



INTERNATIONAL LEGIONS OF HONOR

Newsletter The Legion



April 2026

Volume 96, Issue 2

95th Annual Convention Lexington, Kentucky May 6 - 10, 2026



The 95th annual convention will be at the Campbell house in Lexington, Kentucky. Commander Steele is working hard on making this a great event. The Campbell House is a historic hotel with an equestrian heritage. The recently renovated Campbell House is conveniently located near downtown, four miles from Blue Grass Airport and Keeneland Racecourse, putting the best of Lexington at your doorstep. Visit the nearby Kentucky Horse Park, University of Kentucky, or one of the many local bourbon distilleries. Start your day at Outpost Cafe with a freshly brewed specialty coffee and end your night with live music and the Rackhouse Tavern.

To register for the convention you can go to the ILOH website at [www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual convention](http://www.ialoh.org/Events/Annual%20convention). Just click on the required button. To make a hotel reservation click on the picture with the hotel reservation link. For more information you can scan the QR code which will take you to the website. We look forward to seeing you in Lexington.

The room rate is \$116.00 from May 5 - 10, 2026. The cut off date to make hotel reservations is April 12, 2026. After that date there is no guarantee you will get the room rate of \$116.00.



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**April 2026
Newsletter
Article Cutoff Date
March 15th, 2026**

The newsletter is published quarterly and is on the ILOH website at <http://www.ialoh.org/newsletter.html>. If you would like something in the newsletter please sent it to me. My contact information is on Page 11.

Now Hear This Commander's Message

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and a Happy Easter. I have been visiting Blue Lodges, trying to increase our membership by getting veterans to join the Shrine and joining the Temple's Legion of Honor Units.

From 4 through 8 February, I had the pleasure of attending the Southeastern Shrine Association's (SESA) Mid-Winter in Savannah, Georgia. It was a good experience because I got to sit in the SESA President's business meeting, which gave the member of the LOH attending to hear the planning strategy for the upcoming years. They will be holding meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, Tampa, Florida, Helen, Georgia.

I am looking forward to attending the Ismailia LOH 100th Anniversary Gal on the 25th of April in West Seneca, New York. I am sure I will have a great time as I always do there.

I have spent a lot of time over the past month finalizing the requirements for my convention in Lexington, Kentucky,

which s scheduled for 6 though 10 May at the Campbell House. The theme for the welcome party will be the roaring twenties. Our honored guests from Imperial will be Imperial Potentate Sir Brad Koehn and Lady Cheryl, Imperial Chaplain Brian Hagmeir, and Imperial Recorder and past Imperial Potentate Sir Jim Cain.

For those who have not had an opportunity to visit one of our hospitals, we are planning to make a visit to the one in Lexington during our convention. We will be going on a weekday while there are children there and we will be wearing a Fez to identify us as Shriners. I want to thank our adjutant, David Smith and my Chief of Staff Jim Marshall, for all the hard work they have put in helping me prepare for the convention. They make me look good and we know how hard that is. Hope to see you in Lexington.

Wayne R. Steele
Commander,
International Legion of Honor



International Commander

Wayne Steele



Arlington 2026

Arlington Wreath Laying.

The Crowne Plaza

Crystal River

Washington DC.

1480 Crystal Dr, Arlington, VA 22202

October 28 - November 1, 2026

Final details are being completed and the registration information will be posted shortly.

The Crowne Plaza Crystal City Washington D.C. is just one mile from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Take advantage of our complimentary shuttle from the airport to the hotel and our location, which is just four miles from the National Mall.

The Crystal City Metro Station provides easy access to Washington D.C. Visit the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, or one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums, including the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Association Information

GLSA Legions of Honor
51th Annual Convention
August 5th - August 9th , 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton London Ontario
300 King Street
London, ON N6B 1S2

MASA LOH Spring Meeting
May 14-17, 2026
Wingate by Wyndham,
Chesapeake, VA
817 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake,
VA 23320; 757-219-2223

PNSA Convention
July 30th - August 2nd, 2026
Kimberly, BC

For more information scan the QR Code or go to the website at www.ialoh.org/Associations



1st Lieutenant Commander

Greetings. Well, it looks like we have made it through a significant winter and milder weather is on the way! Despite the in climate winter weather, we have tried to stay busy with Installations, Parades and various LOH activities.

The following article is a brief synopsis of Shriner activities we have enjoyed during the last quarter and those events that are "On the horizon."

At the time of this writing I am returning from the Texas Association Legion of Honor (TALOH) Mid-Winter Meeting and Installation of Officers in Houston, Texas, held from 13-15 March 2026. It was truly an honor to participate in their convention. My hat is off to Commander John Olivarri who did a fine job organizing the weekend. I especially enjoyed the Jersey Welcome Party on Friday night. (That's me in the Washington Capitals jersey).

