



# EL KORAH SHRINERS

## DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1118 W Idaho St

Boise, ID 83702

## Potentate's Message by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway

In spite of the widespread shutdown of many businesses and our fraternity, I hope your summer went well and everyone in your family stayed healthy. We ordinarily would have been talking about all the Circus, all the great parades we attended, how much fun Imperial was this year, who won the Shrine Football game in Baker, and a host of other things we usually get to do together each summer and promote our fraternity and philanthropy. But the virus that changed the world changed our world, and we had to stop all activities. Now, the terms "social distancing" and "contact tracing" have become intertwined into our daily vernacular.

The number of cases in Idaho is declining, but we are coming into flu season so it is highly likely COVID-19 will have a resurgence. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that everyone continue to maintain distancing, stay away from large groups, wear your mask, and sanitize your hands frequently.

We continue to abide by the edict of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho Steve Hall to suspend all Masonic meetings or gatherings to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Grand Lodge will be held September 17-18, 2020, and it will be up to the incoming Grand Master Steve Zimmerman to decide how he wants to address the Grand Lodge's response to the outbreak.

We have now heard that Treefort 2020 is postponed until September 2021. The East-West Shrine Football Game normally held at Eagle High School may or may not be held. Ill. Sir Corey Turner is watching this closely and will be ready to mobilize his team to put on the game if it does happen.

Starting in September, we will have monthly Zoom meetings for our stated meetings. October is Past Potentate's night, and November's stated meeting is Chief Rabban night. Keep watching your emails and the upcoming editions of the Desert Dust for more information on these meetings.

Our Fall Ceremonial will almost certainly be a Cold Sands only with no meals or ladies events, but with no Blue Lodge meetings being held since March, we don't have any new Master Masons who are ready to join the Shrine. Twin Falls



still has some men ready to join us, so we will have at least some candidates for membership in El Korah.

With the national election being held this year, the viciousness and animosity posted on social media is ramping up. Nobles, please do not fall into the quagmire of posting inflammatory or derogatory comments about your fellow Nobles because of their political beliefs. Everything you post is available for the world to see, and if people see that you are a Mason and a Shriner and that you are okay with slashing your fellow Brothers and Shriners online, it makes it less likely a man would want to join our fraternity if we do not espouse brotherly love, relief, and truth. Please see General Order #1 posted in this month's Desert Dust for the expectations of the Imperial Potentate on social media.

With all of this, it is easy to get discouraged about the direction and future of our fraternity. Please allow me to offer a huge ray or hope: the work we support at the Shrine Hospitals is ramping back up and the incredible things our doctors and clinical staff do every day is still touching lives and healing bodies, minds, and hearts, giving hope and a bright future to kids who had none before coming to a Shrine hospital. Those of us who serve on the Board of Governors for a Shrine Hospital hear these stories every month. I ask that each of you remember the kids who continue to receive this care because of what we do now and what our Brothers and Sisters have done for the past 100 years.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you again for your support of El Korah through this difficult time.



**Join the September Stated Meeting via Zoom**  
**Wednesday, Sept 9th 7:00 - 9:30 pm**  
*By Jimmy Hansen, Director*

The Stated Meeting officially starts at its usual time of 7:30 pm. I just have the Zoom meeting opening up at 7:00 pm to do any quick meet and greet.

El Korah Boise is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: El Korah Stated Meeting

Time: Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

To Join the Zoom Meeting, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4552199895?pwd=UUtzRUxIN01GVklwSSs5R2dONmxoQT09>

Meeting ID: 455 219 9895

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Passcode: 280 581 3189

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## Iras Temple No 40 Daughters of the Nile

*by Debbi deBoer, Princess Badoura*

Greetings from Iras Temple. Hope everyone is staying healthy!! We know these are trying times, so make sure you check on our older members to see how they are doing. It could make a big difference in someone's day.

We had a wonderful virtual meeting with our Supreme Queen's visit in August.

Friends are those rare people who ask how you are then wait to hear the answer.the beginning of a great friendship.

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## Join us September 12-19 for our **Virtual Walk for LOVE!**

### **How to Participate:**

1. Register now at [walkforlove.org](http://walkforlove.org)
2. Encourage others to participate by sharing "Why I Walk" on social media. Use the hashtag #WFLSLC2020
3. Identify a 1.5 mile route to walk
4. Get together with family/friends to Walk for LOVE any date or time Sept 12-19. Tune in Sept 19 at 9 a.m. for our Facebook LIVE broadcast
5. Be sure to post moments from your Walk and use the hashtag #WFLSLC2020



**Shriners Hospitals**  
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## Membership Committee

by Ron Bishop, Chairman

Greeting Nobles and Ladies from the Membership committee.

