

Volume XXVI, Issue 2

February 2026

EL KORAH SHRINERS

DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1755 N Westgate Dr, Suite #210, Boise, 83704

EL KORAH SHRINE SAND DUNERS

cordially invites you to the Annual

Sweethearts Dinner Dance Auction

February 14th, 2026

Nampa Elks Lodge 1116 1st St S

SOCIAL HOUR at 5:00 pm **DINNER at 6:00 pm**

Auction at 7:00 pm — Dancing to follow with Rock'n Rooster

\$800 for a Corporate Table (8 tickets)

\$110 for couples — \$60 for individuals

Scan for Tickets



♥ *Black Tie Event* ♥

Scan QR Code for Tickets or Contact any Sand Duner
sandduners.org/sweethearts-auction-2026

All proceeds are for the benefit of El Korah Sand Duners activities, payments are Not Deductible as Charitable Contributions

2026 Divan

Elected Officers

Potentate David Brannan
 Chief Rabban Bruce Drewes
 Assistant Rabban Jason Morales
 High Priest & Prophet Danny Harkins
 Oriental Guide Darrell Forrester
 Treasurer Randy King, MWGM
 Recorder Wayne Foster

Appointed Divan

1st Ceremonial Master Rob Mahar
 2nd Ceremonial Master Jeremy Barnett
 Marshal Mischa Brady
 Chaplain David Triplett
 Captain of the Guard Leonard LaTour
 Outer Guard Rod Baldwin

Other Divan Positions

Director Robbie Swofford
 Assistant Director Gail Sivey
 Assistant Chaplain Virgil Sisiam
 Ambassador Coordinator Mitch Davis
 Chief Potentate's Aide Mischa Brady

Potentate's Aides

Aides Trevor Thueson
 Travis Brandt
 Stephen Safar-Fashandi
 Leonard Latour
 Chief Aide Emeritus Dick Swift

Hospital Board Members

Salt Lake City Dave Brannan
 Kristapher Carney
 Portland Joe Randall

Phone Numbers

Recorder (208) 343-0571

Desert Dust

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



David Nordling 1/13/2026

David Jennings 1/20/2026

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 20th 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

2026 Shrine Dues

were due by
12/31/25

Go to the El Korah Website
elkorahshrine.com

or contact the Recorder's Office
343-0571

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

Paying your dues helps pay our
bills and keep our doors open.

February Stated Meeting

Wed, February 11th, 7:30 pm
Boise Masonic Center - Westgate

Potentate's Message *by Ill Sir Dave Brannan*



"Timeless" Jacket, Shirt and Cap

I want to encourage the Nobility to participate in the Shrine Red Shirt Friday on the first Friday of every month (or every Friday, if you'd like). Wear a Red Shrine Shirt for the day if you have one, or any color Shrine Shirt if you don't, and represent the El Korah Shriners to all of those that you encounter during the day. Be prepared to answer questions about our wonderful organization.

We held our first Red Fez Lunch on January 10th at Boise Brewing with 7 Shriners and 2 Ladies in attendance. We had a nice time of fellowship with good food and beverages and a good time was had by all. The second Red Fez Lunch was on January 31st at Koto Brewing in Twin Falls. If you would like to attend a Ref Fez Lunch, please RSVP to admin@elkorahshrine.com so that we can make sure we have enough seats. The schedule and location of the lunches are listed in the Directory. Reminders will go out via Constant Contact.

Our January Stated meeting was on January 14th with about 40 members in attendance. The meeting ran a little long because we to approve the 2026 budget. We also approved a Shriners Children's fundraiser that I asked for. This fundraiser will support both the Shriners Children's Hospital in Portland and Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City. I have made a donation to initiate this fundraiser and I am hoping that other Nobles will be willing to contribute. I will be looking for activities throughout the year to help generate money toward this fundraiser and am hoping to raise enough to make a check presentation at the 2026 Imperial Session. This will acknowledge and provide visibility that we are willing to support our philanthropy. We will take pictures of the presentation and post them to our Website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This fundraiser will be named for my logo "Racing to Help Kids", if you would like to donate. Let's work to "Grow the Fraternity by Promoting Our Philanthropy".

