

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

It's hard to believe we are now into December. This year has been extremely difficult for many of us, as some of you have been hard hit, whether it is physically, mentally, or financially by the pandemic. Thanksgiving just passed, and out of concern for spreading the virus, most stayed away from having family get together and sharing in giving thanks to everything we do have. Although we were all forced to rethink our Thanksgiving celebration, Lady Jackie and I hope everyone had an opportunity to reflect on the many things we all have in our lives for which we can be thankful.

November's stated meeting was Chief Rabban night. Will Votaw got a chance to see and run the meeting from the east, and did a terrific job. The highlight of the night for me was to work with Gary Betts and perform a Cold Sands on three sons of the Desert.

Our December meeting will be on December 9, and the election of the 2021 officers for El Korah will take place. Imperial provided us with direction on how to run election of officers given the restrictions on the number of people each state and locality has placed on meetings and group activities. At present, Ada County is limited to groups of 10 or less. This means we are not able to have more than 10 people in the ballroom during the meeting. The Divan is working on a way to allow Nobles to participate in the meeting, including elections, so that we can adhere to the restrictions on group size while complying with Imperial rules. Look for updates in Constant Contact for information on our plans to keep everyone involved in the election process.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Idaho continues to grow rapidly, with no indication of when it will reverse and start to decline. Governor Little placed us on a "modified" Stage 2, which, as stated above, limits the number of people in groups to 10 or less. On the positive side, there are now three different vaccines coming available as early as December 15. The VA Medical Center will be receiving several thousand



doses around that time and will start administering them. Hopefully, this will cause our lives to return to some semblance of normalcy. In the meantime, it is still important for everyone to maintain distancing, stay away from large groups, wear your mask, and sanitize your hands frequently.

As a reminder, the East-West Shrine Football Game normally held at Eagle High School will not happen. In addition, the 2021 East-West Shrine Bowl™ in Tampa has been canceled as well. We also are not able to have the annual All Masonic Christmas party this year either.

Please refer to the hospital reports if you want to feel encouraged by what is still happening because of your support of the Shrine. Lives continue to be changed and dreams realized for many, many kids who had no hope of living a normal life before they received treatment and care in a Shriners hospital.

Thank you all again for your support of El Korah as we continue to deal with the outbreak. If there is anything the Divan can do for you, please let us know. We are a great organization with a great mission and that will never change.

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

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Hospital Board Members

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



Myron Gilbert 11/2/2020

Ben Montaney 11/19/2020

Thomas Johnson 11/19/2020

Dean Hossner 11/25/2020

Jerry Reed 11/27/2020

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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.

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.

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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December Stated Meeting

Wed Dec 9th, 7:30 pm
 Attend In Person or Via Zoom

Special December 2020 Stated Meeting Procedures (Elections)

By Ill. Sir Rick Holloway

On Wednesday, December 9th, we will have our Stated meeting which also will be our election of officers for 2021. We will have options for Nobles to participate in the elections in person or via Zoom. See the Recorder's Office message below for Zoom instructions.

A recent directive from Imperial gives us the ability to have individual groups of up to 10 people (as per the limits set by local or state health departments) in separate rooms in the Temple as long as social distancing can occur. This means we can have:

- 10 Nobles in the Ballroom
(primarily line officers to open the meeting)
- 10 Nobles in the Tiger Room
- 10 Nobles in the Dance Floor area
- 10 Nobles in the Restaurant area
- 10 Nobles in the Band Room
- 5 Nobles in the Gold Room
- 5 Nobles in the Players Room

- 60 Nobles Total in the Building

Note: There will be no Stated meeting dinner served, but Carlas will be open and Nobles may order from his regular menu at their own expense.

If you are not going to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact the Recorder's Office to get signed up for a spot in the Temple. I would like to have Clubs and Units join together as much as possible in the rooms.

Make sure you call or email the Recorder's Office as soon as possible so you can participate.

If you don't RSVP to attend in person meeting and you show up, you will be given a choice of which room you want to be in, based on availability.

Everyone will be screened and have their temperature taken before the meeting.

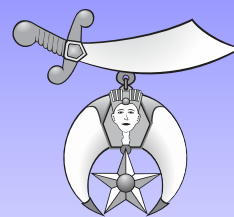
Please remember that **you must be current on your dues** to vote or to be considered for an office. Each Noble will have this dues card checked for a "2020" sticker to be able to participate in the meeting.

Each group will have a teller assigned who will carry the ballots from that group to the Outer Guard at the Ballroom.

We are making every effort to ensure that no one will be denied the opportunity to vote on the slate of officers who will lead El Korah through 2021. If you have any questions on this process, please contact me or any member of the Divan.

News from the Recorder's Office

by Jimmy Hansen, Director



Wednesday, December 9th will be the Shrine's final Stated Meeting of 2020 as well as the Election of our Officers for 2021. This meeting will be both in person and via Zoom. The Potentate has described the latest Covid building occupancy requirements in his article above.

