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March 24, 2020

Fellow Nobles and Ladies,

First and foremost, I hope each of you and your family are safe and healthy.

This year has become an extreme challenge for all of us, for reasons we never expected. The COVID-19 Coronavirus has altered our outlook of the world around us, and our believe that we can control our lives and surroundings. The Federal and State Governments have issued State of Emergency orders, which have placed many restrictions on our daily routines. Now Michigan, and several other States, has issued a Stay in Place order which further restricts our routine. These changes have been enacted to slow and reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. While we may resent these restrictions on our personal mobility, the Governments are putting in place initiatives to protect the health and well being of the people – us! These restrictions are placing increased financial hardships on many businesses and individuals. Small, local businesses have had to close, many people have been laid off. Many of these businesses and jobs will never return.

At Elf Khurafeh Shrine we are closely monitoring the situation and rapidly changing directives. Between the Federal and State laws, and Grand Lodge and Shrine directives, we have had to alter, change, postpone, and cancel all our events. All Shrine events – Temple, Unit, or Club – are cancelled through May 3, 2020. This includes meetings, fundraising events, and parades. Circus Park and Saginaw Shriners Hall are closed. All Elf Khurafeh Shrine employees have been laid off until May 3, 2020. Betty and Clarence have volunteered to stop by the office periodically to ensure all essential business is taken care of. Please do not try to call or visit either hall during this time. All hospital transportation is cancelled, except pre-approved hospital emergencies.

At this time the following events are still scheduled:

1. Ladies Luncheon, May 16, 2020 at Circus Park. Contact Connie Arnould 810-397-3361, Donna Storms 810-240-5749 or Joyce Bowles 989-743-5224 for tickets and details.
2. Shriners' Run 5K, June 6, 2020 at Circus Park. Contact Jeff Downing 810-347-1586, or Laura Downing 810-341-3490 for details and information.
3. Sportsman's Raffle, June 21, 2020 at Circus Park. Contact Phil Brack 810-577-3316 for details and NEW TICKETS. All currently sold tickets will be included in the raffle, but new sells must be the new tickets.
4. Bikes and Bands, July 11, 2020 at Circus Park. Contact Denver Moore 810-280-0289 for details.

These events are subject to change depending on Coronavirus updates and future directives issued by governments, Grand Lodge or Shriners International.

Please everyone, be careful! Limit your exposure to potential contacts. Be considerate of others, many people suffer from conditions that worsen by these trying times. Keep in touch, by phone, with family and friends, and others who may be at risk. With technology we can facetime, skype, or video conference with friends to limit feelings of isolation. Remember as anxiety increases, tempers shorten. Both of those around us, and ours. Be considerate and thoughtful of others. Finally, do not panic buy or hoard. Only purchase what you and your household will consume in one to two weeks. There are many other families that need the same essential supplies as you. The grocery stores are restocking their shelves as quickly as they can, but are having trouble keeping up with demand, so be considerate of others.

Stay connected with EKShrine on our Temple website, Facebook, Instagram, and email. We will be updating Temple status and events frequently. These times will test each of us. But, by our Masonic teachings, our beliefs, and trust in God, we shall survive and come out stronger on the other side.

May God watch over and protect each of you.

John E Arnould
Potentate 2020
Elf Khurafeh Shrine