

Volume XXIII, Issue 9

November 2023



EL KORAH SHRINERS

DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1755 N Westgate Dr, Suite #125, Boise, 83704

26th DISTRICT III HIGH SCHOOL EAST → WEST

SHRINE ALL STAR GAME



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023 SPONSORED BY EL KORAH SHRINE

www.elkorahshrine.com

Middleton High School
8 Man 11 am
11 Man 2 pm



**Donations are deductible as charitable contributions.
Net Proceeds benefit the Shrines Hospitals for Children
and the Patient Transportation fund.**

**Information contained herein deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.*

2023 Divan

Elected Officers

- Potentate Ray Schild
- Chief Rabban Ric Bobier
- Assistant Rabban Ray Breshears
- High Priest & Prophet David Brannan
- Oriental Guide Bruce Drewes
- Treasurer Will Votaw, PP
- Recorder Wayne Foster

Appointed Divan

- 1st Ceremonial Master Dave Bennett
- 2nd Ceremonial Master Bob Martin
- Marshal Mischa Brady
- Capt of the Guard Anthony Patterson
- Outer Guard Rodney Baldwin
- Co-Directors Mike Mastropaolo, PP
 Bert Miller, PP
 Joe Randall, PP
 Dave Thomas, PP
 Ray Westmoreland, PP
- Assistant Director Skylor Lenz
- Parade Director Mike Keas
- Chaplain David Triplett
- Assistant Recorder Tom Eason

Potentate's Aides

- Chief Aide Mischa Brady
- Aides KC Farrar
 Adam Vietti
- Chief Aide Emeritus Dick Swift

Hospital Board Members

- Salt Lake City Ray Westmoreland
- Salt Lake City Dave Brannan
- Portland Rick Holloway
- Portland Mike Mastropaolo
- Portland Joe Randall

Phone Numbers

- Recorder (208) 343-0571
- Events: Circus/Football . . (208) 333-8350

Desert Dust

- Co-Editor Gary Betts
 gsbetts@msn.com
- Co-Editor Rick Holloway, PP
 elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com



Larry "LD" Ridenour 10/16/2023

Editor's Notice

The Desert Dust is published monthly except July and August by El Korah Shriners.

All Submissions are Due by the 20th of the Month

Submissions received after the 25th of the month will be held for the next month's newsletter, if appropriate

Please be prompt. Your **Volunteer Editors** require time to format the Dust! Pictures should include a caption, if appropriate.

Email your submission to: gsbetts@msn.com

Be sure to double check your submission for grammar and spelling.

Your **2023 Shrine Dues** were due by 12/31/22. If you do not have a current 2023 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.

Advertise Your Business in the Desert Dust!

Reach out to the Nobility, Ladies and friends in the online and printed versions of the Desert Dust. El Korah publishes 10 newsletters annually.

For a member-owned business a regular-sized ad is just **\$50.00 per year**

Contact the Recorder's Office for larger ads, single issue ads, and ads for non-member owned businesses.

Submit your ad to the Desert Dust today!



CommonCents

Visit one of the Common Cents stores soon!
6 in Pocatello and 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

November Stated Meeting

**Wednesday Nov 8th, 7:30 pm
Boise Masonic Center**

Potentate's Message *by Ill Sir Ray Schild*



We enjoyed a fun picnic at our new home at the Boise Masonic Center (formerly called the MTA Building) on October 21st, with cornhole matches and great food. Thanks to the 30 who attended and all the Ladies who brought great food!

We lost a good Shriner, Larry "LD" Ridenour who served several years as El Korah's Treasurer.

Ill. Sir Dale Rutter is currently in the fight of his life. Please pray for his recovery, and for his peace and strength. He is a great man and Shriner.

We'll have our first Ceremonial since 2021 on Saturday, November 18th at our old El Korah building. And it will be like the Ceremonials of the past. Thanks to Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland for stepping up and putting it all together!

Come down in the morning for a traditional breakfast. The morning events include a great Hospital presentation by High Priest & Prophet Dave Brannan that will be followed by a special performance by the Nile Dancers and the Players exemplifying the 3rd Section for eight new Nobles.

The evening festivities will feature a no host bar as we prepare for the Arches Ceremony, the Old Red Fez, and the fezzing of our new Nobles. After the Ceremonial Banquet by Big Sky Catering, we'll have our Noble Achievement awards, the Club and Unit of the Year award, and a dedication to Ambassador Emeritus Bob Cannon. DJ music for our after dinner dancing will be provided by Sound Wave Events. And I've heard rumors of a Unit degree, as well.

It will be a FABULOUS event. The evening activities cost just \$60 per person and include a ticket for a free drink. The Ceremonial is a special event for our new Nobles and it is important for the Nobility show them a great time. A big

turnout will show that the Nobility is involved and will encourage the new Nobles to get involved too and maybe even get their friends to join. The Ceremonial is a chance for the Nobility to mingle, deepen bonds and participate. Please attend and show everyone who we are and what we can do.

Speaking of Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland, he has also stepped up to help coordinate our upcoming parades. Let's all turn out and support our El Korah parade Units in the Veteran's Day and Holiday parades in Boise and the Holiday Parade in Mountain Home. Let's show the public who the El Korah Shriners are.

It is still a ways away, but start making your plans to attend the Imperial Session in June 2024 in Reno, which will feature a huge Shrine Parade. Our summer PNSA will be held at the same time and place, so you can get both events on the same Trip. Jackie Holloway will be honored as the Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen and Ill. Sir Rick Holloway will be in attendance as Idaho Deputy Grand Master. We are so proud of our ast Potentate and his Lady! They are hard working and dedicated and deserve all the support we can muster. So let's get our reservations made in Reno and then head there and support El Korah!

The November Stated meeting will be our Chief Rabban Night, so show up and support Chief Rabban Ric Bobier and let him know you appreciate all he and the rest of the Divan are doing. Remember, there is No Alcohol in the Lodge Room. No Exceptions. Zero Tolerance. But yes, we'll have drinks and fun in the bar afterwards!!

My thanks and brotherly love to all of you!

Yours in Faith, Brothers!
RayRay



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FALL CEREMONIAL REGISTRATION NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Noble _____ Lady _____
First Name Last Name First Name

Saturday - Breakfast - \$5.00/person

Saturday - Nobility Luncheon - \$10.00/person

Saturday - Ladies Luncheon - \$15.00/person
Taco Bar Extravaganza

Saturday - Ceremonial Banquet - \$60.00/person
*by Big Sky Catering - Prime Rib & Mediterranean Chicken,
with Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans*

Total _____
(includes taxes & gratuities)

Candidates and their Lady are Hosted for All Meals

Send your payment along with this registration form to El Korah
1755 N Westgate Dr, Suite #125, Boise, 83704
Or call the Recorder's Office 343-0571

Tickets can be picked up at the Recorder's Office

**— BANQUET RSVP —
REQUIRED**

El Korah Shrine Bob Cannon Ambassador Emeritus 2023 Fall Ceremonial



Ceremonial Saturday

- 8:30 am No Host Breakfast (*Gin Fizz*)Oasis
- 9:00 am Divan Intro to NovicesTiger Room
- 9:00 am Public Opening Ceremony Ballroom
Introduction of the Potentate
Hospital Presentation
Voice of the Shrine
- 10:15 am Ceremonial 1st Section Ballroom
Nile Dancers
Orator
- 10:30 am Tile Lodge.....Ballroom
- 10:40 am Ceremonial 3rd SectionBallroom
- 11:00 am Ladies Luncheon Tiger Room
- 11:00 am Nobility Lunch (*No Host*) Oasis
- 1:00 pm Clubs & Units Presentations Ball Room
- 2:00 pm Ambassadors Meeting.....Gold Room
- 4:30 pm Ceremonial Class Picture.....Ballroom
- 5:00 pm No Host SocialBallroom
- 5:45 pm Arches CeremonyBallroom
Old Red Fez
- 6:15 pm Introductions & Fezzing
- 7:00 pm Ceremonial BanquetBallroom
- 7:30 pm Potentate's Clubs & Units Awards
- 8:00 pm Dancing - *music by Sound Wave Events*



Bob Cannon
Ambassador Emeritus

Tribute to Bob Cannon, a GREAT Shriner

Bob Cannon was an invaluable member of El Korah Shrine. As a leader in the Twin Falls Shrine Club, he organized parades, food caravans to the Salt Lake Hospital, picnics, football games and fund raisers. He promoted the Shrine through screening clinics, community events and at his business, AAA Screen.

He was instrumental in starting the Twin Falls “Ice Breaker Open”. In its 30 years of existence, the Ice Breaker Open raised thousands of dollars for the Shriner’s Hospital.

Bob managed the Patient Travel Fund in Twin falls to transport our kids from the Magic Valley to both the Salt Lake and Portland hospitals.

He was President of the Twin Falls Shrine Club multiple times and secretary at the time of his death. Even when his health began to fail, he continued to communicate through emails and phone calls.

Rest in Peace, Ambassador Emeritus Bob Cannon.

Membership

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

We are having a Fall Ceremonial on November 18th. It will include some “Novices” that have already been through a Cold Sands while the rest are true Novices that are new to El Korah and have just joined the Temple. The 2023 Bob Cannon Fall Ceremonial Class will have 8 members. Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland is heading up the Ceremonial event. Look for information coming out in Constant Contact for Ceremonial details.

We are continuing to work the new membership inquiries that come in through Webfez for new prospects and the Sojourners (those Nobles from other Temples that have moved to our area, but have not yet made contact with El Korah regarding affiliation).

If you know of anyone that you feel would make a good Mason or Shriner, please let me know and I will be happy to contact them.

Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City Report

by Dave Brannan, High Priest & Prophet



The clinic continues to thrive after the transition from a hospital to a clinic, and things are starting to stabilize after the change. For September, 3 new employees were on-boarded and zero employees were off-boarded, so there was zero turnover for the first time in a while. There is still a 9.3% vacancy rate at the clinic, but many of those vacancies will soon be filled thanks to Jessie the new recruiter that was recently hired.

The Clinic is running at 17.9% under budget for the year, some of that is a result of staffing vacancies and some is a result of process improvements that have been made as the facility changed from a hospital to a clinic. Fundraising is back on track and should meet the goal set for 2023. September's Press Ganey satisfaction scores were slightly improved over August.

The Walk for Love was a successful event with over 840 participants, which is the most participants that they have ever had for the event. We are still waiting for totals on the fundraiser.

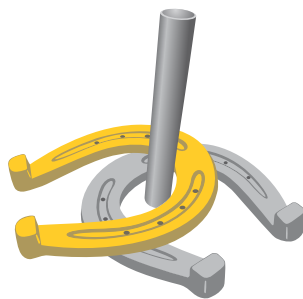
A wheelchair costume event was held and many of the children's wheelchairs were adorned with creative costumes.

The staff is continuing planning for the 100 year Shriners Children's Salt Lake City anniversary event that will be held in 2025.



2024 El Korah Shrine Melodrama

by Bruce Drewes, Producer



The 2024 Melodrama is right around the corner and we're gettin ready for a really great show!

Horse thievin', gold stealin' and a villainous mortgage holder, Oh My!

Disguises, deceptions, and more, Oh Boy!

A stranger rides into town gunning for someone . . .

The Saga of the Golden Horseshoe

. . . or *That Was No Lady, That was My Filly*

Come and meet Clem Chowder, the Blacksmith, Polly Wallie, the organizer of the Skunk County Fair, and of course Ruthie, Midas Overbarril's secretary, as well as the rest of the cast.

The El Korah Players invite the Nobility and the public to attend our 60th Annual Melodrama.

Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar - Fridays and Saturdays, March 1, 2 and 8, 9 at the El Korah Shrine building in downtown Boise. Show tickets and more details will follow . . .

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



Last month, the Portland Board and senior level staff met with the Joint Boards in Las Vegas during the Shrine Hospital Open golf tournament and presented the current status of the Portland hospital. It was a very detailed presentation and the members of the Joint Boards were very impressed with both the current performance as well as the future plans for Portland in meeting the mission of Shriners Hospitals.

On October 21, 2023, Portland held its annual Walk for Love in a "Boo at the Zoo" event at the Oregon Zoo. It was a very well attended event and enjoyed by all.

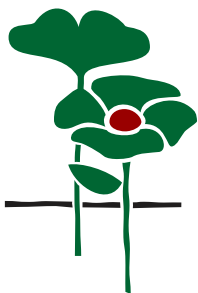
The Medford clinic continues to grow and over 100 patients were seen in September alone. We are still working on growing up and down the I-5 corridor and plan to have additional clinic locations in place in the near future.

Upgrades to two of the three operating rooms have now been completed, with new lighting systems now in place. The third operating room will be next for updates to be completed in October 2024.

In patient and outpatient surgeries dipped slightly in September but the average number this calendar year is still above target. Total gross charges year to date is more than \$10 million above budget and more than \$7 million over last year's year to date totals. Net patient revenue remains strong at 23 percent over budget. With the increasing volumes and acuity of the patients treated in Portland, operating expenses are understandably higher than budget but our net margin is \$3 million ahead of budget. Our draw on the endowment continues to be less than half of where it was six years ago and is now the lowest draw per unique patient than it ever has been.

Perhaps you have seen the "Watch Me" campaign on various video and social media platforms over the past few months. There were over 700,000 impressions in our market during the August 19 to September 17 time period. Just last week, a human interest story aired on television regarding a kid in the Boise area who had scoliosis and other skeletal issues and who was seeking help. With the help of Ric Bobier and Wayne Foster, we located this family and I was able to connect them to the Portland team. El Korah assisted in the patient travel costs and he had his first appointment at the Portland hospital on October 30. Way to go, El Korah Shrine!

If anyone has any questions about the Portland Hospital, please reach out to me, Mike Mastropaolo, or Joe Randall. We are always willing to provide any additional information you may have regarding the Portland Hospital.



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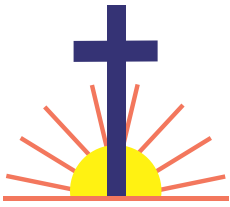


Keller Williams Realty Boise



Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



In the last Grand Lodge newsletter, the following caught my eye.

// **Masonic Trivia:** Who is the Freemason that wrote The Power of Positive Thinking?

The correct answer is one of my favorite inspirational writers and speakers — Norman Vincent Peale, who gives us the following message: “The way to happiness: Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply, expect little, and give much. Scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others.”

So call or send a card to a distressed Noble. We have plenty: Clarence Jones, Dale Rutter, Bill Sawyer, Paul Worrell, etc. Look in your Directory for their contact info. There are names there of Nobles who need to feel the fellowship that makes the Shrine shine.

I observe the actions of my Lady Ann with her ladies. She sends out at least 55 cards a month for birthdays, illness, distress, or for a simple “missed you”.

One of the major pillars of happiness and wellness is our Social relationships - so just do it!! **We are the BEST!**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

Let us give thanks to God for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth, and sky, and sea.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places.

May this Thanksgiving bring you reason to recall the many things you have to be thankful for. I am thankful to be your El Korah Chaplain and to count each one of you as my friend. I am truly blessed.



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Choosing a retirement / assisted living / skilled nursing community is a surprisingly difficult process. Boise Home Care Senior Services specializes in providing senior care options based on care needs and quality of life for your loved ones. Our services are at no cost to you.

Once our Senior Services Specialists narrow down the number of communities that meet your loved ones criteria, we will arrange and accompany you on a tour of the community.

Please contact: Sonjia Yates (208) 869-6922 • Debra Baum (619) 218-1726
Dawn Lewis (208) 860-1651

Daughters of the Nile

by Sidonia Miller, Princess Badoura

The start of fall was a busy time for our Temple. We gathered for a fun filled Spooky Bunco on October 13th.

The Fall Colors Tour was a lovely experience as we traveled in a Steam engine to the Wild West on October 20th.

The Trick or Trot on October 21st saw us at our annual fundraiser held at Julia Davis Park with Prizes and Costumes!

In November we will be welcoming a visit from our Supreme Queen Patti Larimore. We are so happy she gets to have a preview of all Boise has to offer before the Annual Supreme Session held here in June.

Keep your eyes open for us as we invite everyone to "Meet us in Boise!"



Meet us in Boise!

Greeters

by Ed Hulme, Secretary

Our November meeting has been moved out a week. It will be held November 10th at the Casa Mexico restaurant. For those who have not been there, it is located at 10332 W. Fairview Ave. Boise, ID. We plan a social hour beginning at 5:30 PM with diner to follow. We will be ordering off the menu.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Laura Otto. She has information to share about the Idaho Bee Group.

