



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*

Wow, its already March. I attended a Virtual Winter PNSA Session on Saturday the 20th of February. There were over 120 Nobles in attendance and several Imperial Officers. PNSA (Pacific Northwest Shrine Association) is the oldest Shrine Association in the world. Many of you may not know that we were the only association that had an in-person meeting last year. It was in Calgary, Alberta Canada, at the end of February 2020. I flew home on Sunday, March 1st. Within a few weeks, we were in lockdowns.

The Imperial Potentate spoke at the beginning of the Zoom meeting this year. No one thought that almost a year after lockdowns started that we would be where we are. But, there is good that has come out of the past year. Every Shine has figured out a way to have some type of virtual meetings. We even now have a Virtual Ceremonial that is an open/public Initiation. With it, we can make new Nobles, even in lockdowns. In the ceremony, the new Nobles are informed they will receive passwords and modes of recognition when a full ceremonial can be performed. This allows us to make Nobles that are not located near the Shrine or in between full Ceremonials.

After the business of PNSA was handled, we had breakout sessions with our counterparts. I came away with several ideas on how to move our Fraternity forward, even in the times we are living in. The Shrines in PNSA are all under different levels of health department/government/Grand Master orders/edicts. Some are more open than we are and some are not able to have any type of in-person gatherings.

I would like to thank the Nobles who continue to work through our current situations in Southern Idaho. We are working through things! El Korah WILL make it through our current situations! The Governor recently moved Idaho back to a Modified Stage 3 of its reopening order and the Central District Health Department, that covers Ada County, changed their Health Order to a Health Advisory.



I am happy to announce that we will have an in-person meeting at El Korah for our Stated Meeting on March 10th. There are still some guidelines and restrictions though. We can only have up to 50 people in attendance. Please call the Recorder's office to get on the list. As always, attendance at the Stated meeting is voluntary. We will still broadcast the meeting on Zoom to Nobles who live or are out of town, are sick, can't get to the meeting or who still are doing what they feel is best for them and their families and staying home.

Then there are the City of Boise rules. The City, after the CDH had their meeting and issued their new advisory, reissued their Health Order. The City of Boise order still requires face coverings when social distancing can't be maintained and in all public buildings/businesses. Yes, our meeting is not opened to the public, but our building is, as we have a restaurant. We will still be requiring masks to be worn in our building, except when eating or drinking. Please help us follow the rules of the City we are located in. In addition, we still cannot sit at the bar. If you would like a drink, please sit at a table and you will be served there.

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

We are moving forward with the opening of our Fraternity. We have talked to all the venues and our Circus Producer. The Circus, as of now, will be happening this year. We are working with the local health districts and venues to make sure we have all the proper paperwork needed.

While some areas show parade dates on their website, no parades are showing as actually happening, or accepting applications for participants, as of now. Our Parade Director, Noble Jack Moore, is monitoring the parade sites. He, along with his IAW Tin Lizzies, are anxious to get back out there.

I ask the Nobility to start getting ready for parades and the Circus. We have had a year off. We had a year of being home. I hope we are ready to start working again!

I again ask the Nobility to get out and support your lodges. I am not asking you to take a full-time officer, but to help with Degree work, when and wherever you can. There were many lodges that had Brothers working through degrees when the closures happened. They need help progressing those Brothers through the Degrees.

The Black Camel continues his journey through our membership. In the past week alone, we lost two Past Potentates, Illustrious Sirs George Pullman and Ted Fricke (who was Potentate when I joined El Korah). Please keep the families of all departed Nobles in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours in the Faith,

Will Votaw, Potentate



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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



Roy Obo 2/10/2021
III. Sir Theodore Fricke . 2/18/2021
Ray Lee Henery 2/18/2021
III. Sir George Pullman . . 2/20/2021

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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 6 in Pocatello, 3 in Idaho Falls,
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March Stated Meeting

Wednesday Mar 10th, 7:30 pm
 In Person and Via Zoom (Instructions on Page 5)

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



The Portland Shrine Hospital continues to build on its successes in 2020 and looks forward to 2021 as we work toward the goal of treating more kids in more places at a lower cost and lower draw on the endowment.

Winter weather hit the Portland area in early February and caused a minor disruption in clinic visits but the rest of the hospital continued to operate as normal. Emergency generator backup systems had to be deployed temporarily as local natural gas systems were stretched due to the demand caused by the cold snap.

We finished 2020 with 15% fewer outpatient encounters and 23% fewer inpatient surgeries. However, net patient revenue increased by nearly 13% and the draw on the endowment decreased nearly 37% from 2019 levels. This is due to increased acuity and favorable reimbursement rates. As I mentioned last month, decreasing the draw allows the endowment to extend further into the future.

A Temple Relations Committee has been formed so that at least one Board member will have direct and regular contact with each of the nine Shrine Temples that support the Portland Hospital.

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



To begin, here is a review of priorities and progress for 2020:

1. Finalized business case for Joint Board approval to pursue a partnership with Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake.
2. Top Workplace in Utah – 6th consecutive year.
3. Top 25 ranking in US News and World report.
4. Press Ganey patient satisfaction scores at 95% or better consistently.
5. Maximizing new partnership with University of Utah Outreach and Telehealth Network. Promoted Project ECHO to provide virtual learning seminars to rural facilities regarding our services.
6. Had our first virtual Walk for Love which ended up being our best ever.
7. Worked with International Patient Taskforce to define best practices for care for our patients in Mexico using Telehealth and a physician in Juarez, Mexico.
8. Used our Patient Family Advisory Council to increase optimization of the patient experience.

