

LEGION OF HONOR

Commander Morris Sykes, Message

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Special points of interest:

- CSSA LOH Convention August 28-30, 2008 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- CSSA LOH 3rd Annual Picnic/ Barbeque September 20, 2008. Bybee Cabin south of Topeka.
- Arlington Wreath Laying; November 8, 2008; Arlington, VA.
- TALOH Mid Winter; March 5-8, 2009 McAllen, Texas
- IALOH 78th Convention April 21-26, 2009; Louisville, KY.

All good things must come to an end. This is my last Newsletter as Commander of CSSA LOH.

Armed Forces Day I was at Ft. Sill with the India LOH Commander Max Springer and gang on their trailer. What a great Parade day in Lawton. People were lined up on both sides of the road for miles. I even went out to the Fort to Hq & Hq Battery 2nd FAB, my Korean War service time home.

The next weekend I tried my hand at flying an old WWII Texas T-6 Trainer plane. Couldn't find any Japs to shoot down.

Cynthia and I attended Abdallah LOH Memorial Service again this year. 1 Lt. Siecgrist always does a fine job with the help of Kansas Grand Master and a Colonel from Fort Leavenworth.

June brings Flag Day Picnics. The

first one was Arab LOH held at the Good-year Rubber plant in Topeka with Commander Coffee as the host. Next, it was to travel down to our friends at Abou Ben Adhem LOH annual picnic and fund raiser for the Temple. Adjutant Kurfman, being the auctioneer, said this year it was by the pound. He kept putting his thumb on the scale. Oh, well, it was for a good cause.

The Imperial Shrine Annual Meeting was in St. Louis this year. With it so close I attended the fun part, that was the parade. We started lining up before seven PM and it was after eleven when Ainad's Legion of Honor trailer I was on reached the end of the line.

I attended dinner on Friday before Imperial in Collinsville, Illinois that was hosted by our 7th Lt. Commander Jim Pulley. Ainad Potentate Ted Mitchell was in attendances as well as several IALOH Officers.

CSSA LOH Fall Convention

Crowne Plaza Hotel; 2945 Northwest Expressway, OKC, OK

Thursday 28 August 2008

0900—1500 Hours Registration
1600—???? Welcome Party

Thursday 28 August Hospitality Room 925
Cattlemen Special Event Center;

2000 — 2200 Hospitality Room 925

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Friday 29 August 2008

0900 Drill Team and Color Guard Competition — Crowne Plaza Parking Lot

1000 Necrology Service

Crowne Plaza — Oklahoma Room

1800 Hospitality & Banquet

Crowne Plaza — Oklahoma Room

1900 Banquet and Installation of Officers

Oklahoma Room; Lower Level

Continue from first page. **Commander Morris W. Sykes**

Saturday the mid term meeting of the IALOH was held at the Ainad Temple in East St. Louis, again, hosted by Lt. Jim Pulley and conducted by Commander Reed. His first meeting was short and well received by the IALOH Officers in attendance. Lunch was provided by Ainad Temple and Potentate Ted Mitchell. It was bar-b-que pork and all that goes with it. You could not ask for anything better. Well, the cake and ice cream was alright too.

Some IALOH Officers went home after the meeting on Saturday, others stayed and went to the opening ceremonies on Sunday afternoon.

Imperial Potentate Bernard J. Lemieux, M.D. had a slide show of his installation and travel for the past year. The first thing that I recognized was he and Past Commander Gerald Henderson placing the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I have heard several Past Imperial Potentates say this was the highlight of their year. Next thing that I noticed was a lot of pictures from IALOH PC Henderson's Convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Of course I couldn't help but notice the picture of Gary and myself at the entrance of the USO Club of the Welcome Party. There were several other pictures of CSSA LOH Nobles like Farrell Morrow, Ron Buchanan, Dennis Collins, Harvey and Peggy Miller. Well, I could go on but you get the idea that IALOH and the CSSA Legion of Honor members were a big part of our Past Imperial Potentate's year.

I attended the market place and as usual I spent several hundred dollars. Purchases are really advertisement for the Shrine Hospital for Children.

July is still picnic time. Moila LOH, being my sec-

ond family, held their picnic in the park over at Pattonsburg, Missouri. Thanks, Commander Miller. They had a much larger crowd than I expected with two other events going on.

One of them being the One Stone Meeting in Ashland, Kentucky. I have not had a report on that meeting as yet. The report on that one might be one that I would not want to report on!!!!

The Big Annual Event in Kansas and it is also a big event for the Shrine Hospital for Children is the East-West Bowl game. Our own Finance Officer Jerry Rodman was in the top 10 salesmen for this event. I have heard several Imperial Potentates state that Kansas raises more money than any other state for this type of event. This year's guest was a young family and their seven-year-old daughter who has been a patient at the Shrine Hospital for a rare bone disease. This is a big weekend of events with the Players and Band Banquet on Friday night, the parade on Saturday morning and the game that evening. Our First Lt. Commander is writing about this so I will let you read his article.

