



The Scimitar

Operating Under A Charter Granted By Medinah Shriners, Chicagoland

December 2011 Issue

From the Desk of the President



It's December and 2011 is almost gone and into the history books. This year has really moved fast; it seems only last month that I was elected your president. It has been a great year and we managed to get a number of things accomplished.

Our dinners with the ladies were well attended, whether it was for breakfast on 95th Street or steaks at Maxfield's, everyone appeared to have a good time.

The best part of having everyone come out for a meal is the fellowship and sense of family it engenders.

Next year, as you should know by now, I take over from Petey as Pit Crew Chief. Pete has found that places where trails do not exist are not well marked. It is my opinion that thanks to Petey's hard work we have the best parade unit at Medinah. I know that my job will be easier because of his accomplishments.

The changing of the guard will be at our January meeting so please come for the fellowship and to congratulate Ray on his upcoming presidency and Petey on a job well done.

My daughter Mindy will be taking over the booking of parades from Lynette. I wish to thank her for all the things that she has done for our club over the years. For without her dedication and work, we would not have been so successful.

So let me close with a thank you to all of you who made my year so much fun.

Our first parade of the 2012 season will be St Patrick's Day, hope and pray for NO SNOW.

Fraternally Yours, President Dave Wray

Rolla Sullens Named W.S.S.C. Man of the Year

Congratulations to Rolla Sullens, the 2011 West Suburban Shrine Club Man of the Year. Rolla received the award at the December 7 meeting. Members voted to give him the award based on his service and participation in W.S.S.C.

Rolla is the preverbal guy you want on your side no matter what. From bringing an ice cold Coca Cola® or RC® cola, to

driving half way across the state to do a parade that we weren't even doing, Rolla is the guy that no matter how far we go he takes the ball and runs with it to further our achievement. He is a "go-to guy" and spearheaded our hospital donations committee and made this year the best in a



Rolla accepts the W.S.S.C. Man of the year Award for 2011

long while. And there has never been a more gracious recipient of the W.S.S.C. "Used Rubber Award" than Rolla. Hats off to you! Truly a worthy recipient.

The 'Petey Cup' features the name of every W.S.S.C. Member of the Year. Past winners include Petey Papadogianis, Bill Macak, Ed Kral, David Huffman, Mike Velko, and George Cepek.

Upcoming Events

- January 4 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- January 13 – Medinah Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, & Installation, Shrine Center
- January 14 – 2010 Installation of Officers, Shrine Center
- February 1 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- March 7 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- April 4 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- May 2 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- June 6 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- July 11 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- August 1 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- September 5 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- October 3 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- November 7 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)
- December 5 – W.S.S.C. Meeting, Shrine Center (*Stag*)

For detailed parade unit information, contact Petey or go to our website www.westsuburbanshrineclub.org for a complete list of activities and appearances.

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Board of Directors

Wally Miles (1 year, 2012)
Keith Olson (1 year, 2012)
David Huffman (2 years, 2013)
Fred Kohrt (2 years, 2013)
Shawn Fizer (3 years, 2014)
Raymond Redisi (3 years, 2014)

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Living Past Presidents

1957 – Edward B. Novak
1959 – John Williams
1967 – Robert H. Lynn
1968 – Richard A. Kallal
1970 – Vern A. Young
1971 – Warren F. Mara
1977 – Carl Veltmann
1981 – Robert G. Munyer
1982 – Calvin Tazelaar
1984 – Bert DeLegge
1987 – Emil Denemark
1989 – William Cummings
1990 – George Iwanowski
1991 – Robert T. Beebe
1993 – Howard Aschburner
1995 – George Cepek
1997 – Richard A. Hartzel
1998 – Walter Miles, Jr.
2000 – Thomas Hastings
2001 – Weston “Bud” Parker
2002 – Nicholas Sasuta
2003 – Robert Bartik
2004 – Richard J. Hurbanis
2005 – Petey Papadogianis
2006 – William Macak, Jr.
2007 – Michael E. Velko
2008 – Dan Smith
2009 – James Lyman
2010 – Keith Olson

Editor's Column

Our apologies for missing the October issue. As we've said before, it's impossible to do *The Scimitar* without the TIMELY cooperation and articles contributed by our officers. We're back on track for the end of 2011 and looking forward to 2012.

On page 8 see our next installment of the new column “Comments from Past Presidents.” This month 1982 President Cal Tazelaar sounds off about his year.

As we have mentioned previously, this column offers past presidents a forum to voice their opinions. It will feature one past president per issue, answering a series of five questions. We've contacted you at least twice but will be trying a third and final time. PLEASE answer the questions and send them back. It only takes a few minutes and we'd LOVE to hear from you all. This is a great way to look at the past but also to possibly help our future leaders learn what makes a great year.

