

# DESERT DUST

## Holiday Greetings







**Shriners International** 



## Your Potentate

Thank you to all Oasis Nobles and Ladies for your hard work in 2023! I hope this year has been a fun time for you and your families.

Once again, the Oasis Clubs and Units have come together and worked to support projects that raised awareness and money for the Shriners Children's Network. Many Shrine patients and their families count on our support to receive medical care to improve their quality of life.

We, as Oasis Shriners, are always up to the task. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of others. We should always be proud of our work. Oasis Shriners is recognized annually for leading all Shine Centers around the world in donations to Shriners Children's. It is an honor to wear the Oasis Fez.

Lady Leah and I thank you for your support in 2023. We have visited may clubs and units this year, seeing old friends and making new ones. We have been so proud to be a part of the Oasis family since 2008. You are our family and are very special to us.

We began 2023 with an amazing installation ceremony! Thank you, Illustrious Sir Todd Ham and Lady Mary. You gave us a special evening that set the bar very high for a year that was designed for FUN and increased membership!

In February, we met Shriners National Patient Ambassador Kaleb Wolfe. Kaleb and his mom, Marie, traveled to Greensboro, NC to support Noble Jim and Lady Cathy Turner at the 20th Annual Hot Rod & Car Expo. To celebrate, we hosted a black-tie event to allow Oasis to meet Kaleb. The Greensboro Shrine Club hosted several Imperial Officers, Oasis Divan, nobles and ladies. Kaleb had a great time and was made an honorary Oasis Shrine member.

In April, Illustrious Sir Tommy Helms and Lady Kelly helped coordinate the Great Wolf Lodge Family Fun Weekend. Oasis Shrine families joined Sudan Illustrious Sir Louis Smith and First Lady Pat, Sudan Divan, and Shriners at the Great Wolf Lodge.

This year, Oasis and Sudan celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Masonic Home for Children by inviting our kids from Oxford to join our weekend.

Many Masonic Lodges, Sudan and Oasis Shrine Clubs, Sudan and Oasis Shine Parade Units, and Sudan and Oasis Shrine families heard about this event and provided financial contributions to this worthy cause. Together, we were able to host 90 kids, house parents and family members at the Great Wolf Lodge for two nights. This act of love would not have been possible without the love and generosity of so many special people. Thanks to you, these kids had the opportunity to get away from home for a weekend. We are Shrine Masons and together we love our kids.

In June, we held our Spring Ceremony in Mount Airy, NC. Noble Jeff "Frog" Puckett, Noble Ron Sutphin, Nobles and Ladies from the Surry Mini Truckers, Surry Shrine Club and the Elkin-Jonesville Shrine Club came together to create an event that will not be forgotten. We enjoyed a great amount of fun and fellowship as we welcomed new Shrine families to Oasis. Thank you to all Nobles and Ladies who helped with this event. It was amazing! Illustrious Sir Bill Harward was the Class Honoree. He was presented with his Emeritus Award for honorably serving as our Oasis Treasurer for many years. Thank you, Illustrious Sir Bill!

Red Fez Family Fun Day was a special event as Oasis held our first ceremony on the lake. The weather was perfect, and the fragrance of fresh smoked BBQ filled the air. It was a fun family event with great food. Thank you to everyone at the Red Fez for everything. The kids caught some very nice fish in the lake. The food and fellowship were wonderful. The ceremony brought in several new Nobles on the beautiful weekend of fun. Thank you, Red Fez Family!

The Imperial Session was held in Charlotte in July. Illustrious Sir H. Mike Cook, served as the Director General and his team did an amazing job! Many Oasis Shriners and ladies assisted in many areas to make this event a success. Oasis was proud to be the host Shrine Center for this event and I was so honored to serve as your Potentate during this event. Oasis opened our doors to other Shrine Centers and celebrated all Grand Masters from around the world. We were honored to celebrate our North Carolina Grand Master of Masons, Dr. Kevan D. Frazier at this event. Amran, Sudan, and Oasis Shriners came together to celebrate the relationship we enjoy with our North Carolina Grand Lodge. It is an honor that our current Grand Master is a Noble of the Oasis Shrine Center. Nobles and Ladies from the Lincoln County and Mecklenburg Shrine Clubs joined forces to ensure the food and fellowship were perfect. I appreciate the support for this event. It was very special to many people because of our Nobles and Ladies.

Shriners in Marion, NC, hosted an event on July 15. Noble Mike Thompson, members of the Provost Guard and surrounding Shrine Clubs worked together to create a memorable event. We enjoyed a great meal and welcomed several new Shriners at this ceremony. Thank you again to everyone who participated.

Eighteen Oasis Shriners and friends traveled to Alaska on July 22-July 30. We had great meals, and the fellowship was excellent. Thank you to everyone who joined me and my family on this trip. We were honored by your presence. I will never forget the airplane rides, train, bus and side-by-side rides. It was daylight 19 out of 24 hours. Who could not be happy with so much daylight!

We joined our Oasis family in Franklin, NC for the 80's Flashback event in August. Noble Dave "Thumper" Lin and his team have created a very special event. Approximately \$28,000 was raised for Shriners Children's Greenville. We had a blast reliving the 80's music and clothing styles. I am excited to support this event in 2024! Congratulations, Noble Dave, on a great job! You are making a difference in the lives of many Shrine patients. The ceremony created 28 new Nobles!

The fall Ceremony was held in Asheboro on the last weekend of August. Thank you to the Randolph County Nobles who worked with Noble John Cable and Noble Harold Davis to make this event perfect. We had several candidates in Asheboro who walked the "hot sands." Nobles Bobby Trantham and Tommy Beason were honored as the co-class honorees. These two men have given much of their time, talents and means to support Oasis Shriners. Thank you, Randolph, Greensboro, and High Point Shrine Club Nobles and Ladies, for working together to support this event. Each of you did a great job.

September means Myrtle Beach and SASA! Oasis Nobles traveled to the beach and made an impression! We had great representation from our parade units even though a tropical storm came through the area. The storm didn't blow us away. Nobles Jimmy Owen and Rick Garver organized our units, and Oasis put on a great parade while taking home several trophies. Each of our units was well-prepared, and I was proud of the resilience displayed by each of you as you waited out the rain to parade. Some parade units came to SASA and could not participate. I understand and thank you so much for your efforts. We had a great time at the Saturday banquet with DJ Chad Sain. We raised some money, the Divan and several Nobles jumped in the pool for a cause. It was 11 pm, and the hotel security officer decided that was too late to swim.