We will be holding a drawings in the Oasis after each Stated meeting for a "Timeless" Red Shrine Shirt and a "Timeless" Grey Shrine hat. The first drawing was won by Noble Kyle

I attended several Club and Unit meetings as well as several Blue Lodge meetings, and I will attend many more throughout 2026.

The 2026 El Korah Directory is now available in the El Korah Office.

Bush, one of our new Nobles from 2025. You can order your "Timeless" clothing from the Recorder at (208) 343-0571 or recorder@elkorahshrine.com. "Timeless" refers to the fact that the clothing is not Potentate specific and will remain wearable for multiple years in place of traditional Potentate specific clothing that changes each year. There is a Red Shirt, Grey Hat, Grey Vest and Grey Coat are available for purchase. The Provost Guard is managing the sale of this clothing as a fundraiser and will receive a small handling fee from each order.



Other January Events

Jan 23, 24, 30, 31 - Blacklight Patrol Crab Feed at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Jan 27 - 2026 Shrine East/West Bowl game watch party at the Boise Masonic Center - Westgate.

Upcoming February Events

Feb 7 - Club & Units Meeting starting at 9 am. Coffee, doughnuts and lunch will be provided.

Feb 8 - Superbowl Watch Party at the Boise Masonic Center.

Feb 14 - Sand Duners Sweethearts Dinner Dance Auction at the Nampa Elks Lodge

Feb 15 - Greeters Valentine's Day Brunch at the Riverside Hotel

Feb 20, 21, 27, 28 - Blacklight Patrol Crab Feed at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Feb 19-22 - Winter PNSA in Sheridan, WY

We have many fun events scheduled for 2026 please participate if you are able, and remember that our membership is dependent on having healthy blue lodges, lets get out and support our brothers in the blue lodges to keep them healthy.

2026 Shrine dues were due by Dec 31st. Nobles, please be aware that El Korah has to pay your \$55.00 Imperial fees early in 2026. Being delinquent puts El Korah in a financial hole to start the year. Please don't do this to your Shrine.

Remember that El Korah depends on healthy Blue Lodges for its membership. Let's get out and support our Blue Lodge brothers.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Potentate for 2026.

Dave

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Joe Randall



Dr. Miers Johnson has recently been appointed to the Portland Shriners Hospital for Children Board of Governors. This is a yearlong process; I would like to congratulate Miers. He is a retired surgeon from the Treasure Valley. I look forward to working with him at our Portland Hospital.

Our Portland Hospital is one of the top ranked Hospitals in the Shriners Hospital system. I would like to start by recognizing some of the highlights of our Portland Hospital for 2025. We have received some exceptional awards, including:

- ◆ Portland's Best Places to Work
- ◆ Portland's Top Doctors and Nurses
- ◆ The Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award for Patient Experience.
- ◆ The Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award given by Press Ganey Clients, which reflects the impact of our team's work serving all kids and teens with the highest quality care for bone and muscle conditions and cleft lip and palate in a compassionate, family-centered environment.

In 2025 Shriners Children's hospital Portland has provided care to 29 international patients. This contributes to our mission of serving more children in more places as we work toward achieving our strategic goals.

Our telehealth patient growth was 35%.

In our off-site clinics, we are exploring the use of smart glasses for virtual consultation starting with trial of 3 or 4 devices. This has some exciting possibilities!

On November 11th our new Vancouver, Washington clinic started operations. It is open 5 days a week. Vancouver is a rapidly growing area and we anticipate this clinic will have a very positive effect on our Portland Hospitals patient growth.

I would like to recognize the Daughters of the Nile for their generous donations to the Shriners Hospital for Children. They started making donations to the hospitals over 100 years ago; to date they have contributed over \$77 million. These donations are sincerely appreciated!

We have an opportunity for you to make a contribution to the patients at our Portland Hospital. A "wish list" registry is now available on Amazon.com. There are more than 160 carefully selected items to support our patients and programs. All purchases are shipped directly to the hospital with no shipping fees making it easier than ever to contribute.

