel	2011 John D. Limb
1987 Blaine H. Simons	2001 Glen A. Cook	2012 Douglas J. Backes
1988 Aaron E. Saathoff	2003/2019 Robert N. Shupe	2013 William H. Broyles
1991 Melvin R. Walker	2005 Michael W. Roshek	2014 James L. Sweet
1992 Gerald J. Everett	2006 Frederick G. Kidston	2015 M. Lynn Larsen
1993 David B. Edwards	2007 Lawrence K. Fielden	2016 Joel E. Meza
1997 George Auer	2008 Jon H. Harris	2017 Jason C. Varner
1998 Michael W. Roshek	2009 Marvin E. Morton	2018 Paul Madsen

August Birthdays

Edward S Winslow	8/1	Melvin J Haman	8/10	William A Gardner	8/20
Andrew I Binkerd	8/1	Robert D Reid	8/11	Jerald R Conyers	8/21
Donald S McIntyre	8/3	Dean P Zekas	8/14	Rulan C Snow	8/21
Richard K Thomas V	8/3	David S Anderson	8/14	Charles E Prisk Pgm	8/22
Larry G Daugherty	8/4	Shaun Davis	8/15	Blaine H Simons Pp	8/24
James E Bungard	8/4	Richard K Thomas Iv	8/16	Robert H Heygster	8/24
Dennis F Bird	8/8	Emanuel J Kerikas	8/18	Brent E Moore	8/24
Michael Stahle	8/8	Ronald C Johnson	8/18	John C Schneller Jr	8/25
Tommy W Tucker	8/9	Mike G Walling	8/18	John M Kirby	8/29
Alfred J Staples Jr	8/9	David L Nutter	8/18	Jan F Carlston	8/30
William C Brotherson	8/9	Bruce D Myers	8/19	Calvin K Ockey	8/30
Bob V Wright	8/10	Stanley F Konakis	8/20	Lance L Youngberg	8/31

Deaths

None!

Rest in Peace

New Members

Welcome New Members!

From the Potentate



Nobles, you have not heard from me for a couple of months due to some overwhelming personal and family problems. On a brighter note, we have recently had some extremely exciting information on our proposed larger fundraiser. We are planning to have former President George W. Bush speak to the community at large for an El Kalah Shrine hospital event. This will be held on a date to be announced probably in the first half of September. More detail will be forthcoming via constant contact.

Notable events that have taken place are the "Bowl a line for Shrine" which was attended by over 35 bowlers. A few of these participants were Shriners. Nobles, you all joined the Shrine to support our children and have fun and it's considerably more satisfying if you are attending our Shrine functions. Please come out and personally support the Shrine. We had a very successful parade in Elko, NV on July 13th, the 24th of July parade in Ogden, UT and the International days parade in Price, UT. We were very well received at all of these parades and we will be in another callout parade in Manilla and Brigham city for the peach days parade. We would encourage as many Shriners as possible to attend these events as this is what solidifies our camaraderie and puts a lot more fun into our Shrine membership. If any of you would like any additional information on any of these events, please call the Shrine office, the parade marshal Noble Gary Felkner 801-652-8338 or call me directly at 801-509-6161. While these parades are probably the most visible way to let the community know about what the Shrine does for philanthropy, another excellent means of communicating this is to let all of your family and friends know how much fun you have and how many friends you make by being in El Kalah Shrine. You never know what may spark someone's interest in joining up.

You have all been advised of the forthcoming meeting for electing a Chief Rabban. At this point, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the time, energy and devotion that our former Chief Rabban Ron Finner has dedicated to improving the Shrine. He resigned on July 12th. Ron, I'm sure everybody appreciates your continuing contributions to make the Shrine a better organization.

I am sure you will read in our chaplain's article where Noble Chuck Warren is advising all current and former military personnel that we are forming a new El Kalah Shrine Legion of Honor unit. This will be to honor all those who have dedicated a part of their lives to keeping our country free. I plan to join this unit and I hope each of you that have a military connection will do the same.

