

*The Fez*

# ALEE SHRINERS



Official  
Publication  
of  
Alee Shriners  
Savannah, GA

Organized June 23, 1896

August 2024



Image by Wirestock on Freepik

## Alee's Scimitar Sportsman Banquet



# AUGUST 17, 2024

### Table Sponsor: \$800

Limited number Sold.

6 Guests/ Dinner per table  
The Captain is eligible for  
drawing 1/30 Chance to  
win.

### Event Sponsor: \$125

One dinner  
No reserved seating  
**Cash card games!**

Tickets **NOW ON SALE:**  
[aleeshriners.org](http://aleeshriners.org)

Meal catered by: Carey  
Hilliards.



- *Doors Open at 5:30*
- *Silent Auction begins 6:00-7:30*
- *Dinner: 6:30*
- *Live Auction begins at 7:30*
- *Checkout begins after the Live Auction is finished.*

**Tickets— Advance Sales only**

**For more information call (912) 355-2422 ext 4**

**Location: Alee Shriners\* 100 Eisenberg Dr \*  
Ballroom**

**No Tickets Sold at Door**



All Proceeds benefit Alee Shriners and are not tax deductible.

**Shriner's Pledge of Allegiance**  
 "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the country for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all"



August 2024



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 912.663.8888  
 Recorder - PP Dave Armstrong, Sr  
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 912.695.7132

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Dune Cat Kingfish	3 Dune Cat Kingfish Mobile Car Show & Mobile Shotgun raffle
4	5 Presidents Meeting 6:30—Bill Porter Auction Gun Raffle Drawing	6	7	8	9	10 Fez article due aleefez@gmail.com Directors Staff Dance
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Alee's Scimitar Sportsman Banquet
18	19	20	21	22	23 Hasan Ball	24 • Pirates dueling Pianos (Pending) • Swainsboro Golf • Anglers Catfish Tournament • Quint Sportsman
25	26	27	28 Screven raffle drawing	29 Knights of Mecca meeting—6:30 Carey Hilliard's— Hwy 21	30	31 Brunswick Boston Butt Hinesville/Ft Stewart Watermelon sales



**2024 APPOINTED DIVAN**  
 Ceremonial Master - Noble James  
 Derrick Lewis  
 Director - Noble Brian Dixon  
 Temple Marshall - Noble Clint Carter  
 Captain of the Guard - Noble Ryan  
 Fedak  
 Outer Guard - Noble John Adams  
 Chaplain - Noble Carlos Ruiz

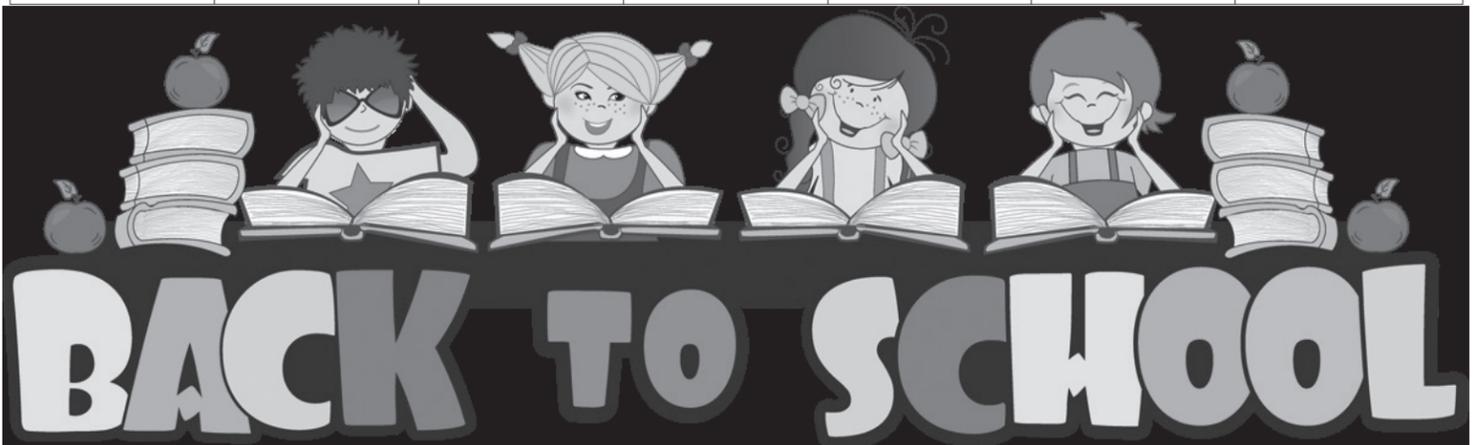
**REPRESENTATIVE TO IMPERIAL COUNCIL**  
 Illustrious Potentate - Carey Hodges  
 Elected - PP James "JJ" Johns  
 Elected - PP Dave Armstrong, Sr.  
 Elected - PP Steve Lingle  
 Emeritus - PP Lester A. Claxton  
 Emeritus - PP Calvin Hodges  
 Emeritus - PP J. Brooks Gaudry, III

**ALEE WEBSITE**  
 www.aleeshriners.org  
 Web Master Noble Matt Fischer

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**  
 Noble Greg Lard  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY LIAISON**  
 Ill Sir Buddy Grayson, P.P.

**FEZ ARTICLES**  
 To insure publication of you News Articles for the Fez, they must be emailed to  
 aleefez@gmail.com no later 10th of the month. Not responsible for articles or ads emailed to any other email address. Please do not use all caps, and single spaced (keep to half a page).  
 Send articles as a word document attached to the email. When pictures are used - please send originals. Photos must be high resolution jpeg. Provide the the photographer's name.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Closed HAPPY LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6 Office Closed	7 Hinesville Paper Drive Anglers Kids Fishing
8	9 Stated Session Dinner 6:30 pm Ladies Program 7:30 pm	10 Fez article due aleefez@gmail.com	11	12	13 Office Closed	14 Waynesboro FarmFest Tattnall Birdies Golf Tournament
15 Pirate Poker Run Tattnall Birdies Golf Tournament	16	17	18 Office Closed SASA	19 Office Closed SASA	20 Office Closed SASA	21 SASA—parade
22 First Day of Fall!	23	24	25	26	27 Office Closed	28
29	30					Hinesville Drawing September 21





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Alee Shriners Presents

**High Roller Raffle**  
\$100 per ticket

**GRAND PRIZE: \$10,000**  
September 9, 2024  
Alee Shrine Center

Raffle drawn at 7:00pm. For ticket information, please call (912) 355-2422.  
Need not be present to win. The proceeds benefit Alee Shriners and is not tax deductible.

**Tickets are \$100 each**

- Only 500 tickets available to include 1 FREE ticket for Unit or Club selling the most tickets.
- All Units or Clubs selling 20 or more will receive a FREE ticket.
- Winning ticket drawing on September 9, turn money in by September 5.
- Need NOT be present to WIN
- Tickets available at the Alee Shrine Office or call (912) 355-2422 ext 4
- Cash or Charge (plus 3%)

Proceeds benefit Alee Shriners and are not tax deductible.

Focus On What Matters While Doing More In '24



Alee Shriners Mobile Unit Classics



PRESENTS THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

**Summer Heat Wave  
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Registration \$25.00 per vehicle

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*"This Event Benefits Alee Mobile Unit Classics and is Not Tax Deductible."*

\*\*\* For Event Information Contact: \*\*\*

George Pratt (912) 657-4510 or Stathy Stathopoulos (912) 663-9616

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual  
ALEE  
Shriners**  
Dune Cat Unit  
KINGFISH CLASSIC  
August 2nd-3rd, 2024

Alee's Scimitar Sportsman Banquet  
August 17, 2024  
**Ruger Mini-14 Ranch**  
223/5.56 NATO includes two  
20RD Mags  
**\$10 per ticket**  
Drawing to be held on August 5, 2024  
Stock photo may not represent the complete detail of the item being raffled.  
**See any Divan member or Auction Committee member  
or in the temple office to purchase!**  
Winner does not need to be present to win.  
Proceeds benefit Alee Shriners and may not be tax deductible.  
Must be legally eligible to possess weapon.  
Winner MUST pickup within 45 days of drawing.  
The Alee's Scimitar Sportsman Banquet is August 17, 2024—  
Purchase Scimitar Sportsman Banquet tables at aleeeshriners.org

# Waynesboro Shrine Club

Our members are preparing for the Waynesboro Shrine Club's Farm Festival to be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024. On behalf of our President, Jimmy Atkins and our club members, I would like to invite all Alee Shrine Clubs and Units to come and participate in the parade and enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship. We will be providing more information as time gets closer. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Lady Melissa Damon at (315) 345-6362. If you are someone you know would like to participate in the entertainment portion, please contact Lady LeAnne Bowie at (706) 945-7376.

As we need our membership to grow in our club, President Atkins would like all Nobles and Ladies to seek out those Masonic brothers who would make a great Shriner and speak to them about becoming a member of the world's greatest philanthropy and our club. Membership is a large part to the success of Alee Shrine and Waynesboro Shrine Club being around for many years to come.

Nobles and Ladies, we ask that you keep those friends and relatives in your prayers that may be dealing with difficulties. This world has gone crazy, and prayers do work!

If you have not paid your 2024 dues, I will be glad to accept them at the next meeting. Should any Noble need help with paying dues, please contact our secretary, Ill. Sir Clyde Bowie at 706-945-7377 to get your dues paid. Brothers, I always say, if we don't know it is broken, we can't even start to fix it.

Please stop by and see what's going on in the Bird Dog Capital of the World and check out our little club. Come sit with us and enjoy some good food and fellowship! We eat at 7:00pm and we start our meetings by 8:00pm. Shriners Children's Hospitals Making Kids Well Over 100 Years.

Fraternally yours,  
Clyde Bowie, P.P.  
Secretary



# Augusta Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings Shrine Family and Friends,  
We hope all had a wonderful summer of fun. Here we are in August and before you know it the kids will be back in school for another school year. Hope all got to spend some time enjoying the wonderful weather with families and friends. Augusta Shrine Club has been dark for July and August, but we are pushing on with the men, planning our annual 10 Grand Party in October. It will be a good time for sure and some will leave a little heavier in their pockets while the rest of us are a little lighter in the pockets. One thing for sure, everyone will leave with a big smile and looking forward to the next one.

As we step into the fall season, we will be having an indoor yard sale, with craft vendors and food vendors outside on November 2, 2024. The men will be selling hot dogs and fixings outside. This would be a great time for some Christmas shopping and just fun and fellowship. You never know what treasures you will find in these sales. So, mark your calendar and come see us.

Every day God gives us a blessing. Take time to enjoy life, reach out to the Ladies you haven't heard from lately, get them in and among us. We need to share the love with the children and with our members, including those widowed and feeling alone. God Bless you and be with you.

Lady Melissa Damon  
President Augusta Ladies Auxiliary



# Oriental Band

Hello Everyone! I hope you had a great summer considering the heat. It is almost time for some football. Let's remember to support our Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite & as well the Temple projects. The more we work together the easier it is for all.

Please do not hesitate to text or call for information about the Band. If you are not getting the call out from the Oriental Band, contact President Terry Wright at 912-222-8356 or Past President Garry Hendricks 912-429-1626.

Please keep bringing cans!! The more we fill up the trailer the more we can contribute to the Greenville Hospital. Thank you all! The Oriental Band Ladies Auxiliary has Fez cases & other accessories. You can special order, contact Cindy Hendricks 912-663-2370 or Annette Perry at 912-308-2980.

Keep the less fortunate in your thoughts & prayers, thank you to Our Military, 1st Responders, Doctors, & Nurses, for what they do. Remember many hands make light work. Hope to see everyone out & about the Temple. Let's do more in 24.

Fraternally Yours,  
Garry Hendricks

# Temple Ladies Auxiliary

Happy Summer Ladies!

As always, we invite all Shriners' ladies to be part of our Auxiliary. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Bill Porter room at 11AM. Our next meeting will not be until September though. We hope to see you there!

We are all looking forward to getting back together on the first Tuesday in September. And don't forget SASA in Myrtle Beach! It's so much fun and all are welcome! And a great way to meet ladies from other units and clubs. We don't have to just stay in the same groups all the time. Meeting new people broadens our horizons!

We hope to see you soon!

Til next time,  
BS



# Alee Shriners Past Masters' Association

What are the Knights of Mecca? The bridge between the Blue Lodge and Shrine. Who can join? Past Masters and current Masters of Alee Shriners are eligible to be members.

Mark your calendar for August – the next meeting will be August 29<sup>th</sup> at Carey Hilliard's on Hwy 21. The meeting starts at 7 pm, with the social starting at 6:30 pm. Dutch treat, and ladies are welcome to attend.

Dues to join are \$5 per year or \$100 for Lifetime. Hope to see you there!

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# ALEE PIRATES

Pirates,

Hope everyone had a Great Independence Day and are enjoying your summer. We have our summer social coming up at Creek Fire, get those campers ready and call to make your reservations before they are gone. The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Poker Run is approaching fast, let's get those sponsors. We also have our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 21 Gun Salute Raffle, if you want a chance to win, please reach out to a Pirate to get your tickets, they are going fast.

Please remember all our sick and distressed when on bended knee.

PIRATES ARR NUMBER ONE!

**Jeff Roberson**, President, 2024  
Alee Pirate Unit  
[alee.piratepresident@gmail.com](mailto:alee.piratepresident@gmail.com)

"Now and then we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be Pirates." - Mark Twain

# Alee Dune Cats



Happy Back to School!

I missed the July meeting, but a little birdie told me there were decisions made to repair the wrecker. And final preparations for the Annual Kingfish Tournament scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are still in need of sponsors and teams.

In addition to the regular July meeting, we had a social/meeting with the Auxiliary to discuss the Children's Dance on July 20<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Dune Cats and Ladies Auxiliary. It was good to see Ill Sir Brooks, Lady Dianne, Lady Shirley Boyles, Billy, and Ruth Mullins as all have been under the weather. We also got to see Lincoln Harper, a future Dune Cat, model his little Dune Cat shirt. We start recruiting early. We all are looking forward to the dance with updates in our next month's article.

Noble Dave Armstrong II and Ill Sir Freddie Humphries Jr are chairing the Scottish Rite "We Care" for Rite Care Golf Tournament on August 9 in Bacon Park. They had to change the date. Looking for teams and sponsors. Thank you, Dune Cats, other Units, and Clubs for the sponsorship so far.

We would like to remind you that our meetings are on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 in the Dune Cat room located on the second floor of the JC Lewis Building. We need to get your involvement. It would be great to see you at the August meeting.

Please keep our Troops, Children, Doctors, Shrine patients and their families, the Divan, and each other in your prayers.

Speedy

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# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

## Augusta Golf Unit

Our unit is slow this time of the year. We hope all is staying cool with all the heat we have been having. Our members are getting plans together for a bigger and better golf tournament for 2025. More to come as the time nears.

Nobles and Ladies, please keep all those who are dealing with health issues and other reasons in your prayers as you get on your knees and bow your heads. All of our members are valuable to making our unit better and help us accomplish goals set forth by the unit President.

Nobles and Ladies, please take a moment to visit the Augusta Shrine Club website at [www.augusta-shrine-club.com](http://www.augusta-shrine-club.com). Illustrious Sir, Gary Damon has made improvements to the site. You can view event calendars; make reservations and you will be able to pay for events on line in the future. Please take time to visit this valuable tool for information on club happenings. We extend a huge thank you to Illustrious Sir Damon for all the hard work and time spent on improving our site.

Our President would like to invite you to come out and be part of the Augusta Shrine Club Golf Unit. The unit Caddies (Ladies) are always welcome to come join us. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, after the meeting, we usually go to one of the many local restaurants for great food and fellowship. We look forward to you visiting and getting involved in this outstanding unit.

Clyde Bowie, P.P.  
Secretary and  
Golf Unit Ball Washer



## Effingham Ladies Auxiliary

Happy August!

Hello friends, the summer is moving by quickly. Wishing everyone a great end of summer.

We want to thank everyone that came out to support our Nobles on their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Savannah River Poker Boat Run.

We have the Scimitar Sportsman Banquet on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please come out to support this event, it is for our Temple. In the past it has been a fun and prosperous event. It is open to the public. Event Sponsor is \$125.00, which includes Dinner. Doors open @ 5:30 PM.

SASA is coming up September 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our hotel is Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC. Everyone needs to register online @ [southatlantica.net](http://southatlantica.net).

Happy Birthday to all our August Birthdays. May y'all have a very special day.

Please remember our sick and the ones that have a loss of loved ones in your prayers.

As always, remember our Shrine children, Medical Personnel, Emergency Personnel, Military, and our Country in our daily prayers.

Until next time,  
Lady Donna

## EFFINGHAM SHRINE CLUB

Hello Fellow Ratz and Friends,

This summer is definitely a hot one. Hope everyone is enjoying themselves spending time with kids out of school and staying cool. A Great big thank you to all who helped, participated and sponsored this year's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Effingham Shrine Club River Poker Run! It is a Great event, and we appreciate you all! Also, please pray for peace for our Friends and Family that have lost loved ones in these past weeks.

#Ratztothefront  
Thank you,  
Your Effingham Shrine Club President

## Jesup Shrine Club

Greetings from the Jesup Shrine Club,  
It's been a hot one! So very hot at the Springfield Heroes Parade! But what do we love? Many thanks to the Effingham Shrine Club for hosting. We enjoyed a great meal and fellowship after the parade!

Jesup Shrine Club member, Noble Robert Sumner was recognized for 40 years of being a Shriner! It's actually 42 years and counting at the moment. Hats off to you, Robert, we appreciate you!

The Ladies Auxiliary hosted a blood drive on June 17. There were 46 units collected. Thank you to all who volunteer their time and thank you Lady Jan Arwood for organizing and planning the event. Many lives are saved by your efforts. We appreciate you! Because of the efforts of Lady Jan and her group of volunteers, our location, Calvary Baptist, has been recognized as a premier blood drive location, one of six in the area. What an accomplishment!

I already mentioned how great the Jesup Shrine Club Boat Poker Run at Lake Blackshear turned out this year in the last article. There are a few more things that need mentioning. Thank you to the Keystone Cops, Tattall County Shrine Club and Effingham County Shrine Club who all donated money for the jewelry boxes that were made and donated by Mr. L. E. Watson. Also at our last meeting, an auction was held at our club for a lazy susan and a jewelry box. Thank you to Lady Lillian Burns and Noble Ronnie Jones for your bids and your giving hearts!

Around the club: Lady Kacie Blanton is leading the way for a more up to date and aesthetically pleasing meeting room for the ladies. The walls and ceiling were painted by Lady Debbie Kay. Chairs and artwork have been purchased as well. Thank you, Ladies, for all you do! Improvements continue inside and outside at the club.

We are thankful for all that we are allowed to be a part of in this great philanthropy of Shriners!

Best Regards from the Jesup Shrine Club,  
Lady Denise Bennett

## Tattall Shrine Club

Greetings Nobles!

I hope everyone is enjoying this HOT weather we have been having lately. All of our members at TSC enjoyed our 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday by spending our leisure time with friends and family. Whether it be on vacation somewhere, in the backyard grilling, on the river, or just laying around the house, it's always relaxing to wind down from the daily grind to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

We are on the verge of another busy time in our club. We have several big events coming soon. We are still awaiting a final date for the hunter safety course. We will have more information by the time you are reading this. If you wish to enroll a child, please contact one of us and we can give you the details. Our golf tournament is steaming right along! We are entering the planning of the final details and will hopefully have everything ready soon. The mudbog is tentatively scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>. We will update everyone with confirmation of this as soon as we can. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Banquet planning will start soon as well.

We participated in a local Independence Day celebration in Glennville, where we cooked hotdogs for the patrons. This was a small undertaking on our part but helps raise awareness of why we raise money. These small events are probably the biggest part of our club because we get to interact with the general public and are not holding an official fundraiser. Just simple conversations with everyday people.

Have a good rest of the summer!

Dustin "White Chocolate" Nail  
TSC Secretary 2024



## Augusta Go-Cart Unit

Can you believe it is August already? We hope everyone is staying cool during this heat wave we've been having. I would like to thank our Captain, Noble Don Harris and Lady Faye for the hospitality they extended to those who were able to stop by their beautiful lake house after the Trenton Peach Festival Parade.

Our unit is a little slow this time of year, but Captain Harris has us working hard on the carts to make sure they are cleaned up and in top running order.

Nobles and Ladies, please take a moment to visit the Augusta Shrine Club website at [www.augusta-shrine-club.com](http://www.augusta-shrine-club.com). Illustrious Sir, Gary Damon has made improvements to the site. You can view event calendars; make reservations and you will be able to pay for events on line in the future. Please take time to visit this valuable tool for information on club happenings. We extend a huge thank you to Illustrious Sir Damon for all the hard work and time spent on improving our site.

Nobles and Ladies, while on bended knees please keep all in your prayers as we know many who are dealing with difficulties in their lives.

If you are interested in visiting our meetings, we meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Augusta Shrine Club 1826 Phinizy Road Augusta, Georgia. We eat at 7:00 pm and we meet at 8:00 pm. Ladies are always welcome. If you would like to visit our meeting, please call our Secretary, Clyde Bowie P.P. at 706-945-7377 to make sure we have enough food to go around.

