

The M. W. Grand Lodge of Arkansas



Free and Accepted Masons

Dr. Jarrod R. Adkisson
Grand Master

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To: All Master Masons of Arkansas
To: All Subordinate Lodges in Arkansas
To: All Appendant Masonic Bodies in Arkansas

At the 139th Imperial Session of Shriners International legislation was passed by the Imperial Shrine representatives eliminating the Masonic prerequisite for Shrine membership in the State of Arkansas. This action is only effective in Arkansas and allows non-Masons to become Shriners. Masonic membership is still prerequisite for Shrine membership in other parts of the world. It has come to my attention that Arkansas Master Masons are being solicited to join the Shrine in Arkansas given this recent ruling.

Brethren let me make this very clear. The Grand Lodge of Arkansas' position in regards to Shrine International has not changed. Shrine International is not recognized in the Grand Jurisdiction of Arkansas. Arkansas Masons are not permitted to fraternally associate or communicate with, or be a member of any club, temple, center, or other subordinate body of the Imperial Shrine. Furthermore, according to past decisions affirmed by the delegates of this Grand Lodge, to do so constitutes the penalty of expulsion from our Fraternity. The recent decision by Imperial Shrine only affirms our original position of protecting our members from clandestine communication with suspended or expelled Masons – and now non-Masons.

If an Arkansas Mason wishes to join the Shrine and you are a Master Mason only in the Grand Jurisdiction of Arkansas – you will need to self-expel from Masonry in order to avoid violation of Masonic Law and resulting Masonic trial for violation of your Masonic obligations.

Other Grand Lodges are sending out communications to their membership stating that Arkansas Shriners cannot sit in Shrine meetings in their Grand Jurisdiction; and that they will be checking for a current Blue Lodge dues card. They are effectively safeguarding their membership as we have done.

Again – let me make this perfectly clear. Per the decisions of the delegates of this Grand Lodge – no Arkansas Mason may be a member of the Shrine. Nothing has changed.

Fraternally,

M.:W.: Jarrod R. Adkisson, MD
Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas