

New Blue Lodge at Aleppo pending dispensation Proposed as “Scimitar Lodge A.F. & A.M.”

Nobles,

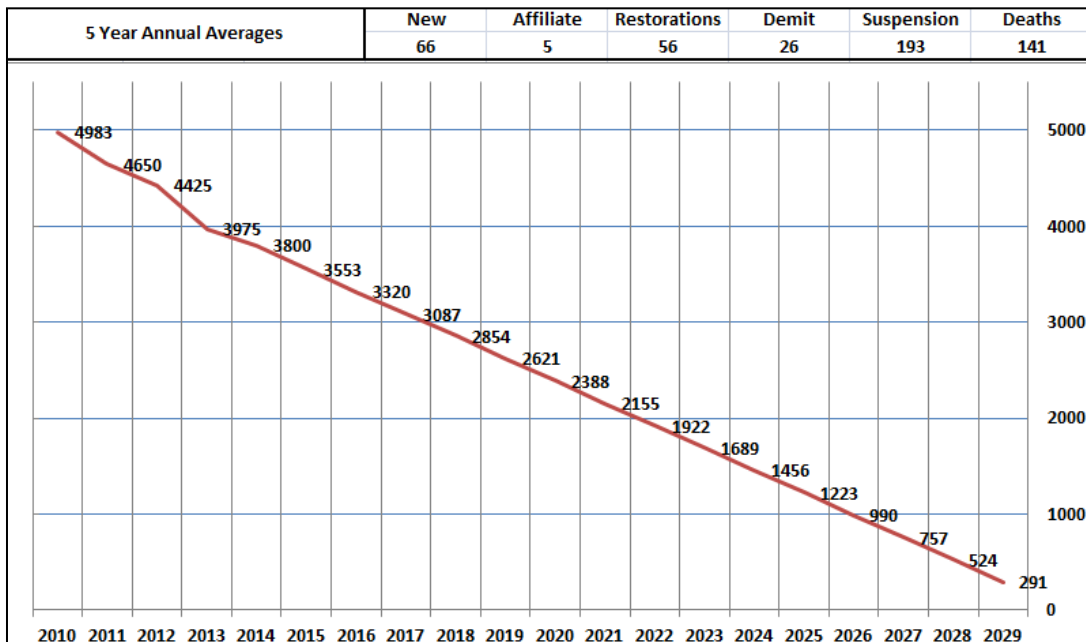
We have an exciting opportunity as Nobles of Aleppo Shrine. We are hoping you will endorse and become involved in a New Blue Lodge located in the Aleppo Shrine Center.

Why a New Blue Lodge at Aleppo? Here is some background information.

Aleppo’s Membership Committee actively works on retention, reinstatement, and recruitment. Efforts in retention and reinstatement have done very well. However, new candidate numbers have been disappointing and our membership continues to decline at an alarming rate.