Clyde Bowie, P.P.  
Secretary and  
Tire Changer

## Waynesboro Ladies Auxiliary

Greetings Shrine Family and Friends,

We hope all had a wonderful summer of fun. Here we are in August and before you know it the kids will be back in school for another school year. Hope all got to spend some time enjoying the wonderful weather with families and friends. Waynesboro Shrine Club Members are busy planning and organizing 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Waynesboro Farm Festival. We will have craft vendors, some food vendors, and a parade. How can it not be a fun fill day. The men and women have been very busy preparing for the big day. I hope you can all make it out to see us and shop our vendors on location as well. This is the last big event for us before the end of the year.

Every day God gives us a blessing. Take time to enjoy life, reach out to the Ladies you haven't heard from lately, get them in and among us. We need to share the love with the children and with our members, including those widowed and feeling alone. God Bless you and be with you.

Lady Melissa Damon  
President, Waynesboro Ladies Auxiliary

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# Augusta Shrine Club

The members of the Augusta Shrine Club voted for our club to go dark during the months of July and August. With so many members on vacation and attending other events it was best for all. We will be back in September with more news from the Augusta Shrine Club.

Nobles and Ladies, please take a moment to visit the Augusta Shrine Club website at [www.augusta-shrine-club.com](http://www.augusta-shrine-club.com). Illustrious Sir, Gary Damon has made improvements to the site. You can view event calendars; make reservations and you will be able to pay for events online in the future. Please take time to visit this valuable tool for information on club happenings. We extend a huge thank you to Illustrious Sir Damon for all the hard work and time spent on improving our site.

If anyone is interested in renting our club for an event, please contact Noble Jimmy Atkins at 706-305-6869. We have many dates booked, so don't let the date you want get by you and book now!

Please come out and join us for some good fellowship during what I think will be a very busy year. The Augusta Shrine Club meets the second Wednesday of each month. We have a wonderful meal starting at 7:00 pm and we meet at 8:00 pm. Ladies are always invited, and they conduct the Ladies Auxiliary meeting while the Nobles are having theirs. Prospects for the Masonic Degrees and Masons are always welcome to come and see what we are all about. We are always looking for good Master Masons to be part of our fraternity.

Fraternally yours,  
Clyde Bowie, P.P.  
Secretary  
Augusta Shrine Club

## Letter submitted by Duane Bartels Written by his daughter Bella one of Alee's Shrine Children.



Dear, Shriners Hospital Chicago

Thank you for everything you've done for my family and many others, Because you've done so much we would like to give this as a donation so you can keep helping. With the help of the Iron Knights we have got donations from everywhere which adds up if you think about it. Thank you again for everything you've done to help me and others live their very best lives!

Sincerely, Bella Grace Bartels

## ALEE DRIFTERS

### Alee Drifters Shine at Springfield Parade

The Alee Drifters made a vibrant appearance at the recent Springfield parade. This parade not only highlighted our commitment as Shriners to community engagement but also showcased the unity and enthusiasm of our members. Engaging with the community and bringing joy, especially to the young spectators, emphasized the positive impact we strive to have wherever we participate.

We want to extend special thanks to Amanda Sutton for her outstanding photography during the event. Amanda's ability to capture these memorable moments allows us to share the spirit of our participation with a wider audience and preserves these special times for us to look back on.

Additionally, we are thankful to our fellow brothers in other units and clubs for their invaluable assistance. Whether it be last-minute repairs, providing refreshments, or letting us cool off in their air conditioning, their support truly shows the brotherly love that we have come to know from both Shriners and Masonry.

Looking ahead, the Alee Drifters are excited about our lineup of upcoming events and parades. We are dedicated to continuing our tradition of lively participation and to spreading the positive message of fellowship and philanthropy that defines us as Shriners.

We encourage all members and supporters to get involved in future activities. Your participation not only enhances the events but also strengthens the bonds within our community and with the public.

Together, we will keep the momentum going, ensuring that the Alee Drifters remain a highlight of every parade we attend.

Fraternally Yours,  
Brother Christopher "TBD"  
Epps, Secretary, Alee Drifters



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## Hinesville - Ft Stewart Shrine Club

Our past couple of months have been pretty much like always for this time of year. Families have taken off to vacation at resorts and beaches, others are camping (not really camping but that's what they call it), while others are fishing, boating, diving/swimming, and all the other fun activities we normally enjoy this time of year. It has become a tradition to extract and enjoy every moment of a short summer, creating new memories and reflecting on past ones, before school and Shriner activities crank up again soon.

Speaking of past memories, we are pleased to learn that Lee was able to participate in another boat trip this year but unlike previous excursions this one was a total success. The motor worked great, and the boat never came close to sinking. There is a rumor that the success of this trip is attributable to Lee's demotion from Captain to deck hand, but we are unable to confirm that at this time.

Several members and families took advantage of the summer slowdown to clean and repaint the interior of our club. It is amazing what a little elbow grease, paint, and volunteers can do. The club looks absolutely fantastic. We still have some pictures

and plaques to rehang, but the difference is amazing. Thank you to Bill & Sheila Badger, Dwayne & Amanda Sutton (and their kids), Mike & Lori Smart, Lee & Tiffany Smith, and Mike & Dawn Braver for your time and labor. We owe a special thanks to Mike Braver who not only donated the paint but did more painting than the rest of us.

We owe another round of applause and gratitude to Tim Hocking who almost single handedly handled our watermelon sales. Tim came up with the idea as an impromptu fund raiser and has been operating the stand almost daily in this excruciating heat. The success of this fundraiser has been a pleasant surprise to all.

For those unable to attend our meetings don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, 7 September for our paper drive in Ludowici. We'll be there from 8 am to 12 pm and need max participation.

Check out the rest of this FEZ publication to see what's happening in our Shrine world. There is a lot going on, some of it is work some of it play, but your help is needed and your presence desired. Join us, you'll have fun.



## South Atlantic Shrine Association Proud Members since 2006

Each Noble MUST be registered to be in Parade (Alee is #5 in parade lineup). Forms available in the Office or online at:  
<https://southatlantica.net/resources/fall-festival/>

### Registration is \$20 per Noble (before Sept 1)

Thursday Ladies event (DIY Oyster shell with wine): \$55

Ladies Brunch: \$65

President's Banquet: \$70

P.P. Freddie Humphries Jr will be sworn in as 2nd Vice President!

More information soon regarding the sign up for a Dutch treat meal on Friday, September 20 with Ill Sir Carey Hodges and Lady Julie TBA!

Alee Hospitality Room at the Landmark on the 4th Floor—always a good time. Times posted in the September FEZ.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!**

**Book Your Room Today!!!**

Landmark Hotel  
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Myrtle Beach, SC  
29577

**855-338-0226**

# Brunswick Shrine Club

## Shriners make a splash in Brunswick.

For the past two years, the Brunswick Shrine Club has been participating in the city's "First Friday" program as part of our community outreach program. We take our old white bus downtown and park in strategic locations to play music, set up the corn-hole toss games and occasionally prepare snow cones for the public. Our participation has been a giant success for our club in that we have gained new members to our club, informed the public as to what we are all about, and reminded some folks there was still a Shrine Club here in Brunswick. We always seem to have a crowd with folks playing corn hole toss, some dancing to the music and a lot of conversation. We have Shriners from out of town, just here on vacation, stop by and visit, exchange ideas and gain insight as to how other clubs are fund raising and interacting with the public. It has been very rewarding, and the reactions of the public has been fantastic.

