

## **The 147th Imperial Session of Shriners International**

**The Fraternity's Largest and Most Important Event of the Year was held July 3-8, 2021, in Houston, Texas. Al Kaly was represented by our Illustrious Sirs Ray Singmaster, Brian Carter PP, and Dave Stevens PP, and Chief Rabban Larry Weed, Assistant Rabban Bill Davidson, and each with their ladies.**

The 2021 Imperial Session took place in Houston, Texas, Sunday, July 4, through Thursday, July 8. Thousands of nobles, ladies and family members from all of the world joined Imperial Sir Jim Smith and Lady Alice in Houston for the five-day event, celebrating the fun, fellowship and philanthropy that connects us all.

This was the first "in-person" Session since 2019, and our entire Shriners family was so glad to finally be able to be together in person again after a very tough couple of years apart. The whole event was a great success, and we are already looking forward to next year's Imperial Session, which will take place July 3-7, 2022, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Imperial Session is a very special time for Shriners. In addition to all the important business meetings you expect, the five-day convention also provided a chance for Shriners and their families from all over the world to gather, share their stories and showcase their pride in our two great organizations: Shriners International, and Shriners Hospitals for Children. Guests of the annual event had the opportunity to attend a variety of social events, Counterparts dinners, friendly unit competitions and performances, and the biggest Shriners parade of the year.

The Host hotel was the Marriott Center (Courtyard by Marriott Downtown) in Houston, with the Session Meetings held in the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center across the street (via a passageway).

Here are some highlights from the 2021 Imperial Session:

**Sunday, July 4** <https://youtu.be/Pg0VY0ey414>

The Imperial Session began after two and a half days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning) of representatives and members registration, photos, preliminary activities, something called ticket exchange, opening of Shriners Marketplace and Shriners Zone, and a non-denominational church service on Sunday. The Imperial Session commenced with a Public opening salute to Imperial Sir Jim Smith and the Imperial Divan by many representative units, and the introduction of National Patient Ambassadors of Shriners Hospitals for Children: First, the 2020-2021 National Patient Ambassadors, Connor and Mia were introduced, and their stories told. By special approval, Connor and Mia will continue their role, along with the 2021-2022 National Patient Ambassadors, Sydney and Seth, who were introduced, and all four will serve in that role for this year. That's a change approved due to the 2020-2021 Ambassadors not making any public appearances due to all venues being shut down due to Covid. The sketch of all four ambassadors is as follows:

**Connor**, 15, was born with a bilateral incomplete cleft lip and complete cleft palate involving the hard and soft palate. As a newborn, his condition was so severe that he was even unable to create the suction needed to feed. By the time he was 3 weeks old, he was failing to gain weight and was about to be admitted to a hospital. That's when Connor's family learned about [Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago](#).

There, his RN care manager gave his mother, Kelly, a special syringe, making it possible for her to finally feed her baby. And from that moment, Connor began an extensive treatment plan of surgeries and interventions that extends until he is 21, so that some repairs can be made after he has stopped growing.

**Mia**, 17, was born with a severe case of infantile idiopathic scoliosis. Her journey with Shriners Hospitals for Children began when she was 2, when she was first seen at the [St. Louis location](#). Mia's treatments have included halo traction to gradually straighten and stretch her spine, as well as nearly 20 surgeries.

During her extensive time in the hospital, Mia and her care team developed a tight bond, and Mia considers the people she knows at Shriners Hospitals – her doctors, nurses, therapists, and even the security guard – family. She has served as a patient ambassador for Shriners Hospitals for Children — St. Louis since she was 4 and has spoken to numerous audiences on behalf of the hospital. She has also appeared in promotional videos and media interviews. Mia's passion is theater and singing, and she was featured singing *I'll Be Home for Christmas* in our holiday commercials. Mia is also part of the Shriners children's choir that performed in a recent recording of Foreigner's hit song *I Want to Know What Love Is*.

**Sydney**, who is from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, learned she had scoliosis when she was 10. Her treatment began with bracing, but despite a strict exercise regimen and wearing her brace 23 hours a day for 1½ years, her curvature progressed. Searching for an alternative to spinal fusion surgery, Sydney and her family learned about the VBT treatment option.

Sydney had her VBT procedure at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia when she was 12, performed by [Steven W. Hwang, M.D.](#) "VBT has allowed Sydney to retain her flexibility and to get back to all the things she loves faster and stronger than ever," said her mother, Melissa.

**Seth** was 11 when his doctor noticed a curvature in his spine. They began with a "wait and see" approach, and later treatment from a chiropractor. Still, the curvature of his spine quickly progressed to a severe degree. He and his family learned about Shriners Hospitals for Children from a social media group focused on the Vertebral Body Tethering (VBT) treatment for scoliosis.

Seth, who is from Fort Wayne, Indiana, underwent VBT surgery at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia when he was 13. The surgery, performed by [Joshua Pahys, M.D.](#), helped the young athlete quickly return to the playing field. "My pain has been reduced dramatically, my curvature is half what it used to be, and my flexibility is on par with my peers," Seth said.

**Monday, July 5** <https://youtu.be/x6P89VVgGkA>

**This day began the Official Opening of the Session of Shriners International.** The session ran for three and a half days from 8:30 AM to about 4:00 PM punctuated by financial and various reports by the two organizations and scheduled luncheons and other planned activities. Shriners is officially comprised of two corporations: The Iowa Corporation (Shriners International) and the Colorado Corporation (Shriner's Hospitals for Children). Representatives of these corporations are comprised of elected representatives of the temples, based on the number of Shriners (size) of the temple and the temple's emeritus representatives. Al Kaly has two voting members of the Iowa Corporation (our Potentate and Chief Rabban) and five members of the Colorado Corporation (those two, plus three other emeritus members). The emeritus members are identified in our Directory: IS Dave Stevens, who attended this session, and IS Bob Burr and IS Billy Thornburg. Our members vote on identified proposed amendments and resolutions to the bylaws and articles of incorporation of each of the two corporations respectively. 32 proposed amendments and resolutions were brought before the attendees during this Session: 24 for the Iowa Corporation, and 7 for the Colorado Corporation.

Iowa Corporation: During the three and a half days, for the Iowa Corporation, 16 Passed, 5 Failed, and 3 were withdrawn. Some of the highlights of these are as follows:

Of the 16 items that passed, most were minor corrections to the articles of incorporation or bylaws to correct minor technicalities. I would be happy to discuss those with anyone with any questions. Of the five items that failed, these are the highlights:

Item #1: Failed. Proposed amendment to permit Shriners International to accept members into SI without being a member of a temple. Even though this had quite a bit of support from the Imperial Divan, This had lots of discussion with the vote tallied primarily against it. Bylaws not changed.

Item #6: Failed. This proposed amendment would have increased the per capita tax from \$30 to \$50 annually. It failed by a pretty slim majority. Bylaws not changed.

Item 7#: Failed. This proposed amendment was a proposal to permit a temple to accept a petition from anyone (not just a Master Mason) in its jurisdiction. It was submitted primarily related to the conflict situation in Arkansas between the Grand Lodge and Shriners in that state. It was defeated to ensure Sheirns are also Master Masons. Bylaws not changed.

Item #11: Failed. This proposed amendment affected the number of required signatures to stand up a new temple within the Republic of Mexico. Bylaws not changed.

Item #14: Failed. This proposed amendment affected opening up additional restrictions of female guests participating in Shrine parades or exhibitions. Bylaws not changed.

Colorado Corporation: For the Colorado Corporation, all 7 were Passed.

Some of the other activities that occurred in addition to the voing on the resolutions to the bylaws and articles of incorporation were as identified below:

Tuesday, July 6 and Wednesday, July 7 <https://youtu.be/ioYN0EjSg9E>

**July 6 -- Official Session of Shriners International** In addition to voting on the proposed changes, this day was highlighted by a Ladies Luncheon and a Membership Luncheon that several of our representatives attended. The day concluded with a great Imperial Session Parade, the parade processed in front of the Imperial Hotel and Convention Center.

**July 7 -- Official Session of Shriners International**

**During this day, Imperial Sir William S. "Bill" Bailey, Imperial Chief Rabban was Elected Imperial Potentate of Shriners International. Next was a Pageant for Newly Elected Imperial Potentate**



<https://youtu.be/3cAQv6wlz-8>

**Bio:** Imperial Sir William S. "Bill" Bailey, 33°, the 2021-2022 Imperial Potentate of Shriners International, and his father, Robert B. Bailey, 33°, Past Imperial Potentate of Shriners International in 1995-1996, are only the second father and son to serve as Imperial Potentates of Shriners International.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Bill Bailey has served as Chairman of Marketing & Communications, Donor Relations, Hospital Operations, Temple Officers Educational Seminars and Temple Procedures. He has also served on the Strategic Planning, Building & Equipment, Membership, Investments, Budget, Insurance, Real Estate & Natural Resources, Clinical & Basic Research Committees, and DeMolay, as well as the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

He has been hospital liaison to the Erie hospital, the Cincinnati hospital, which is now Shriners Children's Ohio, the Houston hospital, which is now Shriners Children's Texas, the Greenville hospital and the Shreveport hospital, and is currently serving as liaison to both the Twin Cities clinic and the Canada hospital.