Covid-19 has changed everything. All of our fun events have been cancelled. There is no end in sight for the Covid -19 virus as fall comes and school starts! The kids need our help now more than ever. We need to regroup and be ready to provide that help. The number of Nobles is shrinking across the country. We need to find more and better ways to promote El Korah to potential Nobles. What are your ideas? We need help now before it is too late.

Please contemplate how you can help El Korah grow and get back on track. What will you do to help us grow? Perhaps you have a friend or relative that would make a great Noble. The Membership committee will make the phone call, explaining the fun we have as Nobles as we help the kids. Think how much we could grow and shine if each of us had just one possible new Noble? Call me or anyone on the membership Committee. Give us just one name. Let's make El Korah great again! Stay safe and stay well.



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## Chaplain's Corner

by Santa Bob Albert, Chaplain

Hello Nobles of El Korah. It's been a tough summer with the Covid 19 quarantine, yet we have been visited again by the Black Camel Caravan. These Nobles have left our Oasis:

**Johnny L. Hunter:** Oct. 5, 1925 - June 24, 2020  
Shriner since 1948 (71 years)

**Larry B. Oram:** May 10, 1938 - July 6, 2020

**Jerry Parsons:** August 8, 1944 - July 28, 2020  
Shriner since 1976 (44 years)

**Wayne Moberg:** July 17, 1931 - August 9, 2020  
Shriner since 1976 (44 years)

**Lauren "LC" Craig:** November 29, 1931 - August 20, 2020

### Sunshine Report:

**Bud McDonald** is recovering from surgery.

**Ron Lowe** is home recovering from Covid 19.

**Harry Black's** wife **Ava** fell and is recovering at home.

This all that has been reported to me, if you have information on anyone, let me or the Recorder's Office know.

Life is short. Reach out to our Brothers and Sisters.

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## Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



The COVID-19 outbreak reduced the number of procedures at the Portland Shrine Hospital during the last few months but we recovered nicely last month. Net patient revenue is the third highest of all hospitals in the Shrine system behind

only Northern California and Canada. The number of surgical cases has rebounded to pre-COVID levels. Hospital staff are closely monitoring their inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be sure we have enough to keep our patients and staff safe.

The Board of Governors continues to meet via Skype with hospital leadership providing up to date information to us the week before the meeting. We expect the next 2-3 monthly meetings to also be done via Skype. Leadership meetings held on August 24-25 were also done electronically.

Interviews for the new Board members were held in June with the recommendations for Board membership being reviewed by Imperial. The final decisions on who will be joining the Portland Board will be provided to us in November.

While the Portland Hospital is not holding a Walk for Love this year, we encourage everyone to register and participate in the Salt Lake City virtual Walk for Love. Please see the sign up information in this month's Desert Dust.

If you have any questions about the Portland Shrine Hospital, please contact Dave Triplett, Mike Mastropaolo, or myself. It is an honor to serve the hospital in this capacity.!

## Salt Lake Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland, P.P.



I hope I can remember how to get to Salt Lake City. Our meetings will continue to be held via teleconference through December. Thanks to our Elected Divan, I have been re-nominated to a

third and final three year term. This is a very rewarding job. Hopefully we can find another representative from El Korah soon since most of the Kids we help go to Salt Lake for treatment.

Our Hospital was again designated as a Top Workplace in Utah for the sixth year in a row. We are \$497,345 under budget. POPS (prosthetics) is \$47,545 under. Soon we will be able to bill for wheelchair Seating and Mobility. Go-Live software has been installed to facilitate this. Referrals were down by almost 50% as folks have been putting off surgeries and doctor visits and our Business Development Team is reaching out remotely.

We have had 5 COVID-19 positive staff members since the beginning of the pandemic began. Currently, two are out with symptoms and two have been quarantined. We were able to purchase air-powered respirators through the Emergency Preparedness grant monies.

Please sign up for the virtual Walk for Love and thanks to Divan and Shriners who are already signed up.

Time for flu shots, which are very important in these Covid times. Also, no ladder climbing if you are old. Unfortunately, El Kalah lost a 95 year old member from a ladder accident.

Our past Chairman, Scott Andersen has been appointed to represent our Board in negotiations with Imperial and Primary Children's as we move forward in our collaboration efforts. We continue to accept in kind donations. Gift cards to Amazon, Walmart, Itunes and Target are much appreciated.

## Duners Doings

by Santa Bob Albert, President

Greetings Fellow Nobles, well like everyone else the Duners are locked down and where not able to parade at all this year.

We are looking forward to seeing Year 2020 in our rear view mirrors and ZOOMING into 2021. We are still on the hunt for a new motor and transmission for the Mother Buggy, if anyone has a lead on it let us know please.

Well that's it for now, stay safe and help each other.

*"Every Life Leaves a Legacy!"*

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*Excerpt from*  
**SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL**



GENERAL ORDER No. 1  
SERIES OF 2020-2021

OFFICE OF THE IMPERIAL POTENTATE  
JULY 11, 2020, TAMPA, FLORIDA

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

The following guidelines apply to the use of social media by all Nobles, personally in his capacity as a Shriner, as well as on behalf of all Shrine Associations, Temples, Units and Shrine Clubs. Nobles should always be aware that all electronic communications are permanent and may be made public, even if deleted.

All internet and cellular phone based electronic communications must:

1. Be in compliance with and conform to the Code of Ethics of Shriners International (Bylaws §210.7).
2. Reflect positively on Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.
3. Not contain content or commentary that is antagonistic, bullying, confidential, defamatory, harassing, offensive, political, pornographic, profane, racy, ally motivated or religious.
4. Not contain a third party's copyrighted material, trademarks, service marks or other protected material.

In addition, all official Association, Temple, Unit and Shrine Club social media websites and accounts must be accessible to and controlled by more than one administrator. Violation of these guidelines may be considered in determining whether such posts constitute conduct unbecoming a Noble.



OFFICE OF  
**JOHN C. PILAND**  
 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/COO  
 813-281-0300

MEMBER  
 ANSAR SHRINERS  
 SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Temple Potentates and Recorders & Club and Unit Presidents and Secretaries  
 FROM: John C. Piland, Executive Vice President

DATE: August 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Club and Unit Elections and Reports

General Order No. 1 provides the following dates and deadlines for club and unit officer elections and reports.

Elections of club and unit officers:	On or before October 31
Club and unit secretaries to update records of presently elected officers:	On or before November 30
Club and unit secretaries to update list of membership:	On or before December 31

It is important that temple leaders and Shriners International have a current and accurate list of club and unit leaders. However, the trajectory of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as laws and Grand Lodge edicts, may prevent those club and unit elections from being held. If that is the case, it is not a violation of General Order No. 1 to postpone those club and unit elections to a date where they can lawfully be held.

Pursuant to the bylaws of Shriners International, temple Potentates control clubs and units. In accordance with §336.1 and §337.3 of the bylaws, the temple Potentate has the authority to amend club or unit bylaws to provide: Term of Office. All officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. Terms shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. November 1st)." This proposed change may be unnecessary with many club or unit bylaws. However, for those that don't have such a provision, this will permit officers that are currently serving to continue in their posts until such time as it is determined that elections can properly be held.

The situations that exist in various parts of the world do not permit a one-size fits all approach to this question. The decision of when club and unit elections can be held is properly handled by club or unit officers and the temple Potentate.

### **Summary**

If club and unit elections can be held, they should be held. If it is not proper to hold the elections, they should be postponed until those elections can properly be held. In the meantime, current officers should continue to serve until their successors are elected.

Temple Potentates can amend the club and unit bylaws to permit officers to serve until their successors are elected.

If elections are held, the names and contact information for the newly elected officers should be immediately entered into WebFez or provided to the Temple Recorder and the updated list of club/unit members for the ensuing year should be entered into WebFez or provided to the Temple Recorder.

Thank you for your service to the Shrine during this uniquely difficult period.

JCP:ma

[membership@shrinenet.org](mailto:membership@shrinenet.org)

2900 North Rocky Point Dr | Tampa, FL 33607 US



## The History of the American Flag

Part 3 by David Bennett, *Oriental Guide*



In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

According to popular legend, the first American flag was made by Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress who was acquainted with George Washington, leader of the Continental Army and other influential Philadelphians. In May 1776, so the story goes, General Washington and two representatives from the Continental Congress visited Ross at her upholstery shop and showed her a rough design of

the flag. Although Washington initially favored using a star with six points, Ross advocated a five-pointed star, which she demonstrated could be cut with just one quick snip of the scissors; the gentlemen were won over. Unfortunately, historians have never been able to verify this version of events. Although it is known that Ross made flags for the Pennsylvania Navy. The story of Washington's visit to the flag maker became popular about the time of the country's first centennial after William Canby, a grandson of Ross, told about her role in shaping U.S. history in a speech given at the Philadelphia Historical Society in March 1870. He claimed that his maternal grandmother, Mrs. John Ross, was the maker and partial designer of the first flag combining the stars and stripes. Three of Mrs. Ross's daughters were living when Mr. Canby wrote his paper confirming its content. (See Betsy Ross and the First American Flag under "American Flag Stories" at the end of this article.)

He asserts that, in June 1776, a committee of Congress accompanied by General Washington called upon Mrs. Ross, an upholsterer. They engaged her to make the flag from a rough drawing which was redrawn, at her suggestion, by General Washington in pencil in her back parlor. This flag was adopted by Congress and was, according to Mr. Canby, the first star-spangled banner. Mrs. Ross was employed as flag maker for the government for many years.

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