



Recorder's Message

BY BOB MCGREGOR, P.P.
Recorder

Nobles, recently our Chief Rabban Noble Bob Whitmarsh and myself were asked to be the guest speaker's at two Club functions and needless to say both Bob and myself were honoured to be asked and most happy to oblige, however I pointed out to the Club that in order to maintain protocol, it was necessary for them to make that request through our Illustrious Potentate Fred G. Clarke,

A letter was subsequently sent to Illustrious Sir Fred and he gave his approval for both the Chief Rabban and myself to represent him at this Club. I know it may seem to some a little much; however we believe that it is important to observe protocol and to follow the chain of command. Just think how embarrassing it would be if you asked any other Shriner to speak at your Club and the Potentate showed up unannounced. Just remember that only the current Potentate speaks for his Temple and unless he delegates this authority to someone else, we are all duty bound to follow this rule and there can be no exceptions, so if someone asks permission to speak at your Club or Unit, please clear it with Illustrious Sir Fred G. Clarke first and thank you for this consideration.

You have possibly heard some rumours either by phone, email, letter or in the newspaper that the London Ontario Shrine Hospital is back on the drawing board again and that your Divan are supporting a drive to accomplish this. Well let me state here and now that this is not true. Your 2005 Divan fought tooth and nail to bring this Hospital to London Ontario and I personally wrote to 190 Recorders plus we mailed out over 100 DVDs and other miscellaneous literature trying to accomplish this but as stated in a previous article, our effort was in vain and the motion was soundly defeated.

We quickly got over our disappointment and as Masons and gentlemen, we decided that the democratic process had taken place and we would abide by that majority decision, to do less would only give the appearance that we were poor losers and such is not the case. Please note that if the Imperial Council decides in the not too distant future to build a Shrine Hospital in London, Ontario, it will have our support, in the meantime it is not our intention to join this ad hoc group no matter how well intentioned they are and we are not going home with our bat and ball either.

I further advise that in a conversation held on March 3rd, 2006 between our Illustrious Potentate Fred G. Clarke and Imperial Sir Ralph W. Semb, Chairman of Shriners Hospitals for Children, he stated that at this time the Imperial Joint Boards has no official knowledge of this ad hoc committee and it would be incorrect to state that the Imperial Joint Board is behind this project proposal. Imperial Sir Ralph also stated that he phoned this committee and told them not to imply that the Imperial is behind it.

The Financial Meeting was not well attended. Only 46 Nobles showed up for this very important meeting and that included our Elected and Appointed Divan. Can it be that complacency is setting in? I hope not because Rameses will depend on your careful analysis of our spending habits and the future will definitely challenge our ability to raise money, particularly for Fraternal purposes, e.g. heat, light, administration, taxes and a host of other items that are all part of Rameses survival.

We recognize that some Nobles think our money could be handled better at Headquarters and there are a very few who think that our sole purpose is to spend, and not always wisely. Let me say loud and clear that we've come a long way in the last few years but we are not finished yet and I have still much to do.

Now, you don't have to believe me. Just go to your last nine years of financial statements, the figures are all there. If you don't have them, I do. Just drop by the office. I would be happy to let you look them over and I don't need any warning. They are in my desk drawer. For the record, nine years ago, Rameses Shriners (that's you) was subsidizing 3100 Keele Street by some \$300,000 a year. Nobles, that's red ink and we were drowning in it. Look at your 2005 Financial Report, Exhibit 3 and you will note that the budgeted subsidy of \$10,000 was not used and in fact the Club, (that's 3100 Keele Street), gave Rameses (that's you) back \$3,606. It's not a lot Nobles, but we are finally standing on our own feet and I have not shown any subsidy in the budget for 2006 and in fact we are predicting over \$100,000 of your money to be re-invested. I also respectfully remind you that our new lodge room and elevator are fully paid for and as I write you, have \$2,630,000 in investments and over \$1,000,000 cash on hand in several accounts. Am I finished yet? No not by a long shot. I won't be happy until we can survive without telemarketing. Believe me, you're not the only ones who don't like telemarketing but for now we depend on it and until the time comes that we don't need it, we hold our nose and go forward.

When I came in as Recorder, I promised you I would not support and increase in dues until we had our spending under control and I'm not there yet and yes the subject of a dues increase has come up on several

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