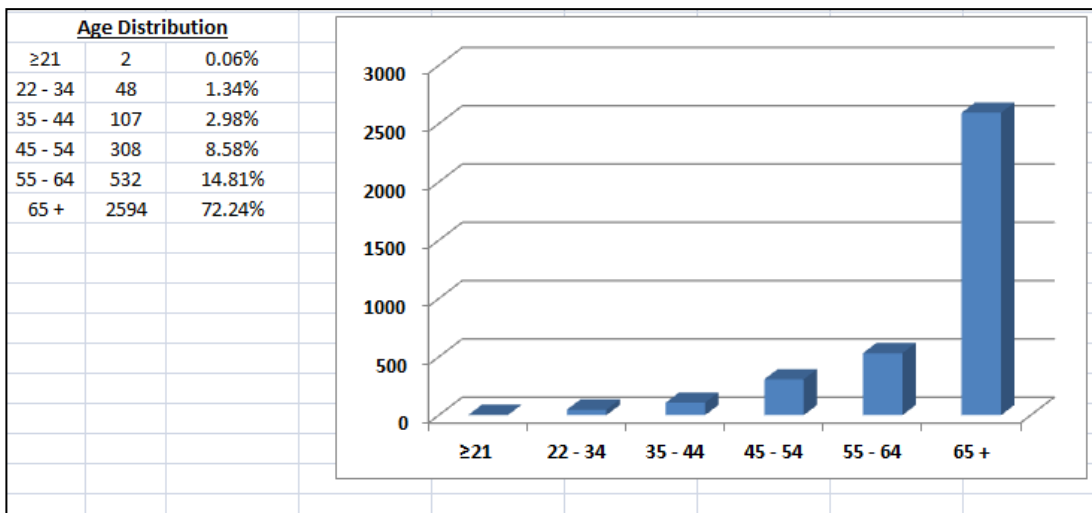
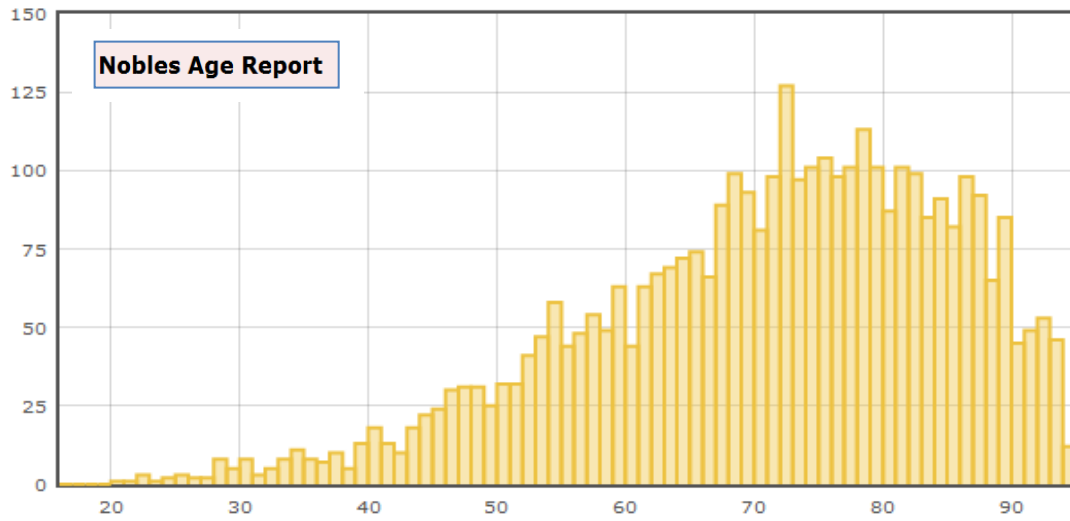


Using actual annual averages from Jan “10” – Jan “15”, this is where our membership is headed.



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With our Nobility ever increasing in age, new membership is vital to the wellbeing of Aleppo.

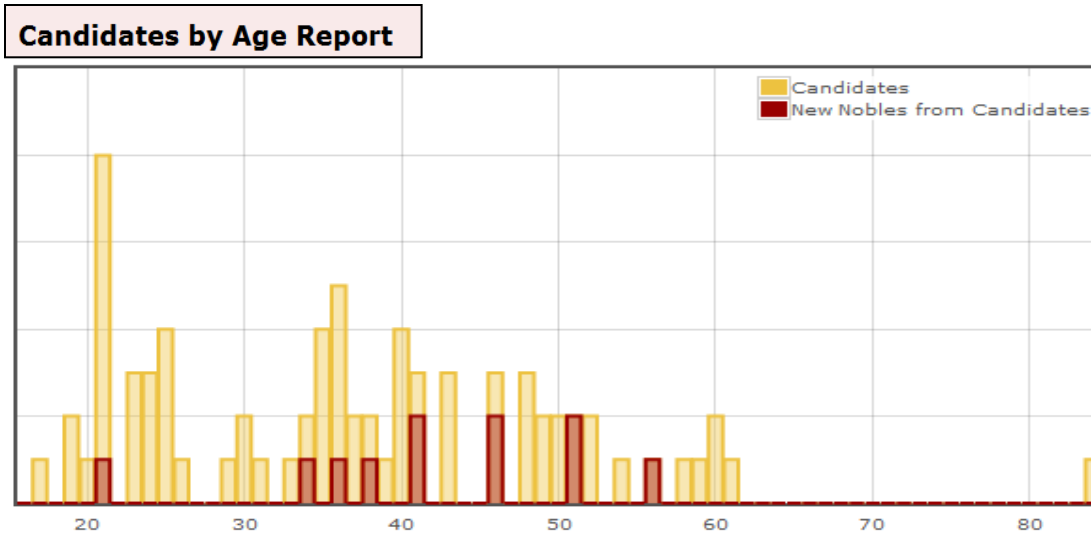


Recruitment efforts include responding to inquiries we receive from the Shriners Village www.beashrinenow.com web site. Each inquiry is assigned a Mentor, who becomes that potential candidate’s personal contact, answers any questions he may have, and helps him through the process of joining Aleppo.

If the inquiry is from a non-Mason, the Mentor provides an introduction to the Craft, explains he must become a Master Mason, identifies names and contacts of lodges in his area, and refers him to the Grand Lodge website to assist in finding a lodge and for additional insight into Freemasonry. The Mentor offers to arrange contacts along with any assistance he may need or request in joining a lodge. To date these efforts have not be effective.

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Aleppo has received 194 such inquiries, of which 176 or approximately 90% were from men who are non-Masons and none have become Shriners. 18 out of 194 have gone on to be members at Aleppo, all of which were already Master Masons.



The Candidates by Age Report shows the majority of the Shriners Village inquiries are coming from younger men, many who may have families. Our lack of success in getting new Aleppo members from this group of non-Masons may be that the potential candidate gets discouraged by having to join a Blue Lodge at one location, get to know its members; before joining the Shrine at yet another location and meeting a different group of members.

By having a Blue Lodge residing within Aleppo Shrine Center, a prospective candidate would progress through two organizations but at the same location and for the most part with the same group of men to attain his goal of becoming a Shriner. This would also allow his Mentor to be his single point of contact to help guide him through Blue Lodge and Aleppo initiation.

By providing a simpler path to the Shrine for non-Masons;

- Freemasonry and Aleppo membership roles have a better chance to increase.
- The Shriner, who was raised in the New Blue Lodge and resides some distance from Wilmington, might be inspired from his experience and affiliates with a lodge near his home, becomes active there as well and promotes the Shrine among its members.
- A Shrine interest may be sparked in Brethren coming to Fraternal and Official Visits, meetings and lodge functions by being exposed to Aleppo’s facilities.

The plan is for the New Blue Lodge to rent space in the Aleppo Shrine Center for a lodge room, candidate prep area, storage and the use of dining facilities.

A complete set of Lodge furniture has been obtained at no cost for this purpose. Regalia, degree work and lodge essentials will be purchased or acquired. The cost of all will be at the expense of the New Blue Lodge. No Aleppo funds will be expended on this endeavor.

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A rental agreement has been reached with the Aleppo Activities Corporation for the New Blue Lodge. The Lodge will be responsible for cleaning the aforementioned areas after each meeting. This agreement will be in writing.

The area to be used will be the Wilson Room. The use of the Wilson Room will not negate any rental income as this room is used on a gratis basis. Lodge meeting and rehearsal nights have been selected when there is no unit activity in the building.

The Wilson Room will allow additional seating when necessary. When not in use, furniture can be moved and consolidated exposing more floor space for other purposes if needed. It will accommodate the New Lodge Room essentially as is and will not interfere with any other areas. Minor lighting will be added as well as a doorway paid for by the Lodge.

By-Laws have been written and will be submitted to the Grand Lodge Charters & By-laws Committee for review prior to submitting a final draft. A budget has been established, the results of which have determined the fees stated below.

