

El Riad Cactus



2026 OFFICERS

Chief Rabban
Steve Haase
And His Lady
Sandra

Exec. Divan, Circus, Membership, Futures Comm., Building & Entertainment Chair, Pote's Party Chair, El Riad By-Laws, *Cactus*, Cash Calendar



Asst. Rabban
Bill Thompson
And His Lady
Kim

Exec. Divan, Circus, Shrine Cup Membership, Futures Comm., Pote's Party Comm., Corn Palace Shrine Club, Oriental Band, Fife & Drum, Ritualistic Unit, El Riad By-Laws, *Cactus*, Back 40 Boys, Watertown SC



High Priest & Prophet
Paul Berndt

Exec. Divan, Hospital Comm., Futures Comm., Clowns, Roadrunners, Dance Club, Motor Corps, Sprint Car Unit, Gopher Shrine Club, *Cactus*, Sportsman Classic



Recorder
John Whitelock
And His Lady
Ralynn

Executive Divan, El Riad By-Laws, State Donor Relations



Potentate
Scott Denney
And His Lady
Rhonda

Executive Committee Chairman, Pote's Party Committee, Children's Christmas Party, Football, *Cactus*



Board of Trustees
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Charles Brown, PP
David Lewis, PP
Edward Anstine, PP
Loren Eggebraaten, PP



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And His Lady
Gloria

Executive Divan



Oriental Guide
John Schuety
And His Lady
Bobbi

Exec. Divan, Unit & Club Seminar Futures Comm., Lewis & Clark Shrine Club, Chanters, Horse Corps, Ski Club, Steel Drum Band, Shriner of the Year, Rosebud Shrine Club, Outhouse #1



1st Ceremonial Master
Brian Schultz
And His Lady
Jill

Exec. Divan/NV, Futures Comm., Spring Ceremonial, Classic Autos, Legion of Honor, Directors Staff, Culinary Unit, Family Day, Big Band/Last Call

2nd Ceremonial Master
Aaron Neiman
And His Lady
Rachael

Exec. Divan/NV, Futures Comm., Fall Ceremonial, Rickshaws, Parker Shrine Club, Provost, Shutterbugs, Worthington Shrine Club, Brookings Shrine Club

Official Call of the Potentate: Nobility of El Riad

MONTHLY
STATED
MEETING

2.11.26

For the Purpose of Old
and New Business Your
Attendance is Urgently
Requested

WEAR YOUR FEZ —
DOOR WILL BE TILED

MARCH
CACTUS
DEADLINE

2.1.26

Jeremy Swenson, Marshal
 Futures Comm., Big Bend Shrine Club, Twin Lakes Shrine Club, Highlanders, Blast & Cast Club, Watertown Clowns, Blast & Cast North

Ken Krein, Captain of the Guard

Matt Leedom, Outer Guard

Ethan Serck, Chief of Staff
 MSA, Pote's Aides, Parades, Asst. Chief of Staff, Ceremonials, Imperial pilgrimages.

Chad DeVries, Assistant Chief of Staff
 Attend monthly COS meetings

Matt Johnson, Chaplain
 Fall Ceremonial – Necrology

Joe Bergsmith, Temple Director
 Ceremonials – Arch Degree

Ethan Serck, Membership Co-Chairman

Jeremy Swenson, Membership Co-Chairman

Rob Angerhofer, Circus Chairman

Chad Larson, Assistant Circus Chairman

Matt Johnson, Football Chairman

Doug Schneider, Shrine Cup Co-Chairman

Ryan Simmons, Shrine Cup Co-Chairman

Jeremy Swenson, Sportsman's Classic Chairman

Matt Sowden, Shrine Hospital Seminars Chairman

Roger Risty, Donor & Sponsor Relations

Steve Haase, Noble's Party Chairman

John Schuety, Unit/Club Seminar

Doug Kristensen, Roadrunners President

Gail Gustafson, Roadrunners Coordinator

James Hoy, James Byers

David Murphy, Stop Burns Chairman

Gail Gustafson, Front Office assistant

Kent Quail, Unit/Club Support

Scott Rud, Maintenance/Janitorial

Shutterbugs & Pixels, Shrine Photographers

Liz Lambertz, Cactus Editor & Webmaster

Mark Richard, Cactus Advertising Sales

All articles or comments should be directed to the Editor at cactus@elriad.com and advertising matters to the advertising sales manager at advertise@elriad.com.

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

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Pote's Article

Be The Change

I would like to thank all of the Nobility of El Riad for your faith and trust in me by electing me as your Potentate for 2026. Being elected is an honor and a privilege. I will strive to uphold your confidence in me as your Potentate. Lady Rhonda and I are excited to go forward with our theme for the year, "Be the Change". We have the ability to Be the Change in a child's life through our work within our philanthropy. Regardless of the physiological challenges a child may face we have the means to help that child have fantastic childhood. Be the Change in a Child's Life. Be the Change in a man's life. I can't begin to express how my life has changed since I became a Shriner. The friendships, the camaraderie, the Brotherhood, the fun that this organization inspires and has brought to me and all the members is something that, unless you experience, is hard to explain. That is a feeling that should be shared with as many good men possible. My challenge to all of our members is this, if you know someone that you think should be a member of El Riad, reach out, invite them down on a Wednesday night. If you don't feel comfortable talking to them, reach out to our Membership Co-Chairs Jeremy Swenson and Ethan Serck and ask them to contact the gentleman for you. Reach out to me, I will do it. Be the Change in a man's life.