Fraternally,

Robert N. "Bob" Shupe
Potentate

Special Meeting of El Kalah Shriners

There will be a Special Meeting of El Kalah Shriners on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an officer to fill the vacant position of Chief Rabban. The meeting will be convened at 7:00 pm in the First Floor Auditorium of the Shriners Hospital for Children, Salt Lake City.

§ 325.14 Filling Vacancies in General.

(b) **Advancement.** Any vacancy that may occur by the promotion of any officer at any special election may also be filled at that election. No other business than that specified in the call, above, may be transacted.

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Door prizes will be given out after the meeting. There will be one grand prize and a half a dozen smaller prizes. Dessert will be served after the meeting.

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Mandatory Election/Electioneering Notice:

§ 325.11 Election Regulations.

(a) Electioneering. A candidate for an elected office in a Shrine temple may print, publish and circulate during the year he is seeking the elected office, a résumé consisting of his educational background, his vocational history, and his Masonic and Shrine record. Except as provided in the prior sentence, the printing, publication, circulating or distribution of resolutions, letters, telegrams, tickets, email or other devices, by a unit, club, Noble, or group of Nobles, suggesting, recommending, opposing, or containing the names of proposed candidates for office in the temple is prohibited. (b) Expenditures Prohibited. The expenditure of money for gifts, favors, or entertainment on behalf of a candidate for elected office is prohibited. (c) Violation. For any violation of (a) or (b), the Imperial Potentate may suspend any offending Noble, and he may declare the election of the officer void and order a new election. (d) Notice. At least one week prior to the annual meeting or any election, the temple Recorder shall mail to each member a notice thereof containing this section. *Amend. 2011*

From the High Priest & Prophet



Nobles & significant others

I am calling my article this month “Imperial Inspiration”. As you all know my lady and I went to Nashville last month for the clown competition and vacation trip. Well Bootz looked great, did great and received a lot of complements, but unfortunately did not win...THIS YEAR! With that being said I did learn a lot however, you see having grown up watching my Grandfather methodically and meticulously prepare his clown face and outfit before every event, inspired how my brother and I both don Bootz and Tag and our personas. To begin with our costumes were mostly designed and made either by us, or a close family member. This in comparison to “Nashville” where I found the majority of the costumes were either professionally made or bought was disappointing. The next part is our make-up, my Grandmother never interfered with this process, nor does my sister-in-law while my brother does his and if you ask my lady, she can assure you that she does not get involved in mine either. When I walked into the prep room at Nashville, I saw significant others and other clowns doing each other’s make up. What does that mean for a clown in his Freshman year of competition you ask, well basically Bootz had no chance from the get-go. With the Senior clowns knowing exactly what to do and how to do it, they were a sure win. Not to mention the two Shrines that had the majority of competitors and “everyone knew everyone else” was another strike against me. Does this discourage me...not in the least!

Even though this was primarily a get away trip for us, we did spend time at the convention center, Shriners Market and the various other event locations, establishments and gatherings talking to Shriners and thier ladies from near and far. I also took time to sit in on a couple Imperial sessions and a couple seminars. I will summarize what I learned, every Shrine out there has problems, but with the size of our Nobility base we all see and feel the effects of our problems more directly. One thing I did witness, was how the majority of Shrine represenitives present from across the country would walk the halls of the convention center together proudly as a group, while those representing El Kalah wouldn’t sit together while in session, break or eat together at lunch or come together for one single dinner at all while there. Yes, we voted to remove funding for the Potentates dinner, but EVERYONE could have still gathered and broke break once while there and covered their own bill! With this being said, what kind of message does this portray to other Shrines or our new incoming Nobles? Does anyone even care, or is El Kalah a Shrine full of INDIVIDUAL Shriners?

