

The Villages Shrine Club Newsletter

November and December 2019

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 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 PREZ: Nobles:

Calendar of Events

Stated meetings for November and December 2019 of The Villages Shrine Club, are as follows:

12 November 2019: Stated meeting begins at 7:00 pm, social hour begins at 6:00 pm with the Club providing a Turkey Dinner, including stuffing, Gravy and rolls and members requested to bring: (with last names beginning with the letters) A-E Vegetable Dishes, F-J Desserts, K-O Potatoes, P-Z Salads and Appetizers. Illustrious Sir Ed Sexton, Potentate of Bahia Shrine and his Lady Susan, and Mark Charlton, 1st Ceremonial Master of Bahia and his Lady Dawn, will be in attendance.

10 December 2019: Stated meeting begins at 7:00 pm, social hour begins at 6:00 pm with Hors D'oeuvres provided. We will also hold a Celebration of Life for all members of the Shrine Club, honoring each of our members who passed during the current calendar year – specifically, for 2019, Noble John H. Shirley, Noble Albert L. Turner, Noble Samuel J. Crosby and Illustrious Sir Steve J. Garten, Past Potentate of El Zagal Shrine, Fargo, ND. It is my intention that we, as a club, should have a celebration of life for our deceased members each December, remembering them fondly and their years of service and dedication to the Shrine and incorporate that celebration into our annual list of duties for the President to perform.

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.

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.

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

Just to set forth an agenda for the Shrine Club, for the last 2 months of 2019 that I am President, the following is a listing of what is anticipated to transpire each month, especially for speakers and food, during November and December 2019. Meals and entertainment/guest speakers will be announced each month at the meeting to keep everyone up to date as possible.

November meeting: Illustrious Sir Ed Sexton, Potentate of Bahia, and his Lady Susan are scheduled to be in attendance, along with Noble Mark Charlton, First Ceremonial Master of Bahia and his Lady Dawn, and will receive a presentation from the Al Kora ladies. A turkey dinner is provided by the club and members are requested to bring items as listed in page 2. Above.

December meeting: Heavy Hors Oeuvres provided at the 6:00 pm social hour. In addition, we will hold a Celebration of Life for our members who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above, as described previously.

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.bahishriners.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.

Beer glasses – we will continue to get the glasses from Bahia, which they have as a fundraiser. They are \$10.00 each, or etched with your name, \$15.00, and we will have them at the 50/50 desk. Call me if you would like to order a beer glass and if you would like to have it etched with your name.

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, 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.

In appreciation for all in attendance at the 12 November meeting, Noble President Gary Gray will present everyone with a Goodie Bag and his personal thanks for all they have done to assist the kids at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa.

Phil Dirt and Alex shows: We still need somebody to do the leg work on these shows and advise the Club what is happening.

Duties: We still need a backup for our officers and workers. Just because one person does a 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 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.

19 November 2019 – Board meeting at the home of President Carolyn Moynihan
26 November 2019 - Monthly meeting and luncheon held at the Cottage Inn, Lady Lake, FL.

December 2019 and every December also (dark). Next meeting will be in January, after the Shrine Club Meeting. All members will be notified.

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 relation, 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.