As per the Grand Constitution Section 300, "Dispensations to establish new Lodges may be issued by the Grand Master, or by the Grand Lodge on petition of not less than twenty-five affiliated Master Masons of known skill and good standing." Membership will be open to Shriners as well as Blue Lodge Masons who are not Shriners. The New Blue Lodge will be an autonomous organization separate from the Shrine.

Details of the New Lodge Pending Dispensation are as follows;

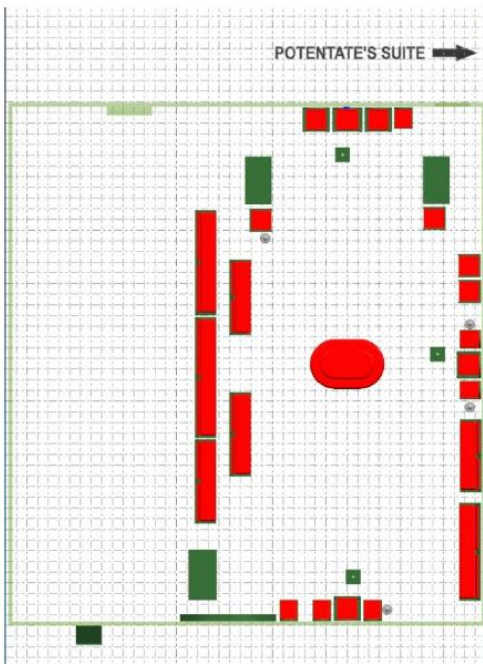
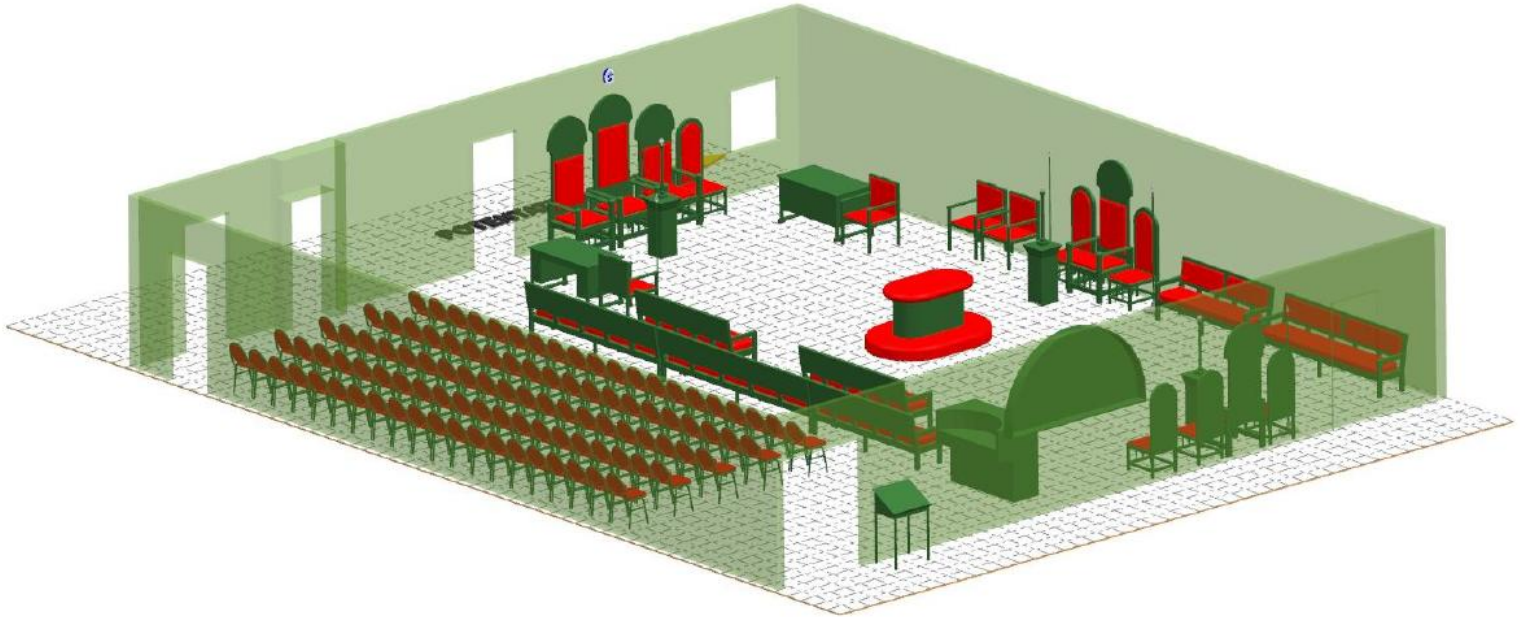
1. Lodge Name: "Scimitar Lodge A.F. & A.M."
2. The lodge will meet monthly on the second Wednesday, July and August excepted
3. Charter Member Fee: \$750.00 (as a Charter Member, future dues will be waived)
4. Candidate Initiation Fee: \$250.00
5. Lodge Annual Dues: \$75.00, adjusted annually per the CPI to the nearest higher dollar
6. Lodge Affiliation Fee: The then current annual dues at time of affiliation
7. Lodge Opening: 6:30 PM