Hence my calling this “Imperial Inspiration” I can honestly speak for not only myself, but also the junior elected Divan because we have all talked and have the same goals and aspirations for El Kalah. We want this shrine to first, resolve its differences and be able to have its Nobles sit side by side and everyone work together. To next grow our Nobility base and rejuvenate ALL of our Units, not just

grow one to be the biggest, as well as create new Units to offer more choices for new Nobles. We want everyone who wears the El Kalah Fez to be proud to don it for all events. Finally bring more Nobles out to El Kalah functions and events, the attendance of 5 to 8 Nobles attending fund raisers and 8 to 15 Nobles attending “Call out” parades is detrimental to this Shrine and the more we fight and accuse, the worse its going to get. Eventually ending in dissolving our Shrine all together, then what will we have? What will the hospital have? What will the kids have? ABSOFREAKINGLOOTLY NOTHING! With this being said, I know it will fall on deaf ears, but if I can reach 5 Nobles and they each reach out to 5 more Nobles and so on, maybe we can turn this ship around, everyone abandons his individual life boat and we share the bailing buckets, instead of hoarding them and watching this whole Shrine sink in a mass movement of self-sacrifice. Everyone may not see it this way, but take a moment and think about it, the more we fight, accuse and divide, the more stability we lose. I feel the Shrines goal to reach by the end of the year shouldn’t be a large fund raiser, it HAS to be overcoming these hurdles we are currently experiencing.

In Solidarity,

Michael “BOOTZ” Clark
High Priest & Prophet

Checks were presented to Shriners Hospital for Children, Salt Lake City last week from the Utah Kids Ride Association and a fund raiser hosted by the Black Sheep Bar & Grill.

Any dollar amount given to the hospital is a success and can only get bigger in the years to come.

Thanks to all who came out to help and support.

*Michael Clark
(801)661-4914
TCU/IAMAW Local 6114*

From the Chaplain



My Dear Nobles;

I have been tasked by our Potentate to look into forming an El Kalah Shrine Legion of Honor Unit. This unit would be affiliated with the International Association Legions of Honor.

The *Preamble to the Constitution* of this Unit would read as follows: *We, Nobles of the El Kalah Shrine, Ancient Arabic Order Noble of the Mystic Shrine, believing that a closer relationship and friendship is worthy of the most careful cultivation among all past and present members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and its Allies, do hereby adopt this Constitution and Bylaws in order to preserve the memories and incidents of our association within the Armed Forces of the United States of America and its Allies.*

The *Purpose* will read as follows:

The El Kalah Shrine Legion of Honor, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine is organized for the purpose of 1. Promoting a closer fraternal and social relationship among its members. 2. Maintaining a Color Guard and a Uniformed Body for representation in ceremonials, parades and social functions deemed necessary by the Potentate of El Kalah Shrine. 3. Fostering a spirit of Patriotism and a Love of Country and Flag. 4. Perpetuating the memory of our Comrades in Arms who died in the service of their country and to unite more closely former Comrades in Arms in the continuing service of God and Country, Masonry and Shrinedom. 5. Devoting our efforts as individuals and Legion of Honor members. 6. Serving our Illustrious Potentate in every possible way and to assist in every way to contribute to the betterment of El Kalah Shrine. Criteria for *Membership* will be as follows: *Noble in good standing; Must be a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or its Allies; Must have served a minimum of 90 days; Must have proof of being Honorably Discharged or is currently serving.* More information will be provided if enough support is forthcoming to proceed with forming a Unit. If you are interested, please contact me via email at chuckwarrensr@aol.com.

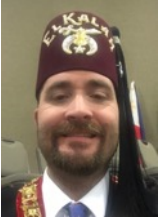
A group of El Kalah Shriners on a cross-country road trip took a tour of their favorite brewery. As they marveled at the process, one of them slipped and fell into a huge vat of beer. While his fellow Nobles waited outside, brewery workers tried to save him. A half hour later, a supervisor came out and told the Nobles that their brother had drowned. "Do you think he suffered much?" one asked. "I don't think so," the supervisor replied. "Before he drowned, he climbed out three times to go to the bathroom."

See you soon!