## Your Recorder

Hello Everyone,
I hope this note finds you well. My next few articles will focus on our hospital kids, and I hope you enjoy reading their stories.
This month's focus is on D'Anayli. The following information is readily

available on Shriners Children's website, but I am more than happy to bring it to you personally.

"Phenomenal, wonderful, extraordinary," are just a few of the words that D'Anayli's father, Dane, uses to describe his family's experience at <a href="Shriners">Shriners</a> Children's Boston.

D'Anayli and her parents were referred by her local physician to reconstruct her soft palate and explore additional <u>craniofacial care</u>. "This recommendation has turned out to be one of the best decisions that we made in her young life," said Dane. "It yielded an effective long-term medical treatment plan for her, and it also draws together a community of caring professionals who cater to her total development, and the development of every child entrusted in their care."

Dane highlighted the sense of love and empathy exhibited by D'Anayli's care team as a primary reason for their satisfaction. "I recall being in an exam room for the first time and it was as if the staff were feeling what we as parents were feeling," he said.

During that first appointment, D'Anayli's entire craniofacial team was present, offering information, comfort and guidance. Dane recalls learning "some good news and some not so good news" that day about the road ahead, which the family understood would have some challenges. "Their empathy was clear, and I will never forget that first encounter when the team gave my family and D'Anayli the support that we needed. From there we realized that we were going to be in very good hands."

After a comprehensive evaluation before her first surgical procedure in Boston, D'Anayli's care team developed a detailed long-term approach that included speech therapy, dental and orthodontic evaluation, and routine monitoring to assess the need for additional craniofacial surgery. Periodic telehealth encounters are a key component of D'Anayli's care plan. This was particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel was greatly restricted.

In their six years of coming to Shriners Children's Boston, the family has developed strong bonds with

D'Anayli's care team. "All the staff we have interacted with have made an indelible impression on our journey," Dane said. He highlighted the special relationship that his family has with nurse <a href="mailto:care">care</a>
<a href="mailto:mailto

The family's relationship with Shriners Children's Boston has also included a willingness to share their experience with other patient families. In 2019, the family participated in an educational seminar at the hospital. During the seminar, Dane shared his perspective as a patient parent. It was an impactful moment for Dane, as he also had the opportunity to learn from other patient families.

Twelve-year-old D'Anayli has many creative interests. She shared that she loves music and particularly enjoys playing the piano. Her artistic talents are not limited to music. She also enjoys drawing and writing stories.

When the family is in Boston, visiting the <u>USS</u> <u>Constitution Museum</u> is at the top of their activity list. Located in the Charlestown Navy Yard, the USS Constitution is the oldest Navy ship still floating. "Every year, we visit. It is interactive and we have toured the ship. It's something we look forward to when we come to Boston," Dane said. The family also enjoys visiting the Museum of Science.

#### On the Cover

During the trip home following the Hayesville Ceremony on Saturday, October 21, Potentate Doug Garland, Chief Rabban Shea Fadel, Assistant Rabban Chris Hall, and High Priest and Prophet Tim Farris visited with Noble Howard Keyes in Asheville.

Noble Howard is 92 years young, an Oasis life member, Walt Disney Award recipient, and proud Past Captain of the Oasis Tripster Unit having made more than 250 trips to our hospitals. He is also a retired Major in the United States military.

Many Oasis Nobles and Ladies have fond memories of the late Lady Shirley and Noble Howard. He sends his warmest regards to everyone. We salute you, Noble Howard!

#### Reminder

All ads & articles for the January edition of the Desert Dust must be submitted to **Edie Wilson** at **Ediewilson7@gmail.com** by Dec 10.

Dane said he is grateful that D'Anayli is a patient at Shriners Children's. "We do not take it for granted. We see it as a blessing. You feel a sense of family here. You come here for a specific treatment plan, but the care is so comprehensive that it fosters a holistic development of the child."

Isn't this just a wonderful story of hope and perseverance. Just as a tidbit, D'Anayli's dad's name, Dane, is the same as my middle name, which is an uncommon name, so I view he and I as kindred spirits... ©

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 health care network and the children, like D'Anayli, that we serve.

#### **Gary Taylor**



Dane and D'Anayli



## **The Desert Dust**

#### Illustrious Sir Doug Garland, Potentate

604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262 Phone: 704-549-9600 OasisShriners.org

#### **2023 DIVAN**

Chief Rabban - Shea Fadel
Assistant Rabban - Chris Hall
High Priest and Prophet - Tim Farris
Oriental Guide - Donnie Wrenn
Treasurer - Bill Depriest
Recorder - Gary Taylor PP
1st Ceremonial Master - Scottie Cox
2nd Ceremonial Master - John G. Cable
Director - Jimmy Owen

Marshal - Tom Bridges

Captain of the Guard - Jack Wallace

Outer Guard - Regiamin Hamilton

**Outer Guard -** Benjamin Hamilton John Stanley (PP-1997) - Chaplain

#### **EDITOR**

Edie Wilson - Ediewilson7@gmail.com



## In This Issue

Your Potentate	2
Your Recorder	3
Oasis Shriners Schedule	4
2024 Divan installation invite	5
Celebrating our Veterans	6
Black Tie recap	7
Big Drum story	8
Haynesville new nobles	9
Black Tie new nobles	10
Chaplain's Corner	11
Treasurer's note	12
Club installations	13
Book Summary	14
High Point Shrine Club news	15
Shriners 2024 Bourbon Tour	17
2024 Potentate Punta Cana Trip	17
Oasis Pickers recap	18
Memorials & Honors	22
Donations	23
Passed Within the Unseen Temple	23

## 2024 Calendar will be available in next month's issue



## **Upcoming Events**

December 9th, 2023
Cat Square Parade Ceremonial
SEE PAGE 23

December 10th, 2023

Mecklenburg Shrine Club Elvis night

SEE PAGE 16

December 10th, 2023
Red Fez Shrine Club Grinchmas
SEE PAGE 14

#### Continued from page 2

I love making memories and this time, WE DID! Thank you to everyone who traveled to SASA. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Bill Carter for moving up a spot on the SASA Director Line. We know you will do great things.

