

# DESERT DUST

A PUBLICATION OF OASIS SHRINERS | CHARLOTTE, NC

December 2025 | Volume 90 | Number 12



## OASIS FALL CEREMONIAL CLASS WITH PAST POTENTATE HONOREES

### IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Ceremonial | Oasis Awards

Officer Installations | Notes from the Treasurer's Desk

Southern Christmas Show | *and more!*



Shriners  
International





# From the Potentate

Nobles and Ladies:

As I write this final article to share with you for the year 2025, I am inundated with wonderful memories and

excited while looking toward our future.

On October 31, we were honored to have Noble Allen Hardy deliver our Annual Memorial Service as he read aloud the name of each Noble who the Black Camel called away this year. My special thanks to the Director's Staff who proudly displayed our stage in a respectful and dignified manner to commemorate our deceased Nobles. I was honored to join Noble Tim Morgan and Noble David LaRoach to help get the props in place. Later that evening, Oasis celebrated the Annual Club and Unit Appreciation event as we appropriately recognized and celebrated each Oasis club and unit for their fundraising efforts this year. We laughed, we took photos, we handed out plaques and certificates, and made new memories. Speaking of new memories, we were fortunate to have Grandma Hoyt's catering provide our meal - and WOW, they did not disappoint!

## 2025 Oasis Life Member Recipients

It was my personal privilege and distinct honor to designate Noble Ben Hamilton, Noble Larry Sanderson, and Noble Marty Wilson as Life Members of Oasis Shriners. I have been fortunate to witness the behind-the-scenes commitment and devotion of these nobles toward our cause, and they are to be commended by all for their love of our organization. Congratulations, Nobles!

## 2025 Oasis Walt Disney Award Recipients

It also became my singular honor to bestow the 2025 Oasis Shriners Walt Disney Award upon Noble Tim Farris, Chief Rabban and Noble D. Mack Sigmon,

Past Grand Master. We all know and love these nobles for many reasons, not the least of which has been their many years of devotion in our Oasis Ritualistic Cast. Their service to Freemasonry in general and Shrinedom in particular is well documented. They selflessly give of their time, talents, and means to support our cause, always offering to help and serve however and wherever needed. We all owe a debt of gratitude for their service and leadership, and they would be quick to dismiss this attention placed upon them as they simply wish to continue to serve with humility and dignity. My most sincere appreciation is extended to these fine nobles. Congratulations to you both!

On November 1, we had an amazing Fall Ceremonial as we welcomed 13 new Sons of the Desert and hosted the "Homecoming" Ceremonial in honor of our Past Potentates. I trust you will enjoy the cover photo for this December issue as we appropriately recognize these men who have served in the highest leadership role within Oasis Shriners and provided their time, talents, and means to do so. A hearty Potentate's Tip of the Fez is extended to each of these Illustrious Sirs for all they have done in the past to help ensure our organization has endured to the present.

On Sunday, November 2, newly installed Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of North Carolina, Illustrious Sir John Stanley, drove back to Charlotte from Wilmington to ensure that he was able to preside at our customary Sunday morning non-denominational service following our weekend Ceremonial. Words can never adequately convey and express our deep and heartfelt sentiment for Illustrious Sir John and Lady Rose Stanley. This special couple holds a place so near and dear to our hearts for as long as time shall last. Please join me in congratulating Grand Chaplain John Stanley for his continued service.

On November 3, I was honored to visit the Lake Norman Shrine Club and deliver remarks as Noble Larry Sanderson, Divan Representative, installed their officers for the ensuing year. It was a pleasure to be joined by Illustrious Sir H. Mike Cook and Illustrious Sir Tim Daniels at the event. On November 4, I visited the Lenoir York Rite Bodies followed by a visit to the Charlotte Scottish Rite on November 5. On November 6, I journeyed to the Winston-Salem Shrine Club and had the privilege of installing their officers for the ensuing year. Special thanks to my longtime and special friend, Noble Ronnie "Beetle" Bailey, for his hospitality. On November 7 and 8, I was in Lenoir to attend meetings of the Red Cross of Constantine and St. Thomas of Acon as an officer in those organizations.

On November 10, it was my honor to visit Gaston Lodge 263 in Dallas. On November 11, I hit the road with the Chief Rabban as we traveled to the Lexington Shrine Club where we were joined by the Oriental Guide who installed their officers for the ensuing year. The club hosted an excellent meal and wonderful hospitality. It was so nice to see the children who were in attendance as well. A special moment of the evening was recognition of military veterans who were present as we commemorated Veterans Day. On November 12, the Chief Rabban and I visited our home at the Gaston County Shrine Club. On November 13, I visited Gastonia Lodge 369 in Gastonia. This week culminated in an adventure on Friday, November 14 as I stopped by the Southern Christmas Show to say hello to our hard-working Dune Cats, Kart Attacks, Patrol, and many others who work the event. I placed the Oasis Potentate fez on my head and took the customary photo with Santa.

On November 21-23, I experienced one of my most personal moments as a Freemason as I traveled to Wilmington to attend the Scottish Rite Orient of North

*continued on page 4*





# From the Recorder

Hello Everyone,

I hope this note finds you well. This month I return to focusing on our hospital kids, and

I hope you enjoy

reading their stories. This month's focus is on Annabel. The following information is readily available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

**Annabel is a 17-year-old Shriners Children's Philadelphia patient with a special new tie to the hospital.**

She was referred by a New Jersey upper extremity physician, who realized that the specialized surgery she needed should be performed by Dan Zlotolow, M.D., at Shriners Children's Philadelphia. Annabel is a gymnast and unfortunately suffered an osteochondritis dissecans lesion in her left elbow that required an osteochondral autograft transfer system procedure on her left knee and elbow. Dr. Zlotolow performed the surgery, and it was successful. He said, "Annabel had the equivalent of a 'pothole' in her elbow joint. We used a camera to look inside the joint, and then filled in the hole with a plug of cartilage from the knee. She worked really hard to get back her motion and strength so she could return to gymnastics."

