



RI Shriners - Artisan Unit

1 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905-3326

Date: _____ 201__

Name: _____
(Print name in full)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Rhode Island Shriners Artisan Unit and state that I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____ Lodge No. _____ located in _____ . I am also a Knight Templar in _____ Commandery, No _____ located in _____ and/or a Scottish Rite 32° Mason in _____ Consistory, Valley of _____ and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in _____ Temple located at _____ . If accepted, I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Unit and the laws of the Rhode Island Shriners, A. A. O. N. M. S. to whom it owes its allegiance.

(Signature)

Recommended by _____ Artisan Member
_____ Artisan Member

Additional Information: _____ Lady's first name: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Cell: (____) ____ - ____ Work (____) ____ - ____

e-Mail Address: _____



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This is what is expected of an Artisan. If you feel that you can live up to these expectations, please sign below.

1. To be eligible in this unit, you must be a member in good standing in Rhode Island Shriners.
2. It shall be the purpose of the unit to furnish a more colorful atmosphere to the ceremonies, parades and other functions of Rhode Island Shriners by creating stage craft, vehicles, floats or any other projects that will beautify and adorn the Temple as a whole.
3. The Artisan Unit must consist of such Nobles who have an interest in our purpose or have the technical ability to help actively in our several undertakings.
4. Every member of the Artisan Unit, regardless of when he may have joined or what his function in the Unit may now be or shall in the future become, must purchase and maintain a complete set of uniforms of the Artisan Unit of Rhode Island Shriners. Maintenance of such clothing and its necessary upkeep shall be necessary for retaining the good standing in this Unit.
5. Regular business meetings shall be held of the fourth Thursday of each month in the Unit room except for November and December when the meetings are the third Thursday.
6. The working session shall be held every Thursday at the discretion of the shop foreman.
7. Any member of this Unit who is behind in the payment of his dues for 2 years will be notified that he is automatically dropped from membership.
8. The uniform consists of dark grey slacks with a red stripe on the legs, a red polo shirt with the Shrine logo, a white uniform shirt, black shoes, and black socks. The red shirt is used for events scheduled from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The white shirt is worn for spring and autumn events. The white shirt is also worn for formal events such as an honor guard at a member's wake.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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A brief history of the Artisan Unit

In 1960-61, the Artisan Unit of The Rhode Island Shriners, A.A.O.N.M.S. was formed under the direction of noble George Kenson. Correspondence with the Shrine Imperial Recorder and further investigations indicate that this is the only unit of its type in all Shrinedom.

In the beginning, membership was below 15. Each member was a selected craftsman, a building contractor, a manufacturing jeweler, a machinist, and several carpenters among others. Dues were \$6.00 per year, which in addition to the sale of Masonic jewelry and other items were the fund raisers of the unit. In 1966 the Artisans had their first major fundraiser; an "Oktoberfest" with a German band, dancing, food and drink. It was a huge financial success and became an annual event for the next few years.

The Artisans were very conscious of their image in Palestine parades so after many attempts to improve, it was decided to build a calliope. Work began on this project in 1962. After four years of experimenting, planning and manufacturing, a gold ignition key was presented to illustrious potentate Edward L. Freeman, Jr. by artisan Helmut Morgenstern signifying transfer of ownership of the calliope to The Rhode Island Shriners.

Another major project was the construction of a model of the Springfield Childrens Hospital. Constructed on a trailer, it has appeared in many parades. However, since a new hospital has been built, it has been retired and a new float is in the planning stages.

In recent years, the Artisans have been involved with many projects for the Shrine and look forward to many more years of fellowship and service to The Rhode Island Shriners.

The Artisans have grown to a present membership of about 75 and welcomes men of all professions. Any inquiries regarding membership can be directed to any member of the Artisans.

*Information for this history was obtained from "Mighty Oaks From Little Acorns Grow" by Henry F. Munroe.