I am not ready for the CSSA LOH Convention yet so I will spend the month of August working on Awards, Gifts, Decorations, Programs and of course FOOD.

I will leave you with my favorite Bible Verse, St. Luke, 11.9 I refer to it as ASK verse — Ask and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. I have done a lot of asking these last three years and you have responded. What can I say except THANK YOU Veterans/Nobles.

I just learned Dr. James Gibbons CSSA PC 2003 died July 1, 2008. Don't forget to communicate, let me know what your unit is doing. ————— *Morris*

Editor Morris W. Sykes, Message;

The CSSA LOH year is coming to an end with the election and move up of OFFICERS. Everyone is anxious to see Commander Siecgrist's program. Will CSSA continue as it has been over the years or with the new leadership and enthusiasm get everyone involved and raise CSSA LOH to new heights? Just 29 more days and the ball will be in Commander Siecgrist's hands. Best wishes, Charlie.

mws55kc1@kc.rr.com

The creation of the Quarterly Newsletter and the website has been a great pleasure for your editor. I wanted to get a Yearbook started like the IALOH Yearbook so that all the 22 units officers would have one quick location to be able to send out invitation to all the LOH units for their special events. The advertisement could be a great help to the Commander or CSSA LOH.

1st Lt. Commander Charlie Siecgrist, Message

The month of May was a busy month for us with our Shrine Rodeo, two 50 year class reunions— oh my, where has the time gone!!!! The annual Abdallah Memorial Day Service was very well attended, we competed with some uncooperative weather this year. Chas. "Smokie" Siecgrist, 1st Lt. Commander, was master of ceremonies, other CSSA Officers in attendance were Commander Morris Sykes & Lady Cindy, Jeff Carter, 2nd Lt. Commander, Past Commander Kenneth Miller as well as IALOH Officer Butch Arnold, 2nd Lt. Commander. This is an annual program by Abdallah Legion of Honor at the Korean/Viet Nam Memorial at Wyandotte County Park on Memorial Day. It is open to the public, new attendees are always welcome.

Abdallah Shrine holds their annual rodeo on Thursday, Friday & Saturday just prior to Memorial Day. This is a PRCA sanctioned rodeo with many contestants in all events.

The first weekend in June, Virginia and I attended Abou Ben Adhem's spring ceremonial. I visited with the LOH Club and participate with them in their ceremonial parade.

Most LOH units or clubs do not hold meetings during July and August.

At the time of this writing all Kansas Shrines are preparing for the Annual East-West Kansas Shrine Bowl, which is being played at Emporia, KS this year. Approximately 66 football players from both east and west, who have finished their Senior year are selected for the game. They are selected by sports writers and high school coaches. Before their practice begins they are flown to St. Louis to visit children in the Shrine Hospital so they can see what they are actually playing for. This is an eye opening experience for most of them as they have had no idea what Shriners work for. Plus, there is an All Masonic Band consisting of 200 to 225 band students that are sponsored by their local Masonic Lodges who work together for four days in all kinds of Kansas tempera-

tures to create a very impressive performance at half-time of the game. They also participate in the parade on game day. It is amazing what they perfect in such a short time. Both the band members and players attend the banquet on Friday night as well.

August 28, 29 & 30, 2008 will be CSSA in Oklahoma City. Commander Sykes has set up a Bar-B-Que at Cattlemen's, 1309 S. Agnew, on Thursday evening for socializing. All the events for August 29th will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2945 N W Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK. The hospitality room and check-in will be in Room 925. The CSSA parade will be Saturday, August 30th with the hospitality room opening after the parade.

We are looking forward to the annual Legion of Honor picnic, which was started many years ago in Topeka at Bybee's Cabin. It will be held September 20th, starting at 1500 hours until?. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, which includes food and drink. More details will be forthcoming at CSSA in Okla. City. Hope to have many of you in attendance.

The mid-winter meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2009 at Arab Shrine in Topeka, KS. Tentative starting time will be 0900 hours with a catered lunch at noon with the cost of approximately \$10.00. More details will follow at a later time.

September 11, 2009 the CSSA Convention will be in Colorado Springs, CO. Legion of Honor events will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel. The contracts have been signed for a buffet lunch and banquet. Further information will be available at CSSA.

I would like to congratulate IALOH Commander Don Reed and his lady Martha and IALOH 2nd Lt. Commander Butch Arnold and lady Debbie on their newly installed positions. Also, I wish to thank Commander Sykes and lady Cindy for a fine year as Commander of CSSA LOH.

