



CAMEL Tales

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

The best Ships are friendShips



Mark Your Calendar!

WGA4 Kids Blanket Day __October 11

Appreciation Dinner __October 14 & 16

Gun Show _____November 22 & 23

Pizza, Puzzles & Beverages __Nov 26



TUESDAY BURGERS

Fall is here! The cooler air, the changing leaves, and the crisp evenings make it my favorite season—even though I'll miss those long summer days.

Last month we were just getting back from Moose Jaw for the Midwest Shrine Association Summer session. Fun was had by all, and I look forward to next year's festivities in Grand Forks. I would love to see a ton of El Zagal Parade units up there next year. Remember, our own Jason 'Rocky' Rockswold is on the MSA line, and it would be awesome to support him on his journey to MSA President in 2029 when it comes to Fargo. Let's get out there and make it happen.

The Bob Lucy Fish Fry in Jamestown had a fantastic turnout of Past Potentates (six!). Although Lady Kate and I couldn't attend this year, we know from experience it's always a great time. I would encourage everyone to make it up there in the future if possible.

Over to Detroit Lakes, where the Color Guard held their annual Septoberfest. It was a bit cool out, but all managed to enjoy themselves. Lady Kate and I were attending our Niece's wedding and had a great time

but were wishing we could have been celebrating with the Color Guard. Another event that I encourage everyone to attend.

The Fall Ceremonial took place at Thumper Pond in Ottertail. The Color Guard (those guys really get around!) did an amazing job putting the event together.

Friday there was golfing in the afternoon, then hospitality that evening. I, myself, dressed up as the Skipper and Lady Kate was Mary Ann. Many folks came in costume, and fun was had by all.

After the reception, we had some karaoke, and even I was persuaded to do a duet with my brother Casey. There are rumors of a video out there, which I certainly hope are not true. I'm told we did a good job (probably the magic of low expectations).

Saturday we were treated to the 1st/3rd sections by the Ritualistic Divan, and then the parade. Since there was only one candidate attending, it was decided to have the Divan help hold the rope. It ended up being a neat experience for all of us. Imperial Sir Matt even was able to drive a Bison-themed sprint car thru the parade. Thanks Lady Mandii and Imperial Sir Matt for going to get the sprint cars! Later that night, we honored Illustrious Sir Steve Larson at a banquet, which was richly deserved. We thank him for all he has done for the Color Guard, and the El Zagal Family. Congratulations to Steve and his family!

These gatherings remind me of the friendships and fellowship that make El Zagal so special.

Some upcoming events:

Appreciation Dinners – Fargo on October 14 (same night as the Stated Meeting), and Bismarck on October 16. Please RSVP with Andrea.

Remember – the best Ships are friendShips.

**Yours in Faith,
Chad Decker
2025 Potentate**



Official Call



The regular stated meeting of El Zagal Temple will be held on
Tuesday, OCTOBER 14, 2025 at 7pm
at El Zagal Shrine Center.

The purpose of this meeting is as follows:
To conduct any business properly brought before the chair.
Please wear your fez.

Attest William R Wedberg Jr. PP, Recorder

Yours in faith, Chad Decker, Potentate.

TUESDAY BURGER UNIT SCHEDULE 5:30PM - 7PM

OCTOBER 7 – EMP
OCTOBER 14 – [NO BURGERS]
OCTOBER 21 – DIRECTORS STAFF
OCTOBER 28 – PROVOST
NOVEMBER 4 – ARAB PATROL
NOVEMBER 11 – MISFITS
NOVEMBER 18 – EMP
NOVEMBER 25 – DIRECTORS STAFF

El Zagal Camel Tales

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DIVAN OFFICERS Elective

Chad Decker.....Potentate
Bruce Ridgway.....Chief Rabban
Mark Kennard.....Asst. Rabban
Shane Heiberg.....High Priest & Prophet
Casey Schoer.....Oriental Guide
Jason "Rocky" Rockswold, PP.....Treasurer
Bob Wedberg, PP.....Recorder

Appointive

Tim Dawson.....1st CM
Colin Wegenast.....2nd CM
Blake "Ringo" Wrigley, PP.....Director
Joel Swanson.....Chief of Staff

