

DESERT DUST

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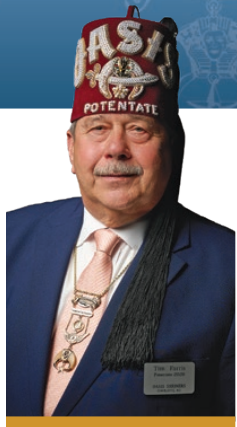
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Introducing Your Potentate and Second Ceremonial Master

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Club and Unit Officer Orientation Agenda | **and more!**





From the Potentate

Happy New Year,
Nobles and Ladies,

It is Lady Betty's
and my sincere
wish that
throughout 2026
you will experience
a year that is happy,
healthy, safe, and prosperous.

On December 6, 2025, I had the distinct honor of being elected to serve as Potentate of Oasis Shriners for the ensuing year. I extend my deepest gratitude to Illustrious Sir William (Bill) Carter and Lady Laurin for giving Lady Betty and me our start in the moving line toward this position. Illustrious Sir Bill and Lady Laurin have been consistently supportive and helpful in numerous ways throughout our service on the Divan line.

I am also grateful for the insight, knowledge, and wisdom shared with me by Illustrious Sirs Tommy Helms, Tim Daniels, Doug Garland, Shea Fadel, Chris Hall, and many other Past Potentates who have always been willing to offer guidance and support in making Oasis successful.

I would especially like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Chris Hall on an outstanding year in 2025. His hard work, dedication, and loyalty to Oasis are unwavering. I could not have been in a better position in the Divan line than to follow behind him. He has not only been a wonderful mentor but also a true friend—one I know I can always rely upon. Thank you, Illustrious Sir Chris.

The 131st Installation of Oasis Officers took place on January 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Leading up to this event were countless hours of planning and preparation to ensure a beautiful and successful evening. I am forever grateful to Pam Byrd; Potentate Adviser Gary Ward and Lady Karen Ward; Gary's entire setup and

teardown team; Chief Aide Dave Mahan and Lady Deb; Noble Joe Berry and Lady Joni; Noble Mark Davis and Lady Martha; caterers Melody and Jimmy Karras; and a special thank you to Lady Laurin Carter, who dedicated so much of her time, talent, and resources to creating the beautiful table centerpieces, as well as Lady Mary Ham for assisting with their placement. Ms. Pam Byrd, through her creative vision and skilled talents, transformed Oasis into an absolutely stunning facility.

I would also like to thank the Master, Officers, and members of my Lodge, Whetstone Lodge #515, for allowing me to use our Masonic Altar and for delivering it to Oasis so that I could take my Potentate's Oath of Office upon it.

There were many individuals who stepped forward to assist with the installation. To each and every one of you, I simply say: Thank you.

Most of all, I am thankful to my Heavenly Father for allowing me to serve Him in this capacity, and to Betty, my dear and beautiful wife, who has stood by my side and will continue to be an immense source of support throughout the year.

Lady Betty and I were deeply honored by the attendance at the 131st Oasis Officers Installation, including many appendant bodies. I thank Jennifer Coconato for coordinating their participation. I also extend my sincere appreciation to all the speakers who contributed to a memorable program: Illustrious Sir John Stanley, PP, and Lady Rose for the invocation and benediction; Master of Ceremonies Illustrious Sir Johnny Burgess, PP, and Lady Charlotte; Illustrious Sir Terry Jones, PP, Oasis Potentate in 1985 when Illustrious Sir Billy Farris, PP, and I became Shriners at the Fall Ceremonial; and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Wright, parents of Shrine Patient Kaleb—thank you for sharing Kaleb's inspiring story.

We were privileged to have in attendance Illustrious Sir Leslie ("Doc") Stewart, PP, Chairman of Trustees for Shriners Children's, and Lady Megan. Illustrious Sir Doc continually shares his passion for our Shriners Children's Health Care System.

We were also honored by the presence of Illustrious Sir and NC Grand Master MW Sir Steve Norris, PP, Lady Tracy, much of the NC Grand Line, and many Past Grand Masters. MW Sir Steve, thank you for your remarks. In North Carolina, we take great pride in the strong relationships among Masonry, Shrine, and our appendant bodies. We are always stronger when united. Thank you as well to Noble and MW Sir Mack Sigmond for an outstanding Closing Charge.

We applaud Keegan Whitesides for his stirring rendition of the National Anthem, and we thank the Lucid Outbreak Band for providing a wonderful evening of music as we danced the night away.

Many have asked about the 2026 Potentate's pin, which depicts a suitcase with emblems and the slogan "The Journey Continues."

- The All-Seeing Eye represents God at the center of our lives.
- The man on the staircase symbolizes the Masonic fraternity, referencing the staircase of the Second Degree.
- The American flag represents our great country and our love and respect for it, as well as for all who have served her.
- The two adults and two children represent our personal and fraternal families.
- The Shriner carrying a child and crutch symbolizes our wonderful Shriners Children's Health Care System, which we work tirelessly to support.

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From the Recorder

Hello Everyone,

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

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

As Michelle reflects on her decade-long burn care journey at Shriners Children's Boston, she recounts the experience as "life-changing."

A native of Belize, the 20-year-old is a talented artist, soft-spoken with an unexpected sense of humor.

Michelle's memories of her burn injuries are foggy. "It was 2015, I was 9 and it was Good Friday," said Michelle, who explained the religious day of observance is special for her mother, who makes a tasty fish soup for guests. "There was something that happened with the gas in the kitchen. I was close to the stove, and my hair first caught fire, and the flames quickly spread."

Michelle sustained third-degree burns to nearly 50% of her body, and with the help of a local foundation in Belize, she was connected with Shriners Children's Boston.

Due to the severity of her injuries, Michelle spent seven months in the hospital, celebrating major milestones there, like her tenth birthday. Through the compassionate, wrap-around care provided by staff, Michelle learned how to walk and write again.

The physical therapy team played a vital role in Michelle's healing. Lori Connolly, DPT, PT, director of therapeutic services – whom Michelle described as "sweet



and nice" – and Lori's former colleague, Katie, were Michelle's first rehabilitation therapists. Michelle said they brought out her playful side and helped her regain independence. Aware of Michelle's interest in art, the physical therapy team utilized a hospital stairwell adorned with colorful murals of wildlife and sea creatures as part of her therapy routine. "When I was working on my legs during physical therapy, I would go up the stairs, and I loved seeing the paintings," said Michelle.

One of Michelle's first wishes after leaving Shriners Children's Boston was to ride an MBTA train she often watched during physical therapy. "We would walk by the windows where the hospital elevators are, and you can see the trains from there. I remember always looking and wanting to go on them," said Michelle. "When I finally made it onto a train, it was nice because we don't have them back home in Belize. It's just incredible what they do at Shriners Children's Boston, and I'm very grateful."

Michelle now returns to Shriners Children's Boston once a year for treatment. She describes her care team as "supportive and like family. The physical therapy department is made up of great people who helped me let my guard down." Her current physical therapist, Aimee Chiasson, DPT, PT, makes her feel comfortable during their sessions. "Every time I hang out with Aimee, I don't feel shy. I look forward to our time together because I can joke around and we have the same sense of humor," said Michelle.

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DESERT DUST

Illustrious Sir Tim Farris - Potentate

604 Doug Mayes Place,
Charlotte, NC 28262
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2026 OASIS DIVAN

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

Editorial:

DesertDust@oasisshriners.org

From the Recorder

continued from page 3

Aimee has seen Michelle come into her own as a young adult, noting that she is always up for fun and a little mischief during their time together. “For me, engaging with Michelle has been natural. It’s been amazing watching her become more confident and become a mentor for other patients.”

Michelle participates regularly in hospital activities. Two of her favorites are Christmas in July, when Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire truck, and Team Brave, group outings for patients reintegrating into the community as they recover from burn injuries. Both are supported by volunteers from the Boston Firefighters Burn Foundation. “I wanted to get involved in Team Brave because it’s very

inclusive. Even though some patients may not feel like they can participate in the event, everyone always makes them feel comfortable,” said Michelle.

Team Brave outings are coordinated by child life specialist Rebecca Wildes, MS, CCLS, another key member of Michelle’s support system. “Every time I am anxious about something, I ask Rebecca to come with me, even on trips to the operating room or appointments with needles, which make me nervous,” said Michelle. “Child life makes me feel more relaxed and at ease. They always put my focus on something else.”

“Michelle’s confidence has grown,” said Rebecca, who applauded her for fostering patient engagement during Team Brave outings. “Michelle helps participants feel more empowered.”

In her free time, Michelle enjoys spending time with family. She has many hobbies, including painting, drawing and swimming. Michelle started diving in 2021 and is excited to participate in an upcoming night dive off the coast of Belize. “It’s a whole different world when you’re underwater. You see all types of fish and coral; it’s like a forest. I remember once there were two huge walls of coral we swam through. I loved it!”

Michelle is grateful for the relationships she has formed at Shriners Children’s Boston and is reflective about her future. “There are lots of things I want to do, like work in the medical field and in burn care, so I can give back. Maybe by being a nurse. It’s just incredible what they do at Shriners Children’s Boston, and I’m very grateful.”

Things continue to go well here at Oasis, and we would love to have you 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 like Michelle’s, that they serve.

Gary Taylor, Recorder

From the Potentate

continued from page 2

As “The Journey Continues” through 2026 and beyond, let us reflect on the paths we each have traveled since entering this world, and on the journey Oasis has taken since 1895—131 years of doing good in the name of our Heavenly Father. May we continue to serve Him by serving others.

Lady Betty and I encourage each of you to reflect upon your own journey, to continue making positive impacts in the lives of others, and above all, to always give God the glory.

Tim Farris, Potentate

BY ORDER OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE

ANNUAL OASIS CLUB & UNIT OFFICER ORIENTATION

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026
9:30am**

Oasis Shriners
604 Doug Mayes Place,
Charlotte, NC 28262

Annual officer’s meeting to share updates, information, and important reminders for both experienced and new club/unit officers.

- Turn in of annual financial reports
- Distribution of paper crusade and plaque partnership materials
- Discussion of insurance requirements
- Club/Unit Quality Awards

Lunch will be provided.



SEE PAGE 17 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FULL AGENDA

Introducing Your Potentate, Illustrious Sir Tim Farris

It can be said without a doubt that Tim Farris, brings many years of Masonic, Shrine and public service experience to what is called the “moving line” on the Oasis Divan.

Illustrious Sir Tim was appointed Second Ceremonial Master by Ill. Sir Bill Carter in 2020. He is a past master of Whetstone Lodge No. 515 in Bessemer City and is an honorary member of Gaston Lodge No. 263, as well as 33rd-degree Scottish Rite Mason. He is a Degree Master and Past Wise Master for the Valley of Charlotte Scottish Rite and a member of Lenoir York Rite Bodies.

Tim has served as president of both the Cherryville and Gaston County Shrine clubs during a Masonic career that began with his being raised to the Third Degree in 1981 at Whetstone Lodge. He has been a member of the Oasis Ritualistic Class since 1994 and served as Captain of that unit in 2007 and 2008.

And during all of that, Tim held a career as a deputy sheriff in Gaston County which led up to his being named Chief Deputy of the Gaston County Sheriff’s office. He retired in 2012 after a 35-year career in law enforcement. Tim also served as a member of the Army National Guard for six years.

He has been a long-time member and active participant in Bessemer City’s First Wesleyan Church. He has served on a number of charitable boards and organizations including the Greater Gaston Girls and Boys Clubs, the Local Emergency Planning Board for Gaston County, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council of Gaston County, the Gaston Skills Advocacy Board, the Gaston County ARC, Cornerstone Christian Ministries and also Gaston’s Reinvestment in the Communities - a panel advocating for the homeless and affordable housing.

Illustrious Sir Tim is also a member of the Crowder’s Mountain and Red Fez Shrine clubs and Oasis Hillbilly Clan No. 13.

He currently serves as a member and past Director of the Royal Order of Jesters, Court 109, and is a Life Member of Oasis and the Royal Order of Scotland.

The first Mason in his family, Tim coached his brother, Past Potentate Billy Farris, through the degrees as well as his great nephew Brandon.

As the 2026 Oasis Potentate, it will be the first time in history that two brothers will have served as Potentate at Oasis Shrine.

Tim and his Lady, Betty Duncan, have been familiar faces at scores of Oasis functions throughout the years. They make their home in Mt. Holly, NC and are lifelong Gaston County residents.

Illustrious Sir Tim Farris will serve as the 131st Potentate of Oasis Shriners.



Membership Statistics

DECEMBER 2025

| | MTD | YTD |
|------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Creations | 14 | 97 |
| Affiliations | 1 | 7 |
| Restorations | 0 | 17 |
| Reversals | 0 | 0 |
| Total Additions | YTD - 121 | |



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End Date:

4/1/26

Proceeds are for the benefit of Oasis Shriners activities. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.

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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

REMINDER:

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



View the Desert Dust at
oasisshriners.org

\$100,000 Gift For Greenville

Noble Paul Woodruff, president of the Elkin-Jonesville Shrine Club, shared that Mr. Thomas "Tommy" Howard Dorsett, Jr., who is not a Shriner nor a Mason, has made a \$100,000 gift to Shriners Children's Greenville. The gift is in memory of his father Noble Thomas Howard Dorsett, Sr. Noble Thomas passed away in 1985. Many years ago, Noble Thomas Sr. took his son Tommy along for a visit to the Greenville hospital. It is the only visit Tommy ever made to the Greenville hospital. That visit left such an impression on Tommy that he wanted to make this gift in memory of his father.



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Introducing Your Second Ceremonial Master, M. W. (Jack) Wallace, Jr.

Our Second Ceremonial Master, Jack Wallace, is no stranger to Oasis, having served at this temple for our 49 years.

Noble Jack is a native Charlottean, born at Our Sisters of Mercy Hospital on November 4, 1948. At the age of five his parents left Charlotte and moved to Mint Hill. Growing up, he became active in numerous civic organizations and events. He was an active member of the Mint Hill Jaycees and Volunteer Fire Department. He also served on the Board of Deacons at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church while coaching their men's softball team. He served as Drum Major for the Independence High School marching band and graduated in their first senior class of 1967. He ran track, played basketball and baseball, and served on the student council.

After high school he attended University of North Carolina-Charlotte and Central Piedmont Community College where he earned an associate degree in computer science.

He enlisted in the United States Army and extended his learning at Ft. Jackson Basic Training Camp. With the combination of active and reserve duty, his military career ended after 12 years of service earning him the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Noble Jack's Masonic journey began at Mint Hill Lodge #742 in 1976. After standing proficiency on the third degree, he went on to coach new masons with their degree work for the next four years. He also was a member of the Mint Hill Order of Easter Star #353 and served as Worthy Patron two different times. He became a Scottish Rite Mason with the Valley of Charlotte, Orient of North Carolina in 1979. He then joined Oasis Shriners at the Asheville ceremonial in November of 1979.

