

The Villages Shrine Club Newsletter

January and February 2020

This newsletter will continue to focus primarily on what is upcoming, if anything special or not, and include a calendar of events for the period covered above, although it will contain important information and highlights of what has been going on also.

Lastly, this, and all future newsletters will be sent electronically to all our members to save our very limited dollars and apply them to the most important funding we do – The Shriner’s Health Care for Children in Tampa, Florida. The newsletter is published on the Villages Shrine Club web page also, www.thevillagesshrineclub.org. Our Secretary, Noble Jim Chaffin, indicates we have only a handful of our members who do not have an email address, while most do. If you are reading this and know of one of the few nobles who do not have email access, please share and remind them of our meetings and events. Also, remember the above web page, www.thevillagesshrineclub.org, and to frequently check for updates and important information that can be, and is published, faster than we could ever possibly do by regular mail in years past. Also, check the Villages Daily Sun Rec News, published the Thursday before our scheduled meeting, which is the second Tuesday of the each month, with a social hour at 6:00 pm and the meeting at 7:00 pm, as to time, place and what is scheduled for food. The Rec News does limit our space to 50 words or less and has to edit comments exceeding that. We’ll try to put the menu in the Rec News announcement, and include what we are asking members to bring, guest speakers, guests, entertainment and dignitaries scheduled to attend (if any).

As is the usual custom, and for the benefit of all as well as those who have just relocated to The Villages, and recently affiliated with the Shrine Club, in addition to upcoming events, a brief biography of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents are included at the end of this newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE OUTGOING PREZ (Gary Gray): Nobles:

Calendar of Events

Stated meetings for the January and February meetings of The Villages Shrine Club, are as follows:

14 January 2020: Stated meeting begins at 7:00 pm, social hour begins at 6:00 pm with the Club providing fried chicken, members requested to bring sides to share as follows: (with last names beginning with the letters) A-E Desserts, F-J Potatoes, K-O Salads and Appetizers, P-Z Vegetable dishes. Illustrious Sir Ed Sexton, Potentate of Bahia Shrine and members of the Bahia Divan (and their ladies), will be in attendance for the installation of officers for 2020. **Note the changes in the alphabet assignments.** We are trying to mix them up a little so folks aren't stuck making the same thing and we get a varied assortment of favorite foods.

11 February 2020: Stated meeting begins at 7:00 pm, social hour begins at 6:00 pm. Dinner is planned and will be: Chili, or something else. We'll announce what exactly is to be done at our January meeting.

Again, just so everyone knows what our by-laws call for, and procedural events that are coming as a result, in the future:

A Nominating Committee is announced to the Board no later than 30 September 2019, and annually thereafter for all that follow. **We still need a Second Vice President in Training as soon as possible.** This Noble will work with the current 2nd Vice President to ensure he knows the ins and outs of the meals we will have and how to procure items needed, among other things.

If anyone is interested in being the Second Vice President in Training, understand that in January 2021, you will be installed as Second Vice President, and 3 years later, President, unless for some unforeseen reason you are unable to continue.

Election notices sent out by mail or email in October

Membership cards mailed to Honorary Members on 1 November.

Budget presented in November meeting.

Election of Officers in November.

Shriner of the Year Award Presented in December. A note to all at the December 2019 meeting, Noble Bob Woodsford was presented with the Shriner of the Year Award for all that he has done for both the Villages Shrine Club, Bahia, the Shriners Healthcare for Children in Tampa and Masonry in general. Bob has been a tireless worker, one that can always be counted on.

Potentate's gift in January, while he is at The Villages Shrine Club for Installation of officers.

Bahia Shrine Temple has several events upcoming. Their website contains many more specifics and you can sign up for email notification of all that is going on. Go to www.bahiashriners.org and set up a notification to receive their updates. Also, just so everyone knows as we advised in the last newsletter, Bahia is not currently sending out a paper Caravan, rather, it is located on their web site also. In addition to the Shrine, the following is a listing of various other Masonic bodies that we have available.

