



EL KORAH SHRINERS

DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1118 W Idaho St

Boise, ID 83702

Potentate's Message by Ill. Sir Will Votaw

Nobles, by the time you read this, the Installation of Officers will have already happened. I would like to thank the Nobility for the Honor as serving EL Korah as Potentate for 2021 and for electing the Nobles they did to the elected offices. While ALL Nobles help run the Shrine, the elected officers are its Board of Directors and are charged with the daily running of our Fraternity. The Board has worked very hard in the last few years to move to a model of the Board making decisions and not just the Potentate. My pledge to the Nobles of El Korah is to work with our Board/Divan and members to lead our fraternity and not rule/dictate from the East.

I would like to thank the Nobles who agreed to be Divan Members, Committee Members and/or Ambassadors for the next year.

As I have stated before, our Nobility encompasses a large range of views, both politically and socially. But we all have taken similar vows as Masons and we should strive to live up to those vows. I am not perfect, but strive to live up to my vows and be a better person. The world is feeling the effects of COVID-19. Many parts of the world are responding to it in different ways. In our Country, many States, Counties, Cities and Health Departments/Districts are responding to it in different ways. My intent is to follow the rules/regulations that have been put in to place where we are located. I know many people do not agree with current rules/regulations that have been put in to place in areas. We as a Shrine, will follow the rules set by our City, State and local Health Departments.

The current rules/regulations for the City of Boise include mask mandates. The current rules/regulations for Idaho do not allow for gatherings of over 10 people. Due to these circumstances, our Installation was limited to 10 in person at El Korah. I hope all who wished to watch it were able to. I would like to thank all that helped in the set-up and that participated in the event.

I would like to use the events of the past year to help move El Korah forward. Imperial allows for virtual meetings. Zoom is



our current platform and seems to work for the majority of our members. This year, all of our meetings will be able to be attended virtually. If we start "opening up" and can have large gatherings, then we will increase the number allowed to physically attend, but the virtual option will still be available, as long as Imperial says it is.

Over the last few years, we have lost many Nobles. Some from passing, but many from dropping or demitting as they no longer wish to be Shriners. We all joined for a reason. Many got fed up with the ever-changing rules/requirements and the resulting headaches. We also live in a world that has changed. Not just from COVID, but our ways of life in general. Many Nobles are able to work from home. Many Nobles have long commutes and after driving home, possibly spending a few minutes with their families, and then driving back to the Shrine, no longer appeals to them. We also have Nobles, that with good weather, live over a two hour drive from the Shrine. We also have Nobles who have worked very hard in life and are now enjoying retirement and living in warmer climates in the winter.

Continued on Page 2

Potentate's Message (cont.) by Ill. Sir Will Votaw

Virtual meetings allow more Nobles to be a part of our meetings. It allows Nobles who live far away or out of state to participate. It allows Nobles with families to still have family time. We constantly say "family first". Well, its time to start promoting that.

In addition to a Potentate's Pin this year, my daughter McKenzie has a Kids Pin to hand out. As many of our events as possible will be kid/family friendly. Her pin is for kids that attend events only and she will be the one to hand the out.

My theme for the year is "Truly Wonderful the Mind of a Child Is". Children have an open view of the world. They are not encumbered by



many of the responsibilities/burdens that adults are. We as adults sometimes forget the innocence of being children. We forget their open mindedness. Children find ways to play and have fun, to overcome obstacles and have a more open mind.

I hope this year to get back to having fun. To work though the current situations we are facing. To move forward from things that have hurt us in the past. To be a visible Shrine in our communities. To embrace changes, be innovative and get Nobles enthused about being Nobles again.

I would also like to thank my family. Without their support, none of this would be possible. To my Wife and Daughter, I Love You. Thank you for the support, the missed nights at home, the long/numerous trips and all the behind the scene things you do.

Nobles, it time to have Fun in 2021 and to realize how Truly Wonderful the Mind of a Child Is.

Junior Past Potentate's Message by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway

Nobles, Honored Ladies, and friends, with the recent installation of the 2021 officers of El Korah Shrine, my message this month is as the Junior Past Potentate. I am certain Illustrious Sir Will Votaw and the officers, both elected and appointed, have already started implementing their plans to make 2021 a successful year for El Korah Shrine.

Christmas is usually a time for everyone to renew their familial bonds and share love and hope to those we care about. We can still do that, but the outbreak has made it so we can't have those get togethers in person for now. Communicating through Teams and Zoom has become the norm, and while we aren't able to shake hands or share a brief hug, we can see each other and express our friendship, caring, and love through our words and expressions.

