

Karem Shrine Karavan

July 2025

Imperial Potentate

2025-2026

Illustrious Sir Brad T. Koehn



**Congratulations to Illustrious Sir
Brad and First Lady Cheryl
Wishing them a great and
successful year!**

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Karem Shrine

Chartered June 12, 1919 400
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2025 Potentate
Illustrious Sir Justin B. Duty

2025 Divan

Chief Rabban-Travis Roberson
Assistant Rabban-Robert Barben
High Priest & Prophet-Kenny Steinocher
Oriental Guide-Paul Hill
Treasurer-Ray Pugh
Recorder-Rob Smith

Karem Karavan published monthly by Karem Shrine
Email your articles, pictures, flyers etc. to
karemshrinekaravan@gmail.com

Article deadline for the next issue is
August 20, 2025

Karem Shrine's next Stated Meeting will be
held on **Thursday September 18, 2025**
Your 2024 Dues card is **REQUIRED**



Love In Action

Ladies and Nobles of Karem,
We are in need of your time to help with the Love in Action fundraiser.

If you have not purchased a ticket or been invited to sit at a table we would love your help and would greatly appreciate it!

The following areas are where we will need assistance:

For the ladies:

Day before the event: (Friday August 15)

We will need some ladies to help set up/decorate (prefer that it be ladies that DO NOT have a ticket to the event)

Day of the event: (Saturday August 16)

(again we prefer it be ladies that DO NOT have a ticket to the event)

1. We need TWO ladies to work the check in table.
2. We need SIX ladies to help plate the food.
3. We need TWO ladies to help with the silent auction.
4. We need TWO ladies to help with the morning reception prior to the viewing of the tables.

For the gentlemen:

1. We need TWO men to help at the bar
2. We need FOUR men to be door greeters.

If you are willing to help please text or email me or let one of the other Divan ladies know. We would truly be grateful for any and all help you can provide.



Mechelle Steinocher
shellsteinocher@gmail.com
254-339-8204



We still have individual tickets available. Get yours now!! You don't want to miss this fun event!!

Love

In Action

Join Us Saturday August 16, 2025

For our First Annual

“Love in Action” Table Gala

**Place: Karem Shrine
400 Karem Circle
Waco, TX. 76712**

**Time: Doors Open 10:30am
Table reveal/Viewing
11am-11:45am**

Lunch Served at 12:00pm

Special Guest Speaker

Ticket are \$50 person

**Please contact Cathy Pugh for ticket information:
ph:904-234-8302
email: texasmimi375@aol.com**

**Proceeds are for the benefit of
Shriners Hospital for Children**

**Serving others is Love in Action
Matt 20:26-28**

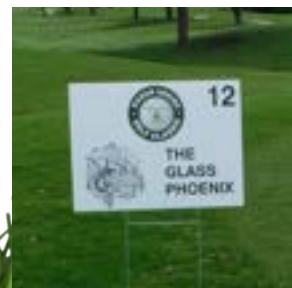
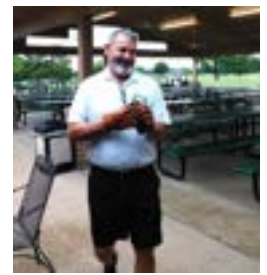
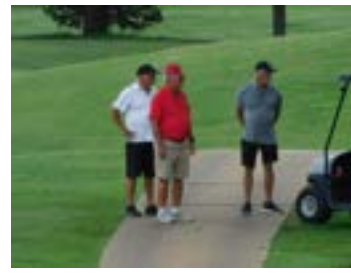


Karem Shrine 2025 Golf Tournament

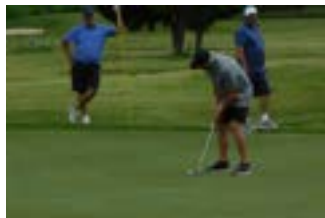
The Karem Golf Tournament was a HUGE success! We would like to give a HUGE thank you to all those that came out and helped in anyway! A great big thank you to Metro Elevator for being our Presenting Sponsor and to all the others that Sponsored! Without the support of all of you this event would not have been possible!



Karem Shrine 2025 Golf Tournament



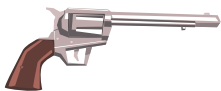
Karem Shrine 2025 Golf Tournament



TSA 2025 Tyler, Texas

Karem Gunrunners

The Karem Gunrunners competed in Tyler, Texas at this year's Texas Shrine Association Unit Competition. Karem's Provost team Junior Past Potentate Yancy Marteney , Jim Woodul, Daniel Bogard, and Paul Cole competed in the C division taking 3rd place. Team Marshal Past Potentate Larry Johnson along with Merlin Kunz and William Van Etten competed in the individual two hand competition with Larry Johnson Past Potentate taking 2 nd place with a winning score of 820 out of a possible 900. A total of 96 Texas Shriners competed in this year's Provost competition. The competing Shriner's in this competition is steadily growing. Karem's Provost will be competing in this year's competition at Imperial Session in Atlanta, Georgia with competition from Shriner's all over the world. Karem is looking for new members to join us in this fun filled competition. Our next event here in Texas will be in San Angelo September 27 th - 28 th , any Karem Shriner that would like to join us please reach out to one of our members for information. We have loner guns for you to use should you want to try it and you don't have a 22LR pistol.



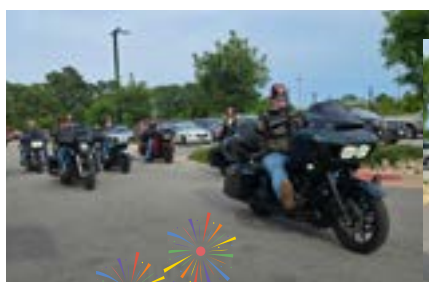
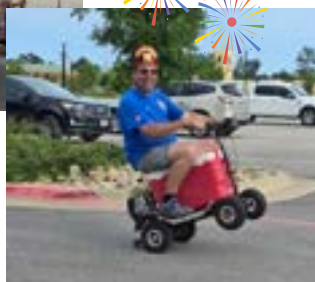
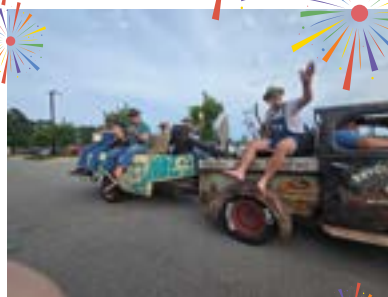
TSA 2025 Tyler, Texas

Karem Shrine Duffers and their Ladies at TSA

We may have got rained out, but we enjoyed a fantastic meal and fellowship!



TSA Parade



INTRODUCING OUR 2025-2026 INTERNATIONAL PATIENT AMBASSADORS

MEET CARLOTA AND BRANDON



Every year, Shriners Children's™ selects a pair of International Patient Ambassadors to represent the healthcare system's patients. The ambassadors share their stories of perseverance and the ways Shriners Children's has made a difference in their lives. We are honored to have these impressive young people advocating for our healthcare system.

CARLOTA



Ranked among Mexico's top 15 swimmers and now serving as the first International Patient Ambassador from Shriners Children's Mexico, Carlota, 18, has transformed challenges into triumphs. But her remarkable journey began with an uncertain start.

Born three and a half months prematurely, Carlota's early life was marked by significant obstacles. After being diagnosed with cerebral palsy with spastic hemiparesis affecting one side of her body, doctors painted a bleak future. But her mother Carla refused to accept their predictions.

A chance encounter led them to Shriners Children's Mexico, marking the beginning of transformative care. Despite facing multiple surgeries to address a 12-centimeter (4.7-inch) leg length difference and ongoing mobility challenges, Carlota's spirit remained unbroken. Through five surgeries and countless therapy sessions, the hospital became a cornerstone of support in her life. Carlota emphasizes that it is not just the medical care that made all the difference, but the emotional support, as well.

Shriners Children's is where dreams take flight."

When joint pain threatened her athletic pursuits, she discovered swimming at age 14, training with the national Paralympic team. This new passion propelled her to become the fifth-best swimmer in her category (S6) in the Americas. Carlota's athletic dreams remain strong as she sets her sights on the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. Carlota is currently ranked No. 9 in the world and

No. 3 in the Americas for her classification. In Carlota's sport, American rankings include North, Central and South America rankings.

Carlota is also a college student pursuing a psychology degree with dreams of specializing in high-performance sports psychology. She attends Kuepa University online.

Carlota's mother Carla, who championed her daughter's potential from the start, witnessed her transformation from a child facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles to an accomplished athlete and inspiring patient ambassador. Their story exemplifies the impact of unwavering support and specialized care.

"Watching Carlota grow from a child facing challenges to a competitive swimmer chasing Olympic dreams has filled me with endless pride," said Carla. "My daughter has shown that within every disability lies extraordinary abilities. Even on tough days, she comes back with that smile that lights up everything around her." Carlota has learned to live harmoniously with her spastic cerebral palsy, her mother reflected.

