

# *Medinah Shriners*

## **A Handbook for the New Noble and His Lady**



New Nobles and Ladies, welcome to Medinah Shriners. Your fellow Nobles and their Ladies are pleased to have you join us in having fun and helping kids along the way. This handbook is intended to be a guide so you may become more comfortable on your new adventure with our fraternity. By joining Medinah as a Shriner you have now become an owner of the “Greatest Philanthropy in the World”, Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

Medinah Shriners was chartered in 1883 to provide a friendly oasis in the desert of Illinois. The Shrine is a fraternity based on Masonic Beliefs of a Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man. Medinah was founded to further promote the tenets of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief and truth in a social and fun environment. Remembering our creed – Faith, Hope and Charity – the greatest of these being charity – we founded our own charity, Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

We hope you will explore the many opportunities offered by Medinah and partake in the numerous activities and events that are held by the temple, its units, committees and clubs. Should you and your lady have any questions, please reach out to any one of Medinah’s nobility.

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

**Be a Shriner Now** – Be a Shriner Now is the recruitment website (beashrinernow.com) of Shriners International. Refer your non-Shriner Masonic brothers and non-Mason friends to this website to learn about the Shrine fraternity.

**Black Camel** – Term used to refer to the death of a member of the Shriners fraternity.

**Blue Lodge** – Being a member in good standing is a prerequisite to becoming a Shriner. As a Medinah Shriner, you must maintain a membership with a Blue Lodge. You are encouraged to participate in Blue Lodge activities as well as activities in Masonic appendant organizations.

**Business Office** – Medinah's business office, under the direction of Recorder Fred Kaufman, is just inside the member's entrance to Medinah on the southeast corner of the Shrine Center. Business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Cabiri** – A social organization composed of Past Potentates.

**Calendar** – A hard copy version is mailed out to all members at the beginning of the new year. The most current calendar of Medinah's Units, Committees and Clubs as well as important Masonic events is maintained on Medinah's website [www.medinah.org](http://www.medinah.org).

**Ceremonials** – Twice annually, Medinah Shriners gather to initiate new Nobles in colorful ceremonials. Medinah Nobles turn out to see the Divan in their robes and view the parade of Units, Committees and Clubs. New Nobles' Ladies are invited to attend a special presentation during the ceremonial and to place the fez upon their Nobles for the first time.

**Class Advisors** – They are your helpers in becoming an active member in Medinah and enjoying the benefits of our fraternity.

**Competitions** – Medinah participates in a variety of competitions within Shrinedom through its many Units and Clubs. The two principal Shrine competitions are at the annual Imperial Session and the annual Great Lakes Shrine Association convention. Details are available on the Medinah website and through individual Units and Clubs.

**Divan** – The Nobility of Medinah Shriners, as with all Shrine Temples, annually elects the first seven Divan members headed by the Illustrious Potentate. These elected seven officers make up the Board of Directors for Medinah. Most officers are elected year after year to the next higher office until becoming Potentate. The Recorder is also Medinah’s Business Administrator. Typically, the Recorder and Treasurer maintain their positions annually, like the Secretary and Treasurer of a Blue Lodge. The elected Divan officers are:

- Potentate
- Chief Rabban
- Assistant Rabban
- High Priest and Prophet
- Oriental Guide
- Treasurer
- Recorder

The Potentate also appoints six more Divan members for a total of 13. Under Medinah’s traditional practice the Captain of the Guard runs for the Oriental Guide position the following year.

The appointed Divan officers are:

- 1st Ceremonial Master
- 2nd Ceremonial Master
- Director
- Marshal
- Captain of the Guard
- Outer Guard

**Dues/Dues Cards** – Annual dues notices are sent each August prior to the new year and are payable when received. Plastic dues cards are mailed and are reusable. After receiving your first plastic dues card, only a sticker displaying the year will be mailed and is to be placed over the date on the card every time your dues are paid. Those in arrears are ineligible to participate in Medinah events or use the facilities including the Oasis. Members who have not paid dues for more than one year are suspended. Dues cards must be presented to attend Annual or Stated Meetings.

**East-West Shrine Game** – This is an annual post-season college football all-star game played each January since 1925. It is a fundraising and awareness-building event for Shriners International and the Shriners Hospitals for Children®. All Medinah Shriners are encouraged to support or attend the game.

