

# BEJA BUGLER

www.bejashriners.com

bejashrine@new.rr.com

VOL NO. 93 / 1st Quarter 2025

January 2025

Join us for the

## 2025 *Public Installation of Officers*



The Public Installation of the 2025  
Beja Elected & Appointed Divan

The installation Ceremony will begin at  
11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4th.  
Divan members, please arrive by 8:45 a.m.,  
and others should plan to arrive by 10:30 a.m.  
Afterward, hors d'oeuvres will be  
served, and the bar will be open.

**RSVP to Ann at Beja (920) 498-1985**



## **BEJA SHOOTING EVENT**

*JOIN US ON SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 15TH, 2025*

*5:00PM - 7:00 PM*

At the  
Family Shooting  
Academy  
Indoor public  
shooting range!

1976 Verlin Rd.  
Bellevue, WI 54311

Sponsored by our  
Beja Sportsman's Club

\$25.00 per person  
RSVP To Ann  
(920) 498-1985

## **KEWAUNEE TUBING & SLEDDING**

Join us on January 18, 2025  
(Weather date is January 25th)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for a 2-hour session, tube is included.

**N3787 Ransom Moore Lane  
Kewaunee, WI**



This hill has a lift to take us  
back to the top. Join us  
afterward for hot cocoa—  
don't forget to bring your  
favorite outdoor mug!  
RSVP to Ann: (920) 498-1985

# BEJA BUGLER

Published under the auspices of BEJA SHRINERS  
1950 Bond St ~ Green Bay, WI 54303

## Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 am. to 2:30 p.m.  
Phone (920) 498-1985 • FAX (920) 498-0290  
E-mail: bejashrine@new.rr.com

## BEJA SHRINE OFFICERS

### ELECTED DIVAN

Thomas Pflugardt, Potentate	920-636-6707
Scott Maxon, Chief Rabban	920-857-8623
Tim Thiers, Assistant Rabban	920-905-5951
Josh Zimdars, High Priest & Prophet	920-530-3583
Mike Moen, Oriental Guide	920-508-0606
Brad Ottum, P.P., Treasurer	920-621-5926
Eugene Reece, P.P., Recorder	920-585-0994

### APPOINTED DIVAN

Brad Schlosstein, 1st Ceremonial Master	920-371-8441
Eugene Reece III, 2nd Ceremonial Master	920-585-3957
Jeff Eilers, Director	920-737-3153
Roy Vander Zanden, Marshal	920-427-7222
Nic Schuh, Capt. of the Guard	920-265-9328
Blaine Goldner, Outer Guard	414-403-8328

### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Charles Clarage, Chief Aid	920-436-9934
Greg Scanlon, Chaplain	920-636-3176
Edward "Rusty" Mitchell, P.P., Ritualistic Divan	715-823-3515
Dennis Korth, P.P, Circus Chairman	920-419-1977
Gary Fehl, Membership Chairman	920-562-8086
John Van Lanen, P.P. Hospital Chairman	920-264-5864
Gary Fehl, Public Relations	920-562-8086
John VanLanen, P.P., Hospital Transportation	920-264-5864
Jay Andres, Burn Awareness Chairman	920-475-4154
Greg Habeck, P.P., Historian	920-371-9050
Robert Dionne, Housing Chairman	715-490-1866

### TRUSTEES

Jay Andres	920-475-4154
Craig Laes	920-819-5739
Jeff Andersen	920-366-4575
John Clark	920-619-1877
Greg Habeck, P.P.	920-371-9050

### PAST POTENTATES

Floyd L. Meyer*	1986	William "Bill" Wenzell *	2005
John R. Martinez*	1987	Jim Slezak	2006
Hobart De Caster *	1988	Kent Pauli	2007
Donald C. Wiggins *	1989	D. Eugene Badgley *	2008
Bruce J. Carlton *	1990	Bradley Ottum	2009
Charles Awen*	1991	Edward "Rusty" Mitchell	2010
Donald P. Doherty *	1992	Gary Shriver	2011
Robert Squires *	1993	Dave Oshefsky	2012
William Asmus *	1994	John Sage	2013
A. Wayne Paschke *	1995	Nick Brosig	2014
Archie H. Mauk*	1996	Kent Pauli	2015
Peter R. Scheinert	1997	Eugene Reece	2016
John Ottum M.D.*	1998	Greg Habeck	2017
Donald Badgley	1999	Clint Compton	2018
Denis E. Bay*	2000	Mike Belanger	2019
G.W. "Jerry" Capelle	2001	James VanDeHey	2020
Fred Beyer	2002	Benjamin Rodgers	2021
John M. Derenne *	2003	John Van Lanen	2022
Dennis Korth	2004	Jacob Sylvester	2023

\* Deceased



Greetings!

Greetings to all on the start of the New Year at Beja. Talking to Scott, he has some creative ideas for Beja in 2025. There is good energy to start the year, and we all will strive to keep that energy going throughout the year. I wish Scott and the Divan all the best!

My children and I have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas holiday in the Chicago area. It was awesome to play with my new grandson, and we truly enjoyed the time together. Now back to work and school for all of us.

I appreciate all the support all of you have shown me and my family over the past year.

Wishing all of you a wonderful New Year!  
*Sincerely, Elizabeth Melchert*



## Congratulations John Sage

Dr. John H. Sage, PhD receives the honor of Emeritus Status from the Board of Governors of Shriners Children's Chicago.

Presenting the emeritus plaque are Tracy Burcham, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Keith Tuttle, Vice-Chairman.

## Beja Bugler Articles

Please submit your articles to:  
**vickic93@centurytel.net**

Articles are due on the 10th of each month  
The Bugler is produced monthly  
electronically and placed on  
Beja's website.

## THE POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



**Greetings Nobles, Ladies,  
Family and Friends,**

The months have flown by and it has been a pleasure being the Beja Shrine Potentate for 2024. The ability to go out and represent the Beja Shrine Temple has been quite heartwarming. The positive comments received from

Imperial. Our working relationship with the Tripoli and Zor Shrines as we compete for the same thing.

**Having Fun Helping Kids!** Remember this is all about the kids.

Our 2024 Beja Parade of Glory was a \$100,000 team Beja effort. The best ever.

Just outstanding! Team Beja being recognized for a Dromedary award in the email communication category.

Read your Beja Buglers it's the best communication we have.

Thank you to all those who can volunteer and make it happen around the Beja Shrine.

### **Visiting Tripoli**

What a great experience driving down to Tripoli with Noble **Jim Herman (Jimbo the Clown)** as we attended the Tripoli Shrine Stated Meeting. With the help and support of **Illustrious Sir Gerry Arnholt**, Jimbo spoke to the Tripoli Nobility of the repair work he does to update the equipment to be compliant with OSHA at the Chicago Hospital and Twin Cities Clinic. The result is Jimbo will have some funding available for expenses. Jimbo told me he's been doing this for 22 years! Thank you, Jimbo, for all those years of dedication to the Shrine Hospitals. And thank you Tripoli Shrine for supporting Jims's efforts of helping kids.

Currently Jimbo is working on additional funding with Zor's Illustrious Roger Keller and staff.

### **Online Membership and Marketing**

Thank you so much for attending the 5th Annual Membership & Marketing Virtual # 1.

- Discover essential strategies to effectively attract and

*Continued in next column*

engage potential members.

- Craft a clear, compelling value proposition that highlights the benefits of membership.
- Implement innovative tactics to boost member retention and create a strong sense of community.
- Analyze and utilize data to optimize recruitment and retention efforts.
- Design a membership growth plan that aligns with your organization's unique strengths and objectives.

### **BOG Meeting Chicago**

I was again thrilled to attend the November Chicago BOG meeting. A big thank you to all members and associate members for their time and dedication helping kids.

### **Tripoli Shrine Festival of Trees**

Again, I attended and supported this year's event at Tripoli. Along the way I ran into our very own Illustrious Sir Nick Brosig and his family. The rooms were filled with nicely decorated

Christmas trees and trimmings. Tripoli's Illustrious Sir Gerry Arnholt gives all the credit to the volunteers who make this fundraiser a success. Having Fun Helping Kids!

### **Breakfast with Santa**

Ho Ho Ho **Illustrious Sir Ben Rodgers & Lady Stephanie**. A huge thank you for your forward thinking, outstanding ideas and upgrading the Breakfast with Santa event. Keep Rocking the Fez!

### **A Wisconsin Tradition. The Deer Hunt**

Speaking with **PP Illustrious Sir Jim Slezak** who this year harvested one of the many whitetail deer roaming the Wisconsin wilderness. IYKYK Jim is quite the hunting sportsman. When you see Jim strike up a conversation on his journeys of the big hunts.

On another note, Brothers **Illustrious Sir Dennis Korth, Noble Ralph Papesh and Noble Jon Tessier** have frequently traveled to North Dakota for some wild pheasant bird hunting.

### **Check Your Email Spam Folder**

I'm very surprised every once in a while, an email reply back to me ends up in my spam folder. So, if you send an email and the receiver says they didn't receive just mention to them to check their spam/junk folder.

### **Beja Book Authors**

Did you know Beja has a couple of book authors?  
**OG Mike Moen** his book is titled "Nice Try Mike"

*Continued on next page*

Lady Cathy Johnson's book is titled "If I could hit rewind in life" is a non-fiction book of her life on the farm.

[Bea Freemason.org](http://Bea Freemason.org) - Masonic Life

The values of Freemasonry are based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness. Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole through charitable giving and volunteer efforts. We gather together to help each other become better men and to forge a better world.

#### Who are Shriners?

Shriners are a Fraternity based on Fun, Fellowship, and the Masonic Principals of Brotherly love, relief and truth.

*Fraternally, Ill. Sir Tom Pflugardt  
Beja Shrine Potentate 2024*



# BEJA SHOOTING EVENT

Family Shooting Academy  
in Green Bay sponsored by our  
Beja Sportsman's Club.

Saturday, February 15th, 2025  
5:00pm - 7:00 pm  
\$25.00 per person

## UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

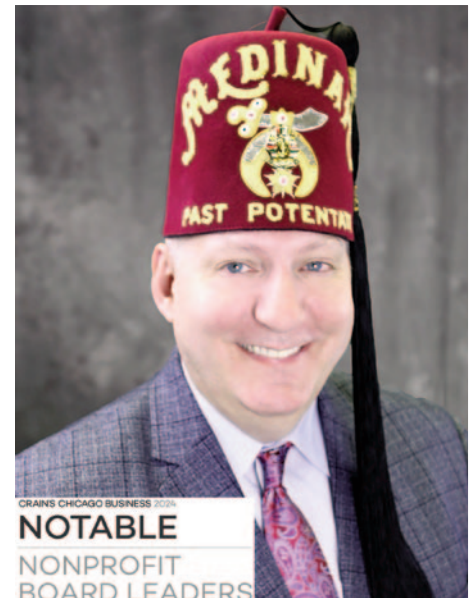
### Shriners Children's Chicago BOG Chairman Burcham named a Notable Nonprofit Board Leader by Crain's

We are pleased to announce that Kenneth "Tracy" Burcham, our esteemed Chairman of the Board of Governors, has been selected as a Notable Nonprofit Board Leader by Crain's Chicago Business.

This prestigious recognition highlights outstanding board leadership in the Chicagoland area, with nominees chosen based on their dedication and contributions.

Tracy's unwavering commitment, his friendly leadership style, and generously sharing of his time and resources, have made a lasting impact on our organization, and we are proud to see his efforts celebrated.

Congratulations, Tracy, on this well-deserved honor!



2900 N. Rocky Point Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33607  
SHRINERSCHILDRENS.ORG

2211 N. Oak Park Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60707  
SHRINERSCHICAGO.ORG



2025  
Beja Event

# NFL DRAFT

April 24th-26th, 2025  
Proposal Draft



Event: Host watch parties at the Beja Shrine Center. Each day will be slightly different based on the NFL Draft composition.

Day One – Thursday, April 24, 2025

Day Two – Friday, April 25, 2025

Day Three – Saturday, April 26, 2025

Day one – April 24, 2025 (premium Night includes top draft pick selection) The event will be a watch party including Cocktails, Snacks, Brats, Hot Dogs and Heavy Appetizers. The proposal is to set up 16 eight-foot tables. The cost per seat is \$50. We will include table sponsorship opportunities

The Event Will Include:

- **Cash envelops raffle** (like 50/50 The winner gets 20 times the money they put in the envelop, maximum entry amount is \$50.)
- **Basket Raffles**
- **Walk around Raffles**

### Platinum Table

10 people entry \$1000  
Advertisement in evening program  
Special gift for each attendee

### Gold Table

8 people entry \$750  
Advertisement in evening program  
Special gift for each attendee

### Silver Table

8 people entry \$500  
Advertisement in evening program

### Individual Seats

placed at a mixed table \$50



## Beja Shriners Seek Passionate Ambassadors To Expand Their Mission

Beja Shrine is calling on its dedicated members to step forward and become a pivotal part of our recruitment efforts by joining the Ambassador Program. As an Ambassador, you'll play a vital role in strengthening the bond between the Shrine and local Masonic Lodges within our jurisdiction.

This opportunity is ideal for active members of the Masonic community who are passionate about the values of the Beja Shrine and eager to share our mission. Ambassadors serve as the bridge to bring the Shrine's recruitment messages to Masonic Lodges, fostering connections and encouraging new members to join our noble cause.

By becoming an Ambassador, you'll be contributing directly to the growth and vibrancy of the Beja Shrine. Your efforts will help us continue our meaningful work and ensure the legacy of fellowship and philanthropy thrives.

If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge and represent the Beja Shrine with pride, we want to hear from you. Join us as an Ambassador and make a difference in our community today!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Potentate Elect, Scott Maxon or Membership Chairman, Gary Fehl.

## UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR BEJA SHRINE COMMUNICATIONS

Nobles, Ladies, and Friends,  
We utilize the Mailchimp email client to send communications from Beja Shrine. While we have many of your email addresses on file, we are aware that some may be missing. To ensure that you receive all relevant information regarding our activities, please provide us with your current email address if you are not receiving our messages through MailChimp.

Additionally, if you know of any Nobles who may not be receiving our emails, we kindly ask you to encourage them to reach out to us as well.

There are numerous events happening at Beja Shrine, and we want to ensure that everyone is informed.

You can send your updated email address to [bejashrine@new.rr.com](mailto:bejashrine@new.rr.com) or [bejamarketing@gmail.com](mailto:bejamarketing@gmail.com).

Thank you for your assistance.



We made it 2024 is going to be behind us, time to focus on 2025.



With that said I am calling a March meeting for all clowns before the stated meeting we will meet in the conference room table at the office entrance where we will discuss emeritus status for Jimbo as well as nominations for the other offices, I am assuming if you currently hold an office you wish to keep it, if not please contact me at the earliest convenience, Jimbo

has mentioned to me doing more parades, and John Van Laanen is diligently working to get the train mobile and usable once again. He has started a go fund me on his page for facebook so I am asking you all to please like and share it so the word can spread farther and we can hopefully get the use of the train back into motion. If you have any questions on this please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or John Van Lanen as we are happy to share what we know.

I am happy to bring new clowns onboard at anytime and would just love to welcome back any old clowns that may have stepped away for one reason or another. It is a new year and I would really like to make it a great year for Beja and the clown unit as well.

Once again Please Mark your calendars and look for the reminder in February issue of the Bugler as the clowns will meet in March Before the stated meeting.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year

Geared up for our kids  
*Clowing around for Beja,  
Pokey The Clown*

Stay Informed about all events at  
Beja Shrine and much more  
**JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST**  
[www.bejashriners.com](http://www.bejashriners.com)



# The Youth ADVENTURES



Hello to all and welcome to a brand new year. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to some of the changes a new year brings. As I've stated before there are also changes in the youth group.

Green Bay Chapter Order of DeMolay would like to begin the year off by once again saying thank you to Beja Shrine for the opportunity to help work with them on some of their dinner meetings. There are also new changes to the Chapter as they initiate new members and elect new officers for the next Year.

Bethel 32 Job's Daughters is once again in a rebuilding stage. They are looking for extra help if you have any ideas on some new events. Please feel free to contact them.

As always, thank you for all the help you offer to the youth groups. If that means participating in a fundraiser or if you are volunteering your time or helping them with a resource. Thank you.

*Fraternally, Charles Clarage  
Youth Committee Chairman*

## Clubs & Unit Heads UPDATES NEEDED

Greetings Nobles,

I would like to ask for current information of your upcoming events, or what you are currently working on for meeting dates and events.

Also, have you had your election of officers, and who are they?

Send information to: [bigmike54106@yahoo.com](mailto:bigmike54106@yahoo.com)

Thanks, 😊

Mike Moen, OG



Welcome Nobles and Ladies,

The Appleton Shrine Club meets every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month at Mark's Eastside starting at 11:30am (order off the menu).

*Fraternally,  
Greg Scanlon, President  
Tom Pflugardt, Vice President  
Dennis Korth, Treasurer*



I sincerely want to thank you for your confidence in me to elect me to my new position as High Priest and prophet of Beja Shrine.

I will proudly serve to the best of my ability to help all of our kids as

well as our incredible masonic organization.

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
Michael Moen, HP and Prophet*

Stay Informed about all events at Beja Shrine and much more

**JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST**

[www.bejashriners.com](http://www.bejashriners.com)



**WGA4KIDS  
Beja Shrine Chapter**

We staffed the clinic holiday bag distribution program on Friday, December 6th. Gene and I represented Beja Chapter at the Osman Auxiliary Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 7th. We assisted our Auxiliary partners from Tripoli by delivering 4 boxes of toys to the clinic. We will be presenting a check for \$5,000 to the WGA wheelchair fund and an additional check for \$2,000 to the toy fund. I would also like to thank all of the Beja Nobles, their Ladies and friends for the donations of toys and pop can tabs which were delivered to the clinic by John VanLanen in November.