Chuck Warren,

Your El Kalah Chaplain

From the First Ceremonial



Nobles and Ladies,

We have now finished the celebration of our country and our state in July. As the dog days of summer continue, so does the time we get to spend with friends and family.

As we spend time with friends and family, I hope you have the best time of your lives. Let love prevail. But as you spend time with friends and family what a better time to talk about El Kalah's participation in upcoming parades. It's a great time to talk about the work being done at our hospitals, and how Free Masonry has such a effect on society but more importantly your lives.

Summer time is also a great time to get to know the brothers in your lodges. This is a wonderful way to develop brotherly love and friendship but will also help show others how members of El Kalah treat each other. Ladies this is. Great time to get to know the sisters and other significant others in the blue lodges as well.

Summer is also a great time to forgive, and work things out with your fellow nobles/brothers. If you hold ill-will, bad feelings, miss-trust, etc., towards any another noble/brother this is the time to work it out. Whether from past or current issues, from rumors or half-truths told you by someone else, you have promised when you became a master mason to work things out. What better time than now! Time to work towards the future of El Kalah!

May the supreme architect of universe bless you and your families. May you be safe in all your endeavors. May your August be wonderful!

Sincerely and Fraternally

Danial "Danny" Drew,
First Ceremonial

From the Recorder



Dear Nobles,

As a hospital Board Member, I'd like to remind you we are quickly approaching Walk for LOVE Weekend. This is a 2-day event at the hospital combining what was traditionally known as Hospital Days with the Walk for LOVE. The event will take place Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21 at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Salt Lake City. Registration for the Walk is now open at www.walkforlove.org. Registering for the event supports the hospital and comes with a Walk for LOVE t-shirt.

For many of us, our favorite part of this event is getting to interact with the children whom we have the privilege of helping! You know when you put your fez on, you're going to attract attention and many people will want to take photos with you. I anticipate this happening at the Walk for LOVE, and you may be asking yourself what you can and cannot do in light of patient privacy concerns (i.e. HIPAA.) We all want to celebrate and promote the world's greatest philanthropy, but we want to do it in a way that honors the important rules in place to protect patient privacy.

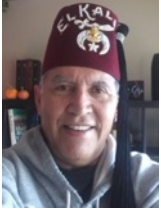
At the Walk for LOVE, and at all hospital events, it's good to keep these guidelines top-of-mind so that we can enjoy serving the hospital we love while ensuring the safety and well-being of the children we serve. 1) If a patient's family approaches you for a photo, and they take the photo on their own device, there is no need for a photo consent. That is their photo to use as they see fit. 2) If you would like to take a photo with a patient, please know that you need to have them sign a Shriners International photo consent form. Hospital consent forms only give permission for the hospital to share the photo. Without a signed Shriners International consent form, it is a HIPAA violation to take photos with children at the hospital and even more of a violation to post that photo on social media. 3) If you take a photo that only shows the back of a patient's head, you do not need a consent. Only a photo in which the child is identifiable would you need a consent. 4) When sharing photos of patients – even with the appropriate consents on file – we still only share the patient's first name. It's a hospital rule not to share a patient's last name. 5) Lastly, you may freely share any photo that the hospital releases on their social media channels. This is a great way to share photos of the hospital you love with full confidence you're in compliance of patient privacy laws.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Dawn Wright at 801-870-0701 (mobile).

Fraternally,

Al Hokins, Recorder

Masonic Summer Reading



Greetings All!

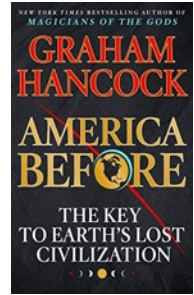
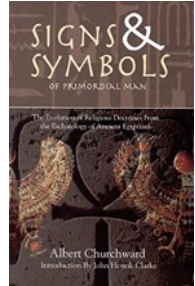
Here are two books that will shed considerable light on Masonry's origins. As you know, most Masons are divided on this issue. The more scientific-minded Masons maintain our Craft started in 1717. The more romantic Masons believe it started in antiquity.

