

# Potentate's Remarks



Lady Darlene and I are looking forward to representing WA WA as your Potentate and First Lady for 2012. Our thanks to all who made the Annual General Meeting and the Divan Installation Weekend such a resounding success. Mere words are insufficient to thank our ambassadors who are now known as the Pote's Pit Crew (who in real life bear a striking resemblance to the Nobles and Ladies of the T-Bird Patrol). Special thanks to the Pipes & Drums for helping us to find our tables and the Drum Corps for the outstanding Sunday morning breakfast.

Sunday breakfast would not have been complete without 'The Serving of the Fogs'. Lady Darlene and I were absolutely pleased to have Lady Margaret Bachynski supervising the work crew led by Ill Sir Stu MacLachlan, PP.

This will be an extremely challenging year where fiscal responsibility with transparent accounting procedures shall lead the way. Paramount to WA WA's future is the continuing importance of increasing our membership for as we all know, without a vibrant and growing membership the work of the world's greatest philanthropy will cease to exist in Saskatchewan.

Key to moving forward is effective communication both within and without the Temple. Recent efforts to provide the nobility with increased information has started producing positive results. While internal communications will continue to be of great importance, so too is the need to increase public awareness of what WA WA Shriners are all about and to spread the news of our good work. Ill Sir Don McDougall-PP has been appointed as Director of Communications. This position will encompass all the duties associated to Ill Sir Don's role as Public Relations Director with a focus on external communications.

Your 2012 Divan will continue to advance the great work in progress, building on the foundation of progressive change carefully delineated by previous Divans, who proposed and implemented forward looking programs. Essential for WA WA's continued success is the cooperation and reinvigorated commitment of all Nobles and Ladies.

Divan has moved away from the concept of focusing on the newly elected Potentate's management style for the year, to reflecting an inclusive style associated to a board of directors and to demonstrating the very best in teamwork. Having acknowledged this positive change, the role of the Potentate as 'chairman of the board' should not be diminished. The Potentate must still provide leadership. The Potentate must provide a positive forum for discussion, for exploration of dissenting opinions, and must stimulate productive debate. Ill Sir Bevin Leipert provided that leadership during 2011. He and Lady Vi provided the atmosphere for constructive change. Thank you Ill Sir Bevin and Lady Vi for your dedication, you have set a high standard to follow.

On behalf of your Divan, I am very pleased to announce that Ill Sir Bevin has consented for his name to go forward as WA WA's representative on the Canadian Hospital's Board of Directors. This is a personal commitment of time and resources which speaks to the level of dedication required to undertake such an important role. Our heartfelt thanks to Ill Sir Bevin.

WA Wa has lots of room for new members. The financial condition of the Patient Transportation Fund presents a wonderful opportunity to provide our unique care to more Saskatchewan children in need. May we all have a healthy and prosperous New Year as WA WA continues its' 101st year. The motor is running, let's Drive WA WA's Future together!

Fraternally,  
Ill Sir John & Lady Darlene Clarke