Annabel shared a special experience she had while at the hospital for a follow-up visit: "A couple months after my surgery, Dr. Zlotolow brought me into another patient's room, also a gymnast, and about a month behind me in recovery from the same surgery I had. It was a really meaningful experience for me to be able to speak with someone who I could relate to, and I hoped I helped her look forward to when she was recovered."

Each and every member of the staff truly cares about the patients.

Annabel's medical journey combined with her interest in science led her to delve deeper into her passion. Annabel saw information about the 2025 Summer Research Immersion Program at Shriners Children's Philadelphia and filled out an application to participate. She was selected and was excited to partake in the combination of professional medical lectures, hands-on labs, research projects and shadowing of medical professionals. This was especially enriching for Annabel, as it marked her first step to pursuing a career in medicine.

For fun, Annabel enjoys participating in gymnastics, both with a club team and her high school team. She was able to return to the sport she loves as a result of the successful surgery at our hospital. She is also a part of her town's EMS squad, and is even pursuing her EMT certification this summer. She plays the viola in her high school orchestra, which was another reason she was grateful to have the surgery on her elbow, as she needs proper extension to play. In addition, she is a peer minister at her church, and she volunteers her time at a summer camp for children with cancer and blood disorders. Annabel is a model student who excels in a variety of activities, and she is an inspiration to others to persevere through setbacks. Annabel said of Shriners Children's Philadelphia, "...each and every member of the staff truly cares about the patients. Shriners' mission is so special in the way it prioritizes not only patient health, but happiness and confidence as well. This organization's focus on children and its work to make care accessible and affordable for all is so important. The hospital develops innovative and ground-breaking surgeries that make true differences in kids' lives – like mine."

Annabel is a new Patient Ambassador, and

*continued on page 5*

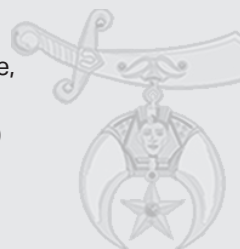
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## DESERT DUST

### **Illustrious Sir Christopher L. Hall, Potentate**

604 Doug Mayes Place,  
Charlotte, NC 28262  
Phone: 704-549-9600  
[oasisshriners.org](http://oasisshriners.org)



### **2025 OASIS DIVAN**

Chief Rabban - Tim Farris  
Assistant Rabban - Donnie Wrenn  
High Priest and Prophet - Scottie Cox  
Oriental Guide - John Cable  
Treasurer - Bill DePriest  
Recorder - Gary Taylor, PP  
1st Ceremonial Master -  
Larry Sanderson  
2nd Ceremonial Master - Tom Bridges  
Director - Rick Garver  
Marshal - Larry Payne  
Captain of the Guard - Jack Wallace  
Outer Guard - Ben Hamilton  
Chaplain - John Stanley, PP

### **Editorial:**

[DesertDust@oasisshriners.org](mailto:DesertDust@oasisshriners.org)

# From the Potentate

*continued from page 2*

Carolina Honors Weekend where I received my 33rd degree, Inspector General Honorary (IGH). I am deeply humbled by this occasion and will remember it the rest of my life and strive to continue to serve to the best of my ability.

Please remember to make time to attend the annual Oasis Election of Officers on Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 pm, as you elect the leadership of Oasis Shriners for 2026. While you are at it, go ahead and mark your calendar for the following Saturday, December 13, to attend the 51st Annual Cat Square Parade and accompanying "Cat Square Ceremonial" to be held at the Lincoln County Shrine Club. By all accounts, this final Ceremonial of the year may push Oasis over the 100 mark for new candidates for the year. Please come out and bring your candidates!

As we have just experienced the Thanksgiving holiday and now look forward to the remaining holidays, we reflect with gratitude upon both the joys and trials of life that have brought us thus far. So many of our members and their families have health and other personal concerns, while other Nobles and Shrine Widows are shut in. All are in need of our prayers and outreach. A simple call, card, or visit means the world of difference to these wonderful Ladies and Nobles. Let us remember them with particular attention during the holidays.

We now look forward together to 2026 and the wonderful accomplishments that Team Oasis will continue to achieve as we support their efforts in any way possible. It will remain one of the greatest honors of my life to have been elected to serve as your Potentate during 2025. I have so many incredible brothers, Nobles, and Ladies to thank for their support and friendship throughout the years. I will be forever grateful to Illustrious Sir Ken Jarrett, my Shrine Dad, for giving me the opportunity to embark on the journey to service throughout the progressive line to become Potentate. Last, but certainly not least, I will always hold a special place in my heart for "Pote '85," our very own Illustrious Sir Terry K. Jones. His friendship and support have meant the world to me as we have enjoyed countless hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours of phone calls throughout the years. It will be my goal to emulate his example of continued service and words of encouragement to the future leaders of Oasis Shriners.

May God bless you and your families and our incredible organization for the work accomplished to serve Shrine children and their families. Until next time, look for me back on the streets with my Oasis Patrol Unit as we proudly continue to carry the Colors and flag of our country.

Yours in the Faith,  
**Illustrious Sir Chris Hall**  
**Potentate 2025**

## Oasis Awards



### 2025 Oasis Treasurer of Distinction Award

Presented to Bill DePriest. Pictured with Illustrious Potentate Chris Hall and Chief Rabban Tim Farris.



### 2025 Oasis Life Member Recipients

From L-R: Potentate Chris Hall and Oasis Life Members Marty Wilson, Ben Hamilton, and Larry Sanderson. Accompanied by Chief Rabban Tim Farris.



