

I proceeds are for the benefit of El Korah Sand Duners activities, payments are Not Deductible as Charicable Contribution

February 2024

2024 Divan-Elect Elected Officers

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

Appointed Divan

| 1 st Ceremonial Master | Anthony Patterson |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 nd Ceremonial Master | Bob Martin |
| Marshal | Mischa Brady |
| Chaplain | David Triplett |
| Captain of the Guard | Dave Roberts |
| Outer Guards | Rod Baldwin |
| | Gail Sivey |

Other Divan Positions

| Director | . Ron Bishop |
|--|---------------|
| Assistant Director/Parade Dire | ctor |
| Ray West | moreland, PP |
| Assistant Chaplain | . Skylor Lenz |
| Chief Potentate's Aide | Merl Mews |
| Ambassador Coordinator | . Mitch Davis |

Potentate's Aides

| Coordinator | Mischa Brady |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Aides | . Black Light Patrol |
| Chief Aide Emeritus | Dick Swift |

Hospital Board Members

| Salt Lake City | Dave Brannan |
|----------------|---------------|
| Portland | Rick Holloway |
| Portland | Joe Randall |

Phone Numbers

Desert Dust

Editor..... Gary Betts gsbetts@msn.com

Assistant Editor Rick Holloway, PP elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com





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.

Submissions are Due by the <u>20th</u> of the Month

Please be prompt!! Remember, the Editor is volunteering his time to publish the newsletter.

Pictures should include a caption, if appropriate.

Email your submission to Gary at gsbetts@msn.com

2024 Shrine Dues were due by **12/31/23**.

If you do not have a current 2024 dues card, you are delinquent and cannot attend meetings, etc.

Avoid the dreaded NPD list and contact the Recorder's Office today (343-0571).

Did you know that El Korah's budget relies on members paying their dues on time?

You dues help pay our bills and keep our doors open.

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

February Stated Meeting

Wednesday Feb 21st, 7:30 pm Boise Masonic Center

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DESERT DUST

February 2024

Potentate's Message by Ric Bobier



Greetings and Happy Ground Hog Day!

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who joined us for the Divan Installation on January 6th at El Korah. Thank you Illustrious Sirs Rick Holloway, Mike Mastropaolo and Joe Randall, and Nobles Jim Leichliter, Merl Mews, Bill Curtis (Most Worshipful

Past Grand Master), and Bob Carleton for doing exceptional job as our Installation Team. Your dedication and competence made the installation a resounding success! I express my sincere gratitude to each of you.

Unfortunately, several appointed officers couldn't attend the Installation due to illness, and we send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery. In the absence of our Oriental Guide, we conducted a special election during our January Stated Meeting and elected and Installed Jason Morales that night. Welcome aboard, Jason! We eagerly anticipate working together and have big plans for you.

A special thank you to the Nile Dancers for their captivating performance during the Installation, and to all the Divan Ladies and other ladies who contributed to the success of the reception. The entire event held special significance for Tandy and me, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all.

Despite some challenges with winter storms causing delays, the Black Light Patrol has successfully completed four of the six crab feeds scheduled for 2024. The last will be on February 23rd and 24th at the Scottish Rite Center.

Several members of the Divan attended the Eastern Idaho/Upper Country luncheon in Arco on Saturday, January 27th with the aim of re-engaging area Nobles and assisting in re-establishing the local Shrine Club.

Our upcoming Unit and Club Meeting is on February 3rd at the Boise Masonic Center at 10:00 AM. Coffee and donuts will be provided as well as lunch afterwards. All Nobles are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate in the meeting. **Unit and Club Officers are expected to attend** (hence the name of the meeting).

To accommodate the Winter session of Pacific Northwest Shrine Association (PNSA) in Billings, Montana, we have requested and received a dispensation from Imperial to move our February Stated Meeting from the 14th to the 21st. Please make note of this change The Sand Duners Sweethearts Masquerade Ball, which includes dinner, dancing and a huge auction, is coming up on Saturday, February 10th. It will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott on Eagle Road, just south of Overland. The Sand Duners Unit has invested significant time and effort to ensure a successful event and everyone is encourage to attend and support them.



Go to <u>https://sandduners.org/sweethearts-auction/</u> to purchase your tickets.

The Greeters Unit will host their Annual Valentine's Day brunch at the Riverside at 10:00 AM On Sunday, February 11th. Please contact Greeter President Bob Martin for tickets.