The Villages Masonic Lodge #394 – meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Wildwood Masonic Lodge Building, Georgia St., Wildwood, FL. A social lunch is held at 12:30 with the stated communication held at 1:30. In

their monthly trestleboard, a page has a page dedicated to all appendant bodies in the local area, as to time and place of meeting.

The Valley of Ocala, Orient of Florida, of the Scottish Rite. Meets at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 3632 NE 7th St., Ocala, Florida on the first Monday of each month. The Executive Board meets at 5:30pm, dinner is at 6:30 pm and the monthly meeting is at 7:30 pm.

Our annual **Golf Tournament** has been cancelled. While the golf tournament has been cancelled, please think about a substitute fundraiser to take its place. It seems to me that before any fundraiser is cancelled, we should, as a Club, have a new fundraiser scheduled and discussed to take its place. If you have any thoughts about what we, as a Club, can do to raise monies, please contact the soon to be installed President, Emmett Mills at 633 0101 and give him your input.

We still need a food committee: Nobles – to assist the Second Vice President and Second Vice President in training, we need volunteers to provide for the placement of table clothes, help serve the food and do a quick clean up at the end of the meeting. Many of the Ladies of Al Kora currently assist in cleaning up after the meeting has ended. Seems like that is not their job. This is our meeting, The Villages Shrine Club, and we should be doing the work, not the Ladies. At least 3 members are needed to ensure that the food is served, and tables set up, and cleaned up after. One more job that volunteers can do, one for those who cannot stand at a door for several hours at the paper drive, that only takes a few minutes to do, but is a very important part of the meeting.

Phil Dirt and Alex Santoriello shows: We still need somebody to do the leg work on these shows and advise the Club what is happening and what monies we expect to receive from the group. It may be that the collections at the end of their performance are determined to be enough, although collecting money in a **Fez** is not a good thing to do in my view.

Paper Drive for the Spring and Fall of 2020:

Saturday, 28 March 2020 Publix at Mulberry
Saturday, 24 October 2020

Friday, 10 April 2020 Publix at Colony
Friday, 23 October 2020

Friday, 10 April 2020 Walmart at Route 466 East and West
Saturday, 11 April 2020 doors
Friday, 23 October 2020
Saturday, 24 October 2020

Signups will begin at the 14 January 2020 meeting.

Noble Bob Williamson entertained all at the December meeting. A most enjoyable time. Thanks Bob.

Volunteers were still needed for many events. Contact the President, Emmett Mills, for the duties needed.

Noble Cliff Weiner, our treasurer, suggested that we try to involve the Widows and Widowers to Keep them active and involved in our activities. This is a great suggestion as we just completed the now annual Celebration of Life Ceremony for those of our Nobles who had passed on the year of 2019. All widows and widowers are always invited to attend all our meetings and functions and to be involved. Their participation is invaluable, as was their spouses' who are no longer with us.

Noble Jim Chaffin, our secretary, is keeping Attendance and Volunteer Records, which will be used in the future to make the Club run more smoothly and with greater efficiency, as well as provide our leadership with a list of workers.

As a reminder, and note of what we plan on having for meals at our stated meetings:

January – Installation of officers by the Potentate and members of his Divan. A fried chicken dinner will be provided by the Club with members requested to bring items as listed according to the initial of their last name as announced in the newsletter, rec news and monthly meeting.

February – Chili (Or something else).

March – Irish Stew (Or something else).

April – Hot Dogs (Or Something else). Remember the Veterans Day Celebration, which is open to all and held at a venue to be announced. Invite your friends to purchase a ticket, which will include entertainment and dinner.

May – Pizza. Remember the Bahia Circus during the month of May.

June, Ice cream, pretzels, and chips. Members provide toppings.

July and August – Dark

September – Ice cream, pretzels and chips. Members provide toppings.

October – Sandwiches, chips and condiments.