### Potentate's Recognitions and Awards

Presented to the Oasis Divan.



# Notes from the Oasis Treasurer's Desk

Submitted by William T. DePriest, CPA

As year-end approaches, I would like to take a minute and thank everyone for all they have done this past year to help make it a successful year. While none of us are perfect, we do strive to do the best we can, improve where we can, and move forward always mindful of our joint efforts to serve the children that need our help.

By now, clubs and units have elected their officers for 2026 and are steadily preparing for the changing of the guard that rolls around each year. In preparation of that change, a few housekeeping things to remember.

First, review and update your signature cards and information at the bank. Clubs must have at least 2 accounts, one for operational transactions ("fraternal account") and one for the hospital for all the hospital related transactions ("charitable account"). Please remember that you cannot, under any circumstance, co-mingle these funds.

Second, go ahead now and appoint the audit committee that will be responsible for reviewing and approving the annual financial report.

Third, have the current treasurer and the new treasurer start putting together the information needed for the annual report, this will make the transition much easier.

I have received a few questions during this past year about the purpose and requirements of the annual financial report. The information contained in those reports must be included in the tax returns that Oasis files each year with the IRS. This required IRS filing and the requirement for Oasis to provide information to Shriners' International is why it is imperative that we have all the financial reports at Oasis BEFORE February 1 of each year.

## From the Recorder

*continued from page 3*

said, "As a Patient Ambassador, I want to help other patients and promote a hospital that gave me a huge part of my life back."

Things continue to go well here at Oasis, and we would love to have your stop by and visit your temple. Take care until next month, and remember, the work you do for our fraternity and philanthropy is sincerely *appreciated* and *essential* to our medical facilities and all our Shriners Children's programs they serve—like Annabel's.

Gary

You can deliver them to Oasis at the training session on January 31, 2026.

This past year there have been potential contributors that have decided not to contribute because late financial reports lead to late IRS filings which lead to outdated notations of suspended non-profit status. Please take the time to get started on this so that it can be completed within the necessary time frame so that Oasis Headquarters can file within the time requirements from the IRS. The form and instructions can be found on the Oasis website at <https://www.oasisshriners.org/membership/forms>. Scroll down to Financial and click on Club & Unit Annual Financial Report. If you prefer, this form is also available as an excel spreadsheet from the Shriners International website in the member portal (login required).

We will, again this year, be going over this at the Annual Club and Unit Officer Orientation training and update session coming up on January 31, 2026 and will be available to help with reviewing and assisting in completing these forms. Don't forget to bring your bank statement copies from December with you along with the other information.

Lady Jo Anne and I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with many more members of the Shriner family and wish each of you a fun filled Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Per Article 2, Section 5 of the current bylaws of:



And by Order of the Illustrious Potentate

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Is Hereby Given to the Noble Members of  
Oasis Shriners to Elect the Potentate and  
Officers for the 2026 Shrine Year during the

### ANNUAL MEETING OF OASIS SHRINERS

Day/Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. At: Oasis Temple

604 Doug Mayes Place,  
Charlotte, N.C. 28262

Current Shriners Dues Status is Required for Entry

# **CLUB AND UNIT** OFFICER INSTALLATIONS



**Lexington Shrine Club**

Installed by Divan Representative John Cable, Oriental Guide. Also present were Illustrious Potentate Chris Hall and Chief Rabban Tim Farris.



**Winston-Salem Shrine Club**



**Red Fez Shrine Club**

Tim Morgan, Brian Petzold, Jeff Ward, Mike Penegar, Divan Representative Larry Sanderson, Mark Ledford (President), Clay McLean, Chip Rollins (Treasurer), Brian McCombs, Allen Marfin (Secretary), Illustrious Sir Tommy Helms, and Divan Donnie Wrenn. Not pictured: Johnny Burgess Jr. (Vice President).



**Statesville Shrine Club**

Divan Larry Sanderson, Kevin Bodenheimer (Secretary), Larry Campbell (Treasurer), John Campbell (President), and Wayne Ashley (Vice President).



**Lake Norman Shrine Club**



**Rowan County Shrine Club**

Installed by Captain of the Guard Jack Wallace.



# Nobles Farris and Sigmon Receive 2025 Walt Disney Awards

Illustrious Potentate Christopher L. Hall was honored to bestow the 2025 Oasis Shriners Walt Disney Award upon Noble Tim Farris, Chief Rabban, during the annual Club and Unit Appreciation event and Noble D. Mack Sigmon, Past Grand Master, during the Charlotte Scottish Rite meeting the following week. Both men are longtime members of the Oasis Ritualistic Cast and are 33rd Degree Scottish Rite

Masons. The Illustrious Potentate stated, "This honor and pleasure is mine. These men have remained consistent examples of servant leadership, active participation, sharing their passion for ritualistic work, and having a great sense of humor and deep devotion to the Fraternity that has remained steadfast and unwavering." Congratulations, Nobles!



## 2025 Oasis Halloween Costume Contest

People's Choice Winner:

Slash (Lady Dawn Sanderson)

## Inherited a coin collection?

Let us help you navigate your options!



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Mention this Ad and 10% of profits go to Oasis Charities

## SHRINE TRAILER Travels for You

Did you know the Shrine hospital trailer is available for your public Shriners Children's hospitals fund raising or awareness events? Noble Sam Moody has generously agreed to volunteer his time and energy to transport the hospital trailer to any location within the Oasis region in an effort to spread the word about our wonderful hospitals. The trailer unfortunately cannot be used for fraternal (non-hospital) fundraising.



