



**Office of  
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Imperial Potentate**

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**Member  
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Dear Fellow Nobles,

There's no getting around it – 2020 is a different and difficult year! As we cope with the realities of living through a pandemic, I am very thankful to be part of a Brotherhood that looks after one another.

In some ways, I am more proud than ever to be a Shriner. Over the last several months, there have been countless stories of Shriners helping our health care system, supporting and thanking first responders in their communities, and looking after one another. During this uncertain time, you have selflessly and consistently cared for others, and I commend and thank you for these efforts.



In addition to the pandemic, some areas of our country are also struggling with natural disasters, including raging wildfires, tropical storms and hurricanes and even wind storms. Some temples and lodges have been damaged, and some of our fellow Shriners and Masonic Brothers have lost their homes and experienced other personal tragedies. And again, our Nobles have reached out, ready to help those in need. You truly do practice and live up to the Masonic values and ideals!

As we deal with all the difficulties wrought by COVID-19, including imposed separation and quarantine, we need to find ways to both stay connected and lighten our spirits. In fact, these are times when Fun and Fellowship can be especially important and beneficial. Using today's technology, temples can be "open," and members can gather virtually using Zoom or Skype or other similar programs. You can actually have game nights or socials or coffee clubs. I urge you to be creative and find ways to connect with your fellow Shriners and have some virtual fun! And remember to share your ideas and successes with one another.

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to have an impact on our signature events, including the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. While the event will take place (Oct. 5-11), there will not be fans in attendance. The tournament will be televised on the Golf Channel and available on PGA Live. We are grateful the event will take place, and look forward to an exciting competition, and to being able to gather in person next year to cheer on the players, and applaud our amazing patient standard-bearers once again.

Shriners are hopeful, confident, compassionate and resilient people. We will get through this, and be stronger for it. And we will have an easier time as we work toward better days, if we seek ways to connect and support one another, and to enjoy some Fun and Fellowship.

I am proud to count you as Brothers. Thank you for all you do for one another, your Fraternity and your Philanthropy.

Yours in the faith,

James R. "Jim" Smith  
Imperial Potentate