

# KEM

Across the

# BURNING SANDS



Volume 53 Number 1

KEM Shriners, Grand Forks, ND

January/February 2020

## NEW 2020 POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

Where has time gone? It seems like a very short time ago that Tom Hanson PP appointed me to the Divan. I am very honored to serve as your Potentate for 2020. I was elected by you and I will do my very best to make you proud to be a KEM Shriner.

A special Thank You to PP Phil Landis and Lady Melissa on a great year, it has been an honor to work with you. Best wishes to you in 2020

The annual meeting on Jan 11 was very well attended and the Parade to Glory raised over \$20,500. The Mobil Nobles and our Cotton Candy Ladies served the annual noon fish fry. The Potentates reception was an event that Lady Nancy and I will always remember. We were very humbled by the number of family and friends who braved a cold night to celebrate with us. A great time was had by all.

Membership continues to be a key priority for 2020. We need to continue to recruit new members as well as retain our current members. To aid in these efforts, Kem needs to be attractive to all ages. I ask you to share any recommendations you may have to improve Kem Shrine. If you know a Master Mason who is not a Noble, please invite him to join the Shriners. If you have a family member, friend or co-worker who you know to be a good man, invite him to join your Masonic lodge. If you know a Mason or a Noble who has left us, invite him back.

The St Patrick's ceremonial and parade will be Saturday, March 14th. If you have a candidate, this is a great opportunity to bring them in. The parade is also a chance to show the public who the Kem Shriners are. Wear your Fez proudly.

Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events in this edition of the Burning Sands. The full 2020 Calendar will be available soon on our website: kemshriners.com

*Ron Bergh*  
Ron Bergh

Potentate 2020



2020 POTENTATE RON BERGH



RON WAS BORN IN EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN NOV 20, 1959. HE JOINED THE US AIR FORCE IN 1979 AS A FIRE PROTECTION SPECIALIST AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE GRAND FORKS AFB IN 1980. RON HAD A 32-YEAR CAREER AS A FEDERAL FIREFIGHTER AT GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, RETIRING AS FIRE CHIEF IN 2012. RON IS CURRENTLY A REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE MANAGER FOR WENCK RESPONSE SERVICES OF NEW HOPE, MN AND IS A SENIOR EMERGENCY PLANNING AND INCIDENT RESPONSE CONSULTANT FOR HEARTLAND CONSULTING GROUP, BISMARCK, ND.

RON WAS RAISED TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER MASON IN 2009 AT MALTA LODGE 131. HE IS A PAST MASTER OF MALTA IN 2015. IN JUNE OF 2009 HE JOINED KEM SHRINE AND IS A MEMBER OF KEM CYCLE CORPS, MOBIL NOBLES, RITUALISTIC DIVAN, AND 4TH FLOOR CLUB UNITS. HE IS ALSO THE CURRENT CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE KEM SHRINE CIRCUS. RON WAS APPOINTED TO THE OUTER GUARD BY PAST POTENTATE TOM HANSON IN 2011.

RON AND HIS WIFE NANCY RESIDE IN EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA. THEY HAVE 5 CHILDREN AND NINE GRANDCHILDREN.

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KEM SHRINERS  
Kem Temple  
PO Box 5268  
Grand Forks, ND 58206

**Official Publication of  
KEM SHRINERS**  
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**Grand Forks, ND 58206**  
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**KEM DIVAN  
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**APPOINTED DIVAN MEMBERS**

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**POTENTATE AIDES**

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Roger Schmitz	Cliff Adams
Bill Knipe	

**YOUR UNIT HERE!**

Write an article for the Sands!

Tell us about your unit, history, officers, meeting time and place, fundraisers and events. Include a unit photo or two.

Email to; [tpolgrafix@gmail.com](mailto:tpolgrafix@gmail.com). Attach photos as attachments, not in the body of the email please.

Deadline for the next Sands is March 23rd.

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## 2020 CIRCUS KICK-OFF

**T**he 74th Kem Shrine Circus is just around the corner. This year's circus is April 24-26. Join us for the 2020 Circus Kick Off on Thursday Feb. 13th. The Grand Forks kick off will be part of the Uniform Units meeting. Social starts at 5:30, meal 6:30. If you will sell kids tickets, help set up, or do any other task at the Circus, please join us for a meal, fellowship, and circus information. Unit ticket route packages will be distributed at this meeting.

**2020 KEM SHRINE CIRCUS**

The Circus will be April 24, 25 & 26. Save the date and put the Circus on your calendar and plan so that you and your lady can join us for the Fun at the Circus.



## All You Can Eat!

# Pancake Breakfast



**Sunday, February 23rd, 8am to 1pm**  
**East Grand Forks VFW**  
**Adults \$5, Family \$15**

Proceeds of this event are for the Benefit of the KEM Cycle Corps. Payments are not deductible as a charitable contribution. We would like to thank our corporate sponsors: McDonald's, N.D. State Mill and Elevator, Simplot, L & M Meats, EGF VFW.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BURNING SANDS WILL BE MARCH 23**



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**13TH ANNUAL GRAND  
FORKS MASONS ST.  
PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

The 13th Annual St Patrick's Day Masonic Parade will be on Saturday, March 14th, 2020.

The lineup will be at 2:30 PM on South 3rd St by the Grand forks County Parking Ramp. The parade will start at 3:00 PM and travel North, ending at Kelly's Tavern.

This parade is open to the public. Those that are not Freemasons are welcome to walk in the family section, behind the driving parade units.

There will also be a Shrine Ceremonial at the Masonic Center the same day. All Shriners can and should attend the Ceremonial to cheer on the new members. There will be a lunch at noon for those participating in the Ceremonial which will begin at 1:00 PM. The new Shriners will also be in the parade.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Argenziano at 917-439-9587 or Jesse Stephan at 701-741-2720.



### KEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m.

Masonic Center, Grand Forks ND

You are notified that a regular stated meeting of Kem Shriners will meet at the above time and place for hearing reports and conducting regular business. Admittance by your 2020 dues card. Please wear your Fez.

Attest

Yours in the Faith,

*Dale Duchscherer* *Ron Bergh*

Dale Duchscherer

Ron Bergh

PP, Recorder

Potentate

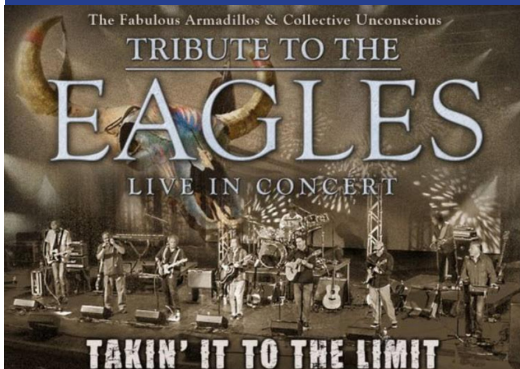
## ANNUAL KEM SHRINE WILD GAME FEED

The annual Kem Shrine Wild Game Feed will be on March 7th, 2020. This fun event will be in the basement of the Masonic Center. The social will begin at 4:00 pm. Food will be served from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The tickets are \$20 each which will include the meal and a chance to win a gun in the 12-gun raffle. You do not have to be present to win a gun. We will also have lots of door prizes and games of chance. This is a fund raiser for Kem and for your unit. For each ticket that your unit sells, Kem will pay \$5 to the unit. If your unit sells 100 tickets, your unit will earn \$500. These tickets are easy to sell and it is a win-win for the unit and for Kem. The tickets have been distributed to the ticket reps of most of the units. If your unit does not have ticket books yet, please contact Steve Renslow at 701-741-3621. If you need tickets to sell, please contact the ticket representative from your unit.

We are in need of food for the event. If you have any venison or other meat, exotic or not to donate to the event, please contact Steve Adams or Terry Jensen Jr.

**LET'S ROCK!**

The Fabulous Armadillos & Collective Unconscious  
**TRIBUTE TO THE  
EAGLES**  
LIVE IN CONCERT



**TAKIN' IT TO THE LIMIT**

Nobles,

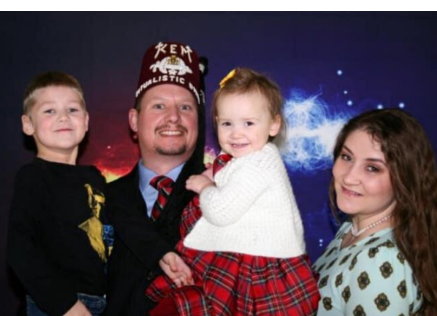
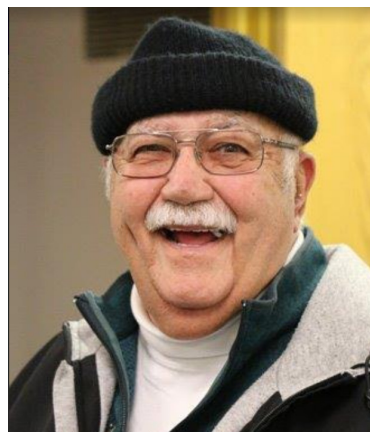
We are very excited to announce our next concert, "Takin' It To The Limit: An Eagles Tribute Concert" brought to you by the World Famous Fabulous Armadillos. The concert will be held in the Auditorium of the Masonic Center on September 26th at 7:30pm, the doors will open at 6:30pm for a social hour with a cash bar available in the basement and beverages available on the Auditorium level during the show.

Tickets are on sale now and will be available at Uniformed Units meetings, Circus kickoff and the Spring Ceremonial, or contact Darrin Looker, Geoff Bengtson, Terry Jensen Jr, or Ryan Scott. We will auction off (2) High top tables, that seat 4 People per table by the big windows looking into the Auditorium, during Circus Kickoff. Tickets are open to the public and selling for \$20 Upper Level and \$30 Lower Level. I would only hope between the Masons and Shriners, we could almost sell this out ourselves, but we are working with a Sponsor to sell tickets (600) total, so they should go fast. I look forward to seeing you there!

Ryan Scott Chief of Staff



# MINOT SHRINERS HOSPITAL KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY





# GRAND FORKS SHRINE KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY.



## POTENTATE'S BALL





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 6-8 MSA Winter Session- Regina  
13 Circus Kick Off - Grand Forks  
14-16 GF Men's Show- Alerus Center

### March

- 7 Wild Game Feed  
12 Divan Meeting  
14 St Patrick's Ceremonial and Parade Grand Forks

### April

- 9 Kem Quarterly Meeting – Grand Forks  
23 Circus Setup - REA Grand Forks  
24-26 Circus - REA Grand Forks

## STEVE RENSLOW, NEW ORIENTAL GUIDE



Steve Renslow was elected the Oriental Guide at the 2020 Kem Shriners Annual Meeting. Steve was born in Langdon, ND. He attended schools in Minot ND, Victorville CA, Rialto CA and Grafton ND. He also attended the North Dakota State College of Science where he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering Technology. Steve and his wife Kim have been married for 39 years and live in Grand Forks. Steve was an insurance agent for 33 years. He recently sold his business and is currently driving a school bus for Dietrich Bus. His wife Kim is a Pharmacy Technician at Thrifty White Drug in Grand Forks.

Steve was raised a Master Mason in November 2012 with Malta Lodge #131 in Grand Forks and joined Kem Shriners in December 2012. He is a Past Master of Malta Lodge. He is also a member of the Drum & Bugle Corps, 4th Floor Club, Cycle Corps and the York Rite. He was awarded the Samsar Jewel in 2015.

Steve is also a member of the South Forks Lions, Sons of Norway & the Red River Snowmobile Club.

Steve enjoys riding motorcycles, snowmobiles, camping and water skiing. He and his wife also enjoy traveling and meeting people at Shrine events.

## JOEY BJORNSON, NEW OUTER GUARD



Joey was born and raised in Grand Forks. He is a member of Crescent Lodge 11 and became a Shriner in 2005. In July 2006, he married Jodi Berg, Daughter of LaVonne and Odell Berg who was Kem Potentate in 1994. Joey and Jodi have 7 children and 10 Grandchildren. Joey and Jodi reside in Neche, ND where he is the owner of Bjornson Construction. Joey is a member of the Cycleers, Provost, Mobil Nobles, and Cycle Corps. Joey enjoys riding motorcycles, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.



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## INCOMING PRESIDENT OF KEM CYCLE CORPS

**JEREMY DUMBROWSKI**



Jeremy and his wife, Julie, live in Gilby, ND. They have lived there most of their 23 years of marriage. They have 1 son, Jason, who is a freshman at UND.

Jeremy was raised a Master Mason in Malta Lodge #131 AF & AM, where he currently holds the position of Senior Steward. He went through the Hot Sands in 2017.

Jeremy is involved with his lodge and several Shrine units in Kem. He is currently secretary for the Fourth Floor Club.

Jeremy's hobbies include traveling, camping, gardening and riding his Harley with Julie.

Jeremy works as a plumber / pipe fitter and also has a handyman service.

Jeremy is looking forward to serving as President of the Kem Cycle Corps in the upcoming year.

## KEM WILD GAME FEED

**MARCH 7, 2020**



**4:00 SOCIAL**  
BEVERAGES FOR  
YOUNG AND OLD,  
FREE WILL OFFERING  
**SERVING 5 PM-7PM**

**COST \$20 KIDS UNDER 10 FREE**

**MASONIC CENTER 423 BRUCE AVE, GRAND  
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PROCEEDS ARE FOR KEM UNITS, PAYMENTS ARE NOT  
DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

## CYCLEERS

It has been a long winter. We are looking forward to preparing for the Shrine Circus and participating in the parade season.

Thanks to all who came to the Masonic Rites for Brother "Bill" Anderson (Ted Anderson's father).