We lost many Nobles, Honored Ladies, and friends this past year, and the restrictions on group activities prevented the closure that we cherish. I ask that all of you take some time in the next few weeks to tell those you care about how much they mean to you. Don't wait until after they are gone and miss the chance to make them smile.

Fortunately, the vaccine is now being distributed and if we have enough people taking it so we can reach "herd immunity," our lives may be able to return to something close

to what we like before the outbreak started. For those of us in the health care industry, we suspected the outbreak would ramp up in November with the weather getting colder and people staying indoors much more than the summer. Even now, it is absolutely critical that you maintain distancing, wear a good quality mask and wear it properly, and sanitize your hands regularly. These interventions are still the best way to protect yourself. I spend time on the COVID unit at the veterans home, and have not caught the virus because I wear my mask and a face shield, plus I sanitize my hands regularly. Please don't underestimate the importance of following these guidelines in protecting yourself and those around you.

As I transition out of being Potentate of El Korah Shrine, I am transitioning into being Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Portland Shrine Hospital. We have a terrific team of Nobles on the Portland Board, and I will do my best to help make Portland the best in the Shrine Hospital system.

Thank you all again for your support of me and El Korah this past year. While it was not the year we had planned, the Divan made hard decisions and kept the Temple solvent. I truly appreciate everyone's efforts and words of encouragement throughout the year. Please continue to work with the 2021 Divan and Illustrious Sir Will as we enter into a new year!

2021 Divan

Elected Officers

- Potentate Will Votaw
- Chief Rabban Dale Rutter
- Assistant Rabban Ray Schild
- High Priest & Prophet David Bennett
- Oriental Guide Wayne Foster
- Treasurer Larry Ridenour
- Recorder Jimmy Hansen

Appointed Officers

- Director Jesse Laduke
- Assistant Director Justin Petersen
- Parade Director Jack Moore
- Chaplain David Triplett
- 1st Ceremonial Master Shawn McWilliams
- 2nd Ceremonial Master David Brannan
- Marshal Mark Isserman
- Captain of the Guard Doug Blanford
- Outer Guards Matthew Thompson

Potentate's Aides

- Chief Aide Misha Brady

Desert Dust

- Co-Editor Rick Holloway, PP
- Co-Editor Gary Betts
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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 Rick Holloway - Chairman
- Portland Dave Triplett
- Portland Mike Mastropaolo



- Wayne Shaw 1/13/2020**
- Robert Barr 11/6/2020**
- Stanley Novacek 11/7/2020**
- Paul Winther, PP 12/13/2020**
- M. Dean Buffington 12/21/2020**

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 are due by the **20th** of the month. Each picture should include a caption.

Email your submission to:
gsbetts@msn.com or
elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com

Submissions can also be dropped in the Desert Dust mailbox at El Korah.

Please be sure to double check your submission for grammar and spelling.

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.

2021 Shrine Dues were due

by 12/31/20. 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 our bills and keeps our doors open.



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January Stated Meeting

Wednesday Jan 13th, 7:30 pm
Attend Via Zoom (see instructions on Page 4)

News from the Recorder's Office

by Jimmy Hansen, Recorder

As we begin the New Year, we'll shuffle the Tarot cards to see what the future holds. Our El Korah Potentate for 2021, Ill. Sir Will Votaw, is ready to get started with his team of Officers and the Recorder's Office stands ready to make this a fluid transition. Our Office Manager, Kim Bower and Bookkeeper, Mary Baldwin have been hard at work making sure that we are ready for all that is to come. They are both instrumental members of the Recorder's Office team. Their behind-the-scene efforts often go unnoticed, but are truly appreciated!!

As far as the building goes, she is still a fine ship! High Priest & Prophet, David Bennett and I recently made substantial improvements to the security system within the building. New cameras were added as well as some additional WiFi features. A new motor for the exhaust fan in the kitchen was just installed. The old one was over 60 years old and gave up its last leg just before Christmas. On the bright side, the new motor won't be shaking the stage and ballroom floors anymore. Yeah!!

With the construction nearly done on the 11th and Idaho Building next door, our front entrance isn't as cluttered as it has been for the past year and a half. Now we just have to deal with the mess in the alley as work continues on the park. Brother Larry Menges of Wright Brothers is still

renting our Circus Office as his construction office.

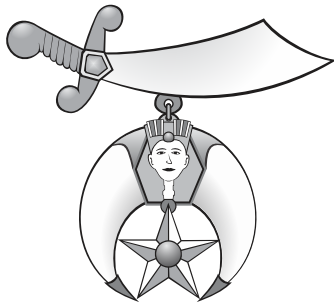
Brother Brown's Underground is doing a great job keeping both the restaurant and our lovely watering hole, the Oasis, open during the Covid restrictions. Carlas offers both dine-in and carry-out meals, as well as special meals on some future delivery days. Keep up with the ongoing activities through Constant Contact.