Noble Sam is ready and willing to bring the trailer to your location, with advance notice. 980-722-7951  
sambo447@aol.com

# 2025 Schedule of Events

## DECEMBER

December 6	Oasis Divan Meeting <b>(STATED)</b>
December 6	Oasis Annual Election of Officers
December 13	Lincoln <b>Ceremonial</b> - Lincoln County Shrine Club, Vale & Cat Square Parade
December 18	Oasis Divan Meeting

## JANUARY 2026

January 3	<b>Installation</b> of the 131st Potentate of Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan
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**OASIS SHRINERS**  
*Having Fun & Helping Children*

### ATTENTION NOBLES!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM  
THE DESERT DUST EDITORIAL TEAM:

The *Desert Dust* has a  
**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!**

All submissions for the *Desert Dust*  
must now be sent to:

**DesertDust@oasisshriners.org**

Please update your contact lists with this new  
email address. Submissions sent elsewhere  
will NOT be included in future issues.

**All ads, articles, and photos for the  
January issue must be received by  
December 10.**

Oasis Shriners would like to thank Lady Edie Wilson  
for her many years of service as editor of the *Desert  
Dust* and wish her the very best.



# Monthly Roadrunner Highlights

**IMPORTANT UPDATE.** Did you know there is no longer a COVID vaccination requirement to become a Roadrunner? None of the hospitals we drive to (Greenville, Dayton, Boston, Philadelphia) require that drivers have a COVID vaccination anymore. So if this has been holding you back from joining the Roadrunners, hesitate no more. Contact Danny Bean at (828) 302-8908 or email him at beandanny9@gmail.com to get signed up today. And don't forget, nobles can be a member of a parade unit AND ALSO be a Roadrunner. Since Roadrunners are not a parading unit, you can be a member of both.

For October, there was a total of **18 trips** consisting of **7,111 miles!** Congratulations to the following drivers who had the highest number of trips in their region in October:

**George Stoklas** (Charlotte) 4 trips, 2,852 miles

**Danny Howell** (Charlotte) 4 trips, 2,766 miles

**Michael Matty** (Catawba) 3 trips, 851 miles

**Eric Morabito** (Catawba) 3 trips, 851 miles

**Fred Kirkpatrick** (Mountain/Avery) 2 trips, 319 miles

**Stan Presley** (Mountain/Avery) 2 trips, 319 miles

**Tom Erickson** (Triad) 1 trip, 383 miles

**Neil Johnson** (Triad) 1 trip, 383 miles



## NOW HIRING

**Oasis Hospitality Team Wants You**

*Are you ready to get  
involved?*

*Are you a new Shriner or  
Shriner who's been around  
for a while but has not been  
involved? Would you like to  
get to know more people?*

**Join the Oasis  
Hospitality Team.**



We are looking for individuals like  
yourself to join our team.  
Husbands and wives are encouraged.

To learn more, please contact Dennis Grigg at (828) 781-0062.  
*We look forward to hearing from you.*



# Petals of Hope: Shrine Patient Monthly Story

## Lydia's Story: The Final Petal of Hope, Where Resilience Blossoms and Hope Endures

As the seasons shift and the petals begin to settle, I find myself writing this final *Petals of Hope* story with a heart full of gratitude and reflection. Over the course of this year, we've witnessed extraordinary young lives blossom in the face of profound challenges — each story a symbol of resilience, grace, and the beauty of what can grow from uncertainty.

It feels only fitting to close this chapter with the story of Lydia — a little girl whose journey, much like the gentle bloom of the dogwood tree, reminds us that strength can be delicate, determined, and deeply rooted. The dogwood, known for thriving through cold and storm, has long symbolized endurance and rebirth. And Lydia, with her radiant smile and unyielding spirit, is

a living expression of that symbolism — proof that even when beginnings are marked by fear, hope can still flower.

Thank you for allowing me to share these stories. As this final Petal of Hope gently falls, Lydia's story reminds us that even in moments of uncertainty, strength, joy, and fierce determination can bloom. Through every step of her journey, the compassionate care of Shriners Children's has nurtured not only her growth, but the unwavering hope of her family.

May Lydia's journey, and all those who came before her, continue to inspire the kind of compassion, courage, and community that helps children bloom, no matter what they face. Because of Shriners, thousands of children like Lydia are not only finding healing, but also discovering the beautiful strength within themselves.



"It was a pretty devastating moment."

During a scan 20 weeks into her pregnancy, parents Amanda and Dan were given news that left them frightened and overwhelmed. Their first child, a little girl to be named Lydia, was missing the radial bone in her left arm, and the development of the bones in her appendage hand were an uncertainty.

"I wish more doctors knew to tell people to go [to Shriners Children's] when they are given news like this," Amanda said. "You feel so alone, and it seems no one can tell you what's going on. But we were lucky that we had already heard about Shriners Children's from a friend."

Still unaware that the pediatric orthopedic hospital actually had a program specifically designed for parents just like them, Amanda called; she hoped for the opportunity to be able to ask a specialist at the hospital about Lydia's condition prior to her arrival.

"We were scheduled for an outpatient clinic appointment with one of the surgeons," she said. Amanda, who was still

processing the news, was relieved that the Prenatal Education meeting immediately left Dan feeling much better — a feeling she would also gain soon. "There were so many 'what-ifs' that we couldn't know yet, but now we were more informed. We knew we would get the support we needed, and we were grateful that Shriners Children's was close to home."

Additionally, Amanda says the information and knowledge provided to the couple in the Prenatal Education meeting gave them the power to better advocate for Lydia.

Diagnosed with radial dysplasia, Lydia returned with her parents to the hospital soon after she was born. An early intervention care plan was created, giving Lydia a head start at a chance for the best long-term results. A visit to the Prosthetic and Orthotic Services Department (POPS) gave Lydia a custom brace created to fit her specific needs. As she grows and her needs change, so will her brace.

