

Circus Park  
Clio Michigan  
August 13<sup>th</sup> 2022  
0900

## International Hillbilly Convention 2022

Meeting was called to order by Imperial Raban Don Cox

Opening Prayer was given by cousin Tommy Pervis

The pledge of allegiance was led by Imperial Raban Don Cox

Motion was made to suspend the reading of the minutes from the previous years meeting because they are available to be read on the International Shrine Hillbilly website

A financial and membership report was given by Imperial Keeper of the Cob Roger Morgan. He ask that all Clans review the report handed out to them and if their Clan was not current with their reports, please send them in. They can be sent by email, US mail or the website. All of the information to send reports is available on the website.

We have a reported increase in membership for 2021 of 149 new members bringing the total number of cousins to ever receive the Hillbilly Degree to 81,501.

We also have a reported donation for 2021 of 240,196 dollars, bringing our total contributions to the Shriners Hospitals for Children and our local Transportation Funds to 13,084,406 dollars.

Imperial Guardian of the Still Jody Vaughters gave a report on the Imperial Store. Everything is running well but he ask when writing checks you make them out to Grand and Glorious.

US Ambassador CA Gatlin reported that he had made no new Ambassadors during the past year and that we needed to discuss the appointments of Past Ambassadors.

Canadian Ambassador Ron Harrison reported he had connected with Tunis Temple and was getting things up and running again.

Webmaster Potentate Jeff Downing gave a report that the website was up and running. He thanked his wife for taking care of it for us and welcomed new articles or pictures or anything the Clans would like to post.

## Old Business

There was no old business

## New Business

Imperial Guardian of the Still Jody Vaughters read an amendment to the bylaws concerning Ladies auxiliaries. The new bylaws were approved by the Imperial Officers and are effective immediately. They may be found in the bylaw section of the website.

Imperial Keeper of the Cob Roger Morgan spoke about the Imperial Shrine new rules on hazing. We have discussed our own degree work

and our asking all Clans and Outhouses to trim back on what we are doing. Do not allow any foreign material to contact anyones head that may migrate into their eyes. No more placing buckets with foreign material upon the heads of new cousins We are trying to be proactive and avoid any legal action that may come up in the future.

US Ambassador CA Gatlin was ask to try and explain a problem that had come up the night before with members of Clan 82, Omar Temple. A lengthy discussion followed including many items. Some of which were members having no voting rights, Hillbilly Clan 82 having separate bylaws from the Imperial bylaws, A 30 member Hillbilly Clan 82 Degree Team that serves as a unit at Omar Temple, Allowing only 30 members to belong to an Outhouse, along with several questions on Financial matters, use of facilities, frequency of Clan meetings and other problems.

During the conversation, Billy Edens, Keeper of the Cob of Clan 82 stated he did not care how many members an outhouse had and they had the rite to vote at Clan 82 meetings.

In conclusion, Imperial Raban Don Cox reiterated that a Clan or Outhouse may have as many members as it desires and that ALL members of an Outhouse have the right to vote at their own Outhouse meetings as well as meetings held by their Clan of affiliation. ALL members of a Clan may vote at meetings of their Clan of affiliation. No Clan can run a Unit and no Unit can Run a Clan. All funds raised by Hillbillies must be turned in to the Shriners Hospitals for Children or the Transportation Fund at their Temple of affiliation.

Cousin Gene Reece from Packerland Clan 181 and Beja Shrine Temple, Green Bay Wisconsin, gave a wonderful presentation on next years convention. It will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The yearly award presented to the Clan with the most members present at the meeting was given to Clan 75 from Zenobia Temple Perrysburg Oh.

The award presented to the cousin that had traveled the farthest went to Billy Edens from Clan 82 Omar Temple Charleston SC.

The award for Hillbilly Of The Year went to cousin Ray McFarlin of Clan 1 El Hasa Temple Ashland Ky.

The Imperial Officers thanked all of Clan 55 of Elf Khurafeh Temple and their Potentate, Illustrious Jeff Downing, for hosting a wonderful convention. We all had a great time!

Closing Prayer was given by cousin Tommy Purvis

Being no further business, the meeting was closed by Imperial Raban Don Cox.

Respectfully Submitted

Roger Morgan

Imperial Keeper of the Cob