

## Shriners Hospital for Children—Springfield Welcomes New Board Chairman *Frank Preble, PP, Kora Shrine*

SHRINERS Hospitals for Children® in Springfield, Massachusetts welcomes **Frank R. Preble, P.P.** as the new Chairman of the Hospital's Board of Governors. Mr. Preble of Auburn, Maine has been a board member since 2003 and most recently served as Vice Chairman from 2007 through 2009. Mr. Preble, who has been a Shriner for 25 years, will serve a three-year term as Chairman. The hospital's board members are made up of Shriners from 17 Shrine Centers located throughout New England and Upstate New York.

Mr. Preble is a member of the Kora Shriners of Lewiston, Maine and served as its Potentate in 2001, thirty years after his father served in the same capacity. His Masonic career began in 1984 and in 1992 he served as



Master of his Blue Lodge. An active Scottish Rite Mason, he headed several bodies of the Rite in the Valley of the Androscoggin and was bestowed with the honorary 33rd degree by the Scottish Rite of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 2002. He joined Kora Temple in Lewiston, Maine in 1985 where he became one of the founding fathers of the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic. Frank continues to serve Kora as its Treasurer and as a member of its Executive Committee. Additionally, he served as an officer of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 2002 and 2003. He has also been a member of the Imperial Sports Committee for a number of years.

Frank has two children; **Jacob**, a 2009 graduate of Springfield College, and **Eliza** who is currently pursuing a degree from the New England Culinary Institute. He is Owner/President of Landfall Custom Tours in Auburn a diversified travel company.



## Aleppo Oriental Band

...from page 33

area, including Kwajalein Island, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. Bob was at all of them and performed admirably at all - the luck of the Irish side of the family was with him all the way. As a result of his actions, Bob received a Purple Heart for wounds received on Saipan and another Purple Heart for wounds he received on Iwo Jima. In addition, Bob received a field promotion and a Bronze Star for his actions on Iwo Jima. As for the field promotion - there are those who maintain that there was no one else left to accept the responsibilities - such was the intensity of battle there. But the truth is that even Bob's superiors at the time recognized his leadership abilities and were supportive of the well deserved promotion.

After the war, Bob returned to the States and was enrolled in Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico. By this time he was already an "old" man of 24 and the prospect of a lengthy career in the military was becoming increasingly less appealing. We suspect that the coming onto the stage of a certain young lady may have been a factor here as well. Bob left OCS and returned to the field of banking and, at roughly the same time, married Claire, who has been by his side for the past 64 years and who refers to Bob as "a great guy" of whom she says that she has "no complaints, whatsoever". Together they have one son and they are one of the most charming of couples that one can meet. They balance one another in a most interesting fashion and both share family and church interests and values. But the story doesn't end here.

Several years after returning to banking, a friend of Bob enticed him away from that profession and invited him to join an elevator company as a safety inspector. Something clearly pushed the right buttons here because Bob wound up spending 38 years with that company. During the course of this time, Bob had his share of "ups" and "downs" (sorry - couldn't resist) but he never got "shafted" (sorry - again!). It was also during this time that Bob begin his career in Masonry.

Bob joined Somerville Lodge and quickly moved through their ranks, becoming Master of the Lodge and then District Deputy during the terms of **MW**

**James** and **MW Vose**. Having done an impressive job as DD, Bob was elected Junior Grand Warden of Grand Lodge during the term of **MW Berquist** following which he received the Henry Price Medal and was also appointed a Grand Lecturer by **MW Richardson**. Bob has been a Grand Lecturer for over 25 years and has served as the Chairman of the Grand Lecturers for a significant amount of time during that period. If you have a question about Masonic Ritual - ask Bob (he's our Mikey of the band - remember Mikey? - if you weren't sure about the taste of anything, then you gave it to Mikey to try because Mikey liked everything. So, if you are not sure about some Masonic ritual or protocol, then ask Bob because he knows everything or, at least, he knows more than most do and he is most happy and gracious about sharing that knowledge). Bob is a member of essentially every Masonic body that you can think of and most of the appendant bodies as well. He is a member of the Scottish and York Rite Bodies and (obviously) Aleppo Shrine. He has served as Treasurer of the Scottish Rite Bodies. He is a 33rd Degree Mason and he is an avid golfer (undoubtedly yet another influence from his Scottish heritage).

