

Florida Shrine Association

2008 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2008

The Annual meeting of the Florida Shrine Association was held on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at the Bahia Shriners, Orlando, Florida.

The Public Opening was held and we were all welcomed by Ill. Sir, Butch Carpenter, Potentate of the Bahia Shriners. Ill. Sir Butch Carpenter was introduced by the President of the FSA, Ill. Sir Doug Tomlinson, P.P. Ill. Sir Doug Tomlinson introduced the various Potentates and Divan's from around the State. We were then advised that there would be picketing in front of the Shrine Center by protesters who found fault with the way that the animals were treated in the Bahia Shrine Circus, which was held recently. The various State and Local Police departments were out in force to see to it that the demonstrators did not interfere with our meeting. Our meeting was held without incident.

Noble Jim Gillespie, 2nd Ceremonial Master of the Bahia Shriners and Noble Bob Amico, Chief Rabban of the Bahia Shriners were introduced and they gave a presentation concerning their 2007 "Paper Drive." Jim also introduced his Lady Candy. The thrust of their presentation was that their "Paper Drive" was lagging in the past year and they were trying to "think outside of the box" in order to have a successful "Paper Drive." Their goal was \$500,000 for the SCH in Tampa. They were going to award community leaders and members of the police and fire departments for their outstanding work during the past year. They were planning on a "Kick off" dinner in order to award these leaders of the community. As fate would have it on July 10, 2007 there was a plane crash which occurred about 1-2 miles from the airport. One of the survivors, a young ten-year-old boy, was burnt over 95% of his body with 3rd degree burns. Upon hearing of the tragedy, the Bahia Shriners "stepped up to plate" and offered the SCH facilities for the treatment of the young man at no charge. The offer was gratefully accepted and immediate preparations were made to transport the patient by jet plane to our facilities in Cincinnati, Ohio. The young man was rushed into the emergency room of our hospital and then he was taken to surgery to remove much of the burnt tissue from his body, in order to reduce the chances of a severe infection setting in. The young boy tolerated the surgery well and is now undergoing further treatment at the hospital. Our hospital has reported that the young boy is doing well and is healing.

A newscast was shown which depicted the events and which gave tremendous exposure to the work that we do through our hospitals.

Shortly thereafter, Bahia had its kick-off dinner for the "Paper Drive," at this dinner they invited the various agencies that participated in the rescue and transportation of the patient to our hospital including the media, there was over 200 people in attendance at this kick off dinner. The presentations were made and the media played it up immensely. The result was that the paper drive was a great success with over \$510,000 collected for the SCH.

Our President then introduced Imperial Sir Jack Jones, Imperial Recorder, who thanked the FSA for our hospitality and he also extended the regrets of our Imperial Potentate Dr. Bernard Lemieux who could not make our meeting as he had other Shriner commitments.

The "Public Opening" was concluded and we were at recess awaiting the opening of the "Annual Meeting."

The meeting was called to order by our President Ill. Sir, Doug Tomlinson, P. P. who introduced Noble Happy Shuur, High Priest and Prophet for the invocation.

We then had the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Tomlinson then introduced, R. W. Dale Goehrig Deputy Grand Master of Florida.

The Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Jerome F. Jacobs, then called the roll call and it was determined that we indeed had a quorum in attendance.

The President then called for the minutes of the last meeting and the Secretary advised that the minutes were published on our web site and asked for the acceptance of the minutes as published. The vote to accept the minutes as published was unanimous.

The Treasurers report was then given and that we have on hand in our bank account, the sum total of \$6,433.85, with no outstanding bills pending. The Treasurer called for acceptance of his report and it was accepted unanimously.

President Tomlinson asks for the Secretary's report and it was given:

The FSA is alive and well, some of our problems have been solved and we are looking forward to the incoming officers. President Ill. Sir Stan Mykytka, P. P. is asking that the members of FSA be supportive of the efforts of its officers. The problem with the Greeters is being worked upon and hopefully we can come to some sort of a good conclusion. Motion to accept the Secretary's report was unanimous.

The Secretary then gave the Necrology Report for this past year. We lost over 300 members last year due to death, may their souls rest in peace in the Kingdom of Heaven, forever and ever. Azan 40 members, including

Ill. Sir John Alexander, P. P., Morocco 193, Mahi 53 including Past Potentate, Robert Alexander. Sahib 82. A prayer was given by Dr. Jerome F. Jacobs and the acceptance of the report as read was unanimous.

Unfinished business was called for, there being none, Pres. Tomlinson called for New Business.

The elections for the new fiscal year was accomplished and the following officers were duly elected by the membership and sworn in by the Imperial Recorder, Jack Jones:

The officers are: President Ill. Sir, Stan Mykytka, P. P. of Mahi Shriners, 1st Vice President Ill. Sir Joe Hill, P.P. of Morocco Shriners, 2nd V. P. Ill. Sir Michael Snitkin, P. P. of Amara Shriners, Noble Ted Adams, Chief Rabban of Araba Shriners. Secretary/Treasurer Noble Dr. Jerome F. Jacobs, Assistant Rabban of Mahi Shriners.

President Tomlinson then called for additional New Business:

A report on Membership was given by Noble Richard Heckelston:

Membership is way down and the "dropouts" are getting larger and larger. We cannot help the deaths, but we can make a difference when it comes to "dropouts." When members are unhappy they drop out. We must work hard to get the drop outs who are unhappy to join a club or unit. 25% of the Master Masons join the Shrine, we have to go after the 75% which are eligible to join the Shrine. Shrine Savers is a definite asset to being a Shriner. We must stage our activities to include the wives and children.

Times change, people change, people can't take months to become a member, we have to change to the "one-day" classes.

Ohio had four one-day classes and netted 16,000 new members for the Masons. While 2,007 joined the Shrine. As of 2006, 87% stayed in the Shrine in good standing. Four or five states in the N.E. have followed Ohio's lead.

Men have many places to put their time and effort. We have to reach out to good men and bring them into our fold.

Last year Morocco sent its entire Divan to the Membership Seminar put on by Imperial.

Membership is a contact sport, to make it happen, we have to make it fun and interesting.

Imperial Sir Gary Bergenske, Imperial Outer Guard, gave a report on the East-West Football game. This game is one of the premier events of the Shrine and it is an excellent way to reach out to the World and to let them know what we do. The teams visited the Houston Hospital and the children were elated with their visit. He also reported on the Imperial session coming up in July in St. Louis. He also reported on the Imp. Outer Guard meeting and the Imp. Capt of the Guard meeting in St. Louis. He also reported on the Cardinal baseball game to which we have been invited. He talked about the downtown parade and the pageant to bring in the new Imp. Potentate. In addition he told of the Public Relations that would be going on in St. Louis. In addition the "Beach Boy" concert.

Imp. Sir Jack Jones then gave a report on the New Proposed Ritual for the Shrine. 1st scene opens with the 13 men who started the Shrine, it is a basic history of the Shrine, it also goes on to the start of the first SHC in 1920. He also discussed the one-day classes and thought that this is the right direction for us. He advised that there is one Grand Master who is fighting this and trying to get all one-day Master Masons who become Shriners without the catechisms to be thrown out.

Imp. Sir Jack Jones talked to them about the TRAC programs and how important they are and how beneficial they can be. Just as a personal point of privilege, I would like to add that Mahi has had two TRAC programs in the past five years and I personally find them quite useful. TRAC is available for any temple in Florida desiring such. It is suggested that a redo is scheduled every 4 or 5 years. The program does not cost the temple anything as it is all underwritten by Imperial. It is a one-day course and can be given any day of the week. A questionnaire is sent out prior to the course in order to get a general idea of what the individual Temple is interested in. In addition, a follow-up letter is sent with additional suggestions. The Masonic situation in W. Va. was discussed.

President Tomlinson then introduced Ill. Sir Jim Cain, P.P. candidate for Imperial Outer Guard. Jim gave an inspiring discussion of what he wanted to do, if elected Imp. Outer Guard. He talked about his Shrine temple and invited all to visit. He stated that his temple went through "modernizing" in 2006. He stated that his temple has raised since he was on the line, \$1.66 million for the Hospital. He has spent the last two years visiting the various Shrine temples and Shrine associations around the country. He feels that he is able to determine what is needed in order to fix the ailments of the Shrine. Membership is our primary and most important goal needed. We have to build our future. Instill in young people the need for commitment. Our fraternity is aged, i.e. white haired and some with no hair. DeMolay is important for our future.

Imp. Sir Gary Bergenske then talked about the Golf Tournament; it is a chance for the Shrine to shine. We have contracted with Justin Timberlake and he is a spokesman for the SCH. He has agreed to raise 1.5 million per year for the SHC. We need lots of help with the golf tournament and there is an opportunity to serve as a volunteer. It will cost \$40.00 to enter and you will receive a jacket, shirt and cap. This will entitle you to enter for the five days of the tournament. There is another way to enter and that is as a player. Monday will be the

time for the Shriners teams to play. It is thought that Justin Timberlake will become a Shriner, soon. October 13-19 is the Golf Tournament.

Imp. Sir Jack Jones then complimented Imp. Sir Gary Bergenske on his efforts for the Shrine with the work that he did for E/W football gave and the golf Tournament.

Ill. Sir Michael Snitkin, V. P. elect was introduces and Noble Ted Adams, V. P. elect was introduced and he made some remarks concerning what he intends doing, if elected, V. P. He pledged his best effort to do the job of V. P.

Pres. Doug Tomlinson introduced the Past Presidents of FSA who were in attendance. He also invited us all to attend the various competitions. He then introduced Gary Bergenske, for his final remarks. Gary then introduced and thanked his mentors who were in attendance. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all who helped him to win his election. Imp. Sir Jack Jones was then introduced for his final remarks. Jack thanked the FSA for their hospitality and he is looking forward to attending the various competitions.

Benediction was then given by Bahia's High Priest and Prophet, Noble Happy Shuur.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Jerome F. Jacobs, Secretary/Treasurer FSA

DR. JEROME F. (JERRY) JACOBS
MAHI SHRINE, ASST. RABBAN
FLORIDA SHRINE ASSN. SEC/TREASURER
ASSOC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, TAMPA
DEMOLAY ADVISOR
CELL PHONE: 786-251-4880
FAX: 954-476-4666
HOME PHONE:954-476-4433
HOME ADDRESS: 3201 E. STONEBROOK CIRCLE, DAVIE, FLORIDA, 33330-1219