Also at 3:30 PM on the same afternoon, El Korah will host our Annual Super Bowl Party at the Boise Masonic Center Oasis. See the flyer on page 6 for more information. Come out and support your favorite football team and enjoy the company of your Masonic friends and family during the Super Bowl.

The last event I want to mention is the 42nd Annual Ice Breaker on Saturday, March 2nd in downtown Twin Falls. If you haven't attended one before, I can personally assure you that it is worth your time and effort to support it. All proceeds from registrations and donations go to Shriners Children's.

Members of the Divan are selling numbered 2024 Challenge Coins for \$20.00 each. Two numbers will be drawn for two separate \$500.00 gift certificates when they are all sold or close to the end of the year.

Our January Stated Meeting was a success. Noble Wayne Foster prepared a fantastic stew and salad for dinner. A Committee is being organized to study and recommend our next steps for El Korah and our Fraternity.

I urge you to come out to see your fellow Brothers and support our Shrine. Your help is always needed and welcomed at all our activities. I'd love to see our Lodge room overfilled during our Stated Meetings. Our Noble Recorder is preparing phenomenal meals before our meetings, making it worthwhile to come out and break bread with your Shrine Masonic Family.

Thank you all for your dedication and service!

"Energize More in 2024"

Yours in Fellowship and Brotherhood, Ric Bobier - Potentate

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



As expected, the Shriners Children's Portland ended 2023 with substantial growth in the number of surgeries and visits. Inpatient surgeries, outpatient surgeries, and inpatient discharges saw double digit growth from 2022 to 2023. We continue to see increasing numbers of international patients in Portland, further meeting the mission of serving more kids each year. Net patient revenue increased 14.5 percent over last year as well. The case mix index (measuring the acuity of the patients seen) is the highest of all Shrine hospitals. The Medford clinic also experienced a substantial increase in the number of patients seen with a 27 percent increase in outpatient visits from 2022 to 2023.

All of this was done at the same time our draw on the endowment dropped 3.3 percent from last year. Most of the

decrease was due to increased donations received by the hospital, which go directly against our expenses in calculating net income.

On May 17, the 2024 Shriners Children's Northwest Classic Golf Tournament will be held at the Nile Shrine golf course in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. If you would like to start the year with a great tournament for a great cause, pack up your clubs and head to Seattle for some great times and great fellowship. The cost is \$150 per player with a 4 person team scramble format. Virtually all of the tournament proceeds go to support the Portland and Spokane Shrine hospitals.

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 is shown below.

If anyone has any questions about the Portland Hospital, please reach out to Joe Randall or I via text, email, or phone. We are always willing to provide any additional information you may have regarding the Portland Hospital. At the end of this year, I will be leaving the Board after 9 years of service. Interviews for my replacement will happen in in June/July so if you are interested in serving on the Portland Board, please contact the Recorder's office for application forms.



February 2024

Salt Lake Shriners Children's Clinic

by Dave Brannan, Assistant Rabban



The Shriners Children's Clinic had a very successful year in 2023. The clinic hit 99.85% of their fundraising goal for the year at \$4,493,188, a 2% increase over 2022. The clinic was 20.5% under budget on expenses for the year. This was due to open positions that were not filled during the year, significantly lower expenses for outside services, and savings from performance improvements.

They had zero employee turnover for the month of December, but still have an 8.2% vacancy rate for unfilled positions that they are continuing to recruit for.

They had over 8,200 patient visits for the year. The POPS (Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services) department delivered 3,900 orthotics and 197 prosthetics for a total of 4,097 devices for the year. The Wheelchair department delivered 1,296 wheelchairs and car seats for the year.

The Press Ganey Satisfaction scores dropped after the Epic went live in the 2nd quarter of 2023, from a high of 96.39% in the 1st quarter to 89.09% in the 2nd quarter, but they are slowly coming back up and were at 92.02% in the 4th quarter of 2023.

The staff is continuing to evaluate options for the best use of the facility, because there is significant unused space after the transition from a hospital to a clinic.

The Board of Governors at the Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City is looking for 5 Nobles to join the BOG. The BOG has 18 members when it is at capacity and there are currently 13 members. There are 10 Temples in the area that support the Clinic and the BOG would like to have at least two Nobles from El Korah.

I have been told by previous BOG members that serving is the most rewarding thing that they have ever done and after a year on the Board, I agree with them. Come and join us! The Recorder has the applications. Please let me know if you have any questions.



