



# STA Ledger

November 2020

Volume 24 Issue 2

## Bruce Wiggins — President

### Special Dates to Remember

Mid-Year Seminar  
**CANCELLED**

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Dear Fellow Treasures, 2020 is proving to be one of the most difficult years for me. I have asked Secretary/ Treasurer Bob Bulman to assist me with this article. The Covid-19 pandemic is an ongoing world wide event taking way to many souls before their time, and sickening Millions of Americans. The Executive Board of STA has decided that in the interest of safety the Mid-Year Seminar could not be held this year.

The board is currently looking at alternatives for conducting the required actions that are concurrent with the Mid-Year Seminar.

As some of you know I have been dealing with throat cancer for most of this year. Chemo and radiation have not improved the condition. Most recently a scheduled operation was canceled due to other underlying obstacles . I continue to have medical assistance and will be back home in the near future.

Your prayers are most welcomed for both me and my wife Carol.

Yours in the Faith

Bruce Wiggins P.P. Treasurer  
Rizpah Shrine Center  
President STA 2020/2021

## Vic Hopper — 1st Vice President



*“I'm ready to get past the Covid-19 Pandemic”*

Dear Fellow Treasurers, I hope this finds all of you and your families happy and healthy. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to get past the Covid-19 Pandemic and see an end to all the restrictions in place. Here at our Temple, we are seeing a few things starting back up, with social distancing and wearing masks, of course. Unfortunately with the resurgence of this virus, I'm sad to say the Treasurer's Meeting that would have been held in March has been canceled. I hope we

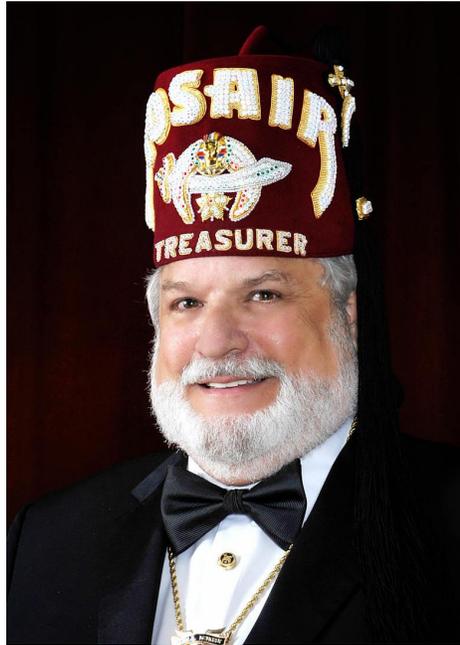
will be able to hold our Annual Meeting during the Imperial Session in Houston, Texas July 4-8, 2021.

Well Wishes to Our President Bruce Wiggins, who has been feeling under the weather. I hope that by the time this letter is published, he is back on his feet and back to his normal self.

In closing, we are treading upon uncertain, reclusive times and due to this virus, our everyday life as we knew it has changed. Fall is here and the holiday season is upon us. My wish is that each of you have Happy Holidays and you are able to spend it with those you love. Be safe and stay healthy!

Yours in the Faith,  
Vic Hopper, P.P., Treasurer  
El Hasa Shrine Center  
1st VP, STA

## Gary Morgan — 2nd Vice President



*“we are socially distancing and wearing masks”*

Well, 2020 has been a very different year. I hope that everyone has been healthy and safe from COVID-19. Everyone’s life has changed so much, especially our shrine life. There have been so many events and fun activity cancelled. Our Temple has just started to reopen and to do things we are accustomed to. Of course, we are socially distancing and wearing masks. I know that everyone will