Be the Change in you and your family's life. I know that this is a fraternal organization, but when I say I couldn't do this without the support of my Lady Rhonda I truly mean that. I am sure that it is true for many of you out there also. So thank your significant other for allowing you to be a part this great Shrine, El Riad. What we do, how we do it, how we interact with others, all reflects back. So, begin again, practice compassion, ask for help, listen to others, be the good that happens to others. Be the Change.

I would like to thank Illustrious Sir PP Mark Richard and Lady Denise for their leadership and efforts over the past year. El Riad Shrine is a better place for having had their influence and guidance not just over the past year but for all the years Mark served on the Divan. I would also like to thank Illustrious Sir Mark for the friendship and mentorship he has shown me over the last nine years. He has made my journey to this point enjoyable and the knowledge he has imparted to me is indispensable. Now if I only use it. Our current Divan is a truly talented and dedicated group. Everyone of them has demonstrated the willingness to put in the time and do the work to make El Riad successful for 2026 and beyond. We have some new members of the Divan that I would like to introduce to you, Our 2nd Ceremonial Master Aaron Neiman

(Lady Rachael), Marshall Jeremy Swenson (Lady Jodi), Outer Guard Matt Leedom (Lady Mary), Chief of Staff Ethan Serck Lady Kelsey), Asst. Chief of Staff Chad DeVries (Lady Shelby), Temple Director Joe Bergsmith (Lady Stefanie), Chaplain Matt Johnson (Lady Laura), and Chief Pote's Aide Dan Altenburg.

I want to thank Tony Bachman for his incredible work over the past 5 years as a member of the El Riad Divan. Tony made a difficult and personal decision to step down from the Divan. He will be sorely missed. Tony has assured us that he will continue to be extremely active within the Shrine and we will continue to serve on the committees he is currently a part of. I know that I am already thinking of additional ways to put his enormous talent to use throughout the coming year. Thank you, Tony, for all your time, effort, and leadership.

We had a great Unit and Club Seminar lead by Oriental Guide John Schuety. This year we added a little to it by having a Form 990 class for all the Unit and Club Treasurers in an effort to help them complete the 990 forms. For all that don't know, the Form 990 is the financial reporting form that all Units and Clubs are required to fill out, turn into El Riad's business office and then sent to the IRS. It was a successful class. I want to thank all Unit and Club officers that attended the session and learned

the latest information on all that they will need to lead their Units and Clubs successfully in 2026. Great job John!

It was an amazing Pote's Trip to the Iberostar Waves Tucan Resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. A total of 65 people went on this excursion hosted by Illustrious Sir Mark and Lady Denise Richard and Illustrious Sir Scott and Lady Rhonda Denney. We had friends, Nobles and Past Potentates that joined us from Kem Shrine in Grand Forks, friends from Eastern Iowa, Nobles that flew in from Florida and Texas, it was a group represented from a broad area. As far as I could tell,

everyone had a good time. I am almost positive we all made it back home. Many of us went on excursions around the area, played golf, enjoyed the hospitality of the resort, explored Playa del Carmen. We had first timers on a Pote's trip and experienced veterans of Pote's trips so a fun eclectic group. Illustrious Sir Mark and I would like to thank "Doc" and Lady Nancy Teachout for being our group hosts on the trip and making sure things went smoothly. We would also like to thank Pam Pfeifer of Group Travel Experts for organizing such a great trip. Thanks to all who went and thanks for the memories.

Thank you all again for the trust and support you have shown me in allowing me to serve as your Potentate for 2026. It is truly an honor. I am looking forward to the year ahead and working with the Divan and our Nobility to continue to make El Riad the best that it can be and a Temple we are all proud to be a part of.

Fraternally yours,
Scott Denney
Potentate

Happy New Year!

by Lady Denise Richard

An Ongoing Sentiment...

Congratulations Illustrious Sir, Potentate Scott Denney and his beautiful Lady Rhonda, I wish you the best in 2026!

I can't believe the year 2025 is already over. I can remember when Mark came home and asked me about being on the Divan. I could tell he was really excited and he wanted me to share in his excitement too. I was on board for the ride. A fun ride it has been. I have met so many wonderful people and had so much fun on the journey. We have made cherished memories and lifelong friends over the years we spent on the Divan. The most fun was 2025, our year, Mark's year.

Yes it was crazy busy and we had a couple of hiccups along

the way but we are smarter and stronger for it. One Mission, One Shrine, was Mark's motto. We came together as a Shrine to play BINGO, to work the Shrine Circus, have fun and comradery at the Ladies Luncheons, to dance the night away at The Nobles Party, to work and enjoy The Fesztival of Trees and to treat our beloved children at the Patient Christmas Party. We can't forget the fun we had at the 23 Christmas Parties we attended. What a fabulous year!

I want to thank all of the Ladies of the 2025 Divan. They were such good sports with whatever hair brain idea I had. They came, conquered and I think they had some fun in the process. They became my stable of beautiful fillies, because as you know I love horses!

(elephants not so much).

I also want to thank everyone that supported Mark and I this year, those that believed in our 'One Shrine, One Mission' motto. We couldn't have done it without the help of all the Nobles and their ladies. One Shrine, One Mission.

As Mark's term as Potentate and my role as First Lady of the Shrine has come to an end I want to say thank you for a wonderful year. Thank you for being generous souls and beautiful spirits in a world that could use a million more people just like you. Thank you so much for everything you've done and for all that you continue to do. El Riad is the BEST! You're the BEST and you're appreciated more than words can say.

PUZZLE COMPETITION NIGHT FOR THE LADIES

WHILE THE MEN ARE AT STATED MEETING



**COMPLETED BY TEAMS
MARCH 11 · 6:30PM**

**at EL RIAD
\$5 REGISTRATION FEE
TEAMS BASED OFF HOW MANY SHOW**

CASH PRIZE

The
**Johnny
Holm
Band**



WHERE IT BEGAN!

28
anniversary



VALENTINE BASH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

EL RIAD SHRINE, SIOUX FALLS

\$20 per person | Reserved Tables \$290
Doors open at 7 p.m. | Johnny starts at 8:30 p.m.
Tickets available at El Riad Shrine

For Reserved Table(s), contact Cory Gray (605) 351-5320
Questions? Contact El Riad Shrine at 336-1117
Must be 21 to attend. Proceeds to benefit the El Riad Fife & Drum Corps.







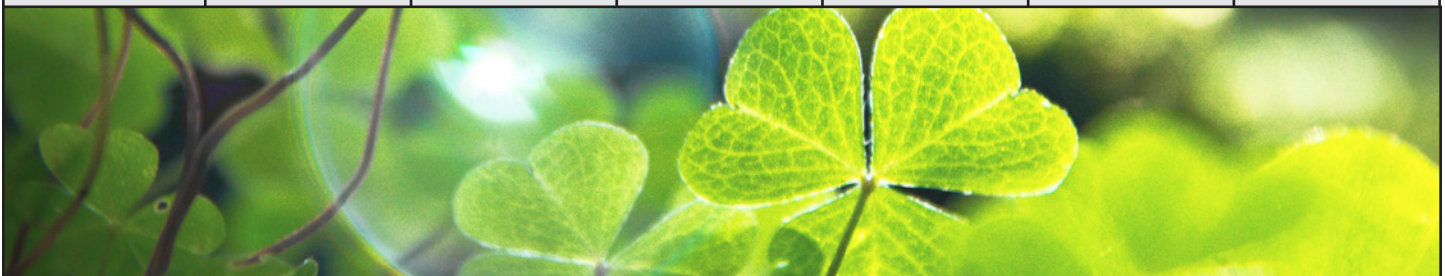
February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Worthington after Lodge Brookings 5:30 p.m. @ Cubby's	3 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Twin Lakes Shrine Club 7 p.m.	4 Legion of Honor 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4-10 p.m.	5 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Clowns 6:30 p.m.	6	7
8	9  B&E (6:00) and BOD (7:00) Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	10 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark 6:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	11  Stated Meeting Happy Hour 4-10 p.m.	12 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	13 MSA Winter Session - Grand Forks Dance Club 	14 MSA Winter Session - Grand Forks Valentine's Bash with Johnny Holm 
15	16	17 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Blast & Cast 7 p.m.	18 Motor Corps 7 p.m. Hillbillies - Outhouse 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4-10 p.m.	19 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Director's Staff 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	20 Job's Daughters Father-Daughter Dance	21 Cabin Fever
22	23 Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	24 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Provost 7:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	25 Shutterbugs 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4-10 p.m. Classie Autos 6:30 p.m.	26 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	27	28 Rock the Shrine Horse Corps 10:00 @ Shrine Bldg. 



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Worthington after Lodge Brookings 5:30 p.m. @ Cubby's	3 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Twin Lakes Shrine Club 7 p.m. Rickshaws 6 p.m.	4 Legion of Honor 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	5 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Clowns 6:30 p.m.	6	7 Daughters of the Nile Dinner & Auction
8	 9 B&E (6:00) and BOD (7:00) Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	10 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark 6:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	 11 Stated Meeting Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	12 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	13 Dance Club 	14 St. Patty's Day Bash 
15	16	17 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Blast & Cast 7 p.m.	18 Motor Corps 7 p.m. Hillbillies - Outhouse 7 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	19 Oriental Band 7 p.m. Director's Staff 7 p.m. Steel Drum Band 6:30 p.m.	20 Motor Corps/Sprint Car Cash Raffle	21
22 Fife & Drum Corp 7:30 p.m. Highlanders Pipe & Drum 6 p.m.	23 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m. Provost 7:30 p.m. Sprint Cars 6:30 p.m.	24 Shutterbugs 7 p.m. Classie Autos 6:30 p.m. Happy Hour 4 - 10 p.m.	25 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	26	27	28 Horse Corps 10:00 @ Shrine Bldg.
29	30	31 Chanters 7-8:00 p.m.				



ROCK THE SHRINE



2.28.26

6 PM DOORS OPEN

7 PM CREATING IN COLOR

9 PM POPROCKS

*DRINK SPECIALS, RAFFLES, ART & GUITAR LIVE AUCTION,
50-50 RAFFLE AND A SILENT AUCTION!*

QUESTIONS? 605-366-3206



Hector Curriel

TICKETS:

ROCKTHESHRINE.COM

EL RIAD SHRINE, 510 S. PHILLIPS AVE., SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104

MUST BE 21/A CHANTERS NON-DEDUCTIBLE FUNDRAISER

CHANTERS



Recap of **2025!** by Jeff Gould

2025 by the numbers!

