

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

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



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

1 st Ceremonial Master Dave Bennett
2 nd 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



John LaTourrette4/6/2023
Howard Eloe
Daniel "Deke" Johnson 11/17/2023
Claud "Nick" Nealis 11/23/2023
Jeri Engelking 11/25/2023
Ill. Sir Dale Rutter 11/28/2023

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!

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 <u>Volunteer</u>
<u>Editors</u> 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.



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

December Stated Meeting

Wednesday Dec 13th, 7:30 pm Boise Masonic Center

Potentate's Message by Ill Sir Ray Schild



Election of Officers will occur at our December 13th Stated Meeting. I am hoping for a large turnout from the Nobility since electing our 2024 Divan and Executive Board members is very important for El Korah and we want to show them our support as they agree to serve our

Temple in their new roles. So let's all turn out at the Boise Masonic Center and share some Brotherly Love and Fraternal Friendship with these dedicated Shriners.

The Black Light Patrol and Cameleers did a great job representing El Korah as they marched in Boise's 2023 Veteran's Day parade. And they had lots of fun, too! The camel dung cleanup crew was not sure what to do when they came across real road apples deposited on the road by the equestrian entries ahead of them. "To clean or not to clean" was the dilemma. But resorting to a few near misses with the broom and scoop shovel seemed to do the trick. Special thanks go to Parade Director Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland and also especially to our former Parade Director Mike Keas for his many years of impeccable service and hard work. We appreciate you Mike, you're a rock star!!

Next up is Boise's Holiday Parade on December 2nd. Maybe we'll see a few more Nobles wearing fezzes along the route?

The annual Daughters of the Nile Fashion Show is on Saturday, December 9th and their always superb New Year's Eve party is on Sunday, December 31st. Both events are at our old Temple building in downtown Boise. They support us mightily, let's return the favor and support them. Their Supreme Queen visited Boise and our entire Divan met her at the airport. I was pleased and honored to attend the banquet in her honor.

Please visit our new home at Boise Masonic Center. The bar is open Tuesday through Friday evenings and Wally, our outstanding bartender, will be there to serve libations and tend to your needs. The building is a beautiful place to congregate and share fellowship with Brother Masons and Shriners.

December will be filled with Unit holiday parties galore. Invitations to the Twin Falls Shrine Club party on December 11th are out. I hope all the parties are fun events!!!



Please keep all of our ailing Brethren in your thoughts and prayers, including two that I have especially grown to know and love, Clarence Jones among others. My thanks go to our Chaplain Dave Triplett for all his tireless efforts communicating with and caring for all our Brothers who are facing health challenges. We mourn the passing of Past Potentate Dale Rutter, a great man, Mason and Shriner.

I said my thanks and appreciation at Ceremonial for all the support I received this year, but let me say again here, thanks to our all star elected and appointed Divan for all your help and support. Thanks to Gary Betts, Dave Bennett and Chief Aide Mischa Brady for all they do. Thanks to our Past Potentates and Ambassadors for the support and guidance. Thanks to the Nobles who turned out and participated in the events throughout the year. I love you all and hope I made you proud that you elected me Potentate. I sure tried my best.

I hope this year lays a foundation for moving forward into a bright future with good morale, improved membership (thanks High Priest & Prophet Dave Brannan), fundraising (thanks Oriental Guide Bruce Drewes), leadership (that's you Chief Rabban Ric Bobier and Assistant Rabban Ray Breshears in the wings), and efficiency (courtesy of Recorder Wayne Foster and Treasurer Ill. Sir Will Votaw). Again, I did my best.

To the El Korah Nobility, thanks for a great ride this year! I'll always remember 2023 and you, too. I truly feel that we "Shined the Light we were Given".

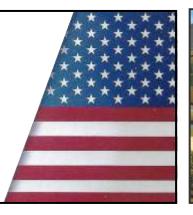
Yours in Faith, Brothers! RayRay

Guns & Ammo

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Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



As we near the end of 2023, the staff and Board of Governors for the Portland Hospital wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful supporters of this hospital. We simply could not do what we do without the unwavering and substantial assistance provided by Nobles, families, donors, and others who share the same dedication and passion for our mission. We also give special thanks to the Daughters of the Nile, who have donated over \$80 million to the Shriners Hospitals, as well as the millions of dollars donated by the Ladies of the Oriental Shrine. May God bless each of you richly now and into the coming year.

The Portland Hospital continues to grow in the number of surgeons, medical staff, and other clinicians such that more space is needed. Inpatient surgeries are down slightly but there continues to be increasing numbers of outpatient surgeries. Net patient revenue is 12.5 percent above 2022 year to date totals and we remain second only to Northern California in this metric.

