



LEFTY'S FAMILY came to see him in action at the 2008 Aleppo Shriners Circus. Back row left to right are: grandson **Luke Toste**, granddaughter **Olivia Toste**, son-in-law **Frank Toste**, Lefty, daughter **Karen Toste**, Lefty's wife **Maureen**, and front row left to right: granddaughter **Julianne**, granddaughter **Isabelle**, grandson **Nathaniel**, granddaughter **Katherine**, and Katherine's friend **Mackenzie**.

Clowning Around with Paul H. "Lefty" Johnson

By HERMES BOYATIS

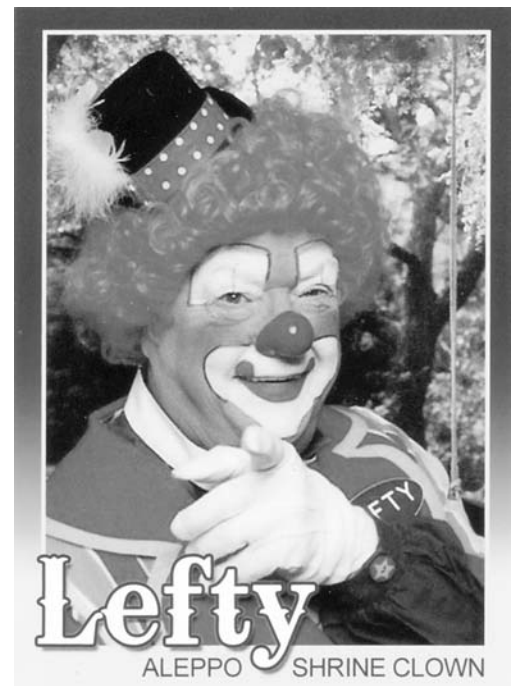
YOU may have seen his comic antics on the clown train in parades. **Paul H. "Lefty" Johnson**, was raised in Hiram Lodge #101, West Rutland, Vermont, in August 1964. He is affiliated with Golden Fleece Lodge in Lynn, Massachusetts (2001). He joined Aleppo Shrine in June 2002. He joined the Aleppo Clown Unit and graduated from Aleppo Clown College in 2003. So why Lefty? On April 1, 1995, Paul suffered paralysis on his left side from a stroke. So he became "Lefty" the Aleppo Clown.

Nevertheless, he has won many awards for his work as a clown. He received the Red Nose Award in 2004, 2005 and 2007; the Aleppo Clown Unit Funny Bone Award in 2003; First Place in Unit Skit at the NESA Field Days in 2002; awards from the North East Shrine Clown Institute in 2003, 2004 and 2005; and the Children's Choice Award in Ottawa in 2004. He and his wife **Maureen** delight in raising money for Aleppo's Children's Transportation Fund and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Two of Paul's grandchildren were diagnosed last year with DMD.

The Johnsons have three children, and Maureen said: "Our oldest, **Karen**, lives with her husband in Raynham. They have raised six children. Before her marriage, Karen graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in business administration and accounting.

Our daughter **Terri** lives with her husband in Maynard, and they have one little girl. Terri is presently the Math Coordinator for the elementary schools in Wilmington.

We just visited our son **Paul** and his wife **Joanna** in Downingtown, Pennsylvania." Maureen concluded with thoughts about now and the future: "We take one day at a time. We keep busy having fun. Sometimes I sew clown costumes for Paul." As Paul says, "I'm happy every day when I get up and am on the other side of the grass!" Please keep clowning – and raising money for DMD research and Aleppo's Children's Transportation Fund!



Director's Staff Parades and Fundraisers

OVER the past months the Director's Staff has enjoyed being kept busy with parades, the Director's Staff Country Western Night fundraiser for the Shriners Hospitals for Children and helping out at the Aleppo Shriners All-Star Football Classic in Waltham.

After joining the Units in Parade onto the field during the football game, Director **Kevin Misuraca** and Assistant Director **Rich Bushee** took up sideline duty on the field to help with security.

At the beginning of parade season, the Director's Staff was out in full force joining other Shrine Units in Newton, Somerville and Wilmington with "Big AL" and the golf carts close behind.

On Friday, June 13th, we were very pleased to see such a great attendance at the staff's Country Western Night emceed by the staff's very own Noble "DJ"

Rich Gorman. Thanks to all the Staff members who helped out. We want to give a special thanks to the band "Digger Dawg", Line Dance Instructor, **Michelle Jackson** as well as to Director Misuraca's wife Lady **Charlotte**, and **Collette** and **Leslie Pederson** for their great job pitching in to make the night a success. A total of \$1,500 was brought in that night and was presented to the Potentate for the Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund at the July 9, 2008 Heads of Units Meeting.

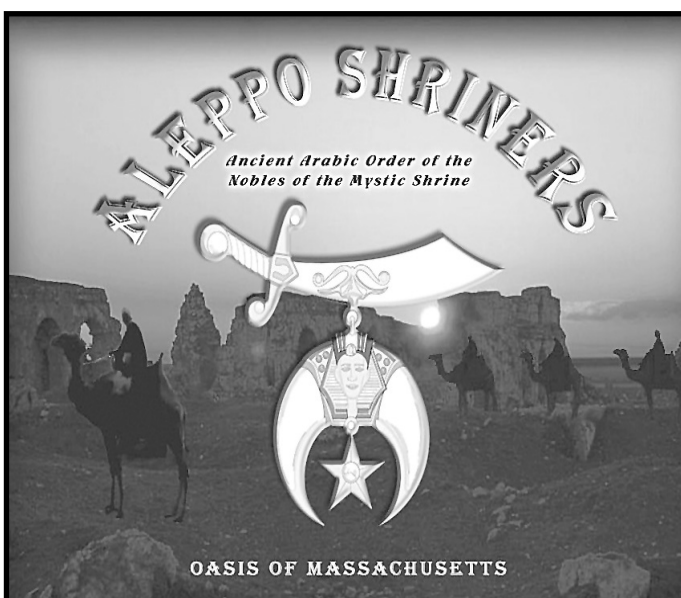
Director Misuraca would like to recognize and thank the staff members who have been regularly coming to the Heads of Units Meetings over the past several months.

Coming up, the Director's Staff will be manning the grills once again in Manchester-by-the-Sea for the Northeast Shrine Club dinner meeting on August 30, 2008, and welcome staff members who would like to lend a hand. If you'd like to sign up to help, be sure to put your name on the sign up sheet in the Staff Room.

We hope to see a good staff turnout in Manchester, NH, for the Northeast Shrine Association parade on the 23rd of August!!!!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Kevin G. Misuraca, Director
Richard Bushee, Assistant Director



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT ALEPPO'S NEW & UPDATED WEBSITE

LOOK AT ALL THE UPCOMING EVENTS, LOOK AT THE
PHOTO GALLERIES, INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE
ABOUT THE SHRINERS, IT'S ON THE SITE

WWW.ALEPPOSHRINERS.COM