"Even as tiny infant, she was so happy and smiley. Now she is very curious, and she loves to laugh — she makes us laugh every day. She is fierce, and has been resilient throughout her life."

The mission of the care team at Shriners Children's means they will be able to continue to provide life changing care for the now-toddler through childhood, adolescence and her teen years.



**Shriners  
Children's**  
Greenville

950 West Faris Rd.  
Greenville, SC 29605  
[ShrinersGreenville.org](http://ShrinersGreenville.org)

*Your gifts help kids like  
Lydia live their best  
possible lives.*

To donate: 864-255-8765

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# Chaplain's Corner

## When Bad Things Happen to Good People

As we approach the Holiday Season, we naturally think of those friends and relatives who are no longer with us. We remember Thanksgivings and Christmases before those loved ones ascended into Heaven.

As we look around us and hear the stories of others, and as we think of our own illness, our own grief: WE QUESTION. The losses in our own lives and the losses in the lives of others raises the most important theological question people ever ask, and that question is: WHY?

Why do bad things happen to good people? I certainly asked that question many times following the death of our daughter. Why us, God? Why her? She was our only child.

Why? Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote the book entitled When Bad Things Happen to Good People. He said that he did not write WHY Bad Things Happen. Because that is NOT the question. The question is: now that this has happened, WHAT are we going to do? What are we going to do? The choice is ours: We can get BITTER OR WE CAN GET BETTER. We can be resentful, or we can do those things that honor our loved one. Things such as planting a memorial garden. Things such as establishing a scholarship fund. Good positive things that will be our loved one's legacy. And, who is in charge of our loved one's legacy? Yes—YOU and I are in charge!

WE—you and I are in charge of how our loved one will be remembered! What will we do now? None of us are immune from great losses and tragedies.

Grief is NOT a sign of weakness, nor is grief a lack of faith. Some people have the mistaken idea that a person with a strong faith does not grieve...because he or she is above mourning or one's faith in God replaces one's pain of loss. Nope!

Nowhere in the scripture do we find God calling us to be without passion, no scripture tells us to show no joy, and no scripture tells us to show no sorrow in our lives. We have very good examples of how we are to grieve. The shortest sentence in the Bible: "Jesus Wept." Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died. Our faith encourages us to grieve in healthy ways.

How does someone face the death of a loved one, pick up the pieces and go on with their lives? That is a question that we struggle with. When we are walking that road through the valley of the shadow, many of us don't like the way we feel.

Our hearts are broken and we want God to take our painful grief away—and right now, too. But, we have assurances from the word of our Lord that if we **wait**, in His own time, he will renew us. We hope you will find new, renewed hope as you go on with your life, especially in this Holiday Season. Blessings!

*John Stanley, P.M., P.P. is Chaplain of Oasis Shriners, Chaplain of SASA, and a Past Imperial Chaplain of Shriners International (appointed by Imperial Sir Al Madsen in 2012-13). He retired as Minister of Visitation of First Presbyterian-Gastonia and recently was on staff at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. He can be reached at [jhstanley1965@gmail.com](mailto:jhstanley1965@gmail.com).*



MECKLENBURG SHRINE CLUB  
INVITES YOU TO OUR

# Christmas Party

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
SOCIAL 5:30; INSTALLATION 6:30  
DINNER 7:15; PARTY 8:00

MUSIC BY: DJ RANDY LOMAX

CATERING BY:  
*The Hill and David Andrews*  
\$30 PER PERSON

BYOB

RSVP TO:



[HTTPS://MSCCHRISTMAS25.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://MSCCHRISTMAS25.EVENTBRITE.COM)



# Your Updated Contact Information Is Needed

Submitted by Larry Frank

2026 is going to be a great hospital fundraising year at Oasis! The paper crusade and the plaque and bar committees are gearing up and hoping for record fundraising for our hospitals next year. I have the honor of co-chairing the plaque and bars and paper crusade

efforts and am asking that clubs and units send your representative's name and contact information to me so we can update our records. We'd like to have the contact lists updated by the end of this year so please send those along as soon as possible. You can call me at (336) 250-8930, or email [lfrank0697@yahoo.com](mailto:lfrank0697@yahoo.com). Thank you!

## UPCOMING CLUB AND UNIT EVENTS

DECEMBER 6

Mecklenburg Shrine Club

Christmas Party

See ad on page 10

DECEMBER 13

Lincoln County Shrine Club

Cat Square Parade

See ad on page 20



## INSTALLATION OF OASIS OFFICERS

**Chief Rabban Tim Farris and Lady Betty**

request the pleasure of your company for a social, dinner,  
Oasis Divan Installation of Officers and entertainment.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 AT 5:00 PM**

Oasis Shrine Center

604 Doug Mayes Place | Charlotte, North Carolina

*Attire: Coat and Tie preferred (no jeans), Semi formal for Ladies*

**Hotel Reservations: [bit.ly/2026InstallationHotel](https://bit.ly/2026InstallationHotel)**

Hilton Charlotte University Place | Call 704-547-7444

**RSVP Required to Oasis Office by December 20**

704-549-9600 or

[support@oasisshriners.org](mailto:support@oasisshriners.org)

or SCAN CODE to ➡

RSVP at Eventbrite

[2026installation.eventbrite.com](https://2026installation.eventbrite.com)



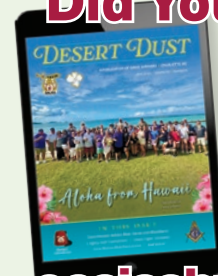
## YOU ARE NEEDED! JOIN THE ROADRUNNERS

Be on the front line of helping children by driving them to their doctor's appointments, surgeries, and physical therapy.