Membership

Nathan Hopper 720-938-8198
nathan.a.hopper@gmail.com

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Ken Leggate.....Dickinson	701-483-1681
Garret Njos.....Bismarck	701-426-3557
Cal Braun.....Fargo	701-793-6586
Paul Witthauer..Jamestown	701-320-5433
Lonnie Stippich....Hettinger	701-567-2664
Dean Anderson.....Gwinner	701-678-2695
Gary Grindall.....Detroit Lakes	218-234-0821
Jim Hildebrant...Valley City	701-840-1056

CAMEL TALES DEADLINE 18TH OF EACH MONTH

CamelTales Email
cameltales@elzagal.org

Editor

Jon Juelich

Publisher/Creative Editor
J&M Companies



Keith Struble

July 3, 1942 — September 20, 2025
Jamestown, North Dakota

(Families may send submissions to cameltales@elzagal.org)

Director's Staff

Well, I hate to say it, but the bikes are going to be put away shortly for another season. I don't know about you, but it sure is a long time to go without any wind therapy from fall until spring.

Our fall bike run was this past weekend. It was an absolutely beautiful day with exception of mother nature feeling that we were a bit too dry at a few points in the run. Justin and Ian did a fantastic job with all aspects of the run. The route was fresh with some stops that we had never done before. It was a great day. Mike Hennebry and crew knocked it out of the park on the after run meal as they usually do. Thanks to the ND Grand Chapter of Widows Sons for making the trek from Grand Forks to attend. I didn't count but I think there were more Widows Sons than Director's Staff so Thanks again Brothers!

We also drew the three lucky winners of our split pot raffle on Saturday. Not to brag but I sold the first-place ticket. I say this so you make

sure to buy from me on the next raffle! Just kidding of course. I don't care who you buy one from as long as you buy one.

Mark your calendar and get a team together. We have our annual Pizza, Puzzle and Beverages event coming up on November 26th which is the Wednesday night of Thanksgiving week. This has been a very successful event for us since a lot of people like to find something to do with all the relatives when they come to town. The event page is up, sign up and come out for some fun!

So, as usual, I will leave you with a thought. As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, may this season remind you to slow down, let go of what you don't need, and savor the simple joys around you. After all, "autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

Regards,
Cal Braun

Ladies Auxiliary

The Answer to the September brain teaser is: The year 1903. That is when the first World Series baseball game was played.

Our first Shrine Auxiliary meeting was held on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 10 am, at the Shrine.

The bakeless bake sale information has been mailed. Please respond as we continue to support the Auxiliary in providing therapy equipment and wheelchairs.

We currently have 80 paid members.

The Shrine Auxiliary Style Show date is Saturday, April 11th. More information to follow.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 11th, at 10 am at the Shrine. WE will be making blankets following the meeting. WE encourage you to bring a friend to help and get to know all the Shrine Auxiliary members. The Women's General Auxiliary (WGA 4 Kids) provides wheelchairs, adaptive equipment, funds for patient activities, toys and blankets for the children at Shriners Children's Twin Cities, to enhance their quality of life through financial donations and contributions from the Shrine Auxiliaries in the Midwest. The logo picture is awesome; Ladies, please take note of it.

Downsizing Dos:

When Moving to a smaller location, follow these helpful hints.

- Gift your goods
- Examine your floor plan to see what will fit
- Start with practical supplies: kitchen and bathroom, save emotional items for later
- Label containers for keepers, donations, or trash
- Eliminate unnecessary duplicate items

Who is the only NFL team to have an actual human as their mascot?

Auxiliary Reporter
Barb

Fall Word Search

W	V	N	H	V	G	O	X	F	R	U	G	B	M
S	T	C	L	A	M	U	O	I	A	A	N	F	M
C	K	C	G	I	L	R	C	S	I	M	I	O	I
A	Q	J	J	F	R	L	T	D	O	H	V	P	V
R	I	V	A	C	T	H	O	E	B	X	I	I	O
E	C	Z	K	P	E	S	B	W	N	U	G	X	T
C	M	D	E	V	A	Z	E	S	E	I	S	D	O
R	U	B	H	Y	R	S	R	V	T	E	K	C	U
O	U	N	E	W	Z	Q	Y	P	R	K	N	P	L
W	I	R	R	R	B	J	X	C	R	A	A	Y	M
T	D	T	V	O	D	R	V	N	L	R	H	E	I
U	U	E	D	F	C	C	A	S	R	K	T	N	O
R	P	U	T	M	Q	G	D	T	V	P	P	A	I
K	U	H	J	A	U	B	K	N	U	W	A	R	W
E	L	A	N	S	E	V	A	E	L	A	C	V	V
Y	T	Z	I	G	B	O	H	A	Y	R	I	D	E

