



South Atlantic Shrine Association

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Minutes of the 53rd SASA Annual Meeting

September 17, 2026

Hilton Double Tree, Myrtle Beach, SC

WELFARE AND ADVISORY MEETING

President, Illustrious Sir Len Noble, (Oleika) called the Welfare and Advisory meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., then welcomed everyone. After the invocation by Noble Jeff Queen (Oleika) all Temples were asked about anyone who was sick and in need of our prayers. Illustrious Sir Donald Ratliff asked each temple to email him the names and address of any of our Nobles that needed our prayers, and he would mail them a card from SASA. Illustrious Sir Ratliff presented a favorable Financial Report. President Noble gave a summary of the planned events for the weekend and then introduced Noble Teddy Adkins to speak about the importance of pre registering online. Illustrious Sir Eddie Hazelett (El Hasa), also spoke on issues with registration and to remember how we treat the ladies who help us. No further welfare and advisory issues announced, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL & SHRINERS CHILDREN INFORMATION SESSION

At 10:30am the 53rd Annual Meeting of the South Atlantic Shrine Association was begun with a call to Order and welcome from the SASA President, Illustrious Sir Len Noble. It was followed with an invocation from Noble Jeff Queen, SASA Chaplain, and followed by the Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance by the Oleika Honor Guard. President Noble then recognized several special groups of people at the session: Veterans, First Responders, Road Runners, Imperial Ladies, SASA Ladies, and the former 1st Ladies of SASA, with a special Happy Birthday to Blondie Juergens.

The Shriners International & Shriners Children Information Session kicked off with Hospital reports given by Cambry Gossett from Lexington, Illustrious Sir Buddy Ellis from Greenville, and Kari Tucker from Dayton, who all presented information about their centers. Of note, Illustrious Ellis introduced Heather Sellgren, the new Director of Donor Development for Greenville and Dayton's featured speaker was Dr. Ali Fagin, Chief of Staff for Dayton Hospital.



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President Noble then asked for any Hospital Donations to be presented. Kosair Shriners presented, \$27,416 split between Lexington, Greenville, and Dayton, Beni Kedem Shriners, \$12,000 each to Dayton and Lexington, and Kerbela Shriners who had \$10,000 for Dayton.

President Noble called upon 4th Vice President, Illustrious Sir Gerald Smith (Alhambra), for the Necrology Service. Illustrious Sir Smith introduced SASA Chaplain, Illustrious Sir John Stanley (Oasis) for prayer. The total number of deceased nobles was read aloud and a representative from each temple lit a candle in remembrance of them. After all the candles were lit, Taps was presented in remembrance of our departed Nobles by Oleika Shriners.

President Noble introduced and recognized the Imperial Potentate, Imperial Sir Lawrence J. "Larry" Leib (Moslem), who gave his remarks.

The meeting was suspended by President Noble at 12:15pm for refreshment.

BUSINESS MEETING

At 1:00pm the meeting was reconvened by President Noble who established protocol and turned it over to Illustrious Sir Ricky Jordan, Potentate of Omar Shriners, for a welcome to his area. He thanked SASA as well as the City and Chamber for assisting in not only the convention but all Shriners events in the area.

The SASA Director General, Noble Teddy Adkins (Omar), began by introducing the local dignitaries that came to the meeting:

- Stuart Butler, Myrtle Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Mike Lowder, City of Myrtle Beach Councilman
- Mark Kruea, Mayor of Myrtle Beach
- Lori Lampo, Myrtle Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau

He then introduced the following:

Grand Masters

- Most Worshipful Don Combs, Past Grand Master of Georgia 2021-2022
- Most Worshipful Rick Holloway, Past Grand Master of Idaho 2024-2025
- Most Worshipful David Wicker, Past Grand Master of North Carolina 2020-2021
- Most Worshipful Steve Norris, Past Grand Master of North Carolina 2025-2026



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61 SASA Officers in attendance:

- 62 • Secretary/Treasurer, Illustrious Sir Donald Ratliff (Kazim)
- 63 • 5th Vice President, Illustrious Sir Eddie Hazelett (El Hasa)
- 64 • 4th Vice President, Illustrious Sir Gerald Smith (Alhambra)
- 65 • 3rd Vice President, Illustrious Sir Robert Scott Foxwell (Khedive)
- 66 • 2nd Vice President, Illustrious Sir Bill Carter (Oasis)
- 67 • 1st Vice President, Illustrious Sir Freddie Humphries (Alee)
- 68 • President, Illustrious Sir Len Noble (Oleika)

69 Imperial Board of Trustee Members:

- 70 • Trustee, Tim Ludwig (Sudan)
- 71 • Trustee, Ron Caps (Midian)
- 72 • Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Illustrious Sir Leslie “Doc” Stewart (Omar)

73 Shriners International Imperial Officers

- 74 • Imperial Treasurer, Imperial Sir Scott Schuster (Murat)
- 75 • Imperial Captain of the Guard, Imperial Sir Rick Holloway (El Korah)

76

77 All in attendance were asked to rise and at that time, Imperial Potentate of Shriners International,
78 Imperial Sir Larry Leib (Moslem), was introduced.

79

80

81 President Noble called upon Secretary/ Treasurer Illustrious Sir Ratliff for introduction of Past
82 Presidents. Past Presidents in attendance were:

- 83 • Ill Sir John R. (Bob) Gray 2006-2007 (Omar)
- 84 • Ill Sir Ray Fields 2007-2008 (Amran)
- 85 • Ill Sir Donald Ratliff 2013-2014 (Kazim)
- 86 • Ill Sir Steve Tucker 2016-2017 (Jamil)
- 87 • Ill Sir Steve Norris 2017-2018 (Sudan)
- 88 • Ill Sir Doug Stalnaker 2019-2020 (Nemesis)
- 89 • Ill Sir Dave L. Juergens, 2020-2021 (Kosair)
- 90 • Ill Sir Ralph Calhoun, II 2021-2022 (Omar)
- 91 • Ill Sir Jim Wilson, 2022-2023 (Amran)
- 92 • Ill Sir Jason Hinkle, 2024-2025 (Beni Kedem)



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93 Secretary/Treasurer Ratliff took a roll call of temple attendance. The results were:

- 94 • ACCA - 8
- 95 • ALEE - 13
- 96 • ALHAMBRA - 10
- 97 • AMRAN - 10
- 98 • BENI KEDEM - 7
- 99 • EL HASA - 11
- 100 • HEJAZ - 8
- 101 • JAMIL - 7
- 102 • JERICHO - 6
- 103 • KAZIM - 13
- 104 • KERBELA - 12
- 105 • KHEDIVE - 8
- 106 • KOSAIR - 16
- 107 • NEMESIS - 13
- 108 • OASIS - 17
- 109 • OLEIKA - 36
- 110 • OMAR - 21
- 111 • RIZPAH - 1
- 112 • SUDAN - 7
- 113 • YAARAB - 10

114 With the amount of Nobles present, Secretary Ratliff established a Quorum.

115 President Noble called upon 3rd Vice President Robert Scott Foxwell (Khedive) for the Audit
116 Report. Illustrious Sir Foxwell stated that he had received and reviewed the financials of the South
117 Atlantic Shrine Association and that we still have some money. He moved for their approval. A
118 motion was made, seconded and a favorable vote was had.

119 President Noble called upon Secretary Ratliff for the financial report of the Association. Illustrious
120 Sir Ratliff gave updates of our checking and savings account. The Fall Budget for 2027 was
121 presented, as was the Finance Report, and moved for adoption. A motion was made for each, and
122 seconded, and both were approved by unanimous vote of the membership.

123 President Noble called upon Illustrious Sir 1st Vice President Freddie Humphries for a presentation
124 of his budget for the 2027 Spring and Fall Meetings. Vice President Humphries presented a cash
125 positive budget for both meetings and moved for their adoption. A motion was made, seconded
126 and a favorable vote was had.



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- 127 President Noble called upon Secretary Ratliff for reading of the minutes from our last stated
128 communication. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they are
129 available online. The motion received a second, and a favorable vote was had.
- 130 President Noble called upon 1st Vice President Freddie Humphries for the Time and Place report.
131 1st Vice President Humphries spoke on his Spring Meeting in Savannah, GA on April 1-3, 2027 and
132 his Fall Meeting September 16-19, 2027 in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 133 1st Vice President Humphries gave the floor to 2nd Vice President Bill Carter to speak of his Spring
134 and Fall Conventions. The Spring Event will be in Charlotte, NC on March 16-17, 2028 and the Fall
135 Meeting September 21-24, 2028 in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 136 2nd Vice President Carter gave the floor to 3rd Vice President Illustrious Sir Robert Scott Foxwell
137 to report on his Spring Convention which will be held in Staunton, VA on March 22-24, 2029 and
138 the Fall Meeting September 20-23, 2029 in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- 139 All 3 requested permission to negotiate and execute hotel contracts for their respective meetings
140 which was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously by the membership.
- 141 1st Vice President Humphries concluded the Time and Place Committee. A motion was made to
142 accept, a second given and a favorable vote was had.
- 143 President Noble called upon 5th Vice President Eddie Hazelett for the Visitation and Meetings of
144 SASA report. He noted that there had been 123 visits to Temples, Clubs, and Units by the SASA
145 Officers. 5th Vice President Hazelett moved for the adoption of the report. A motion was made,
146 seconded and a favorable vote was had.
- 147 5th Vice President Hazelett also gave the Credentials Committee Report, which is as follows:
- 148 • Nobles Registered - 1507
 - 149 • Ladies Registered - 1065
 - 150 • Total Attending - 2748
 - 151 • Badges Printed - 2441
 - 152 • Ladies Luncheon - 173
 - 153 • Presidents Banquet - 241
 - 154 • Accommodations: 33 Hotels & 4 Campgrounds
- 155 5th Vice President Hazelett moved for the adoption of the report. A motion was made, seconded
156 and a favorable vote was had.



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157 Illustrious Donnie Ratliff, SASA Secretary/Treasurer, then passed on his time to speak for the
158 Membership Committee Report in order to give Noble Ryan Rosenbaum more time to speak as the
159 Senior Manager of Membership for Shriners International. Noble Rosenbaum gave his
160 presentation with an emphasis to reach out if there are questions and provided his number of
161 813-758-0721.

162 Illustrious Ratliff then gave an update on the Temples coming up for SASA Nominations over the
163 next 3 years:

- 164 • 2027 – Sudan (2)
- 165 • 2028 – Kazim (3)
- 166 • 2029 – Nemesis (4)

167 President Noble served as the Election Committee Chair and as such moved into the Election of
168 Officers for 2026-2027.

169 President Noble called upon Illustrious Sir Jamie Smith, Potentate of Hejaz Shriners, to read a
170 resolution supporting Illustrious Sir Chad Knight for nomination as 5th Vice President of the South
171 Atlantic Shrine Association.

172 After the resolution was read, President Noble called thrice for any other nominations. A motion
173 was made to close nominations, a second given and a favorable vote was had. Illustrious Sir Knight
174 was elected by acclamation.

175 President Noble then opened the floor to nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. A nomination for
176 Illustrious Sir Donald Ratliff was made. Illustrious Sir Ratliff accepted the nomination. A call for
177 any other nominations was given thrice. A motion was made to close nominations, a second was
178 given and a favorable vote was had. Illustrious Sir Ratliff was elected by acclamation.