**Editorial Without Words** – The image is of a Shriner carrying a little girl and her crutches. This image originated from a photograph and has been reflected in statues, graphics and other media as a symbol of the Shriners fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. It is currently an important part of the visual identity of the Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

**Fez** – It is the official headgear worn by members of the Shriners fraternity. It derives its name from the city where it was first manufactured – Fez, Morocco. Proper fez etiquette is explained in the Fez Owner's Manual which is also found on Shriner's Village.

**Fez Owner's Manual** – This Publication of Shriners International provides the basic knowledge you need as a new Shriner and is available from the Membership Committee or in the business office.

**Fezzing Ceremony** – This ritual takes place at Ceremonials teaching the new Noble how to properly wear his fez. At certain ceremonials, the Noble's Lady or family member may choose to participate in the Noble's Fezzing Ceremony by placing the Fez on his head for the first time.

**First Lady** – The Lady of the current Potentate is Medinah's First Lady. She establishes a charitable program for the year and all the proceeds are donated to the Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

**GLSA** – The Great Lakes Shrine Association is part of a Medinah regional group of 21 Shrine Temples from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Ontario, Canada. Annually, in the fall, Shriners from throughout the Great Lakes gather in one spot for Association business, fellowship and to compete with their parading Units and Clubs. All Nobles and Ladies are invited. Most Units and Clubs compete and Medinah usually offers a travel package for all Nobles wishing to attend.

**Hospital Application** – If you know a child who could benefit from the expert pediatric specialty care at Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Chicago, please have their parent, relative or guardian call 773-385-KIDS (5437).

**Hospital Volunteers** – The Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Chicago, located at 2211 N. Oak Park Avenue, Chicago welcomes volunteers. Those interested in helping should call the Volunteer Coordinator at 773-622-5400 regarding available positions. Shriners can also join the Hospital Ushers Committee.

**Illustrious Sir** – This is the title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving, or has served, as Potentate of his temple.

**Imperial Council** – This is the body of elected representatives from each of the 196 temples, who determines the direction of the fraternity during the Imperial Session.

**Imperial Divan** – This group consists of twelve officers elected by the Imperial Council during the Imperial Session who are the leaders of the Shriners International fraternity.

**Imperial Session** – The Shriners' annual convention is generally held early in July. The business of both the fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children ® are conducted at that time. Also, there are parades, unit competitions and social events during the session. Many Medinah units participate. All Nobles and their Ladies are invited to enjoy the fellowship and join in the fun. Nobles can take advantage of a travel package created by Medinah.

**Imperial Sir** – This is the title preceding the name of a Shriner who is serving on the Imperial Divan or has served as the Imperial Potentate.

**Keys** – There is an electronic security and locking system on the member's entrance to Medinah. Electronic key fobs are available to all Nobles from the business office. A \$15.00 security deposit is charged which is returned when a fob or card is returned.

**Lady** – This title refers to the wife or girlfriend of any Shriner. The Lady of a Potentate or the Imperial Potentate is referred to as the First Lady. To help recognize the newest nobles' ladies they will be given the Potentates Lady's pin with a ribbon attached.

**Life Membership** – Medinah offers Life Membership programs as a substitute for annual dues. These consist of a one-time payment, a three or a five-year payment plan. For a young Noble, the Life Membership program can provide significant savings. Details of the programs are available on the Medinah website or contact the business office.

**Medinah Shriner Magazine** – This is the official publication of Medinah. Your subscription to this publication is included in your annual dues.

**Mighty** – We often use this adjective ahead of Medinah, which reflects Medinah's many years of success in competitions amongst Shrine Temples. Welcome to the "Mighty" Medinah Shriners!

**Member's Entrance** – The smaller entrance to Medinah on the southeast corner of the building is the member's entrance. The doors are unlocked when the Medinah Office is open during business hours, otherwise a key fob is required to enter. It leads directly to the business office, Oasis Restaurant and unit meeting rooms.

**Membership Updates** – Keep your personal information current with Medinah's business office. This includes your email address, phone, address, membership in any Medinah Units, Committees and Clubs and affiliations with Blue Lodges and other appendant Masonic organizations. Forward any changes to Jodie K.'s email at [jodie@medinah.org](mailto:jodie@medinah.org).