Contact Danny Bean at  
(828) 302-8908 or  
[beandanny9@gmail.com](mailto:beandanny9@gmail.com)  
to receive more information  
on becoming a Roadrunner.

## Did You Know?



You can view the digital version of the Desert Dust online!

[oasisshriners.org](https://oasisshriners.org)



# FALL CEREMONIAL



## FALL CEREMONIAL CLASS

NOVEMBER 1, 2025 ✨ CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



MEMBER #	S.I.#	FULL NAME	CITY, STATE, ZIP	LADY
1001336	1341307	Billy L Beaty	Bessmer City, NC 28016	Crystal Fralick
1001295	1339167	Gene R Cline	Concord, NC 28025	Susan
1001319	1339977	James H Crawford	Lexington, NC 27292	
1001321	1340107	James E Davis Jr.	Lexington, NC 27295	Ann
1001333	1340572	Jason A Gentle	Winston-Salem, NC 27107	Heather
1001349	1342432	Steve R Hall	Bessmer City, NC 28016	Melodie
1001350	1342487	Harry J La Bar II	Mooresville, NC 28115	Jinny
1001342	1342013	Tyler T Massingale	Stanfield, NC 28163	Monica
1001345	1342315	Andy G McNeilly	Casar, NC 28020	Barbara
1001348	1342390	Albert Medders III	Greensboro, NC 27455	
1001343	1342016	Richard A Rezza	Concord, NC 28025	Karen
1001337	1341311	Brian M Turner	Charlotte, NC 28270	Heather
1001346	1341472	Philip M Wright	Kings Mountain, NC 28086	Erica









# FALL CEREMONIAL

## Club and Unit Appreciation







Visit <https://www.shrinephotos.com> to see more Fall Ceremonial photos!



# FALL CEREMONIAL *Ladies Luncheon*





# 2025 Oasis Quilt Giveaway



## Proceeds to Shriners Children's Greenville

The 2025 Oasis Quilt Giveaway raised a total of \$4,320.00 for Shriners Children's Greenville. Congratulations to lucky winner Noble Scott "Fish" Houser and a tip of the Potentate's Fez to Lady Sabrina Cashion for donating her time, material, and talent to produce the beautiful quilt.

## 2025 Bar and Plaque Money Due

Do you have money needing to be collected for 2025 year bars? Just a reminder that all money should be collected and sent in before the end of the year. Let's close out the year without any outstanding money left on the table.



### CLUBS AND UNITS: Want to update your Bulletin Board ad for the new year? **SEND US YOUR CHANGES!**

Keep text simple so your ad is easy to read. No detailed images, group photos, or low quality/blurry images will be accepted.

If submitting your own ad, make sure your file is high-resolution, with all text and images clear and high-quality. Ad size is 2.5" wide x 1.2" high.

Email your ad or ad changes to  
**DesertDust@oasisshriners.org**



Mountaineer Shrine Club gathered at Shriners Children's Greenville to present a check to the Board of Directors. Congratulations to this hard-working club.



## Oasis Shrine Photos

VIEW PHOTOS OF OASIS EVENTS!  
[www.shrinephotos.com](http://www.shrinephotos.com)

# WIN

## Drawings to win one of 3 handguns

Donation: \$20 per ticket, 6 for \$100  
Drawing: December 18, 2025

**1st Prize: Kimber K6XS 38 Special +P Stainless Revolver**

**2nd Prize: Hellcat Micro-Compact OSP 9mm Luger Melonite Black**

**3rd Prize: Taurus 856 38 Special +P Stainless Revolver**

All proceeds to benefit High Point Shrine Club. Donations are not tax-deductible. Must be 21 or over. Must be North Carolina Resident. Must pass background check at pickup at our generous sponsor: SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE  
Contact Number 336-202-3052

# High Point Shrine Club Fund Raiser



# Shrine Clubs + Clowns, Bikes and Helmets Equals Safety for Smiling Kids

*Submitted by the Oasis Clown Unit*

It is with great honor that we are able to salute the police chief of Murphy, North Carolina Noble Tim Lominac and his department, for their donation of 40 bicycle helmets. The helmets were presented to the Western North Carolina Shrine Club for the Rodney Morgan bicycle giveaway held at this year's Shrine Circus. A big thanks goes out to the WNC Shrine Club and the Murphy PD for all they have done to put smiles on kids faces this year. Thank you sincerely.



Noble Thomas Livingston, Kevin Reilly,  
Noble Clown Wayne Alley.

In more news, the Clown Unit is so happy to have Kevin Reilly of AJ S Warehouse Sales as our new bicycle distributor. Illustrious Sir Shea Fedale introduced us to Kevin so

that we could work together on this year's Rodney Morgan memorial bicycle giveaway. Sincere thanks to both of you for your help in putting smiles on children's faces.



In closing, we would like to thank Ill. Sir Chris Hall, a.k.a. honorary Clown Nut'n-Nut'n and Captain of the Guard Jack Wallace for the best circus yet...and the best Rodney Morgan Memorial bicycle giveaway! This year we were able to give away 107 bicycles and helmets. Thank you to the clubs, units, and individuals that made this possible. Without your help we would not have been able to have such a fantastic giveaway.

We look forward to making many more smiles next year. Thank you again.



clickmountair.com | 336-789-8105



clickliberty.com | 704-708-8000



mountairtoyota.com | 336-786-2118



JEEP WRANGLER | JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE | RAM 1500 | GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI | GMC ACADIA AT4 | GMC YUKON DENALI | TOYOTA RAV4 | TOYOTA HIGHLANDER | TOYOTA TACOMA

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**CONTACT:**

Scott McCorkle,  
Steve Lee, Rusty Hopkins  
**704-708-8000**



# Southern Christmas Show





# CAT SQUARE CEREMONY

at Lincoln County Shrine Club

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

1470 Cat Square Rd. Vale, NC 28168

**STARTING FROM 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

*1 Day Ceremonial and  
51st Anniversary Cat Square Parade*



My name is Abigail Sullivan. I am the granddaughter of Patrol Captain Paul Southworth. For my sophomore community service project I chose to make pillowcases for the children at Shriners Children's Greenville. I was inspired to do this by my sister's experience at a hospital when she was little, and they gave her a colorful blanket before surgery. Seeing how happy this made my sister I wanted to do something of the same for other kids.



**Shriners  
Children's™**

## Leaders in Research

Shriners Children's strives to transform children's lives by providing exceptional health care through high-quality, innovative research in a patient and family centered environment.

We are committed to the pursuit of seminal, cutting edge discoveries that result in new knowledge and improve the therapeutic treatment, quality of care and provided outcomes to our patients and their families. Today's research is tomorrow's patient care.



## Calling All Cycling Enthusiasts

To celebrate the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States, we would like to plan a bicycle event to **benefit Shriners Children's**, and we need your help.

Do you have experience with:  
**event planning, logistics,  
promotions, sponsorship  
or just like to ride?**

To get involved contact Noble Ken Goodrich at [labfannnc@gmail.com](mailto:labfannnc@gmail.com) or call (802) 310-6688 to discuss.





## Donations

### CLUB AND UNIT DONATIONS:

Foothills Shrine Club	Oasis Hillbilly Parade Unit
Mt. Mitchell Shrine Club	Oasis Hillbilys

### OTHER DONORS:

Richard & Ruth Anne Bass	Benny H. Mabrey
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Terry & Janine Huber	Frank R. Stevens
Ashley & Wanda Jenks	Gregory & Nancy Strother
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	Bobby & Jody Walker
Jerry D. Koonce	Bryant & Jan Webster
Gregory & Deborah Lindsay	John D Winebarger
Richard & Anita Little, Jr	William & Carol York

## Memorials

### DONOR

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John & Jean Elder  
Robert & Patricia Hatley  
Oasis Hillbilys  
James & Misty Leighton  
David & Brenda McFee  
Gary & Linda Patterson  
Jack & Linda Wallace

### IN MEMORY OF:

Terry Cox  
Gene Morrison  
Marvin Galloway, Sr  
Terry Cox  
Jim Huckabee  
Jake McFee  
Terry Cox  
Gene Morrison

## Honors

### DONOR

Anonymous  
  
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Jerry MorteZ  
  
Mrs. Ann Nivens  
  
Ill. Sir Chris Hall

### IN HONOR OF:

Lexington Shrine Club  
& Officers  
  
Catawba County  
Shrine Club  
  
Salisbury Shrine Club  
  
Appalachian Shrine Club  
  
Lake Norman  
Shrine Club  
  
The 2025 Oasis Divan  
& Ladies



## Passed Within the Unseen Temple

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
R. Wayne Kanipe	Hendersonville, NC	7/4/1973	10/5/2025
James F Huckabee	Charlotte, NC	1/10/1975	10/12/2025
Charles H Hoffecker	Clover, SC	6/4/2022	10/13/2025
James Kenneth Lyalls	Jefferson, NC	4/2/2005	10/29/2025

# Club and Unit Bulletin Board



We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Fairview Masonic Lodge #339 in Kings Mountain.

**Pres. - Chandler Champion  
VP - Charles Bullock**

Email: [WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com](mailto:WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com)

## OASIS PATROL

**MARCHING FOR A PURPOSE**

Contact Captain Paul Southworth  
at 704-577-9845 or  
[southworth.paul@yahoo.com](mailto:southworth.paul@yahoo.com) to  
join the oldest unit of Oasis Shriners



## Mt. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB

Contact: Noble Secretary  
**Mike Pritchard**  
828-442-9170



Centrally located in McDowell County

## Latona Temple # 154 Daughters of the Nile



Contact Betty Parker, PQ at  
(704) 654-7108 or [betty0340@bellsouth.net](mailto:betty0340@bellsouth.net)  
[www.daughtersofthenile.com](http://www.daughtersofthenile.com)

## High Point Shrine Club



**Fun, Food and Fellowship.**

Join us every 4th Thursday of the month. Social 6:15 | Dinner 7:00  
700 Old Mill Rd, High Point, NC 27265  
336-880-5586 | [hpshrineclub@gmail.com](mailto:hpshrineclub@gmail.com)

## OASIS SHRINERS CAMPING CLUB

**FUN – FOOD – FELLOWSHIP • COME JOIN US!**

**Chip Rollins 704-718-8514**  
[chiprollins@gmail.com](mailto:chiprollins@gmail.com)

## ASHE SHRINE CLUB

**Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month**

Contact Noble Shannon Worley 336-877-6629  
or Noble Mike Neaves 336-977-9122

## OASIS SHRINE WAGONEERS



For info, contact:  
Feddell Dellinger,  
980-522-6226

## OASIS HIGHLANDERS

**PIPES & DRUMS**

Contact Jim Davis  
cell (704) 309-1215  
[fyrbagpyper@gmail.com](mailto:fyrbagpyper@gmail.com)



## THE OASIS TEMPLE BAND

Did you play in a high school band or college band? IF SO WE NEED YOU!

Captain - Noble Chuck Reed 847-502-0872

## NASCARTS

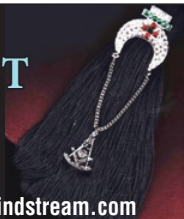
**Captain Everett  
Jarrett Jr**



[ejarrett64@gmail.com](mailto:ejarrett64@gmail.com) 336-669-4782

## OASIS PAST MASTERS UNIT

Are you a Past Master?  
We are your unit. Join Us.  
Noble Matt Peeler, Captain  
(704) 279-9154 | [peelerm@windstream.com](mailto:peelerm@windstream.com)



## Gaston County Shrine Club

**505 Pinkney Road Dallas, NC 28034**

Meets 2nd Wed of each month  
Social @ 6pm | Meeting @ 7pm

CONTACT INFO FOR RENTALS: 704-215-7172  
[www.gastoncountyshrineclub.com](http://www.gastoncountyshrineclub.com)



## THE SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

All Scottish Rite Masons are invited to  
attend our monthly meeting!

