



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, Ladies and Friends, I would like to thank all of you that helped/worked through and/or were able to attend the Virtual Installation of Officers. We had never done one before. It was learning experience. I hope it is the last Installation El Korah will have with a cap on the number of attendees. In the future, I hope all who can attend in person can, but that a virtual option for people who live out of town or can't attend in person can.

I hope this letter finds all the Nobility and their families doing well. I know of a few Nobles and their ladies fighting COVID-19 current and a few that are in the final stages of recovery. I wish you all well and hope for the best.

I encourage the Nobility to keep reaching out and checking on each other. As we have seen from the roll out of the vaccine, it will take a long time for the population to get vaccinated. While I hope to be having larger in person meetings in a few months, I do not see it happening anytime soon. I encourage the Nobility to keep attending the Virtual Stated Meetings. It allows us to see one another and keep our meetings going.

As I write this, I reflect on the Inauguration of our new President, Joe Biden. I listened to it and many speeches today. The wonder that is satellite radio helps me to listen to a wide variety of channels while working. I reflect many of those comments here. We have seen divides and unrest in our County for a few years. We have seen similar divides in our Fraternity. The Grand Lodge newsletter this month talked about Masonic Civility. We need to grow as a Fraternity. We need to



practice Civility, not just in our Lodges and Shrines, but in public. It's time to truly come together, as Masons, as Shriners and as a society.

Not much has changed since my last letter. Our State/local area still have a 10 person gathering limit for in person gatherings. Most, if not all, events at the Shrine are cancelled or will be held Virtually.

We will have our Unit and Club Head Meeting on Saturday, February 6th at 9 am. The Zoom link will be sent out via Constant Contact.

I again thank you all for the honor of being your Potentate! We will get through these times of limited meetings/gathers and back to the events that make being a Shriner fun!

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

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 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



Richard Henry Cox. 1/19/2021
D. R. Miles. 1/8/2021
James Beal 12/4/2020
Leslie "Bill" L. Dean. 8/29/2019

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.



CommonCents

Visit one of the Common Cents stores soon!
 6 in Pocatello, 3 in Idaho Falls,
 Others in Logan and Brigham City, Utah.

***Common Cents is a Significant Contributor
 To the El Korah Patient Travel Fund***

www.commoncentsstores.com

February Stated Meeting

Wednesday Feb 10th, 7:30 pm
 Attend Via Zoom (see instructions on Page 4)

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



The Portland Shrine Hospital has wrapped up 2020 with several positives and plans to treat more kids in more places at a lower cost and lower draw on the endowment.

First, over 89% of the staff have received their first COVID-19 vaccine. As with the flu, controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus begins with wearing a mask, social distancing, and frequent handwashing but it is enhanced by a large percentage of a population being vaccinated. The staff at the Portland hospital stepped up and got their vaccine so they can help protect the patients and family members who receive care and support at the hospital.

Second, the overall hospital system saw a 24% decrease in outpatient encounters due to the three months of shutdown following the initial COVID outbreak. Portland's outpatient encounters decreased 18% last year. Our draw on the endowment is down 33% from 2019 levels. Decreasing the draw allows the endowment to extend further into the future. While our adjusted patient days is still seventh highest in the system, net patient revenue continues to be second only to Northern California.

On January 15, the staff at the Portland hospital celebrated their 97th birthday!

January 20-22 was the Tampa Leadership Conference. Normally, the leadership of the hospitals and Boards of Governors meet in Tampa for this annual conference, but COVID caused the conference to be held via Teams.

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



As a follow up to the wonderful pictures of the wheelchairs you've seen, we are proud to announce that the Spirit Halloween Stores in Utah and Idaho donated **\$173,050**. **In total, they have donated \$755,495** in the 11 years they have contributed.

We are continuing to care for our kids in Mexico through telehealth. The goal is to try to get them treated closer to home. Dr. Carroll, our Chief of Staff, is proposing that Imperial approve Juan Rodriguez, MD., who is in Juarez, to do simple surgeries. He already works with our Mexico City Hospital through telehealth. We would ask that the more complicated surgeries be allowed to come to Salt Lake. Our Mission is to always make sure our Kids get the best care – anywhere.

Most of our staff has now been vaccinated. It is not mandated, but most have chosen to do it.

Dr. Carroll reported that the rumor of Autism being related to vaccinations is completely false. The group that proclaimed this has been completely debunked and is facing criminal charges. She pointed out that vaccines have to be approved by the FDA before distribution. She said the risk factor is very low. The Staff is still required to wear masks.

Our Endowment finished the year at \$8.4 billion, the highest ever. When the market crashed, we were down to \$5.7 billion. At our peak before that we were at \$8.3 billion. Donations totaled \$270 million for 2020, which included a single donation of \$25 million.

