



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

Grand Lodge was held last week, and I am pleased to congratulate Brother and Noble Steven O. Zimmerman on his installation as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons for the Idaho Grand Lodge. MW Past Grand Master Steve Hall concluded his year as Grand Master through one of the most difficult years locally, nationally, and worldwide that Freemasonry has faced.

The number of cases in Idaho was declining, but it is ramping back up again following the Labor Day weekend and the beginning of schools and universities. Additionally, we are coming into flu season so it is highly likely COVID-19 will have a resurgence. I understand we have been dealing with COVID-19 for seven months now but it is still important for everyone to maintain distancing, stay away from large groups, wear your mask, and sanitize your hands frequently.

MWGM Steven Zimmerman is turning responsibility for safety through the outbreak back to the Lodges, as different counties in Idaho have different levels of infection and spread of the virus. Remember to still abide by the restrictions put in place by your local District Health Department.

In keeping with the direction from our Grand Master, we will have a regular stated meeting on October 14 following a plan drawn up by Chief Rabban Will Votaw described in detail in this issue of the Desert Dust. October is Past Potentates Night, and the Divan will give an update on where El Korah is relating to financial standing and our expectations/plans for the rest of the year. There will be an option for Nobles to log in via Zoom to participate in the October meeting.

We learned on September 23 that our plan for reopening the Oasis has been approved.

The November stated meeting is Chief Rabban night, and we will be performing a Cold Sands during the meeting for some Brothers whose initiation has been put on hold during the



outbreak. It sounds like there are some candidates in Twin Falls as well, so they can go through the Cold Sands remotely in November.

Sadly, the East-West Shrine Football Game normally held at Eagle High School will not happen. Ill. Sir Corey Turner has been working hard on contacting schools and coaches to see if a game can happen, and we just heard that it cannot. Thank you, Corey, for all of your efforts!

Last month, you will recall I mentioned that, while our meetings and social gatherings have been on hold for the last several months, the work at the hospitals continues. Please take a look at the report from the Portland Hospital on the amazing things happening there to benefit the kids. It will make you proud to be a Shriner!

A sincere thank you for your support of El Korah over the years and especially during the last 7 months. It is not the year any of us wanted, but we are taking care of business and getting ready to carefully start meeting again. I look forward to seeing everyone again!

2020 Divan

Elected Officers

- Potentate Rick Holloway
- Chief Rabban Will Votaw
- Assistant Rabban Dale Rutter
- High Priest & Prophet Ray Schild
- Oriental Guide David Bennett
- Treasurer Larry Ridenour
- Recorder Ray Westmoreland, PP

Appointed Officers

- Director Jimmy Hansen
- Assistant Director Justin Petersen
- Parade Director Jack Moore
- Chaplain Santa Bob Albert
- 1st Ceremonial Master Shawn McWilliams
- 2nd Ceremonial Master Mark Isserman
- Marshal Wayne Foster
- Captain of the Guard David Brannan
- Outer Guards David Triplett
Ron Bishop
Doug Blandford

Potentate's Aides

- Chief Aide Dick Swift
- Aides Bill Curtis, Bob Carleton
Brandon Martwick, Bruce Drewes
Gary Betts, Jack Gardner
Ray Breshears, Rodney Horn

Desert Dust

- Editor Gary Betts
gsbetts@msn.com
elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com

Phone Numbers

- Recorder (208) 343-0571
- Oasis (208) 343-1341
- Office fax (208) 336-1527
- Events: Circus/Football . . . (208) 333-8350

Hospital Board Members

- Salt Lake City Ray Westmoreland
- Portland Dave Triplett
- Portland Rick Holloway - Vice Chair
- Portland Mike Mastropaolo



Editor's Notice

The Desert Dust is published monthly except July and August by El Korah Shriners at 1118 W Idaho St, Boise, ID 83702.

All articles, events, activities, announcements and pictures must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding the publication to get in the Dust.

Email submissions to elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com. However, they can also be dropped in the Desert Dust mailbox at El Korah, if necessary.

Be sure to double check your submissions for grammar and spelling. Each picture should include a caption, as appropriate.

- F. Rodney Glauner 8/22/2020**
- Leland Jessen 9/9/2020**
- Bobby Shafer 9/12/2020**
- Sean Newbry 9/19/2020**

Advertise in the Desert Dust!

Reach out to the Nobility, Ladies and friends in the online and printed versions of the Desert Dust.