Noble Greg Jones and several Nobles invited Oasis to Hayesville, NC, for an unplanned ceremony in October. We welcomed several new Shrine Masons, enjoyed the beauty of the mountains in Western North Carolina, and visited with Illustrious Sir David Sumpter. It was a great trip.

Oasis Shrine Center hosted a Military Appreciation Event, Memorial Service, and Black-Tie Ceremony the second weekend in November. Thank you, Noble Alan Marfin, Noble Eddie Wrenn, Oasis Hospitality Team, Illustrious Sir John Stanley and the Oasis Divan Nobles and Ladies. Each of you stepped up and made this event a success. Each event was amazing, and Oasis created four new Nobles while honoring Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, Dr. Kevan D. Frazier. Thank you to the Grand Line Officers and Past Grand Masters who attended. It was truly very special to see so many Oasis Fezzes on our current as well as Past Grand Masters. Thank you so much for your support. We cherish the great relationship with our Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Elections will be held on December 2, 2023, at 3 pm at the Oasis Shrine Center. I am writing this article prior to the elections. I hope that each of you will attend as we elect our new 2024 Board of Directors. I have been blessed to serve with each of these great men on the 2023 Divan. Each have your best interests at heart. They give many hours of their lives to serve. I hope you will join us at the Oasis Shrine Center to support these men.

Our last ceremony is at Cat Square, NC, located in Lincoln County. Oasis has created 145 nobles in 2023. I will shave my head, face, and eyebrows if we can create 55 new nobles at this event. My focus is on membership and fun. I have tried to promote having fun at each event. I am willing to do this to challenge each of you. The Lincoln County Shrine Club is working hard to prepare for this special event. Let's work together to make the goal. We need 55 Master Masons and 50 counties in Oasis jurisdiction. That is 1 person per county. Together, we can do anything.

Club and Unit Appreciation is Friday, January 5, 2024. Please make plans to attend. The University Hilton in Charlotte, NC is the host hotel. Make your reservation early. Oasis has a special rate of \$107 per night plus taxes. Come celebrate the great year we have had. Our theme on Friday is Jimmy Buffet. He knew how to have fun and we can honor the memory of a man who made us smile.

This is my last message as your elected Potentate. The year has raced by, and it is time to look forward to new leadership and fresh ideas. I can't thank you enough for the support given to Lady Leah and me. I appreciate Illustrious Sir Mike Neaves and Lady Bobbie for your confidence and support. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I have worked hard to serve each of you well. Thank you to the Oasis Divan Team 2023 for your support. Your hard work made all the difference. It has been a privilege

to serve with men who love each other and care about the nobility they serve. Together, we made a difference. Thank you to Noble Les Dix, Lady Edie Wilson, Oasis Social Media Team, Oasis Hospitality Team, Oasis Director Staff, Oasis Provost Guard, Oasis Ritualistic Cast, Oasis Potentate Guard, Oasis Office Support Staff, Illustrious Sir John Stanley. Thank you to my Chief Aide Noble Harold Davis and Lady Susan, Noble Bobby Trantham and Lady Linda, Lady Sherrie Vandergriff, Noble Mike Thompson. Noble Donnie Wallace, Noble John Cable and Lady Carol, Noble Donnie Wrenn and Lady Kim, Noble Shea Fadel and Lady Sandra, my in-laws Dan and Bobbie Johnson, my daughter Lauren, son Jackson, and my beautiful lady Leah who allowed me to serve. Thank you all!

I love each of you and I sincerely appreciated your support in 2023! May God bless each of you and keep you safe.

**Illustrious Sir Doug Garland** 



#### SUBJECT TO CHANGE

#### **DECEMBER**

14th

2nd Oasis Shriners Annual Meeting & 2024 Officer's Elections -

Oasis Shrine Center at 3pm

9th Cat Square C - 1-day Ceremony

Cat Square Divan Meeting

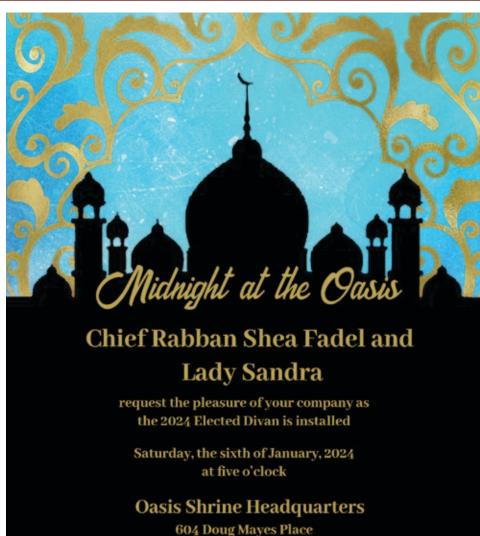
#### **JANUARY 2024**

**5th** Club & Units Appreciation Night -

Oasis Shrine Center

**6th** Installation 2024 Potentate -

Oasis Shrine Center



604 Doug Mayes Place Charlotte, NC

Followed by social, dinner, and music

R.s.v.p. 704-549-9600 by December 6, 2023

Black Tie - Formal no jeans



#### RESERVATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND

Here is the link to the Hilton Hotel for the nobility to book rooms <a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clthuhf-oai-8333c342-82fd-4086-9cb3-802645a353b4/">https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clthuhf-oai-8333c342-82fd-4086-9cb3-802645a353b4/</a>

The hotel number is 1-800-HILTONS and Group Code is OAI

We highly recommend that the guests use the website.