Also, I will be taking a trailer of donations to Salt Lake in a couple of weeks. If you have items, bring them to El Korah. Thanks,
Ray

Recorder's Corner

by Jimmy Hansen, Recorder

Our house, El Korah, still stands! It has been a month now since being elected into the office of the Recorder, and as all Secretaries know, it is never an easy task. The office team Lady Kim Bowers, Lady Mary Baldwin, and myself have continued to keep the building and all its parts in ship shape. Without them I am sure I would be lost in the wind and for that I am truly grateful for them.

January we had a few rough moments but we have made it through the month. I am sure that the remaining 11 months will be wonderful as well as a pain!

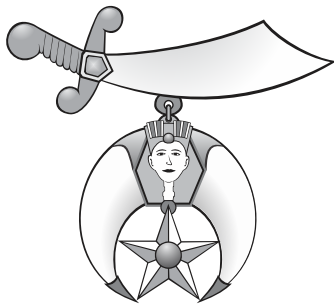
I would like to make sure that everyone is getting the Constant Contact. It is one of the top communication tools we have. If you are not please call the Recorder's Office so that I can fix that issue or for those who have a q.com email address I can tell you that you need to contact your service provider to fix the issue.

Also as a reminder that I am sure you have heard over and over, get your dues in! Not only do you need to be up on your dues to attend the Stated Meetings, you need to be up to date to attend your Club and Unit Meetings, as well as holding any Office. Our dues not only help our Temple but the Shriner Hospitals to which our purpose resides in. Each and everyone of you are apart of the help to a child who needs it the most, something that we should never forget.

I hope that this year we can gather in our celebrations, fund raisers, events, parades, as well as our sorrowful moments to say goodbye to those who have journeyed to the land beyond our understanding. I know it is never fun to say goodbye to those we love but together we can remember the moments that touch our hearts, and that bought happiness to us all.

I hope that February brings everyone Love and Friendship!

PS: If you haven't seen it yet. Our trophy cabinet just outside the Ballroom here at El Korah has a new look. Definitely check it out!



El Korah Shrine February 2021 Zoom Stated Meeting

Feb 12, 2021 6:45 PM Mountain Time

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81229783952?pwd=eExSZ0hXMGZhaG0zS3ZxRXI0emxEZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 2978 3952

Passcode: \$kyW@lk3r

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Passcode: 0769547669

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81229783952?pwd=eExSZ0hXMGZhaG0zS3ZxRXI0emxEZz09>

Chaplain's Corner

by Dave Triplett, Chaplain

As Chaplain for El Korah this Shrine year, I am asking the Nobles and Ladies to let me know of any illness or deaths that I could make a phone call, send a card, or just say some prayers. I have already sent out eight cards and have made several phone calls. I believe it is especially important at this time to remind each other we are all a part of this fraternal family and we are all there to support and help our Nobles who need it at this time. Please email me or you can call or text me at 344-4527.

Thank you in advance for helping me with this task.



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Brother Brown's Underground Football Game!



Chiefs — Buccaneers
Sunday Feb 7th, Kickoff at 4:30 pm

*Remember that Covid19 Protocols Apply
Masks, Social Distancing, etc. are Required*

Two Meals Offered for Take Out or Dine In

Meal #1 - \$25.00	Meal #1 - \$25.00
6 Pork Spare Ribs	16 Shot Wings w/Ranch
Bodacious Baked Beans	Bodacious Baked Beans
Creamy Coleslaw	Creamy Coleslaw
Roll	2 Slices White Bread
2 Draft Beers	2 Draft Beers

Oasis Opens at 3:30
and will Stay Open After the Game
Come for Games and Prizes! *(hopefully)*

Raymond Schild, Esq.



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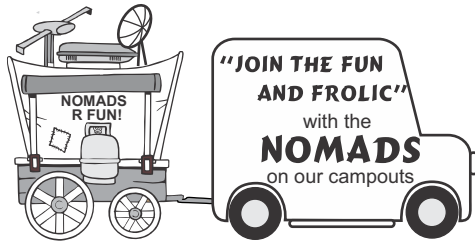
\$25.00 Gift Certificates Available

"It's All in the Sauce"

Nomads News

by Warren Hill, Scout

As spring approaches, Nomad RV Club members are getting their recreational vehicles ready for another camping season.



- » Camping season begins in April at the Ambassador RV Resort of Caldwell. We will camp April 27th to 30th at this nearby facility.
- » Memorial Day weekend (we venture to the Hagerman RV Village of Hagerman.
- » In June 28th to July 1st we will enjoy the many activities at the McCall RV Resort of McCall.
- » Baker City, Oregon hosts the annual Shrine East-West Football Game the first weekend of August. We plan to bring our rigs to the Mountain View RV Park for this fun event.
- » The final outing of the season will be held at the Challis Hot Springs of Challis. The outing is tentatively scheduled for August 26th - 29th.