As a Shriners Children's International Patient Ambassador, Carlota hopes to continue to break barriers and inspire others, proving that with determination and the right support, any dream is possible.

"Shriners Children's isn't just a building to me—it's a home, a family, a source of endless support," she shares with conviction. "My mission is clear: to showcase the profound impact Shriners Children's has on families and children, while highlighting how these remarkable children transform the healthcare system itself. Being the first International Patient Ambassador from Mexico fills me with pride, and I aim to set a new standard of excellence in this role."

Carlota is living proof that there truly are no limits when you believe in yourself.

BRANDON



Brandon, 15, is a high school student who lives in South Carolina with his parents, Kathleen and Brian, older brother Brady and younger brother Benson. When Brandon was 6, he went from playing his final baseball game of the season to fighting for his life. What

started as a simple runny nose and headache quickly became devastating when Brandon woke one morning, attempted to step out of bed, and collapsed—the right side of his body suddenly paralyzed.

Brandon was diagnosed with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a rare, polio-like illness that affects the gray matter of the spinal cord, leading to sudden muscle weakness and paralysis. The condition affects about 100 people in the U.S. each year and is often linked to viral infections—the most common being enterovirus D-68, which was found in Brandon's case. While thousands may contract this virus and experience only mild cold-like symptoms, in rare instances, like Brandon's, it can result in serious neurological complications.

"I remember holding him that morning," recalls Brandon's mother Kathleen. "I was terrified and prayed that God wouldn't take him." After intensive treatment at a hospital in Greenville, South Carolina, and rehabilitation in Atlanta, Georgia, a family friend who was a Shriner suggested they have a consultation at Shriners Children's Greenville.

At Shriners Children's Greenville, Brandon began daily physical and occupational therapy, while the hospital's Pediatric Orthotics and Prosthetic Services (POPS) department created innovative braces to support his recovery. As part of the collaborative care offered across the system, Brandon also received treatments at Shriners Children's Philadelphia under the care of a pediatric hand specialist known for innovative treatments with AFM. Surgeons performed two critical procedures: a nerve transfer for his paralyzed right arm and later, a surgery

to stabilize his shoulder. With these surgical innovations, Brandon has achieved more function than thought possible – making him more independent.

His journey from that frightening morning in 2016 to becoming an International Patient Ambassador exemplifies the power of resilience. While he continues to manage the effects of AFM, including scoliosis, Brandon approaches each day with the same spirit he showed during his early recovery when he told his mother, "I can't be your 'cuddle bug' anymore, Mom. I have to have my fighter's spirit to get through this."

Brandon continues to visit Shriners Children's Philadelphia for checkups. He is a regular at Shriners Children's Greenville for his orthopedic care and POPS bracing, as well as physical and occupational therapy. Brandon's spirit has never wavered. He served as his class president, runs a woodworking business at the local farmer's market, and stays active with his brothers, despite ongoing challenges from his condition. "AFM changed everything about my life," Brandon says, "but Shriners Children's showed me that different doesn't mean impossible."

Brandon wants to attend college someday for a career in business management, "although I'm not sure what type yet," he says. "I'd like to stay in Greenville, South Carolina, but I've been to some beautiful places I'd consider moving to."

Honored to be selected as an International Patient Ambassador, Brandon wants to share his story to inspire others. "The care that Shriners Children's has provided has changed not just my life, but my whole family's lives," he says.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to show others that with the right support and determination, you can overcome anything."

To learn more about Shriners Children's, please visit shrinerschildrens.org.





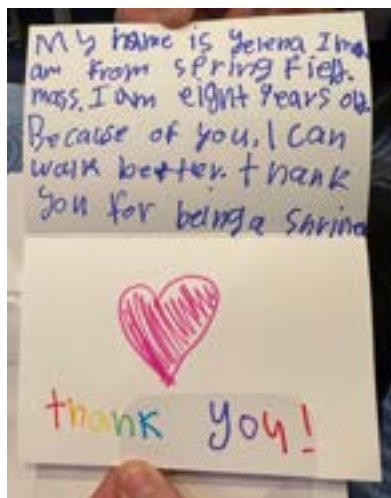
Canadian Breakfast



We attended the Canadian breakfast this year and they had a surprise for all the Texas guys!! They were all given White Cowboy hats and had to say a big Yahoo!! They were also made honorary Canadian's
Some of us ladies attended the Canadian breakfast also.



Man was it early! 🕒



These cards were given to all the Nobles that attended Imperial Session.



Imperial First Lady
Judy Burke's Ladies Luncheon
Theme was Southern Charm.



Say Cheese!!



A HUGE Congratulations goes out to Karem's own Dustin Johnson, who was officially recognized as an Emeritus Member of Shriners Hospitals for Children-the youngest in our organization's history to receive this special distinction that provides lifelong voting privileges at the Imperial Session. The honor was presented during the 151st Imperial Session by Imperial Potentate Richard Burke and Shriners Children's President Dr. Leslie Stewart.

Imperial Shrine Parade



The Ladies had a great spot to watch the parade!





On Tuesday evening July 9, 2025 the installation of officers of James H. Lockwood Lodge #1343 was held at Karem Shrine Temple in Waco, TX.

A Meal preceded the event with 57 family, friends and brother Masons attending. Then Right Worshipful Justin Duty, Grand Senior Warden along with Right Worshipful Brad Billings, Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas began the ceremony of installation.

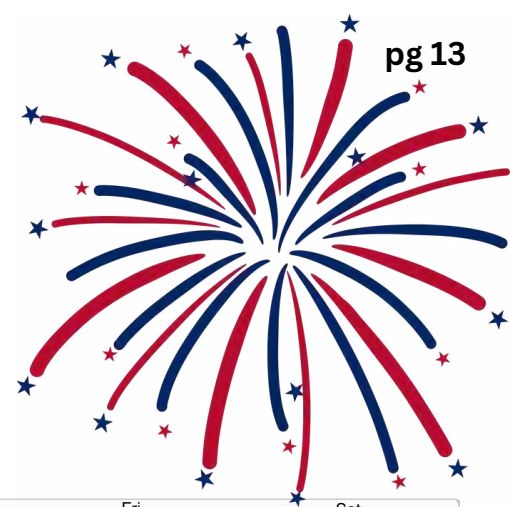
The three principal officers for the 2025-2026 ensuing year are Lee Roy Wachtendorf as Worshipful Master, Lee's son Brendan Lee Wachtendorf as Senior Warden and Brendan's son Landon Lee Wachtendorf as Junior Warden. This is the first known recorded account in Texas Grand Lodge history of three generations of the same family being installed in the same Lodge for the same year. Other officers having been installed were K. Paul Holt-Treasurer, Joseph Arriola-Secretary, Johnny Price-Junior Deacon, Lee Goble-Senior Steward, Dan Branch-Junior Steward, Dave McHam-Tiler, and Greg McEwen-Master of Ceremonies.



Congratulations



Happy
4th of July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 6pm - Lockwood Lodge 6:30pm - Karem Cowboys	2	3	4 HAPPY 4 TH JULY	5 Ballroom rented
	7	8	9 jh Lockwood instillation	10	11 5:30pm - Burgers & Bingo	12 Ballroom Rented
	14	15	16	17	18	19 Saloon Rented
20	21 6pm - PATIO- Classic Cars	22 6:30pm - Tri-County	23	24 11am - Tem-Bell Shrine	25 5:30pm - Fish Fry @	26
27	28 6pm - Cove Oasis Shrine	29	30	31	1	2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2
James Jackson
Randal Duke

6
Monte Story
Joe Smith

11
Bobby Tlustos
Walter McHam

16
Ovie Webster

22
Robert McLane
Bruce Fornols

28
Steve Hunter
Joe Rutherford

3
Jerry Golden
Terry Broome

7
Max Marble
John Merhk

12
Larry Light
Richard Mouton

19
Michael Wiedman
Bryan Daniel

23
G. Daniel
Bobby Mather
James Scales

30
Gregory Hinojosa
Matthew Bogausch

4
William Trevathan

9
Shawn Perry

14
Gary Johnson
Robert Pickens

21
Clyde Sparks
Gary Enders
Matthew Frailey

J. Moore
25
John Pack

31
Jerry Hawk
J. Payne

5
Troy Kinder





August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28 6pm - Cove Oasis Shrine	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5 6pm - Lockwood Lodge 6:30pm - Karem Cowboys	6	7	8 5:30pm - Burgers & Bingo	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Divas, Dishes & Darlings Ladies Fundraiser	16
17 6pm - PATIO- Classic Cars	18	19	20	21	22 5:30pm - Fish Fry @	23
24 6pm - Cove Oasis Shrine	25	26 6:30pm - Tri-County	27	28 11am - Tem-Bell Shrine	29	30 Labor Day Meat Sale Pick up day
31	1	2 6pm - Lockwood Lodge 6:30pm - Karem Cowboys	3	4	5	6 Ballroom Rented