Ad Size	Price per Month
2" x 3"	\$20 ⁰⁰
2" x 5-1/2"	\$30 ⁰⁰
3-3/4" x 3-3/4" (1/4 page)	\$40 ⁰⁰
7" x 4-3/4" (1/2 page)	\$60 ⁰⁰
7" x 9" (full page)	\$80 ⁰⁰

Note. Ad dimensions may need to be adjusted to fit in available space, but will retain the square inch size.

2020 Shrine Dues were due by 12/31/19. If you do not have a current dues card, you are delinquent. Avoid the dreaded NPD list and contact the Recorder's Office today (343-0571).

Did you know that El Korah's budget relies on its members keeping their membership current. Paying your dues on time helps pay the bills and keep our doors open.



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October Stated Meeting

Wed Oct 14th, 7:30 pm
Limited Seating - get your reservation



Steven O. Zimmerman
M.: W. : Grand Master
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Cascade, ID 83611-0360

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Email: sozimmerman69@gmail.com

September 18, 2020

To: All Masons in Idaho
Re: Grand Master's Message: Returning authority to lodges to meet

Brothers:

As we have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic these last months, there has been a remarkably low number of cases within the Idaho Masonic Family. Your good judgement has been obvious, and it has been hard on us all to cease meeting as Masons and with our Concordant and Appendant bodies. I am thankful for the technology that has allowed us to have our 'social' ZOOM meetings, but we are looking forward to a return to our lodges.

Masons in the Grand Jurisdiction of Idaho were placed under Grand Master Hall's Edict #1 on March 17, 2020. All Masons in the Jurisdiction of Idaho were ordered to suspend attendance at all Masonic meetings or gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I salute Grand Master Hall for his tough decision to close Masonry to protect the health of all.

Grand Master Hall's edict has now ended, and given our responsible actions, I have decided not to continue it. Therefore, the Masons of Idaho are now free to decide for themselves if they will attend Masonic meetings or gatherings. Remember, all we do in Masonry must be of our own free will. The Masonic lodges of Idaho have been given the authority to reopen, if their officers decide local conditions allow. When lodges make the decision to reopen, lodge members will be notified, as well as the other groups meeting in the lodge's building.

As the pandemic has unfolded, certain practices have become commonplace to attempt to reduce its spread. The Grand Lodge of Idaho has issued guidelines for safely meeting based on those practices. The officers of each lodge can modify those guidelines as they set their own rules for safely meeting given the local conditions. Everyone attending a meeting or gathering is asked to abide by those local rules for the safety of all.

A significant number of our Masonic family are categorized as "at-risk" for the virus. A brother's attendance at lodge meetings and other activities is voluntary. An absence will not be held against any member for not attending because of health concerns. If a Lodge feels uncomfortable about having a meeting or activity, then do not have one. No penalty will be imposed for that decision.

Our Concordant and Appendant bodies each have their own leadership and rules to follow. Many of them are governed nationally or even internationally. Some bodies may be already authorized to reopen while others may not. We must be respectful of each body and their decision to reopen or remain closed because of the COVID-19 situation

I know we have a lot to do as we get back into our lodges. This period has been hard on membership and finances. Your officers of the Grand Lodge of Idaho are ready to help you in any way we can.

Fraternally yours,

MW Grand Master Steve Zimmerman
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Idaho



El Korah Reopening Plan

by Will Votaw, Chief Rabban

Nobles, I had the privilege of attending the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers on Friday, September 18th. Our newly installed Most Worshipful Grand Master, Noble Steve Zimmerman, indicated that it is time for Masons to get back to work. He is reopening Lodges, if those lodges elect to. The WMGM's reopening letter and plan for Lodges can be found at the Grand Lodge website, idahomasons.org. Masonic Bodies outside of Lodges are again allowed to meet.

The reopening plan indicates that attendance at Masonic Functions is completely VOLUNTARY. Anyone not attending is not to be condemned for not attending. The MWGM is expecting us all to act as responsible adults and move forward accordingly. This includes adhering to local, state, and federal guidelines for public gatherings.

Ada County currently has a cap on public gatherings at 50. It is an Ada County requirement that people attending gatherings over 10 people need to practice social distancing, when possible, and wear masks.

Imperial has opened Shrines up to use Zoom meetings more freely. Prior to the General Orders issued by the current and junior past Imperial Potentates, individual Shrines had to submit approval letters for locations of Zoom meetings. El Korah has permissions for Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Phoenix area and Challis/Mackay area. With the new General Orders from Imperial, we are able to transmit our meetings to as many areas that we need to without specific approval for each location.

We will be having our first meeting, in person, on October 14th. It will be Past Potentates Night. With the Ada County requirements, we can only have 50 people in the building, total.

