

El Riad Cactus



El Riad Shrine

SHOEN FALLS

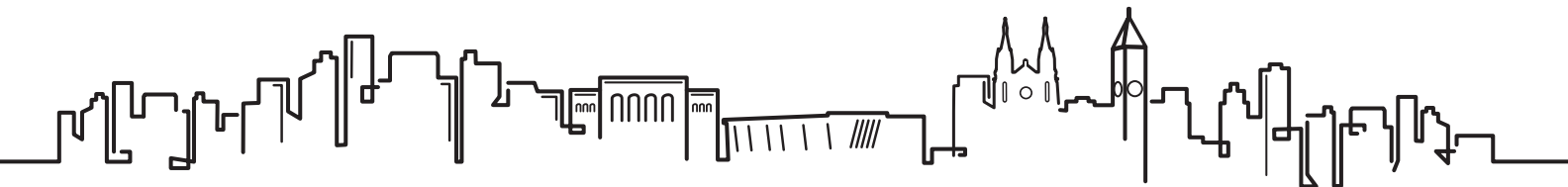
Assault Relief Society of the Shrine of the Most Holy

ElRiad.org

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Official Call of the Potentate: Nobility of El Riad

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MEETING
4.8.26**

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For information concerning Shriners Hospitals for Children, call (800) 237-5055.

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Pote's Article

Be The Change



We made it to April. Hopefully you are all enjoying the first full month of Spring. Flowers blooming, bees buzzing, birds chirping, grills out, lawnmowers purring, and wait, where the H**l did all these mosquitoes come from? Anyway, get out and enjoy.

March was an active Month again. It began with the Daughters of the Nile holding their annual Night on the Nile event at the Shrine this year for the first time. They had very successful dinner and auction and are already beginning the planning process for next year. For those of you who are unaware, the Daughter's of the Nile are the second largest contributors to Shriner's Children's after the Shrine. The Fife and Drum had a successful St. Patty's Day Bash on the 14th. It is a very full day for those Nobles beginning at 12:30 pm hosting the Beer Pong tournament. One of the largest in country, literally. Then, the night kicked off with Cory Gray at 5 pm and the Allen Goodroad Band at 7 pm. Of course, there had to be a little inclement weather thrown in or it wouldn't be the St. Patty's Day Bash. Congratulations Fife and Drum. We also had several units that participated in the St. Patty's Day parade on Phillips Ave. Circus coupons were handed out during

the parade by several of the Units members. Thank you for doing that. On the 21, the Clowns again hosted the Chuck a Puck event for Shrine Night at the Stampede Hockey game. Everyone that attended had a great time. It was also Stomp's Birthday Party so the clowns helped him celebrate and did an amazing job in representing El Riad to all the fans in attendance. Great job Clowns!

On the 28, the Motor Corps and Sprint Cars held their \$10,000 raffle. It was well attended and I didn't win. I just want to say to the person that sold me my ticket, you lied to me, it was not the winning ticket. Way to go Motor Corps and Sprint Cars on another successful raffle. Once again, congratulations to all the Units and organizations for a very successful month and for all that you do for our philanthropy and fraternity.

We are gearing up for our most important event of the year later this month, the El Riad Shrine Circus. The Circus will be taking place April 24- 26 at the Arena. One change this year as you may note, the Circus will be 3 days with 8 great shows. Thursday the 23 will be set up day. As we do every year, we will need all hands-on deck to make this successful Circus. This would be a great opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to all come out and support the cause. Please

watch your emails for reminders and details of the event. Also, please support our Circus by purchasing your tickets when you receive them in the mail. This is extremely important in our efforts to support and fund El Riad for the rest of the year. I would also like to remind everyone that the Chamberlain Circus is April 20 - 21 and Mitchell Circus is April 27 - 29. Both Circuses could use help if you are looking for something to do. It is an easy drive to both.

One of the things that I have been contemplating when I enjoy my quiet time in the mornings before Rhonda starts yelling, "What are you doing in there?" is our older members. The past few weeks kind of brought this home, James Byers our Masonic Relations Chair brought it up in his report at the Stated Meeting in March about

what are we doing to include some of our older members in the events and meetings our Units and Clubs are doing and having. I know this last month, the Oriental Band held their Legends Night, in which they invite their older members that maybe aren't as active or active at all and past members that have maybe moved on to other Units or just dropped from belonging to a Unit to an evening of fun and frolic and remembrance. I truly believe this is an example that all Units and Clubs could follow within El Riad. You don't even have to go to the extreme of having a Legacy or Legends night. It can be as simple as reaching out to a member or former member that is no longer active here and just asking how they are doing, maybe drop by and visit, drop them a note by email and regular mail.

Bring them up to date on what is happening within your Unit and within El Riad. I am guessing it would bring a smile and maybe a sense of belonging to someone that might feel left out or cut off. Think about it. Just a thought from me, I know I am not always good at doing this myself, do better Scott.

