

Idaho Masonic Family Alliance Minutes
October 9, 2011
Gold Room, El Korah Shrine Center

Attendees:

Jay Leonard, Deputy Gr. Master, Grand Lodge, vark44@q.com
Ted Bahr, Secretary, Scottish Rite, secretary@boisescottishrite.org
Art Easley, MIGM, GC Cryptic Masons of Idaho, willawa1@cableone.net
Ray Westmoreland, Potentate, El Korah Shrine, ray@woodwindowsinc.com
Sandi Shoemaker, WGM, GC of Idaho, OES, oesdimples47@q.com
Diane Wood, GRM, Grand Court, Amaranth, Inc., diane1wood@hotmail.com
Denise Hunt, Gr. Secretary OES/Secretary IMFA, idoesgs@bcpm.biz

Grand Lodge

Jay: Jay expressed his appreciation to all who represented, or had a representative of their organization at Grand Lodge in Sandpoint. Committee members are continuing to work on a budget since the budget presented at Grand Lodge was not accepted by the Brethren.

Jay has reinstated the dues amnesty program first offered by Past Grand Master Harry Black. A Mason who is behind in his dues may have the unpaid dues forgiven if he pays the current year. If he has been dropped for non-payment, he will have to be reinstated.

The Unity Banquet is scheduled for April 28, 2012 at El Korah.

The Grand Master's Masonic Heritage Tour in 2012 will be in conjunction with the annual Shrine tour during Stan Garrett's term should he be elected. A flier of the tentative tour was available.

Grand Lodge held a strategic planning meeting yesterday. Jay highly recommends this tool for any of the Grand Bodies. It brings the leadership together for planning programs/events that take more than a year to be realized. Time frames are created, duties assigned and results reported.

Jay asked for ideas those present have seen work to breathe new life into struggling lodges. From his observation, the lodges that are active in their communities are the lodges that do not have to struggle for membership. There have been a couple lodges that continue to operate because Brothers from surrounding lodges have joined and had a significant impact. The problem is that the participation in the home lodge has decreased. In another situation the lodge wasn't helped much by the Brethren joining and the home lodge was not effected either. A word of caution: we really try to keep our lodges/chapters/councils from closing but not at the expense of the other that's gone to the rescue.

This year at Grand Lodge, a resolution was passed that if a lodge doesn't attend Grand Lodge for three consecutive years, the lodge charter will be arrested.

Scottish Rite

Ted: Ted is representing SGIG Joe Alexander who is northern Idaho. The Boise Valley Fall Reunion is October 22 at El Korah.

The Joint Honors Weekend honoring the 33° KCCH is in conjunction with Utah. It will take place in Salt Lake City on November 5. The Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite will attend.

The membership in the Boise Valley has reported 50 deaths this year, and yet, is only two members below what they had last year. Bringing in new members and reinstatements has yielded these results. Ted has been able to convince members to reinstate by just calling them and talking to them. Many are housebound or in assisted living. Scottish Rite has a Senior Program. Members who are 75 years old and have at least 8 years of membership are eligible. The Senior Program makes the member a life member and exempts the Valley from paying per capita

A discussion followed regarding the family members of our Brothers and Sisters not knowing the wishes of our members for their funeral service. Denise Hunt offered to share a form Eastern Star uses to document a member's desires.

El Korah Shrine

Ray: Ray has been making calls in the same way Ted has. He has a list of over 100 members whose dues are in arrears. He plans to spend the rest of the year making these calls. He is also offering to forgive a portion of the dues, if the member is over a year in arrears. If the member is over 80 years old, been a Shriner at least 30 years and is financially strapped, the member is recommended for life membership.

The circus this year was a phenomenal success. The income generated was double that of last year. Improvements were able to be made to the building using the additional funds.

The Portland Food Caravan is Oct. 21st. There may be some Imperial Officers accompany them this time. The Ceremonial is scheduled for Nov. 12.

The Pocatello Shrine Club is going great guns. They have younger men who are motivated.

Bob Finney, the Editor of the Desert Dust, is always looking for more articles/information to include. He would be glad to include any fund raisers the Masonic Family organizations may be holding. He can be reached at recorder@elkorah.org

Websites

Jay: The Grand Lodge website is being revamped by the Grand Lodge IT Committee. Currently they are working to restore links. Monte Bollar, Grand Lodge Secretary, would add any Masonic Family fund raising information to the Constant Contact newsletter.

Dave Grindle sent a report of the bank account since he wasn't going to be in attendance today. The balance in the account is \$2,348.76. The hosting fee is \$44 annually. The domain name has been paid ten years in advance. The cost is \$11.20 annually.

Jay proposes we maintain the status quo with the IMFA website. Richard Broemeling will be the Amaranth liaison. Jay continues to monitor the IMFA website and sees some improvement on updating information and fixing broken links.

Eastern Star

Sandi: Continues to do lots of traveling in and out of the state.

Cryptic Masons

Art: A couple of Councils are not in compliance with the Code which puts Art in the position of possibly having to pull the charters. Attrition is hurting the Pocatello Council especially hard. Art believes that Council may merge with Idaho Falls.

Art and Grand Recorder Jim Curtis are putting together a directory of members and updating the "Brother to Brother" pamphlet.

Art has granted a dispensation in Grangeville to allow a social club to meet. They will be able to hold meetings and practice the ritual work; however, they will not be able to confer the degrees.

Art continues to work with the web master of the Cryptic Masons site to revamp their website.

The Northwest York Rite Conference is this week at El Korah, Oct. 13-15.

Amaranth

Diane: The subordinate courts will be holding their elections and installations in the next month and a half. Richard will put the dates on the IMFA calendar.

DeMolay

The Meridian Chapter of DeMolay is hosting a "Sons and Grandsons" DeMolay information night on November 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Meridian Lodge.

Steve Hall, in Mountain Home, is planning a DeMolay information night in that community to try to get that chapter up and running again. The Rainbow Assembly will help with the event.

Rainbow

Friendship Assembly is looking at initiating another five girls this month. They continue to work on organizing the assembly in Meridian or Caldwell.

Job's Daughters

There is one active Bethel in Boise. The Bethels in the various areas serve dinner at the District meetings.

The next meeting was not scheduled at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hunt, IMFA Secretary