

2011 CSSA BUSINESS SESSION

Nobles, I bring you greetings from the 1264 members of the Central States Association of Shrine Motor Corps, the largest Motorized Association in the Shrine of North America. I am Brad Waite, Past President and current Secretary of the Motor Corp. At this time I would like to introduce to you the Officers of the Motor Corp in attendance today. First we have our President John Lynch of India, 1st Vice President Ron Harvey of Ararat, 2nd Vice President David Zika of Moolah, 3rd Vice President Illustrious Sir David G. David of India and Organizer Wayne Jones, Jr. of El Kahir.

The Motor Corp Competition starts on Friday morning usually around 7:30 and winds up around 2:00 in the afternoon. Friday evening we hold our Annual Awards Banquet where Units are awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies in each class of competition along with 8 traveling trophies. Attendance at the Awards Banquet is usually between 700-1000 attendees.

We offer several types of competition for any type of Shrine parade vehicle, and all members may participate in any or all types of Competition. Types of competition are Competitive Drill, Obstacle Course, Show Cars, Show Bikes, and Slow Ride.

Competitive Drill consists of Units doing different drill maneuvers on a 150'x300' field. Each Unit has between 5 and 10 minutes to complete their drill. Each Unit starts with 100 points and points are deducted according to the score sheet. There are no mandatory maneuvers and each Unit makes up their own drill. Competitive drill is broken down into 8 classes for two wheelers according to engine size, and classes for 32 Roadster Cars, Mini T's, Mini Indy Cars, 3 Wheel Small, Three Wheel Large, and 3 classes of 4 Wheelers according to engine size and a Novelty Class. The Novelty Class is what we refer to the "none of the above class" and usually consists of parade vehicles such as airplanes, boats, combines, bowling pins and barstools. First, second and third place trophies are awarded in each class. In order to complete competition in a reasonable time, the classes are separated on two different drill fields and a traveling trophy is awarded to the Unit with the highest score on each field.

The Motor Corp has two obstacle courses, one for two wheelers and one for multi wheeled vehicles and the courses change each year. Each course offers the same 17 classes as Competitive Drill. Each Unit may ride as many members as they wish and the two fastest times are combined for a Unit score. First, second, and third place trophies are awarded in each class along with traveling trophies to the individuals with the fastest time in the two wheel classes, the three wheel classes, and the four wheel classes.

The Motor Corp also has a slow ride competition which is designed for two wheel vehicles only. This is a designed course where the object is to stay on the course as long as possible without putting your foot down or crossing any of the boundary lines. One traveling trophy is awarded to the individual rider who scores the highest time.

Show Car Competition is divided into six classes: Antique Cars, Modified, Commercial Convertibles, Sports Car, and Special Interest. Each Unit can enter as many cars as they like in any or all classes. Each vehicle is individually scored with all scores for each Unit added and averaged in each class for a Unit score. First, second, and third place trophies are awarded in each class along with a traveling trophy for the Unit with the highest score of the day.

Show Bike Competition started in 2004 with only a few entries and has now grown to three classes: Touring, Non Touring, and Custom. The judging is done around 11:00 to allow those members in Competitive Drill and Obstacle Course an opportunity to enter their bikes along with those who choose not to enter other competitions. Each bike is scored individually with the unit scores added and averaged as in the Show Cars. First, second, and third place trophies are awarded in each class.

If anyone has been doing the math as I went along, that is a possible 129 trophies plus traveling trophies. Although we have never awarded 129 trophies, the count is usually is around 80-85 per year. Last year we had to retire two high point trophies because of lack of space for names of new winners. New trophies were made to accommodate previous winners along with space for new winners for years

to come. One of the old trophies has been refurbished and will become a new traveling trophy, called a Potentate's Award. Points could be awarded to each Temple according to number of Units and participants in Competition, points for trophies awarded, possibly for number of attendees at the Awards Banquet and possible bonus points awarded for each Divan Officer in Competition with the highest point award for participating Potentates. The Motor Corp encourages its Officers to compete with their Units and Competition times are scheduled around the specific duties. For several years the Sesostris Divan competed in the Convertible class of Show Car Competition and times were scheduled convenient for their schedules. Last year we had an Imperial Officer and the host Potentate in Competition and times were scheduled around their activities. So don't let a little thing like your schedule keep you from being a participant. With advance notice we can set your Unit's time around your schedule.

But that's enough about the Motor Corp. The next thing I want to address is Central States Shrine Association itself. Later today you will hear a report on the recent Ceremonial in Oklahoma City. It will have attendance figures and will probably be noted that attendance is down again. There is a direct relationship between overall attendance and Competition participation. As Competition decreases, so does overall attendance. Central States Shrine Association is dying a slow death. I don't need reports to know that. I see it from attending 35 consecutive CSSA Ceremonials. Although the Motor Corp has maintained its membership numbers and participation, other Associations are struggling, and may soon cease to have Competition and completely disappear. Imagine a CSSA without any Competition. There won't be a market place because vendors will not come if they can't make money. There won't be much of a parade. All you will have left is another counterpart dinner, and you won't need three days for that. If Competition ceases to exist, so will CSSA. The easiest and most convenient reason for decline in attendance is the decline in membership the Shrine has had for many years. This is true, but only to a certain extent. Several times a year I take time to read the numerous monthly publications each Temple has. I pay particular attention to Unit articles. Most Shrine Temples have Units that could participate in most forms of Competition but do not. Sometimes when talking with these individuals we hear that they don't compete because of what they heard about some requirements, or from what so and so said. Most of the time what they hear is far from the truth.

It appears that Communication with CSSA and its Associations is somewhat in chaos. According to CSSA By-Laws, each year every Association is required to furnish to the Secretary of CSSA the names, addresses and phone numbers of all their Officers. I have noticed that several Associations do not even try to comply in a very timely manner. On the other hand, the CSSA Officers make no attempt to get them to comply or seek out that information, thus no Association receives any information.

Without this very basic communication from the leadership to the membership, Shrinedom will continue to decline.

Several months ago, the Motor Corp approached President Sievers with the idea of hosting the hospitality room for his Business Session for two reasons. First, that the Associations should have a share in the responsibility of insuring the success of CSSA. Second that it would serve as a way to be able to start improving communication with various Temple Officers about their particular activities and provide them with information to take to their Units and help promote Competition at CSSA. Both rooms are open to everyone and are on the ninth floor just as you get off the elevators, rooms 901 & 933. Representatives from Associations in attendance will be glad to talk to anyone on their organization activities.

Any one who wants to start business and goes out and leases an office, buys a nice desk and chair then just sits behind that desk and expect everyone to come to him will be bankrupt in no time, and will likely blame someone or something else for his failure. The person who goes out and seeks his customers, and then works to keep them will likely be successful. Hope to see all of you in the hospitality room.