- **4 more!** Average attendance increased by 4 in 2025
- **48 Practices**
- **39 Events** Between anthems, sing-outs, ceremonials, and Shrine events, our unit participated in 39 activities
- **2 Fundraisers**
- **\$11,500 in donations**

Thanks to our Director Libby Gould and accompanist Doreen Wubben, we are sounding better and singing more. If you are interested in being a part of this unit- we practice Tuesday nights from 7-8:30.

Congratulations to Ryan Lamer our Chanter of the Year and to Zach Rogan our Rookie of the year for their talents and passion.

This month in Chanter History

February 3, 1984:The United States Bureau of Weights and Measures electronically recorded the El Riad Chanters in Washington DC in a climate-controlled room (21 degrees Celsius and 25% relative humidity) singing all 88 notes on the standard keyboard individually and harmonized to the key of C in thirds.

Known informally as "the Chanter" it is still used by Musical Directors and Teachers in the US and Canada to establish perfect pitch.

CASCO

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- 10 x 20
- 10 x 25

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Craig Ross - Manager

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Tim Wingen

Mitch Aman

Heath Ness

Matthew Koball

Annie Mitev

Theresa Morales

Jon Carda

605-336-2640

millerfh.com

Donations & Memorials Contributions

TRANSPORTATION FUND

In Memory of Gary Dean Christie:
Doug & Sandy McFarland

In Memory of Keith Perkins:
Tom & Sheryl Farrell

In Honor of Dr. Kevin Donlin:
Janelle Dinges

In Memory of Jason Walz:
Tom Johnson & Lea Anne Thompson

In Memory of Dean Sorum:
Lloyd & Sue Siemonsma

Donation:
Pamela Marburger
Anonymous (2)

License Decals:
Jason Cramer

HOSPITAL FUND

In Memory of Keith Perkins:
Sid & Diane Strange

In Honor of Kirk & Sheila Hoefert:
Matt Johnson

Donation:
Troy & Roxanne Wheeler

\$100 MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

In Memory of Dick Gantenbien:
Rob & Jamie Joyce

TRANSPORTATION ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Leo Cwach:
Doug & Sandy McFarland

SHRINE PATIENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Donation:
Catherine Wilson

GENERAL BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Jason Walz:
El Riad Sprint Car Unit

In Memory of Jerry King:
El Riad Sprint Car Unit



Black Camel

Eugene W. Larson

Sioux Falls
March 9, 1928 – Aug. 10, 2023
Created: May 14, 1977

Henry R. Hauck

Wentworth, SD
March 27, 1934 – Dec. 2, 2025
Created: Nov. 11, 2011

Michael E. McCann

Brookings
Oct. 26, 1943 – Dec. 9, 2025
Created: Nov. 8, 1975

David Thielbar

Madison
Dec. 6, 1948 – Jan. 4, 2026
Created: May 5, 2012

We are sorry to say that Nobles sometimes pass away without our acknowledgement. As they are Brothers, they are due the recognition of their passing. Please assist in notifying the Temple when a Noble expires.

*Phone 336-1117 or
email office@ehriad.com.*

MOTOR CORPS

Welcome to 2026!

by Tom Anderson, P.P. Commander

The Motor Corps would like to welcome Ills. Sir Scott Denny and 1st Lady Rhonda and the newly elected Divan to an exciting up coming year! Scott says "Be the Change!"

Motor Corps is embarking on a new year Road Captain Dave Murphy is gearing up for competition and Rides. One of the first rides will be the Lose Hills ride late May; south of Sioux City. Pat Ostemyer is Getting the Semi bike trailer ready for the trip to Arizona at the end of March. Sold out trip again! Congratulations is in order for our adjutant Chuck Ielan received in town Shiner of the year! Congratulations Chuck! Mid-winter is upon us in February

in Grand Forks ND. Where we will be planning for competition in August for MSA. Should be a very productive meeting; as many motorized groups will be in attendance.

Chilli is working hard on the Motor Corps-Sprint Car raffle that will be held on March 20; as always, a good time and someone always wins the top prize! Hope to see you all there for this event. As I close this letter the wind is howling and the temperature is dropping snow is flying but the motorcycles are nice and warm just waiting for Spring!

P.S. Remember keep the shiny side up and the rubber on the ground.



Mark Richard
Cactus Advertising Rep.

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Email: advertise@elriad.com

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- Broasted Chicken
- Rib Eye Steaks

Dee Bosch
Catering Manager

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Brandon, SD

VALENTINES

Big Band Dance

2.13.26

Music provided by
The Apostles

El Riad Shrine
6:45 - 10:30 p.m.

Dance lesson at 6:45 p.m. (*free with admission*)
Band starts at 7:30
Business casual or dressy attire suggested.
Costs: \$15 per person, \$7 with a student ID

ElRiad.com

facebook.com/EIRiadDanceClub

facebook.com/BallroomDanceClubSiouxFalls

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



Big Band Dance

**SECOND FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH**

El Riad Shrine

6:45 - 10:30 p.m.

Dance lesson at 6:45 p.m. (free with admission)

Danceable music starts at 7:30

Business casual or dressy attire suggested.