November – Turkey dinner provided by the Club. Members asked to bring sides according the initial of their last name and announced at meeting, rec news and the newsletter.

December - Heavy Hors D'oeuvres.

Note: This is, again, for planning purposes only. Things may and do change, but this is a tentative list of things the Club is planning. Where it is indicated “or something else”, that information will be provided to all if and when a meal is changed.

Remember our sick and distressed folks:

Noble George and Lady Renee Edwards – Noble George is still working on his recovery.

Noble Ken and Lady Noel Jennewine – Lady Noel is home and recovering from her medical issues.

Noble Harvey and Lady Deborah Pinney – Lady Deborah has fallen and is recovering her medical issues as well.

Noble Casper John Alissi and Lady Melodi – Noble John has passed away and Lady Melodi has fallen.

Noble Frank and Lady Joan Charlton – Noble Frank passed away on 4 January 2020.

Cards on behalf of the Club have been sent to all.

Duties: We still need a backup for our officers and workers. Just because one person does a particular task, that does not mean nobody else needs to know how he conducts that task. Ours is not a guessing game where we may think we have answers. We must know what to pass on to the next person who assumes our duties. For Example: Who do you call for food? Where do you go for the paper drive? Who is the paper drive coordinator? Who are the store managers and their phone numbers, are but a few items to write down and share with another worker? The primary question is: “How do you do what you do”? We need to have an orderly relief of every person who has stepped up to any volunteer position by providing them with enough information to enable them to do that job. Perhaps the Club needs a book of some sort to pass on to each officer in the line, or other worker who does a specific task.

Some more things to think about. This is your club, the Villages Shrine Club. What convinced you to join the Shrine, after becoming a Master Mason? Was it purely a philanthropic decision or did you want to have a social gathering with like-minded Masons who supported the hospitals, clinics or burns centers? Do you think we, as a club, do too many things that would require you to volunteer to work, and not enough fun things? Are we just a group, or are we a group that works for the Children at Tampa and around the Country? What about the meetings: Too long, too short, not enough guest speakers of interest, too formatted, not formatted enough? We are always looking for input from you, the membership, as to how to make the Club better. Our collections for Tampa are not a competition. We do not try to do better each year than the previous year. All we, as a Shrine organization, try to do is collect what we can. After all, this is a Shrine Club. Send me a note on your thoughts or call me if you can. You can use the contact information at the web site, where you are reading this.

Al Kora Events

Even though this is a Villages Shrine Club newsletter, the ladies of Al Kora, which are such an important part of the Shrine organization here in The Villages, their meetings are included in this newsletter so that everyone reading this can ensure their wives, and widows also, that they are welcome at all Al Kora and Villages Shrine Club events and they know when they are held. Ladies, a public thank you for all you do for both the Club and the Shrine.

21 January 2020 – Board meeting at home of Carolyn Moynihan, President, 2019 at 9:30 am.

25 January 2020 - Melon Patch Theatre – “Hounds of the Baskerville” fundraiser/play for the Shriners Healthcare for Children in Tampa. Play begins at 2:00 pm. Tickets are still available from Janine Woodsford and she will have some available at the January meeting of the Shrine Club. Call Janine at 352 430 5804 if you require any tickets.

28 January 2020 – Al Kora Club meeting for installation of officers for the year 2020 to be held at the Cottage Inn at 10:30, followed by lunch. Members and guests usually gather at around 10:00 am, with the meeting beginning at 10:30.

Garage Sale at the Home of Madeline Windmiller. Questions can be asked of Sharon Wiener.

18 February 2020 – Board meeting at the home of Janine Woodsford, President for 2020.

25 February 2020 –Al Kora Club meeting at the Cottage Inn at 10:30, followed by lunch. Members and guests usually gather at around 10:00 am, with the meeting beginning at 10:30.

