



MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE GREAT LAKES SHRINE ASSOCIATION

September 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President-elect Philip C. Thrasher at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Ohio at 3:00 p.m.

Members present were Mike Donaker, First Vice President-elect, Tom Russell, Second Vice President-elect, Bill Amspaugh, Third Vice President-elect, Kenny Cooper, Fourth Vice President-elect, and Ed Isaacson, President. Larry Chapel, the Secretary-Treasurer, was excused at his request.

The first matter was to exchange accurate contact information among the officers, which was done.

The second matter was to agree that during the ensuing fiscal year we should have periodic conference calls in lieu of face-to-face meetings and the information for the conference call system was exchanged. Anyone can ask to have a conference call.

The third matter was to confirm that our current uniform of blue blazer, grey slacks, and black shoes would continue for the ensuing year, which was agreed. No one said that they needed any further GLSA shirts. Presumably, we will use the current Imperial Tie as our uniform tie, which will be OK for April but will need to be replaced for the September meeting. The new ties will usually not be available for sale until immediately following the Pageant, so our current tie will still be good then.

The fourth matter was a request by the President-elect that each officer submit an After Action Report concerning the Perrysburg session, copies to all officers. This should be completed soon so that memories are fresh.

It was agreed that our Mission Statement is simple: to give aid to the member Temples through education and encouragement. [This is consistent with the stated purpose of GLSA, per the Bylaws, which is to promote the welfare of Shriners International and GLSA member Temples.] It was agreed that to fulfill our Mission

Statement, we needed to provide fun and interested activities in order to deliver value to the member Temples, Divans, and Nobles.

After discussion, the following goals were adopted for the ensuing year:

Goals:

1. Promote Unit Associations within GLSA. This will strengthen GLSA and hopefully serve to invigorate individual units within Temples. The following officers agreed to be the direct contact liaison with the following Units to either facilitate their activities at GLSA or promote the formation of new Unit Associations:
 - a. Motor Corps—Tom Russell (continuation and growth) (Mike will provide his input from working with Motor Corps on the 2017 GLSA Convention)
 - b. Clowns—Bill Amspaugh (return to full competition activities)
 - c. Pipe Bands—Mike Donaker (resurgence and reorganization)
 - d. Horse Patrol—Doug Sorrell (Phil Thrasher to make that connection) (continuation and growth)
 - e. Drum and Bugle Corps—Kenny Cooper (renew former association)
 - f. Marching, Concert, Jazz, and miscellaneous Bands—Phil Thrasher (revive former association, which included all of the above bands)
 - g. Oriental Bands—Kenny Cooper (organize, based on Imperial model)
 - h. Chanters—Phil Thrasher (renew former association)
 - i. Directors—Kenny Cooper (form new association)
 - j. Cast—Phil Thrasher (form new association)
 - k. Patrol—Mike Donaker (revive former association—perhaps with broader inclusion of walking and riding groups)
 - l. Legion of Honor—Mike Donaker, but he might ask for others to assist (new or revived GLSA association)

Our Goal would be to create two new GLSA Unit Associations by the close of business in 2016 and ultimately to recreate them all. We can also identify new trends in unit formations and seek to have them organize within GLSA.

2. Promote the Leadership Academy. This can be a real benefit of belonging to the GLSA, provided that value is delivered and enough Nobles take part. It will require intense lobbying on the part of the GLSA officers to generate enough interest to justify the expense of the various speakers. April 2 is the date, with registration and informal dinners and GLSA hospitality on April 1 and Counterparts Dinners and GLSA hospitality on April 2. Phil Thrasher to generate the paperwork and brochures needed for all officers to convey the same message during their visits with Temples. At a later time the Officers will be given the opportunity to take over a topic in one form or another.

Our Goal would be to have representation from at least 18 member Temples, including 100 non-Divan Nobles, total of 300 attendees, two Grand Masters, and the Imperial Potentate.

3. Promotion of GLSA as one of the better Shrine Associations. There is competition among Shrine Associations for members. GLSA has lost two Temples in the last generation. Several more are on the borders with other Associations and are struggling to make ends meet. On the other hand, we have several good Temples on our borders, including Kosair in Louisville and Moolah in St. Louis, that could join GLSA with ease. In addition to providing education and a fun convention, we should also strive to instill some pride in GLSA. This can be done partly by presenting a nice gift to the Imperial Sir at his Pageant and by having it presented by all of the Potentates of GLSA. Therefore, it was agreed that GLSA would purchase such a gift, perhaps a special Masonic apron in a glass shadow box, or other gift that might be agreeable to the Executive Committee, and that we would arrange to present such gift as a part of the Pageant in Tampa in 2016. The gift should be repeatable for future Imperial Sirs, of course. Phil will handle the initial search and present one or more alternatives to the Executive Committee for review in the near future. Ideas are welcome.

Goal: To have all 21 Potentates and all GLSA Officers on stage at the Pageant to present the gift to the Imperial Sir.

4. Promotion of Member Retention by exchanging information among Recorders of members who are relocating within GLSA jurisdiction. This idea did not gain much traction, so it was decided that GLSA should not devote energy toward promoting it at this time.
5. Promotion of closer relations between member Temples and GLSA. This can best be done by personal visits. These should be viewed as Business Trips, not social trips, and the goal would be to meet not only with Divan but also with Units and Clubs, to the extent possible, to deliver the

message that GLSA is interested in their welfare, too. The Questionnaire should be completed by as many as possible and they should be encouraged to attend GLSA events.

The following Officers agreed to visit the following Temples at least once during the year (the sooner the better, of course):

Mike Donaker: Ansar, Ainad, Tebala, and Mohammed

Tom Russell: Saladin, Elf Khurafeh, Zenobia, Moslem, and Mocha

Bill Amspauagh: Aladdin, Al Koran, Tadmor, and Antioch

Kenny Cooper: Hadi, Murat, Zorah, and Syrian

Phil Thrasher: Tripoli (with Bill), Medinah (with Bill), and Murat (with Kenny)

Larry Chapel: Orak and Mizpah (if he agrees to do so)

Phil Thrasher is willing to visit all Temples, preferably with the above Temple liaison officers.

Goals: To have one or more visits with each GLSA Temple in the ensuing year. [Potentate's Balls do not count for this purpose, but are encouraged because it makes the sitting Potentate proud. If done year after year, it will have a positive effect on GLSA relations with that Temple, of course.]

Goals: To identify, or at least encourage the early identification, of the next nominees for GLSA Fourth Vice President. The order of nomination is in the Bylaws, so the next five Temples to nominate are as follows: Medinah (Craig Stimpert is well aware of that duty and has narrowed his selection to two individuals); Moslem (that Potentate is in Mike's Station Dinner class); Tadmor (that Potentate is in Tom's Station Dinner class); Mizpah (that Potentate is in Bill's Station Dinner class); and Mohammed (that Potentate is in Kenny's Station Dinner class). Obviously, we want to stress the quality of the individual to be nominated and emphasize that the job is not as easy as it appears, so we need someone who can handle time commitments and communications with ease, someone who will have the backing of his Temple, someone with a supportive spouse, and so forth. Because that individual must be a Past Potentate, he may already be a Past Potentate or he might be within the current Divan of that Temple. We simply want the best man they have available.

Goals: To have all 21 Temples at every GLSA session and presentation.

Phil Thrasher announced that after four years of watching the GLSA Golf Tournament struggle to find players, he has decided to strongly consider moving the Golf Tournament to another day, probably Friday. This might have the desired effect of enlarging the number of players and might also have the effect of increasing the hotel room count, which is necessary to support our free meeting room requests. On the other hand, that means that the Convention could start one day later for the GLSA officers, Wednesday versus Tuesday, thus saving each officer some time and money. The other officers agreed that it would not be a problem for them to have the Golf Tournament on Friday, preferably early in the morning so that some Unit Associations could meet in the afternoon as well.

There was discussion about merging the President's Banquet with the Unit Award banquets, with the goal being to have a bigger President's Banquet attendance. This would also free up Saturday evening. This idea did not gain much traction, so neither Phil nor perhaps Mike will be doing so.

Phil Thrasher asked that each Officer, in addition to the After Action Report, submit a report to all other Officers on his meetings with Unit Associations and member Temples so that we might all gain more familiarity with those groups.

There was discussion concerning Temples that we know to be weak and what GLSA could do to assist them. Mike Donaker reported that Mohammed was near the point of extinction, primarily due to internal dissention. Phil reported that Tripoli had not sent a representative to the [CR] Station Dinner in four years, and they were not at this GLSA. Lacking any authority over member Temples, it was decided that the best we could do would be to visit them and report our findings to the Executive Committee and ultimately to Imperial.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Thrasher, President-elect and acting Secretary