There was an array of raffles, silent auctions and of course the Change of Command (CoC) ceremonies held at Arabia Shriners. "Arabia" in Houston is historically, one of the largest Shrine Centers in the World. They still enjoy magnificent facilities and their ballroom was once the largest in Houston, Texas. I had a chance to dine with Ill. Sir, Otto Akers, Potentate of Arabia. Like many of our traditional Shrine Centers they are facing the difficult decision of whether to stay, or sell and relocate. The TALOH CoC was very well orchestrated. Past Int'l Cmdr Eddie Daffern served as Installing Officer and I assisted him as Installing Marshall. A good time was had by all. Next year's TALOH is planned for Austin, TX. I can't wait!

This winter our LOH Honor Guard was in full parade mode. On 6 December 2025 we participated in the Manassas Christmas Parade. On 14 February 2026 we had a sharp team marching in the in the annual George Washington Parade (GWP) in Old Towne Alexandria VA and earned

honorable mention in the Color Guard competition. The GWP is the largest parade of it's type in the world. And on 7 March 2026, we participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Alexandria, VA. The weather was optimal and our various marching units were definite crowd pleasers.

With the start of the new calendar year, it was "installation season." On 4 January 2026, Lady Theresa and I attended the Kena Open Installation. On 18 January 2026 we attended the Kena LOH Change of Command. I was honored to be the keynote speaker and I took the opportunity to regale a short history of the Kena LOH. The unit began as the Alexandria LOH in 1946; it grew to over 500 members in the post-war era and directly led to Kena Shriners obtaining their charter in 1955.

On 7 March 2026 Lady Theresa and I attended the Ladies of the Oriental Shrine-North America (LOSNA) Al Manarah Court, Installation of Officers. I was also doing "Color Guard duty" as the Kena LOH provided the color guard and presentation of colors. The special relationship that Kena Shriners has with the Ladies Shriners is profound and enduring.

With the arrival of Spring, it was time for the annual Kena Council of Units & Clubs Annual Oyster Roast held on 21 March 2026). If your volunteering to work an event, I think bartender duty is one of the best jobs, since you get to meet everyone and they are always glad to see you.

On the Horizon (events in the next ninety days): We have a full schedule of LOH-Shriner events scheduled in the near term, including the following: On 22 March 2026 we plan to attend the LOSNA Zulekia Ct Installation. On 6-10 May we are looking forward to the great 96th Annual ILOH Convention in Lexington, KY. On 16 May 2026 we will honor Cmdr William "Sarge" Griffin at the MASA LOH Spring Meeting in Chesapeake, VA.

Division 7



Geoffrey Lyster, PP, PC, PMC



On 5-7 June, we will be venturing north to the Ottawa Wreath Laying Ceremony. On the 4th of July it's the Independence Day Parade, Fairfax, VA. And on 11-16 July we will honor Imperial Sir, Brad Koehn at the Imperial Convention in Tampa, FL.

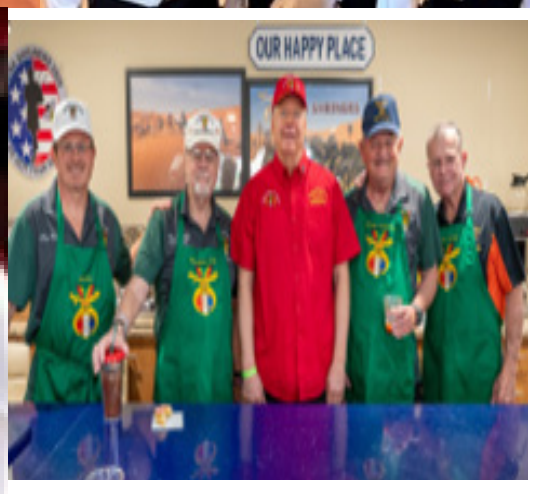
Lady Theresa and I would like to send you our best and we are looking forward to seeing you in Lexington, KY. We hope to see soon, at a Shrine Center near you!

YITF,
Geoffrey D. Lyster, PC, PP, PMASAC

1st Lt. Cmdr. continued page 4

Quartermaster

Our Quartermaster is Ronnie Mullins, PP. His information is on page 11. If you want to order items can go on-line or give him a call.

1st Cmdr. Continued from page 3

Top left: St. Patrick's Day Parade on 7 March (Alexandria, VA).

-Top center: With Install. Officer and PIC Eddie Daffern and TALOH Cmdr Fred Maynard on 14 March (Houston, TX).

-Top right: Official Color Guard at LOSNA Al Manarah Ct. Install on 7 March (Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple).

-Middle Left: Having fun at the TALOH "Jersey Welcome Party" on 13 March at Arabia Shriners (Houston, TX).