We are still not accepting donations of stuffed animals. We have our fair share of toys, blankets and other items for patients we treat in clinic. NOTE: we are now evaluating wheelchair donation to validate their usefulness.

90% of our staff have been vaccinated with Moderna.

Here is a quote from our Chief of Staff, Kristen Carroll:

“I operated all day on February 11th at PCH OR. I would like to report, and underscore, that their quality is excellent. However, even more importantly, I want to report that the quality of the SHC OR is equally superb. While PCH OR is larger and has many more hands to help, I feel that our operating room is perfectly on par with PCH with regards to patient safety and efficiency. The dedication and skill of our operating room staff should never be understated. The way our staff works together, often covering more than one job, is remarkable. The fact that two anesthesiologists are often available for induction and pre-operative line placement really improves our quality; this was evident as I watched one superb anesthesiologist at PCH take over 2 hours to get our patient ready alone.”

Recorder's Corner

by Jimmy Hansen, Recorder

Greetings fellow Nobles, Ladies, and Friends of El Korah. I hope you all had a wonderful and loving February and I welcome you to a luck March! This last month has been a trying one but with perseverance we have gotten through it. The Office team has had some changes this last month. Our Office Manager of six years, Lady Kim Bowers, no longer works for us here in the Office. We all hope that she is doing well in her future endeavors and wish her the best of luck. With the unexpected leave of Lady Kim the Office has been a bit topsy-turvy but I have had the amazing help of our Oriental Guide Wayne Foster! At this point we are working as a well-oiled machine! I am truly grateful to have Noble Wayne able to help out!

I would like to remind everyone to get their dues in. Our dues are not only to keep the building in working order but it is also for all the wonderful children that we help out at our Shriner's Hospitals. Since becoming the Recorder, I have had the opportunity to help with the Patient Travel Fund. In some instances being able to meet with and chat with the Families we help out. When you have a face and Family connected to the names you see in the office you get a sense of pride knowing that you were able to help out! It is such a

wonderful feeling! Now I just need to make a venture to one of our Shrine Hospitals! (It's on my bucket list).

I hope as the year continues I will be able to see more and more Nobles coming back to meetings and fingers crossed future events. I miss seeing the Shrine full of Nobles, Ladies, Friends and Family!

I wish you all Luck in March!



"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more. And nothing but happiness comes through your door."

Twin Falls Shrine Club

by Bob Cannon, Ambassador Emeritus

CALLING ALL SHRINERS!

The date for the 39th Annual Ice Breaker has been changed to **May 8th, 2021** due to COVID-19 (it was scheduled for March 6th). We are hopeful that no other changes will come upon us.

If you'd like to work at your same location as last year, that location would love to have you back!!

Please call Bob (208) 735-0951 or email him at BobC@bobcannon.co to get scheduled.

El Korah Shrine March 2021 Zoom Stated Meeting

Mar 10, 2021 7:00 PM Mountain Time

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81732599907?pwd=S1ljT2MydzBnVm9lM1NzcDVoTkFDQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 3259 9907

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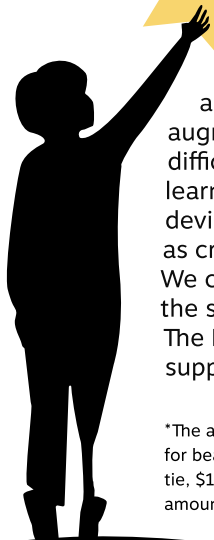
Shriners Hospitals for Children® is committed to providing what we call wrap-around care. It means we maintain a family-centered approach and are concerned with our patients' overall health and well-being.

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.

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Provost Guard

by John Kinney, Secretary

What a year this has been! The pandemic has been the main player of the year. The Provost Guard is alive and ready to get back to some kind of new normal. On February 3rd the Provost Guard held a combined in-person and zoom meeting. We talked about several options for our annual wine tasting which was to be held on April 24th 2021. The Guard decided to postpone our wine tasting until fall when there is a possibility of having a reasonable turnout for the event! Our President, Justin Boyer, has been talking with the Potentate and other units to find out what the Provost Guard can do to be of assistance to the Shrine and other units!

Wayne Foster gave us a report from the divan on the Shrine activities. The circus is going ahead with the performance's in June. We understand that Treefort is going forward in September. Our unit hopes to be of assistance. Brother Wayne Smith is confined to his assisted living residence. Brother Ron Lowe can receive visitors at his Veranda assisted living home by appointment only. The Provost Guard is holding its own during these trying times, and hopes to be active again as soon as possible! Stay healthy, social distance, and wear masks so we can all meet again soon!

Iras Temple No 40 Daughters of the Nile

by Debbi deBoer, Princess Badoura

Greetings from Princess Badoura.

Iras Temple Held a beautiful Memorial Service in February and placed a white rose in honor of PQ Dore Stansbury, PQ Peggy Kincaid and 17 Princesses gone way to soon and will never be forgotten.

We also held a beautiful Obligation Only ceremony and welcomed four beautiful new Princesses. I pray we will be able to have a stated session like we are used to very soon. We hope everyone is healthy and safe.



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