El Korah Shrine Circus

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

The 2024 El Korah Shrine Circus will be held from June 18th through June 23rd with dates, locations and times as shown:

with dates, locations and times as shown:

- Tue June 18 Sandy Downs Arena Idaho Falls 4pm and 7pm
- Wed June 19 Minidoka County Fairgrounds...Rupert 4pm and 7pm
- Thu June 20 Jerome County Fairgrounds ... Jerome 4pm and 7pm
- Fri June 21 Grandstands at Expo Idaho Boise 4pm and 7pm
- Sat June 22 Grandstands at Expo Idaho Boise 11am and 3pm
- Sun June 23 Grandstands at Expo Idaho Boise 2pm and 5pm

The Shrine Circus is our largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds directly support El Korah's operations and volunteers are needed to help make it a success. Please consider doing whatever you can to support the Circus. A sign up sign up sheet will be available at the next stated meeting.

Or email me (Dave) at <u>Circus@ElKorahShrine.com</u> and let me know which performances you can help with.

February 2024



Boise Masonic Center 1755 N Westgate Dr, Boise

Doors Open: 3:30 pm Kickoff: 4:30 pm Cost: FREE!

Chili Provided Bring a Snack to Share

Hosted by El Korah Shrine Ambassadors Questions? Call Mitch Davis (208) 859-7655



Bring your numbered 2024 Potentate's Challenge Coin for Entry into Special Drawings

Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



When I had nightmares as a child, my mother taught me to recite Psalm 27 for comfort.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?"

This divine light staves off fear. It's a light that brings comfort and calm and allows us to see in the darkness.

But over the years as I have recited this prayer throughout my life at some of the most challenging intersections, I have come to realize that I have this light within me. As children of God, we all have this light – and it is up to us to shine this light in the world. We, too, can bring calm and peace with this light. We, too, can bring comfort and courage with this light in our words and our actions, and in our very being.

Yes, self-doubt and lack of self-confidence may suppress the light, and others may try to squelch our light with unkind words. But the light of God yearns to shine and longs to be seen. It is unwavering, inextinguishable, and even contagious! Light will always make a way.

Nobles, let your light shine!

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Membership

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

A group of the Elected Divan members: Illustrious Sir Ric Bobier, Chief Raban Ray Breshears, Assistant Raban Dave Brannan, and High Priest & Profit Bruce Drewes traveled to Arco on Saturday January 27th to meet some of our Shriners from Eastern Idaho. We provided information on active Shrine Members and Sojourners in Eastern Idaho that they will be trying to contact, to try and get additional Shriners involved with their group. This group is trying to start a new (or restore an existing) South Eastern Idaho Shrine Club. We had a great meeting with the group and we look forward to formalizing this into a club in the near future.

We continue working with the Sojourners in the area to try and bring new affiliate members into the Shrine.

We will be restarting our Cigar group meetings in February with the first meeting held at Sturman's on Chinden Blvd (4204 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City) on Sunday February 18th at 3:30pm. I will send out a Constant Contact closer to the event. I hope to have a good turnout for our first meeting.

I am planning to host another family puzzle night competition in February or March. We will hold this event at the Meridian Masonic Lodge. I am working out the details and will send out a Constant Contact in the near future with sign up information.

I will be starting a monthly game night beginning in February, details to follow.

Remember that every Noble has a part in finding new members for our fraternity. If you know a Mason that would make a good Shriner, ask them. If you know a good man that would make a good Mason, talk to them about Masonry.

We all need to work together to grow our fraternity!

Guns & Ammo

Buy, Sell or Trade

Bob Julian rmjulian@aol.com 208-863-4626 Phone or Text Boise, Idaho

We'll estimate value and make you an offer





Greeters

by Bob Martin, President

Here we are moving into February. Our January dinner meeting was a little light on attendance, but those who did come enjoyed great evening. The meal at Casa Mexico was outstanding and our guest speaker, Nora Carpenter, was awesome! She spoke on the history of the Masons dating back to the early days of Idaho City and Boise.

There won't be a meeting in February, but we will be having our annual Sweetheart Brunch on February 11th at the Riverside Hotel, which is located at 2900 Chinden Blvd in Boise. It starts at 10:30 am. We will be serving mimosas and each of our sweethearts will receive a rose. The cost is \$30 per person.

We will be also drawing the winning ticket for a custom wooden Fez case that was custom made by our own Vice President Dave Roberts. The winner will have his name and a Shrine emblem, if desired, engraved on the lid of the case.

We hope to see you all on February 11th. Please RSVP to me: email or call (714) 929-6563

Greeter's Custom Fez Case Raffle

The Greeter's are raffling a custom made Fez case as a fundraiser to support the Greeter's. The drawing will occur at the Greeters Valentine's Day Brunch on February 11th.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and you do not need to be present to win.

See Noble Dave Roberts for tickets. He'll be at the Clubs & Units meeting on February 3rd, but if you don't see him in person, he can take a Venmo payment remotely. Contact Dave if you have any questions:

(208) 954-1342 drobertsid@gmail.com



Custom Fez Case Crafted by Noble Dave Roberts

2024 Potentate's Challenge Coin



Just a heads up . . .

You probably want start bringing your Challenge Coin with you whenever you attend a Shrine gathering, such as a Stated Meeting.

You never know when one of the Potentate's special drawing might pop up.



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

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 holidays came to a close with the New Year's Eve Gala. It was well attended and all enjoyed the delicious dinner and danced and toasted in 2024! This will be an exciting year for our Temple.

The Nile Temple line officers; Queen Debbi deBoer, Princess Royal Garianne Erwin, Princess Tirzah Terri Brannan, Princess Badoura Sidonia Miller and other Ladies of the Household, attended the Installation of El Korah's Potentate Ric Bobier and Lady Tandy. It was a moving ceremony as the elected and appointed officers accepted their duties.

We started January with the Membership meeting where we revisited our Ambassador program which was designed to stay connected with all our members. The weather began to change as we gathered for Sewing and Cards and by the following week had arrived with snow, ice and treacherous roads. Mother Nature created a situation where we had to cancel club meetings and our Winter Ceremonial. This has not deterred our plans for 2024 as we increase our membership and join together to continue to raise funds for Shriners Children's. The Website for The Supreme Session in June is up and reservations are coming in. This will be an amazing experience for our Temple.

February will see us coming together for the School of Knowledge, Valentine's Bunco, Club meetings and our Memorial Ceremony where we Honor all our Past Queens and Princesses who passed during the year. They are gone but not forgotten.

"February arrives cold, wet and gray, her gifts disguised for only the most discerning spirits to see. Gentle is our Path. Gratitude is the thread we weave into the fabric of our lives this month, giving thanks for our simply abundant lives and asking for the gift of one thing more: grateful hearts." Potentate's Challenge Coin

by Bruce Drewes, Fundraising Committee Chair

Potentate Ric Bobier has authorized a special Potentate's 2024 Challenge Coin. The front side of the coin has the Potentate's pin on it while the back side has the Scottish Rite emblem in recognition of Ric's longtime service to that organization.



Potentate's 2024 Challenge Coin

Only 500 of these beautiful coins have been created and will be offered for sale to the Nobility and the general public for \$20.00 dollars each.

Anyone can own one of these keepsakes!

In addition to being a wonderful souvenir of the Potentate's memorable year, each coin will have a unique number stamped on it that will be used in a drawing held near the end of 2024. Two numbers will be randomly drawn and the holders of the lucky coins with the drawn numbers will be winners of a \$500.00 gift card grand prize.

Yes, you'll have two chances to win a \$500.00 gift card!

The proceeds of this fundraiser will be set aside for future El Korah activities.

Note. Proceeds support El Korah Shrine, payments are not deductible as Charitable Contributions.





Keller Williams Realty Boise



Eastern Idaho

by Steve Siebers

El Korah Shriners participate in Salmon Parade of Lights

Salmon Idaho gave a warm welcome to Nobles Doug Hammond and Steve Siebers in this year's Parade of Lights! Parade goers applauded as we made our way down Main Street in Tin Lizzies decorated for the occasion. The temperatures were mild and everyone had a fun time.

As everyone knows, parades are where we spread the word by having a little fun showing off. Well, we took a couple of pictures to share.





ATTENTION SHRINERS!! Remember to sign up to work at the 2024 El Korah Shrine Circus June 18-23

Eastern Idaho, Upper Country Shrine

On January 27, the El Korah Elected Divan traveled to Arco, ID for lunch with the Upper Country Shrine group. We met with Steve Siebers and Jill from Salmon, Walt Johnson and Diane Fisher from Mackay, Walt Hamby from Mackay, Doug Hammond and Sandi from Challis and Russ Smith and Kaylynn from Arco. We had a great time breaking bread with our Brothers from the Upper Valley area.