**Music Room** – This room is located at the east end of the banquet hall near the unit meeting rooms. It is rehearsal space for Medinah's music groups. Locked instrument storage is provided.

**Noble** – This title refers to a member of the Shriners fraternity and also precedes the name of any Shriner who is not a past or current Potentate or who has not served or is currently serving on the Imperial Divan.

**Oasis** – This restaurant and bar is for use only by Medinah’s members and their guests. All members are asked to show a current dues card as this is a benefit of your membership. The Oasis is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 4:00 pm to midnight with dinner being served from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The menu is posted on Medinah’s website. The Oasis also hosts special and periodic events such as karaoke nights, video bowling and Chicago Bears game parties. During closed hours, the bar is on the honor system, soft drinks are free, and beer is \$1. For dinner reservations call 630-458-0200 (catering office) and give them your member number.

**Official Visits** – Commonly called OV’s, these are annual parties or dinners of each Unit, Committee and Club to honor the Illustrious Potentate and his Lady. They vary widely in format and cost. Information can be found in the calendar and on our website. Members of each Unit, Committee and Club are encouraged to attend. You do not have to be a member of the Unit, Committee or Club hosting the event to attend. All Nobles, their Ladies and friends are welcome to attend.

**Onion Sales** – Each spring Medinah has its annual Vidalia onion fundraiser to support its various events. Onions are sold all over the metropolitan area. Each unit or club organizes its own sale. All Medinah Nobles are asked to help with onion sales to support their fraternity.

**\$100 Million Dollar Club/Royal Order of the Rose** – When a noble gives a minimum gift of \$100.00 to the Shriners Hospitals for Children® he will be enrolled in the \$100 Million Dollar Club. Nobles are awarded a certificate and through the office, may purchase a \$100 Million Dollar Club tassel pin for \$15.00. The Royal Order of the Rose is made in honor of a Lady. Ladies are given a certificate and a rose pin. See Medinah’s website, Medinah Shriner magazine, or contact the business office for details.

**Parades** – Shriners love parades and the crowds love Shriners! Medinah’s Units and Clubs participate in civic parades all over the metropolitan area during the spring, summer and fall. There are also several Shriners only parades each year, including GLSA and the Imperial Session. Check the Medinah website for details.

**Passes** – Shriners have words and signs to recognize each other, just like Masons. Are we going to print them here? No! If you didn’t understand or remember the words and signs shown during the ceremonial, check with your Class Advisors.

**PCM** – These three letters are short for “Permanent Contributing Member.” The one-time purchase of a \$150 PCM certificate through the Medinah office, payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children® is tax deductible as a charitable donation. This relieves the Noble from paying the annual \$5 hospital assessment normally included in the annual dues.

**Potentate’s Aides** – Each Potentate assigns several Nobles and their Ladies to help him as well as his Lady with various projects during his year. At certain functions, they serve as attendees to the guests of the Potentate and his Lady. Their names are listed in the Medinah directory and on the website. On their Fez it will say “Potentate’s Aide”.

**Potentate’s Ball** – The annual ball is typically a formal dinner/dance held in early spring. Dress for Nobles is usually black tie, fez and dress for ladies is formal wear. Details are available on the website.

**Potentate’s Trip** – Each year the Potentate and his Lady plan a travel experience. Trips usually are in the fall and can be tourist adventures such as to Europe, relaxing beach vacations or cruises to the Caribbean. The Potentate’s trip often sells out and discounts are usually available for early purchase.

**Roundy Jewel** – This award recognizes outstanding membership sponsors. It is named for Frank C. Roundy, Patriarch of Medinah, Past Potentate and Medinah’s first Imperial Potentate. Nobles earn points toward the jewel by sponsoring new Nobles or restoring Nobles. Details are available on the website.

**Scimitar** – This is an “email only” quarterly publication that provides information on all the upcoming events. ***Be sure the business office has your current email address.***

**Shrine Center** – Medinah Shrine Center was opened on October 11, 2005. Consider this your home away from home. Your building includes the Oasis restaurant, business office, Red Fez store, unit meeting rooms, lockers, showers and banquet facilities. The building has public Wi-Fi access.



**Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Chicago** – Our local Shrine hospital supported by 14 affiliated temples is located at 2211 N. Oak Park Avenue, Chicago (between North Avenue and Grand Avenue). Built in 1926, this hospital is a 60-bed pediatric hospital, research and teaching center providing comprehensive medical, surgical and rehabilitative care to children with orthopedic conditions, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate. Tours of the Chicago hospital are available by the Medinah Hospital Ushers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. The Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Cincinnati provides burn treatment for our region. Remember to wear your fez while at the hospital.

**Shrinedom** – This refers to the realm of the Shrine fraternity, including its members, governance, programs, activities, organizational atmosphere, etc.

**Shriners International** – This is the official name of the Shriner fraternity, formerly known as Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. A.A.O.N.M.S. is an anagram for A MASON, all Shriners being Masons, but not all Masons are Shriners.

**Shriners Village** – This is a website ([www.shrinersvillage.com](http://www.shrinersvillage.com)) where all Shriners can go for a vast amount of information regarding the fraternity or Shriners Hospitals for Children®. There is also a link at the bottom of [Medinah.org](http://Medinah.org). First timers visiting the site will need to create a login & password. Explore all things Shrine, it's very exciting.

**Sportsman's Raffle** – A huge, day-long fundraising event for Medinah, where 121 firearms and 30 CA\$H prizes are raffled. Food and refreshments are included with the purchase of a raffle ticket. There will be numerous club raffles and vendor displays.

**Stag Events** – This notification refers to events that are restricted to Nobles only, such as Stated Meetings and the obligation portion of Ceremonials. The vast majority of Medinah events are open to Nobles, Ladies, their families and guests.

**Stated Meetings** – Imperial Bylaws state that each temple must hold a minimum of four Stated Meetings per year. Medinah provides one meeting per calendar quarter and all nobles of Medinah Shriners are requested to attend. Due and timely notice is provided on Medinah’s website, calendar book and in the Medinah Shriner Magazine. A current dues card is required for admission. All Medinah Nobles have a vote. Stated meetings are stag events.

**Temple** – This is a name given to any group of nobles chartered by or under dispensation from Imperial Council. “Temple” should not be used in the proper name of a group of Shriners. For example, the proper name for the first temple formed is “Mecca Shriners,” not “Mecca Temple.”

### **Visiting other Shrine Centers –**

Medinah Nobles and their Ladies may visit other Shrine Centers. You must present a current Medinah dues card and know the appropriate words and signs of a Shriner. Forgot your passes? See your class advisors.

**Website** – Madinah’s website [www.medinah.org](http://www.medinah.org) is a fountain of useful and current information concerning your fraternity. Also check us out on Facebook. Check them often and don’t forget Shriners Village ([www.shrinersvillage.com](http://www.shrinersvillage.com)).

## **UNITS**

**Amateur Radio** – This unit is devoted in uniting fellow Shriners who share a common interest in amateur radio in order to provide fellowship and develop technical expertise in the field of electronics. It is our goal to build and maintain a world class radio station in the Shrine Center and open it to all who are interested in participating. We provide future hams with encouragement and assistance in obtaining their licenses. We set up portable operations at the hospital and offer "our kids" the opportunity to communicate with hams around the world. We provide communication assistance at parades and other Shrine activities at the direction of the Potentate. In addition, we offer others (non-Masons) the opportunity to attend training courses with the hopes that they will get their licenses and ultimately become Shriners.

**Aviators** – Three units in one, the Medinah Aviators transport patients to the hospitals, a parade unit with its unique miniature Piper Navajo aircraft and an air show unit that educates at public events. They meet monthly on the last Saturday in the morning at the Shrine Center.

**Big Wheels / Penny-Farthing** – Do you like bicycles, old fashioned bicycles? The Medinah Big Wheels enjoy riding and parading on their various human powered vehicles. Go green and learn how to ride these great old machines.

**Black Horse Troop** – The Medinah Black Horse Troop is housed in Medinah's own barn and stables located in Carol Stream. The award winning Black Horse Troop participates in precision competition and parades. They have appeared in many Rose Bowl Parades and Inaugural Parades.

**Brass Band** – Play an instrument? The Medinah Brass Band awaits you. The Brass Band plays in parades and at important Medinah events including the ceremonials. Meets twice monthly on Tuesday in the Music room at the Shrine Center.

**Chanters** – If you are a fan of the vocal arts, enjoy singing, the Medinah Chanters is for you. The Chanters are a feature of our two-yearly ceremonials.

**Clowns** – The award-winning Clown Unit of Medinah participates in parades, competes at the GLSA and Imperial Shrine Session and provides the children at Shriners Hospitals for Children® with comforting entertainment. They will teach you how to be a clown and bring miles of smiles to the kids. They meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Shrine Center.

**Fire** – The Medinah Fire Unit's goal is to have fun and be safe during Medinah parades and functions. Both active and retired Nobles from the fire services and the military join the Fire Unit to enjoy the fun and fellowship and parades in its own Mini Fire Trucks.

**Flying Carpets (Genies)** – The Medinah Flying Carpets drive motorized carts rigged to appear as flying carpets and dress in colorful genie costumes. They participate in motorized competition and parades and usually sweep the four-wheel competitions.

**Highlanders** – Medinah’s Pipe and Drum Corps, the Highlanders play Highland drums and the Great Highland Bagpipes. They parade, compete and have fun. There is no need to be able to play an instrument, they will help you learn or you can join the color guard. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at the Shrine Center.

**Marshals** – As the Potentate’s personal unit, the Medinah Marshals conduct novices through the initiation ceremonies to become Shriners. The Marshals serve the Potentate in special assignments.

**Military** – Enjoy the fellowship of current and retired officers and enlisted members of all the military branches. The Medinah Military Unit parades and provides color guards at Medinah and other Masonic events.

**Motor Corps** – Renowned throughout Shrinedom, the Medinah Motor Corps is Medinah’s precision motorcycle team. On their big Harley-Davidson Shriners bikes they perform in parades and compete at the GLSA and Imperial Sessions. If you like motorcycles the Motor Corps is for you.

**Oriental Band** – The Medinah Oriental Band was the first oriental band in Shrinedom. Formed shortly after the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, the Oriental Band recalls the exotic Turkish music heard at the fair. They participate in the ceremonials as well as parading. No musical experience necessary to join this unit!

**Patrol** – The Patrol of Medinah Shriners rides Segways and entertains crowds with their precision maneuvers in competitions and parades. They practice at Medinah Shrine Center.

**Police** – You don’t have to be a police officer to join the Police unit, but you must have an interest in law enforcement. The Medinah Police Unit participates in parades and provides security at select Medinah events. Special guests from the legal community speak at their combined Official Visit with the Legal Committee. The Police Unit meets the first Monday evening of every month at the Shrine Center.

## COMMITTEES

Medinah committees manage many of its functions. The titles are self-explanatory. If you have a skill and an interest in helping your fraternity, you may contact any of the Committee Chairmen. Committees are listed in the calendar book or on Medinah's website.

### **FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES**

**Athletic** – This committee holds and organizes the Medinah Annual Al Daily Memorial Golf Outing with all net proceeds going to Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

**Fraternalities** – This committee coordinates and champions the singular purpose to promote the idea of “One Masonic Family” amongst the Grand Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shrine, York Rite and other fraternal Masonic organizations and focus our collective talents at serving Illinois Masonry. For the betterment of the craft, the Masonic leaders involved in this important work will also address any misperceptions amongst the Brothers in the various organizations that may impede open and honest communication and a positive working relationship.

**Greeters** – This committee greets the Nobility at all Ceremonials and at other occasions when requested by the Potentate.

**Hospital Ushers** – The Ushers volunteer at the Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Chicago on a weekly basis. They give tours and assist patients & parents getting from point A to point B. The Ushers also visit with the drivers who bring their charges to the hospital.

**Hospitality** – For over 4 decades this committee has hosted their annual Dixieland Night. On the second Saturday in March Nobles, their Ladies, guests and the general public sit down for the biggest serving of prime rib in Shrinedom. This committee also organizes the combined Scottish Rite and Medinah's Annual Children's Christmas Holiday Party at the Medinah Shrine Center.

**Legal** – It's a committee consisting of Lawyers. Special guests from the legal community speak at their combined Official Visit with the Police Unit.

**Past Masters** – This committee fosters closer relationships between Medinah Shriners and the Blue Lodges. They attend the installation of Shriners as they become Masters of their Blue Lodge and honor them. They also aid Blue Lodges with degree work.