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 2024 Shrine Year during the

#### **Annual Meeting of Oasis Shriners**

**Day / Date:** Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 **Time:** 3:00 p.m. **At:** Oasis Temple

604 Doug Mayes Place, Charlotte, NC 28262

Current Shriners Dues Card is Required for Entry

# OASIS CLUB & UNIT EVENT

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024

Join us at Oasis Shrine Center | Doors open at 5pm 604 Doug Mayes Place • Charlotte, NC 28262

This celebration will be a fun-filled evening celebrating
Oasis Clubs and Units with a Jimmy Buffett Theme!
Entertainment by DJ Chad Sain

#### Let's start 2024 with a Fin and an Oar

RSVP: support@oasisshriners.org or call (704) 549-9600 by Jan. 3, 2024

































## Welcome to our Black Tie Ceremonial honoring NC Grand Master Dr. Kevin Frazier



































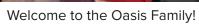
















## Rolling out "Big Al"

It's a story that takes us to Atlantic City where the drum appeared at the Imperial Council Session of May 1947. From there we can trace it to Dwight Eisenhower's Inaugural Parade in 1952. After that, its history is unknown until early 2000 when the Oasis Band discovered it in the Temple's storage room. That's when it was dubbed "The Big Al Bass Drum" (named in honor of Al Madsen who was serving as Oasis Potentate that year and later went on to become Imperial Potentate.)

Noble PC Johnnie Walker put together a team to refurbish the drum. This required many hours of labor and plenty of new materials. The finishing touch, however, was provided by Noble Marty Wilson who was commissioned to give the drum a cosmetic makeover with his paintbrush.

After all these years Marty began to wonder if he had ever signed his work. On November 11, at the Black Tie Ceremonial, Big Al was rolled out, and Marty was able to add his signature to his work. Oasis Band members lined up to pose for photos with this legendary piece of history. Well done!



The restored drum



Marty skillfully adds the design



At last, the chance to sign his work





Oasis Band drummers Earl Backham and Bill Kalbas with Marty



Three generations: Bella Cook with Adam Ohlmann and Pete Ohlmann





Three generations of Shriners



## 18 NEW SHRINERS COLD SANDS CEREMONIAL AT CLAY LODGE #301 HAYESVILLE, NC, 21 OCTOBER 2023

### Please welcome these new nobles to the Oasis family

#### **Noble Full Name**

Robert A Beeson Shayne B Boatwright Montgomery B Collins Stuart J Dalrymple

Jerry L Green

James K Green

Mark K Laney

Charles R Mathis

Jamie A Nichols

Steven L Pendergrass

Charlton R Rich

Jason S Robinson

Clint J Rogers

William A Vespasian III James W Waldroop

John A Waldroup

Michael E White

William E Yonce

#### Lady

Olivia Ann Natasha Rochelle Karly

Vicki

Peggy

Theresa

Porschia Dawn

Teaveana

Renee

Jessica

Waynda

Georgia

Sarah

Jaran

Crystal

Heather

Christine



## NEW SHRINERS, BLACK TIE CEREMONIAL 11 NOVEMBER 2023

#### **Noble Full Name**

Jeffery D. Amburgey Tameshwar Chandra Bahadur Eric Allan Beach James Robert Pearson

#### Lady

Kendra Laura Meghan

Please welcome these new nobles to the Oasis family

## 'Tis the season for holiday parades



Surry County comes out in force in West Jefferson!



So did the Gators.







Under the glittering Charlotte skyline the Oasis Big Bear and the Dune Cats are set to parade.



John Stanley, Chaplain

## **Surviving the holidays**

As we come to the end of the year, the memories of those who are no longer with us are felt more deeply! Several support organizations, such as The Compassionate Friends, have assembled suggestions to "get through" the holidays.

- 1) Plan ahead. Realize you will not be able to do everything with everyone. Decide what is truly important to you and to your family.
- 2) Don't be afraid to ask friends for help.
  - Tasks which may normally take little effort can feel overwhelming, whether it's preparing a meal, cleaning the house, or putting up decorations.
- 3) No one expects you to string rows and rows of lights just to prove you have the holiday spirit.
  - If you don't feel up to past efforts, you may simply want to place an electric-powered candle in your window in memory of your loved one.
- 4) Just because you've hosted holiday gatherings in the past doesn't mean you're obligated to this year.

- 5) Honor the memory of your loved one in unique ways that have special meaning to you.
- 6) If you don't get everything done you plan, be easy on yourself. Grief is tough work and you should never feel guilty for not getting everything done.
- 7) If you must shop for others, find a time when the stores are not extremely busy like early morning, or order on-line, or ask others to shop for you.
- 8) Participating in a memorial service, can be very meaningful.
  - This can be done in a formal service with others or through a short private candle lighting in the privacy of your home.
  - Consider attending a simple candle-lighting service rather than the usual festive service at your church.
- 9) Remember that the fearful anticipation of an approaching holiday is usually worse than the day itself.
- 10) Be gentle and kind to yourself.

John Stanley, is Chaplain of Oasis, and Chaplain of South Atlantic Shriners. He served as Imperial Chaplain when Imperial Sir Al Madsen was Imperial Potentate. John can be reached at: jhstanley1965@gmail.com.





## Notes from the Treasurer's desk:

As year's end approaches, I would like to take a minute to thank everyone for all they have done to make this past year successful. 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 effort to serve the children that need our help.

By now, clubs and units have elected their Officers and Directors for 2024 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 should have at least two accounts, one for operational transactions and one for all hospital related transactions. Please remember that you cannot, under any circumstance, comingle 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 had a few questions during this past year about the purpose and requirements of the annual financial report. As you may or may not know, clubs and units are not required to file any tax returns or reports with the Internal Revenue Service; however, we at Oasis are required to file two different returns with the IRS. The first is the normal return outlining the operations and results for Oasis, the second is a consolidation of all the information that is submitted by the clubs and units on those annual financial reports, along with a listing of all clubs and units that are included. The second consolidated return is the basis for each club and unit maintaining their ability to operate as a non-profit. The second 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. 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 or 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, and so we can file within the time requirements of the IRS. The form can be found on the Oasis website under ...membership...forms...financial...club & unit financial report, along with the instructions. This is the direct link: <a href="https://www.oasisshriners.org/membership/forms">https://www.oasisshriners.org/membership/forms</a>. If you prefer, this form is also available as an excel spreadsheet from WebFez. We will, again this year, be going over this at the training and update session coming up on January 27, 2024, 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 members of the Oasis family and wish each of you a fun filled Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.



## SPECIAL PRICING FOR ALL SHRINERS!



Special Pricing for used vehicles too!

All popular models · We Deliver!

#### CONTACT:

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

## **Club installations**



Immediately following the Black Tie Ceremonial the Oasis Ritualistic Cast Officers were installed and will be serving in their offices for the years of 2024-2025. They were installed by High Priest & Prophet Tim Farris. Officers installed were, L-R Noble Scott Carriker - Captain Noble John Trail - Lieutenant Noble Jeremy Hilton - Treasurer Noble Todd Hilderbrand - Secretary Noble Allen Hardy - Director of Work



On Nov 16 Divan Marshal Tom Bridges installed 1014 officers for the East Burke Shrine Club. Shown are left to right: Tom Bridges, Divan Pete Brittain, First Vice President Tom Crosby, President Cliff Becktel, Secretary Benny Rhoney, Second Vice President Bill Chapman, Treasurer.



Captain of the Guard Jack Wallace installed the 2024 officers of the Past Masters Unit:
President Gary Smith;
Treasurer Mark Shores;
Secretary Gordy Peeler



On November 14 the Lexington Shrine Club Installed Officers for the upcoming year. We were honored to have Illustrious Sir Doug Garland install our officers. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to assist us. Officers are from left to right:

Johnnie Leonard - Chaplain Martin Holder - 2nd VP Corey Doub - 1st VP Thomas Jolly Jr. - Secretary Tim Campbell - President Illustrious Sir Doug Garland William Fulbright - Treasurer (Not Pictured)

## WANTED

Local newspaper is seeking amateur photographers from Clubs and Units in every district to take pictures at Shrine events.

Action shots preferred. (Beer cans prohibited.)

#### **REWARD OFFERED:**

A byline in The Desert Dust

**SEND RESPONSE TO** 

Edie Wilson, Editor

ediewilson7@gmail.com

## **Shrine Trailer Travels for You**

Did you know the Shrine Hospital Trailer is available for your public 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.



Noble Sam is ready and willing to bring the trailer to your location, with advance notice.

980-722-7951 sambo447@aol.com

## From Basement to Rose Garden by Chuck Olson

#### **Book Summary**

A story about a young boy growing up who couldn't see out of the basement windows of the house he and his dedicated, single Mother lived in. She was his rock. He experienced racial prejudice at a mainly black school. He learned to persevere through hardships and became a leader early, not knowing he was born with a learning disability.

This boy learned to adjust in setting and achieving many goals as he was challenged at every turn. He excelled in sports, the military, being a provider, and experiencing how politics are handled in Washington, DC. He learned to communicate at all levels. He founded and co-founded, over twenty businesses – one of which produced 3.4 billion in international business last year.

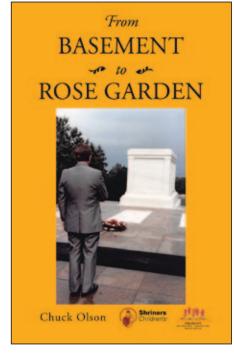
In 1988, during Small Business Week in Washington, DC, this man was honored by President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H Bush in the Rose Garden. He was selected out of 18 million small business owners in the United States to do what?

Over the past few years, he has concentrated on sharing what has been learned and giving back to others.

#### A Word From The Author

All proceeds from the purchase of this book will go to the Shriners Children's Hospitals and the Masonic Home for Children. They need our help.







Format: 6x9 Paperback Pages: 232 Paperback Price: \$24.95 ISBN (pbk): 979-8-88644-847-4







## **High Point Shrine Club in the news**

Submitted by Noble Bob Dye

For the High Point Veterans Day Parade held Nov 12, the club entered a float where nobles circled it with their scooters.



Noble Greg Key on his scooter



Nobles Greg Key and Bill Phillips ready to ride in the parade



Nobles Greg Key, Philip Martin, Bill Phillips



Capt. Bills Seafood Restaurant in Greensboro has been a supporter of the Oasis Paper Driver each spring by letting the High Point Shrine Club solicit donations for the Children.

Paper Driver Chairman Edd Little presented Bill Katsis, owner of Capt. Bill's, a plaque of appreciation from the club. Not only was he grateful to be acknowledged, his staff was also proud to know they helped support such a worthy cause as Shriners Children's.

### **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?

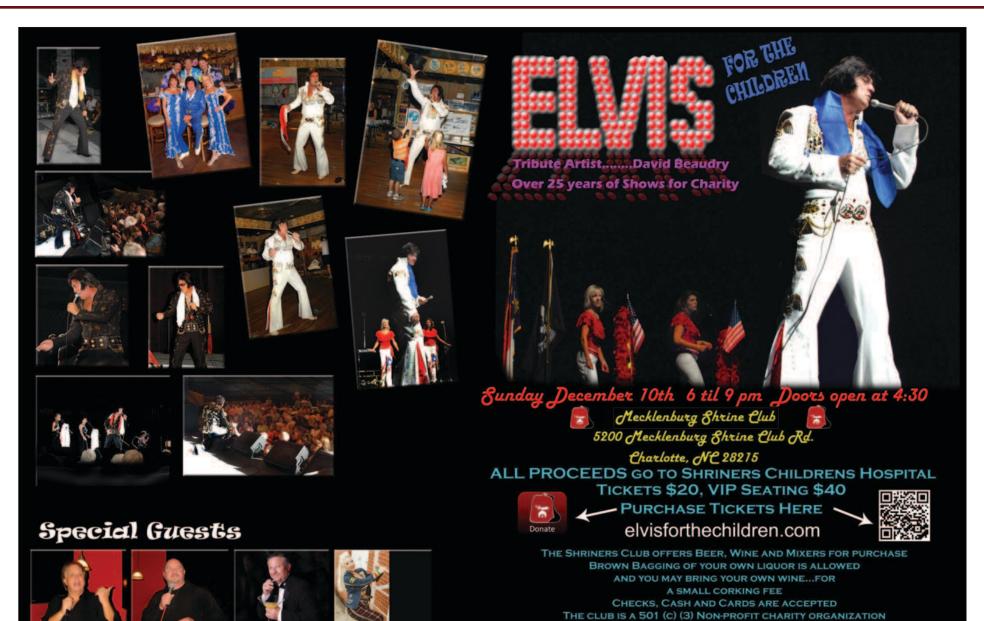
Join the Oasis Hospitality Team.



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

WE ARE THE OASIS HOSPITALITY TEAM

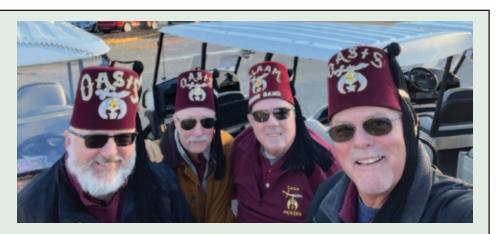
To learn more, please contact Dennis Grigg at (828) 781-0062. We look forward to hearing from you.





# Oasis Clubs and Units help out at Southern Christmas Show

Mecklenburg Shrine Club sent this photo of the thank you notes written by former patients and friends of Oasis.



Photography & artwork provided by Joanna DeHart Photography

Oasis Pickers helped out the Dune Cats at the Southern Christmas Show: Dave Mahan (Capt), Ken Goodrich (SG), John Latham (Librarian), David Leslie (2nd Lt). We had a Ball!



#### **Makers Mark • Four Roses • & many more!**

LODGING - Springhill Suites Louisville Downtown, 132 E. Jefferson St., Louisville, KY 40202 – P# 502-855-5000

Book your group rate for Oasis Shriners Potentate or Book your group Corporate Rate | Marriott International Room Rate for a KING SUITE \$139.00 plus occupancy tax est. 16.07 % estimate cost per night \$164.00

#### Concessions:

- Complimentary wireless internet in guestrooms
- Reduced self-parking at \$12 per vehicle/per night (includes in/out privileges)
- Daily breakfast buffet provided complimentary.

**Book your Bus Tour with Oasis HQ - 704.549.9600** 

#### **BOURBON TOUR BUS INFO!**

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024: BUS TOUR**

8:30 AM Coach arrives at Louisville pick-up location / Guests board. 8:45 AM Depart for tour.

#### Day of Touring to Include:

- Guided Tour and Tasting at Makers Mark Distillery
- Guided Tasting at Bardstown Bourbon Company
- Lunch at Bardstown Bourbon Co.
- Guided Bourbon Tasting at Heaven Hill Distillery
- Enroute commentary provided by your expert, native Tour Guide 4:30 PM Coach arrives back to Louisville pick-up location / Guests depart.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024: BUS TOUR

9:00 AM Coach arrives at Louisville pick-up location / Guests board. 9:15 AM Depart for tour.

#### **Day of Touring to Include:**

- Guided Bourbon Tasting at Four Roses Distillery
- Guided Tour and Barrel Tasting at Whiskey Thief Distilling Co.
- Lunch at Staxx BBQ
- Guided Tour and Tasting at Buffalo Trace Distillery
- Enroute commentary provided by your expert, native Tour Guide 5:45 PM Coach arrives back to Louisville pick-up location / Guests depart.

Bus Tour for Thursday & Friday is based on a Minimum of 45 people each day. The cost for both days will be \$380.00 per person.

#### \*\* SPECIAL EVENT on Saturday, April 20, 2024 \*\*

The opening event for the Kentucky Derby season, Thunder Over Louisville, will take place at the Waterfront Park in Downtown Louisville. Airshow begins just after 2:00 PM until the firework display later that evening at 9:30 PM. Please prepare accordingly for large crowds and possible street detours. Use this website for details & FAQ's, <a href="https://thunderoverlouisville.org">https://thunderoverlouisville.org</a>





To reserve, contact our travel agent: (separate air options available)
Mica Minor
704-965-2332
allwaystrav@gmail.com

## 2024 Oasis Shriners Potentate's Trip July 16 – 21, 2024 | Finest Resort, Punta Cana, DR

Modern elegance meets impeccable style at Finest Punta Cana, where guests will discover both family-friendly areas and secluded adults-only offerings. An elevated vacation awaits with our seven onsite pools, twelve world-class restaurants, sixteen bars, outstanding family suites, kid-friendly mini water pools, and our renowned ONE spa and their extraordinary treatments and hydrotherapy.

Finest Punta Cana is the idyllic beach destination. Here everyone can find time to celebrate with the people they love most. This all-inclusive resort offers 23 different types of rooms to suit your needs with choices including refundable and non-refundable options. The resort offers standard room options, options for families, luxury options for families and luxury options for adults only areas.

Book now for the best pricing and best available room! They are filling fast! Options start at \$466 per night taxes & resort transfer fee included. If you choose a refundable rate a major credit card will guarantee your booking and payment will not be charged until 30 days prior. If you select a nonrefundable rate, payment in full will be required at the time of booking.

\*Allways Travel has arranged a reduced rate for us. There is no extra cost to book through a travel agent and we will do our best to coordinate the group through the Travel Agency.

## Oasis Pickers "roll" through 2023!

Submitted by Dave Mahan, Oasis Pickers Captain

The Oasis Pickers are celebrating the unit's success in 2023! This was our first full calendar year as a unit and I believe we "knocked it out of the park." Take a look at the highlights below:

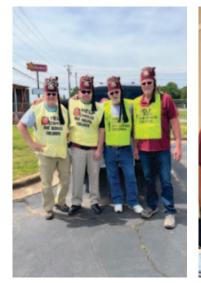
#### 2023 Oasis Pickers highlights:

- Earl Scruggs Center JAM session Shelby
- Imperial Website Video International
- Oasis Patrol Ladies Night (Open JAM) Charlotte
- JAM Hendersonville Shrine Club (\$200 Hospital donation)
- Saint Patrick's Day "get together" Rutherfordton
- Masonic Meet & Greet / Open JAM (hospital project) - Columbus
- Open JAM Night Greensboro Shrine Club
- Parade Trailer Rebuild & Wrap
- Mt. Airy JAM / Ceremonial / Parade
- Red Fez Family Fun Day / JAM Charlotte
- Imperial Session / JAM Charlotte
- Ceremonial / JAM Marion
- Sub JAM Areas created Rutherfodton, Rockville & Yadkinville
- James K. Polk Lodge / JAM Pineville
- SASA JAM / Parade / 1st Place Country Western Band - Myrtle Beach
- NCMHC Homecoming -Parade cancelled, made road trip anyway! - Oxford
- 6 Guitar YOUTH Giveaways Greenville Shriners Children's & MM&G
- Southern Christmas Show (help Dune Cats / \$1000)
   "Escort Service" Charlotte
- Guitar Drawing (Hospital Project) We The People Guitar - \$2,475 for Shriners Children's
- Helped Thermal Belt Shrine Club Paper Sale & Car Show
- 10 Gun drawing (Fraternal Project) \$3,433
- Statesville Past Master's Night Open JAM
- Unit Year End Banquet Gaston County Shrine Club - Dallas
- Christmas Parades Spenser, Salisbury, Forest City
- UNIT GROWTH (38 Members) and Desert Dust articles















From the Earl Scruggs Center, the Imperial Video that followed and refurbishing an old parade trailer to helping Shriner's Kids with guitars / lessons, AND taking first place in our unit category at SASA, I just can't say enough good stuff about the 38 Nobles (and their families) that continue to build this "new unit!"

