**Monday Message #15**

Nobles and Ladies,

I had most of my Monday Message written to update everyone on a busy week and some of my travels and upcoming Calam Events when I received news of the passing of Andrew Evenson. It was a shock to lose a brother that was so young and by all outward signs healthy. It is a hard reminder that we in the Masonic family pay lip service to but sometimes forget, you never know when you will end your time on earth.

I spent most of last week down in Boise at Idaho Grand York Rite. I passed on greetings to the presiding chairs of the 3 York Rite bodies from Calam Shriners during the public grand opening then enjoyed three days of a great annual session. York Rite in Idaho is experiencing some of the same challenges that the Shrine is but has a strong group of core members that keep the bodies strong. I am proud to report that our local Coeur d’Alene bodies swept the state for the membership awards showing a 10% increase in all three bodies.  I was honored to be invited to join the Knights York Cross of Honor and the ceremony was short but had an excellent message. KYCH members have presided as Masters of their local Blue Lodge and all three of the York Rite Bodies. The ritual lecture admonishes each new member to consider the day a renewal of commitment to service not an end to it. During the entire conference I was impressed by the years and level of Masonic service present. There were six or seven past Grand presiding officers for each body, six past Grand Masters of Idaho, and most of the sitting heads of the local York Rite Bodies. In addition, many of the York Rite Leaders were officers in the appendant bodies and youth organizations. It was a humbling reminder that we can all be doing more.

Yesterday was exciting for me as I attended the first in person Spokane Shriners Hospital Board Meeting in two years. It was a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do. The hospital is seeing a large increase in surgeries and in patient traffic as Covid slows down. Washington health care is showing that Covid related Hospital stays are around 1% of hospital stays. Staffing levels have stabilized, and the only recent losses are 2 retirements. The Spokane Hospital will be the location for two new Shriners Hospitals commercials that will film in May so be on the lookout for those. Lastly, our little Spokane Hospital is currently leading the system in donations received so far this year.

The Camel Derby and Carnival is rapidly approaching on May 7th, and we will need volunteers. Please contact me if you can help. The CDA press is printing our ads in the weekend paper and the Kootenai Humane Society is sending our flyer out to their 3000-member mailing list so hopefully we have a huge turnout. As I mentioned in a previous email, we do have a block rate at the CDA Inn if you are coming in from out of town. To reserve, call the front desk or reservations and mention the Shriners.

Another reminder that the memorial service for Richard Hollenbeck is on May 7th in Bonners Ferry. Please take the time to send Noble Richard off in style.

I will save the rest of my comments for Clarion, but I hope everyone gets a chance to get out and enjoy the sometimes-warmer weather. I hope to visit with all of you soon.

Fraternally,

Dustin Hatfield

Calam Shriners

Potentate 2022