Noble Jack has served on numerous fraternal committees, was a member of Oasis Clown Unit for over 25 years, served as their captain for two years, and was awarded Clown of the Year in 1985. He is a long-time member of Mecklenburg Shrine Club and served as their president three different times. He has been a member of Charlotte Court of Jesters #109 since 1995 and was appointed to the Oasis Divan in 2018 as Captain of the Guard and Circus Chairman.

His work career started with several different trucking companies while in high school and college. He worked for National Welders Supply Company for 12 years as their cryogenic distribution

manager. When CarMax opened their first location in Charlotte in 1996 their business model intrigued him, and he spent the next 24 years working for them in various positions. He retired in 2020.

Once retired, he and Lady Linda (wife of 40 years) downsized and moved to Concord. Lady Linda has previous experience with the Oasis Temple and Shrinedom after having worked in the Oasis front office for over 15 years. They have a son Greg, a daughter Angie, four granddaughters, and one grandson.



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 or call (802) 310-6688 to discuss.



2026 Schedule of Events



JANUARY

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 3 | Potentate's Installation (Oasis Center) |
| Jan 4 | Oasis Non-Denominational Service (Hilton University Place, Charlotte) |
| Jan 15 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |
| Jan 26-28 | 101st Annual East-West Shrine Bowl (Frisco, TX) |
| Jan 31 | Club & Unit Orientation/Officer Training (Oasis Center) |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb 19 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |
| Feb 21-Mar 1 | Potentate's Cruise (Southern Caribbean) |

MARCH

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 6-7 | Greenville Hospital Days (Greenville, SC) |
| Mar 19 | Oasis Divan Meeting Stated (Oasis Center) |
| Mar 26-29 | SASA Spring Meeting (Lexington, KY) |

APRIL

| | |
|--------|---|
| Apr 16 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Spindale, NC) |
| Apr 18 | McDowell County Ceremonial (Marion, NC) |

MAY

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| May 1-3 | Paper Giveaway (Everywhere!) |
| May 21 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |

JUNE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Jun 12-14 | Spring Ceremonial (Lake Junaluska, NC) |
| Jun 20 | MHCO Gala, Black Tie (Oasis Center) |
| Jun 27 | Oasis Membership Meeting Stated (Rowan County Shrine Club) |
| Jun 27 | 250th USA Birthday Bash (Rowan County Shrine Club) |

JULY

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Jul 12-16 | Imperial Session (Tampa, FL) |
| July 23 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |

AUGUST

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Aug 14-16 | 3 Chapter Joint Black Tie Ceremonial (Winston-Salem, NC) |
| Aug 14 | Oasis Divan Meeting Stated (Winston-Salem, NC) |
| Aug 15 | Oasis Divan & Ladies' Succession Planning Meeting (Winston-Salem, NC) |
| Aug 22 | Water Buffalo Degree (Oasis Center) |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sep 10 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |
| Sep 18-20 | SASA Fall Festival (Myrtle Beach, SC) |
| Sep 25-26 | Grand Lodge Annual Communication (Winston-Salem, NC) |

OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 9-10 | 153rd Masonic Homecoming Parade (Oxford, NC) |
| Oct 14 | The Shriners Circus (Greensboro, NC) |
| Oct 16-17 | The Shriners Circus (Concord, NC) |
| Oct 15 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |
| TBD | 7th Annual Golf Tournament (TBD) |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|---------|--|
| Nov 6 | Club & Unit Appreciation Night (Oasis Center) |
| Nov 6-8 | Oasis Fall Ceremonial (Oasis Center) |
| Nov 19 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |

DECEMBER

| | |
|--------|---|
| Dec 5 | Installation of the Grand Master of Masons (TBD) |
| Dec 5 | Oasis Membership Meeting Stated & Election of Officers (Oasis Center) |
| Dec 6 | Potentate's Civic Parade (Gastonia, NC) |
| Dec 12 | Lincoln Ceremonial (Lincoln County SC) |
| Dec 12 | Cat Square Civic Parade (Cat Square, NC) |
| Dec 17 | Oasis Divan Meeting (Oasis Center) |

JANUARY 2027

| | |
|-------|--|
| Jan 9 | Installation of 132nd Potentate of Oasis Shriners & the Oasis Divan (Oasis Center) |
|-------|--|

Lady Betty's

Angel Kids



The 2026 Oasis Ladies pin is simply angel wings covering a heart, and on the back of the pin it states, "Our Kids are Angels". The Angel wings represent protection and the heart represents love. Putting the two together represents

finding peace and comfort during times of anxiety or hardship, symbolizing being embraced by a spiritual presence. With our Heavenly Father's help and guidance, our Shrine Children (our "angels" of pure heart and innocence) are helped daily with their anxiety and hardships through our Shriners Children's Health Care System and the hard-working Shriners and ladies who work to make their lives better.

In Lady Betty's Angel Kids, we bring you a heartwarming story every month about an amazing kid being treated at one of our Shriners Children's Hospitals. This year we want to focus as much as possible on kids being treated from your Oasis region. Our first story of Kaleb is one such story.

Meet Kaleb

In August of 2022, at 18 weeks pregnant we had our anatomy scan on our little boy. We learned he was missing around 1/3 of his right arm, and a small portion of both the radius and

ulna were protruding from the skin. We continued to monitor throughout the pregnancy, but nothing ever changed.



Due to an unrelated condition, Kaleb was born prematurely. Upon his birth we received the miracle that BOTH bones were completely covered by skin! He spent a total of 73 days in Charlotte NICU over the course of 2 separate stays.

Once he was released, we had our first orthopedic appointment. This was filled with bad news ranging from splints to surgery. The entire attitude and environment was off. This is when Roger Edgington's granddaughter approached me at church and told me about Shriners. Within three months of meeting Roger and Jane, we had his first appointment at Shriners and were told the exact opposite of the orthopedics. Everything from the demeanor of the doctors to the front desk personnel was different! We have never had a negative experience!



Kaleb got his first prosthetic in January 2025 and is absolutely thriving. We have another appointment coming up in January 2026 to discuss bone health in his arm stump.

Shriners have been nothing short of amazing and helpful the entire experience and we can't wait to see what the future holds!

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 Donnie Wallace at (828) 421-5436 or donniejudywallace@gmail.com to receive more information on becoming a Roadrunner.

CLUBS AND UNITS:

Want to update your Bulletin Board ad for the new year?

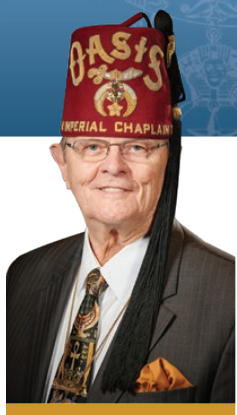
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Email your ad or ad changes to DesertDust@oasisshriners.org



Chaplain's Corner

Happy (Changing) Times!

Life is full of change. Everything about us changes. Change is inevitable. At Oasis we change

leadership every January. The new Potentate changes appointments. We have new people doing old things. We know that changes occur simply by looking in the mirror. We do not look the same as we did two years ago!

Change is a part of life and change seems to be happening more rapidly now than any other time in history. (Do you remember when someone filled your tank with gas and you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, all for free? And, you didn't pay for air?)

We're experiencing change in our government, change in our economy, change

in our health care, change in our technology. (It's now possible to take a picture of a check with your cell phone and then send that picture to the bank to make a deposit! Wow!) Everything else is changing: our churches, our schools, our government and the world around us is changing.

Most importantly, our relationships grow and change. One of the keys to healthy relationships is our ability to grow. Our relationships can grow and be more enjoyable rather than becoming stagnant. We learn to change to build healthy personal relationships, and solid marriages. And if we let God work in our lives and remain open to change, our personal relationships can improve, and can be more of a joy.

This truth of changing for the good is

also evident in our spiritual growth, our spiritual relationships. Our willingness to let God work, to grow, to change determines what kind of life we will experience, and what kind of impact we will make in the lives of our friends and families for the Lord. We have been given life and life to the full but we must let the Great Architect of the Universe work, we must be willing to change frequently to experience God's abundant life.

In this changing new year, may we experience the love and fellowship of our brothers in a new and beautiful way. Blessings.

John Stanley, Chaplain

In addition to being Chaplain of Oasis, and Chaplain of South Atlantic Shriners, he is Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of N.C. He served as Chaplain of Shriners International when Imperial Sir Al Madsen was Imperial Potentate. John Stanley, 33o, P.M., P.P. would like to hear from you. He can be reached at jhstanley1965@gmail.com.



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CLUB AND UNIT OFFICER INSTALLATIONS



Thermal Belt Shrine Club

Bronny Hamrick standing in for Secretary Jeff McCranie, Treasurer Daniel Elliott, V.P. David Leslie, Pres. Ken Goodrich, and Chief Rabban Tim Farris.



Ragtops

Chief Rabban Tim Farris installing the Ragtops in December.



Cherryville Shrine Club

The Cherryville Shrine Club had its annual Christmas party and officer installation on December 6th.



East Burke Shrine Club

Past Potentate Ken Jarrett presents a plaque for East Burke Shrine Club's contributions to Shriners Hospital and a plaque to Pete Brittain for a great job as President for the last two years.

Newly elected officers for 2026: Secretary Cliff Becktel, Treasurer Bill Chapman, President Nolan Berry, Vice President Lynn Lail, Past President Pete Brittain, and installing officer Past Potentate Ken Jarrett.



Appalachian Shrine Club

President Charlie Floyd, 1st Vice Seth Dyer, 2nd Vice Gerald Potts. Not pictured: Secretary Aaron Stanley and Treasurer Shawn Dyer.