Churchward's book is about the latter. He maintains it started in Egypt, but his research is a bit dated. It turns out there is ample evidence that more ancient civilizations inspired not only Egyptians, but Mesopotamia, Mayans, Asians and Indians. Many writers believe that the survivors of advanced civilizations (i.e. Atlantis) spread their technology and wisdom throughout the world. These "Messengers of the Gods" became known as Hermes, Mercury, Thoth, Thor, Enoch, Quetzalcoatl, Viracoche, etc. Masons symbolize these characters as Hiram Abiff.

Have fun!

Hugo Rodier, MD

Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children



From the Parade Marshall



We had fun at the Ogden Pioneer Days and Price International Days Parades. Thanks to everyone who participated! We succeeded in representing El Kalah Shrine in a good light. We appreciated the hospitality and friendship shared by Ogden and Price Clubs and Ladies! Despite the hot weather, we had a wonderful time!

Please remember the next call-out parade is on August 31st in Manila, Utah. We will be there to help celebrate Daggett Daze! The parade begins at 10 a.m., lineup is at 9 a.m. Call me if you need additional information 801-652-8338 (please leave message).

Peach Days in Brigham City, Utah will be the final call-out parade of the season. This parade also begins September 7th at 10 a.m., lineup at 9 a.m. If you haven't been able to enjoy the fun of previous parades, please come join us for the last two call-out parades. We have good people and a great organization!

Gary W. Felkner,
Parade Marshall

Klown Korner Aug 2019

Our Meeting Calendar

Our next Dinner Meeting will be at the Al and Sylvia Hokins home

Parades ahead

Aug 31 Daggett Dayz Manila UT. If you can go to this parade. They need clowns

Sept 6 Golf Tournament, The Ridge Golf Club 8:30 start. It's almost here. Plan to be there. Jon and Richard have been covering the putting contest. With Maleah Johnson to show the way.

Sep 7 Peach Days Brigham City

Upcoming dinners

Aug 25 at the Al and Sylvia Hokins home.

October 20th at 5:00 pm at the Lynn and Robyn Larsen home

All are welcome at our clown dinners, so just let us know you are coming, so we can set a place for you

Some pictures from our recent parades



From Daughters of the Nile



Happy very hot Summer to you all!

July 24th, Pioneer Day, found us participating in and enjoying the Ogden Parade. Mary Martineau drove her Mercedes-Benz convertible with Sylvia Hokins, Queen of the Daughters of the Nile and Noble Al Hokins, El Kalah Shriners, riding with her. There were lots of enthusiastic parade goers along the route. At the Ogden Masonic Temple Pavilion, the Ogden Shrine Club had a Bar-B-Que after the parade. The Ogden Nile Club sold pie and ice cream. It was a time for Good food, good times and good fellowship. There was a membership picnic on July 27th at the home of Jane and Gary Myers. We were pleased to have six Ladies present who are interested in Daughters of the Nile membership. On August 10th our Legacy Luncheon will celebrate the heritage of Lybia Temple. Stay cool and safe!

Sylvia Hokins, Queen, Lybia Temple No. 32

From Ladies Oriental Shrine



Hello Ladies and Nobles.

What a full month we had in July. We had our Court picnic at Lady Janice Jensen's home on Saturday August 20th. This was also a fundraiser for our Court. We had some fabulous food and some baskets for a silent auction. Thanks to all who cooked, setup and participated.

Our next activity was the Ogden Pioneer Days Parade. I would especially thank Noble James Sweet for driving the truck that pulled our "float" trailer. This enable Lady Kimberly Stenner, who provided the truck and trailer and usually drives, to actually ride with the rest of our ladies. After the parade we went up the Ogden Masonic Temple where the Ogden Shrine Club prepared their annual barbeque and the Daughters of the Nile had pie and ice cream. What way to support each of our organizations by working together.

We are preparing for Grand High Priestess's visit on August 9th and 10th. We are going to have a tour of our wonderful Shrine Hospital on Friday at, hopefully, around 1:30 p.m. I have to confirm the time on Monday. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to contact me at (801)782-7636. after Monday, July 29th, afternoon. We are also excited to mention that one the Grand Officers will also be attending this year, so we are doubly blessed this year. Nobles, as always, if your ladies (wives, mothers, sisters, etc.) are interested in the Ladies Oriental Shrine, please feel free to contact me or any of our members for more information.

Lady Karen Humphreys, High Priestess, Iris Court #47

Shrine Family Calendar of Events

August 9-10 LOS Grand High Visitation, Karen Humphreys (801)564-2132

August 10 11:30 am Nile Legacy Luncheon, Mary Bunten
recorderlybia32@gmail.com

August 10 2:00pm Ogden Shrine Club Steak Fry, Ogden Masonic Temple Pavilion, 20th St. and Harrison Ave. Ogden. Steve Hodges (435)257-3747

August 18 4:00pm LOS Ogden Club picnic. Rachel Sweet (801)791-8360

August 24 11:00am LOS Brunch, Karen Humphreys (801)564-2132

August 25 Clown Dinner, Hokins residence 3108 Sunset Hollow Dr. Bountiful. Al Hokins (214)244-9686

August 28 7:00pm Special meeting of El Kalah Shrine to elect Chief Rabban, Shriners Hospital Auditorium, 1275 Fairfax Rd., SLC. Al Hokins (214)244-9686

August 31 9:00am Daggett Daze Parade, Manila. Gary Falkner (801)263-1852

Send calendar updates to jsweetinogden2@yahoo.com

Ogden Shrine Club

STEAK FRY



SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 2019

2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

BINGO 2:00 TO 3:30

DINNER 3:30 TO 5:00

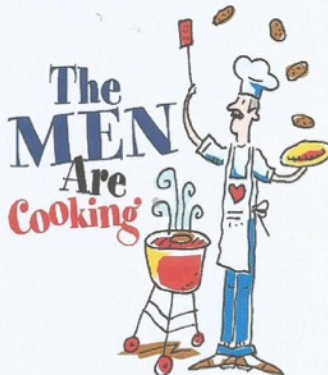
OGDEN MASONIC TEMPLE PAVILION

DINNER \$15.00

RSVP BY AUGUST 3

TO: STEVE HODGES 435-257-3747

JERRY EVERETT 801-721-8372



From the Imperial Potentate



Jeffrey L. Sowder of Toronto, Kansas, is currently serving his 11th year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. He was elected Imperial Potentate, part of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, during the Shriners' 2019 Imperial Session – held in Nashville, Tennessee, June 30 – July 4.

Sowder was raised a Master Mason in 1975 at Toronto Woodson Lodge #121. He served as Master of his lodge in 1981, 1983, 1991 and 1992. After many Grand Lodge appointments, including District Deputy Grand Master, Area Deputy Grand Master, and Chairman of the Grand Lodge Membership Committee, and serving as an appointive Grand Officer on three separate occasions, he was elected Grand Junior Warden in 1994, and he served as Grand Master of Kansas in 1997.

Sowder became a member of Midian Shriners in Wichita, Kansas, in 1988 and served as the temple's Potentate in 2004. Sowder has served on many committees at the Imperial level, including the Pilot Implementation Team, Executive Membership Committee, and the Building and Equipment, East/West Shrine Game®, Strategic Planning, Donor Relations, TRAC, Ritual and Leadership Training and Education Seminars Committees. He has also been a presenter at the Imperial Membership, Oriental Guide and Assistant Rabban seminars.

Sowder served as the personal representative for the Wichita Scottish Rite Valley in Wichita from 2006 to 2009. He served on the board of the Kansas Masonic Foundation for 25 years and as its President from 2004 to 2011.

Sowder was born and raised on a ranch in Kansas. He operates four separate agricultural-related corporations — a 1,000-head cow/calf operation, a retail feed business serving ranchers throughout the Flint Hills of Kansas, a wholesale cattle mineral business with distribution in four states, and a multifaceted agricultural wholesale/retail business in Wichita.