Finally, congratulations to your award-winning Roaring '57s. The parade unit took 3rd place in the Best Dramatic/Humorous Entry category in the 2011 Waukegan Park District American Independence Parade on July 3, 2011.

The Waukegan team members were: Chuck Graening, Tony Graffeo, Arv Hallstrom, David Huffman, and Mike Velko. Congratulations on your award at Waukegan and helping The Roaring '57s keep up their winning tradition!

Fraternally,
Petey Papadogianis



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A Message from the 1st Vice President



Hello to all my fellow noble “Fez-heads” and our gracious supporters.

I had the honor of being involved in some of our September, October, and November parades. I wish to thank all of my fellow nobles and friends for the wonderful turnout at our parades! I know you travel long distances (such as to Morris, for example) and give your time to support our club, our parade unit, and most of all “The Kids.” I also wish to thank Dave Wray and Petey Papadog for taking great care of our rig to and from parades, as well as Dave Huffman, and others for maintaining our “Roaring ‘57’s” so we may perform for the crowds. Your charity and generosity is what makes America the great country it is! God bless!

I have worked with Dan Slomiany at 2nd Dimension Creative Services for the artwork and Julia Novak at Silk Screen Express for the actual shirt production for our new club wear. Dan has finished the artwork so our club logo will comply with Medinah guidelines and our “ROARING ‘57’s” will stand out even more!! Our logo has been slightly modified; we added the mandatory Scimitar image to be embroidered on the right sleeve; our names and the checkered and American flags on the opposite (left) sleeve.

I met with Julia to have her embroider the sample shirts and finalize the artwork. A final change is that all the lettered embroidery will be GOLD rather than RED, to contrast with the burgundy shirts.

I was asked to make sure sizes through 5X will be available for our more substantial members (me being one of them). I am offering two shirts to our members, a burgundy wicking polo up to 6X for our parades, as well as our “formal” burgundy and black camp shirt, which unfortunately is only available in up to 4X. We will also be offering a burgundy shirt for the ladies, so of course, the Lovely Ladies of The Roaring 57’s dare to be different and set the fashion trend at Medinah!

I am also inquiring about poplin jackets with zip-out linings so they will be versatile three-season wear.

Order forms are available on page 4. Please use a separate form for each shirt ordered to avoid confusion/errors. I will also email and/or snail-mail it to our members. As in the past, W.S.S.C. is partially subsidizing the shirts.

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Christmas Party at The Grotto in Oakbrook Terrace in December. I think I speak for everyone when I say that the food was delicious and the fellowship was outstanding.



Celebrating the holidays with friends at the Christmas Party

I am working with the DuPage Shrine Club, and my counterpart John Pansino, about doing our Official Visit for 2012 jointly, as well as other club events together for next year. I am investigating a dinner/theater package to impress the Potentate and Divan while still meeting our member’s budgets. I’m looking forward to a great 2012.

*Ray Bernard AKA ‘Speed-Ray-Sir’
1st Vice President*

A Message from the 3rd Vice President



In a previous article, I quoted Fred Smith, the Chairman of FedEx, that success means, “The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.” As we enter 2012, I still believe we need to focus more on the W.S.S.C.’s main thing. You guys know what it is. Along those lines, I would ask the 2012 officers and directors to hold a separate 2012 planning meetings outside of the regular monthly meetings. Everyone needs to set goals and objectives

to keep in focus.

As you know, I will not be an officer in 2012. My main focus is to get down to Hot Springs Village, AR sometime next year. It may not be until late 2012, but I am taking pleasure in that this will be my last Chicago winter. Anyone remember winter of 1979? I got a new garage roof that year. I have started my bucket list of what to do one more time in Chicago during the winter. Lunch at Field’s (yes; Macy’s) Walnut Room and Brookfield Zoo Holiday lights did not quite make the list. I still have those ice skates and skis in the garage but my daughter just says, “Stay on the bunny hill.”

In March 2011, at our first parade in Forest Park, we road in the snow. It was a long year of many parades but I am not sure how the year ended? Did we accomplish what we wanted?

*Arv Hallstrom
3rd Vice President*

News from Pit Road

To start with a quote from a song that my favorite band sang, "What a long, strange trip it's been." Yes; it's true this is my last long-winded article as your Pit Crew Chief. We had a lot of great times that I will always remember and cherish. Along the way we had some good times, some weird times, and some crazy times.

Who could forget that first meeting when Troy Evans and I asked about going motorized ... and the awkward silence that followed. You could hear a pin drop until our commander at that time, Cal, stood up and said, "That's a great idea; when can we start?" Then everyone else in the room started breathing again. Or who could forget Big Bob Bartek, club president at the time, nominating the at-that-time club trouble maker as the Pit Crew Chief? Good times!