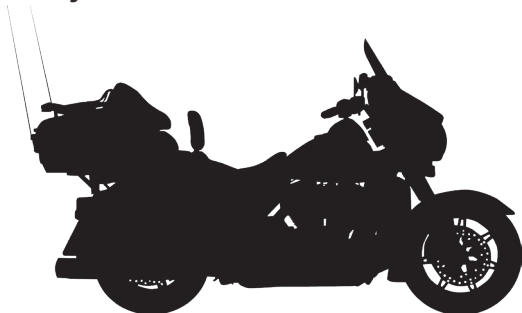
Again, Congratulations to all on a successful month and looking forward to a great Spring.

Fraternally yours,
Scott Denney
Potentate


MOTOR CORPS

Wednesday Night Social Upcoming Meals

May 6 – Pancake Feed
May 13 – Potato Bar






April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Legion of Honor 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 – 10 p.m.	2 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Clowns 6:30 p.m.	3	4
5 Easter 	6  B&E 6:00 p.m. and BOD 7:00 p.m. Worthington after Lodge Brookings 5:30 p.m. @ Cubby's	7 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Twin Lakes Shrine Club 7 p.m. Rickshaws 6 p.m.	8  Stated Meeting Happy Hour 4 – 10 p.m.	9 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	10 Dance Club 	11
12	13 Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	14 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark 6:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	15 Motor Corps 7 p.m. Hillbillies - Outhouse 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 – 10 p.m.	16 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Director's Staff 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20 Chamberlain Circus	21 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Blast & Cast 7 p.m.	22 Classie Autos 6:30 p.m. Happy Hour 4 – 10 p.m.	23 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m. Watertown Clowns 6:30 p.m. Supper 7:30 p.m. Meeting	24  Sioux Falls Circus	25 Horse Corps 10:00 @ Shrine Bldg.
26 Sioux Falls Circus	27 Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	28 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Provost 7:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	29 Shutterbugs 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 – 10 p.m.	30 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Corn Palace Hillbillies 6:30 p.m.		
Mitchell Circus						

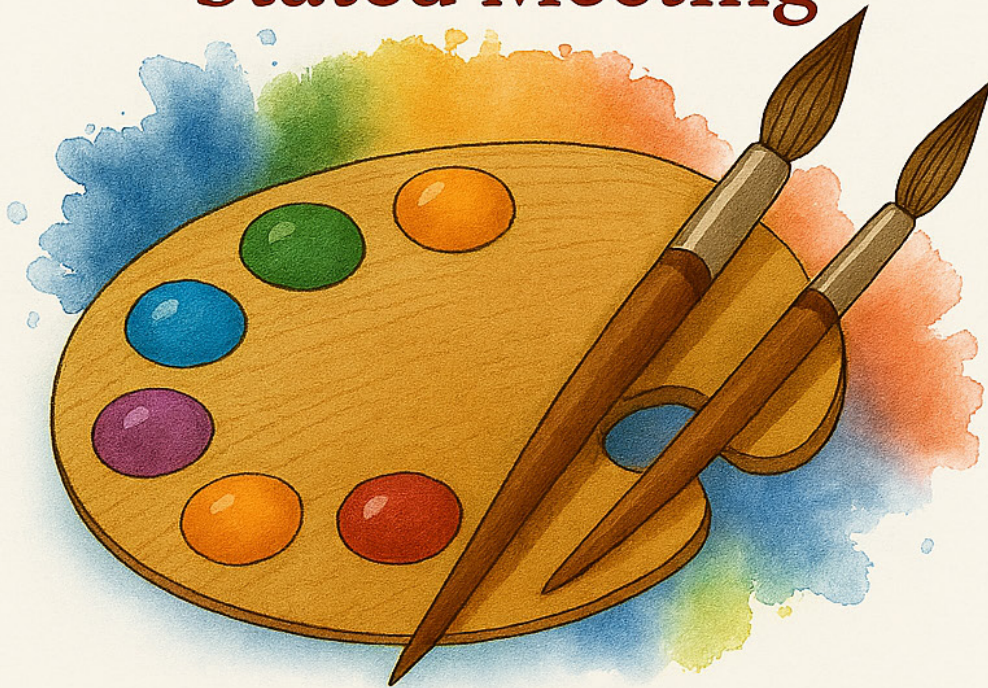
HAPPY EASTER

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Worthington after Lodge Brookings 5:30 p.m. @ Cubby's	5 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Twin Lakes Shrine Club 7 p.m. Rickshaws 6 p.m.	6 Legion of Honor 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	7 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Clowns 6:30 p.m.	8	9  Spring Ceremonial
10 Mother's Day 	11  B&E 6:00 p.m. BOD 7:00 p.m. Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	12 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark 6:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	13  Stated Meeting Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	14 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	15 	16
17	18	19 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Blast & Cast 7 p.m.	20 Motor Corps 7 p.m. Hillbillies - Outhouse 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	21 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Director's Staff 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25 Closed - Memorial Day 	26 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Provost 7:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	27 Shutterbugs 7 p.m. Classie Autos 6:30 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	28 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Corn Palace Hillbillies 6:30 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m. Watertown Clowns 6:30 p.m. Supper 7:30 p.m. Meeting	29	30 Horse Corps 10:00 @ Shrine Bldg.
31						

Unleash your inner artist

While the Men are at
Stated Meeting



WATERCOLOR EVENING

April 8 at 6:30 pm

Paint and sip with instruction from
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The Original “Fast Lane”

By: Bob Pottratz

Before 1913, automobile manufacturing was slow and labor-intensive. Workers moved from car to car, assembling vehicles in largely stationary positions. Even with organized teams, constructing a single Ford Model T chassis required about 12.5 hours of work. Henry Ford and his engineers believed there had to be a faster and more efficient way to build cars.

In 1913, a breakthrough at the Highland Park (MI) Ford Plant transformed modern manufacturing. Under the leadership of Ford, engineers at the Ford Motor Company introduced the first moving assembly line for the Model T. This innovation dramatically reduced production time, lowered costs, and helped bring automobile ownership within reach of ordinary Americans. The moving assembly line would become one of the most influential industrial developments of the 20th century.

The first moving assembly line was remarkably simple in concept. A motor and rope system pulled a Model T chassis slowly along a track. As the chassis advanced, workers stationed along the line installed parts and components in sequence. Each worker had a clearly defined role and repeated the same task over and over. This process eliminated unnecessary movement and reduced wasted time.

Ford’s innovation did not

emerge in isolation. The idea of moving products past workers had precedents in other industries. Ford engineers studied the flow of work in industrial slaughterhouses, where carcasses moved along overhead rails while butchers performed specialized tasks. Grain mills and breweries also used conveyor systems to move materials through stages of processing. Inspired by these methods, Ford adapted the concept to automobile manufacturing.

The results were dramatic. What had once taken most of a workday could now be completed in a fraction of that time. The time required to assemble a chassis fell from 12.5 hours to just 93 minutes. As the system improved, the entire automobile could eventually be produced in just over an hour and a half. The efficiency gains fundamentally reshaped industrial production.

A key part of the new system was the division of labor. Building a Model T was broken down into 84 distinct steps, each performed by a specialized worker. Rather than mastering the entire process of building a car, each worker became highly efficient at one specific task. This specialization reduced training time and allowed production to proceed with remarkable consistency.

The economic impact of the moving assembly line was immediate and profound. As production costs fell, Ford was able to reduce the price of the

Model T dramatically. In 1916 the price of the car dropped from \$850 (around \$28,000 in today’s dollars) to about \$360. Lower prices made automobiles affordable to millions of Americans who previously could not consider owning a car.

Production speed also increased at an astonishing rate. As the system matured, Ford eventually reached the point where a new Model T rolled off the line every 24 seconds. This scale of output was unprecedented and set a new standard for industrial productivity.

The introduction of the moving assembly line did more than accelerate production—it reshaped the nature of factory work. Workers became specialists focused on a single, repetitive task, allowing factories to operate with unprecedented precision and efficiency. Although this system sometimes drew criticism for its monotony, it established the foundation of modern mass production.

The innovation introduced at Highland Park in 1913 became a model for industries around the world. From household appliances to electronics, countless products would later be manufactured using assembly-line techniques inspired by Ford’s system. More than a century later, the principles pioneered during the production of the Model T continue to influence how goods are made, demonstrating the lasting legacy of Ford’s revolutionary approach to manufacturing.

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In Memory of Robert Heitman:
Tom & Jane Anderson



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Created: May 14, 1977

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email office@elriad.com.

Cactus Supporters

Thank you for donating to help support the *Cactus*. It makes a big difference in the amount of space we have available for articles, photos and other news relating to the Shrine, Shriners Hospitals for Children, and El Riad in particular.

Butch Andernacht
Tom Anderson

Robert Baker
Dave Neiman

Ron Moehring





Big Band Dance

Music provided by:

Bill Gibson Band

4.10.26

El Riad Shrine

510 S. PHILLIPS AVE., SIOUX FALLS

Dance lesson at 6:45 p.m. (free with admission)
Business casual or dressy attire suggested.
Costs: \$15 per person, \$7 with a student ID

ElRiad.com

facebook.com/ElRiadDanceClub

facebook.com/BallroomDanceClubSiouxFalls

Proceeds are for the benefit of the El Riad Dance Club activities. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.