In addition to seeing patients and performing surgeries, our surgeons are also extremely active publishing articles in medical journals as well as presenting at national association meetings.

On February 24, 2024, the Portland Hospital will be celebrating its "Party of the Century-Putting Patients First for Over 100 Years" in a gala event. Tickets are now available and the information on this event will be forthcoming.

If anyone is interested in receiving the 2022 Outcomes book, please let me know and I will send you a digital copy. We also have the 2023 Portland Fraternal Toolkit available to help local Shrine Centers get more involved in the hospital. Additionally, you can subscribe to the monthly "Rise and Shrine" e-newsletter and receive monthly updates on the Portland Hospital.

Finally, there is a new logo for fraternal use which helps explain the relationship of the Fraternity to the hospital system. It is shown below.



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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Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City Report

by Dave Brannan, High Priest & Prophet



The Shriners Children's Clinic is continuing to rebound after converting from a Hospital to a Clinic and things are becoming very stable. During October, there were 6 new employees on-boarded at the clinic and no employees left the clinic in October.

During the peak turnover period after becoming a clinic, they had 17 full time positions that were open and they are now down to 8 open full time positions that still need to be filled, the new recruiter has had a major impact in filling many of the open positions at the clinic.

In January, they will be on-boarding a new Business Manager while they continue to look at opportunities to grow the clinic.

The 2024 Budget has been approved by the Board of Trustees and has given many positive remarks about the Clinic's plans for the future.



Greeters

by Ed Hulme, Secretary

We will have our annual Christmas Party December 8th at the Riverside Hotel. This festive event is always well attended and we look forward to a wonderful evening. Past Potentate Joe Randall will install the new officers for 2024. The new year will be exciting and interesting with all the changes at El Korah.

The unit will kick off a raffle for a fancy fez box. Greeter Dave Roberts created a beautiful wooden fez case, engraved with the El Korah Shrine logo and donated it to the Unit for a fundraiser. It is really a work of art. The winner will have his name laser engraved on it.

We are selling the tickets for \$10.00 each and 3 for \$25.00. The drawing will be held at our February Valentine's Brunch. We will have photos of the case, display it at stated meetings, and other events.

Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



The phrase "Nothing new under the sun" is usually thought to have come from Shakespeare, but it did not. But how about from King Solomon?

The Preacher, whom we believe was King Solomon, went on to call himself

"the Son of David, King of Jerusalem," one who has increased in "wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me" and one who has collected many proverbs (Ecclesiastes 1:1, 16; 12:9). Solomon followed David on the throne in Jerusalem as the only Davidic son to rule over all Israel from that city (1:12). He was the wisest man in the world during his time (1 Kings 4:2930) and wrote most of the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1). Therefore, we can safely identify Solomon as the *qoheleth (The Preacher)* and the author of Ecclesiastes.

As King, he had the opportunity and resources to pursue the rewards of wisdom, pleasure, and work in and of themselves. Yet the world-weary tone of the writing suggests that he looked back on his folly with regret late in life, pointing us to a better, simpler life lived in light of God's direction (Ecclesiastes 12:1314).

What is the meaning of Ecclesiastes 12:1314? Solomon ends with an admonition to trust and obey God because this

makes the most sense for our lives. God will judge all things, both hidden and visible, and He will decide whether it is good or evil, not us.

When all has been heard, the conclusion is quite simple. Fear God and keep His commandments.

I share the following guide for our thoughts and words to better follow God's Laws:

Rumi said: "Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"

Socrates said something very similar called the triple filter: "Is it true, is it good, is it useful?"

So, let's all **T.H.I.N.K.** before we speak:

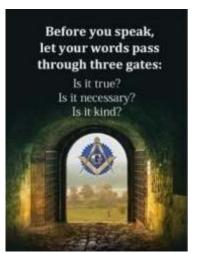
T ⇒ Is it True?

H ⇒ Is it Helpful?

I ⇒ Is it Inspiring?

N ⇒ Is it Necessary?

K ⇒ Is it Kind?





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Twin Falls Shrine Club

by Laird Stone, Vice-President

Our next meeting will be December 11, 2023 at the Mountain View Barn in Jerome at 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact Kris Carney by Friday, December 1, 2023, concerning their entree.

The Club will be participating in the Twin Falls Downtown December Light Parade on December 1, 2023. Riders are welcome.

Noble Gary Anton is working on the upcoming 2024 Ice Breaker which is scheduled for the first Saturday in March. More details will be forthcoming and volunteers to assist would be greatly appreciated.

With the passing of our long time secretary and face of the Shrine in the Magic Valley, Noble Bob Cannon, we have divided up the various things that he was working on between 8 different Nobles. It is amazing how much he was actually did for our Club as well as Shrine history that passed with him. He will indeed be missed.

Idaho Mayhem Baseball, a traveling team comprised of players who have aged out local baseball, donated their remaining funds to the Club for travel. Noble Bob Nelson was one of the coaches of the team and presented the check.



Nobles Rick Rowe, Laird Stone, Bob Nelson, Johnny Willis and James Egan

Nomads

by Jim Voyles, Trail Boss



With the camping season all behind us, with the exception of those in the club that enjoy their RV's in the warmer southern tier climes as snowbirds, all

of our camping "toys" are winterized and we are anxiously awaiting the new year season.

We held our elections and began making plans for the next season at our annual business meeting and dinner that was held at the Casa Mexico in Eagle on October 26. We elected Noble Ron Bishop as our new Trail Boss (President), Noble Greg Winther as our new Asistant Trail Boss (Vice President) and Noble Brad Foltman as our new Scout (Secretary/Treasurer).

We also began our planning for the next season. We are currently planning for five outings in 2024. The tentative schedule looks like this:

April 15 – 18	Mountain Home RV Resort
May $23 - 26$	Hagerman RV Village
June 16 – 21	Belknap Hot Springs (McKenzie
	Bridge, OR)
July 22 – 25	Black Bear RV Park (McCall, ID)
August 22 – 25	Mt River Ranch (Ririe, ID) OR
	Challis Hot Springs (Challis, ID)

If you are an RV'er, consider giving the Nomads a try. We are a truly fun club. We typically have ten to twelve rigs in attendance at our outings. We try to pick destinations that offer varied opportunities for out-of-camp activities, and there's never a shortage of gatherings and social and entertainment opportunities within the camp. Come on out and have fun with us in 2024!

Eastern Idaho

by Steve Siebers

NEWS FLASH!

from El Korah Shiners in Eastern Idaho . . .



Hey folks! This is Walt Hamby! For those of you who do not know it, he is the Ambassador for El Korah Shrine here in Eastern Idaho. He has been busy getting a group of us together on a regular basis for a couple of important reasons.

- 1. We all agreed that people need to know Shriners are here in Eastern Idaho and we can help people get medical services that the Shriners offer for children!
- 2. Like all Shriners, getting together with other Shriners is FUN!

Our first meeting this fall was in Mackay, ID in September at the Nine Peaks Restaurant, which served incredibly good food, by the way. They loved seeing us and enjoyed hosting our get together.

Our next meeting was at Bertram's Restaurant in Salmon, ID in October. Everyone enjoyed their food and the staff there also enjoyed seeing us.

Our most recent meeting was in November at the American Legion Hall in Challis, ID. They were having a Fish Fry for their Veteran's Day celebration. They made some tasty fish. So, we are planning to meet here again next year for more, if anyone is interested in joining us! At this event someone finally decided to start taking pictures. So, here we are having fun!













Membership

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

We held our first ceremonial for 2023 on November 18th at the El Korah Shrine building with 6 candidates (new Nobles) and some not-so-new that had not yet been through a regular Ceremonial. It was a great sucess and a good time was had by all. We had two individuals who received Nobility Achievement Awards: Anthony Patterson and Dave Roberts.

The Sand Duners and Meridian Lodge #47 had a joint event on November 11th to allow some of the members of Meridian lodge members to check out the Sand Duners Unit. Several lodge members voiced an interest in the Unit and El Korah

Shrine as well, but no new petitions were received. The Sand Duners did recruit Dave Roberts as a new member to join their Unit, although he was already a Noble. I want to say a big thank you to Garland and Sue Risner for opening their home to host the event and the Sand Duners for putting it on.

There have been no new prospects come through Webfez this month, but I am continuing to work the list of Sojourners (Shriners from other Temples who have moved to our area) for new affiliate and associate members.

Daughters of the Nile

by Sidonia Miller, Princess Badoura

November was such a busy month as we welcomed our Supreme Queen Patricia "Patty" J. Larimore to our Temple for a beautiful Ceremonial. We welcomed new members, conducted business and enjoyed performances by the Iras Temple Choir, the Temple Guards and the Iras Temple Dancers & Pageantry. The evening ended with a banquet held at the El Korah Ballroom.



Supreme Court Officers: PSQ Donna Kramer, SQ Patricia "Patti" J. Larimore, SP Zenobia Suzanne Gallicho, Iras Q Debbi deBoer, SP Royal Jackie Holloway

We are now preparing to participate in the Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday December 2nd. The theme for the parade is "what Christmas means to me". This is an opportunity to share our Philanthropy of Shriners Children's.

