



## Recorder's Message

By BOB MCGREGOR, P.P.  
Recorder

**F**orgive me if I don't spend much time on referring to past items, for it is the future that lies ahead and only this can be changed and it's all up to us.

"Quiz" What are the ten most powerful two letter words? The answer is on page 11.

The Potentate's Ball was a great success and well attended. The Imperial Potentate was our guest of honour and both he and his Lady Wanda were appreciative of our gifts and suitably impressed by our hospitality. If you didn't attend you missed a good one.

The Spring Ceremonial was well run and we received good value for the cost. The weather was a little 'iffy' but good for marching. All in all a super weekend and the Director General Noble John Neil, along with his committees are to be congratulated on a job well done.

The Imperial Session in Tampa was great. The parade, as always, was too long, especially in light of the temperature of 95F degrees but we all made it. The legislation was all routine. The motion to bring in Candidates from the street was soundly defeated, but I don't think we've heard the last of this one.

By the time you read this, our Fall Shrine work will be well underway. We are working on our budget for 2007 which will be sent to you in the not too distant future and voted on at our Stated Meeting on November 17, 2006 at 3100 Keele Street starting at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

Just a friendly reminder Rameses Shriners, that's you, is no longer subsidizing 3100 Keele Street, better known as the Club. Quite a different story from 8 years ago when we were carrying 3100 Keele Street with red ink in excess of \$300,000 a year.

Now while I'm on the subject of money and budgets, let me appeal to your good nature and generosity. We totally support your raising of large sums of money for our hospitals and again your generous unsolicited support of our Transportation Fund and we certainly don't want you to water down the Herculean task you set for yourselves each year, but I must respectfully remind you that we also need your support at head office. Yes, I know there is an old tale of the Divan not using all of your money wisely and in the past there may have been some truth in this. However, the Club is now breaking even (as detailed above) on our expenses and considering that our membership is dropping, our income is taking a beating on all fronts. We are

definitely much more careful with your generous help and our new modus operandi is fast eliminating all waste and unnecessary expense.

It should be noted that with respect to telemarketing, the "Do Not Call" legislation will take effect in 2007 and if we follow along the lines of the United States, which already has this, it will cut our income in half. Simply put, we have, at present, four fund-raisers in our telemarketing portfolio; Circus, Fantasy, Varsity Football and the Direct Appeal. Between them, they generate for us approximately \$450,000 per year. Fourteen years ago the Circus alone brought in over one million dollars per year. The estimate for 2007 Circus income is \$250,000 and that's \$65,000 less than 2006 and it will probably be well under \$200,000 for 2008 so as you can see, we do need your help to stay solvent.

The "Do Not Call" legislation will, without any doubt whatsoever, cut our income by at least \$200,000 per year and possibly more, so we need a little help. May I suggest that when your Club or Unit makes a Fraternal donation to either the Hospital or the Transportation Fund, please consider Rameses or the Club for a slice of the pie. "NO", not the whole pie, just a slice and you determine the size of the slice. We will be grateful for your generosity regardless of the amount. The alternative is not one we wish to consider and we won't go there unless we have no other choice. Nobles, I leave this recommendation with you for consideration. Now, if you are still in doubt, please look at your past financial reports, it's all in there or better still call me or drop into the office and I'll be glad to put all the facts in front of you and as always let you make up your own mind. Nobles, it is a serious problem and we do need your help.

The new style Papyrus has come under a fair amount of criticism and let me be among the first to say that the paper quality has been drastically changed, however as outlined by our Illustrious Potentate in his message in the June issue of Papyrus, he makes it clear that the move is being made to save your hard earned money; \$25,000 almost immediately and the possibility of raising this to around \$40,000 by next year. It is however interesting to note that (even with this) we will still have a shortfall of around \$25,000 which is, of course, the cost of doing business. I just wanted you all to know that there was a reason for this dramatic change and it is not a frivolous attempt to cheapen our treasured magazine.

Nobles, be assured Rameses is in good shape with respect to membership and financial independence and my message is not intended to give the impression that we are falling apart. Nothing could be further from the truth for the present, however it's my job to keep us on top and I do see some storm clouds building for future years and I'm not about to let Rameses fall into disrepair on my watch. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. It is

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