Or remember going to Minneapolis with the guys to Imperial and taking the tour of the fiberglass plant to pick up the first '57 body; when we all started getting excited about going motorized? Or the first parade in Elmhurst for St. Patrick's Day when we almost didn't make it because our trailer broke when I hooked it up; and when we started with three cars and finished with only two because Troy's car burned up the clutch? Or the time when our new custom-built truck box on the boat frame trailer was built and being pulled by my little Toyota pick-up going to Libertyville; and I missed the exit because when I turned the wheel to get on the ramp the front wheels of my truck were off the ground and didn't steer because the trailer was so heavy?

Or the time we went to South Dakota with the unit and saw what Shrine parading was all about and the friends and miles we made along the way? Or remember when we won our first trophy and how excited we all got? Or how cool our new shirts and jackets were and how cool it was when we were allowed to put the gold scimitar on our 100 million pins or even when we were bestowed the honor of getting "Roaring '57's" fezzes?

And, oh yeah, remember the time when we were training for GLSA and thought we had it all together until we saw what units that don't parade as much but practice more did? (That was an eye-opener.) Or remember when I blew the engine on the old black Ford pick-up that we were using to pull the unit? Or remember when we got the new shiny, big red trailer with the ultra cool articulated superstructure inside? Wow; we've come along way, Baby!!

Who could forget doing the South Side Irish Parade, when we used to represent the hospital, and when Channel 7 news cleared the street so that our resident leprechaun could take one of our kids on a ride for the cameras with the onlookers cheering and the little boy with his dad holding his crutches smiling from ear to ear?

We had some great times and put a lot of smiles on the faces of a lot of people from the very old to the very young. We've had our share of setbacks along the way. Good times weren't always on our side but we persevered and overcame and lived to tell the tales.

And who could forget all those members who gave so much to get us going? Like the time when we were just starting out and needed funds? It was the W.S.S.C. Christmas party at Doc McNerland's condo and we drove a car in to the building and out on the dance floor. Do you remember who put the first \$100 in the fish tank on the seat? Well, I do; and we should all thank Big George Iwanowski for starting our parade fund. And who doesn't remember the check my mouth wrote that my @\$\$ had to cover to start the unit originally?

Well, let's all thank our old commander and his wife for being our "anonymous benefactors." For this I am truly thankful. Any success we may have achieved is thanks to our benefactors. Thanks Cal and Karen; you guys are truly special. Finally, let's not forget the nobles we lost along the way: Ed Anderson, Don Livesey, Ted Nordsell, Danny Poulos, and Mamie Miles.

So farewell to memory lane and welcome new Pit Crew Chief Dave Wray. As you probably know: it takes a lot of friends to succeed and I know you will find help just for the asking. My thanks go to Keith Olson for doing body work; to Bill Macak for bringing in new nobles, to David Huffman for working on the cars, to Uncle George Cepek for creating a photo history, to Mike Velko for helping lead us into battle, to David Miley for keeping us on the web, to Fred, Ray, Wally, Cal, and Bob for using their cars in the parades to escort the '57s, to Mal for coaching us for GLSA competition and Ed Kral and Rolla Sullens for always being there for the club, to Tom Hastings and George Iwanowski for always pitching in when we needed help, and to everyone else I have forgotten to mention. Finally, I'd like to thank my Goddess, my wife, the mother of my best buddy, Dean, for always being there, and scheduling parades, and keeping me in clean parade clothes, and allowing me to go and play with all the other guys even when it was raining. Best of luck Dave. The keys to the big blue Chevy are on the hook. Call if you need anything but I believe you will soon find a way to put your own stamp on the unit. Hasta!

Your Roaring '57s Pit Crew Chief, Petey

Beyond the Checked Flag



First, let me say that as far as the W.S.S.C. man of the year trophy is concerned, all I can say is: **I'M NOT WORTHY!** I did learn a valuable lesson from being voted in though: it is absolutely amazing how many voters a pop cooler of Coke® at parades plus a couple dozen donuts will buy.

On an exciting note, I'm very happy to report on the outcome of our drive to collect items to donate to the hospital. In mid-December, we presented approximately 200 assorted toys and gifts to Mary McCauley, Donation Coordinator for the Recreation Therapy/Child Life Department, at the hospital! The articles donated to the hospital were paid for from \$175 collected at the October W.S.S.C. meeting and matched by the club. Additional items were also donated by individual members.

Here is a rough breakdown of the items bought and donated: Many decks of game and playing cards, 2 MP3 players, 100 White Sox carry bags, 115 back packs, 30 children's books, one case of toy bubblers, many plush animals, and many games.

Also at the hospital's request, we put together an assortment of toys etc. for children under 5 years old who come in for cleft lip and palate operations. This included everything from baby rattles to toys and games for the under 5 kids.