However, July 5th was extra special. Noble Bryon Seals and VP Joe Thomas came up with the concept of having some extra special entertainment and although it took some time and a little funding, we were able to overhaul and improve an old project that we had been sitting around for years. So, Friday we introduced our "Dunk Tank"! In cooperation with the city and the Brunswick Fire Department, we established our dunk tank near the Ritz Theater and firemen filled the tank for us, with Chief Richard Bue of their department being the volunteer to take the seat for the evening. Folks lined up all evening for a chance to dunk the Fire Chief and everyone had a terrific time. And the great thing was, we raised \$419.00 that we donated to the Fire Department!

We also announced the winner of the custom AR15 rifle. The winning ticket was drawn by Brunswick EMA Director Alec Eaton and the winner contacted. Details will be announced later with permission of the winner.

I must add, we had one of the largest turnouts from our club in some time, and I am grateful for the team effort in pulling off this event. It was so much fun that Sheriff Neal Jump, Glynn County Sheriff, has volunteered to take the seat next month. The funds earned will be donated to the Sheriff's "Back to School Backpacks and Supplies" program.

One last thing. During the evening, a young lady walked up to me hugged me and thanked me. I asked her for what? She stated, "her life". She was a Shriners child and we both had tears in our eyes. I know this has happened before, and it's happened to many of you, but it really brought out the emotions in both of us. I am so proud to be part of this organization and be affiliated with such a wonderful group of people.

Dave Fike  
BSC President

# Shriners Children's - Greenville

On behalf of Board Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Bobby Simmons, the Board of Directors and Hospital Staff, Noble Hutchinson and I, are proud to report, your Greenville Hospital continues to operate under budget, as we provide the best care possible to children with orthopedic and many other conditions from around the world.

Greenville continues to improve on all numbers set forth by Tampa which are used to measure progress and performance of our hospital. Changes in our articles have been made, as Tampa continues changing the way we collect and maintain data on the progress and performance of our hospital. Below you will find some important numbers compared from 2023 to now.

## Hospital Performance Dash Board:

	YTD 2023	Goal	YTD 2024
<b>New Patient Visits</b>	1459	1503	-
<b>STR O/P Visits</b>	8,318	8,568	-
<b>Telehealth Visits</b>	659	679	-
<b>Inpatient Discharges</b>	123	117	155
<b>Outpatient Surgery Encounters</b>	405	418	337
<b>OR Utilization: Adjusted for Capacity</b>	73.78%	70.00%	68.40%
<b>Percentage of First Case on Time Starts</b>	83.00%	80.00%	89.00%
<b>Average Daily Census</b>	4.40	4.05	4.40

As of May 2024, the Nobles and Ladies of Alee Shrine donated a total of \$24,132.50 to Greenville. The members and ladies of Alee continue to amaze us all, with the generous donations made to Shriners Children Greenville surely make it another record breaking year. As of May, the 18 temples which support Greenville, has donated a total of \$659,539.21 to the hospital. Shriners Children's Greenville has 18 of the greatest Shrine temples in the world supporting our mission.

The dedicated Nobles and Ladies of the Alee Road Runners have made 10 trips safely and soundly to Greenville as of May. Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to all Shriners Children's Hospitals, patients and Alee Shrine!

Noble and Ladies, please put the 2025 Shriners Children, Greenville Hospital Days event on your calendars. The event will be held on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please make your plans to attend next year as we would love for you to come visit Greenville and get a better understanding why Shriners do what they do! Noble Hutchinson and I, look forward to seeing you there in 2025!

Here is some important information on our International Patient Program. We currently have 13 international patients in Greenville. We have 1 patient who will be leaving by the end of June or the first of July. There are 7 families currently utilizing services at the Ronald McDonald House of Charities during their treatment plan. Nobles and Ladies, I cannot give enough praise to our staff, for all the hard work and dedication they have for all of our patients and their families!

**Calling all Alee Shrine Clubs and Units, we continue to look for craft shows, other events and outlets to set up a booth to hand out pamphlets to advertise the services offered by Shriners Children Greenville and the transportation services provided by Alee Shrine Road Runners. If you can, please get us the name and number of a contact person at the event who can assist us to reserve a spot at the event.**

**Your Hospital Representatives will have a table set up the First Annual Arts & Crafts FEZ'-TIVAL to be held on August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Toombs County AG Center located at 523 Quint Shrine Road Lyons, Ga. 30416. We will be handing out pamphlets to let people know what Shriners Children Greenville has to offer. This event is sponsored by LOSNA Aziza Court No. 108. I want to thank Aziza High Priestess, Dana Johnson and Noble John A. Johnson for helping us get the word out about Shriners Children Greenville. Come out and see us!**

Noble Hutchinson and I would be honored to make arraignments for a club or unit who would like to make an in-person donation to the Board of Governors or have a member of our donor relations team speak at your club or unit. Please let Noble Hutchinson or myself know so we can get the details worked out for your event.

Noble's, on behalf of Board Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Bobby Simmons and the entire Board, we want to thank each of you for all the support Alee Shrine has given Shriners Children's Hospital Greenville and look forward to your continued support!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clyde Bowie, P.P., Member / Roger Hutchinson, Associate Member  
Board of Governors  
Shriners Children's Greenville



3rd VP III Sir Freddie Humphries, Jr

Reps: Noble Don Combs, PGM  
Noble John Farley

Hope everyone is getting ready and excited about the upcoming South Atlantic Shrine Association meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC this September 19-22. The Line Officers have been listening to plans regarding the weekend of fun and fellowship. As many are aware, Alee will be 5<sup>th</sup> in the lineup of 20 Shrine Temples in the South Atlantic.

Landmark Hotel is taking reservations in the Alee block - 855-338-0225. Make plans to attend. Prepare to bring your parade clothes and vehicles for a big parade. Please let the office know if your parade vehicle will be in attendance. The form to register for SASA is required for ALL Nobles participating in the parade is located on the **Southatlantica.net** under **Fall Festival tab** or in the office. SASA also has a Marketplace to get cool Shrine goodies.

Yours in the Faith,

*Freddie L. Humphries, Jr.*



## College Honor Past Potentate & 1st Lady

On May 29th, Past Potentate Albert and Lady Nellie Nelson was honored by Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College by naming their Nursing Training Lab ALBERT & NELLIE HEAVENER NELSON NURSING LAB. The Nelson's have been supporting the college foundation since 2013 with annual scholarships for the local students.



*Alee Shriners*

*"Legion of Honor"*

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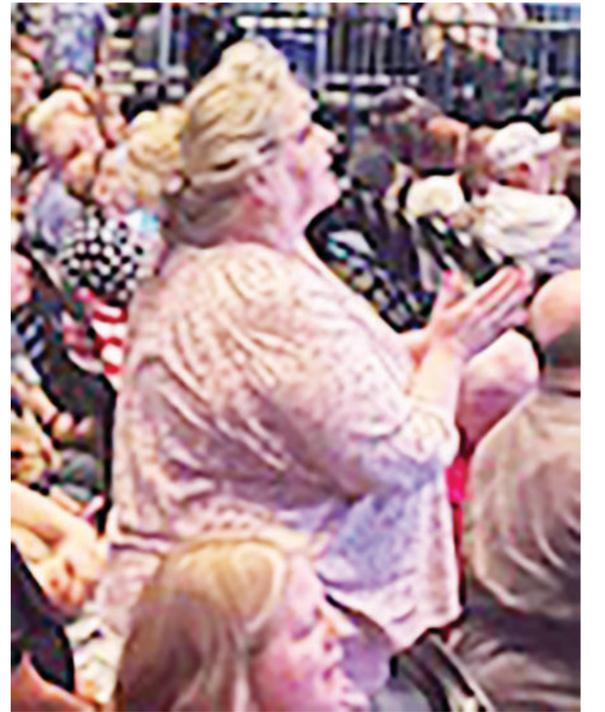
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS



Shriners Love A Parade...Even in this heat the Alee Nation will never miss a parade. Parade season will slow down for a while but we always ready to parade. Temple Ladies Auxiliary held a Texas Holdem Tournament for a fundraiser. They must have done well...they are all smiling. Brunswick Shrine Club had a very wet fundraiser & donated it to the local Fire Department



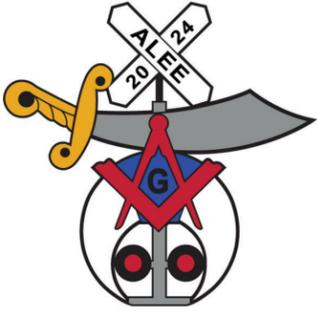
Alee was well represented in Reno at the Imperial Session. It was a time to see old friends and meet new ones. Ill Sir JJ was awarded his emeritus status for Shriners Children. Lady Colleen was rocking out with the Commodores music, Our Divan Ladies got all dressed up for the Imperial Representatives Luncheon. Ill Sir Carey and Lady Julie hosted a dinner for attendees.



# Illustrious Potentate's Message

Hello Nobles and Ladies,

It is always a wonderful day to be an Alee Shriner. Thanks to everyone who attended the 150th Imperial Session. What a great turnout we had. It is always a blessing to get to meet our new Shrine Children ambassadors. Thanks to everyone who came out to our annual children's dance. A special thanks goes to the Dune Cats and their ladies for hosting this event. There are many activities going on this month, so check the dates in the Fez magazine and help support the clubs and units. The registration for the upcoming SASA is available. You must register if you are planning to participate in the parade. The web site is southatlantica.net. There were several events cancelled, so please check your Fez for the important updates as they become available.



Thanks again for all you do! Focus on what matters while doing more in 24! Continue to support your Blue Lodges, Scottish Rite, York Rite and your clubs and units. We are Alee Strong!

Fraternally yours,  
Carey Hodges

Focus On What Matters While Doing More In '24

# First Lady's Message



Hello Nobles and ladies of Alee. Hope everyone is enjoying the summer fun and activities! Me, I enjoy cooler weather better!

Carey and I learned many new facts and figures while at the 150th Imperial Session in Reno, Nevada. Marketing strategies such as the Super Hero, the CMA Country Music Special with Madison, A Shriner patient, and Watch Me commercials have raised, not only millions of dollars, but awareness about Shriner's Children. A powerful testimony from our new Imperial First Lady, Mrs. Judy Burke, also raised awareness for her cause at the hospital's burn center. The ladies' luncheon was the largest I have ever attended!

Thank you, Dune Cats for the awesome Kid's Dance. Every year seems to get more entertaining! Our representatives have once again exemplified Alee Shriners with honor and integrity. We appreciate them for their participation in what matters more in 2024!

Lady Julie



Ill Sir with one of our Shrine Children. Before our Divan left for Reno they attended the Potentate's weekend at Al Sihah and they dressed the part on Friday night.

Picture credits go to Ill Sir Carey, Lady Julie, Noble John Willis, Lady Ruth Mullins Noble Dave Fike and Lady Amanda Sutton. Thank you for sharing with us.

If you would like to submit pictures to [aleefez@gmail.com](mailto:aleefez@gmail.com).

# Chief Rabban



Hello Alee,

What a great time we had at Imperial Session in Reno. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir J.J. John's on his Emeritus status. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed spending time with our brothers far away.

Summer time is definitely here and plenty of fun fundraisers are coming up. If you haven't made your reservations yet for SASA call the landmark resort in Myrtle Beach, come out and have a great time.

Brothers we still need some items for the auction Fishing stuff, coolers or anything you think would be good at the auction.

There is a lot of degree work going on in the blue lodge go out and support them.

God bless and see you in and about the temple.

Fraternally yours,  
Danny Fries Jr.

# Assistant Rabban



Its Always A Great Day to Be an Alee Shriner  
Congratulations to our new Imperial Potentate Richard G Burke and Imperial First Lady Judy. Looking forward to a wonderful year. Thank you to all Representatives that traveled to Reno Nevada for the Imperial Sesson. Alee was well Represented.

Its almost that time again. Auction time!! Get your Table reserved so you can join in on this Fun Fundraiser. WE are still in need of Auction items.

What a Great time was had by all at the Alee Children's Dance. It was wonderful to see all of our Hospital Kids and Shriners Kids having such a good time. Thanks to the Lady Dune Cats for all their hard work with this event.

If there is anything I can do to help your club or unit I'm only a phone call away.

While on bended knee remember our children, doctors, nurses, therapists, and everyone at our hospitals. Also, our First responders, our military, and our Country.

Fraternally  
David W Armstrong II

# Recorder



Hello nobles and Ladies of Alee

From June 30 to July 4, I had the honor once again to represent Alee Shriners at the 150<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of Shriners International and Shriners Children. I want to thank the nobles of Alee for the trust and confidence, you have given me as I have represented you for the past (10) years, and I am looking forward to once again being one of your Imperial Representatives at the 151<sup>th</sup> Imperial Session in Atlanta, GA, along with Ill Sir J J Johns, Ill Sir Steve Lingle, and your 2025 Illustrious Potentate, and the Emeritus Representatives, Ill. Sir Lester Claxton (1989) and Ill. Sir Calvin Hodges (1991), Ill Sir J J Johns will have a full report of the happenings at Imperial Sesson at the Alee September 9, 2024, Stated Session. Please turn in any petitions for the November 15 16, 2024, Ceremonial at the September Stated Session.

August is a busy month for Alee, remember the Sportsman Scimitar Banquet and Auction is on August 17, 2024, and if you have not purchased your ticket to this once in a lifetime event you can go to Alee's website at aleeshriners.org and purchase your ticket today. There will be many items up for Auction such as handguns, rifles, Yeti coolers, gun safes and much much more. If you know of some business or associates that would be interested in purchasing a table for 6 at the cost of only \$800.00, please contact Chief Rabban Noble Danny Fries (912) 665-2248, I understand there are a few tables available.

Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> is the Dune Cat Fishing Tournament; August 3<sup>rd</sup> is also the Mobile Unit Classics annual car show. August 10<sup>th</sup> is the Directors Staff Dance featuring the Sapphire Bullets of Pure Love. Tickets are selling fast but still a few remain, see any Directors Staff member, or call the office for tickets. Remember we are a family and family members support each other.

Lady Marlene and I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Relaxing Labor Day on September 2, so we will all be ready for the last quarter of 2023, The Haunted House will be here before you know it and we need all the help and support we can get for the month of October.

As always remember our men and women in the armed forces, fighting to keep our country free, your Divan working hard for the success of Alee, and the children and doctors at our hospitals while on bended knee.

Remember to attend your Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite regularly.

Shriners are brothers, we share a common CREED, with common goals and values.

In a county where you can be anything you want, BE KIND It costs you nothing.

May God Bless America.

Let's All work hard to keep ALEE great and focus on what matters while DOING MORE IN 24.

Dave Armstrong Sr P P  
Recorder

# High Priest & Prophet



Hello fellow Nobles and Ladies. We attended the Imperial Session in Reno and had a great time. Looking forward to Atlanta next year.

Don't forget the Alee Scimitar Sportsman's Banquet and Auction will be on August 17th and donations for the auction are still needed.

Nobles if your Club or unit has a member that you haven't seen in a while, please check on them and ensure they're Okay.

If I can ever be of help to any Noble, Club or Unit, please give me a call, text, or email. Thanks and we'll see you soon. Enjoy your summer.

Fraternal yours  
G. Ray Christian  
High Priest and Prophet

# Oriental Guide



I hope this finds everybody well.

Lib and I had a great time at the The Kays 4th of July pool party with the Jesup hillbillies. Please keep in mind the month of August me and Lib, Phil and Debbie Kay with William and Denice Bennett will be going to Baltimore Maryland for the International Hillbilly Convention in hopes we can get them to come to Savannah in 2028.

Please get your SASA Registration in as soon as possible. September will be here before you know it.

Thank you and God Bless you and God Bless America

Larry Brantley

## Recorders Report July 2024

June 2024		1207
Nobles Created		
Nobles Affiliated		
Nobles Restored	+ 1	
Nobles Associated	+ 1	
Total Gain	+ 2	Total 1209
Nobles Demitted		
Nobles Suspended		
Nobles Deceased		
Nobles Resigned:		
Associate Drop		
Total		Total 1209



### NPD - Nobles Not Paying Dues 2024 - 93

June 2023: 1261-Total members  
(NPD 125 as of June 30, 2023)

Contact: Will Morgan, Chair:  
912-754-1513  
Walt Pelton, Chair: 912-572-4989

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## INDOOR YARD SALE

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
7am – 4 pm

**Holiday market**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
8 am – 4 pm

1826 Phinizy Road | Augusta, GA 30916

Please join us for your last minute Christmas Shopping needs.

Indoor yard sale, Craft vendors, Food vendors,

Sponsored by

Augusta Ladies Auxiliary of Augusta Shrine Club

Proceeds are not tax deductible as they benefit the Augusta Ladies Auxiliary of Augusta Shrine Club



No man stands so tall  
as when he stoops to  
help a child.

Abraham Lincoln





**If You Find Mistakes  
IN THIS PUBLICATION,  
PLEASE CONSIDER THAT  
THEY ARE THERE FOR A  
PURPOSE WE PUBLISH  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE,  
AND SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS  
LOOKING FOR MISTAKES!!!**



## Approved Projects

<b>AUGUST</b>		
8/3/24	Mobile Classics Car Show	9/3/2024
8/10/24	Director Staff Dance	9/10/2024
8/24/24	Quint Sportsman Banquet	9/24/2024
8/24/24	Anglers Catfish Tournament	9/24/2024
8/24/24	Swainsboro Golf	9/24/2024
8/24/24	Pirate dueling pianos (pending)	9/24/2024
8/28/24	Screven Raffle Hellcat 9mm	9/28/2024
8/2-3/24	Dune Cat Kingfish Tournament	9/3/2024
Now-8/3/24	Mobile shotgun Raffle	9/3/2024
now-8/31/24	Hinesville watermelon sale	9/30/2024
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
9/7/24	Hinesville Paper Drive	10/7/2024
9/7/24	Anglers Kids Fishing	10/7/2024
9/14/24	Waynesboro FarmFest & parade	10/14/24
9/15/24	Pirate poker run	NEW DATE 10/15/2024
8/31-9/01/24	Brunswick Boston Butt	10/1/2024
9/14-15/24	Tattnall Birdies Golf Tournament	10/15/24
Now-9/21/24	Hinesville cruise drawing (Pending)	10/21/24
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
10/5/24	Tattnall Mudbog (rescheduled)	11/5/2024
10/12/24	Augusta 10 Grand party	11/12/2024
10/12/24	Tattnall 2nd Amendment Banquet	11/12/24
10/19/24	Brunswick Golf Tournament	11/19/2024
10/26/24	Jesup In shore	11/26/2024
3/1-10/21/24	Pirates 21-gun salute	11/21/2024
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
11/9/24	Anglers craft show	12/9/2024
11/24/24	Dune Cat aux - Belk Charity Days.	
11/27/24	Swainsboro BBQ	12/27/2024
3/3-11/30/24	Swainsboro 5050 raffles	12/30/2024
Now-11/15/24	Jesup Hillbilly Gals Cornhole boards	12/15/2024
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
Now-12/31/24	Alee paper Crusade	12/31/2024
Now-12/31/24	Dune Cat 5050 raffle	12/31/2024
Now-12/31/24	Hillbilly Unit bartending @ events	12/31/24
Now-12/1/24	Swainsboro Fox Pen	12/31/2024
Now-12/31/24	Tybee Lite Supper Club	12/31/2024
Now-12/31/24	Brunswick Aux sneaker collection	12/31/24
Now-12/31/24	Waynesboro Aux Blackstone Grill	12/31/24



## Backpack Basics for Healthier Kids

### Facts About Backpacks

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is committed to making sure children stay as healthy as possible and develop good habits. Providing parents and children with some facts about backpacks can help eliminate some potential health problems.

Used correctly, backpacks can be a good way to carry all the books, supplies and personal items needed for a typical school day. Backpacks are designed to distribute the weight of the load among some of the body's strongest muscles. However, backpacks that are too heavy or carried incorrectly can injure muscles or joints and contribute to back pain and other problems.

**The Proper Backpack is:**

- No wider than the user's chest
- Worn no higher than the base of the neck
- Worn no lower than 2 to 4 inches below the waist
- Supported by a waist or chest strap
- Made of lightweight material

**A Good Backpack has:**

- A padded back
- Several compartments
- Side compression straps
- A waist or chest strap
- Reflectors
- Two wide, padded shoulder straps

### How to Use a Backpack

**To Wear it:**

- Face the backpack, bend your knees, hold the backpack with both hands, and straighten your knees to lift it to waist height.
- Apply one shoulder strap at a time.
- Be sure to always use both shoulder straps.
- Snugly adjust it between your neck and the curve of your lower back using the shoulder straps (the closer the backpack is to your body, the less strain it will cause).

**To Load it:**

- Keep it light – pack only what is needed for the day.
- Place the heaviest objects so they will be closest to your back.
- Use compartments to distribute the weight and keep things from sliding.
- Hand-carry heavy books to avoid excessive weight in the backpack.
- Clean it out daily.

**Backpack Weight:**

If a backpack forces the wearer to lean forward, it is overloaded and some items should be removed. Carrying an overloaded backpack can cause discomfort and, over time, lead to back injuries and other problems.

If the backpack weighs more than 15 percent of the carrier's weight, it is too heavy. To determine the proper maximum weight for a backpack, multiply the user's body weight by 0.15. If a heavier load is unavoidable, consider using a backpack with wheels.

Carrying too much weight or wearing a backpack the wrong way can lead to:

- Muscle fatigue
- Poor posture
- Painful shoulders
- Back and neck pain
- Injuries from tripping and falling

Shriners Hospitals for Children has created a convenient backpack fact card that includes these helpful safety tips and recommendations to protect children's backs and bodies from backpack misuse, along with a word search game kids will enjoy.

To order these fact cards to share in your community, or to download a PDF file to print, please visit our secure online ordering site at [shrinershospitalforchildren.org/education/backpacksafety](https://shrinershospitalforchildren.org/education/backpacksafety).

OSSEPT16BBFH




## Richard G. Burke (Imperial Potentate)

Richard G. Burke of Buford, Georgia, is serving his 10th year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Children's™. He was elected Imperial Potentate, head of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, during the Shriners 2024 Imperial Session held June 30 through July 4 in Reno, Nevada.

Burke was born in Endicott, New York, and moved to Atlanta after graduating from college. From 1979 to 1988, he worked as a systems consultant for NCR and Texas Instruments, where he specialized in accounting systems, voice recognition and artificial intelligence systems. After that, he worked as an IT consultant.

In 1992, he joined Payment Technologies Inc. as a partner and vice president of information technology. After selling their initial business in 2002, Burke and his business partners formed a successful internet venture called Financial Operations Networks LLC. As chief information officer, Burke is responsible for online marketing, online development, search engine optimization and part of overall business strategy decisions. The remaining business channel processes millions of accounting transactions for major companies around the world.

Burke and his wife, Judy, have been married for 31 years. They enjoy spending time with their three children, their spouses and eight grandchildren, ages 17 to 24. Burke and his wife have dedicated their lives to raising awareness of Shriners International and Shriners Children's since their granddaughter, Leah, received care for burn injuries at the Shriners Children's location in Ohio in 2002.

### Why I Became a Shriner

*'Love to the Rescue' – What it means to me...from my heart*

By Richard G. Burke

Having grown up in middle-class America, I always thought that only the poor and unfortunate were in need of charity. I took most things for granted and considered charity only for others. All that changed 22 years ago. Our infant granddaughter, Leah, suffered critical injuries caused by an accidental scalding in the bathtub when she reached up and switched on the hot water.

Leah was rushed to Atlanta's Grady Hospital by life flight where my wife and I met with a doctor who told us, "The best place for a burned child is Shriners Children's in Ohio." We were surprised to learn Shriners Children's was dedicated to providing quality care regardless of families' ability to pay or insurance status.

The doctor assured us that if this were his child, she would be at a Shriners Children's burn hospital because they not only provide the best care available for children, but also the best environment for long-term care. The next thing we knew, a flight team from Ohio was on the way to pick up the family. Within 12 hours of her accident, Leah arrived with her parents at Shriners Children's Ohio, which was located in Cincinnati at that time.

My wife and I gathered what we needed for an undetermined time away and drove all night through thick fog from Atlanta to Ohio. We arrived by mid-morning and were escorted to the family section, where families stay while their children are in the critical care unit. The accommodations and hospitality were extraordinary, and the fact that these were provided at no cost to our family was unbelievable to us. In difficult times, keeping loved ones close by is so important, but what is unique is how well our family was treated and the burden that is relieved by the generosity of Shriners. That morning, we were given the news that Leah's chance of survival was 50/50 because she was so badly burned over 80% of her little body.

Later that day, we toured the facility, seeing where leading-edge burn research takes place, saving children with burns over 90% or more of their bodies. We also met interns as they prepared to be future doctors. We later found out that the recommending doctor from Grady had interned at one of the Shriners Children's burn hospitals. We saw where children are schooled while having procedures. We spoke with kids and their families about how great the care is and how the kids enjoy their time at the hospital. We met other children and families coming in for follow-up visits who praised the efforts of Shriners and felt indebted beyond their means to Shriners.

We visited the "Drivers Lounge," where Shriners rested while their patient passengers had follow-up visits. These Shriners, known as "Road Runners," came from as far as 750 miles or more and volunteered their time to drive vans with patients for follow-up appointments. We were told volunteer Shriners make the trip from Atlanta over 100 times per year.

While in the lobby, we learned all this is possible because of the generosity of Shriners, their current fundraising efforts and a large endowment fund. I was embarrassed to think I hardly ever lowered my car window to give to that Shriner on the street. I wondered why I did not know more about Shriners and Shriners Children's hospitals I said, "If you will get me a fez and a bucket, I will stand out in the street every day while I am here." After being told I had to be a Mason and a Shriner before I could do that, I took the first step and asked, "How do I become a Mason and a Shriner?" Charity entered my heart that day, and my life's priorities changed for the better.

Today, I am proud to be a Shriner, and this year I am honored and humbled to be the Imperial Potentate (President & Chairman) for Shriners and Shriners Children's locations all over the world.

Today, I truly understand the meaning of the phrase, "It is better to give than to receive." Being a part of the Shriners community has changed our lives. My wife and I enjoy thousands of new friendships with equally committed volunteers who, along with our family, work to support Shriners Children's. We participate in numerous fundraisers to not only raise money for our healthcare system but raise awareness of the great work Shriners do.

We can help more children if more people know what we do and why we are so passionate about our cause. I never thought I would be one of those men wearing a funny-looking hat collecting money to help kids. But, today, my wife and I dedicate a large part of our lives to doing our part to help children in need and giving back to an organization that has given so much to us. It is amazing how often someone comes up to me and sincerely says, "Thanks for all you do."

Reprinted from Shriners International website (video of his story available on the website)



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## PETITIONS

Please be in the Office for vote by September 5

**Vote is at the next Stated Session, September 9, 2024**

**Cost: \$265 (2025 Dues and FEZ)**

**Need Petition with two (2) Alee Nobles signatures, Check/Cash/Money Order and a copy of their Blue Lodge Card**

**PETITION: [aleeshriners.org/resources/forms/Alee-Membership-Petition.pdf](http://aleeshriners.org/resources/forms/Alee-Membership-Petition.pdf)**


**Fall Ceremonial is November 15-16, 2024**


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**SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**  
**ALEE BALLROOM AT 7:30**  
**FEZ AND DUES CARD REQUIRED**  
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**\$10,000 Raffle Drawing**  
**Make sure your ticket stubs and money are in the office by September 5, 2024.**

**Presentation of Chief Rabban budget for 2025.**

Dinner at 6:15-6:30. \$15 per meal— Purchase meal tickets at aleeshriners.org - “Upcoming Events” tab.  
Only RSVP meals can be paid at the door - no additional meals  
Please RSVP by September 5, 2024.