New Nobles – Welcome to Aleppo

By CHARLES BOVAIRD

A t the January 2016 Ceremonial there were 15 Nobles added to the Aleppo Shriners Membership. We welcome these men into our ranks. The following is a small introduction to these Nobles. We hope that you extend our welcome to them and help to guide them through their journey at Aleppo Shriners.

Kenneth Bitner

He works as a social worker, which he says “takes up most of my time.” That certainly doesn’t prevent him from pursuing other interests, as he currently serves as a Bass Drummer for the Pipe Band. Kenneth met the Shriners in December, and upon finding out the Pipe Band needed a new Bass Drummer, he joined in January. While Kenneth knew he wanted to eventually join the Shrine, this situation expedited the process. He also plays guitar, and has been a percussionist since he was 7.

Michael Bowe

“I joined the Shrine because I have been around masonry my entire life and it looked like a place a lot of fun and charity happened. I am very tuned into technology as a Computer Science major.”

Chris Christopulos

Chris is a Legacy, as his father was a Shriner and also a member of Scottish Rite. In addition, Chris’s grandfather was a brother, so he is a third-genera- tion Freemason. One of his passions is history, and Chris wants to learn more about the history surrounding his father’s involvement in the Shrine. His professional life involves owning Marigian’s Maile Handcrafted Chainmail Jewelry and Armor and serving as Director of Operations for King Richard’s Faire.

Karl Edmands

Karl joined the Shriners so he can volunteer, possibly at the Shriners hospital, when he retires. In addition, he has always had an interest in learning how to play the bagpipes or possibly the drums. In addition, he has always had an interest in learning how to play the bagpipes or possibly the drums. In addition, he has always had an interest in learning how to play the bagpipes or possibly the drums. In addition, he has always had an interest in learning how to play the bagpipes or possibly the drums.

Chris Ellis

Chris is both a survivor and a diehard Bruins fan. Born with a heart defect, Chris has had three open heart surgeries, and he’s only 24 years old. As for his Bruins passion, he described himself as being “one of the biggest Bruins fans out there.” To support that claim, Chris emphasized that he probably has “every piece of gear” there is, including posters. “I’m one of the biggest Bruins fans you would ever meet.” He added he probably has every piece of gear there is, like posters, souvenirs etc.

In terms of what motivated him to join the Shrine, Chris emphasized his desire to give back. “I’m certainly excited to be a part of the Shrine and do the work. I want to help raise money and help kids.”

Matthew Gerrish

Matthew joined the Shrine because he has known Illustrious Ted Polonsky since the age of 15 and always told said he would join Aleppo once Ted became Potentate. Having joined DeMolay's Battle Green Chapter at the age of 14, Matthew has been part of the Masonic Family for some time. He served as State Master Councilor for Massachusetts DeMolay between 2003 and 2004, and joined Simon W. Robinson Lodge in Lexington in 2003.

As soon as Matthew reached his majority in DeMolay, he began his work as an officer at BWI, rising to the rank of Worshipful Master in 2010. To this day, this Noble is involved with DeMolay, holding multiple roles within the organization. He is currently a Chapter Advisor and Chairman of Battle Green Chapter, and serves on the Executive Officer’s staff as a Deputy Executive Officer.

In addition to contributing at the chapter level, Matthew serves the broader organization as a Deputy Member of DeMolay’s International Supreme Council. When asked to describe DeMolay, Matthew says that it “is my main hobby. I love it.”

Dean Gianoulis

Dean is a long-time friend of Illustrious Ted Polonsky, who had asked him to join for some time. He was also involved with the Shrine before he ever became a member, painting trailers for Aleppo. Now that he is a Noble, Dean is weighing his options, emphasizing that he hasn’t figured out exactly where to help out.

Jess Holderbaum

Jess is an enthusiastic motorcycle rider, having logged 55,000 miles with his Border Collie. His wife, Lady Christine, is also a rider, and the couple lives together in Cape Cod. While Jess is a self-described computer guy, his lady is a tax accountant.

Matthew Munafò

A member of Philanthropic Lodge in Marblehead, Matthew joined the Shrine because so many of his Scottish Rite brothers are members. They have a lot of fun in their units, and he was encouraged to join. He has been active in both Scottish Rite and his blue lodge, serving as an officer in Emmanuel Chapter of Rose Croix and Philanthropic Lodge. A family man, Matthew has a wife, two sons and a beagle. He enjoys badminton, squash, golf, skiing, chess, backgammon, billiards, and card games.

Ryan Nagle

Ryan actually became a Mason to join the Shriners, describing the Shrine as an “iconic brand” when it comes to organizations that help. By becoming a Noble, Ryan saw an opportunity to give back.

He got some insight into such opportunities from his wife, who works in corporate strategy for a Fortune 500 medical company. Ryan himself works in Wealth Management, where some of his clients are in Life Sciences, and more specifically biospace. He loves golf and deep sea fishing, and emphasized that he is a wine collector.

David Oro

A newly raised Brother of Scimitar Lodge, David joined the Freemasons to become a Shriner. He was raised with two other Brothers, and all three joined Simon W. Robinson Lodge in Lexington. Matthew joined the Shriners one of his greatest accomplishments.

Jill Robichaud

A past patient of the Springfield Shriners Hospital, Shawn is a perfect example of the impact the Shriners can have. Diagnosed with Pectus car- inatum, a condition that makes the chest push outward, Shawn’s sternum was protruding from his chest.

While he spoke with multiple hospitals, the Springfield Shriners Hospital was the only facility that offered to correct his sternum with a brace. All the other hospitals offered surgery as the only option. As a result, Shawn received a brace, which he wore 22 hours a day for two years, in the fourth grade.

After this life-changing experience, Shawn’s whole reason for joining Freemasonry was to give back to the Shrine. He considers becoming a Shriner one of his greatest accomplishments.

Richard Silverman

After volunteering at the Shriners Hospital for the last year, Richard was so impressed with the work of the Shrine that he decided to join. A Secretary and Past Master of Boston University Lodge, Richard has established himself in his Blue Lodge. In addition, he is a Senior DeMolay.

Having spent his entire life working in public schools, Richard is an ardent supporter of every student receiving a high level of education. He is also a music enthusiast, serving as a music teacher, as well as an organist and choir director for a number of churches. In case that wasn’t enough, he also plays piano.

Paul D Watts Jr.

A third-generation legacy, Paul joined the Shrine after his father and grandfather. When Paul was younger, his forebears brought him around the Shrine to help out. As a result, he got a feel for Freemasonry at a young age. The New Noble loves what the Shriners do and helping out any way he can.

In addition to volunteering, Paul is into cars and sports, particularly football and hockey.