There will be a meeting for those interested in becoming a Charter Member or Affiliate Member on Wednesday May 13, 2015 in the "Harvey J. Waugh" Fez Room at Aleppo at 7:00 PM to discuss and answer any questions you may have along with plans going forward. In the mean time, if you have questions or an interest in becoming part of this unique opportunity, you can contact Harlan Woods at hlwoods5@verizon.net.

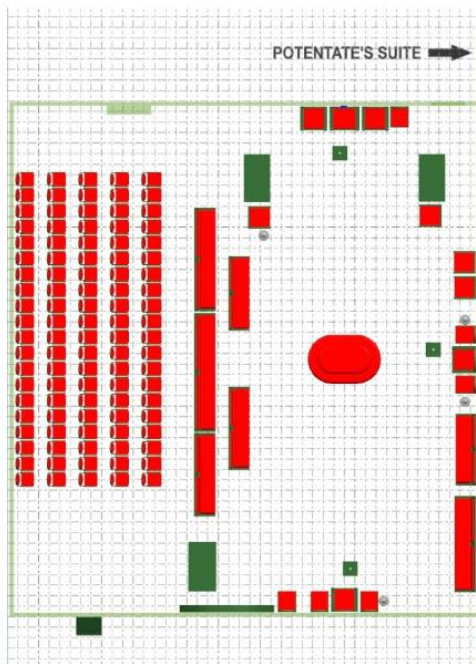
A point of interest; The Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, MW Harvey J. Waugh, supports this proposed New Blue Lodge and wishes to be a Charter Member.

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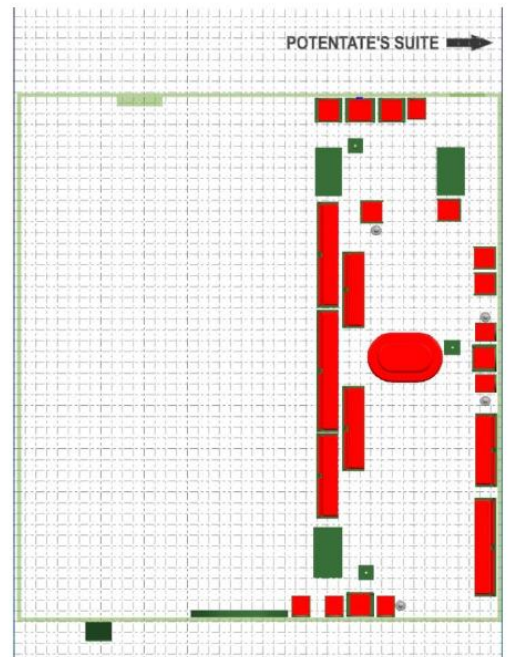
Wilson Room



Lodge Floor Plan



Additional seating
for 100



Consolidated
Floor Plan