Officer Biographies for The Villages Shrine Club for the year 2019:

President Gary Gray

My original home is the Outer Banks of North Carolina, but being an Army brat, I was born in Nuremburg, Germany. After one year in Germany, my father was stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia with the Presidential Honor Guard, where we lived for almost 10 years. After his retirement, we continued to live in Arlington, Virginia until I got married and remained in Northern Virginia area with my wife. We have 3 boys and 1 daughter, plus 8 grandchildren living all over the country. I was employed as a salesman for a wholesale chemical company until I retired in 2006. I was first raised as a Master Mason here in the Villages, at the Villages Masonic Lodge #394 in 2013, and became a member of the Villages Shrine Club and Bahia Shrine in 2015, also joining the Yellow Jackets Scooter Club, and lastly becoming chairman of the Shrine Club golf committee. It gives me great pleasure to assist in raising money to help the Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa.

First Vice President Emmett Mills

Beginning with High School, I attended Shrine High School in Royal Oak, Michigan and graduated in 1965. After High School, I attended the University of Georgia Tech, where I was also a student athlete, and received a BS in electrical engineering and later, a master's degree at Oakland University.

I entered the U.S. Navy in 1967 and served until September 1972. During my time in the Navy, I served with Seal Team #2 and specialized in underwater demolition, as well as satellite communication. Injured in 1972, while serving in the Vietnam Campaign, I was medically retired the same year.

My Masonic career began in 1992, and I was Master of my home lodge in 1996. I joined the Valley of Detroit, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in 1993, and was coroneted a 33rd Degree Mason in August 2008, and am now affiliated with the Valley of Ocala. My Shrine affiliation began in 1993 in Detroit, where I am also a member of Court No. 28, Royal Order of Jesters, and upon moving to the Villages, affiliated with Bahia Shrine. I have been High Priest of my Royal Arch Chapter, Thrice Illustrious Master of the Council of Royal and Select Masons, and am a member of Priory No. 22, and a KYCH. I have been privileged to serve as Commander of Detroit Commandry No. 1, Knight Templar, and have been awarded the Grand Commander's Service Award and shoulder cordon for first line signing of over 35 members. I served as Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Michigan, 2006/2007 and was awarded the Knight Commander of the Temple from the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Additionally, I am currently serving as the Secretary of the Villages Masonic Lodge #394, and as Chairman of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America as the Chairman of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, sending ordained ministers to the Holy Land as one of the Knight Templar philanthropies.

Also, when not doing something Masonic related, I attempt to enjoy retirement in The Villages and play 72 holes of golf per week.

Second Vice President Larry Lace:

A brief Personal history: I was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1948, moved to Southern California in 1962 and then to the Villages in 2012. I currently reside in the Villages of Pennecamp. My Masonic affiliation is as follows:

I am a member of the Villages Masonic Lodge #394, Bahia Shrine Temple, Orlando, Florida, The Villages Shrine Club and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Ocala, Ocala, Florida.

I am not married.

I attended the following schools, receiving degrees as indicated: BS in Physics/Mathematics – University of California at Berkeley and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah and an ME in Engineering Management from UCLA.

I served in the Air Force Reserve, attaining the ranks of Captain, from 1970 to 1977.

Note to all from me, Bob Moynihan,

We will leave these biographies and comments in the newsletter for the entire time each officer is serving, with additions/new comments provided as submitted. My contact point is indicated in the newsletter section of the web page. If you have something that is important to the members that should be published, that I missed, please send it to me, especially information regarding those who are ill and unable to attend meetings. It is important that everyone know that we, as an organization, think of them, and not just when they can work, but when they are unable to work also. As members of the Masonic Fraternity, we care about you and our lady. If you have any ideas of how to make the newsletter more informative, send me that also. Just click on my name (Bob Moynihan) and an e-

mail will open for you. Look at the web page (www.thevillageshrineclub.org) for pictures, information and updates of what is going on.

Lastly, to all our sick and distressed members or their ladies – everyone is thinking of you and sends their best wishes for a speedy recovery.