

August 12th 2023
Beja Shrine Temple
Green Bay Wisconsin

2023 International Hillbilly Convention Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Imperial Raban Don Cox at 10:08 AM

Opening prayer was given by Tommy Purvice.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Robert Bailey

Reading of the minutes, A motion was made to suspend reading of the minutes because they are available on line. Motion passed.

The financial report was given by Imperial Keeper of the Cob Roger Morgan.

Imperial Guardian of the Still Jody Vaughters gave a report on the store. He discussed the need to increase the price of shipping. After some discussion, it was decided to charge the cost of goods plus shipping.

Imperial Raban Don Cox introduced the new US Ambassador Matt Porter. He stated that he had no record of previous Ambassadors and if anyone wished to serve as an Ambassador in their local area to contact Matt.

US Ambassador Matt Porter thanked the Imperial for the opportunity to serve and that he traveled a lot and might be able to visit a lot of Clans. He also wanted to share some of Clan 189's fundraiser ideas. If anyone needed him to call anytime.

The Imperial ask for a moment of silent prayer for our Canadian Ambassador Ron Harrison who had suffered a fall and was unable to attend.

The Imperial spoke about the situation that arose at last years convention with the members of Clan 82 in Charleston SC and what had transpired since that time. After several attempts and a trip to Charleston to try and rectify the situation, it was decided to pull the charter from Clan 82 due to bylaw infractions. Several Outhouses wished to remain with the us so another Clan was chartered to cover the geographical area of Omar Temple. The new Clan is Clan 189, the Palmetto Clan.

Robert Bailey, the Raban of Clan 189 also spoke about all that had transpired in SC. The new Clan is doing great things for the children at the Shriners Childrens Greenville Hospital with a donation last year of over 55,000 dollars and their plans to donate 100,000 this year.

Old Business

No discussion was held.

New Business

Another discussion was held on allowing others that are not married to a Hillbilly and a member in good standing of the Shrine and a Blue Lodge to join our ladies auxiliary. Pros and Cons were presented by several individuals. No vote was taken due to no advance notice on a bylaw change.

A discussion was held about our website, Imperialshrinehillbillies.com. Most all info or forms needed are on the site as well as contact info for the Imperial Officers. Some are having trouble with PayPal. May try using Venmo as well.

Gene Reese thanked everyone for coming to the convention and ask everyone to try to spread the word to others during the year to try to attend next years convention.

Several members discussed ways to bring in new members as well as extending the Clans to Latin American countries.

Matt Porter spoke about a friend that may be able to build us a website just for the conventions.

Future Conventions

Hillbilly Clan 67 of Boumi Temple in Baltimore Maryland will be hosting the 2024 International Hillbilly Convention.

Clan 69 of Al Malaikah Temple in Los Angeles California will host in 2025

Palmetto Clan 189 of South Carolina will host in 2026

Clan 149 of Tunis Temple in Ontario Canada ask to be considered for 2027

Awards

Clan traveling the farthest, Clan 69 from Los Angeles

Clan with the most members present at the meeting, Clan 149 from Ottawa Canada with 9 members present.

Hillbilly of the year, Bruce Mulligan of Clan 67 Baltimore Maryland.

Imperial Raban Don Cox thanked the members of Clan 181 and Beja Temple for hosting a wonderful convention.

Tommy Purvis spoke about his experience of meeting an older hillbilly years ago in Pikeville Kentucky and how the old man talked about the Hillbillies and what they did. He said he could not wait to get back home and join the Masons and Shriners so he could become a Hillbilly!

Matt Porter spoke about the Hillbilly Revival being put on by Clan 189 on October 28th in Cross South Carolina. Everyone is welcome to attend. He also spoke about reaching out to younger Shriners and making it fun for them to become Hillbillies and want to get involved in our fundraising efforts for the kids.

A moment of silence was held for Mrs. Debbie Cox, wife of Imperial Raban Don Cox, who passed away earlier this year.

Closing prayer was given by Tommy Purvis

Meeting was closed by Imperial Don Cox

Respectfully submitted by
Roger Morgan
Imperial Keeper of the Cob