

The Southeastern Shrine Association



March 30, 2018

**** PLEASE TAKE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO READ THIS LETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY ****

Imperial Sirs, Illustrious Sirs, Nobles All,

I bring you warm Fraternal Greetings from Ill. Sir Rafael B. Acosta, P.G.M and President of the Southeastern Shrine Association. As you know, because of the devastation levied by Hurricane Maria to the island of Puerto Rico, the 2018 S.E.S.A. Convention will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 16-18th. While we are saddened that the Association will not be hosted in San Juan, we look forward to an exciting convention in the great state of Tennessee. In fact, Pigeon Forge will be the host site for the next four years! The Board of Directors of your Association is unified in our belief that this venue will continue to strengthen our organization in the coming years.

Our Convention Headquarters will be the Music Road Resort. This property has everything our Association needs to conduct an outstanding convention including two neighboring hotels, a convention center with meeting and ballrooms, two guest only Water Parks with Lazy Rivers, Slides and much more. Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg offer outstanding opportunities for your family to enjoy, including the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains, restaurants, theme parks, shopping and the list goes on. Be sure to visit this website to learn more: **www.mypigeonforge.com**

At the close of our Mid-Year meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, the nearly 300 rooms at our headquarters hotel were booked. The following will be housed at the headquarters hotels: Imperial Officers, S.E.S.A. Officers, Al Rai'e Saleh Shriners (Host Temple), Al Menah Shriners, Yaarab Shriners and the Southeastern Association of Shrine Motor Corps. This is significant and illustrates that our member Temples are committed to the regrowth of our Association.

Pigeon Forge has many hotels available to accommodate our Nobility for the convention. If your Temple participates in the annual Kerbela Fun Fest, you may want to use that same hotel for housing. A quick internet search will bring you dozens of hotel options. In the coming years, the S.E.S.A. intends to contract with multiple hotels based on this year's attendance.

This packet includes the following enclosures that will need your attention to ensure we have a successful Convention:

1. **Registration Form:** Please note that the Registration Fee is only \$10 per NOBLE. Ladies are not required to pay a registration fee for 2018. We ask that you make copies of this registration form and distribute them to your Divan and Nobility in order that all are afforded the opportunity to register and attend the annual convention.
2. **Schedule of Events:** Some Unit Association events are to be announced as we coordinate with the Associations in preparation for the convention. We are also working on Parade details as there is already a Veteran's appreciation parade scheduled for that Saturday morning. Additional information will be posted on the S.E.S.A. website as it is available.
3. **S.E.S.A. Officer Nominating Procedure:** The offices of Fourth and Fifth Vice Presidents of the Association will be open for nominations at the 2018 business meeting. Also, the office of Secretary/Treasurer will be open for nominations as Ill. Sir Eddie Chrisman has elected to retire after over a decade of dedicated service to the Association.
4. **Souvenir Program Advertising Information:** Every year the Association publishes a souvenir program that is complimentary to attendees as a memento of the convention. Please make copies of the contract and encourage your Divan, Clubs, Units and individual Nobles to support the S.E.S.A. by placing an ad or becoming a booster. The ads offset the cost of the publication and support the convention activities.
5. Please ask your Temple webmaster post a link from your Temple website to the S.E.S.A. website: **www.seshrine.org**

In closing, it is our desire that all member Temples of the Association will plan to attend, participate and enjoy the Annual Convention. We hope that you will promote this opportunity for fun and fellowship within your respective Temples. Many of our Nobility have not experienced an Association Convention and we believe that Pigeon Forge, TN affords a great opportunity for new Nobles to bring their families to fellowship and enjoy the camaraderie that our beloved Shrine Fraternity offers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at: shawn@fratline.net. I hope to greet you and your Nobility in August! Thank you for supporting YOUR ASSOCIATION.

Yours In The Faith,

B. Shawn Warren

Director General

2nd Vice President, S.E.S.A

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