179 President Noble opened the floor to nominations for Vice Presidents. A motion was made to
180 advance all seated Officers up by one seat. A second was made and a favorable vote was had. All
181 seated Officers accepted their nominations. The Elected Officers of the South Atlantic Shrine
182 Association are:

- 183 • Secretary/Treasurer – Illustrious Sir Donald Ratliff (Kazim)
- 184 • 5th Vice President Elect – Illustrious Sir Chad Knight (Hejaz)
- 185 • 4th Vice President Elect – Illustrious Sir Eddie Hazelett (El Hasa)
- 186 • 3rd Vice President Elect – Illustrious Sir Gerald Smith (Alhambra)



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- 187 • 2nd Vice President Elect – Illustrious Sir Robert Scott Foxwell (Khedive)
- 188 • 1st Vice President Elect – Illustrious Sir Bill Carter (Oasis)
- 189 • Presdient Elect – Illustrious Sir Freddie Humphries (Alee)

190 President Elect Humphries read his appointments for 2026-2027 to be apporved by the Nobility:

- 191 • Spring Director General – Illustrious Sir Robert Moore
- 192 • Spring Deputy Director General – Steve Clemmons
- 193 • Spring Treasurer – Illustrious Sir Alfred Waite
- 194 • Fall Director General – Teddy Adkins
- 195 • Fall Treasurer – Rusty Watson
- 196 • Chaplian – Illustrious Sir John Stanley
- 197 • Photographer – Pat Gilkey
- 198 • Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Illustrious Sir D. Cole David
- 199 • Spring Session Registration Coordinator – Colleen Humphries
- 200 • Fall Registration Coordinator – Lisa Watson
- 201 • Fall Assistant Registration Coordinator – Terri Adkins

202 A motion was made to accept the appointments for 2026-2027. A second was given and a
203 favorable vote was had.

204 President Noble took a point of personal privilage and gave remarks regarding his time on the
205 SASA line. He spoke on how the Association was in good hands with the current Officers.

206 President Noble then presented the annual awards:

- 207 • Award of Recognition – El Hasa Shriners
- 208 • Unit of the Year – Temple Guard (Oleika)
- 209 • Shrine Club of the Year – Capital City Shrine Club (Oleika)
- 210 • Shrine Club of the Year – Floyd County Shrine Club (Oleika)
- 211 • Shriner of the Year – Steve White (Oleika)
- 212 • Shriner of the Year – Gary Blankenship (Oleika)
- 213 • Temple of the Year – Oleika Shriners

214 President Noble called upon candidates for Imperial Outer Guard. There was one candidate
215 present, and one that requested his letter read, for Imperial Outer Guard; Illustrious Sir Buddy
216 Ellis (Omar) and Illustrious Sir David Dodson (Jaffa). Each candidate was allotted 5 minutes to
217 speak, or have their letter read.



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218 First to speak was Illustrious Sir Buddy Ellis (Omar) and then Illustrious Sir David Dodson's (Jaffa)
219 letter was ready by Illustrious Sir Robert Scott Foxwell.

220 President Noble made his last presentation which was to the President Elect, Freddie Humphries.
221 President Noble presented the President Elect with a gavel for use during his term.

222 President Elect Humphries presented our outgoing President with a "Silent Messenger" statue on
223 behalf of his service to the South Atlantic Shrine Association during his term of service.

224 President Noble asked for any Old Business. There was none.

225 He then moved to New Business. President Noble called upon Director General Teddy Adkins for
226 convention updates. Director General Adkins spoke on the parade updates along with how the
227 parade is handled on the SASA end. He also touched on expenses which include paying for
228 security, certified police officers, being at every intersection. He also spoke on the importance of
229 online registration.

230 He then identified where the Counterpart Meetings would be held. The SASA Officer with their
231 Temple Counterparts will meet in different sections of the room after the meeting.

232 The Parade Marshal meeting will begin following the conclusion of the SASA meeting and all
233 Temples must have a representative present.

234 President Noble introduced the Imperial Potentate, Imperial Sir Larry Leib for his remarks.

235 Imperial Sir Leib, seated all and gave a quick update of the year so far, including the introduction
236 of the "Fez Friday" posts. He then asked everyone in the room to get together and took a video for
237 that weeks edition of "Fez Friday".

238 President Noble called upon SASA Chaplain, Illustrious Sir John Stanley for the benediction.

239 The meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.