This group meet once a month at some place, usually a restaurant, in the Upper Valley area. The Divan is hoping to meet with this group again and would like to invite other Shriners to join us.

We came bearing gifts; Potentate pins, information about what is going at El Korah, and challenge coins). Thank's again for inviting us to your neck of the woods.

If you are part of a group of Shriners that occasionally gets together and would like your the Divan to join you, contact any of the Divan member and we will try our best to fit a



Gathering for Lunch in Arco, ID



Sand Duners 2024 Sweetheart Auction Masquerade Ball

For information and to purchase tickets to attend this event, go to the Sand Duners website at:

https://sandduners.org/sweethearts-auction/

Twin Falls Shrine Club Upcoming Events

| Saturday, March 2nd | Annual Ice Breaker Tournament | Twin Falls |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday, March 17th | St Patrick's Day Parade | Twin Falls |
| Monday, May 27th | N/S All Star Football Game | Burley |



Important: Clubs & Units Meeting on Saturday, Feb 3rd

All El Korah Noble are invited (Club and Unit Officers are expected) to attend the annual Clubs & Units meeting at the Boise Masonic Center at 1755 N Westgate Dr, Boise. The meeting starts with coffee and donuts at 10:00 am and ends with lunch. This meeting is time when the 2024 Divan lays out the plans for the upcoming year. There will be questions and answers as well as discussions on topics of importance to El Korah. Please come join Ill Sir Ric Bobier and the Divan us as we kick off the 2024 year.

| Winter Business Seminar PACIFIC NORTHWEST SHRINE ASSOCIATION February 15-18, 2024 Billings Hotel & Convention Center 1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------|--|--|
| A Last Name | First | Name | Middl | e Initial | | |
| Shrine Center | | | Current Title | | | |
| Mailing Address | | City | State (PV) | ZIP | | |
| Home Phone | Business Phone | Cell Phone | e-mail | | | |
| Hotel Reservations: The Billings Hotel and for reservations. Ho | Flight # Registration deadline V and Convention Center, c otel rooms: \$129.00 +Taxe es: Deadline to Register | Vednesday, February 7 entral reservations numb s | th. Please make your res | servations with | | |
| Complete 2 | Day Conference (Confer | ence only. No Seminar | s) \$200.00 | \$ | | |
| Complete 2 | 2 Day Conference w/Clov 1 ^s | ^t Ceremonial and Cabir | i Charter Seminars Choice) \$220.00 | \$ | | |
| . Register online <u>www</u> | v.shrinerspnsa@wildaprico Questions or co | ot.com or mail to: PNSA Winter 2024 P.O. Box 1385 Columbus, MT 59019 mments please email pr | | ୬ ruary 1, 2024 | | |
| Method of payme | ent: Check # | | ayable to: PNSA) | | | |
| Name on Credit Ca | rd | | | | | |
| Credit Card Type (MC, Visa, American E> | press & Discover) Number | | | | | |
| Expiration Date (M | M/YY)/ | CCV | Billing Zip Code | | | |

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| | Sun | Mon | FEBR Tues | | 2024 Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|----|--|---|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Greeters Players | 3 |
| 4 | | 5 | 6 Tin Lizzies | 7 Provost Guard | 8 | 9 | 10 Sand Duners Sweetheart Auction Masquerade Ball |
| 11 | Greeter's Brunch Super Bowl Party | 12 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC | | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 Wint | 16 er PNSA - Billings | 17 , MT |
| 18 | i | 19 | 20 High Country Sidewinders Cameleers Sand Duners | 21 Stated Mtg (Note meeting date changed due to PNSA) | Legion Post | | |
| 25 | | 26 Black Light Patrol El Korah Clowns Snake River SC | | 28 | 29 | | |

| MARCH 2024 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | 1 Greeters Players | 2 Ice Breaker Twin Falls |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Tin Lizzies | 6 Provost Guard | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC | 12 | 13 Stated Mtg | 14 | 15 Scottish Rite Reunion | 16 Scottish Rite Reunion |
| 17 Scottish Rite Reunion Gold Rush SC | 18 | 19 High Country Sidewinders Cameleers Sand Duners | 20 | 21 American Legion Post | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Black Light Patrol El Korah Clowns Snake River SC | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |