

LOOK OUT TEXAS HERE WE COME!

San Antonio, Texas calls! The Imperial Session will be held here July 4 through 9, 2009 and promises to be an outstanding gathering!

Oriental Shrine has reserved rooms at the Westin Hotel, River-Walk, right in the center of San Antonio. This hotel is on the world famous and original River-Walk and is centrally located in the heart of the River-Walk district. All the major attractions, including the Alamo, are within walking distance, as is the Convention Center.

Speaking of the Convention Center, we have been promised theatre type seating for all the meetings. And as a late News Flash, the Imperial Sir's Night, on Wednesday, is to include a concert by Franki Valli and the Four Seasons! Additional details will be forthcoming from Imperial, but tickets will be available for all!

Our Temple Dinner will be held on Saturday July 4th! We have a fine restaurant with a balcony overlooking the River-Walk and large picture windows facing Millennium Park. This is important because the main fireworks display for the City of San Antonio is held in Millennium Park. So, after a fine meal and great refreshments, we will be able to view the fireworks in comfort!

Of course, we have reserved a great space for our hospitality room and it will be well stocked with beverages as well as a full array of snacks. In addition to the usual afternoon and evening operating hours, it will also be open for coffee and Danish in the morning. For those desiring a more substantial breakfast, we would recommend Schilos, which is only a short walk from the hotel – a large order of biscuits and sausage gravy was only \$1.95 with other choices similarly priced!

Then there is the shopping! Within the three block square River-Walk area there are dozens of shops and even a mall. For those who would travel a little further (we would recommend the trolley system) there is a spot called "Market-Place" which has hundreds of open air shops along with entertainment and nourishment. We would recommend "Margaritas"; both for its namesake beverage as well as their fajitas served family style!

In addition to the trolley system, which runs constantly throughout the entire downtown area, there are also River Taxis on the River-Walk (very relaxing!) as well as the usual buses and taxis for transportation. The trolley system is very reasonably priced with week long passes available.

The Airport is only a 15 to 20 minute ride from the Hotel. There is no Hotel Shuttle, but transportation is very available and quite reasonable. And with gas prices so low, there should be some real bargains on airline tickets!

The entire Divan looks forward to joining you in San Antonio. However, there is one minor glitch – reservations must be made immediately! The City has imposed on all Shrine Centers a contract that could result in Oriental having to pay for rooms we do not need. Therefore it is vital for us to release rooms as soon as possible if they are not needed. We have 30 rooms reserved and hope to use them all, but by the end of January, if they are not spoken for we will have to release them.

So please fill out the reservation form in this issue, and return it with your deposit to Ill John Garhartt as soon as possible.