Speaking of Constant Contact, are you receiving them? This is one of our main ways of getting information out to the Nobility and helps keep you up to date on the happenings around the Shrine.

Please note that if you have a "q.com" email address, you probably haven't received anything in a while because your email provider may have labeled Constant Contact as spam or junk mail. This can only be fixed through your side of things, so please contact your email provider.

Last on the list is the upcoming January Stated Meeting. Except for certain Officers, the meeting will be held entirely on Zoom. Look for logon information in upcoming Constant Contact blasts and on Facebook. As always, you can contact the Recorder's Office if you have any questions. We hope all Nobles will "attend".

Happy New Year to you all!



El Korah Shrine January 2021 Zoom Stated Meeting

Jan 13, 2021 00:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85901815753?pwd=KzdheXNWZ0VER21NWWRhRZXpkOFViZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 0181 5753

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We're Back in Business, Nobles!!
Come on In!

"It's All in the Sauce"

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



The Portland Shrine Hospital is completing the "Year of COVID" with many successes and continuing efforts to treat more kids in more places.

Beginning in January, I will be starting a two year term as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Portland Hospital. Gayle Kenney from Nile Shrine will be the Vice Chairman, David Fryday from Al Kader is Treasurer, and Keith Christensen from Afifi Shrine will be Secretary for the Board.

Dr. Ellen Raney, MD, from the Portland Hospital recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics in Orthopaedics! What makes this honor even more special is that she is the first woman to ever accept this award.

There are podcasts put out by the Portland team on a variety of clinical subjects. The latest topics are on radiology and speech therapy. You can find a link to the podcasts on the Portland Shrine Hospital website or on the Rise and Shrine Monthly Newsletter put out by the Portland Hospital. Please contact me if you need me to send you a link to these information opportunities.

The number of inpatient admissions dropped slightly in November but the number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries has returned to nearly pre-COVID levels. Our draw on the endowment continues to be under budget and is currently 32 percent less year to date than last year. While our adjusted patient days is still seventh highest in the system, net patient revenue continues to be second only to Northern California.

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



2020 Year End Report

by Dr. Kristen Carroll, Chief of Staff

We survived. And we still received the Press Ganey award for clinical excellence, Top Workplace award 6 years in a row, and 24th nationwide ranking from US News and World Report.

Surgery: Despite no kids from Mexico, and Covid shutdowns, we still did 78% of cases we did last year, 700 to date. We did 45 EDF casts. The little ones with curved spines rely on us to help them with the EDK technique that reflects specialized care that we provide best. 83% were less than 24 hour stays. Imagine, 30 years ago children stayed in house for 7-10 days.

Outpatient Clinics: Over 500 telehealth clinics were done with an orthopedic surgeon in Juarez, Mexico to get our kids seen. Because of the success of this clinic, Imperial has decided to let us treat Mexico kids in Salt Lake again! Despite all the disruptions, we still saw over 8000 kids in our clinic and have 600 waited listed for surgery. We have added a fracture line and did 20 in November.

Wheelchair and Seating: Ken Kozole, our guru of seating, retired. Despite Covid, 39 kids got Halloween costumes for their chairs. The department refurbished 163 donated chairs, did 1000 refits, readied 150 new chairs. The car seat clinic provided 150 special needs car seats.

Language Services and Care Coordination: This amazing team interpreted for nearly 2800 families. They also complete reams of documents, education brochures, protocols and signage translated to Spanish.

Therapy Services: The team saw 2000 kids through their outpatient department this year and 600 more as inpatient. We gave away 78 adaptive bikes and adapted other bikes with fat wheels.

POPS: They completed 3675 new braces, 195 prosthetic repairs or creations for our kids.

Gait Lab: The Gait Lab evaluated 290 children to clarify surgical, therapeutic, and bracing optimization. Since inception, the gait lab has seen 4000 kids

Salt Lake Shrine Hospital Report (cont.)

by Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland

Development: Nathan Clark is awesome. We raised almost \$3 Million, \$900,000 in bequests and wills, 427 blankets and toys. Our foundation donations increased this year. The "Walk for Love" raised \$110,000 and had 1000 registrations. We started "Philanthropy News" which a newsletter designed for our donors. It generated \$44000 in donations.

Finance and Revenue Cycle: We are under budget by \$750,000 due to the pandemic's restrictions. We billed 32 million and collected 7 million. We remain dedicated to provide care regardless of a family's ability to pay.

Food! We used 30,000 eggs, 31,000 slices of bread, 4,100 cartons of milk and lots more.