## DARREL SCHMITZ- WINNER OF FIRETRUCK PEDAL CAR AUCTION



We want to recognize Darrel Schmitz who was the winner of the Firetruck pedal car we auctioned off at the Potentates reception. Thank you to all who bid on this and helped raise a very generous donation to this years cause, WGA4Kids.

## UGLY SWEATERS!



Here is a photo of the Ugly Sweater Contest winners at the 2019 Minot Shriners Christmas Party. Steve Belcher was the winner. Don Thom and Ken Rotter were the runners up.

## 2020 BURNING SANDS SUPPORTERS CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN 2020

Orren & Karen Anderson  
Earl Beck  
Gerald Burt  
Bruce & Linda Christianson  
William E & Diana Christianson  
Ken Gillespie  
Jim Keinast, PP  
Elaine Kittelson  
Bill Little  
Curt & LaVonne Lundeen, PP  
Scott & Bernice Midstokke, PP  
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Gerald & Marilyn Skogley  
Allan & Evon Thompson  
Tom Wade  
Fred Whisenand

**In Memory:**  
Mark Motis

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Enclosed please find my check in the  
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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your support.

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## GETTING TO KNOW THREE OF THE LADIES OF OUR 2020 DIVAN

### JODI BJORNSON LADY OF JOEY BJORNSON OUTERGUARD, KEM'S NEWEST MEMBER OF THE DIVAN

I was born in Grafton, ND and raised in Nash and rural Hoople, ND. I attended school through the 8th grade in a two classroom school in Nash, ND and then graduated high school in Grafton, ND. I married Joey Bjornson in 2006. We have 7 children and 10 grandchildren.

I work as an office administrator for the Gastrak truck stop in Pembina, ND. I am also responsible for 6 other Gastrak stores throughout the country that I do the back office software for.

I like to ride motorcycle, travel and spend time with friends and family.



## LADIES LUNCH



On the morning of January 11th we held a luncheon in honor of Melissa Landis, Lady of Past Potentate Phil Landis. We had great attendance and enjoyed a wonderful lunch held at the Town House Hotel. Thank you Melissa for your time and dedication in 2019.



### KIM RENSLOW LADY OF STEVE RENSLOW ORIENTAL GUIDE, KEM'S NEWEST ELECTED MEMBER OF THE DIVAN

I was born in Warren MN, where I grew up, went to school and graduated. I then moved to East Grand Forks MN where I worked and met Steve. We were married in 1980 in Grafton ND and lived there until 1985. We then moved to Grand Forks. I work as a pharmacy technician and Steve as a bus driver. I enjoy reading, art, crafting and collecting dolls. Currently I am a member of two doll clubs in town. I am a very lucky lady to be the wife of my husband Steve, and we enjoy our time with family and friends, especially Masons and Shriners.



### NANCY BERGH LADY OF RON BERGH KEM'S NEWLY ELECTED POTENTATE FOR 2020

I was born and raised in Grand Forks ND. I graduated from Grand Forks Central in 1977. I married Ron Bergh in 2003. We have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. For 25 years I worked in retail, selling jewelry I was the manager at Zales. In 2004 I started working at Altru, I am a patient access specialist.

We love to ride motorcycle, boating, and camping and most importantly love to spend time with family and our friends.

At this time I would also like to introduce you to my Ladies project for our year of 2020.

In the last Sands we talked about the KEM Ladies Auxiliary, it was organized to raise funds to support the work of the Womens General Auxiliary, WGA4kids of the Shriners Healthcare for Children in the Twin Cities. I have decided to sell these beautiful necklaces and bracelets to help raise money to be donated at the end of the year to the WG4 Kids. All donations made to the KEM Auxiliary will be forwarded at the end of our year to WGA4Kids at Shriners Healthcare for Children. These donations stay in our Healthcare system for kids that are treated at our facility in the Twin Cities, soon to be at our new facility in Woodbury this summer. There is a silver tone and gold tone necklace 18 inches adjustable to 20 inches \$30/ and a bracelet for \$40. It is the silent messenger, one of the most recognized symbols of Shriners. On the back of the necklace it is inscribed with KEM RIDING TO THE RESCUE.

You can contact Nancy Bergh by text 7017400562 or email; nbergh@gra.midco.net Cash/Check/ or Credit Cards accepted / \$5 to mail out if needed. Nobles, these make beautiful gifts for your ladies and it is almost Valentines Day. You are not only helping raise funds for the Auxiliary you are making your lady happy!

Thank you in advance for helping with our Ladies fundraiser for 2020

Peace and Happiness in 2020, and also remember to have fun while helping our Kids!



necklace silver or gold \$30/  
bracelet silver \$40