Cat Square Parade

AND LINCOLN COUNTY CEREMONIAL



LINCOLN COUNTY CEREMONIAL CLASS

DECEMBER 13, 2025 ~ VALE, NORTH CAROLINA

| MEMBER # | NOBLE'S NAME | CITY, STATE, ZIP | LADY |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1001352 | Brian Allen Beck | Stanfield, NC 28163 | Debra |
| 1001358 | Randy Dueal Biddy | Lawndale, NC 28090 | Courtney |
| 1001356 | Richard Joe Brown | Cherryville, NC 28021 | Hannah |
| 1001355 | Bryan Lee Buchanan | Waynesville, NC 28786 | Printha (Candy) |
| 1001364 | Jeremy Daniel Eller | Lansing, NC 28643 | Lynette |
| 1001362 | Wesley Jared Lewis | Catawba, NC 28609 | Samantha |
| 1001351 | Larry Shane Richard | Crouse, NC 28033 | Ashley |
| 1001365 | Mark Douglas Rumpfelt | Dallas, NC 28034 | |
| 1001359 | Paul Oliver Secrest | Vale, NC 28168 | Madison |
| 1001361 | Caleb James Smith | Vale, NC 28168 | Taylor |
| 1001360 | Brandon Dale Suggs | Maiden, NC 28650 | Paige |
| 1001344 | Kevin Douglas Toups | Swannanoa, NC 28778 | Kelly |
| 1001353 | Lucas Alan Workman | Vale, NC 28168 | |
| 1001354 | Peyton McCain Workman | Vale, NC 28168 | |



An Oasis Pickers Year in Review

Submitted by Gerry Boykin & Dave Mahan

2025 was an **outstanding** year for our Pickers Unit. We had tremendous growth in our “little” unit, with a full 61 members listed in WebFez! We’ve been lucky enough to visit and/or work with many Blue Lodges, Shrine Clubs, and Shrine Units on their projects, and we now have five areas to hold mini-jams/practices, with a local unit officer helping to coordinate the music. Our newest three areas include Concord, Shelby, and the Red Fez Shrine Club.

We gave away 28 guitars, 2 fiddles, and 1 mandolin, along with lessons to our patients at Shriners Children’s Greenville. We spent many days at ceremonials and parades (both Shrine and civic), and we made it through the Water Buffalo Degree. We had jam sessions in Atlanta at the Imperial Session, in the mountains, at the beach, and most everywhere in between. We shot at Sporting Clays events, sold shopping bags and CDs, manned street corners

for the paper sale with our regional clubs, and drove golf carts for 12 days at the Southern Christmas Show to help folks get to and from their cars. We broke axles and weathered the storm of towing

and repairing our stage/parade trailer. We brought home our 3rd First Place plaque from SASA (a three-peat)! We were invited not once but twice, to assist with the Earl Scruggs Center’s Bluegrass Ambassadors Program where we helped over 1,700 4th graders in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties learn about our music, and we attended Ladies’ Night and Family Fun Days.

We also added more officers in our line up to accommodate our numerous jam areas, photography, music library, chapin, and of course stage-trailer maintenance. We promoted our youth as Shrine Pickers In Training (SPIT), and we played a **TON** of music, culminating in our year-end shin dig where our Unit Crown of Honor awards were given and our 2026 officers were sworn in (where, of course, there was even more music played together for our friends and family).

All in all, our Pickers members participated in over **53 events and activities** in 2025. Some might say we were a pretty active unit this year!

Want to get some more information or possibly join the Oasis Pickers Unit? Contact Oasis Pickers Captain, Gerry Boykin at 828-489-6060 ggbmtn.high@yahoo.com, or Oasis Pickers Secretary, Dave Mahan at 843-372-5510 DBMahan@gmail.com.



Edie Wilson Made The Desert Dust a Winner

Submitted by Harvey Burgess

Simply put, Edie Wilson made The Desert Dust the award-winning publication it is today.

Before she became editor in 2001, the monthly newspaper of one of the largest Shrine chapters in the world was, at best, fairly ordinary.

But it didn't take Edie long to make it spectacular among the many newsletters and papers of the many Shrine organizations.

Early in her tenure as editor, the paper had to be 'pasted up' by hand and she and her husband, life member Noble Marty Wilson, had to transport the pages to Lincoln where, at the Lincoln Times-News, they finished assembling and printing the Dust to be mailed to Oasis members across the state.

"Marty and I had to make a second hour-long trip to Lincoln to proofread the paper before they plated and printed it," she said.

"Now everything is done digitally and it's printed at the Masonic Home for Children's shop," Edie remembers. "I don't have to leave my office to get the job done."

"I've served as editor for 12 potentates and we've won three Dromedary Awards, the Shrine's highest honor for fraternal publications," she said. "We've also won two honorable mentions, effectively runner-up honors."

"I'm extremely proud to have brought that recognition to the Dust, and it has, over the years, been a team effort.

"I've always had the help and support of Divan members, Oasis Nobles and people behind the cameras that take all the great photos for us, like Noble Les Dix and Genesis Group Photography," she added.

"A talented graphic designer has helped with the layout, too. It's been a team effort, and we've had a great team," Edie said.

"It's been an honor and a thrill ride to do The Desert Dust, and I've always said 'deadlines amuse me'," she said with a smile.

"I hope the nobility and their families take time each month to read the publication or check the website, where you can enlarge everything and enjoy the many great photos," she said.

"I've made so many friends and been given so many opportunities to make The Desert Dust what it is today," she added. "My heart is full of gratitude."

And you can bet the membership is grateful for her efforts.



Santa, with help from Tim Farris and Donnie Wrenn, brought a sleigh full of joy to Shriners Childrens Greenville in December.

Oasis Shrine Photos



VIEW PHOTOS OF OASIS EVENTS!

www.shrinephotos.com

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
February issue must be received by
January 10.**



Monthly Roadrunner Highlights

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 drivers have a COVID vaccination anymore. So if this has been holding you back from joining the Roadrunners, hesitate no more. Contact Donnie Wallace at (828) 421-5436 or email donniejudywallace@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 November, there was a total of 9 Roadrunner trips consisting of 2,382 miles! Congratulations to the following drivers who had the highest number of trips in their region in November:

Eric Morabito (Catawba) 2 trips, 453 miles

Danny Howell (Charlotte) 3 trips, 745 miles

Dale Sleight (Mountain/Avery) 1 trip, 284 miles

Brenda Sleight (Mountain/Avery) 1 trip, 284 miles

Tom Erickson (Triad) 3 trips, 1,216 miles

Neil Johnson (Triad) 3 trips, 1,216 miles



The Oasis Buccaneers recently sailed through the Charlotte Thanksgiving parade.

NOW HIRING Oasis Hospitality Team Wants You

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involved?*

*Are you a new Shriner or
Shriner who's been around
for a while but has not been
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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.

Club and Unit Officer Orientation January 31

This year the orientation will have several new programs and opportunities for our clubs/units and it's VERY important for everyone to have their 2026 officers present. There are changes in club/unit awards, fundraisers, job assignments and even the Paper Give Away & Plaque Partnership programs that all will need to be aware of.

Due to the additional items needing to be covered, and to give an opportunity for our club/unit officers to interact, comment, and contribute to this year's meeting, we are starting at 9:30am and we'll strive to finish around 1:30pm.

As in past years, all treasurers are requested to bring **all** of their club/unit financial records, including but not limited to checkbooks, laptops, and any other items that are necessary to

complete the Club/Unit 2025 Financial Report. If the treasurer is not in attendance, the completed report is due **PRIOR to this meeting.**

As we break for lunch, the treasurers will meet with our Oasis Financial Team led by Noble Bill DePriest. At the completion of that meeting, all 2025 Club/Unit Financial Reports **MUST** be completed and turned in.

Please note that the reason for the emphasis on our financial reporting is to ensure that we are 100% compliant with IRS requirements and other financial reporting dates and deadlines. Please take this very seriously and perform **all** needed work **prior** to the meeting in order to have all reports ready to turn in by the end of the day.

Club and Unit Officer Orientation Agenda

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 9:30am | Welcome, Introductions, Invocation & Potentate's Comments | 11:05am | Aides & Committee Chairmen What, why, who, resources for the club/unit officers. |
| 9:40 am | Officer Duties; Club President, Club Secretary & Club Treasurer Including schedules, rosters, WebFez, dues, membership requirements, fundraising. | 11:15am | Fundraising, Accounting & Financials Process and procedures. |
| 9:50am | Officer Duties; Unit Captain, Unit Secretary, & Unit Treasurer Including membership requirements, difference between a parade/performing unit and a service unit, rules that pertain to membership in both and why. | 11:45am | Candy Distribution |
| 10:00am | Insurance Coverages and responsibilities of each club/unit officer for compliance with Oasis policy, explanation of required forms/paperwork including vehicle licenses, paying current fees, obtaining proper permission to parade, Q&A. | 12:00pm | Lunch Pick up from Sands and return to Auditorium to answer follow up questions. |
| 10:20am | Break | 12:30am | 2025 Club/Unit Recognition Program Club/Unit Quality Awards. Discussion on best practices and improvement opportunities. NOTE: All treasurers report to the Sands to complete and submit 2025 Financial Report. |
| 10:30am | Parades & Competitions Procedure to file required Parade Permission Authorization Form, where to find it in WebFez, who to send it to, timeline, difference between Shrine and civic parades and why, Imperial and South Atlantic Shrine Association rules/requirements for participation (i.e. helmets, competition fields, judging criteria, etc.), the line up and why we need to know who is planning to attend the parade/competitions, Q&A. | 12:40pm | Circus Discussion, Q&A. |
| 10:50am | Club/Unit Bylaws Officers should have a copy. Last time updated? Approvals. Reasons needed (orderly conduct, proof of unit existence, bank accounts, samples, etc.). | 12:50pm | Membership Committee, officer/first line signer expectations, introduction of the Rookie & Master Noble Programs, Q&A. |
| | | 1:00pm | Plaque Partnerships & Paper Crusade Discussion, Q&A. |
| | | 1:10pm | Desert Dust Discussion, Q&A. Size of articles, quality of photos, editing, deadlines, club/unit participation. |
| | | 1:20pm | Social media Discussion, Q&A. |
| | | 1:30pm | Potentate's wrap up, benediction & adjournment |



OASIS SHRINERS
Having Fun & Helping Children

Discontinuing Participation in the Outdoorsman's Bonanza

Submitted by the Stanly County Shrine Club Board of Directors and all members of the Stanly County Shrine Club

Greetings to all. The Stanly County Shrine Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have bought tickets for the Outdoorsman's Bonanza event between 2007 and 2025. The Stanly County Shrine Club has participated in this event for all these many years, and the largest portion of the proceeds received by the Stanly County Shrine Club from this event have been donated directly to Shriners Children's hospitals. Therefore, your participation in this event has helped many children in need. We thank you for your gracious past participation in this event.

Unfortunately, the Stanly County Shrine Club will no longer be

affiliated with the Outdoorsman's Bonanza beginning in 2026. So indirectly, Shriners Children's hospitals will no longer be a benefactor as well.

However, we would like to also take this opportunity to announce that several Shrine entities will join forces together and will be starting their own similar event to be held in the fall of 2026 in Stanly and neighboring counties. We hope that you will consider supporting this future event. More information will be sent as soon as it is finalized and becomes available.

Thank you again for your continued support in helping us help kids who cannot help themselves. You really have made a difference!

The Oasis KartAttacks Were A Busy Parading Unit This Holiday Season

The KartAttacks have been traveling all over, participating in several holiday parades this season. They had a great time visiting with the Porter Ridge Pirates cheerleading team at the Indian Trail parade and had a wonderful time at the

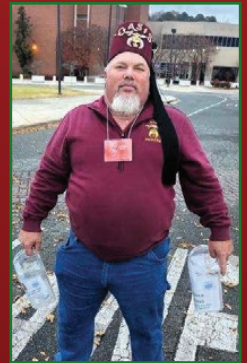
Fort Mill Christmas parade. They made new friends at the Waxhaw Christmas parade meeting the Marvin Ridge Marching Mavericks, the Cuthbertson High Marching Band and the Cuthbertson Mini Cav Cheerleaders.



Pickers at the 2025 Southern Christmas Show



The Oasis Pickers and their families provided support at the 2025 Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte NC, making the show an enjoyable experience for all.



Randolph Shrine Club Toy Drive

With Jesus riding shotgun, the Randolph Shrine Club delivered a car full of toys to Shriners Children's Greenville where an awesome Santa's workshop was all set up for the kids. The hospital was grateful for everyone's donations. Thanks to everyone who made this toy driver happen. Your kindness will help make a child smile this Christmas. Thank you and a million times more and God bless!



Breakfast with Santa



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Oasis Ragtop Unit Winston-Salem Shrine Club

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| Sherrie Vandergriff/Larry Hale | Jack & Kat Parrott |
| George & Carolyn Bass, Jr | James F. Huckabee |
| Driveway Cigar Lounge | Kay Kernstine |
| William & Robyn Vandresser | Rebecca Gaddy |
| Jean Kirkpatrick | Robert M. Kirkpatrick (husband) |
| Royal Order of Jesters | Ron Valentine |

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| John E. Holloway | |



Passed Within the Unseen Temple

| NAME | CITY, STATE | CREATED | DIED |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Joseph Ronnie Rhew | Asheville, NC | 6/11/2005 | 12/4/2025 |
| Elvin Frederick Valentine | Statesville, NC | 11/14/1981 | 11/9/2025 |
| Ronald Richard Bach | Lincolnton, NC | 11/3/1984 | 11/17/2025 |
| Lawrence Douglas Roberts | Pleasant Garden, NC | 4/2/2005 | 11/20/2025 |
| Allen James Carlye | Salisbury, NC | 6/3/2017 | 11/29/2025 |
| James Andrew Feimster | Gastonia, NC | 6/7/1997 | 12/2/2025 |

Club and Unit Bulletin Board

ASHE SHRINE CLUB

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month

Contact Noble Shannon Worley 336-877-6629

or Noble Mike Neaves 336-977-9122

Cabarrus Shrine Club

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!

1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC

704-933-2797 cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com

www.cabarrushrineclub.org

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CAROLINA DRIFTERS



Captain Paul Lawing

704-244-0014

paullawing82@gmail.com

Latona Temple # 154 Daughters of the Nile



Contact Betty Parker, PQ at

(704) 654-7108 or betty0340@bellsouth.net

www.daughtersofthenile.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



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

HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB

Join Us 2nd Mondays

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

HendersonvilleShriners@gmail.com | 828-280-4909

Mike's Pizza & Pasta, 803 Spartanburg Hwy, Hendersonville, NC

High Point Shrine Club



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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

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CONTACT SAM MOODY

sambo447@aol.com

980-722-7951

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

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



President John Dunbar

910-544-7624

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MT. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB

Contact: Noble Secretary

Mike Pritchard

828-442-9170



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Oasis Gator Patrol
Captain Jimmy Cline

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Newton, NC 28658

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

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Contact Jim Davis

cell (704) 309-1215

fyrbagpyper@gmail.com

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If interested in joining, please contact

Jack Devine @ 828-464-9886

or Gary Patterson @ 704-938-3930

Club and Unit Bulletin Board

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Oasis.KartAttacks@Gmail.com

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336-909-1830 Bcimagedr@gmail.com



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AT 336-430-5779
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Noble Matt Peeler, Captain
(704) 279-9154 | peelerm@windstream.com



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336-452-4600



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980-522-6226

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chiprollins@gmail.com

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OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB


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

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

PAST CAPTAINS CLUB


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

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



PIEDMONT PISTONS

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

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

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www.ncritecare.org

Shriners on Bikes



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803-610-7876

Union County Shrine Club

P.O. Box 324 Monroe, NC 28111



White Plains Shrine Club
Kings Mountain, N.C.


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



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



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