Dear friends, please stay vigilant to our enemy, the COVID virus. Keep yourselves mindful of masking, hand washing, and gathering in groups. Stay 6 feet apart from anyone not in your household. Stay safe until the vaccine reaches us. Please accept my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for all that you do for each other, our incredible mission and our patients and families. It takes a village my friends!

Membership Committee

by Ron Bishop, Chairman

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us! It has been a challenging year for El Korah as well. The Covid-19 virus has disrupted everything we love. We have had a large number of Black Camel visits during 2020. Add that to the number of suspensions and demits and El Korah has lost 82 Nobles during 2020!

THESE NUMBERS ARE NOT SUSTAINABLE.

We must find a way of making El Korah relevant again and we must do it quickly.

- » What will make you happy to be back at El Korah this year?
- » What events will make El Korah your priority and make it something you look forward to participating in every month?
- » What will it take for us to spread that feeling around El Korah and into the community?
- » How can we get our existing members excited about coming back to our meetings and activities and encouraging their friends to become new members?

These are questions that we all need to consider. Let's work together to get our Shrine back on track in 2021. It's going to take all of us working together. Are you ready to help?



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The History of the American Flag

Part 7 by David Bennett, High Priest & Prophet



The Stars and Stripes is the national and merchant flag and ensign of the United States of America with thirteen stripes (seven red and six white) of the first Union and 50 stars representing the fifty states of the union.

The flag of the President of the United States, is the National Ensign, the flag of the sovereign people of whom he is the popular representative, and from whom he derives power and authority. The President is empowered to design his own flag, but its field is always blue. As presently in use, it displays the presidential seal; this shows the American Eagle grasping in its talons the emblems of peace and war, thirteen arrows and an olive branch, having thirteen leaves. Thirteen stars appear around its head and it is surrounded by a circle of fifty stars, symbolizing the original and the present number of states in the Union. A shield of the national colors bearing seven white and six red stripes also appears, and the Latin motto *E Pluribus Unum* signifies "From Many, One". It is hoisted at the main and denotes his presence on board a war ship.

The Vice-President and members of the Cabinet (the Secretary of Navy excepted) are also designated by the national flag worn at the fore during their presence on board a vessel of war, and it always floats at the Capitol over the Senate-Chamber and House of Representatives whenever those bodies are in session, - a custom followed in all or most of the States of the Union whenever their legislative bodies are in session.

A special mark for the Secretary of the Navy, established in 1866, was a square blue flag having a white fowl anchor placed vertically in the center with four white stars surrounding it, one in each corner of the flag.

Each of the States of our Union and the Territories have flags of their own. This flag is carried by the State militia into battle or on parade side by side with the national standard.

"Old Glory!"

This famous name was coined by Captain William Driver, ship master of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1831. As he was leaving on one of his many voyages aboard the brig *Charles Doggett* friends presented him with a beautiful American flag of twenty four stars. As the banner opened to the ocean breeze for the first time, he exclaimed "Old Glory!" (This voyage would climax with the rescue of the mutineers of the *Bounty*).

Captain Driver retired to Nashville in 1837, taking his treasured American flag from his sea days with him. By the time the Civil War erupted, most everyone in and around Nashville recognized Captain Driver's "Old Glory." When Tennessee seceded from the Union, Rebels were determined to destroy his flag, but repeated searches revealed no trace of the hated banner.

Then on February 25th, 1862, Union forces captured Nashville and raised the American flag over the capital. It was a rather small ensign and immediately folks began asking Captain Driver if "Old Glory" still existed. Happy to have soldiers with him this time, Captain Driver went home and began ripping at the seams of his bed cover. As the stitches holding the quilt-top to the batting unraveled, the onlookers peered inside and saw the 24-starred original "Old Glory"!

Captain Driver gently gathered up the flag and returned with the soldiers to the capitol. Though he was sixty years old, the Captain climbed up to the tower to replace the smaller banner with his beloved flag. The Sixth Ohio Regiment cheered and saluted - and later adopted the nickname "Old Glory" as their own, telling and re-telling the story of Captain Driver's devotion to the flag we still honor today.

Captain Driver's grave is located in the old Nashville City Cemetery and is one of three (3) places authorized by act of Congress where the Flag of the United States may be flown 24 hours a day.

A caption above a faded black and white picture in the book, *The Stars and the Stripes*, states that 'Old Glory' may no longer be opened to be photographed, and no color photograph is available. Visible in the photo in the lower right corner of the canton is an applique anchor, Captain Driver's very personal note. "Old Glory" is the most illustrious of a number of flags - both Northern and Confederate - reputed to have been similarly hidden, then later revealed as times changed. The flag was given to his granddaughter or niece who later donated it to the Smithsonian.