AUTUMN
HALLOWEEN
LEAVES
OCTOBER
SCARECROW
TURKEY

CORNUCOPIA
HARVEST
MAIZE
PUMPKIN
SEPTEMBER

GOURD
HAYRIDE
NOVEMBER
RAKE
THANKSGIVING

Instructions:

Find and circle the words from the list. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

Courtesy of © [Memory-Improvement-Tips.com](https://www.memory-improvement-tips.com)

El Zagal
Ladies
Auxiliary

**2025
Meetings**

- October 11 – Blanket Day
- November 8 – Election of Officers
- December 6 – Christmas Luncheon

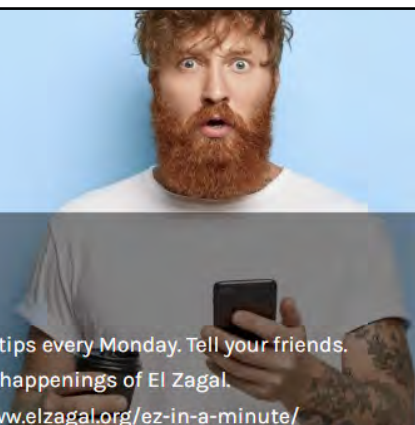


EZ in a Minute

Everything you need, right at your fingertips every Monday. Tell your friends.

This is open to anyone interested in the happenings of El Zagal.

Subscribe/unsubscribe here: <https://www.elzagal.org/ez-in-a-minute/>



Dusters

Fall is in the air. We just had the Fall Ceremonial. Our summer socials have come to an end, and we are moving on to our fall fiestas. These are always 10 days after our lunch meeting, which is on the second Monday of the month. The fall fiesta/socials are usually at the Broadway Grill and Tavern.

Fall is marked by the changing of the leaves, me able to go outside, and the Fly In Breakfast. The Dusters are the main volunteers for the Fly In Breakfast. The money raised goes to the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center.

Fall has us thinking of winter and our Christmas party that will be held on December 13, 2025. It will be at the train depot in Mandan. Mandan: Were the East ends!

We are looking at getting new shirts and caps. Historically, our shirts have been white. But, with pancake breakfasts, summer socials and fall fiestas the shirts look like Jackson Pollock paintings on some members. There is talk of change, change to a different color. I have seen a lot of change in my life and have been against every one of them!

If you have not paid your dues, pay them. If you don't know if you have, contact Bob Bartosh at epbandit@bis.midco.net. If you are like me, you don't even know what you had for lunch. You can ask Bob that too. He is in the know about most things!

**Too cool for school,
Heavy D**



Todd Reamann

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November 26

7 PM start time

\$100 per
team of 4

At El Zagal
1429 3rd St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Puzzles, Pizza & Beverages

Cash
Prizes
1st 3 teams

Hosted by: El Zagal Directors
Staff

Sign up online
Coming soon

*benefits unit functions only. Not tax deductible.

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El Zagal Mystics

Hello everyone in El Zagal, hope all is well. Summer is gone and fall is in the air with a little frost on the pumpkins. September 6, the El Zagal Mystics loaded up and traveled to Medina to take part in their Fall Festival parade. The chill was in the air, but the El Zagal Mystics warmed things up fast as they raced down the street passing out candy to the kids as they waited patiently. Smiles, handshaking, and a few hugs. Wow, what another great crowd, taking home another first-place trophy. A big thanks to Craig and Deb Hoffman for the invite to the after-parade lunch. Wow! Can't turn down pigs in the blanket wrapped in bacon and shredded beef on homemade buns. Thanks again.

That evening, the El Zagal Mystics went to a Moment of Freedom barn dance fundraiser. The Mystics stole the show as we presented a check for \$3000.00! Damn proud to be part of this unit. Having fun, raising money, and helping people in need. Lady Candace bought a basket of baked goods that only cost her \$300! That's what it's all about. Awesome evening with great people.

Is there a B5? That's right the El Zagal Mystics are planning another fundraiser. Teaming up with the KC's for a Mystics Cash bingo event. Put it on your calendar October 20 at the Club 1883. Hope to see you all there. We just had our September unit meeting, crazy to think that the end of the year is coming soon. Talking about new officers, The Fridge Colin W as president thinks he's done after two years. I think three years would be a cakewalk. New Noble Grader Robin Harrington is talking about becoming member at large. We got your back. That's all for now.

Thanks,
El Zagal Mystics
Howard Weispfenning

Jamestown Clowns

Hello to all Nobles and Ladies,

It's soon to be October. The Pumpkin Patch is on, along with the Corn Maze, train rides, hayrides, bouncy house, corn box for the little ones, a petting zoo, a zip line, hay bales to climb, big and small. Don't forget the barrel train ride, face painting, arm wrestling contest, sack race, hot air balloon rides, sharp shooting, drag races, diving competition, and my favorite-whale watching. It will be the best year ever!!

Clown for a Night is on December 6, 2025, at the Jamestown Civic Center. Doors open at 5. Decorating schedule will follow. It will be a fun one! Surprises will be big! Get your tickets soon, as seating is limited.

Medina Parade is in the books, it was fantastic, the Medinaians were very receptive, and of course the food from Debbie (mostly) and Craig was scrumptious. The next parade on the list is the Holiday Dazzle,,,,,I think....

Us Clowns are busy and the envy of El Zagal!!!!!! Best Unit Ever!!!

So, the year has been a huge pleasure to be part of, even if Andy has beat us like rented mules. The storms, the 100mph winds, twice! Sucked, but we can't change the weather, so why talk about it?

Thanks for
Reading
This.....
Weezer



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Misfits



Misfits Munchies

Well, here we are, another month of good smoking and cooking. It was an honor for us to cook for the celebration of life for Jeff Avelsgaard's father, John. May he rest in peace.

Our focus now turns to smoking turkeys for Thanksgiving. What started as a wild thought in the garage has turned into another great showcase for El Zagal Shriners. We have people lining up to feast on a succulent slice of a mouthwatering masterpiece. Last year we smoked up 104 birds, for 2025 we are going to surpass that number with expanded cooking space. You will be able to order your bird, or one for donation from the misfitsbbq.com web site soon. Buy early, but often.

If you are interested in becoming an "official" Misfit of El Zagal, contact President Joel Swanson @ info@misfitsbbq.com. Ya, were good, just like our cooking.

We will see you at the buffet line,

Misfits MR



Misfits golf team played golf for the ND/MN Honor Flight at Leonard ND. We helped to raise \$8,000+ to help send veterans to Washington DC. Didn't win, didn't matter. We had fun helping support another worthy cause.

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El Zagal Misfits BBQ
team will be smoking
Thanksgiving turkey again in
2025

Pick up times of 11 AM & 4 PM
email info@misfitsbbq.com



Invitation

Empowering the Extraordinary

Saturday, October 25, 2025

6:00 p.m Cocktails and
Silent Auction

7:30 p.m. Dinner, Program
and Live Auction

Radisson Blu Mall of America

2100 Killebrew Dr
Bloomington, MN 55425

Cocktail Attire

RSVP by Friday, October 3rd



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2025/26 Fargo Shrine Circus Club Meetings



2025

OCTOBER 4th, 2025: 10 AM (AD PACKS HANDED OUT)

NOVEMBER 1st, 2025: 10 AM (ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS)

December 6th, 2025: 10 AM

2026

JANUARY 10th, 2026: CIRCUS MEETING: 10 AM

FEBRUARY 7th, 2026: CIRCUS MEETING: 10 AM

COLORING BOOK AD DEADLINE - MARCH 6th, 2026

MARCH 14th, 2026: CIRCUS MEETING: 10 AM

April 11th, 2026: CIRCUS MEETING: 10 AM

EXECUTIVE MEETING WILL FOLLOW DIRECTLY AFTER THE CLUB MEETING

JAMESTOWN CIRCUS
APRIL 7, 2026

DETROIT LAKES CIRCUS
APRIL 15, 2026

BISMARCK CIRCUS
APRIL 10, 2026
APRIL 11, 2026

FARGO CIRCUS
APRIL 17, 2026
APRIL 18, 2026
APRIL 19, 2026

DICKINSON CIRCUS
APRIL 12, 2026
APRIL 13, 2026

New for this year!

Misfits Burgers will be served after our meetings on

November 1st 2025

December 6th 2025

January 10th 2026

March 14th 2026

Backpack Awareness

FACTS ABOUT BACKPACKS

Backpacks are designed to carry all the books and supplies needed for a child's school day. They distribute the weight of the load among some of the body's strongest muscles. However, backpacks that are too heavy or carried incorrectly can injure muscles or joints and contribute to back pain and other problems.



THE WEIGHT OF YOUR BACKPACK

If the backpack weighs more than 15 percent of the carrier's weight, it's too heavy. To determine the proper maximum weight for a backpack, multiply the user's bodyweight by 0.15. For example, someone weighing 100 pounds shouldn't carry a backpack heavier than 15 pounds. If a heavier load is unavoidable, consider using a backpack with wheels.



CARRYING TOO MUCH WEIGHT OR WEARING A BACKPACK THE WRONG WAY CAN LEAD TO...

- Painful Shoulders
- Tripping Injuries
- Aching Back
- Neck Pain
- Muscle Fatigue
- Tingling Arms
- Poor Posture

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Padded back
- Waist or chest strap
- Compartments
- Side compression straps
- Reflectors
- Two wide, padded shoulder straps

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
shrinerschildrens.org



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Rednecks

The Rednecks recently hit the road for some great fellowship and memorable experiences. Our travels first took us to Bismarck, where we enjoyed good food and even better company at the Fly-In Pancake Breakfast. A few weeks later, we made a short trip down to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park for a very special occasion - the beginning of two new brother's Masonic journey. These brothers have already expressed a strong interest in Shrinedom and are eager to continue their path. Their hope is to one day join the Rednecks once they have completed the required degree work. We look forward to welcoming them into the fold when the time comes, and we're excited to see their dedication to the craft and to the fraternity's future.

WB





it's BLANKET TIME

for

WGA 4 KIDS
EL ZAGAL LADIES AUXILIARY

OCT 11TH

11AM

ALL NOBLES & LADIES WELCOME
TO JOIN US!

FARGO SHRINE TEMPLE



Shriner's Appreciation Dinner & Awards

INVITATION

Fargo
El Zagal Temple
Bismarck
Apple Creek
Country Club

October
14
16

Social at 6
Dinner at 6:30
Awards to follow
Please wear your fez

All Nobles and Ladies are
cordially invited to El Zagal's
Annual Award
Appreciation Dinners

RSVP
by October 7

please call Andrea at
701-235-7521 or email
at info@elzagal.org



HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN



EL Zagal - CyberAdvisors Charity Pro/AM Golf Tournament

The 27th annual tournament is in the books for another year. We are still tabulating the final numbers, but they are looking great again this year. This event continues to be a shining example of what El Zagal can accomplish. 28 teams braved another year of great weather, and some of them actually played some pretty good golf!

Below is a listing of the team and hole sponsors. Please thank them if you come in contact with them. They are what makes this tournament the best golf event that El Zagal is part of.

Cyber Advisors	Hornbachers
Cyber Advisors	Bleachers Sports Bar & Grill
Misfits BBQ Club	Wrigley Mechanical
Provost Guard	Thrivent - Nathan Hopper
Bell Bank	Steffes Group Auctioneers
Sunderland Group	Schumacher Se Ltd.
Jamestown Clowns	Mandan Indian Shriners
Strand & Marcy Insurance	Carpet World
Boulger Funeral Home	Escort Motor Patrol
Choice Bank	El Zagal Dusters
Nereson Chevrolet	BDT Mechanical
Northwest Auto Body	Ballards Resort
Gate City Insurance Agrncy	Railyard Offices
Dawson Contracting	Boulger Funeral Home
Team Worner	Harrys Steak House
Gateway Chevrolet	Wrigley Mechanical
Absolute Insurance	Advantage Credit Bureau - APS
CyberAdvisors	Tuffys Auto Service
CyberAdvisors	Gentle Groomers
Choice Wealth	The Roadhouse - Dirty Jeans LLC
First International Bank & Trust	M&K Enterprise - Pit 611
Advantage Credit Bureau	Static Electric Construction LLC
DFC - Dakota Fence	Coreys Car Care
Heyer Engineering, Inc.	Ace Liquors / Town Hall Bar
Coaches Choice	Riverside Inn / Northside Tavern GVK
NextGen Gaming	Red River Human Services
Oxbow fellas	Rumors Bar & Grill
Team Plambeck	NextGen Gaming

The Pro/AM committee thanks the many Shriner connected people and compaines. We look forward to welcoming you to the 28th Annual event in 2026.

Bobby Anderson, Pat Jones, Dave Larson PP, Leo Worner, Lisa Dow, Tom Staiger, Mike Dow PP, Scott Schafer, Joel Swanson, Mike Rieckman, Kelly Linster, Jason Kaufman, Lisa Swanson

At the 2025 PRO/AM Charity Golf Tournament, Mike Dow PP, representing OK Tire employee owners, presented the PRO/AM with a check. These funds in addition to the money raised during the tournament will go to Shriners Children - Twin Cities. Thank you to the generous act of the OK Tire staff.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for joining us in the 27th Annual El Zagal / CyberAdvisors Charity Pro/Am Golf Tournament.

Since 100% of our net proceeds go to Shriners Children, we are grateful for every team and hole sponsorship for the tournament. It is with your support that we can all have an impact on a child and family as they progress through their care. Our Shrine patient, Luke, and family are facing a 20-year journey of care to address his medical needs. Shriners hospital system will be there for every step and surgery, and with your support, they do not need to worry about a financial burden on them. You are helping to make a life-changing impact on many Shrine patients.

Thanks to donors like you, we can continue our mission of delivering the best possible care to children in need, regardless of their family's ability to pay or insurance status. Your kindness makes a real difference in the lives of countless families, and we are deeply grateful for your contribution.

You provide hope and healing to patients and families.

We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2026 tournament. Details will be shared as they become available.

With deepest appreciation,

The El Zagal/CyberAdvisors Charity Pro/Am Golf Tournament Team



Shriners
Children's
Twin Cities



CyberAdvisors

VIKING LOBSTER DINNER FAMOUS ANNUAL TORSK DINNER

Saturday, October 11, 2025

5:30 - 9:00 pm



**USW Local 560 Union Hall
402 Eagle Lane, Gwinner, ND**

\$25.00 per Person

(Ticket price is not tax deductible)

Takeout is Available

Sponsored by:
**El Zagal Viking
Shrine Patrol**



FALL CEREMONIAL AT THUMPER POND





2023 MSA Potentates Hold Two-Year Reunion in Deadwood, South Dakota

Past Potentates from the 2023 Midwest Shrine Association (MSA) gathered for a memorable reunion the weekend of September 20th in historic Deadwood, South Dakota. The Illustrious Sirs and their Ladies came together for a long weekend filled with fellowship, fun, sightseeing, and plenty of shared memories.

The group rented a private lodge complete with a party room and cooking facilities, creating the perfect setting for camaraderie and celebration. From storytelling to shared meals, the weekend was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and relive the bonds formed during their time as Potentates.

Pictured below:

- **Front Row, L-R:** Malcolm Gutfriend (Wa Wa); Sondra and Dale Graeven (Tripoli)
- **Second Row, L-R:** Ted and Darlene Anderson (Kem); Al and Penny Brueggen (Zor)
- **Back Row, L-R:** Connie and Jim Gratiias (Osman); Tony Gorgianni (Ahmed); Scott and Diane Sharp (Naja); Roger and Sue Ellsworth (El Zagal)

A great time was had by all, and the group looks forward to their next gathering.

In Other News



The Sound of Brotherhood

EL RIAD'S FIFE AND DRUM CORPS STRIKES A CHORD WITH MEMBERS

When the distinctive notes of fifes and drums fill the air at local parades, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, residents know the El Riad Shriners are coming.

FOR OVER SIX DECADES, the El Riad Fife and Drum Corps has been more than just a musical group — it's become a cornerstone of Shriner fellowship and community service.

"What started with three nobles back in 1960 has grown into something truly special," says Bruce Norton, speaking with pride about the unit's 60-plus members. "We're not just the largest unit in El Riad — we're the only Fife and Drum Corps in all of Shrinedom. That makes us unique, but it's our commitment to fellowship that really sets us apart." Noble Bruce is a past Brigadier of the group and writes the group article in the temple's monthly *Cactus* magazine.

The unit's success stems from its family-first approach, earning it the playful nickname "Wife and Drum" among members. Their innovative recruitment strategy involves hosting intimate gatherings where prospective Masons and their wives can experience the warmth of Shriner fellowship firsthand. This approach has paid off remarkably. In one instance, an entire softball team joined after one member's introduction.

"When you combine meaningful philanthropy with genuine fellowship and family fun, people want to be part of it. That's what Shriner membership is all about."

— Noble Bruce Norton
El Riad Fife and Drum Corps



Read more about our southern Brothers in *Shriner Magazine*, volume 15, issue 3, fall 2025, page 6

In Other News

Kem Kamperz Embrace the Great Outdoors

WOMEN ARE 'THE ARCHITECTS' OF THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY UNIT

IT STARTED AS MANY GREAT IDEAS DO:

a group of friends gathered around a fire, shrouded in moonlight and dreaming about the future. That's how Kem Kamperz was born, with five couples who had so much fun camping together that they wanted to share their passion with other nobles and their ladies in a formal capacity.

So, they decided to make an official unit of Kem Shriners in Grand Forks, North Dakota, with attendance open to all. Newbies, experienced campers, primitive tent campers or glampers complete with decked-out camper vehicles — the invitation was open to all. Even those with zero camping experience or equipment are invited, with the option to sleep at a local hotel if they don't want to rough it overnight.

That original group of campers included Nancy and Ron Bergh, Past Potentate and current Kem Shriners recorder. When it came time to officially establish the unit in 2022, Nancy says that the women just naturally emerged as leaders.

"We were the architects of this unit," she says. "We're the ones that started the conversation around the campfire, and the men were on board immediately because there are so many units they're a part of where women aren't included."

That decision was also meant to lessen the burden on the Shriners themselves, Ron says. "We've got Past Potentates, members of the Divan, members of multiple units and clubs, so it just made sense." Each couple in leadership shares a role: For example, Ron and Nancy currently serve as joint treasurers of Kem Kamperz.

Nancy loves that camping is a family-friendly environment, welcoming children, furry friends, family members of all ages and even Shriners from other chapters, like El Zagal in Fargo, North Dakota. "So, it really brings family involvement to the forefront, which is important if we're going to keep people involved and active," she says. Nancy adds that it's also a great way to unplug from technology and reconnect with nature and one another.

"... it really brings family involvement to the forefront, which is important if we're going to keep people involved and active."



Their recipe for fun and fellowship was clearly appealing to other Kem Shriners. Thanks to positive word-of-mouth, inclusion in chapter newsletters and ample Facebook promotion, what started as five couples has now grown to 18 active couples.

There have been about eight official camping trips so far, Ron says. The Kamperz stick to their general vicinity, or within three hours of home, to make trip planning and travel easy. While summers are clearly preferred, these hardy Shriners are even thinking about venturing into the great outdoors during North Dakota's unforgiving winters, choosing a hotel on a lake, for example. (Hey, glamping counts!) Meanwhile, some of the ladies are daydreaming about venturing even further afield, to a destination like Nashville, Tennessee, Nancy says.

During past Kamperz trips, cooking (like fish fries), games (like cornhole) and activities (like riding side-by-side vehicles) have kept campers entertained. Ron admits that plenty of Shiner shop talk takes place around the campfire too. It was during such a discussion that the unit decided to get involved in the greater Grand Forks community by hosting their own events, often paired with a camping trip before or after.

As with the camping trips, the ladies of Kamperz have taken the helm in planning the unit's events. Kem of Wings is an annual chicken wing cooking competition that's open to the public and held in partnership with local restaurants. Hosted at a lake, the event features community-based parades and the culinary chops of up to 10 Shriners (new participants are chosen each year). Guests purchase plates and then vote for the coveted Kem of Wings title. Afterward, the Kem Kamperz set out for a camping trip.



KEM KAMPERZ

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 2025

- November 1 – Circus meeting w/Burgers
- November 4 – Burgers
- November 11 – Burgers
- November 18 – Burgers
- November 22-23 – Gun Show
- November 25 – Burgers
- November 26 – Pizza, Puzzles & Beverages
- November 27 – Happy Thanksgiving

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 2025			1	2	3	4 Fargo Circus Meeting
5	6	7 Tuesday Burgers	8	9	10	11 Viking Lobster Dinner WGA 4 Kids Blanket Day
12	13	14 Fargo Appreciation Dinner Stated Meeting No Burgers	15	16 Bismark Appreciation Dinner	17	18
19	20 Mystics Cash Bingo	21 Tuesday Burgers	22	23	24	25 Shriners Childrens Gala
26	27	28 Tuesday Burgers	29	30	31	



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