Mark your calendars, the Annual Christmas Party will be December 8th. It will be again at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City. The time will be 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This will be our installation of new officers for 2024. Please plan to attend and show our support for the newly elected.

Fund Raising Committee

by Bruce Drewes, Chairman

The past number of weeks have seen a number of events held within the Masonic Family including Degree work in the Blue Lodges, meetings of the Daughters of the Nile and Eastern Star, The Honored Ladies Luncheon, and the 220th. Robert Hibbs 33^os Scottish Rite Reunion.

We also saw a Black Camels; Johnny Robert E. Lynch. Which for me; the message of the Scottish Rite Degrees even more penitent. In the information provided verbally and in text, we instruct our membership to plan for their future and be sure to include consideration for the security of their families. As we never know what the Supreme Architect of the Universe has planned for us.

Along with planning for your personnel family, you may also want to provide some support to your Masonic Family as well. To assist with this, a Planned Giving Guide has been developed and is posted on El Korah's website. By going to the website, looking under "Local Happenings", selecting Estates and other Planning Docs, you will be able to view this document. Watch this button as it will also be used for other planning documents this summer.



Cornhole Athletes Taking a Break to get Ready for the BBQ Picnic

2023 East-West High School All Star Football Game

by Ill. Sir Will Votaw, Chairman

Nobles, Football Season is back!!!

It is my favorite time of year. As such, it's time to start thinking about our annual East-West High School All-star Football Game. The game is always played on Thanksgiving Weekend and this year's game will be on Saturday, November 25th. We are in preliminary talks with Middleton High School to hold the banquet and game there again this year.

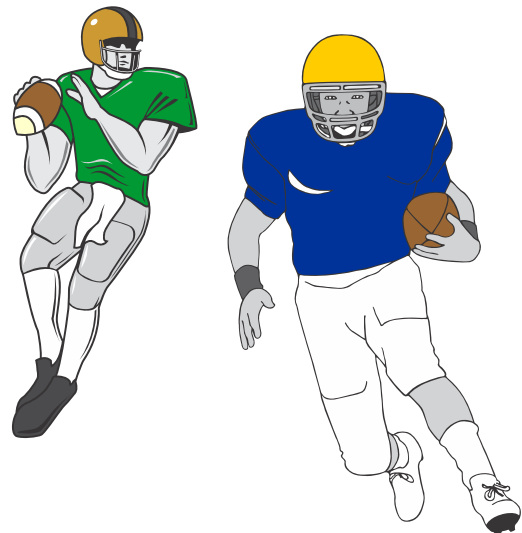
The players' banquet will be on Sunday, November 19th. This is a great opportunity for the Nobles to get out and be seen in public with our Fez on. We will need help with concessions, selling and taking tickets, merchandise sales, working at the Membership table and other things at the game. We will also need help with cooking, serving, cleaning, and ticket sales and distribution at the game.

The funds from this game benefit the Patient Travel Fund. We really need and appreciate all the help we get from the Nobility and their Ladies. In the last few years, if it weren't for the help of the Ladies, this game would not have been as successful as it has been.

If you are willing and able to help, please email me at wdvotaw@gmail.com or call me at 208-859-4407. All Nobles are encouraged to either help, or just come and attend the game. The public seeing Nobles out in our Fez is a good thing.

We will work with all Nobles and Ladies to meet their needs at the game. Which means, if you are unable to stand for long periods of time, we will have chairs or stools for you to sit on. Keep an eye out for your Noble Tickets. They make great early Christmas gifts for family and friends.

The Divan looks forward to seeing you at the game!



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Provost Guard	2	3 Players	4
5	6 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC	7 Tin Lizzies	8 Stated Mtg Chief Rabban Nite	9	10 Greeters	11
12	13	14 DON Supreme Queen Visit	15	16 American Legion Post	17	18 Ceremonial
19	20 El Korah Clowns	21 High Country Sidewinders Cameleers Sand Duners	22	23	24	25 East/West Football Tame
26	27 Black Light Patrol Snake River SC	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Greeters Players	2
3	4	5 Tin Lizzies	6 Provost Guard	7	8	9
10	11 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC	12	13 Stated Mtg (Elections)	14	15	16
17	18 El Korah Clowns	19 High Country Sidewinders Cameleers Sand Duners	20	21 American Legion Post	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 Dancers New Years Eve Party						