-Middle center: With Past High Priestess Al Manarah Ct. Lady Theresa at Install on 7 March (Alexandria, VA).

-Middle right: Bartending at Kena Oyster Roast on 21 March (Manassas, VA).

-Lower left: LOH members at The George Washington Parade on 14 February (Olde Towne, Alexandria, VA).

-Lower right: LOH group photo at the Kena LOH Install on 18 January (Manassas, VA)

2nd Lieutenant Commander

Division 2

Greeting Nobles and Families, Jennifer and I had a busy schedule these past few months as we attended several installations and Unit meetings this winter. In January the India Legion of Honor (LoH) conducted their installation and in February we participated in the Tangier LoH Fez Ball and installation in Omaha. It was very well attended, and a fun time was had by all.

February brought us to a very special event for Sesostris Legion of Honor. We attended the Sesostris Installation that was held at the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. Several Past Commanders of the LoH are living at the Masonic Home and couldn't attend the installation, so the Nobles brought the installation to them. It was a thoughtful and well attended event and was another example of just how brotherly love and unity prevails in our Masonic Fraternity.

The 14th of March I participated with the India LoH in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Oklahoma City. The India Shrine Units and Clubs are always a big hit at this parade. India Shrine being led by Potentate Michael Driskall a member of the LoH.

And of course, we will be at the 95th Annual ILOH Convention at the Campbell House in Lexington Kentucky from 6 – 10 May 2026. The Campbell House is steeped in equestrian history and a short drive away are several Bourbon Distilleries including the Wilderness Trail and Barrell House Distilleries to name but a few. I hope many of you will be able to join the fun and festivities. All the general information and registration forms can be found on our IALOH website, www.ialoh.org. See you soon.

Doug Tayrien,
Lt. Commander



Doug Tayrien, PC



2nd Lt. Cmdr. continued page 6



2nd Lt. Cmdr. continued from page 5



Officer Candidates



Derreck Sander
Abou Ben Adhem



James "Jim" Marshall
Al Menah



Nichols "Coach" Roth
Abou Ben Adhem

The candidate's qualifications are on the website at www.ialoh.org/Candidate

Bylaws Submitted

The bylaw changes can be viewed on the ILOH website at www.ialoh.org/Main/Bylaws. The bylaws are as follows:

- 1. To clarify who may be a member of the International Legions of honor.
- 2. To clarify and add duties to the Lt. Commander responsibilities.
- 3. Add a requirement for being a International Legions of Honor Lt. Commander candidate.

A notice was sent to the Unit Commanders informing them of the bylaw changes.

4th Lieutenant Commander

Division 3



Dean Cook, PC



January 03 2026, Abou Ben Adhem Legion of Honor Commander/CSS Legions of Honor 1st Lt. Commander Derreck Sander passes the gavel to incoming Commander Frank Grantham.



March 04-08 2026, Attended CSSA Mid-Winter in Bettendorf, Iowa. Ran into one of our Divan Ladies there, Regina Roarer. We had a good time celebrating Mardi Graw.

Susanne and I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual convention in Lexington. If I can be of any assistance please give me a call. My contact information is on page 11.

YITF,
Dean Cook, 4th Lt. Commander

5th Lieutenant Commander

Greetings noble comrades,

This quarter was a bit less hectic however still busy.

I had the great pleasure of installing our new Commander at Rameses Temple Legion of Honour, Comrade Gary Chandler. Seen in the picture dressed as a member of the security unit as he had just passed the gavel for THAT until and assumed the gavel for the LOH!. He is a very active Mason and Shriner and involved with a great many other service organizations. We're blessed to have him on board. We also have an excellent lineup of officers as we start to rebuild our capacity.

I also like to stay informed on current operations and the state of our military. I had the opportunity to attend a dinner and brief given by the commandant of the Staff College. Giving it the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto it's a beautiful facility and I recommend if you're ever in town to visit. I'd love to be your honoured host should you be in town. Commodore Baredoot and I deployed together years ago. It was a nice reunion.

The last couple of months have been a very trying time personally. It seems unusual and maybe it's a function of getting older however I've had the unfortunate distinct honour of attending a dozen funerals or memorial services. More than one a week. We should still all be painfully aware that we still have military members in harm's way. Others, I was involved in or organized. Friends, distinguished brethren passing to the GLA and comrades in arms.

The one that hit hardest was the sudden passing of a dear friend and tremendous mentor. He was not a brother of the craft however was a well respected and distinguished soldier.

One of my fondest Masonic memories however involve him on my last tour in Afghanistan. He used to humour me taking a couple hours once in awhile to attend lodge in Kandahar when we had time.

Maintaining brotherly connections and activities while in theater is a great source of comfort and peace while on operations. I must give a shout out to those grand lodges who have lodges with traveling warrants that allow our deployed brethren to congregate under warrant. During Thanksgiving, he tolerated me using a makeshift barbecue to cook up some locally procured lamb to serve at the feast. He ran top cover as I was storing that lamb for a day or two in the unit fridge and when the CO was losing her mind wondering what all this meat was doing in the fridge he covered for me. I guess her ice cream supply seemed to take precedence. It was used to attract the general and all his staff to come in for meetings. On that and previous tours my mother used to send these wonderful cookies. those too seemed to attract The General. You know what they say food is the way to a man's heart LOL they seem like silly little memories but he will be greatly missed

And finally a gentle reminder that as we move through different Masonic bodies, we should not fail in our attempt to continue to support our craft lodges.

We have a military degree team in my jurisdiction and we had the distinct pleasure of raising a brother to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. I think it's a wonderful tool to keep our brothers in arms connected and act as a recruiting tool for the Legion. We perform degrees for Military members and veterans and if members of the team need support in order to conduct a degree in their own lodges. We have members from all branches of the military and from several countries. A few of those pictured here are also members of our Legion of Honour unit.

Division 8



Derek McNulty, Cmdr.



Stay safe and travel well comrades. I hope to see you soon in my travels.

D. Francis McNulty
Intl Lt Cmdr

5th Lt. Cmdr. continued page 11



5th Lt. Cmdr. Continued from page 9



From the International Adjutant/Editor

Hi Everyone!

The annual convention is fast approaching please get your registration sent to me. Wayne and Crystal have been working hard to make this a great convention.

Three bylaw changes have been submitted to be voted on at the annual convention in Lexington, KY. The bylaws can be viewed from the website at www.ialoh.org/Main/Bylaws.

The Imperial Session will be in Tampa, Florida this year and I look forward to seeing everyone there. So put on your shorts, flip fops, sunscreen and watch out for alligators on the golf course.

I am working on the yearbook. if your Unit would like to submit an ad please do. The yearbook submit forms are on the website at www.ialoh.org/Forms. I plan on having the yearbook finalized in early July.

Arlington will be October 27 thru November 1, 2026. The registration information will be posted in the near future once all the details are finalized.

That is all for now. Until next time, aim high.

YITF,
David Smith, PC



David Smith, PC



7th Lieutenant Commander

Heather and I spent some of those cold winter months at our place in NSB Florida and celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary (New Years Eve 1995) in Key West! We brought in the New Year on a schooner with a wench descending from the crows nest at midnight! Later in January we traveled to South Carolina to present the Jamil Legion of Honor members with their reinstated Charter dated 10 October 1974! There was a standing ovation and a lot of cheering (and a yankee on stage)! Congratulations brothers!

Heather and I were off to SESA in Savannah Georgia in February. Georgia did not disappoint in beautiful sites or hospitality. We tried every kind of praline available, and took lots home for friends. The weekend ended with a beautiful dinner and lots of sea stories. Thank you so much for sharing Savannah brothers.

I have visited several Shrine Clubs in the Niagara and Western NY Region, Hamilton, Niagara, St. Catharines, Directors, and PHD's spreading the word about LOH membership and up coming events. Hotels and tickets are organized for Rameses Ball in April. Plans are well under way for the Ismailia Legion of Honor 100th anniversary celebration on 25 April at the Ismailia Shrine Center. Cost is \$50 per person. I hope that many of you can attend. Hope to see you all again soon.

It is indeed an honor to be in the Legion of Honor. Semper Fidelis.

7th Lt. Commander
Doug Foss

Division 6



Doug Foss



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Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in individual articles are the Opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or Office of the ILOH. Articles may be edited for size constraints but editorial content will not be changed.

Newsletter Requirements

The newsletter is published according to the schedule set forth by the Int'l. Commander. The purpose of the newsletter is to "pass the word" and get applications/forms to the membership. Distribution is to all Legion of Honor Units and to individual subscribers at the rate of \$10.00 per year. A free, on-line version is available for download on the ILOH website - www.ialoh.org. If you would like to receive a printed edition please contact the International Adjutant.

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*It's an honor to
belong to the
Legion of Honor!*

*The objectives of the
International Legions of Honor:*

*To foster a Spirit of Patriotism
and Love of Country and Flag;*

*To Perpetuate the memory
of our Comrades in Arms
who made the Supreme Sacrifice
by giving their lives for their Country
while members of the Armed Forces;*

*To devote our efforts as individuals
and Legion of Honor Units
to strive for and increase in
Friendship and Cooperation between our
Legion of Honor Units
and other Units of Shriners International.*

We are

on the web

Website: www.ialoh.org

On the website you can find:

List of Current Officers

Division Assignments

Upcoming Events

Forms

Newsletter