Fund Raising continues with the Fashion Show on Saturday December 9th held at the El Korah Ballrom and Santa may very well be in attendance.

We also have many fun activities to look forward to as we celebrate the season. On Sunday December 3rd, we travel to Caldwell to see the Christmas Lights and on Saturday December 16th, we will be enjoying music at the Meridian Christmas Symphony.

2023 ends and 2024 begins with the Annual New Year's Celebration Gala. Come join us December 31st at 6:00 PM for the Social hour and Hors d'oeuvres. Dinner is at 7:00 PM. Enjoy entertainment with a Champagne Toast as the Ball drops at Midnight, Eastern Standard Time (10 PM). There will also be a silent auction. Everything will be held at El Korah Shrine at the Ballroom. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased by any of the Iras Temple Dancers.

May you all have a blessed Holiday and we wish you much Joy in the coming New Year.

Fund Raising Committee

by Bruce Drewes, Oriental Guide

In the November Desert Dust, I had talked about the Nobility Survey that was advertised by Constant Contact, the Desert Dust, and at the Stated meeting. As of today, we have had 76 nobles respond to the survey. I had hoped that we would see three times that number of members respond, as this information will be used by the Divan when looking at the future of this organization.

Some members of this organization continue looking back at the history of the Shrine here in Idaho. I tell those people to look forward as the Shrine is on the cusp of a very bright future. The choices are limitless and will be determined by the efforts of those nobles that are looking to build a stronger El Korah.

We are looking forward to an El Korah that is not limited to the past but is willing to see this Shrine become a strong Center that is the highlight to all of the Shrines. All that you need to do is to exercise your voice, let the Divan know that you are involved. Copy this link into your browser and complete the survey;

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WG3HC7D

This article is witness to the ending period for Potentate Ray Schild as the leader of El Korah Shrine. He is closing his time as Potentate with the fair eye and strong grip of a true mason. He has moved El Korah to the very point that was requested of him back in January 2023. We are positioned to charge ahead into the dawn of the next Potentate for El Korah. I am looking forward to new growth for El Korah.

As a part of this new year, I will be looking to the Nomads, the Black Light Patrol, Provost Guard, and other Units to assist in the fundraising events that we will be having starting this spring.

- El Korah/Dennis Dillion, UTV Poker Run
- El Korah Challenge Coin

I would like to wish all of my fellow nobles, brothers and families the best of the Holiday Season and make this the beginning of a Marvelous New Year.

P.S. If you have not yet purchased your tickets to the New Year's Eve bash, just let me know.



Winter Business Seminar

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHRINE ASSOCIATION February 15-18, 2024

Billings Hotel & Convention Center 1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT

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_	es: Deadline to Register Day Conference (Conference)	r is February 7, 2024. ence only. No Seminars)	\$200.00	\$	
•	P. Day Conference w/Clov	wn College, Chief Rabba ^t Ceremonial and Cabiri	n, Oriental Guide, Charter Seminars		
		(Circle Your Cl	hoice) \$220.00	\$	
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. Register online <u>www</u>	v.shrinerspnsa@wildaprico		No Refunds after Fe	bruary 1, 2024	
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Name on Credit Ca	rd				
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PNSA Winter Business Seminar Schedule of Events

All Events at Host Hotel Billings Hotel and Convention Center unless otherwise noted. Times are subject to change.

Thursday February 15, 2024

9:00am	Clown College
9:00am	1 st Ceremonial Semina

9:00am Oriental Guide Seminar 9:00am Chief Rabban Seminar

5:30pm Welcome to PNSA Mixer

Friday February 16, 2024

9:00am	Business Meeting Called to Order
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Business Meeting Resumes
4:00pm	Counterparts Meetings
5:00pm	Hospitality Rooms
6:30pm	Counterparts Dinners

Saturday February 17, 2024

9:00am	Business Meeting Called to Order
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Business Meeting Resumes
4:30pm	Hospitality Rooms
6:00pm	Presidents Banquet No Host Reception
7:00pm	Presidents Banquet
8:30pm	The PNSA Oriental Guide Pageant

Sunday February 18, 2024

Winter Session has concluded, Have a safe trip home.

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullowney Lane Billings, MT 59101 406-248-7151 406-259-5338 Fax

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

JANUARY 2024									
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat			
	1 New Year's Day		3 Provost Guard	4	5 Greeters Players				
7	8 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC		10 Stated Mtg	11	12 BLP Crab Feed	_			
14	15 El Korah Clowns		17	18 American Legion Post		I I			
21	22 Snake River SC Black Light Patrol		24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						