Everyone is reminded to make your reservations promptly as campgrounds are filling up quickly this year. We welcome all Shriners interested in the outdoors to participate in Nomad activities. We have fun all summer long.

Iras Temple No 40 Daughters of the Nile

by Debbi deBoer, Princess Badoura

I pray you all are staying healthy and safe. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir, Will Votaw, we hope you have a wonderful year! It was so wonderful to participate in the Zoom installation, it was the first one I have ever participated in. January has been pretty quiet considering our circumstances, it will be nice when we can all get together again. I have missed all of you so much. Nile has been getting prepared for our Obligation Only Ceremony on February 20th, then looking forward to elections and installation.

Nile Love,
Pr. Badoura, Debbi deBoer

Nile Foundation

by Ann Triplett, PQ

Chairman of the Charitable Giving Committee

Iras Temple No 40 Daughters of the Nile has contributed \$59,785.52 to our foundation to be used at the twenty-one Shrine Hospitals in the United States and Mexico. Canada has their own foundation and they give to the Montreal Hospital. This amount has been from our members giving from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. This makes Iras Temple No 40 number one in giving once again. If you Nobles see a member of Iras Temple No 40, please thank her for helping your precious children at the hospitals have a better life. We thank you for allowing us to support the greatest philanthropy in the world.

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The History of the American Flag

Part 8 by David Bennett, High Priest & Prophet



Betsy Ross, Maker of 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, and the gentlemen were won over. Thus, in May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

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.

What follows is the true story, to the best of our understanding.

Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends of the fateful day when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her. Those representatives, George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross, asked her to sew the first flag. This meeting occurred in her home some time late in May 1776. George Washington was then the head of the

Continental Army. Robert Morris, an owner of vast amounts of land, was perhaps the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies.

Colonel George Ross was a respected Philadelphian and also the uncle of her late husband, John Ross. Naturally, Betsy Ross already knew George Ross as she had married his nephew. Furthermore, Betsy was also acquainted with the great General Washington. Not only did they both worship at Christ Church in Philadelphia, but Betsy's pew was next to George and Martha Washington's pew.

Her daughter recalled, "That she was previously well acquainted with Washington, and that he had often been in her house in friendly visits, as well as on business. That she had embroidered ruffles for his shirt bosoms and cuffs, and that it was partly owing to his friendship for her that she was chosen to make the flag."

In June 1776, brave Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work, which included making flags. According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Impressed, the committee entrusted Betsy with making our first flag.

Betsy Ross is often credited for creating the first American flag, yet, most probably she was the person responsible for sewing the first American flag. According to the legend, George Washington himself approached Elizabeth Ross in 1777 and asked her to create a flag from a sketch he drew. She then sewed this first flag for the new country. However, the story is open to interpretation. There is no record of this incident discussed in any official or anecdotal documents of the time. In fact, the story was not told until 94 years after the event took place by one of Betsy Ross' grandsons, William J. Canby.

During the Revolutionary War, several patriots made flags for our new nation. Among them were Cornelia Bridges, Rebecca Young, and Elizabeth (Betsy) Ross, all of whom were from Pennsylvania, and John Shaw of Annapolis, Maryland.

Although Betsy Ross, the best known of these persons, made flags for 50 years, there is no proof that she made the first Stars and Stripes. It is known that she made flags for the Pennsylvania State Navy in 1777. The flag popularly known as the "Betsy Ross flag", which arranged the stars in a circle, did not appear until the early 1790's.

The History of the American Flag (cont.)

Part 8 by David Bennett, High Priest & Prophet

The claims of Betsy Ross were first brought to the attention of the public in 1870 by one of her grandsons, William J. Canby. In a paper he read before the meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Canby stated:

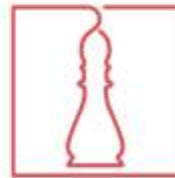
“It is not tradition, it is report from the lips of the principal participator in the transaction, directly told not to one or two, but a dozen or more living witnesses, of which I myself am one, though but a little boy when I heard it.

Colonel Ross with Robert Morris and General Washington, called on Mrs. Ross and told her they were a committee of Congress and wanted her to make a flag from the drawing, a rough one, which, upon her suggestions, was redrawn by General Washington in pencil in her back parlor. This was prior to the Declaration of Independence. I fix the date to be during Washington’s visit to Congress from New York in June, 1776 when he came to confer upon the affairs of the Army, the flag being no doubt, one of these affairs.”

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