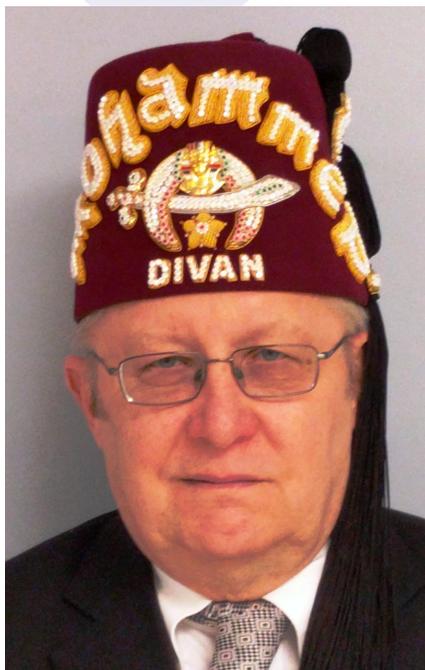
be glad when this pandemic is over and we are able to travel, fellowship, and have fun again. One thing that will not be coming up in March 2021 in San Antonio, TX. It is the Shrine Treasure’s Association Mid Year Seminar. The officers have canceled the conference due to the COVID-19. I was really looking forward to seeing everyone.

Our President (Bruce Wiggins) is under the weather and is in need our payers. Everyone stay safe. God bless the shrine and this great country of ours.

Yours in Faith,

Gary L. Morgan 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President  
STA

## Steve Harken — 3rd Vice President



not show a small profit. The membership may need to be reminded periodically, just because it's budgeted, that doesn't mean we have to spend it. In reminding him about the budget, it will give you the opportunity to put in some not so subtle requests for specific funding. They being funding for association dues and travel expenses for the Mid-Year Seminar.

By paying the dues for both the Treasurer's and Recorder's associations, we allow them both the opportunity to network with their respective peers either by phone or any other social media they choose. The Treasurers' contact info is listed, by Shrine, on the STA website under the heading Directory. You can contact the individual Shrine for additional contact info. Secretary Bulman has also highlighted the names of the new Treasurers for 2020. If you see any located close to you, please reach out to them and welcome them to the Association. Secretary Bulman also lists those Shrines who haven't paid their dues for 2020. If you see one located nearby, please reach out to them and encourage them pay their 2021 dues. If association dues of \$150.00 are too much, maybe they need to revisit their budget.

In closing, if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. Should you want a copy of my previous articles, just ask and I'll send them all to you. My contact info is on the STA website under the heading Contact Us.

Until next time-STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.

Steve Harken  
3rd V/P Shrine Treasurers Association  
Mohammed Shriners

In preparing for this article, I revisited several of my earlier articles. The first dealt with the importance of a budget. The second dealt with the Covid-19's impact on your Shrine's budget. I would like to continue on that line.

As a Treasurer, you should be reminding your Chief Rabban, assumingly your next Potentate, he has a budget to prepare and present to the Divan in just a few short weeks. You may also remind him a budget is started by anticipating income, then expenses. In short, you need to know what you have to spend before you figure out how to spend it. With a declining membership, you can't always count on dues money to pay the bills. Will the fund raisers actually make money? Does the incoming Potentate have something special he wants to do his year and may need funding? These are just a few of the things that need to be looked into when making the budget. While a budget is subject to revision, when needed, it should be set up to at least break even if

*“your next Potentate, has a budget to prepare and present to the Divan in just a few short weeks.*

## Dennis Saikaley —4th Vice President



*“These are times that we have never seen the likes of before”*

Greetings One and All,  
I hope that you and your families are all well in these interesting and challenging times.

When I wrote my last article, I had hoped that we may have had the chance to get together again this year but that slips away each day. Our border is still closed. If you are like many of us, you can still find ways to keep busy. Many of us have changed the way we operate and communicate. ZOOM seems to be the method of choice. Even with all of this, our role as Treasurer still continues to be an important cog in the Temple’s wheel.

As a part of Shriners International, we have Temples in several countries. I hope that you have all reviewed what type of assistance is available to your Temple from different levels of government in your area. This is also the time to review your Temple’s Budget and present the changes at a Stated Meeting.

Are you also helping those members who may need help? We cannot let them slip through the cracks.

This year allows us to review the business model by which we operate. We need to, and may change the way we do business. I know that I still continue to be in our office at least three mornings a week and review things each day.

While many of us have had drastic cuts in expenses, in some cases, there have been greater cuts in revenue.

These are times that we have never seen the likes of before. We, as Treasurers, are still the Stewards of our Temple’s Assets. There will need to be some ‘tough love’ decisions made when preparing next year’s budget.

This is not the time to be complacent. We are all in this together. I wish my message was brighter but I find it easier to be realistic. I am here for you should you need to discuss anything.

I hope and pray that numbers come down and that a vaccine can be found.

Keep well and stay safe.

YITF,

Dennis M. Saikaley P.P.  
Treasurer, Tunis Shriners  
4th Vice President, Shrine Treasurer’s Association

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STA Ledger

## Robert the Bob Bulman — Secretary-Treasurer



“Seminar  
CANCELLED”

through. He is learning how to walk again after the lose of 58 pounds .

Pure and simple it is BAD.

So, as I said earlier we

GO FORWARD!

We find different ways to do the things that are necessary and post pone or cancel those things that are selective.

That brings me to one of the events I looked forward to every year with STA (Shrine Treasurers Association) when I joined it was called STANA (Shrine Treasurers Association of North America). Mid-Year Seminar (aka Mid-Winter Seminar)

I very sorry to say that the Seminar will not take place this year. It has been cancelled.

It was going to be in San Antonio, TX.

Going FORWARD you executive Board are working on an alternate for the in person Seminar. We are looking at an extended meeting in conjunction with the Imperial Session in July.

I will keep you updated with progress reports through our web-site.

Please keep President Bruce Wiggins and his Lady Carol in your prayers during his fight with throat cancer.

Where do we go from here?

WE GO FORWARD

Many of us have lost someone during the past nine months the Covid-19 virus. It has many nicknames, Co-Vid, China Bug, Corona, Beer flu, I feel like S\*\*t flu. No mater what you call it, it is deadly.

My brother (a Shriner in Tulsa OK) and his wife were both stricken with it in mid August, she did not make it. He was in ICU for 29 days and pulled

Robert ‘The Bob’ Bulman  
Midian Shrine Center  
STA Secretary/Treasurer

## Brad Koehn—Imperial Treasurer



*“can develop a virtual meeting with many interesting and informative topics”*

*“we as Shriners are a resilient bunch”*

mail or text message.

I was very sorry to hear of the cancellation of the Treasurer’s Association Seminar in March. This year’s location of San Antonio was an excellent choice. We will miss spending time with our fellow treasurers in comradely and learning. I hope that we can develop a virtual meeting with many interesting and informative topics on the agenda to aide you in your endeavors. This might actually entice additional treasurers to attend as there would be no travel time or costs involved. More to come on this possibility.

I mentioned last article that membership is critical to each of our respective temples. As membership continues to decline, there are less nobles to pay dues, volunteer their time and support Shriners Hospitals for Children. This year it is even more important. Many Grand Lodges have yet to allow for degree work. All Masonic organizations are feeling the pain of not meeting on a regular basis. Please work with your Divans and Nobility to emphasize bringing in new members. It is hard work but the results are well worth it.

The financial picture of Shriners International has improved this year. Unfortunately, it took canceling an Imperial Session to make that happen. Recently, the Shriners International Board of Directors unanimously approved an item that has significant financial impact to all temples. In light of paying out a substantial amount for travel and per diem associated with the session, the Board decided to give some of that saving back to the temples. If you are not aware of the one-time rebate, please contact me immediately. Thank you for all that you have done for our great Fraternity and Philanthropy. My Lady Cheryl and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Wow! What a year 2020 has become. I am sure no one imagined our lives would change so dramatically. My thoughts continue to be with you and your shrine families during these unprecedented times. Many temples have restarted daily operations, only to have a positive case of CoVid shut them down again. I know we at Arab have started and stopped bingo three times.

During these past 6 months, our brothers across the Midwest sustained damages to property due to extremely high winds. Our brothers in the southeastern United States experienced damages to their property and some of our Shrine centers have as well due to flooding. Brothers on the west coast have battled forest fires since July and the destruction is devastating. However, we as Shriners are a resilient bunch. Our Masonic beliefs call for Brotherhood and Relief to Others. Please reach out to all your members and touch base. Everyone could use cheering up through a phone call, e-