Salt Lake Shriners Children's Clinic

by Kris Carney, Salt Lake Board of Governors



As an associate, the first year went by quickly. Now starts a 9-year term and I am happy to speak about those experiences. Ill Sir Dave Brannan asked that I take over the Salt Lake Shriners Children's Clinic updates to help with the fun and crazy it is.

Last month, the Salt Lake Clinic and the Portland Hospital held a 3-day collaboration session to share best practices and learning experiences about the similarities and differences between the two operations. They also discussed how to collaborate together better. This was a big win session for both locations with lots of great takeaways.

There was a recent article in the Idaho Statesman newspaper about the Larsen Sisters and the Rigby girls basketball team from eastern Idaho. It was a very good article. Please Google it and send me some feedback about your thoughts. I would love to share them with the Clinic.

Please reach out with any comments, questions or about becoming a Board of Governors member.

Kris Carney at kris@kriscarney.com.

SUPER BOWL LX

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
— VS —
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

VS

OASIS

BOISE MASONIC CENTER - WESTGATE

DOORS OPEN AT 3:30 ★ KICKOFF AT 4:30

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO
SHARE!**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

28th Annual El Korah Shrine Crab Feed

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
1407 W Bannock St, Boise



No Host Social 6:00 pm
Crab Served 7:00 pm

2026

**Dungeness Crab
Cole Slaw
Garlic Bread**

**A FEW TICKETS
ARE STILL AVAILABLE!**

Call or Text Bob Julian
(208) 863-4626

Sorry — NO Substitutions
NO Take Home Bags
NO Tickets Available at the Door

**El Korah Black Light Patrol Night
Saturday Feb 21**

Proceeds benefit the Black Light Patrol and are Not Tax Deductible

**All Nights are
\$60 per person**

**Scottish Rite Foundation Nights
Friday Feb 27 and Saturday Feb 28**

*Proceeds benefit the Scottish Rite Foundation and
Portions may be tax deductible as charitable contributions*



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Twin Falls Shrine Club

by Ambassador Laird Stone

The new year is off and running for the Twin Falls Shrine Club. We held our regular monthly meeting on January 12th and had a great turnout. Our next meeting will be on February 10th at Idaho Joe's. Hope to see everyone there because we have lots of things to discuss.

Several members of our Club participated in the Masonic Dedication Ceremony for the new College of Southern Idaho Transportation Technology Building. What a great addition to our college campus!

We are working on new Club shirts for our members to wear at Shrine events and on Red Shrine Shirt Fridays. The new El Korah Shrine logo looks great and is intended to be current for many years. Ordering information will be out soon.

We've been busy restoring some of our small cars and bikes to parade-ready condition. Our new members have been chomping at the bit to participate in our parades and will gladly serve as our drivers.

Noble Jeremy Vaughn was the lucky winner of the raffle for Walt Hamby's Henry "Golden Boy" rifle. We're glad that Red's rifle will stay in the Magic Valley!

Our next event will be the Player Selection Meeting for our annual Memorial Day North-South football games. This meeting will be held on February 23rd at the Snug Bar & Grill starting at 6:30pm. Ambassador Laird Stone is serving as Director for these games and can answer any questions.

The 44th Annual Ice Breaker will be held on Saturday, March 7th. Noble Gary Anton has stepped up to serve as Chairman for this Shrine fundraiser and will be coordinating everyone's duties and responsibilities.

Volunteers, please confirm your participation with Gary at dreamer19472001@yahoo.com. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Gary.

We have decided to change the date of our annual Screening Clinic to align with the Sand Duners Screening Clinic in Boise, although they won't both be on the same day because the Potentate and Divan traditionally attend these events. Aligning our event will allow us coordinate our advertising efforts and increase public awareness for both events across all of southern Idaho. Noble Jeremy Barnett is our Screening Clinic Chairman this year. More information to come later.

TWIN FALLS SHRINE CLUB

44th ANNUAL SHRINER BENEFIT

ICE BREAKER

MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

MARCH 7, 2026

**\$20 Per Couple, Please Bring ID,
Check into Your Home Bar
between 9:00-9:30am
Breakfast Snacks Provided for Team**

BUD LIGHT

Sign up at these Participating Bars:
 The Cove - The Log Tavern
 Whiskey Creek - Mia's Place
 Klover Klub - Bowladrome
 Big Papa's - The GR - Shuffle Inn

Give your hearts to help the kids and tell the Shriners thanks!