A special thanks to Jeff Eilers for his work in securing pop tabs for our chapter from a local business.

Our next meeting is Saturday January 25th at Beja at 9:30.

*Sincerely , Dawn Reece  
President WGA4KIDS-Beja Chapter*



WGA4Kids Beja Chapter President Dawn Reece handing out holiday bags at Shriners Children's Twin Cities for the holidays.

Variable Investment Associates, Inc.

**VIA** Dennis M. Korth  
Registered Representative  
219 E. McArthur Street  
Appleton, WI 54911  
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dmkorth75@gmail.com

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**GREEN BAY SHRINE CLUB  
CRAIG LAES – PRESIDENT**

The Green Bay Shrine Club meets every Friday at the Stadium View Bar and Grill located at 1963 Holmgren Way in Green Bay. Social time begins at 11:30am.

Hope to see you there!

*Fraternally,*  
Greg Habeck P.P., Sec.  
greglhabeck@gmail.com or 920-371-9050

*Peninsula Shrine Club*

*“The Club with Class”*

**JAY HERBST – PRESIDENT**

The Peninsula Shrine Club will not be meeting in January and February. We will be going dark in those months.

Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year!

*Fraternally,*  
Greg Habeck, Secretary / Treasurer  
greglhabeck@gmail.com or (920) 371-9050

**OCONTO  
SHRINE CLUB**

At our December meeting we had our our Installation of Officers. Thank you to Beja Potentate Illustrious Sir, Tom Pflugardt and Potentate Elect Scott Maxon for joining us. Congratulations to our new Officers!

President - Nick Brosig  
1st Vice President - Matt Vander Leest  
2nd Vice President - Brad Ottum  
Secretary / Treasurer - Vernon Vander Leest

Oconto County Shrine Club's next meeting will be held on January 9th at Wouter's Front in Suamico (3171 School Lane). Drinks and attitude adjustments at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there!!

Please keep our Brother Robert "Bob" Vander Leest in your prayers as he recovers from a recent surgery.

*Fraternally Yours,*  
Nick Brosig, President  
Vernon Vander Leest, Secy/Treas.



# Happy Birthday!



## January Birthdays!!

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/3, Thomas W Lantinen   | 1/19, Wilhelm H Wood        |
| 1/3, Michael L Snover    | 1/20, David McFadden        |
| 1/3, Elton J Gofoe       | 1/20, Christopher L Philpot |
| 1/6, Deen C Oscarson     | 1/22, Richard R Menning     |
| 1/13, John E Berggren    | 1/22, Woodward N Howland    |
| 1/13, Richard Rogers     | 1/23, Ronald A Swanson      |
| 1/14, Larry B Hayes      | 1/24, Richard A Loch        |
| 1/17, Gary A Shriver     | 1/25, Robert E Evjen        |
| 1/17, Frank A Pernak Jr. | 1/29, David L Forsythe      |
| 1/18, Gary D Johnson     |                             |



## Beja Shrine MENU



## JANUARY MEETING MENU

On the menu for January is the delicious mouthwatering favorite:  
Pizza Ranch Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Cheesy Ranch Stix  
Cactus Bread, Green Salad and Dressing

All that for \$15.00 per person

Please RSVP by December 29th  
to Ann at Beja (920) 498-1985

I will be updating the "Always List" for 2025 so please let me know if you would like to remain on or be added to the always list for 2025.

For those of you who don't know what the always list is – I maintain a list of people for the monthly meetings so you don't have to call in **UNLESS** you are unable to attend the meeting. *Ann*



## ESCAPE ROOM WISCONSIN



An escape room is a physical adventure game in which players are placed in a room and have to use elements of the room to solve a series of puzzles and escape within a set time limit.

920.968.2583

[www.escaperoomwisconsin.com](http://www.escaperoomwisconsin.com)

985 Centennial Street  
Green Bay, WI 54304

## RelyCo, Inc. +

Contractors

DePere, Wisconsin



Mike Moen Enjoying Breakfast with Santa 2024!

# AJEB TEMPLE NO. 156 DAUGHTERS OF THE NILE



Mariellen Haen, Queen  
920-333-0136  
tonyhaen@gmail.com

Sarah Mobroten, PQ  
ajebtempleno156@gmail.com

Mary Habeck, Princess Banker  
Mhhabeck@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you all!

Our December was filled with activities involving our ladies, and also our Masonic Brothers. I attended the Installation of officers of Henry S. Baird Lodge in Sturgeon Bay, December 13th.

December 21st: Our cookie decorating afternoon was fun and delicious! A fundraiser, and also time spent together, equals a great time. A Christmas party atmosphere, music, food, and fun. We had it all! Thank you to all the elves that arranged that special day. Marla was the head elf on duty!!

Several members went to the Eastern Star State Christmas party on December 14th. It was held at BEJA, and it was great to see people from all over our state. Catching up, and enjoying a festive party is always something to celebrate.

Let's have a good turnout for the January 4th BEJA Divan Installation.

Our temple has submitted the bylaws to Supreme, and we are waiting for the official approval, so we can get them printed and given to our members. Thank you to the Bylaws committee for their efficient work, and to Sarah for getting everything submitted properly. Lots of work, and now we wait....!

We are dark in January and February. Our "Take a Jab" committee will be having a fun event, and they will let us know what to expect!! These fun events are for the members, and also for friends and family members. We are hoping to bring in more Ladies that will love to help our Shriner's Kids. We need more members, and getting ourselves out in the public, and talking about Daughters of the Nile with prospective ladies, will help our organization grow and continue to be positive helpers of the Shriner's Kids. Please try to attend these fun and member building events.

Speaking of new members!!! We initiated Ann Mumm as our newest member of AJEB. What a great new Princess,

*Continued in next column*

and willing to roll up her sleeves and hit the ground running! A great big WELCOME to you Ann. We are all so glad you are one of our Princesses.

Please check your personal information on the Oasis site. We need correct address, telephone numbers, e-mail, and birthdates. If you have not already been on the Oasis site, you will need a special number to open your account. If that is the case, or if you need information on how to use the Oasis site, please contact Princess Sarah, our recorder. Her contact information is [ajebtempleno156@gmail.com](mailto:ajebtempleno156@gmail.com)

Stay safe, drive carefully, and check in on those that are unable to get out and about.

*Nile Love, Mariellen Haen, Queen*



**Shriners  
Children's  
Chicago**

**EMERITUS  
STATUS  
Award**

To all Nobles and Ladies of Beja

Time moves on. I have just been awarded EMERITUS STATUS at Shriners Children - Chicago Board of Governors. What that means is, I am retiring as a voting member of the most active board. 4 years as an Associate and 10 years as a Voting Member was/ is one of my personal highlights. I could not have done anything without the support and guidance from all of you at Beja. In my tenure we have seen Your Hospital grow into one of the far reaching Sites in our ever growing network. Our International patient network has put your Chicago Hospital as the leader in Best Care Anywhere. There have been miracles for our kids at every turn.

I am not going to be put to pasture anytime soon, I plan on being as active as I have been these last 14 years. I just get to sit in the bleachers instead of the big kids table.

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for allowing me to be your voice at SC-Chicago. How ever we serve, it's all about helping our kids have a better life.

*John Sage Ph.D PP  
Emeritus Board Member  
SC-Chicago*



# MEMBERSHIP

is the Best Value

## Beja Shriners Membership Spotlight: “Coming Alive in ’25!”

Happy New Year, Nobles! As we embrace 2025, it's time to rally around our Potentate's energizing slogan: “**Coming Alive in '25!**” This is our year to invigorate Beja Shriners, grow our membership, and share the incredible experiences that make our fraternity special. Our goal? **Welcome 15 new Nobles**—a 5% increase in membership that will help us thrive in years to come.

### Invite, Include, Inspire: A Fresh Approach to Recruitment

Instead of simply saying, “Join Shriners,” let's take a fresh approach: invite friends, colleagues, or neighbors to **join us for an event** and see what being a Shriner is all about. By sharing the fun, camaraderie, and purpose of Beja Shriners, we'll naturally inspire others to become part of our story.

Here's how you can help:

- Bring a guest to an upcoming event.
- Share your enthusiasm and your own Beja experience.
- Show them what “*Coming Alive in '25!*” means in action!

Some exciting events perfect for guests include:

- **Potentate's Installation Reception:** A festive way to kick off the year and introduce friends to Beja Shriners.
- **Family Sledding Party:** Laughter and fun that's uniquely Shriner.
- **February Meeting:** Featuring Dr. Morris, a world-renown plastic surgeon from Shriner Children's Chicago.
- **Pie Auction:** A unique Beja event.

### What Does It Mean to Be a Shriner?

Being a Shriner is more than wearing a fez—it's a gateway to friendship, philanthropy, and adventure.

*Continued in next column*

Every Noble brings a unique spark to our fraternity, and together we create something truly extraordinary.

Here are some of the many benefits of being a Shriner:

- **Brotherhood:** Form deep and meaningful connections with like-minded individuals.
- **Philanthropy:** Support the life-changing work of Shriners Children's.
- **Tradition:** Be part of a legacy that unites Nobles across the globe.

### Share the Magic, Grow the Legacy

Every one of us plays a role in bringing Beja Shriners to life. Sharing your personal story, inviting someone to an event, or simply talking about the good we do can be the spark that leads to our next Noble.

### Let's “Come Alive in '25!”

With **15 new Nobles**, we'll grow our ranks, our energy, and our ability to make an impact. Together, we can ensure that 2025 is a year to remember—a year when Beja Shriners truly came alive!

**Mark your calendars, bring your guests, and let's make 2025 historic. Together, we'll grow stronger, laugh harder, and achieve more than ever before.**

**See you—and your guests—at the next Beja Shriners event!**

**Beja Shriners: “Coming Alive in '25!”**

*Your Membership Team*



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# Beja Shriners POTENTATE ELECT

We will be installing our officers on December 26th at the Intercity Shrine Club Christmas Party.

Our next parade is the New Dublin Parade in New London on Saturday, March 22nd. We are always looking for new members to join us. Officers are Asst Chief, Gene Reece, Treasurer, Dave Gerlach.

*Fraternally,  
Eugene Reece, Asst. Chief*



**Shriners  
Children's  
Chicago**

I am pleased to announce that Kenneth 'Tracy' Burcham, our esteemed Chairman of the Board of Governors at Shriners Children's Chicago, has been selected as a Notable Nonprofit Board Leader by Crain's Chicago Business.



NOTABLE | NONPROFIT BOARD LEADERS

This prestigious recognition highlights outstanding board leadership in the Chicagoland area, with nominees chosen based on their dedication and contributions.

Tracy's unwavering commitment, his friendly leadership style, and generously sharing of his time and resources, have made a lasting impact on our organization, and we are proud to see his efforts celebrated.

Local area nobles, be sure to check out the print edition of Crain's Chicago Business on December 2 to see Tracy featured among this year's honorees. The recognition will also be shared on the Crains' site but require a subscription to view.

Congratulations, Tracy, on this well-deserved

Nobles and Ladies,

Thank you for trusting me to be our next Potentate for Beja, I am truly honored and gear'd up to work with you as we develop new fun and fellowship while creating new fundraisers and growing or supporting what we already do well. Let "we haven't done that before" continue with "but let's try it" whenever and wherever it makes sense.

We have completed our installation of Officers by the time you read this, so it is only appropriate to say thank you to all of those great people who helped make the event, the success that it was, and I thank you for all those who took the time to come out and enjoy the activities.

On the note of activities, we have our Kewaunee Park, Beja family sledding, coming up very soon. This like many activities will be family friendly, so please bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, as well as friends, neighbors, or coworkers.

Our February Shrine meeting will have a guest speaker from the Chicago Hospital to talk about the great surgical work that we do. We then have is Beja shooting event coming up at the Family Shooting Academy in Green Bay sponsored by our Sportsman's Club.

The MSA Winter Session in Moosejaw Canada, the following week.

As we put this calendar together with input from multiple Past Potentates, other Nobles, and Ladies, we tried finding some fun and new fundraising events to capture everyone's interest.

If you see any fundraising events that you have knowledge your expertise in and would like to help finish building the events please feel free to reach out to me. If you have knowledge or expertise in an area that you think we could build another fun or fundraising event in this year's calendar, I am here for us.

If you have ideas that take more time to plan I imagine our upcoming Elect Chief Rabban Tim would be interested in discussing them.

*Fraternally, Scott Maxon  
Potentate Elect*

*"Coming Alive in '25!" Happy New Year!*



**Shriners  
Children's™  
Chicago**

Congratulations to John Sage on his well-deserved recognition as an Emeritus member of the Board of Governors at Shriners Children's Chicago. Your tireless dedication and remarkable contributions to the mission of Shriners Hospitals for Children have left an enduring legacy on the organization and the countless lives it has touched. Thank you for your leadership, commitment, and unwavering passion for advancing the care and well-being of children. Your service and compassion will continue to inspire all who follow in your footsteps.

We also extend our congratulations to Ben Rodgers on his appointment as a voting member of the Board of Governors at Shriners Children's Chicago!

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that the Beja Divan has endorsed Noble Jay Andres for the position of Associate Member on the Board of Governors at Shriners Children's Chicago. With his extensive medical background, Jay is exceptionally well-qualified for this important role

*Gary Fehl - Board Member, SC-Chicago*  
*Ben Rodgers PP - Board Member, SC-Chicago*

### Beja Shrine Clown Parade Train



John Van Lanen is organizing this fundraiser.

Donation protected



Help Us Build a New Clown Train for Our Parades!

The Beja Shriners Clown Unit is raising funds to build a brand-new Clown Train, bringing smiles and fun to local parades while supporting our Shrine temple's mission. This new train will be featured in 8 local parades each year, spreading joy to our community and helping us sustain our services.

Please note that contributions are not tax-deductible, but every dollar goes directly to support the Beja Shriners Clown Unit. Your generous support will allow us to create a joyful symbol that inspires and unites.



**Shriners  
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### Shriners Physicians in the news

- Amer Samdani, M.D. Dr. Samdani, of Shriners Children's Philadelphia, was highlighted in an exclusive story with CBS Philadelphia's health reporter, Stephanie Stahl, for his revolutionary scoliosis research and vertebral body tethering (VBT).
- Sean Waldron, M.D. Dr. Waldron, also of Shriners Children's Philadelphia, made local and national news for performing the first BEAR (Bridge Enhanced ACL Repair) Implant surgery in Philadelphia last year. The BEAR Implant acts as a bridge to help the torn ends of the ACL heal together on their own.

### All About APPs



The advanced practice practitioner (APP) workforce is an integral part of the Shriners Children's organization. "Our physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse anesthetists help us to increase patient access, engage as a medical team for healthcare continuity, and provide value-based care that results in excellent outcomes for our patients," said Erin Howell, APP Lead.

Current APP initiatives of Shriners Children's Medical Group include building a standard orientation/ onboarding program that allows us to launch our APP workforce to work at the top of their licensure. "In addition," said Howell, "we aim to build an APP infrastructure that supports our colleagues as engaged and valued providers within our system.

# January 2025

# Beja Shrine UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> <i>New Years Day</i>	<b>2</b> Clowns Meeting Beja Shrine Closed Meeting 5:00pm Installation of Officer 7:00 pm Washington Lodge	<b>3</b> 11:30am Green Bay Shrine Club Meeting	<b>4</b> <i>BEJA PUBIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</i>
<b>5</b> DARK 1:00pm Job's Daughters	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Order of Demolay	<b>7</b> 5:00pm Trustee's 6:00pm Divan 6:30 pm Roosevelt	<b>8</b> 7:00pm DesPeres Lodge 85	<b>9</b> 10am NEW Daylite 7pm Warren Council 6:00pm Oconto Shrine Club Meeting	<b>10</b> 11:30am Green Bay Shrine Club Meeting Appleton Meeting 11:30pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> NO (Dark) 5:00pm Peninsula Shrine Club meeting	<b>15</b> 5:30pm Scottish Rite	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Northwoods 7:00pm Washington	<b>17</b> 11:30am Green Bay Shrine Club Meeting	<b>18</b> <i>BEJA FAMILY SLEDDING NIGHT KEWAUNEE</i>
<b>19</b> DARK 2:00pm Job's Daughters	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Order of Demolay	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Roosevelt	<b>22</b> 7:00pm DesPeres Lodge 85	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Krazy Kops & Inter- City 7:00pm Palestine	<b>24</b> 11:30am Green Bay Shrine Club Meeting Appleton Meeting 11:30am	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> DARK 1:00pm Job's Daughters	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Vet's & Patriots	<b>28</b> 7pm Warren Council Chapter #8	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11:30am Green Bay Shrine Club Meeting	

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# UPCOMING 2025 ACTIVITIES

For More Details: [www.bejashriners.com](http://www.bejashriners.com)

## December 2024

- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Luncheon
- Dec 26th - Inter-City Shrine & Krazy Kops Christmas Party & Installation of Officers
- Dec 26th - DoubleEnder Installation of Officers

## January 2025

- Jan 2nd - Beja closed meeting / Installation of Officers (THURSDAY)  
Ladies dinner with Lady Elizabeth at 1951 West
- Jan 4th - Beja Public Installation
- Jan 18th - Sledding Event - Winter Park Recreation Area  
Kewaunee (Weather Date - Jan 25)

## February 2025

- Feb 5th - Beja open meeting
- Feb 15th - Beja Shooting Event
- Feb 19th-22nd - Winter MSA

## March 2025

- March 1st - Waterfall Walk - Fonfericks Glen
- March 5th - Beja Open meeting
- March 7th - Beja Sportsmen's Night



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### REMINDER

The Deadline for the BEJA BUGLER Articles for the February Issue is January 10th, 2025



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