



Shriners International

Name Reflects International Importance

Back in 1872, when the Shriners fraternity was established, it made perfect sense to emphasize the middle-Eastern motif of the organization by naming it the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

While the fraternity is still based on fun, fellowship and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, neither that tongue-twisting formal name – nor even the more commonly-used name of Shriners of North America – fit the organization today.

Today, there are active members of the fraternity located around the world, and an increasing effort to reach and recruit new members on an international scale. It is important they be acknowledged in the name of the organization.

Consequently, at the 2010 Imperial Session in Toronto a resolution was passed to officially replace the corporate name, The Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America. The resolution also stated that Shriners International should replace the name or any abbreviated versions of it (such as Shriners of North America). Nobles are encouraged to use Shriners International when referring to the fraternity, both in speech and in any temple publications they produce.

Also, just as a reminder, at the 2002 Imperial Session, a proposal to replace the word 'temple' with the word 'Shriners,' when the term is used as a proper name for a group of nobles was passed. For example, Mecca Temple is now Mecca Shriners. The word temple can still be used to designate general groups of Shriners, or the building where Shriners often gather. For example, a correct

use of the word temple would be, 'there are now nearly 200 temples located in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Republic of Panama, Philippines and Germany'. Another example would be, 'the temples provide many activities for their members'.

Whether we are attracting interest and members globally or locally, we want to be sure we make it as easy as possible for potential Shriners to understand who we are and what we do. Therefore, it was also decided that when speaking to or providing materials for non-Shriners, it is fine to refer to a temple with a secondary references of 'chapter', which is also a clear indication that we are a fraternity.

All of these changes are part of an overarching effort to increase membership by using terms people everywhere can understand, accept and respond to in a positive way. Additional efforts include the website beashrinernow.com, which is specifically for potential new members.

The future of the fraternity depends on increasing membership. While these efforts are important, it is also imperative that every Shriner be willing to share his interest in and commitment to the fraternity and its philanthropy with those around him.