Fraternally yours,
Charles "Smokie" Siecgrist
1st Lt. Commander CSSA LOH

2ndLt. Commander Jeff Carter, Message

CSSA Members:

This year sure has flown by. I hope you all have had as much fun as I have. I have met a lot of outstanding men and women this year and I am looking forward to next year meeting a lot more of you all.

I did not get the chance to go to all of the Units that I wanted to, but hopefully I will get to them in the following year. Each time I met a LOH member, I have not met yet, I gain a brother and a friend.

I hope you all come to CSSA in Oklahoma City. We will have a great time with the Outgoing and the Incoming Commanders. I know Commander Sykes has done a great job as your leader this year and I SALUTE him for an outstanding job. And I am sure Smokey will step up to the plate and carrying on in the highest of standards.

Please let me know if there is anything I may do to help you or your units. If you have a Parade or gathering of any kind please let us know so we might join you all. I am one of those that still have to work for a living but I am off every Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I would consider it an honor to be apart of anything your units do. My home phone is 417-732-4749. My email is loh121@sbcglobal.net

Remember membership is a must. We have to always be looking for NEW members, so your great name (Legion of Honor) will always be around.

Service before Self,

Jeff Carter

2nd Lt. CSSA LOH

Adjutant Ron Buchanan, Message; bucharo@ksbroadband.net

JUST A REMINDER

The Central States Shrine Association Convention will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Oklahoma City on August 28—30. If you need sign up forms or more information, please contact me by e-mail, bucharo@ksbroadband.net or phone at 785-554-5225. Thanks to Morris for doing such a great job of planning our part of this event. We hope to see all of you there for these three fun days.

Mark your calendars for these up coming events:

September 20th is the picnic at the Bybee Cabin in Topeka. We will be honoring our Past Commander Morris Sykes and our new Commander Charlie (Smokie) Siecgrist. Aboud's will be catering this event. A flyer with more information and map will be available soon.

March 20, 2009 will be the Mid-year meeting in Topeka.

More information on this event will be in the next news letter.

We will be having election of Officers at our Convention. These three years have flown by and it is time for me to run for the post of Adjutant. I look forward to serving again. Thanks for all the support and your vote.

Treasurer Jerry Rodman, Message

Ready or not Oklahoma City here we come. It seems just like yesterday that I was preparing for last years CSSA LOH luncheon and banquet meals and in just a few weeks we will be in Oklahoma City for a great time, good food and fun.

As always, I am looking forward to meeting everyone again. As in the past I have enjoyed talking to you in person and on the phone, please feel free to call me (620-665-6278) or email me at grodman1@cox.net if you have any question on your CSSA dues or luncheon, banquet or cattleman party & Buffet tickets.

As a reminder, don't forget the deadline for the Luncheon, Banquet and Cattlemen Party & buffet tickets The tickets will be handed out at CSSA in the Hospitality Room starting at 1:00 PM on Thursday. Don't forget to pickup your tickets before attending you Cattleman Party.

I am looking forward to a great convention with all of our Brethren and CSSA Commander Morris Sykes. Remember, I am here to help everyone.

Lets all attend CSSA this year and support our CSSA LOH and Commander Morris Sykes.

Jerry Rodman
CSSA LOH Finance Officer

Commander Sykes is GRANTING amnesty for two more weeks before the \$20 late registration fee starts.

CENTRAL STATES SHRINE ASSOCIATION

DUES PAID TO YEAR

LEGION OF HONOR

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2008 Abdallah Shriners; Overland Park, KS
2008 Abou Ben Adhem Shriners; Springfield, MO
.....Abu Bekr Shriners; Sioux City, --No LOH
2008 Akdar Shriners; Tulsa, OK
2008 Al Kaly Shriners; Pueblo, CO
2008 Arab Shriners; Topeka, KS
2008 Ararat Shriners; Kansas City, MO
2006 Bedouin Shriners; Muskogee, OK
2008 El Jebel Shriners; Denver, CO
*.....El Kahir Shriners, Cedar Rapids, **NO LOH***
2008 Hella Shriners; Garland, TX
2008 India Shriners; Oklahoma City, OK

Check the web-site calendar to see
what is happening. Go to www.cssa-loh.org
then click on calendar.

○ *2008 Isis Shriners; Salina, KS*
2007 Kaaba Shriners; Davenport, IA
2008 Midian Shriners; Wichita, KS
2008 Mirza Shriners; Pittsburg, KS
2008 Moila Shriners; St. Joseph, MO
2008 Moolah Shriners; St. Louis, MO
2007 Sahara Shriners Pine Bluff, AR
2004 Scimitar Shriners; Little Rock, AR
2008 Sesostris Shriners; Lincoln, NE
2008 Tangier Shriners; Omaha, NE
2008 Tehama Shriners; Hastings, NE
2007 Za-Ga-Zig Shriners; Altoona, IA

It is a Honor to be in the
Legion of Honor.

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TO: