

AINAD SHRINERS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS IN 2012

With a proud and storied past the Ainad Shriners of Southern Illinois are looking at a grand celebration year of the first 100 years as a member of the International Shrine Fraternity. Plans are underway at this time to organize and set events that will highlight the historic past of one of Southern Illinois most prestigious fraternal organizations.

The Ainad Shriners sought membership in 1912 in Chicago to become the southern most members in Illinois to the then Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine national organization based at that time in downtown Chicago. Over the years this group of men set the foundation for growth by attracting men from across the 40 counties in the southern tip of Illinois into its membership.

During the decades of growth and popularity of this fun fraternity the mission of the Shriners also expanded and in 1922 it opened the first of the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children in Shreveport LA. Since that time nearly One Million children have had exposure to and helped by what is now called "The Worlds Greatest Philanthropy".

By the end of this year the ground breaking for a brand new Shriners Hospital for Children in Saint Louis will lead the efforts of the Shrine Fraternity for the future generations of Shriners having fun and helping kids. The new location will be in the Barnes – Jewish hospital campus near Forrest Park along highway 64 in St Louis, MO.

Efforts to celebrate 100 years as a viable and generous fraternal organization will take place across the membership area around the southern part of the state. With no set dates and locations yet locked in it is desired to include as many parades as possible with a special float designed to depict our past, present and future of the Shrine Fraternity. Also we hope to have several celebration parties in strategic areas to best cover the large geographic area of Ainad membership. Plans are to assemble a historic presentation of the people places and events that have shaped the history of this organization as a leader of men seeking a fun fraternal place of fellowship and philanthropy.

A Committee of volunteers has been set up to help direct this large undertaking. We are looking for additional help and volunteers that would like to contribute to this once in a life time celebration effort. We hope that we can get enough people interested to do a variety of celebratory activities and events that can satisfy any and all age groups. If you have a special skill or talent and would like to share it with us please offer it. We have not done this before and therefore are needing a lot of volunteers.

The person who has been charged with heading this committee is no stranger to organizing and directing successful events. Kurt Grosse a Past Potentate from 1996 will be the Chairman and key contact to what goes on. He has working with him another Past Potentate in 1998 Ken Snyder. Dan Haider and Mark Maxwell are also part of the team.

If you wish to contact any of these men feel free to do so and let them know of your concerns or efforts of support. Kurt Grosse at 314-280-4573 or email at kgrosse@rsgroof.com Mark Maxwell at 618-874-1870 or email at admin@ainadshriners.org Ken Snyder at 618-410-4396 Dan Haider at 618-310-2392