Here is the Zoom meeting information. Please make sure to have your dues card ready to confirm that you are able to attend the meeting. If for some reason you do not have your dues card, please contact the Recorder's Office to confirm that you're dues are up to date. This way we can make sure you are able to attend the meeting.

Also please remember that the Shrine Stated Meetings are for members only. Meaning that if there is a person in your Zoom video image while you are logged on that is not a member, or not a male, you will be removed from the meeting.

El Korah Shrine December Zoom Stated Meeting

Time: Dec 9, 2020 06:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85306298006?pwd=ODhOL0wrTzdCOWNVY0FIWVh1TEYrUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0629 8006

Passcode: RH0!!0w@y

Players Playbill

by Wayne White, President

It was great seeing three new Nobles created at the November Stated meeting Cold Sands which was presented with Ill. Sir Rick Holloway taking the part of Potentate. He is such a natural at these things.

Kudos to Will Votaw for conducting an excellent and efficient Stated meeting on Chief Rabban advancement night!



We are sad to report that we have had to cancel, or at least postpone, the 2021 Melodrama. Believe it or not, in a normal year we would have already had several cast read throughs by now with rehearsals starting in December. And Covid does not appear to be letting up. Please, everyone stay safe!

Membership Committee

by Ron Bishop, Chairman

We trust that you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving. We have many things to be thankful for, even in this strange year of Covid-19. Now is not the time to let your guard down. At least two vaccines will be out very soon, either by the end of 2020 or early in 2021. We need to stay safe and stay strong! We have lost too many Nobles from El Korah this year.

As we near the end of 2020, stay healthy and please give some thought to how we can increase our ranks of Masons and Shriners in 2021. We want to get excited when we get back to normal in 2021!

Who is ready for some fun in 2021?



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"It's All in the Sauce"

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



The Portland Shrine Hospital is nearing the end of a challenging year for health care providers all over the world.

The number of inpatient admissions dipped again in October, but the number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries has returned to pre-COVID levels. Our draw on the endowment continues to be under budget and we expect the draw to be approximately 25 percent less than budgeted. While our adjusted patient days is seventh highest in the system, net patient revenue continues to be second only to Northern California.

The hospital is required to submit daily reporting of operational metrics including inventories of personal protective equipment (PPE). With the likelihood that hospital capacity will be stretched in the next two months, all acute care providers are gearing up for what could be a time where lack of capacity could mean some emergency patients may not be able to be seen. We use the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at OHSU for any patients requiring that level of monitoring and treatment, so we must closely monitor the availability of PICU beds when planning surgeries. As a back up, a new transfer agreement was executed between the Portland Shrine Hospital and Providence St. Vincent's as an alternative to PICU beds if necessary.

We are working with the Spokane Shriners Hospital on a collaborative plan to market our services throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There will be more information on our plans later.

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 and through the first quarter of 2021.

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 and the Fraternity in this capacity.

Salt Lake Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland



On this week of November 16th we want to celebrate four major 2020 accomplishments:

1. A Top 25 ranking in US News & World Report as a pediatric orthopaedic hospital in partnership with Primary Children's Hospital.
2. A Salt Lake Tribune Top Workplace designation for the 6th year in a row.
3. Receipt of the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award for Patient Experience in Inpatient Pediatrics for reaching the 95th percentile for each reporting period during the reward year.
4. Receipt of the Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award for Patient Experience in Ambulatory Surgery for maintaining high levels of excellence over multiple years.

As your local Board of Governors we want to recognize you individually and collectively for your tireless commitment to excellence during a very tumultuous year in healthcare.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and their families. We have much to be grateful for and want nothing but the best for our organization moving forward. Please enjoy a week of focus on your positive accomplishments and Happy Holidays to you and your families!



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Shriners Hospitals for Children® is committed to providing what we call wrap-around care. It means we maintain a family-centered approach and are concerned with our patients' overall health and well-being.

This can mean different things for different patients. It can include finding ways to help them play with their friends, enhance their education, enjoy a hobby and live more independently. The staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children is known for taking the time to listen to our patients and families, learning of both their medical needs, as well as their hopes and dreams.

First Lady Alice Smith believes that giving our patients every possible advantage and opportunity to achieve helps them to become **Rising Stars**, and she is dedicated to strengthening their incredible spirits and abilities, helping them to have full, satisfying and productive lives.

TREATING UNIQUE NEEDS

To help each child who comes to Shriners Hospitals for Children become as independent as possible, we often introduce and provide assistive devices, especially through our various therapy programs. We provide our patients with physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapy.



Assistive devices can range from items to help learn or regain the ability to walk, to computer-driven augmentations for those with speech difficulties, to items that help children learn to feed or dress themselves. Assistive devices also include mobility aids, such as crutches, walkers and wheelchairs. We can also customize the devices to fit the specific needs of individual patients. The **Rising Stars** fundraising program will support these efforts.

*The appropriate value of goods/services received is \$11.25 for bead, \$7 for star necklace, \$15 for regular tie, \$17 for long tie, \$12 for pre-tied bow tie and \$15 for self-tied bow tie. This amount is not tax deductible.



INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

We also use assistive technology in our therapy programs, through the availability of various systems such as body weight supported gait training and functional electrical stimulation bikes. We are also concerned with our patients' quality of life, and work to provide, or make them aware of, adaptive recreation opportunities and items to provide additional kid-friendly mobility, such as adaptive toy cars or bikes.

"We all want our children to be happy and successful," said Lady Alice. "I want to help our patients move from the Shriners Hospitals system to successful, independent adult lives."

Lady Alice invites you to join her in supporting Shriners Hospitals for Children's efforts to provide our patients with appropriate assistive devices as well as skills they can use for a lifetime. Donors may purchase a unique necktie or bow tie, a beautiful bracelet bead or an elegant necklace featuring a beautiful star, or they may make donations online. Thank you for your compassion, generosity and support of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

To us, all of our patients, and their families, are **Rising Stars**. We are proud to support the availability of adaptive and assistive technology that helps them achieve their goals and become as independent and self-sufficient as possible.

lovetotherescue.org/first-lady-program
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 Noble Wayne Foster
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Duners Doings

by Ill. Sir Garland Risner, President

The elections are now in October and the lineup for the Sand Duners officers for 2021 are as follows: President, I.S. Garland Risner, Vice President, Doug Blandford, Secretary, Dave Bennet, Treasurer, Ray Breshears, Parade Master, Jake Matthews. The Duners are busy with planning for our Sweethearts event this coming February. Likely it will not be our usual gala event but we are determined to keep our tradition alive for it's 37th year. Depending upon the state guidelines we have an action plan for different scenarios and one way or another we're going to have an party! ! !

Out of the blue on the day of our November meeting, we get a call from Whittier Elementary school with a request for those "cool little blue buggies" to show up and join a small parade in tribute to the teachers and kids before they go back to on-line learning. Having been a long dry spell since we could parade, the unit voted to go. Our Parade Master Jake Matthews said he would see that the buggies were up to the task and since we could social distance it gave us an excuse to have a little fun and put on a show for the kids and teachers. It was a beautiful fall day and seven of us, myself, Doug Blandford, Jake Matthews, Chris Burgess, Jose Costa Castro, Jack Biedrzcki, and Adam Vietti, one of our newest Nobles from the November Cold Sands had a great time. Thanks to Lady Sue Risner for taking time away from work to take the pictures. Thanks to the Nobles who took time from their work week to bring a little fun to the kids and teachers at Whittier Elementary School.

From the Sand Duners to all of you, we want to wish you the very best for this holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



All Masonic Christmas Party

by Dale Rutter, Assistant Rabban

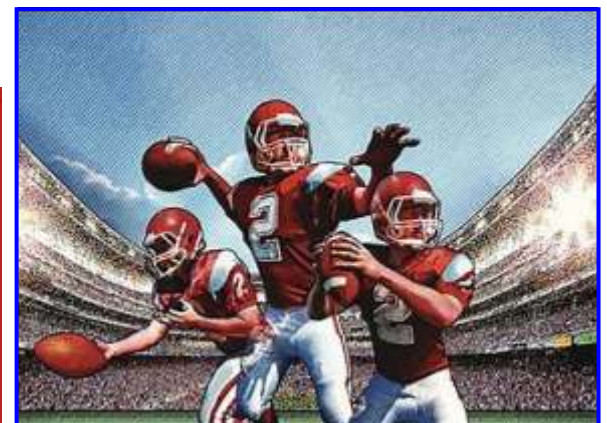
El Korah's 2020 All Masonic Christmas Party and Dinner that was scheduled for December 6th has become yet another victim of COVID-19. Regretfully, we must cancel this treasured annual event due to circumstances beyond our control.

Oasis Happenings

Boise State Football is Here!

Tailgate parties will be held at El Korah each day BSU plays a football game this fall!

Watch your email for details.



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The History of the American Flag

Part 6 by David Bennett, Oriental Guide



When Vermont and Kentucky were admitted into the Union in 1791 and 1792 respectively, the American flag had to be altered and Congress enacted that "from and after May 1, 1795 the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes and the Union be fifteen stars". It was this flag which inspired Francis Scott Key when he saw it flying over Fort McHenry, to write what is now the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner".

In 1818 after five more states had gained admittance, The Congressional Act of April 4, 1818, signed by President

Monroe, fixed the number of stripes at 13 and required that the number of stars equal the number of states; one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state. The last new star, bringing the total to 50, was added on July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became a state.

Between 1818 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

By Executive Order of President Taft (June 24, 1912), the proportions of the flag were established. Also provided for were the arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.

The Executive Order of President Eisenhower (January 3, 1959) provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.

President Eisenhower's Executive Order (August 21, 1959) provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.



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