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7.19.26



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#2 MOBILE

Cash Calendar

Winners: March 2026

Date	Winner	Sold By
1	Matt Potts *	Lewis & Clark SC
2	Richard & Peggy King	Steel Drums
3	Justin Haider	Blast & Cast North
4	Allison Lewin	Motor Corps
5	Enza O'Connor	Culinary
6	Kelly Wilkens	Chanters
7	Kevin Burns	Lewis & Clark SC
8	Becker Body Shop *	Lewis & Clark SC
9	Issac Koppang	Horse Corps
10	Christine Meier	Blast & Cast North
11	Mark Hansen	Twin Lakes SC
12	Jose Rodriquez	Chanters
13	Dave Wilson	Classie Autos
14	Stefanie Bergsmith	Director's Staff
15	Lawson Vetter **	Horse Corps
16	Bodi Beare	Horse Corps
17	David Schilling	Fife & Drum
18	Gilby's Marine	Horse Corps
19	Denise Scott	Steel Drums
20	Randy Bartels	Horse Corps
21	Tarn McLain	Fife & Drum
22	David McClure *	Horse Corps
23	Chad Tiede	Oriental Band
24	Sarah Mithun	Fife & Drum
25	Jean Lembcke	Twin Lakes SC
26	Sam Huewe	Clowns
27	Julie Sandro	Horse Corps
28	Samantha Solomon	Horse Corps
29	Paul Maxwell *	Clowns
30	Mike Archer	Clowns
31	Lynn Bisek	Culinary



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Craig Ross - Manager

SPRINT CARS

Parade Season is Here! by Dan King

Hope everyone's Winter went well and Spring is coming along nicely! The Sprint Car Unit has been busy with the March Socials, the annual \$10,000 raffle with the Motor Corps, and the Circus. We will be getting our cars out and maintained in time for Parade Season. Loyalty Days in Brandon kicks off the season, always well attended and a great time for all. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, out at the practice field in the warmer months, down at the Shrine the rest of the year. We invite any interested Nobles to stop by and get in one of our twelve custom built 5/8 scale cars. We haul the cars in a custom toter hauler. You don't need to be a car owner to join the Unit. We have a page on the website, <https://elriad.org/sprintcars/> with more information. It's pretty hard to beat the roar

of the crowd when we finish our routine with the Slide. Please reach out to our officers listed in every Cactus issue. We put four wheels on the street to help kids get on their feet.



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FIFE & DRUM CORPS

We Survived Our Busy Season! by Bruce Norton

Oh what a month February was!! We hosted Wednesday bar and Johnny Holm's 28th appearance at our Valentine's Bash! in February. The first Wednesday bar was busy as we received the crowd from Bill Anderson's funeral that day. Then came our annual Valentine's spaghetti feed led by Brad and Lady Tami Streich and their

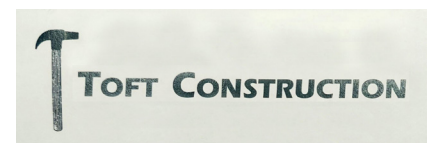
amazing group of helpers. We served 180 meals that night. Then came Johnny Holm and while attendance was down over past years, the fun certainly wasn't. Johnny put on a great show and revenue for the night was very good. Can't begin to thank everyone for their efforts, but must especially recognize Cory Gray as he single-handily secured 36 reserve tables. Reserved tables are super important and we cannot

thank Cory enough for all the time and work he applies to making this huge difference.

Kevin and Robin Tomshack hosted the third Wednesday bar with the Jobs Daughters taking the last Wednesday of the month. It's great to count of Kevin and Robin each year for hosting a Wednesday meal.

The most important thing we do in February is recognized the Backers we solicit who make a

Thank you to the following companies for their special donation to Shriners Hospitals for Children.



direct contribution to Shriner's Healthcare. This year we have 13 Backers to recognize, mostly thanks to the terrific work of Tami Streich. Thanks also to Randy Schilling, Jim Moos, and Cory Gray for securing Backers. This program is a passion of Lady Tami's and her efforts, along with the others listed resulted in a \$9,750 Hospital donation this year! Over the nine years of this program, we've generated \$64,000 in Hospital donations! This program is hugely successful and very unique to the Fife and Drum. Which by the way, appeared in a Shriner's International Facebook posting in February.

The Fife and Drum would like to thank the following Backers. We encourage all Nobles when considering who to get for certain kinds of work to support the companies that support Shriner's Healthcare.

Now, bring on March! We start off with the "rubbing of the butts" on March 7th, where we prepare 200 lbs of pork butts for our St Patty's Day Bash! that next weekend. It's also the time we get our float ready for the parade. I must say, this is fellowship at the very highest level. Sure look forward to reporting on all this in the next Cactus!

I am sorry to report our first annual Fife ice Fishing event, or F.I.F.E scheduled for Feb. 28 had to be cancelled due to the weather being too warm. So, we'll try again next year!





Divan Ladies Puzzle Night



PHOTOS BY SHELBY DEVRIES

Winners were...Jane Anderson, Robin Tomshack, Sami & baby Autumn Tomshack.



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Cabin Fever





ROCK the Shrine





11 year supporter Rock The Shrine, Keith Bergh was the High bidder for the Pepper Entertainment Guitar signed by FOREINER!

Chanters at NSIC,WBB and MBB Championships at the Pentagon





El Riad SHRINE 83rd Annual Circus



Save The Date

Chamberlain, SD – National Guard Armory

Monday, April 20, 2026 – 4:30pm & 7:15pm

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 4:30pm & 7:15pm

Sioux Falls, SD – Sioux Falls Arena

Friday, April 24, 2026 – 9:30am 12:30am & 7:00pm

Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm

Sunday, April 26, 2026 – 12:30pm & 5:00pm

Mitchell, SD – The World's Only Corn Palace

Monday, April 27, 2026 – 7:00pm

Tuesday April 28, 2026 – 10:00am, 4:30pm, 7:15pm

Wednesday April 29, 2026 – 4:30pm & 7:15pm

Yankton, SD – Yankton Area Ice Arena

Friday, June 19, 2026 – 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Winner, SD – Tripp County Fairgrounds

Saturday, June 20, 2026 – 8:00pm



St. Patty's Day Festivities



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MEMBERSHIP

Fellowship and Generating New Members !

by Bruce Norton

Fraternal membership at El Riad is about two things. Meaningful, life altering fellowship and generating new members. We must always give attention to both. It's a real blessing El Riad has such a wide variety of groups and clubs. Nobles can pretty much choose a group that would match their interests. Participating in a group or club is the number one best way to appreciate the special fellowship we have as El Riad Shriner's. So, it's fun to report a new group is starting up to match the interests of Nobles who like to develop their meat smoking skills.

The "Smoking Misfits" is a new group that had their first meeting January 25th. Ron Knott is the very first leader of this new group and carries the title of Pit Boss. Matt Leedom and Steve Haase are the other officers. Anyone who has an interest in honing their BBQ and smoking skills, along with having fun doing it is encouraged to reach out to any of those three Nobles. I'm sure we'll all hear more about them over time, but great to welcome the Smoking Misfits to our terrific portfolio of groups and clubs!

Its also fun to report that our increasing social media efforts have resulted in a few candidates who otherwise may have never become interested in the Shrine. We are getting better at this all the time thanks to all the work Tony Bachman and Jeremy "Buckets" Swenson are pouring into our social media visibility. We still need to heavily rely on current Nobles to recruit new members, but social media is becoming more and more important to help grow our great El Riad fraternity. We ask that any time you see a posting from El Riad, to like and share it and maybe add a comment.

Spring Ceremonial and our Circus are coming up and we urge all Nobles to attend both if they can. This is the time of year when El Riad fellowship is on full display and certainly,fun times for all. Hope to see as many of you at both events as possible. And please, make the effort to ask a friend or family member to consider joining El Riad. It's the best gift you could ever give! And also the best time of year to do so with all the visibility our Circus gets.



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ElRiad.org



Happy Birthday! April 2026

Barry Brown 4-1
 Curt Calhoun 4-1
 Caleb Chedester 4-1
 Richard Courtney 4-1
 Clifford Hicks 4-1
 Donald Nemer 4-1
 William Shields 4-1
 Austin Machmiller 4-2
 Lamont Jibben 4-3
 Dean Theisen 4-3
 Steve Tripp 4-3
 Randy Ingalls 4-4
 Todd Long 4-5
 Garry Johnson 4-6
 John Kittelson 4-6
 Grant Nustad 4-6
 Sidney Pederson 4-6
 Steven Rames 4-6

Robert Burke 4-7
 Roy Drake 4-7
 Brian Shabino 4-7
 Jayson Strauss 4-7
 Joel Vipond 4-7
 Allen Brown 4-8
 Larry Wilcox 4-8
 Dwight Zahn 4-8
 Arden Harberts 4-9
 James Kroger 4-9
 Mark Leonard 4-9
 James Nesseseth 4-9
 Scott Wick 4-9
 George Larson 4-11
 Aaron Neiman 4-11
 Robert Sorensen 4-11
 Wyatt Year 4-12
 Zachary Porter 4-13

Roger Thompson 4-13
 Troy Magnuson 4-14
 Dennis Powers 4-14
 Laverne Andersh 4-15
 David Bangasser 4-15
 Patrick Barritt 4-15
 Dan Altenburg 4-17
 Jim Walsh 4-17
 Bradley Wilkens 4-17
 Raymond Mollet 4-18
 Craig Pfeifer 4-19
 Travis Bult 4-20
 Ashton Larsen 4-20
 Douglas Pederson 4-20
 Byron Schafersman 4-20
 Randy Arney 4-21
 Brian Mehlhaff 4-21

Floyd Rummel 4-21
 Rob Angerhofer 4-22
 Damon Fietek 4-22
 Timothy Alex 4-23
 David Dierks 4-23
 James Goedtke 4-23
 Joshua Johnson 4-23
 Chris Kahny 4-23
 Tristan Schlechter 4-23
 Alban Gray 4-24
 Randall Jensen 4-24
 Herman Martin 4-24
 Erik Nyberg 4-24
 Joel Turner 4-24
 James Dewey 4-25
 Richard Fuhrer 4-25
 Hans Christensen 4-26
 Donavon Kettwig 4-26

Thomas Leesch 4-26
 James Taylor 4-27
 Christopher Hahn 4-28
 Darrell Schultz 4-28
 Todd Thoelke 4-28
 Lonnie Bayer 4-29
 Daniel Albert 4-30
 Michael Cleveland 4-30
 Mark Dunn 4-30
 Donald Miller 4-30
 William Thompson 4-30

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19	22	35		
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19	13	32	4	



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8.13.26

24th Annual Tournament Information

- Noon shotgun start
- Two person teams
- 18 Holes of two person Scramble
- Three flights based on score
- Dinner Banquet to follow

Reserve a spot for your team by 8.1.26

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CHANTERS



Rock The Shrine **was a Huge Success!** by Jeff Gould

The numbers are in and our big fundraiser of the year, Rock the Shrine was another huge success, raising over \$23,000 with PopRocks playing to a packed house.

We have scheduled the first half of our 2026 tour, with patriotic events and venues being part of our retinue. If you have a venue or event to submit for approval, contact the chanter you know, and we'll see if we can fit it in the schedule, or contact President Jeff Gould directly at 605-201-5147.

If you love to sing, please join us and see what we're about! We practice Tuesday at 7pm in the El Riad room.

This month in Chanter History

April 22, 1931 - The Award-Winning El Riad Chanters were about to lead the crowd in singing the National anthem before the season opener with the St Louis

Cardinal when chewing gum magnate, William Wrigley Jr offered each of the Chanters a piece of Juicy Fruit Gum prior to the game.

Then President Forrest E. Brink (grandfather of Evan Brink) politely refused saying gum would affect their ability to sing.

The older and somewhat cantankerous Wrigley stated, "Chew this gum or leave."

A replacement singer was procured at the last minute but when the crowd got wind that the Chanters weren't going to sing, a small riot broke out and the crowd started chanting "We want the Chanters, by gum!"

At the last minute, Wrigley relented but vowed that Chanters would never sing at Wrigley Field again "as long as I'm alive."

Wrigley died a year later in 1932.

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The Shriners operate 22 hospitals in North America dedicated to treating children with orthopedic problems and burn injuries. There are 18 orthopedic hospitals, three burn hospitals and one Shriners Hospital that provides orthopedic, burn care and spinal cord injury care. All care and services provided by Shriners Hospitals are totally without cost to the patient or family.

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Since approximately 95 percent of the annual Shriners Hospitals for Children operating budget will be spent in direct support of the 22 hospitals, your gift to its endowment fund is a gift to one of the world's "purest" philanthropies.

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- I prefer to make a cash donation at this time (of \$100 or more).

Make your check payable to:

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Temple Member? _____

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STEEL DRUM

To Scribe or Not to Scribe? **That is the Question?** by Steve Burtis

After taking the last few issues off due to a lack of material, coupled with a plethora of laziness, I feel the need to once again take pen in hand and regale you all with the exploits of the Steel Drum Band.

A large contingent of the band continues to live their nomadic lifestyle in the south, while the rest of us with jobs, businesses and other adult responsibilities remain here in South Dakota where we deal with boredom, lack of golf and schizophrenic weather which weekly goes from fifteen below

one weekend to sixty-five the next and the opening of golf courses for the weekend (walking only). Therefore our meetings have been sparse, attendance minimal and the agenda limited. We have been finalizing our parade schedule for the year with our first likely being our annual performance at Brandon Loyalty days in May.

In order to parade we need to practice, and in order to practice we need stands to support our drums. So a few weeks ago we had a stand rebuilding and repair party. Our President Keith "Dwayne" Backer provided numerous ten foot lengths of 2" PVC for the project

which was greatly appreciated, and yet was greatly useless as our drum stands are made from 1 1/2" PVC. Keith eventually arrived with the correct diameter and after a brief meeting the reconstruction project commenced. In anticipation of the PVC project I headed to Stan Houston Equipment that afternoon to purchase another DeWalt toy for my collection.







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**Some follow footsteps
OTHERS LEAVE THEM**



SHRINERS
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RICKSHAWS

Chinese New Year and the Disco Helmet!

by Steve 'Topsy' Burns

Each Year the RICKSHAWS celebrate the Chinese New Year: [the year of the HORSE]. This year we rented the entire Dynasty Chinese Restaurant to accommodate all of our celebrants. We had 83 people in attendance for this year's celebration.

We started the evening with SEKE shots for all of us ! After the 6th round our EMPEROR Neon Gui aka Eric State introduced A NEW TRADITION TO THE Rickshaws... As you all know the Motor Corps has the [Pickle] tradition. Now, the Rickshaws have the DISCO HELMET tradition [see photo below] this is lead foot gui! Also know as Todd Stoll.

So, with another round of seke we had to make decisions. 1. Is this the new Parade Helmet? Or do we let Lead foot gui or Hawk wear these new Helmets to Sturgis? Or follow Motor Corp

style and have a little fun with our members if they make some sort of GOOF! That would require them to wear this DISCO Helmet for all to see and kid them for their punishment?

One ponders the final answer!

As the evening continued the ladies seem to really enjoy doing some table dancing with a few of our men as well. I best stop now so our readers don't get the wrong impression of our Rickshaw unit. As we all know , what happens at our annual Chinese New Year party must stay in house.

PS: If anyone is interested in joining this racing bunch of fun loving NOBLES and drive some really cool drift trikes we meet the first TUESDAY of each month @ 6:00 for food , fellowship and practicing our racing skills for the summer parade season.



Ladies' *Yahtzee Night!*

A decorative illustration featuring five dice: three white with black pips and two red with white pips. The dice are arranged in a cluster on a light grey surface. The scene is embellished with golden stars and elegant, swirling flourishes in gold and red, with small red spheres at the ends of the swirls.

Join us for a fun evening
May 13th at 6:30pm
while the men are at Stated Meeting

\$5 per game

Cash Prizes

Stated Meeting

2.11.26 | El Riad Temple

by John Whitelock P.P., Recorder

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Potentate Scott Denney. Chaplain Matt Johnson gave the invocation. Potentate Denney then led the Nobles in the Shrine Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Stated Meeting held on December 10, 2025 were, upon proper motion and second, approved as printed and distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Les Kruse gave the financial report for January 31, 2026.

Upon proper motion and second, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Potentate Denney announced that Kem Shrine of Grand Forks, ND and Zurah Shrine of Minneapolis, MN have granted El Riad Shrine the permission to parade in their jurisdictions for 2026.

Building and Entertainment Committee Report: Chief Rabban Steve Haase reported on several items of discussion or action by the Building and Entertainment Committee:

- Event rental pricing for The Venue is being reviewed for 2026.
- The installation of baseboard on the new flooring will begin soon.
- Electrical outlets on the stage have been replaced.
- Additional credit card machines are being purchased for the circus and events.
- A summer "spruce-up event" will be scheduled.

- The replacement of memorabilia in the El Riad Room is being reviewed.

Upon proper motion and second, the report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief of Staff: Chief of Staff Ethan Serck urged the units to get their parade and event forms for 2026 into the office as soon as the dates are known. He noted the events upcoming in the near future, to include the MSA Winter Session on February 12-14; Dance Club on February 13; the Fife & Drum Valentine's dance on February 14; Blast & Cast's Cabin Fever on February 21, the Chanters' Rock the Shrine on February 28, and the Fife & Drum St. Patty's Bash on March 13.

Noble Serck thanked the Culinary Unit and the Potentate's Aides for their efforts in making the Annual Installation a fine event.

Potentate Denney reminded the units and clubs that any event which has a game of chance must be approved by the temple attorney and the Potentate. Forms for this process are on our website at the Membership Literature link and should be submitted well in advance of the event.

Circus: Circus Chairman Rob Angerhofer told the nobility that the 83rd Annual El Riad Circus will launch on the following dates; Chamberlain, April 21-22; Sioux Falls, April 24-26; Mitchell, April 27-29, Yankton, June 26; and Winner, June 27. Sioux Falls is changing

to a 3-day run by eliminating Thursday performances and adding a third performance on Friday. Meetings of the Circus Committee will be held on February 16, March 16 and April 20. Some concession prices are expected to increase, but ticket prices will remain the same as 2025. All seats in the Arena on Saturday will be reserved seats.

Membership: Membership Committee co-chairman Jeremy Swenson told the nobility that during the month of January, Facebook posts were created concerning Shrine membership and boosted multiple times. This effort resulted in the Shrine receiving five petitions for membership. The committee is working at building relationships with the units and clubs of El Riad, the two Sioux Falls Masonic lodges, and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota. He noted that any unit or club wishing to host a rush party is eligible for financial assistance for the event from the Membership Committee budget.

Communications: Chief Rabban Steve Haase told the nobility that the Cactus magazine is a significant draw upon the temple budget, costing approximately \$4,500 per month for 10 issues produced and mailed to the nobility. Only 90 nobles participate as Cactus supporters for \$20 per year. Few nobles have chosen to receive a digital copy rather than a printed copy. Over

the years, the number of units and clubs submitting content for the magazine has declined. The Board of Directors will be reviewing methods to reduce costs, including possibly fewer issues of hard copy production. Chief Rabban Haase noted that the El Riad website is being refreshed and unit pages are being updated.

Social Media: Committee member Noble Jeremy Swenson told the nobility that Facebook is working well as an advertising platform for El Riad, and the sharing of the posts is increasing the number of views by non-followers. Future plans are to establish a presence on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. Social media is a force to be recognized and utilized if we want to reach the younger generations. The committee is looking for help from our members who have an interest in social media. And, they are seeking additional content to include news of upcoming events, and video and photos of recent events.

Masonic Relations: Potentate Denney welcomed Noble James Byers as El Riad's new liaison for Masonic Relations. Noble Byers informed the nobility of upcoming

Masonic activities: February 12, Worthing 141, stated meeting; February 19, Minnehaha 5, FC Degree; February 28, Minnehaha 5, MM Degree; March 2, Trinity 200, stated meeting; March 5, Minnehaha 5, stated meeting; and March 16, Trinity 200, EA Degree.

It was also noted that Resurgam Lodge of Mitchell will host a one-day event on March 21.

Potentate Denney thanked Noble Jim Hoy on behalf of the nobility for his many years of outstanding service in the role of Masonic Liaison.

Divan Reports: Assistant Rabban Bill Thompson reported on the Fife & Drum Unit. 1st Ceremonial Master Brian Schultz reported on the Twin Lakes Shrine Club and the Legion of Honor. High Priest & Prophet Paul Berndt reported on the Clown Unit and the Sprint Cars. 2nd Ceremonial Master Aaron Neiman reported on the Blast & Cast Unit and the Rickshaws.

Potentate Denney gave the nobility a report on the biennial Pote's trip, which occurred January 21-28 in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. Over 50 nobles, ladies and friends attended and were treated to great weather, great food, and great

company. Potentate Denney also attended the Potentate's Ball at Zurah Shrine in Minneapolis during the last weekend of January.

Potentate Denney told the nobility that Ashrama Temple No. 97, Daughters of the Nile, is hosting their annual "Night on the Nile" event at El Riad on March 7. Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and a live auction at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person.

Business from the Floor: Ill. Sir Tom Anderson, P.P. presented ticket #1 for the annual Motor Corps/Sprint Cars fundraising raffle to Potentate Denney. Ill. Sir Jim Slater, P.P. presented a memento to Potentate Denney in honor of his installation to the highest office in the temple.

There being no further business before the body, Potentate Denney thanked the Provosts for tiling the doors. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
John Whitelock, PP, Recorder

Unit & Club Officers

2026 Contact Information

Back 40 Boys

President: Clayton Wilhelm (Holly)
(Meets as called)

BIG BAND

President: John Bayer (Janean)
(Unit Meets for Ceremonials)

BIG BEND SHRINE CLUB

President: Claude Olson
(Meeting dates as called)

BLAST & CAST

President: Steve Abraham (Laurel)
(Meets 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

Blast & Cast North

President: Ron Moehring (Sheila)
(Meets as called)

BROOKINGS SHRINE CLUB

President: Dallas Olson (Gwen)
(Meets 1st Monday, 5:30 p.m. @ Cubby's)

CHANTERS

President: Jeff Gould (Elizabeth)
(Rehearsal every Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m., Social @ 8:00 p.m.)

CLASSIE AUTOS

President: Bob Pottratz (Mary)
(Meets 4th Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.)

CLOWNS

Big Clown: Josh Shepperd
(Meets 1st Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.)

CORN PALACE SHRINE CLUB

President: TBD
(Meets last Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.)

CULINARY UNIT

President: Bill O'Connor (Thomy Jo)
(Meets as called)

DANCE CLUB

President: Chris Karr (Erika)
(Meets as called)

DIRECTOR'S STAFF

President: Joe Bergsmith (Stefanie)
(Meets 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.)

FIFE & DRUM CORPS

Brigadier: Nathaniel Streich (Mandy Juhnke)
(Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 7:30 p.m.)

GOPHER SHRINE CLUB

President: Michael Simon (Marlene)
(Meets as called)

HIGHLANDERS PIPE & DRUM

President: David Wooters (Julie)
(Meets 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 6:00 p.m.)

HILLBILLY outhouse #1

President: James Hoy (Paula)
(Meets 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

HORSE CORPS

Trail Boss: Ken Krein (Tammy)
(Meets last Saturday @ 10:00 a.m.)

LEGION OF HONOR

Commander: Ron Knott (Diane)
(Meets 1st Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

LEWIS & CLARK SHRINE CLUB

President: Michael Burns (Jonell)
(Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. Social/Eat, Mtg @ 8:00)

MOTOR CORPS

Commander: Tom Anderson (Jane)
(Meets 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

MYSTIC BREWERS

Brew Master Russ Olson

ORIENTAL BAND

President: JSteve Veenhof (Jackie Krouse)
(Meets Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m.)

PROVOST

Chief: Bill Rise
(Meets 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

RICKSHAWS

Emperor: Eric State (Kayla)
(Meets 1st Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.)

RITUALISTIC

President: Paul Maxwell
(Meets as called)

ROADRUNNERS

President: Doug Kristensen
(Meets as called)

ROSEBUD SHRINE CLUB

President: Richard Ringstmeyer (Janet)

SHUTTERBUGS

President: Steve Haase (Sandra)
(Meets last Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

PIXELS

President: Shelby DeVries (Chad)
(Meets with Shutterbugs)

SKI CLUB

President: Evan Brink (Jean Saunders)
(Meet as called)

SMOKIN' MISFITS

President: Ron Knott (Diane)

SPRINT CARS

President: Todd Schneider (Michelle)
(Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.)

STEEL DRUM BAND

President: Keith Backer
(Meets 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m.)

TWIN LAKES SHRINE CLUB


President: Kyle Brunick (Cassandra)
(Meets 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

WATERTOWN SHRINE CLOWNS

President: Jeff Gamber (Annette)
(Meets 4th Thursday, dinner @ 6 p.m., meeting @ 6:30 p.m.)

WORTHINGTON SHRINE CLUB

President: Open
(Meets as called)



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