

THE IMPORTANCE OF

Membership



Dear Fellow Nobles,

When the subject of membership development is raised, have you ever (mentally or actually) just rolled your eyes, and said, "that's all leadership ever talks about?" Be honest.

So, why do we "always" bring up the importance of increasing our membership numbers? And why do we say it is the responsibility of every noble to work on this?

The obvious answers would be that the fraternity — and the temples — need appropriate funds to operate effectively; that we support one of the most amazing and generous philanthropies in the world, and, as part-owners, we need to do our part financially, as well as volunteering. More members means we are more financially sound and stable.

Those are valid reasons, but they are secondary ones.

We want to encourage good men to join us because, as Shriners, they will have unique opportunities to experience what it means to be part of a selfless, compassionate brotherhood; to improve the world and their home communities; to make incredible differences in the lives of children; and to have fun. Shriners are known and loved worldwide because of what they believe in and stand for, and for their actions on behalf of their fraternal family and others.

Every one of us shares in the amazing accomplishments of the patients of Shriners Hospitals for Children — from first steps to first words spoken clearly — and in the joys and sorrows of our fraternal brothers. Each one of us truly is part of a worldwide caring family.

We stress membership development because we want to share this life with as many good men as possible. And, as I have said all year, **JUST ONE** of us, and every one of us, can help make that happen.

Thank you for being part of and continuing this effort.

Yours in the faith,

Jeffrey L. Sowder
Imperial Potentate, Shriners International



As we all do our best to cope with the overwhelming upheaval and threat caused by the coronavirus pandemic, remember that none of us is alone in this crisis.

We are part of a huge, global family of Shriners, staff, volunteers — and even patients and families. Nearly 100 years ago, Shriners responded to the aftereffects of an epidemic of polio by creating Shriners Hospitals for Children, which has become one of the largest, most respected and revered pediatric health care systems in the world. We know that spirit of determination and compassion still lives in the heart of every Shriner, and everyone connected to Shriners Hospitals for Children, and will see us through this crisis, and on to an even stronger future.

See how Shriners are helping others during the pandemic, Page 14

2019 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Recruitment and retention are the keys to a strong fraternity. The Membership Award Program recognizes temples and temple leaders who experience a net gain or improvement in regular membership during the calendar year. After all the counting was done, Shriners International finished the 2019 calendar year with 29 Hall of Fame Gold Award temples, 44 Silver Award temples, and 36 Bronze Award temples.

Award-winning temples are usually recognized during Imperial Session. With the cancellation of the 2020 Imperial Session because of the pandemic, an alternative way to recognize and honor these temples, and their worthy achievements is being planned. In the meantime, we congratulate and thank them for all their hard work and efforts.

29 Hall of Fame Gold Award Temples

Mabuhay (Eight consecutive years)
Agila (Two consecutive years)
Algeria (Two consecutive years)
Amal (Two consecutive years)
Anezeh (Two consecutive years)
Bolivia (Two consecutive years)
Emirat (Two consecutive years)
Kismet (Two consecutive years)
Mahi (Two consecutive years)
Mecca (Two consecutive years)
Murat (Two consecutive years)
Sahara (Two consecutive years)

Afifi	El Maida
Al Amin	El Zagal
Al Chymia	India
Alee	Jerusalem
Barak	Kosair
Beni Kadem	Rizpah
	Salaam
Cyprus	Scimitar
El Bekal	El Kalah

44 Silver Award Temples

Ahmed	El Zaribah
Al Aska	Hasan
Al Kader	Hejaz
Al Malaikah	Ismailia
Al Menah	Jaffa
Al Shamal	Joppa
Aladdin	Kalif
Alhambra	Kerak
Aloha	Khediye
Antioch	Khiva
Arabia	Kora
Ararat	LuLu
Azan	Mazol
Bagdad	Media
Beja	Midian
Ben Hur	Mizpah
Cahaba	Moslah
Calam	Saladin
Egypt	Tigris
El Jebel	Yaarab
El Kalah	Yelduz
El Korah	Zenobia

36 Bronze Award Temples

Abba	Kena
Al Bedoo	Korein
Al Kaly	Luxor
Al Koran	Maskat
Al Sihah	Mocha
Aleppo	Moslem
Alzafar	Nur
Arab	Oasis
Bahia	Rajah
Ben Ali	Rhode Island
Boumi	Sharon
Crescent	Sphinx
El Hasa	Tadmor
El Kahir	Tangier
El Karubah	Tebala
Irem	Za-Ga-Zig
Jamil	Zem Zem
Kaaba	Zuhrah

*Show overall improvement of less than two percent from the previous year.

*Show net gain or no loss in membership, and members more than two years in arrears for their dues had to be suspended or dues remitted by Dec. 31.

*Demonstrate overall improvement of more than two percent from the previous year.