In retirement, Bob is as active, if not more so, than before and occupies his time with family, church, civic, and fraternal responsibilities and as much golf as he can get in. He maintains deep loyalties and a sense of patriotism that has been carried down from his parents and his own experiences and recently had an opportunity to meet Tom Hanks at the premier of his Pacific series. When Claire was asked to try to define Bob's attributes, she too included his deep sense of family, church, craternity and patriotism (Bob is the embodiment

## ALEPPO PIPE BAND

By AL DODGE

TO begin my article, I would like to congratulate our newest Potentate, Illustrious **Jeffrey Arnold** and the Aleppo Temple Divan. It was unfortunate, due to a bout of bad health, that I failed to do so before now. From all of the members of the Aleppo Pipe Band: we stand tall and salute all these Nobles and wish them the very best and a rewarding year for all.

It is a pleasure to see and hear the practice chanters being played by the three newest members; Nobles **Andre H. Gebeau**, **Mark Barrett**, and **Jef Ross**, under the tutelage of retired P/M Noble **Richard N. Rehlander** and P/Sgt **Walter D. Harmer, Sr.** We look forward to hear from any Noble wishing to join this Unit.

Interesting Nobles may call one of the following Pipe Band members:

**Robert A. Wright** (Director) 781-393-0141

**Alan B. Archibald** (Drummer) 508-393-3416

P/Sgt **Walter D. Harmer, Sr.** 978-387-8671

**Albert A. Dodge, Sr.** (Piper) 978-667-7635

The practice sessions are held at the Aleppo Shrine Center on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, excluding holidays. Nobles P/Sgt **Robert L. MacNeil** and P/Sgt **Walter D. Harmer** answered the call to perform at the Potentate's Ball held at the Sheraton Framingham in February. Appropriate tunes were played for the "Piping In" of Illustrious **Jeffrey Arnold**. On a happy note (no pun intended), the performing Highlanders were paid their due with a wee dram and a toast with Illustrious **Arnold**.  
Slainte mhath!

GO DTI MUID BUAIL EILE



## Do you want to play the Bagpipe?

If you really want to learn to play the Bagpipe, the Aleppo Pipe Band has an offer for you. We can help you learn in the least time, at little cost. The only basic cost is the price of the practice chanter and your time. The Pipe Band supplies the information and a person to coach you on a weekly or bi-weekly period. You learn the rest at home.

Bagpipe teachers can be expensive, especially with four or more appointments a month. We will start you on the right path, and with daily practice, and weekly or by-weekly coaching, a surprising outcome will occur. You will now be able to play the practice chanter, read pipe notes (nine of them) and go on to the next level, learning the music. You will still need coaching at this level but it's part of the game.

You don't need the cost of a Bagpipe as yet. The Bagpipe is another phase of learning and must be done in the right order. The Pipe Band wants new members and this is a great opportunity for you as well as the Pipe Band. Welcome aboard.



of "Semper Fi") who, as we indicated before is a "great guy" who also "loves golf".

Bob is a member of our percussion group and has in excess of 35 years experience with the Band. Sometimes Bob's many other responsibilities keep him from practice or from some of our events, so we are especially pleased when he is in attendance for anything and we understand his reasons for not being so on occasions. An additional attribute about Bob is his love of the band as well.

Bob has led one of those charmed lives which has given him an even greater appreciation and enjoyment of everything that he does and participates in. The word "surrender" is not in his vocabulary and, despite some current physical issues that would otherwise ground many, he continues to pursue life with a vigor and gusto that would put many people less than half his age to shame. As a Unit, we are privileged to have a person like Bob amongst our membership and we thank him for his (and Claire's) participation with us.

As usual, we would like to encourage everyone to visit our website periodically for the most up to date information concerning the band at:

<http://www.oband.mysite.com>  
SHALOM

**The Oriental Band Scribe**