Junaluskee Lodge #145  
50 Church Street, Franklin, NC 28734  
3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 PM  
[www.ncritecare.org](http://www.ncritecare.org)

## Cabarrus Shrine Club

*Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!*

1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC  
704-933-2797 [cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com](mailto:cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com)  
[www.cabarrusshrineclub.org](http://www.cabarrusshrineclub.org)  
Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

## HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB

**Join Us 2nd Mondays**

Social 5:30 | Dinner 6:15 | Meeting 7:00

[HendersonvilleShriners@gmail.com](mailto:HendersonvilleShriners@gmail.com) | 828-280-4909  
Mike's Pizza & Pasta, 803 Spartanburg Hwy, Hendersonville, NC

## JOIN THE OASIS PICKERS TODAY!!!

**We NEED Pickers of Accoustic  
Instruments for our JAMMING UNIT!**  
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## OASIS DUNE CATS

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**GREENSBORO SHRINE CLUB**  
5010 HIGH POINT ROAD, GREENSBORO, NC 27407  
4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FAMILY NIGHT  
DINNER RESERVATIONS: 336-587-5720  
CLUB RENTALS: 336-209-3230

## OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



**Captain  
Casey  
Ham**



(704) 718-7782 [caseyham88@gmail.com](mailto:caseyham88@gmail.com)



**JOIN OUR GROUP**

Contact Captain  
**Don Anderson**  
(336) 775-8076

[plaaout@triad.twcbc.com](mailto:plaaout@triad.twcbc.com)

Visit us on Facebook @OASIS500s



# Club and Unit Bulletin Board

## Shriners on Bikes



**STEPHEN TRITES**  
STRITES@  
ROCKETMAIL.COM  
803-610-7876

## MECKENBURG SHRINE CLUB

INVITES YOU TO VISIT OUR CLUB

CONTACT SAM MOODY  
sambo447@aol.com  
980-722-7951



## MOORE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB & The Sand "T" Parade Unit



President John Dunbar  
**910-544-7624**

"Like" Moore County on Facebook to see many photos!

## OASIS ORIENTAL BAND

CONTACT CHIP BURCH  
AT 336-430-5779  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

## OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS



Accepting New Members  
No Experience Necessary

Contact Thomas Livingston  
**336-452-4600**

## PAST CAPTAINS CLUB

Meeting 3rd Monday at 6pm  
Big Daddy's in Mooresville



Noble Peter Schuetz  
PC, President - 704-543-0695

The Hillbillies are lookin' fer ya!

If interested in joining, please contact  
Jack Devine @ 828-464-9886  
or Gary Patterson @ 704-938-3930

## Oasis Oldies

CAPTAIN DAVID STEELMAN  
336-909-1830 Bcimagedr@gmail.com



If you have a  
classic car or  
are interested  
in the old  
classics, come  
join us for  
some fun and  
fellowship.

## CAROLINA DRIFTERS



Captain Paul Lawing  
704-244-0014  
paulawing82@gmail.com



## WINSTON-SALEM SHRINE CLUB

Meeting: First Thursday of Each Month at 7:30pm  
4909 Hampton Road, Clemmons, NC 27012 • 336.955.1375  
Danny Wingo, President (336) 403-2047  
Rodney Bennett, Secretary (610) 805-3482



Oasis Brewmasters  
TAPROOM NO. 16

## Like to Homebrew?

Join the Oasis  
BrewMasters today!

Contact President Brian Clay  
(brianclay@windstream.net)  
or Secretary Scottie Cox  
(scottcox67@aol.com)



## Metrolina Shrine Club



5930 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28216  
704-393-5881

President: George Clinton | 980-250-9134  
Vice President: Dean Benson | 980-722-9453  
Secretary: John Tilly | 704-941-7982

## OASIS RAGTOPS

Riding around with the Top Down...

Raising money for  
Shriners Hospitals  
for Children



Captain David Faircloth: 704-579-2520

## Union County Shrine Club

P.O. Box 324 Monroe, NC 28111

## Oasis

Fueled by adrenaline,  
Driven to help children



Oasis.KartAttacks@Gmail.com

## Red Fez Shrine Club

16600 Red Fez Club Road, Charlotte NC 28278

Events Manager: TracyLee "Sabrina"  
Cullen (980) 875-1257

clubmanager@redfezshrineclub.com

Call us for you next wedding or event rental



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CAPTAIN  
BRIAN MELLON

(704) 692-8576

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Piedmont Shrine Club

MEETING: Fourth Thursday of each  
month at 7pm at Fisherman's Feast,  
Shelby N.C.

Contact Kevin Pruitt, 704-473-3070  
or kwpruitt77@gmail.com



Oasis Gator Patrol  
Captain Jimmy Cline



2156 Sterling Ridge Dr.  
Newton, NC 28658

(828) 409-1995  
jimcline.jc@gmail.com



Oasis  
Cove #1

OASISBUCCANEERS1@GMAIL.COM

## OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

Allen Rea, President allenrea5@yahoo.com  
Chase Trites, Vice President ctrittes@radcoroofing.com  
Brandon Burton, Secretary bkburton87@gmail.com

If you are under 40 and interested in joining,  
reach out to any of our officers.



# DESERT DUST

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Charlotte, NC 28262

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