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws of El Korah Shriners Article 4 §4.8

NOTE. This amendment is necessary in order for El Korah's Bylaws to align with Imperial Bylaws in the event we lease or purchase a building in the future. It also provides El Korah with Liability protection.

§4.8 Board of Directors. The composition and duties of the board of directors are enumerated in the bylaws of Shriners International. The board of directors has these additional duties.

- (a) **Leadership Search Committee.** The board of directors may appoint a Leadership Search Committee as allowed by the provisions of the bylaws of Shriners International.
- (b) **Temple Holding Corporation.** The board of directors and the immediate past potentate shall be the board of directors of any temple holding corporation.

NEW

(b)(1) Any temple now incorporated pursuant to a state statute which authorizes the formation of a fraternal corporation, not for profit, deriving its rights and powers from a Grand or Imperial body, and any affiliated organization incorporated pursuant to a not-for-profit statute, may continue its corporate existence so long as the corporation (1) yields obedience to Shrine law; (2) exists solely as a nonprofit corporation having no purpose other than that of acquiring, owning, selling, or otherwise disposing of: and mortgaging real estate, and the erection, maintenance and operation of buildings thereon, for its own use; (3) no part of its assets or funds shall inure to the benefit of individuals personally except in payment for services actually rendered or performed; and (4) in the event of dissolution, the assets and funds remaining after the payment of all debts of the corporation shall be conveyed to the temple, Shriners International Education Foundation or Shriners Children's.

Guns & Ammo

Buy, Sell or Trade

Bob Julian

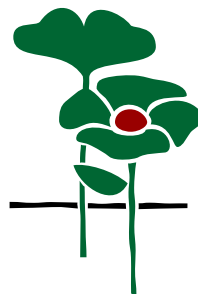
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Recorder's Ramblings

by Waynd Foster, Recorder

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing well this winter.

The Recorder's Office is running smoothly in the new year, particularly with the addition of our new Administrative Assistant, Victoria Schweigert. She is super helpful in all of aspects of the office and has even created some of our event flyers. If you need help with something, don't hesitate to contact Victoria at admin@elkorahshrine.com.

For the 2025 calendar year we spent \$40,620.00 from the Patient Travel Fund transporting patients to our Hospitals and Clinics. In January 2026, we spent \$3,971.45, on 13 trips to Shrine Hospitals.

I want to thank everyone who came to the Shrine Bowl Game watch party. It is this type of event that helps keep our Oasis open.

Greeters

by Ed Hulme, Secretary

Our January meeting was held on the 9th at the Banbury Golf Club. We had a good turn out and everyone enjoyed Dr. Miers Johnson's presentation on Orthopedic Procedures. He covered the body parts that we all seem to have questions about. Maybe its an age thing?

Our annual Valentine's Brunch will be held at the Riverside Hotel February 15th. It will be in the Fireside Foyer starting at 11:00 am. The cost is \$35.00 per person. We welcome all Nobles and their Ladies. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Ric Bobier at rebret14@gmail.com by February 11th. There will be mimosas, fun, fellowship, and a great brunch to enjoy. Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Daughters of the Nile

by Shellie Smith, Princess Badoura

January brought a meaningful and inspiring start to the new year with our Ceremonial, where we proudly welcomed four new members into Iras Temple. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together in fellowship, renew our bonds, and celebrate the continued growth of our Temple family. Moments like these remind us of the strength of our sisterhood and the importance of welcoming new faces who share our mission and values.

While winter is typically a quieter season with fewer activities and a slower pace, it certainly does not slow our dedication or our hearts. Behind the scenes, our members continue working diligently, planning, supporting, and giving in countless ways. Our commitment to Shriners Children's remains unwavering throughout the year, and even during these calmer months, our spirit of service and compassion shines just as brightly.

Mark your calendars as well for a fun-filled evening of Bunco on February 13th. This popular event promises laughter, friendly competition, and great fellowship. Tickets are available through any of the Iras Temple Guards, so be sure to reach out and secure your spot for an enjoyable night together.

