

# \$300,003 Sneakers?

By HERMES BOYATIS

**P**RESENT on the floor at the Imperial Session of the International Shrine Clown Association in Anaheim, California in 2007 was our world's top clown, **Rollo Pearlstein**, serving as master-of-ceremonies that day, in addition to his other roles.

Your interviewer and Aleppo Hospitals, doctors, nurses, children, and volunteers have witnessed his achievements for years. His role that day in Anaheim was two-fold: a major donation and a remarkable award.

A check for \$300,003 from the ISCA's (International Shrine Clown Association) Sneaker Fund was presented at the convention's General Assembly to the Imperial Potentate **Nicholas Thomas** and Imperial Sir **Ralph Semb**, Chairman of Shriners Hospitals for Children, as well as the Imperial Officers and the Divans of North America. Pearlstein, treasurer and imperial liaison, noted that the check is to be used for burns research in our Shriners Hospitals.

Ernie's second presentation was to **Matt "Dusty" Brodeur** of the Aleppo Temple Clown Unit. "I am so pleased," he said, "that another member of our esteemed unit has reached such a level in such a short time. I have witnessed his dedication to our Shriners' goals in his first competition!" He added, "ME is not important. It is Matt's award."

Asked his plans for the future, including of course, his care for his beloved wife and family: "To recruit more people in clowning and more competitions. When our country and the entire world are in deep gloom from fires, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and war, we need a little laughter more than ever!"

We thank you, Rollo. Keep clowning and making everyone laugh with you!



A CHECK PRESENTATION in the amount of \$300,003.00 to the Imperial Potentate Nicholas Thomas; Imperial Sir Ralph Semb, Chairman of Shriners Hospitals for Children, as well as the Imperial Officers and the Divans of North America. This check was requested by Imperial Headquarters to be presented by the International Shrine Clown Association Officers at the convention's General Assembly. These funds were raised in 2006 by the members of the International Shrine Clown Association.

Left to right: Two Clowns; Ken "Grimmee" Taylor President; Sanford "Ootz" Morris, Past President 2006; Ernest "Rollo" Pearlstein, Past President, Treasurer, Imperial Liaison; Imperial Sir Nicholas Thomas, Imperial Potentate; Ralph "Little Rascal" Semb, Past Imperial Potentate, and current Chairman of the Board, Shriners Hospitals For Children.

## Getting Illuminated About the Lighting Unit

.....from page 1

outside of the actual work in the auditorium, we're probably a good fit." In short, the Lighting Unit is more focused on event-related work, and less on social and parade events. The only cost to a member is for the uniform.

So how qualified do you have to be? Al Potter continues, "Many people think you need to be a professional lighting technician or a certified electrician to work with us. However, lighting and electricity are not the same things, meaning that skill in one does not mean having skill in the other. Therefore, we are happy to do a lot of on-the-job training, and we also have an educational newsletter that is sent out to the members. We are constantly educating and improving ourselves when it comes to lighting."

The Lighting Unit currently has 17 members, and is always looking for more people. It's a good way to get involved in an essential role, and learn something at the same time. For more information, drop by the Lighting office in the mezzanine during any Shrine event or call Al Potter at 978-304-3030.



## Aleppo's Military Men: The Legion of Honor

.....from page 1

As a newer unit, the Legion had to show that it was needed and productive, and thereby developed its credibility through visibility and a high level of activity – according to Past Commander **Dan Schuldman**, "the Legion of Honor is represented at every Shrine event, and is very active." The unit holds meetings from September to June on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, and marches in every parade during the parade season.

Every Legion has its own uniform, and ours uses a modified Navy uniform with a white shoulder cord

and ascot. Formerly, the unit also had white belts, but has since changed over to khaki. Members are permitted to wear a shoulder patch denoting either their branch of service or their unit, as well as any medals received during their service. As active military service or honorable discharge is a prerequisite to join, DD-214 forms must be presented as part of the application process.

Anyone interested in joining can stop by the Aleppo office to ask for an application, or stop by the recruiting table at any Ceremonial, or next time you see one of the members... ask.

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