**Red Fez** – This store, located within the Medinah Shrine Center has a wide variety of Masonic merchandise. The Red Fez store is also where you get your red fez. Hours are irregular depending on events at the Temple, but access is available during regular business hours through the business office. All proceeds are for the benefit of Medinah Shriners.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

Management Committee positions are appointed by the Potentate.

Building and Grounds	Financial	Medinah Shriner, Editor
Catering	Insurance	Onion
Convention Coordinator	Investment	Parliamentarian
Curator of Memorabilia	Master of Ceremonies	Photographer
DeMolay / Youth	Medical	Social Media
Entertainment	Medinah Jeweler	Sportsman's Raffle

## CLUBS

**Antique Car** – This club owns a vast array of antique, classic and unique vehicles. They have fun while supporting our hospitals by participating in various Medinah events and parades. You do not need to own a special vehicle to join.

**Aurora** – From Naperville to Newark and along the Fox River, the Aurora Area Shrine Club represents the Fox River Valley. Its traveling parade unit is the Aurora Shrine Club Milk Trucks.

**Country** – Medinah Shriners who are also members of Medinah Country Club may join the Country Shrine Club. Its annual golf tournament is played on the famous number three championship course at Medinah Country Club. It has raised over two million dollars for the Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

**DuPage** – They parade in their Cruzin' Coolers and meet the first Monday of the month at the Shrine Center in Addison at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and friendliness is their creed.

**Fox Valley** – This club is well known around Medinah for its antique calliope and its scooter parade unit. Fox Valley sponsors the annual Valentine's Day party. It meets monthly on the second Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva Lodge 10 S. Second Street, Geneva.

**Golf** - For those who enjoy golfing, this is your club (no pun intended). Six or seven times per year, the members get together at various courses throughout Northern Illinois; plus, usually one weekend get-away for golf. Annual dinner meeting is in February. Contact Larry Jones at (847) 812-2006.

**Joliet** – This club was chartered in 1921. They meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Joliet Masonic Temple (Matteson Lodge #175) 350 North Midland Ave., Joliet. These Shriners offer parading services to local communities. They have a 1932 International Police Paddy Wagon (They dress as the Keystone Cops for parades.) and a 1934 American LaFrance Open Cab Fire Truck. They have a yearly Vidalia Onion Sale, and twice a year they host an “All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast” with eggs made to order, great sausage and always a great price for the family, fun and fellowship. In addition, this unit also decorates for Christmas each year at the Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Chicago.

**Kankakee** – Currently this club meets socially on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Homestead Restaurant in Kankakee Illinois as well as various special events throughout the year. Their “Kamel Unit” features eight motorized camels that perform in local parades.

**Lake County** – This social club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, starting with a Dutch treat dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by a 7:30 p.m. meeting. The meetings are held at the Avalon Restaurant, 4821 Grand Ave. (SE corner of Milwaukee and Grand), Gurnee, Illinois. They parade on custom made riding-coolers.

**Marauders** – The Marauders are a pirate-themed club dedicated to fun, fellowship, family and charity in the traditional Shriner fashion. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Music room at Medinah Shrine Center.

**Mini Choppers** – A group of Nobles out for fun and camaraderie who parade and raise money for the club and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. They parade on Mini Choppers, or Trikes and anything with a motor. They participate in 20-30 parades a year and enjoy doing it. They meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Medinah with a dinner followed by a meeting. During parade season, they meet at a parade. They have raised over \$15,000 for our hospitals in the past 5 years. If you can't ride a bike or have never ridden a bike, no problem, they will teach you to ride; many of the members have never ridden a bike before. Come out and meet them at a meeting or parade.



**Morris** – This small town social club has members that range from 21 years old to 80 years old. We do several fundraisers through out the year and donate to Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Our board meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., at the Morris Moose Lodge. Our dinner meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., at different local restaurants.

**NW Glenbrook** – Northwest/Glenbrook Shrine Club is the birthplace of the following units: Black Horse Troop, Medinah Clowns, Medinah Motor Corps, and the Genies with their Flying Carpets. We are a fraternal and social club that does several events throughout the year. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at Edelweiss German American Restaurant 7650 W. Irving Park Road, Harwood Heights, IL.

**Northwest Suburban** - This social club has members of Medinah predominately from the Northwest area suburbs, but it is open to all members of Medinah. We have members from all over the area, Romeoville, Naperville, Lemont and the Del Webb communities. The club started over 40 years ago and has grown to be one of the larger Shrine Clubs at Medinah. We enjoy two meetings a month except July and August. Our Board meets the first Thursday of the month at the Rose Garden Café at Arlington Heights Road and Higgins. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our general meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and is normally held at the Medinah Shrine Center. We have quite a few meetings with our ladies i.e., Valentines Day dinner, St. Patrick's dinner, our family gathering in the woods in June for a steak fry as well as a Christmas Brunch. Come on out and enjoy the fellowship and social activities with us.

**Old Chicago** – The mission of this club is to focus on preserving Shrine history. Members must be in good standing in a chartered Masonic body that meets within the city of Chicago. Our members make a firm commitment to assist in acquiring and conserving Shrine-related items, which are then presented to Medinah at ceremonials and other events.

**Photography** – The purpose of the Club is learning, teaching, experimenting with photography and related items, but not limited to equipment, software, printing, etc. In addition, the Club will foster and promote sociability, good fellowship and friendship amongst its members. We assist and participate in the activities of Medinah Shriners, photographing events and activities whenever possible. In addition, the Club photographs various areas around Chicagoland. Nobles and their ladies are encouraged to participate in this club.

**South Westside** - We have the original Parade Unit Train. The club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at “Round the Clock,” 162<sup>nd</sup> and LaGrange Road in Orland Park.

**Sportsmen** – The purpose of the Club shall be to foster and promote sociability, good fellowship and friendship amongst its members and to assist and participate in the activities of Medinah Shriners. Sportsmen Club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Medinah Shrine Center. Nobles and their Ladies are encouraged to participate in this club. The Club is involved in 4 areas of sports activities:

1. *Blast and Cast* will involve such things as hunting, fishing, archery and shooting at local gun ranges.
2. *All Seeing Eye* will involve attending sports activities such as baseball, hockey, football games as well as soccer matches.
3. *Weekend Warriors* will be for those who wish to participate in sports activities such as marathons, softball games, volleyball, indoor skydiving and scuba diving.
4. *Family Time* will be activities for the whole family such as camping, hiking, trips to the lake or dunes and museums.

**Therapy Dogs** – The Medinah Shrine Therapy Dog Club, M.S.T.D.C., a 501(c)(10) non-for-profit organization, is a therapy dog club that works in conjunction with the Masonic Association of Service and Therapy dogs. M.A.S.T. is a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization that provides service dogs to veterans as well as therapy dog visits for hospitals. Through M.A.S.T. the Club will be making hospital, domestic shelter, and many other visitations to provide therapy dog visits for those in need. The main purpose of M.S.T.D.C. is to provide disaster dogs for areas and people in peril. This provides local and out of state areas therapy dogs when a disaster occurs, whether it be a natural or human disaster. The club meets at the Medinah Shrine Center every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

**West Suburban** – We are an award-winning Shrine Club consisting of the Roaring 57's. These are 1/8 size of a regular 57 Chevy. We participate in an average of 45 parades per year. You do not have to buy or bring anything to parade with us. The club brings the cars to the parades, all you do is get in them and have fun. Come join us at Medinah the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

## **THE COLORFUL HISTORY OF SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL, MEDINAH SHRINE AND THE SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN®.**

In the 1870s, thirteen members of the Freemasons in Manhattan decided to form a new fraternity of Freemasons less focused on ritual and more focused on fun and fellowship. Two of their group, Dr. Walter Fleming and actor Billy Florence conceived the near east theme after attending a party thrown by an Arabian diplomat. They named it the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (AANOMS) an anagram for "A Mason". The first chapter (Mecca) was formed in New York City in 1872. The Shriners grew rapidly across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Philippines Islands, Germany and Brazil and today consists of 196 Shrine Temples.