Costs: \$15 per person, \$7 with a student ID

ElRiad.com

facebook.com/ElRiadDanceClub

facebook.com/BallroomDanceClubSiouxFalls

Presented by the El Riad Dance Club & Ballroom Dance Club

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

Cash Calendar

Winners: December 2025

Date	Winner	Sold By			
1	Andrea Goodroad	Fife & Drum			
2	Marlen Schieffer	Lewis & Clark SC			
3	Margaret Anderson	Shutterbugs			
4	Lucy Sowden	Clowns			
5	Jim Bruggeman	Clowns			
6	Holly Wilhelm	Oriental Band			
7	Cole Thompson *	Clowns	20	Lesa Lee	Horse Corps
8	Lonnie Ford	Lewis & Clark SC	21	Travis Reisch *	Clowns
9	Bill Clark	Blast & Cast	22	Josh Shepperd	Clowns
10	Heston Anderson	Lewis & Clark SC	23	Rozanne Binkerd	Sprint Cars
11	Heston Anderson	Lewis & Clark SC	24	Denice Dengler	Blast & Cast
12	Nate Sandman	Clowns	25	Johnny Kirchner	Clowns
13	Julie Kueter	Classie Autos	26	Quentin Surdez	Horse Corps
14	Brian Sandro *	Chanters	27	Kelly Olson	Motor Corps
15	Pat Olawsky **	Sprint Cars	28	Leslie Schipper *	Horse Corps
16	Dustin Brinkman	Clowns	29	Blaire Schmidt	Steel drums
17	Eric Remme	Fife & Drum	30	Doug Kristensen	Lewis & Clark SC
18	Lynnette Anderson	Horse Corps	31	Lynne Dekam	Steel Drums
19	Jim Dvorak	Culinary			



*\$100 Winners **\$300 Winner



WELCOMES ALL MASONS TO
GRAND VIEW

- ◆ **PAY DUES ONLINE**
- ◆ **CALENDAR OF LODGE EVENTS**

Update your profile information including address, contact information, profile picture, concordant body membership, spouse information, emergency contact information, military service information, communication preferences, and more!

Member Portal found on the Grand Lodge Website can be used to Register and Gain Access

You will need your Member ID to register. If you are not able to find this please contact your lodge secretary or the Grand Secretary at gs@sdgrandlodge.org. Please include your Full Name

If you are having trouble you can watch the How-To videos



#1 REGISTER



#2 MOBILE

FIFE & DRUM CORPS

End of the Year Celebration by Bruce Norton

Oh what a night! Our outgoing Brigadier, Mike Archer headlined another great year-end celebration. So many highlights but thanks first to Darrell "Admiral" Griggs for a great show of past and present images. Also to the crack Chanter bar team for their expert beverage service. We had around 80 attendee's that thoroughly enjoyed the special fellowship we all share.

The highlight of the evening was Jon Tveidt being awarded the highly prestigious Fifer of the Year award. Certainly, a well earned honor and we can't thank Jon enough for all he does. We are lucky to have so many contenders for Fifer of the Year. Randy Ingalls, last years recipient, accepted the Bungling Bugler award on behalf of David Daily. Dave's direction impairment incident proved to be a real winner. Our rookie's were also stars of the evening with Scotty Schaffer, Jim Mose, and Jim Brodkorb sharing rookie of the year honors. Scotty and Jim's food service throughout the year and willingness to help wherever needed were rightfully recognized. While the other Jim got into parade mode and starting learning the dinger. Finally, Potentate Mark Richard passed on the Presidents pin to Mike Archer. Congratulations to all for your efforts and dedication to our nationally recognized Shrine group.

We now begin the tenure of Brigadier Nathan Streich. Nathan

promised he would get us into better marching shape and we already know he'll do great this year as our group begins the busiest four months of any Shrine group anywhere. We start with hosting February bar along with having Johnny Holm at the Shrine Center on Valentine's Day. Hard to believe this will be Johnny's 28th appearance! That party is followed by our big St Patty's Day Bash! on March 14. This will be the 22nd year our now famous St Patty's Day party and the 15th annual Shamrock Shootout beer pong event. We really don't come up for air until after the Circus. Whew!!!!

Please see our flyers for more details on our two events. We'll have a new band, GOODROAD, headlining St Patty's this year. We also encourage all Nobles to consider playing in our beer pong tourney. We are expecting well over 100 teams to participate. Don't wait...Sign up today!



15TH ANNUAL FIFE & DRUM



SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT!

TRY YOUR LUCK AT BEER PONG! SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026

REGISTRATION STARTS @ 11:30 A.M. | TOURNAMENT @ 12:30 P.M. | EL RIAD SHRINE

*200
teams allowed
to compete!*



2 person teams | \$50 per team

Prize money for first three places and drink tickets for fourth place!
Entry into the tournament includes at least three games guaranteed.

For entry forms, please contact Mike Archer at (605) 321-5459 or email: Mike.Archer34@gmail.com. You may also fill out the form below.



Team Name _____

Team Captain Name _____ Mobile Phone _____

Team Player (1) _____ Player (2) _____

Payment attached _____ Yes _____ No

You may scan entry forms to Mike Archer or deliver to El Riad Shrine on the corner of 14th St & Phillips Ave prior to March 14.

Must be 21 to enter. For questions, contact the El Riad Shrine at 336-1117. Proceeds to benefit the El Riad Fife & Drum Corps.

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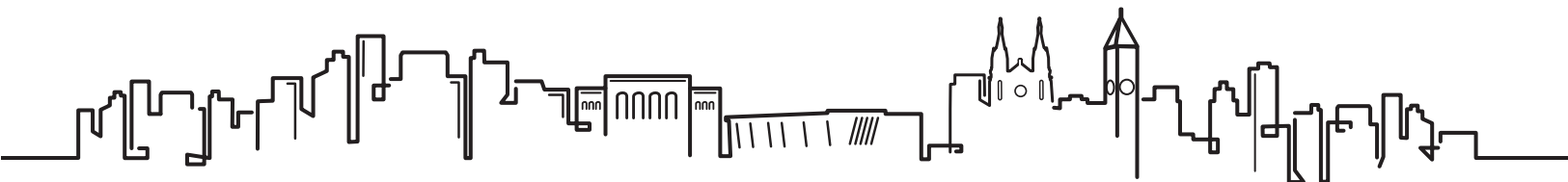
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The Joy of a Life Lived **on the Open Road** by Mark Keiser

The day you drove it off the lot, a car is more than just a machine; it's a vessel for memories. It's the soundtrack of your youth, the escape route from a small town, or the silent partner on countless late-night drives. Remember who shared the front seat with you on those many long (and short) drives? But as time marches on, the shiny newness fades, and the inevitable wear and tear begin to show. For some, this is the end of a chapter. For others, it's the start of a deep and rewarding journey: the preservation of a cherished automobile.

This isn't just about restoring a classic for its monetary value; it's about holding onto a piece of your own history. The work begins with a kind of forensic investigation. You pore over every dent, every scratch, and every faded patch of paint, each one a silent witness to a moment in your life. The greasy engine bay, the worn-out seats, the flaky rust on the fenders—they're

not flaws, but rather a timeline of shared experiences.

The process of bringing a car back to its former glory is a labor of love. It's a series of small victories that build on each other. Finding that specific, elusive part from a dusty warehouse in a distant state feels like a monumental achievement. The satisfying click of a re-upholstered seat latch, the smooth purr of a re-tuned engine, the gleam of a freshly polished fender—these moments are intensely personal. You're not just repairing a car; you're renewing a pact.

This isn't always easy. There are moments of frustration when a bolt won't budge or an electrical gremlin refuses to be tamed. You'll spend hours on forums, consult with old-timers, and get your hands dirty in ways you never thought you would. But these challenges are part of the joy. They connect you to the history of the car, to the mechanics who first built it, and to the community of enthusiasts who share your passion.

The true reward comes when you finally take that first drive. The smell of the old leather, the familiar feel of the steering wheel, the sound of the engine—it all comes rushing back. It's not just a drive; it's a reunion. You're not just driving a car; you're driving a memory. This is a car that you've known, nurtured, and brought back to life. Every turn of the wheel feels like a conversation with an old friend.

Preserving a car is an act of defiance against a disposable culture. It's a statement that some things are worth the effort to save. It's about recognizing that the stories we create are more valuable than the latest technology. This car, with its bumps, scratches, and new parts, is a living testament to a life lived on the open road—and the joy of making sure the journey continues. That's why we do it. Classie Autos is who we share all those stories with.

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February 2026

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 Mark Johnson 2-2
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 David Hosley 2-3
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 Mark Neuharth 2-5
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 Wayne Freese 2-8

Timothy Hudson 2-8
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 Maynard Townswick 2-8
 Rick Brownlee 2-10
 Dustin Cole 2-10
 Gregory Dubois 2-10
 Cecil Graham 2-10
 Nicholas Brink 2-11
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 Charles Gilson 2-12
 Edward Meyer 2-12
 James Miskimins 2-12
 Timothy Wieker 2-12
 Clayton Wilhelm 2-12
 Terry Embertson 2-13
 James Gruye 2-13
 Andy Harries 2-13
 Jarold Hauff 2-13
 Aaron Zahn 2-13
 Rahn Lund 2-14
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 Anthony Rux 2-15
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 Chris Wasmund 2-15
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 Larry Hemmer 2-16

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 David Strum 2-16
 Timothy Wingen 2-16
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 Todd Schneider 2-17
 Stephen Brown 2-18
 Jack Nelson 2-18
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 Russ Olson 2-18
 Jon Woods 2-18
 Lonnie Merriman 2-19
 Samuel Nickel 2-19
 Michael Parkhill 2-19
 Stewart Turnwall 2-20
 Steven Clark 2-21
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 Todd Loomer 2-21
 Richard Viehweg 2-21
 Zachary Else 2-22

Robert Fitch 2-22
 James Hoy 2-22
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The El Riad Temple (510 South Phillips Avenue)

MARCH 20, 2026

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

With Cash Bar, Food, 50/50 Raffle and Other Fun Games!

Important Information

Each person who purchases a raffle ticket is entitled to attend, with their group, the Appreciation Party held at the Shrine Temple on March 20th, 2026 at 6:30 pm. There will be food available. Cocktail tickets will be on sale. There will be many other door prizes given away during the course of the evening. Must be 18 or older to enter the raffle. Additional guest may attend and can purchase tickets for the door prizes, but not the five major prizes.

You need not be present to win the six major prizes.

El Riad Shrine
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MEMBERSHIP

Host A Rush Party & Generate New Members !

by Bruce Norton

By the time you read this, 2026 will already be well underway and we'll be two months removed for our first "Feztiful" of Trees. This new fund raiser has the potential to be a real Christmas tradition in Sioux Falls thanks to some incredibly hard work by the event committee and our Divan. Without a doubt, the excellence and dedication of these Shriner's was on full display.

To me, this is what El Riad membership is all about. High quality Nobles and their Ladies working hard and working together for an positive outcome. As members of El Riad, we all get a little credit for the great things other Noble brothers do, but make no mistake. The folks that worked on this event deserve high praise indeed. The great thing is they already have a ton of interest to add more trees next year. Congratulations on a truly terrific event!

OUR BIG ASK: Your membership team is urging all El Riad groups to host a rush party. These party's have the opportunity to bring in 3-5 new members per party. If all our groups held just one rush party, we'd generate 90 new Shriner's! Rush party's are easy, and a great way for the candidate's Lady to learn first hand about our great fraternity. Once the Ladies learn what El Riad is all about, it sure makes the job of selling the candidate easier. Remember, the Membership Committee has a budget for these type of gatherings, plus we'd be happy to attend a rush party to present our philanthropy and fraternity. Please contact Bruce Norton (605) 261-3338 or email at bnort1@aol.com to learn more about a group rush party.

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Social 5 pm - Dinner 6 pm - Live Auction 7 pm

Saturday, March 7, 2026

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Stated Meeting

11.12.25 | El Riad Temple

by John Whitelock P.P., Recorder

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Potentate Mark Richard. Chaplain Larry Miller gave the invocation. Potentate Richard then led the Nobles in the Shrine Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the Stated Meeting held on October 8, 2025 were, upon proper motion and second, approved as printed and distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Les Kruse gave the financial report for October 31, 2025.

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

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

- The donation of pipe and drape for the venue has been received from PP Burma;
- Unit/club pictures have been rehung on the wall of the El Riad room;
- Touch up and trim for the new flooring will soon be completed;
- The south side flooding issues have been resolved;
- The new pallet racking has been installed in the walk-in cooler;
- Light covers have been installed on the ceiling lights in the kitchen;
- Rippling on the dance floor is being addressed.

Upon proper motion and second, the report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief of Staff: Chief of Staff Aaron Neiman thanked all nobles, units and clubs that participated or attended the Fall Ceremonial. He 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 upcoming events, including the Festival of Trees on November 23-30, and the Patient Christmas Party on December 7, and the Annual Meeting and Installation on January 10.

Membership: Membership Committee co-chairman Jeremy Swenson told the nobility that 11 new nobles were created via a one-day Masonic festival on October 25 and the Shrine Fall Ceremonial on November 8. We have a few other candidates that will be offered a cold sands ceremony before the end of the year. Units have been notified of interest in those units as expressed by the new nobles. Co-Chairman Ethan Serck told the nobility that efforts are underway to encourage nobles to pay their delinquent dues. He said that letters will be going out to those nobles and to the units or clubs to which those nobles belong.

Communications: Assistant Rabban Steve Haase told the nobility that the deadline for the February issue of the Cactus is January 1. He urged nobles to use the new dues payment process that is available online at elriad.org. Also available on that platform is the ability to pay for noble circus

tickets, noble football tickets, Cactus supporters, and making dues payment via ACH.

Social Media: 1st Ceremonial Master Tony Bachman thanked all who have followed, like and shared our social media content on Facebook and Instagram. Our Facebook page has approximately 3200 followers and our Instagram page has over 1100 followers. He also thanked Noble Jeremy Swenson for creating videos to post on those platforms.

Patient Christmas Party: Noble Ron Knott, chairman of the event, told the nobility that the annual party is on December 7. Planning is underway and invitations have been sent to our patient families. He thanked the units and clubs for their donations of funds, and he noted that volunteers are still needed for this fun event.

Festival of Trees: Assistant Rabban Haase told the nobility that the committee is seeking volunteers from the units, clubs and general nobility to work this first-time fundraising event. Decorating of the Shrine begins on November 16. Trees will be placed on November 19, and the event begins on November 23. He encouraged the nobles to like and share this event on Facebook.

Cash Calendars: Potentate Richard encouraged the units and clubs to sell their cash calendars, as this project is the main budget stimulus for the beginning of the year.

Masonic Relations: Noble

Jim Hoy was unable to attend the meeting but provided a list of upcoming Masonic activities: November 13, Worthing 141, stated meeting; November 20, Minnehaha 5, EA and FC degrees; December 1, Trinity 200, stated meeting; and December 4, Minnehaha 5, stated meeting.

Divan Reports: Assistant Rabban Steve Haase reported on the Ritualistic Unit, Fife & Drum Corps, Oriental Band, Corn Palace Shrine Club, and the Watertown Shrine Unit. 1st Ceremonial Master Tony Bachman reported on the Big Band/Last Call, Directors Staff, Back 40m Boys and the Culinary Unit. Marshal Brian Schultz reported on the Blast & Cast Unit, Twin Lakes Shrine Club, Big Bend Shrine Club and the Highlanders.

High Priest and Prophet Bill Thompson reported on the Motor Corps, Sprint Corps, the Clown Unit and the Roadrunners. Oriental Guide Paul Berndt reported on the Ski Unit, Lewis & Clark Shrine Club, Steel Drum Band, Chanters, Horse Corps. 2nd Ceremonial Master John Schuety reported on the Brookings Shrine Club, the Rickshaws, and the Provost Unit.

Trip Reports: Chief Rabban Denney reported on the annual fundraising Gala for Shriners Children’s Twin Cities, which was held on October 25 in Minneapolis. 18 nobles and ladies from El Riad attended this event at which El Riad was, once again, at the top of the marquee as the founding sponsor of the event. Through

the generosity of the El Riad nobility and our Shrine family, we were able to provide a donation of \$100,000 to our healthcare system. Master of Ceremonies for the event was our own Ill. Sir Jim Burma, PP, and Chairman of the Board of Governors for Shriners Children’s – Twin Cities.

There being no further business before the body, Potentate Richard thanked the Provosts for tiling the doors. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
John Whitelock, PP, Recorder

Stated Meeting

12.10.25 | El Riad Temple

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Potentate Mark Richard. Chaplain Larry Miller gave the invocation. Potentate Richard then led the Nobles in the Shrine Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Les Kruse gave the financial report for November 30, 2025.

Upon proper motion and

second, the Treasurer’s report was approved.

Chief Rabban Scott Denney provided the first reading of the 2026 temple budget.

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

- The Venue rental report for 2025 and beyond;
- Unit/club pictures have been rehung on the wall of the El Riad room;
- Touch up and trim for the new

flooring will soon be completed;

- The south side flooding issues have been resolved;
- A new carpet cleaning machine will be purchased;
- Light covers have been installed on the ceiling lights in the kitchen;
- New trash containers will be purchased for the main area.

Upon proper motion and second, the report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief of Staff: Chief of Staff Aaron Neiman urged the units to get their parade and event forms for

2026 into the office as soon as the dates are known. He noted that the Annual Meeting and Installation is on January 10. He reminded the unit and club leaders to get their IRS form 990 completed as soon as possible. Also needed are the unit and club annual reports for the annual meeting.

Chief Rabban Denney told the unit and club leaders that a 990 training session will be held immediately following the annual unit and club seminar on January 17. At that time, each treasurer or other unit representative will be assisted in preparing their actual 990 form.

Membership: Membership Committee co-chairmen Jeremy Swenson and Ethan Serck told the nobility that they intend to involve more membership committee members in active roles in the areas of recruitment and retention. They intend to build upon the successes of 2025 and will encourage unit rush parties as an excellent opportunity to introduce interested men to Shrine membership. Outer Guard Joe Greve spoke to the nobility on the success of rush parties to the past growth of the Fife & Drum Unit and El Riad.

Communications: Assistant Rabban Steve Haase told the nobility that the deadline for the February issue of the Cactus is January 1. He noted that our website has a clean, new look and is easier to navigate. The contact for unit and club leaders, formerly found on the last page of the Cactus, has been removed from that publication and relocated to the Members Info tab on the website, which is password-protected.

Social Media: Committee member Noble Jeremy Swenson told the nobility that they are considering the creation of a YouTube presence in 2026. The committee will likely grow in size in order to generate more ideas and creativity. They intend to incorporate more information from Shriners International onto our social media platforms. Social media is a force to be recognized and utilized if we want to reach the younger generations. The use of social media almost exclusively to advertise the Feztival of Trees proved to be very successful. Potentate Richard thanked Noble Swenson for his hard work at making and posting videos for membership recruitment and advertising for the Feztival of Trees.

Patient Christmas Party: Noble Ron Knott, chairman of the event, told the nobility that 25 patients shopped at Lewis Drug and 80 patients and family members came to the Shrine for food and games. He thanked the units and clubs for their donations of funds and participation as workers at the event.

Feztival of Trees: Assistant Rabban Haase told the nobility that the event was a great success for our first year of the event. A profit was made but the amount is not yet fully known. The majority of the advertising was done via Facebook. This resulted in 23 sponsored trees, 600 registrants and over 9000 raffle tickets sold. He thanked the tree sponsors from the community, including the Chanters and Oriental Band who provided trees, and those units/clubs that funded the money tree. He also thanked the

committee and the volunteers who helped with this project. He highlighted the many hours of work by Captain of the Guard Ken Krein and his Lady Tammy in their efforts to make our first Feztival a successful fundraiser. Potentate Richard thanked the nobles and ladies who worked to make this idea a reality, and thanked Assistant Rabban Haase for his leadership of the Feztival.

Masonic Relations: Noble Jim Hoy informed the nobility of upcoming Masonic activities: December 11, Worthing 141, stated meeting; December 18, Minnehaha 5, Masonic Jeopardy; January 1, Minnehaha 5, stated meeting; January 5, Trinity 200, stated meeting; and January 15, Minnehaha 5, EA Degree.

Divan Reports: Assistant Rabban Steve Haase reported on the Ritualistic Unit, Fife & Drum Corps, Oriental Band, and the Watertown Shrine Unit. Marshal Brian Schultz reported on the Blast & Cast Unit, Twin Lakes Shrine Club, Big Bend Shrine Club and the Highlanders. Oriental Guide Paul Berndt reported on Chanters and the "Prairie Christmas" event on December 20. 2nd Ceremonial Master John Schuety reported on the Brookings Shrine Club, the Rickshaws, and the Shutterbugs/Pixels.

There being no further business before the body, Potentate Richard thanked the Provosts for tiling the doors. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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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