We are also looking ahead with excitement as our Supreme Queen Kathy prepares for her Homecoming in Portland the weekend of February 20th. It promises to be a joyful and special event that will bring many together in celebration and support. It is a wonderful time to honor her leadership and share in the pride of our organization as we move forward into the new year with purpose, unity, and enthusiasm.

El Korah Nobility Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| February 1 | Riley Hawkins | February 18 | Edward Johnson |
| February 2 | Senate Eskridge | February 19 | Anthony Brown |
| February 3 | Jason Rockne | February 19 | Thomas Junier |
| February 5 | David Owen | February 19 | Harold Rumsey |
| February 5 | James Yost | February 22 | Doug Freeborg |
| February 7 | Justin Boyer | February 25 | Darrell Forrester |
| February 7 | Michael Sutton | February 25 | Terry Laduke |
| February 10 | James York | February 25 | David Nordling |
| February 11 | James Lee | February 25 | Bruce Peterson |
| February 11 | Thor Miller | February 25 | Richard Swift |
| February 11 | Lamar Robinson | February 26 | Michael Lesh |
| February 13 | Robert Crawley | February 27 | William Hopper |
| February 13 | William Parsons | February 27 | Craig Oyster |
| February 13 | Dave Zanecki | February 28 | Ray Aas |
| February 14 | Edward Hulme | February 28 | Merle Hill |
| February 17 | Wayne Foster | February 28 | David Sinclair |
| February 17 | Michael Gallina | | |



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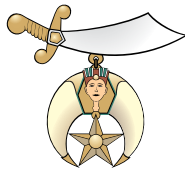
Please contact: Sonjia Yates (208) 869-6922 • Debra Baum (619) 218-1726
Dawn Lewis (208) 860-1651

Shrine Bowl Game Watch Party

by Ambassador Emeritus Mitch Davis



January 27th - The crowd pauses action during a commercial break at the Boise Masonic Center



Pacific Northwest Shrine Association
P.O. Box 1385
Columbus, MT 59019

October 23, 2025

Notification of Shrine Association Meeting

To: Member Temples of PNSA
From: PNSA Board of Directors
Subject: Notification of Winter Business Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Winter Business Session of the Pacific Northwest Shrine Association will be conducted on February 20-21, 2026 in Sheridan, WY. The meeting will commence at 9:00 am at the Ramada Inn, 1809 Sugarland Drive.

On February 19, 2026, there will be three seminars given at the same location. One for Oriental Guides and one for Chief Rabbans both beginning at 1:00 pm and one for the Clown College beginning at 9:00 am.

Details on registration and agenda will be shared soon.

Fraternally,

Larry Tipton PP
Executive Director

FEBRUARY 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Tin Lizzies | 4 Provost Guard | 5 | 6 | 7 Clubs & Units Meeting at BMC - Westgate |
| 8 Super Bowl Party - BMC | 9 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC | 10 | 11 Stated Mtg | 12 | 13 Greeters Players | 14 Valentine's Day Sand Duners Sweetheart Auction |
| 15 Valentine's Greeter's Brunch | 16 President's Day Recorder's Office CLOSED | 17 Cameleers Sand Duners High Country Sidewinders SC | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Black Light Patrol Crab Feed |
| 22 All Idaho Job's Daughters Day in Pocatello | 23 Black Light Patrol Snake River SC El Korah Clowns | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Scottish Rite Crab Feed | 28 Scottish Rite Crab Feed |
| ← Winter PNSA - Sheridan, WY → | | | | | | |

MARCH 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Tin Lizzies | 4 Provost Guard | 5 | 6 Greeters Players Red Shrine Shirt Friday | 7 Twin Falls Ice Breaker Idaho Grand Lodge Exemplification-Poky |
| 8 | 9 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC | 10 | 11 Stated Mtg | 12 | 13 | 14 Red Fez Lunch - Payette |
| 15 Daylight Savings Time Starts | 16 | 17 St Patrick's Day Nobility Party | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Black Light Patrol | 24 Cameleers Sand Duners High Country Sidewinders | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Scottish Rite Reunion |
| 29 Scottish Rite Reunion | 30 Snake River SC El Korah Clowns | 31 | | | | |