For 29 years, Bill Bailey was proud to serve on the Imperial Marshal's Aide Committee, and for 16 of those years, he served as a Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Marshal's Staff.

At the 2005 Imperial Session in Baltimore, Maryland, Imperial Sir Bailey was awarded the Imperial Potentate's Award of Merit – the highest honor in the fraternity. The award recognizes outstanding achievement and selfless contributions to Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Bill Bailey is an Emeritus Member of the Iowa Corporation and an emeritus member of the Board of Governors of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago. He serves as Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, is a member of the Indiana College of Rosicrucians – 8th grade and is a member of DeMolay International, which recently awarded him the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Bill Bailey is a member of Orak Shriners in Michigan City, Indiana, and served as the temple's Potentate in 2009. He is a member of the Arab Patrol, Motor Patrol, Oriental Band, Sportsman's Club and the South Lake County Shrine Club. He was Director General for the 1987 Great Lakes Shrine Association Business Session in Merrillville, Indiana.

Bill Bailey is a member of Porter Lodge #137 in Valparaiso, Indiana, and a member of the Elbert H. Gary York Rite. He is past Commander in Chief of the South Bend Valley of Scottish Rite, where he was coroneted with a 33rd Degree in 1997.

Outside the Shrine, Bill Bailey has served as a Session Elder for the Ogden Dunes Community Church and is currently a Trustee of the Ogden Dunes Community Church Corporation. He sings in the choir and runs the sound system and livestreaming broadcast.

Bill Bailey served as the Great Banquet Community Lay Leader from 1998-2004, which is an orderly and structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christians. He served for four years on the Ogden Dunes Town Council, including as its President in 1995, and also served as Vice-President of the Ogden Dunes Home Association.

Bill Bailey and his wife, Debby, have been happily married for 44 years and are extremely proud to have two sons, Rob Bailey and Ross Bailey, to follow the family tradition of becoming Shriners. Rob Bailey is married to Jackie, and they have two children, Parker Rose and Beau Owens. Ross is married to Jessica, and they also have two children, Henry Michael and Finn Joseph.

Bill Bailey was born and raised in Ogden Dunes, Indiana, a small lakeside community built on the shores of Lake Michigan, where he and his wife, Debby, currently reside. Bill received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Evansville in Indiana and is the third generation in his family to graduate from the university. Bill went on to receive his Master of Science degree from the University of Kentucky.

Bill Bailey is Vice President of Investments for Marcus & Millichap in Chicago, where he sells commercial investment real estate with his brother, John and son, Ross. He is a five-time winner of the Sales Recognition Award.

## **Ricaurte A. "Ricky" Arrocha Was Elected Trustee of the Shriners Hospital for Children**

**Friday, July 9, 2021**



Ricaurte A. "Ricky" Arrocha, of Panama City, Panama, is now serving his first three-year term on the Shriners Hospitals for Children Board of Trustees. He was elected during the Shriners 2021 Imperial Session held July 4 – 8 in Houston, Texas.

Arrocha is the first member of the Board of Trustees elected to serve a three-year term to represent a Latin American temple.

### **Fraternities and Philanthropy**

- EA, Rosa de America Lodge #1, Panama, 2005
- FC/MM, Rosa de America Lodge #1, Panama, 2006
- Member, Knights Templar, York Rite of Panama, 2006
- Abou Saad Shriners, 2006
- Worshipful Master, Rosa de America #1, 2013–2015
- Member, Masonic Order of Athelstan – Potomac Court #107, 2015
- 33rd Degree, Supremo Consejo Nacional de Panama (Scottish Rite), Inspector General Honorary, 2015
- Member, Panama Priory – KYCH, 2015
- Potentate, Abou Saad Shriners, 2017
- Honorary member, Grand Lodge of Paraguay, 2017
- Member, Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children — Mexico City, 2018
- President, IT Committee, Shriners Hospitals for Children — Mexico City, 2019-2020
- Advisor, Order of DeMolay – Caballeros del Istmo (Panama), 2020
- Sovereign, Red Cross of Constantine, San Lorenzo Conclave, 2020
- Eminent Prior, Panama Priory, 2020
- First elected President, Latin American Shrine Association, 2020
- Recipient of Imperial Potentate's Medallion, 2020
- Chairman, Order of DeMolay – Caballeros del Istmo (Panama), 2021
- Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children — Mexico City, 2021

### **Professional and Personal**

Since 2016, Arrocha has been an ecommerce entrepreneur and an affiliate consultant for CT Strategies in Washington, D.C., providing advice on national security, securing supply chain, risk assessment for cargo targeting and implementation of new, non-intrusive inspection technologies for clients.

From 1996 to 2003, he was operations manager and owner of Information Highway, an internet service provider. Arrocha was a contractor for two international programs for the United States National Nuclear Security Administration, directed at securing radioactive sources, from 2003 to 2012. For two years, he also was director for inspection for



surveillance and control at Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama. From 2009 to 2014, Arrocha was Deputy Director General at National Customs Authority of Panama, Director Containers Technical Inspection Unit, Liaison for UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and WCO (World Customs Organization) for the Container Control Program and worked closely with several security agencies within the United States Embassy in Panama.

Arrocha has been married to his supportive wife, Gloria, for 22 years. The couple have two children, Rachelle Sofia, 21, and Ricaurte Antonio Jr., 18.

### **Timothy D. "Tim" Forbis Was Elected Imperial Outer Guard of Shriners International**

Tim Forbis of Cheyenne, Wyoming, is serving his first year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children®. He was elected Imperial Outer Guard, part of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, during the Shriners 2021 Imperial Session held July 4 – 8 in



Houston, Texas.

### **Fraternities and Philanthropy**

- Past Master, Cheyenne Lodge #1, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (AF&AM)
- District Education and Counselor, Grand Lodge of Wyoming AF&AM
- Wyoming Grand Lodge Endowment Fund
- Potentate, Korein Shriners, 2020
- Imperial Captain of the Guard Aide
- Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Wyoming, Grand Senior Warden
- Most Eminent Grand High Priest Grand Chapter, York Right, Wyoming
- Finance Committee, General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International
- General Grand Chapter International Ambassador to Wyoming
- General Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Wyoming, Grand Conductor of the Council
- Venerable Master Frontier Allied Masonic Degrees

- Red Cross Constantine, Eusebius Conclave – Viceroy
- Associate Guardian, Bethel 33, Jobs Daughters
- Past Executive Officer, Wyoming DeMolay
- Senior DeMolay
- Order of Eastern Star, Burns, Wyoming, Chapter 47
- KCCH Wyoming Scottish Rite
- Past Venerable Master KSA, Charter Member
- Wyoming Scottish Rite Foundation Board
- Wyoming Masonic Membership Committee

#### **Education**

- Natrona County High School, 1979
- National Association of Realtors
- National Association of Residential Property Managers
- Institute for Real Estate Management
- Graduate of several trade schools for management, business, and broadcasting

#### **Professional and Personal**

Forbis worked in the hospitality and entertainment industry until 1997, when he went into real estate. He is CEO and president of two real estate corporations that operate in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. He has taught property management and investment real estate. He has been the guest speaker for property management associations nationally and internationally.

Forbis has three daughters, a stepson and five grandchildren. He loves to spend time in the wide-open spaces of Wyoming with his Lady, Peggy, to whom he proposed during his installation as Potentate of Korein Shriners in 2020.

#### **July 8 -- Official Session of Shriners International**

**The Session Concluded at Noon on Thursday. My impression is that it was a very worthwhile Session. I learned a lot about the workings of SI and Shriners Hospitals for Children (changing to Shriners Childrens) and I am looking forward to going again next year. – Respectfully, Chief Rabban Larry Weed Updated 9/9/2021**

#### **What is Shriners Zone?**

The Shriners Zone, located in the Marketplace, was open all day throughout the event, and was the place to be for Shriners, ladies, friends and families while in Houston.

Highlights from this year's Shriners Zone including:

- Fezzy's Photo Experience – pictures could be taken with Fezzy
- First Lady's items for a donation to her program
- A place to buy Shriners Christmas ornaments
- A chance to learn more about our four signature sporting events



- A place to meet the staff from Shriners International (Headquarters)