I also MUST thank ALL of the Club Presidents, Unit Captains and Divan Members who have supported us as we got started and continue to do so today. We would not have been as successful had we not been allowed to publicize what we were doing, used their facilities and allowed/invited to work with them. THANK YOU!!















## OASIS YOUNG SHRINERS CLUB

**BRANDON PENLEY - PRESIDENT** 

THOMAS SUMPTER - VICE PRESIDENT ROBBY SAYE - SECRETARY/TREASURER If you are under forty and interested in joining -

## Cabarrus Shrine Club

Address: 1460 Oakwood Ave, Kannapolis NC

Contact oasisyoungshriners@gmail.com

Nobles, Ladies and Guests Welcome!
Phone: 704-933-2797
Email: cabarrushrineclub@gmail.com

Web: www.cabarrusshrineclub.org
Like us on Facebook: Cabarrus Shrine Club

## **OASIS SHRINE CLOWNS**



Accepting New Members
No Experience Necessary
Come and join us and
put a smile on the face of a child!

Contact Barry Winecoff with The Oasis Shrine Clowns at 704-517-0014 or toyoclown@gmail.com

# The Greensboro Shrine Club

5010 High Point Road Greensboro, NC 27407

Call 336-707-6588 for information.

#### MT. MITCHELL SHRINE CLUB

Centrally located in McDowell County

Contact: Noble Secretary Mike Pritchard 828-442-9170



## **PAST CAPTAINS CLUB**

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



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

## **Shriners on Bikes**



#### CONTACT:

STEPHEN TRITES

STRITES@

ROCKETMAIL.COM

803-610-7876

## OASIS HIGHLANDERS

## PIPES & DRUMS

Contact Rich Hartman cell (814) 746-0466 rohartman48@gmail.com





## **Oasis** Keystone Kops

Join us and have a fun time while raising money for the Shriners Hospitals!

CONTACT
CAPTAIN JERRY WILLIAMS
FOR INFORMATION

704 536 5628 jerryw571936@gmail.com



## Club and Unit Bulletin Board





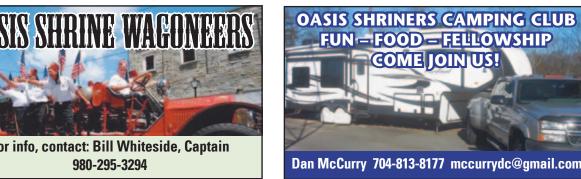


**Contact President Bill Loeser** 

910-759-0571

Be sure to "LIKE" our Moore County Facebook page to see many photos!







## OASIS ORIENTAL BAND



CONTACT **CHIP BURCH** 336-430-5779 FOR MORE **NFORMATION** 











#### Valley of Franklin

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





Working together to benefit the children of Shriners Hospitals

Latona Temple # 154

Daughters of the Nile

Contact Betty Parker, PQ at (704) 654-7108 or betty0340@bellsouth.net www.daughtersofthenile.com

## DID YOU PLAY IN A HIGH SCHOOL **BAND OR COLLEGE BAND?**



IF SO WE **NEED YOU!** 

**CAPTAIN - NOBLE CHUCK REED** 847-502-0872

Captain

Ryan

**Eaton** 



Riding around with the Top Down...



Raising money for Shriners Hospitals for Children

Captain Ken Klutz: 704-239-6811



#### **OASIS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS**



(574) 312–0713 ryanceaton79@gmail.com





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

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





## SEEKING OLD DESERT DUST NEWSPAPERS TO SCAN!

The Oasis Historical Preservation
Society is in search of old Desert Dust
newspapers to scan and preserve for
generations to come. We currently
have some of the issues from 19351942, no papers from 1943-2001, and
no papers from 2003-2012 with the
exception of 2008. We have all paers
from 2013 to present.

If you happen to have these issues and would be willing to loan for a short period of time for us to scan, please contact Noble Chris Hall, Assistant Rabban or Noble Scottie Cox, First Ceremonial Master.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

#### **ASHE SHRINE CLUB**

Meeting the 3rd Monday of every month

Contact Noble John Brown 336-977-8668

or Noble Alex Edmisten 336-467-4478



Contact Captain Scottie Cox at 704-467-3677 or scottcox67@aol.com to join the Oldest Unit of Oasis Shriners

## HENDERSONVILLE SHRINE CLUB



Monthly meetings, 2nd Monday of the month, 5:45 social, Dinner 6:30, programs, entertainment and fellowship

Contact: www.hendersonvilleshriners.com



#### Like to Homebrew?

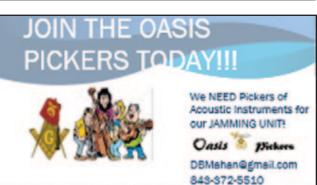
Join the Oasis BrewMasters today!

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

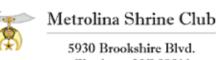


We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Fairview Masonic Lodge #339 in Kings Mountain. The meal is at 6:30 and the meeting is at 7:00.

Pres. - Chandler Champion / VP - Charles Bullock Email: WhitePlainsShrineClub@gmail.com







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

President: Vice President: Secretary Bucky Oates Twig Dixon Jon Tilley | 704-941-7982



If you have not signed up for Shriners Village, do so today.

Shriners Village is a website designed to keep members of Shrine International up to date on all aspects of Shrinedom.

Simply google Shriners Village and follow the instructions. **So easy, even a Shriner can do it.** 

www.shrinershq.org www.twitter.com/shriners www.facebook.com/shrinersinternational





#### Refer a Patient

In addition to injury care, our hospital treats over 85 different orthopedic and neuromuscular conditions.

Refer a patient to be seen virtually or in-person by calling 866-459-0013 or fax a referral form to 864-240-3111.

All patients are treated regardless of a family's ability to pay or insurance status. Free transportation is available, upon request, to and from our hospital and outreach clinics. Interpreter services are also available.

### **Honors**

#### **DONOR**

Randolph Shrine Club R Brevard Callahan

The DML Charitable Fund / Mr. Daniel S O'Connor & Maria O'Connor

#### IN HONOR OF

Freddie Latham In Honor of Great Granddaughter & Patient at SHC Greenville Jessilyn Callahan In Recognition of Randolph Shrine Club and Fun in the Sun Annual Fund

### **Memorials**

#### **DONOR**

Tommy & Sue Arakas Gary & Jen Hinesley **Neal Craven** Kim & Terry Foxx Al & Faye Green Dan McCurry Jim & Judy Coleman Randolph Shrine Club Brenda E Marcum Paul & Sybil Hagerty Ron & Ruth Patten Jerry H Moretz Sr Paul & Sybil Hagerty

#### IN MEMORY OF

Catherine V Arakas Charles Fowler David 'Chigger' Chrisco David Pace Hilda Mae Walker Stalker Hilda Mae Walker Stalker Hilda Mae Walker Stalker Hilda Mae Walker Stalker Neil Marcum Pat McCurry Pat McCurry Robert 'Bob' Wand Shirley Keyes

#### The 3 Ruffians

Original Handcrafted Woodwork





Large 19 1/2" X 37" Wavy Flag \$250 **Custom Design** \$300

Large 19 ½" X 37" Flat Flag \$200 \$250 **Custom Design** 



Small 12" X 22" Wavy Flag \$150 Custom Design \$200

Small 12" X 22" Flat Flag \$100 \$150 Custom Design



Plaque 15" x 11"

Price starting at \$100 depending on design.

#### **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE OASIS PROVOST GUARD**

William Holloway (828) 460-0706 Chuck Hoyle (864) 327-2904 Chris Lister (828) 460-4775

the3ruffians@yahoo.com

## **Donations**

#### **CLUB & UNIT DONATIONS**

AMOUNT	DONOR
\$900.00	Appalachian Shrine Club
\$2,369.00	Avery County Shrine Club
\$4,080.00	Elkin-Jonesville Shrine Club
\$500.00	Foothills Shrine Club
\$33,822.66	Gaston County Shrine Club
\$1,315.00	High Point Shrine Club
\$8,531.73	Lake Norman Shrine Club
\$17,074.74	Oasis Mountain Buggies
\$5,670.00	Robbinsville Shrine Club
\$6,856.46	Statesville Shrine Club
\$4,256.00	Thermal Belt Shrine Club
\$11,000.00	Western NC Shrine Club

## **Passed Within the Unseen Temple**

NAME	CITY, STATE	CREATED	DIED
James Emerson Newton	Mt. Holly, NC	8/24/1985	7/2/2023
Tony Lee Willis	Kings Mountain, NC	4/2/2005	10/13/2023
Dennis Edwin Edwards	Etowah, NC	1/25/1992	9/13/2023
Moffett Albert Scism	Kings Mountain, NC	1/25/1992	9/10/2023
Broward Paul Davis	Hendersonville, NC	6/8/1996	8/19/2023
William Henry Melchor	Salisbury, NC	5/30/1981	10/24/2023
Bobby Gene Knight	Indian Trail, NC	10/28/1972	10/27/2023
Richard Roland Smith	Reidsville, NC	11/4/1995	8/27/2023

#### **OTHER DONORS**

James O Russell

B A Sims	James P McManus
Billy Carithers	James W Davis
	James W Elkins
Boyce G Mauney	
Bruce D Putnam	Jerry D Koonce
Bryant D Webster	John D Powell
Charles S Williams	Johnny R Sandidge
Chesley M Greene	Joseph A Scott
Dahl J Tritt	Joseph C Moore
Daniel T Moss II	Lawrence E Huggins
Danny A Brittain	Malcolm D Goss Jr
Danny T Caudill	Morgan & Sn Saw Shop
David L McConnell Jr	Mr. & Mrs. Robert E Gresham
David L Smith	Nequassa Chapter No 43 OES
David P Herrmann	Richard A Bass
Dean R Gordon	Richard V Puckett
Douglas L Neese	Robert L Yoder
Francis M Gaddis	Ron D Vilas
Frank D McAllister	Ronnie V Franks
Gary D Anderson	Stephen Y Sweet
George H Hun	Stimpson McRae
H E Pressley	Teddy J McRae
Harold K Roberts Jr	Thomas Lee Slate
Henry H Atwell	Timothy M Glenn
Henry J Bell	Vance G Neece
Jack B Boyles	William B Ritchie
James E Spence III	William H Dennis Jr



**RANDY MARION OASIS SHRINER** 

**BEN GOINS OASIS SHRINER** 



**RANDY MARION II OASIS SHRINER** 

BEN GOINS JR. **OASIS SHRINER** 

























## SPECIAL PRICING FOR ALL MASONS AND SHRINERS!

## THE KING OF PRICE!

MOORESVILLE - STATESVILLE -**HUNTERSVILLE - HICKORY - WILKESBORO** 

### RANDY MARION CHEVROLET BUICK CADILLAC

220 WEST PLAZA DRIVE MOORESVILLE, NC 28117 (704) 664-3303

### RANDY MARION **BUICK GMC**

13701 STATESVILLE ROAD **HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078** (704) 659-7010

### RANDY MARION CHEVROLET OF STATESVILLE

**601 GAITHER ROAD** STATESVILLE, NC 28625 (704) 253-4169

## RANDY MARION SUBARU

301 WEST PLAZA DRIVE MOORESVILLE, NC 28117 (704) 663-4994

## RANDY MARION **FORD LINCOLN**

1030 GATEWAY CROSSING DR. STATESVILLE, NC 28677 (704) 235-6218

## RANDY MARION SAV-A-LOT

800 HIGHWAY 70 SW HICKORY, NC 28602 (828) 267-5700

### RANDY MARION **CHRYSLER DODGE** JEEP RAM

2000 US-HWY 421 WILKESBORO, NC 28697 (336) 667-2886

## *WWW.RANDYMARION.COM*