Sowder and his wife, Cheryl, have been married for 45 years and have two daughters, Stephanie and Lindsay. Stephanie and her husband, Jamie Nelson, live near Toronto, Kansas, with their three children, Corinne, Sutton and Reid. Lindsay is married to John Hill, and they live in Fort Scott, Kansas, with their sons, JJ and Hudson

From the Imperial First Lady



Cheryl Sowder grew up in Eureka, Kansas, a town in southeast Kansas with about 2,500 residents. It's the kind of place where roots are strong; she has only moved once in her life, and that was to the nearby town of Toronto when she married Jeff. In November, they will have been married and lived in that home (which they have made additions to) for 45 years.

Cheryl's father was the district soil conservationist, and her mother was a secretary for the county health department. Cheryl was something of a tomboy and enjoyed being outside and playing football and baseball with her older brother, Larry, and his friends. That outdoor spirit remains strong – Cheryl still loves to mow the lawn, work with her flowers and, most especially, go fishing with her grandchildren.

She grew up in a home where family was critically important and guided by Christian faith and values. She learned the importance of giving to the less fortunate, making good grades in school and having a strong work ethic. Cheryl remembers her mother's advice: "Anything worth doing is worth doing right and giving it your all." It's easy to see that Cheryl still lives by these principles, as does the entire Sowder family.

Getting to know her future husband When the high school in Toronto closed, Jeff came to the one in Eureka as a freshman. He and Cheryl were aware of each other – she thought he was very smart and a sharp dresser – but it wasn't until their senior year when they were chemistry lab partners that they began to know one another better. Apparently, he liked to get her in trouble in class. One Saturday evening, Cheryl went to the movies with her girlfriends. Jeff was there, with his brand new car. He had gotten help from Cheryl's friends to make this "date" happen, as, according to Cheryl, he was afraid to ask her out. He got over that, they started dating, went to the Senior Prom together, and continued to date after high school, when she went to a nearby junior college and he left for college, thinking of possibly becoming an attorney.

College didn't really suit Jeff; nor did the idea of being a lawyer, sitting inside at a desk all day. He returned home after a year and went to work for the family feed business (where he still works today – except now it's four allied firms – and more like a local conglomerate). A year later, after Cheryl graduated from junior college, Jeff proposed. They were married November 24, 1974.

Balancing family and career Cheryl went to work as a bank teller, taking time off when their daughters were born. In 1996, after working at the bank for 20 years and achieving the rank and responsibilities of vice president, she left to

become an insurance agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services in Eureka. After 23 years, Cheryl still loves her work there because it allows her to “protect families and help them achieve their goals and dreams.”

Cheryl and Jeff raised two daughters who both grew up comfortable around the family business’ steers and heifers, and active in every school sport offered to girls. The girls were surrounded with the love, support and presence of their parents. They are both college graduates with master’s degrees, working, raising their own children, and making a difference in their communities. Stephanie is a teacher and 4-H leader. She and her husband, Jamie, have three children, Corinne, Sutton and Reid. Lindsay is a college volleyball coach. She and her husband, John, have two children, JJ and Hudson. When Cheryl has time, she enjoys nothing more than spending time with her grandchildren, whether it’s making cookies or going fishing.

Supporting Masonry and encouraging the Ladies Cheryl has been a part of Jeff’s Masonic journey for 44 years. She clearly believes in both his leadership abilities and the Masonic values. At every stage, she has worked tirelessly to involve the ladies, and help them see how important their role can be, and what a difference they can make. She has also taken that message to the ladies of our nobles, especially through the ladies’ program of the Membership Seminar, the Oriental Guide and Assistant Rabban Seminars.

As First Lady of Shriners International, Cheryl will continue her efforts to encourage and empower women to make a difference in the lives of children, and to strengthen the Patient Ambassador Program of Shriners Hospitals for Children®, helping these young advocates become better public speakers and letting them know how much they are appreciated. She truly believes that our patient ambassadors are the Heroes Among Us.

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Contact the editor for information about the Minaret.

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