Medinah Shriners was chartered on June 6, 1883; Medinah was the 14th Shrine Temple formed. Medinah grew rapidly in those early years with activities and an expanding membership. The first uniformed unit in Shrinedom, the Medinah Arab Patrol was formed in September 1886. The occasion was the installation of Moolah Shriners in St. Louis which Medinah had taken a lead in forming. Twenty-five hundred Medinah Shriners attended but the highlight was the twenty-four-man precision marching unit of Medinah Shriners in bright Arabic uniforms carrying scimitars. A popular attraction at the World's Columbian Exhibition of 1893 featured Turkish music played on weird instruments. This was the impetus for the Medinah Oriental Band, the second parade unit in Shrinedom.

In those early years Medinah rented the top floors of an office building on the corner of Jackson Blvd and what is now Wells street. By 1903, the growing Medinah needed a larger space which led to the purchase of a limestone church at the corner of Dearborn Street and Walton Place, the largest building in Shrinedom, as its first permanent home. But the rapid growth of Medinah in the early twentieth century surpassed even that building. It would be sold to the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago. A sight for a new building was selected at 600 North Wabash. On Halloween, 1911, Medinah laid the cornerstone of its magnificent new mosque. The building's elaborate Arabic decorations were the pride of all Shriners. It would serve as Medinah's temple for three quarters of a century hosting many Medinah and public events, and Shrine circus performances.

While individual Shrine Temples had for years been involved in charitable deeds, in 1920 Imperial Potentate Freeland Kendrick of Lu Lu Shriners in Philadelphia proposed opening a free hospital for children with overwhelming orthopedic needs. It was decided by the Imperial Council that not just a hospital but a system of hospitals was needed. The first Shriners Hospitals for Children® was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana on September 16, 1922. With \$44,000 from Medinah's general fund 17.5 acres on the west side of Chicago were purchased and on September 26, 1926 the Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Chicago was opened. That building was replaced with a new building in 1981. The charter of the hospitals was expanded first in 1963 to include burn treatment, then in 1980 to address spinal cord injuries and finally in 2005 to treat cleft lip and palate. Today there are 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children®, one each in Canada and Mexico and

twenty in the United States providing all care and services regardless of the ability of a patient or family to pay.

Medinah members were instrumental in the forming of two non-Shriner clubs, one being the Medinah Country Club opened in 1925 and the Medinah Athletic Club opened in 1929. Neither club ever had any official connection with Medinah Shriners, but they were founded by Medinah members and their buildings were built in the Arabic motif. The Country Club is still active, while the building housing the Medinah Athletic Club is now the Intercontinental Hotel on Michigan Avenue. On May 16, 1938 Life magazine did a photo essay on Medinah's ceremonial giving national exposure to the Shrines largest and most prosperous temple.

In 1958, the Imperial Headquarters of the Shrine was moved to 323 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago from Richmond, Virginia. It would remain there until 1979 when it was moved to Tampa, Florida. Currently the Imperial Headquarters of our fraternity is housed in the building owned by the Shriners Hospitals for Children® which is also their Headquarters as well.

Over the years, 10 Imperial Sessions of the Shriners have been held in Chicago: 1889, 1906, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1949, 1955, 1958, 1963 and 1968. The 1949 Imperial Session was the 75th Anniversary of the Shrine and featured sitting President Harry Truman where he gave a major foreign policy speech. Medinah has had three Nobles sit as Imperial Potentate; Frank Roundy 1907, Thomas Houston 1931 and Thomas Seay 1967. Frank Luce, Imperial Recorder from 1889-1894, was a Medinah member.

By the turn of the twenty-first century it became apparent that the old mosque in the city, while historic and beautiful no longer met the needs of Medinah. A new building was opened on October 11, 2005 in Addison, Illinois along major transportation routes and more centrally located to the homes of Shriners. The building features a large expandable banquet hall, private meeting rooms for the units, business office as well as the Oasis restaurant and bar which is open for Shriners and their guests.

# **NOTES:**

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# Medinah Shriners

550 N. Shriners Drive Addison, Illinois 60101

Phone: 630-889-1400 Fax: 630-705-9907

[www.medinah.org](http://www.medinah.org)

Medinah Oasis Reservations

630-458-0200

Additional emails and phone numbers including  
Officers, Units, Committees and Clubs  
are in the Medinah pocket calendar/ directory

New Nobles and their Ladies are encouraged to regularly  
visit the Medinah website at [www.medinah.org](http://www.medinah.org) for important  
information regarding all events, activities, and notices.

Revised 5/29/2018