Elected and Appointed Officers are required to be there. There are 17 Appointed/Elected Officers. The Nobles in the sound booth are needed as well. There are usually 2 in the sound booth. This leaves approximately 30 openings for Nobles. With Past Potentates Night, there could be 15 Past Potentates filling seats.

Going forward, the following are our Reopening Plans.

1. In Person Stated Meetings

A maximum of 50 people only, at a time, will be allowed in the building.

Masks will be required while not actively eating/drinking.

Hand Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building and will be required to be used prior to entering meetings.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Records Office. The Nobles who need to be at a meeting will be automatically added to the list, Officers, sound booth, Carlas and his staff, etc. The remaining openings will be on a first reserved space list. The number of available openings will vary at each Stated Meeting.

If your name is not on the list, you may not be allowed access to the meeting.

Nobles are responsible for calling/emailing the Records office the week prior to a Stated Meeting to get on the list.

The office number is: 208-343-0571. An email can be sent to: recorder@elkorahshrine.com

As Idaho and Ada County move forward, the number may change.

Attendance is not required of any officer or noble. If an officer will not be at a meeting, it is asked that you contact the Potentate and the Records Office, so someone that wants to attend may be able to have your space.

2. Zoom Stated Meetings

If you would like to attend the Stated Meeting through Zoom, please email the office at least 24 hours prior to the Stated Meeting. Our Director will send a meeting ID and Password the morning of the meetings. If you are not on the list, you may not get the needed information to join the meetings.

Nobles, the spirit of video conferencing meetings is to allow Nobles to attend Stated Meetings when they cannot physically be at a Shrine. This is especially helpful for Nobles that live over an hour from Shrines, encounter weather issues, have problems driving at night, cannot drive or are out of town. You need to treat a video Stated Meetings as a closed/tiled meeting. Only Nobles should be attending video Stated Meetings, whether individually or in a group. Non-members should not be in the same room, watching the video feed or listening to the audio of a meeting. We expect Nobles to treat the video conferencing with respect. It is on your honor, as a Mason, to make sure Non-members are not in the room/place you are in during an open Stated Meeting.

When the meeting ID and Password are sent to you, a copy of the minutes will be attached to the email.

3. Club/Unit Meetings

Clubs/Units are again allowed to meet.

You will be required to follow the group meeting/gathering guidelines for the area you are having the meeting in. Requirements vary by Health District. For example, Ada

El Korah Reopening Plan (cont.)

by Will Votaw, Chief Rabban

County is part of Central District Health. Canyon County is part of Southwest District Health. Requirements for meetings/gatherings are different in Ada County than they are in Canyon County.

If meeting at the Shrine, the mask and hand sanitation requirements required for Stated Meetings, will be required for a Club/Unit Meeting.

Clubs/Units can meet through video conferencing.

Clubs/Units can hold their elections through video conferencing.

Additional Information

Imperial Guidelines require Stated Meetings of a Shrine to be opened in Ritual Form, be Tiled, and Open to Members Only. There are no such requirements to Clubs/Units. Many Clubs/Units allow their Ladies to attend. The only requirement is that only Members are allowed actual "votes" on business/elections.

We have been in "lockdown" for several months. I would like to thank everyone for following the Edicts of the Jr. Past WMGM, Noble Steve Hall, and the General Orders of the

Imperial Potentates. There is so much we don't know about the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. We know it can affect the elderly and people with underlying health conditions worse than younger/healthier people. Most of our members are in the higher risk category. We now have more knowledge of how to proceed with larger gatherings. The "lockdown" was tough, but necessary, to protect our Brothers. It has come time to move forward, start reopening our fraternity and get back to work. As long as we take precautions and following local, state and federal guidelines, we should be able to have in person meetings again. We as Masons live by a higher code. We don't always have to agree with rules/laws, but we follow them. If stay at home orders, or similar, are issued by local, state or federal entities, we will follow them.

I would like to encourage Nobles, if willing and able, to start attending/supporting your lodges as much as possible. There are many Brothers whose progression through the Degrees of Freemasonry were put on hold. There is a lot of Degree work to be done. We famously ask if people know from "Whence We Came". It's a lead into people asking about the Blue Lodge. We must not forget that now. Our Lodges need us. We need our Lodges. **Let's Get Back to Work!**

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Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



It has been a very busy September for the Portland Shrine Hospital with many things happening concurrently. First, we have rebounded in procedures and visits to pre-COVID levels and, despite being shut down for a few months in

the early phases of the pandemic, the Portland hospital is on track to exceed 2019 Net Patient Revenue by over \$1 million. As of July 31, the Portland Hospital is third on the list of Net Patient Revenue of all Shrine Hospitals, surpassed by only Northern California and Canada. At the same time, our draw on the endowment for 2020 is projected to be nearly 30 percent lower than last year. The collections through the Orthotics and Prosthetics program has already passed the \$1 million mark for the year.

The on-hand inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) remains sufficient to be sure we have enough to keep our patients and staff safe. This metric is also being monitored by several local, state, and federal public health and licensure/certification entities.

We are pleased to announce the Portland Hospital recently received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award! The recognition of our staff in providing high quality care with excellent patient satisfaction is well deserved. Way to go Portland!

The wildfires along the western coast significantly impacted all activity in the Portland area, with airborne particulates reaching into the "hazardous" level. Fortunately, our air scrubbers and filtration systems prevented the harmful air from coming into the hospital so no harm came to staff or patients.

The Portland Hospital was in line to be reviewed by the American College of Surgeons for ACS Certification, but that was put on hold due to COVID. The review by ACS will likely be a virtual visit and should happen sometime in early 2021.

The Board of Governors continues to meet electronically with hospital leadership providing up to date information to us the week before the meeting. We expect our meetings to be held via Microsoft Teams for the rest of the year.

This is a summary of only a portion of what is happening at the Portland Shrine Hospital. All Nobles can be proud of what is happening every day for kids who continue to need help despite the pandemic. 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.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the virtual "Walk for Love." 995 folks signed up (1000 last year), and we raised \$100,000 (\$125,000 last year) for our second best ever!

Thank you, Daughters of the Nile, for giving us \$46,137. We were also honored by a visit from Supreme Queen Heather Lambert who presented a "Million Dollar" plaque. Thanks also, for quilts, games, books, toys and gift cards.

Thanks to our wonderful staff, who are in the process of decorating 35 wheelchairs for this year's Halloween celebration. Watch for information on the virtual parade.

The semiannual leadership conference was recently held via skype with emphasis on the following:

- More Kids, More Places
- Draw on Endowment, Volume, Quality
- Framework centered on the right Mind Set, Tool Set, and Skill set.

We continue to work towards an agreement with Primary Children's Hospital.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support for our wonderful Hospital.





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& Walk

OCT. 31st - NOV. 13th 2020

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Proceeds benefit the Shriners Hospitals for Children through the Daughters of the Nile Foundation

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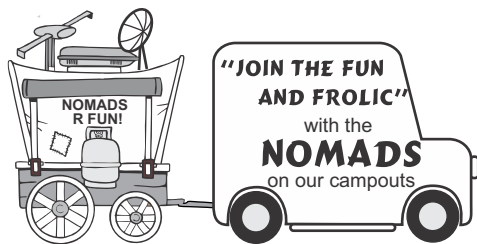
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Nomads News

by Warren Hill, Scout

The Nomads RV Club will hold it's annual meeting on Thursday, October 22. The meeting will be held in accordance with



Covid-19 guidelines and safety procedures. During our meeting we will plan activities and camping outings for 2021.

Prior to the meeting we will enjoy a meal prepared by Bro. Carlos Brown. Social time starts at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Details to follow.

Nomads welcome all Shriners that enjoy camping and the outdoors. Please join us for our planning meeting.

Duners Doings

by Santa Bob Albert, President

Hello Everyone,

Well we are opening the Garage and need to gets things shined up and ready for 2021.

As of rules and regulations of Imperial we need to have our elections this month (October) so step up and lets get it rolling. I will not be holding an office this year.

Looking forward to 2021.

Chaplain's Corner

by Santa Bob Albert, Chaplain

Greetings Noble, again the Black Camel Caravan has stopped by our Oasis and collected several of our Noble for the journey to the Centurial Oasis in the sky.



I attended the funeral of Nobel Wayne Robert Moberg aka "Mo". There was a great turn out from our Nobles from Boise to pay their respects to a great Brother and Noble, I counted 15 from Boise.

- Wayne R. Moberg: 07-17-1931 to 08-09-2020
- Larry B. Oram: 05-10-1938 to 07-06-2020
- Lauren "LC" Craig: 11-29-1931 to 08-20-2020
- F. Rodney Glauner: 02-21-1929 to 08-22-2020
- Leland Jessen: 01-22-1925 to 09-09-2020
- Lady Nancy Wimmer: 06-02-1937 to 09-15-2020
- Bobby Shafer: 10-01-1935 to 09-12-2020
- Sean Newbry: 12-13-1975 to 09-19-2020
- Lady Peggy Kincaid: passed in September 2020

Sunshine Report: Ron Lowe is recovering at his Home but no visitors.

If you know anyone who needs help call the Records office.

Thank You



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El Korah Oasis Grand Re-Opening October 2nd



We are back and we missed you!

These past few months have been challenging for everyone, and we hope that you are all safe and healthy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel extremely fortunate to be able to welcome our patrons back to the watering hole. As the state of this public health emergency changes from day to day, we will remain focused on keeping our employees and our patrons safe, healthy, and informed. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.



With that being said we are having a Grand Re-Opening of our watering hole, the Oasis, on October 2nd, 2020! In coordination with Brother Brown's Underground, we'll have drink and meal specials! And of course, our bartender, Mary will be back pouring stiff drinks and chatting you up!

Drink Specials:

\$1 PBR Beers
\$2 Glass of Wine
w/Happy Hour Mix Drinks



Dinner Specials:

Dine-In
Prime Rib Dinner
Baked Potato
(Butter &/or Sour Cream)
Tossed Green Salad
(Ranch or Italian Dressing)

\$25.00 Each*

(* until gone)



~Please Let Us Know if You'll be
Joining Us for Dinner!~

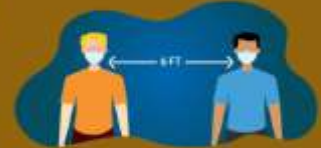


Please Wear a Mask

Patrons will need to wear a mask at all times in the Oasis when not drinking/eating. We want to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Practice Social Distancing

Please remember to stay a safe distance (at least 6 feet) from other customers. Let's all be as safe as possible.



Bar and restaurant hours

With the Oasis opening up again we just want to make sure you come at the right time! Our hours for the bar are from:

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Tuesday through Friday

And Brother Brown's Underground will be open from:

11:00 am to 6:00 pm* Tuesday through Saturday

(* subject to change as patrons/guest start coming back and covid19 diminishes).

El Korah Shrine | 1118 W. Idaho St. | (208) 392-0571
www.elkorahshrine.com



Membership Committee

by Ron Bishop, Chairman

Greeting Nobles and Ladies from the Membership committee.

Covid-19 has changed everything this year. There is no end in sight for the Covid-19 virus, and Idaho's numbers are spiking as we go into winter.

The Shrine kids need our help now more than ever. El Korah has lost a number of Nobles this year and we need to find better ways to promote El Korah to potential Nobles. What are your ideas?

Please contemplate how you can help El Korah grow and get back on track. Perhaps you have a friend or relative that would make a great Noble. The Membership committee is meeting on zoom and we would like your input. Call me or anyone on the membership Committee. Better yet, join us on Zoom with your ideas.

Be well and be proactive!

The History of the American Flag

Part 4 by David Bennett, *Oriental Guide*



On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted. The document was authenticated, like other papers of Congress, by the signatures of the President and Secretary. It was also signed by the members present with the exception of Mr. Dickenson, of New York who refused to sign. It did not yet bear the names of the members of Congress as we are familiar with it. Some days after the Declaration had been passed it was ordered to be engraved on parchment and signed by every member. It was not until the 2nd of August that these signatures were affixed. It is this copy which has been preserved as the first-signed paper does not exist and was probably destroyed.

The Declaration was not actually signed on the fourth of July. Mr. Read, whose name appears among the signers, was then actually against it; and Morris, Rush, Clymer,

Smith, Taylor, and Ross, whose names also appear, were not members on that day, and were not appointed delegates until the 20th of July. Thornton, of New Hampshire, who entered Congress in November, then signed it and Judge McKeen who was present and voted for it, did not sign until after his return from Washington's camp. The Declaration was read in New York in the presence of Washington by one of his aids on July 9, 1776. In the center of a square of the troops in New York. It was not until September 9, 1776 that Congress ordered "all continental commissions and instruments should be made to read 'United States', where heretofore the words "United Colonies" had been used'.

In Philadelphia, the Committee of Safety proclaimed it from the old State House and the king's arms were taken from this courthouse and burned outside. On the 10th the Declaration was read at the head of the several brigades.

Thursday, July 18, 1776, it was proclaimed from the balcony of the State House in Boston, the king's arms and every similar sign be taken down and burned.

On June 14, 1777, Congress "Resolved that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be thirteen stars white in a blue field, representing a new constellation". As the exact arrangement of the stripes and stars was not specified, individual flag makers used their own judgment, producing several variants. Meanwhile other flags appeared, vessels of war are said to have worn a jack displaying a rattlesnake across thirteen red and white stripes, and merchantmen to have flown a flag having only thirteen stripes.

Brother Brown's Underground

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