A big **THANK YOU** for all of our W.S.S.C. nobles for their efforts and generosity in making it happen for all of the children in therapy at Shriner's Hospital Chicago. **All** these gifts were donated through the charitable efforts of the West Suburban Shrine Club!

Rolla Sullens, Assistant Pit Crew Chief

W.S.S.C. Shirt Order Form

We are pleased to offer our NEW look W.S.S.C. apparel for 2012. It has been a few years since we have offered shirts to our members and their ladies. We are offering updated parade polo shirts and a new a formal button-down shirt for ceremonials, G.L.S.A., and other W.S.S.C./Medinah events. Our new color for the men will be burgundy/maroon red with black trim on both styles; for the ladies also maroon.

Both the men's and ladies' polo shirts are Ottoman style, 100% 5.3 oz. self-wicking polyester, colorfast and shrink resistant. The men's formal shirt is 4.5 oz. 55/45 cotton/polyester, open collar camp shirt style.

Shirt prices include the embroidery with the brand new art work. We are subsidizing the cost of the shirts as we have in the past.

Men's Parade Shirt (STYLE K524) -- Sizes XS thru 6XL \$35.00 each

Quantity _____ Size _____ Name on Shirt: _____

Men's Formal Shirt (STYLE S300) -- Sizes XS thru 4XL \$35.00 each

Quantity _____ Size _____ Name on Shirt: _____

Ladies' Polo Shirt (STYLE L525) -- Sizes XS thru 4XL \$35.00 each

Quantity _____ Size _____ Name on Shirt: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

ONE ORDER FORM PER SHIRT PLEASE. Make all checks payable to W.S.S.C. (West Suburban Shrine Club) and enclose check along with order form.

Please remit to:

Ray Bernard
870 Fox Run Drive Unit B
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Questions? Contact Ray Bernard at 847-975-1059; rabgolfnut@msn.com.

Future Apparel Survey

- Would you be interested in a three-season, water resistant jacket with zip-out lining for under \$100.00 embroidered? Yes _____ No _____
- New windbreakers? Yes _____ No _____
- Hooded sweatshirts Yes _____ No _____

W.S.S.C./DuPage Night at the Wolves

**Chicago Wolves
vs.
Abbotsford Heat**

**Saturday, February 25
7:00 pm**



Bus to and from the game. Departs from **Medinah Shrine Center** at **5:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome; bring the whole family. *Contact Noble Ray Redisi at 708-243-6003 or lodestarlino@earthlink.net for details.*

All ticket holders will receive a Chicago Wolves hat and a chance to win a Wolves jersey.

Proceeds benefit West Suburban and DuPage Shrine Clubs and are not tax deductible.

Please send reservations/payment by **February 4** to:

Ray Redisi

1325 Carlson Drive
Streamwood, IL 60107

Cost: \$22 per person (includes bus)

Checks payable to DuPage Shrine Club

Sorry; No Refunds

Name: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of tickets: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Riding Bus (please circle): Yes No



Past Presidents and their Ladies in attendance at the Past Presidents Party



Blocking traffic at the Toys for Tots Parade



Clowning at Past Presidents



Making merry at the W.S.S.C. Christmas Party



Fred and Mary Kohrt

Mal and Mary Condie



Rolla Sullens and W.S.S.C.'s donations to Shriner's Hospital



Keith Olson gets his pin and jewel at Past Presidents



David and Brandi Huffman, with Mindy, Dave and Harley Seelentag at the dinner with the ladies at PJ Klems.

Comments from Past Presidents



Cal "Bubbles" Tazelaar is retired pipe fitter from Local 597. He was W.S.S.C. President in 1982 and ran the Onion Sale for several years. He was also Commander of the Trikers parade unit for a number of years. He has been Financial Secretary (and Club 'Punching Bag') for years.

As Director of Shrine Clubs, he is currently the highest ranking Medinah officer in West

Suburban. Cal and his wife Karen live in Romeoville.

- 1) What was the most memorable outing or event during your year as President?**
My most memorable event was my installation. My family came to enjoy the day with me and I will never forget that day.

- 2) What was your greatest achievement during your year?**
I tried to make the West Suburban Shrine Club a bigger and better one, by having several dinners with the ladies. Of course in those days, we had a lot more members to work with.
- 3) What do you want as your legacy with the club?**
I don't think I need to have a legacy; all I want is for the club and Medinah to keep going and growing.
- 4) Do you have any regrets, disappointments, or unfinished work?**
I have no regrets. I did what I thought I needed to do to make us a better Shrine club and worked to make our Shrine Temple better.
- 5) Do you have any advice or comments for future presidents?**
As you all know, I give out my advice freely. Sometimes it is not the best, but it is what I feel will help our officers do a better job than I did.
-