

WHO WE ARE

In 1965, a female impersonator by the name of Jose Sarria was named Queen of the San Francisco Tavern's Guild. In his acceptance speech, Jose looked at the crowd of SF Bay Area gay bar owners, and thanked them for the honor, but stated that he indeed was already a *QUEEN*, so they could crown him as another one. At that point, Jose borrowed a piece of San Francisco History and named himself Empress of San Francisco, after Joshua Norton,. Joshua was a wealthy businessman in the Bay Area in the mid-1800's who lost his mind when he lost his fortune and named himself Emperor of the United States & protector of Mexico. With this, Jose proclaimed himself Joshua Norton's loving widow.

No stranger to the spotlight, Jose took the idea, forming the Imperial Court de San Francisco. The goal was to raise money for charitable organizations and fight for equality in the GLBT community. Now, over 45 years later, there are over 70 chapters of the Imperial Court System throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Some chapters are limited to their city limits, whilst others encompass the entire state. Each Empire holds their coronation annually, to present their newly elected Monarchs and host dignitaries throughout the realm. The International Court System was founded before the groundbreaking Stonewall Movement in 1969.

On December 9, 1998, an Imperial event took place here in Las Vegas, Nevada. That evening, Mark Jensen and DeShannon made history by being crowned Emperor 1 and Empress 1 of the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.

(IRSCDE). In 2008, our chapter was recognized as "Court of the Decade" as bestowed by Nicole the Great, Queen Mother of the America's, and successor to Mama Jose, the Widow Norton.

The IRSCDEI is a 501c3 non-profit organization benefiting the community of Las Vegas, and all of Southern Nevada. In our 10 year plus existence, we have donated over \$200,000 back to our community. The IRSCDEI is committed, through various fundraising events and other community efforts, to serve those individuals less fortunate than ourselves.

COLLEGE OF MONARCHS

Reign I – Mark Jensen & DeShannon
Reign II – Terry Freeman & Truly LaFemme
Reign III – Bill Hunter & Bella de Ball
Reign IV – Tim Conroy &
Helen Twelvetrees
Reign V – Michael Pantages & Ida Slapther
Reign VI – Tracy Shinsel & Aunt Betty
(in memoriam)
Reign VII – Y.G. & Carlotta Stolengoodz
Reign VII – Bryan Cromwell &
Michelle Holliday
Reign IX – Rob Haggard-Bunting &
Nikita LaFemme
Reign X – Uncle Bill Warbeck &
Tago LaFemme



T-N-T SCHOLARSHIP FUND GUIDELINES

These funds are appropriated by the I.R.S.C.D.E., Incorporated, a non-profit 501c3 corporation, consisting of volunteer members raising funds to better the community.

FOR: Students who are personally and actively involved in the support of human and civil rights, who also have an interest in pursuing higher education in any field.

QUALIFICATIONS:

At the time of submission, each applicant must:

- Have resided in the State of Nevada for at least two (2) years.
- Pursuing an education at the College or University level; Trade & Vocational, or the Arts
- Applying for, accepted to, or already enrolled in an accredited, licensed, educational program beyond the secondary level WITHIN the State of Nevada
- Must submit an application and an essay not less than 300 words, nor more than 1,000 words to include their studies, goals, and personal interests. This should be written as non-gender specific.
- Must show proof of personal involvement, with verification, (i.e.-letter of support)
- The student may be enrolled either full-time or part-time.
- Applicants are not limited to a one-time scholarship, and are able to re-apply annually, providing they meet the aforementioned requirements.

AWARD:

At Coronation, (the first Saturday of December each calendar year), a disbursement of **\$500** (subject to change) per student will be awarded and made payable to each recipient. This may be used for tuition, books, or required labs. Monies may be awarded throughout the year, with committee approval.

DEADLINE:

Applications and essays must be postmarked and received by October 1st of each calendar year to be considered eligible:

Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc.
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 46481
Las Vegas, NV 89114-6481

SELECTION PROCESS:

The College of Monarch's will determine eligibility and review each application and essay. A recommendation from the College of Monarchs will be presented to the Selection Committee. The scholarships will be awarded to the recipients the first weekend in December each year. The date, time, and location will be determined and the recipient will be notified by mail and via personal telephone call of congratulations.

HISTORY OF THE T-N-T SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The T-N-T Scholarship Fund was created with an Imperial Proclamation from Emperor II, Mr. Terry Freeman during Coronation III in December 2000.

If you have any questions regarding the T-N-T Scholarship application & eligibility process, or the Imperial Court System, please contact Emperor II, Terry Freeman, or Empress II Truly LaFemme at:

IRSCDEI
PO Box 46481
Las Vegas, NV 89114-6481

Or visit our website at
www.desertempire.org

OUR CREDO:
TO HAVE FUN, RAISE MONEY FOR THOSE
LESS FORTUNATE & NOT TAKE
OURSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY



T-N-T SCHOLARSHIP FUND



PRESENTED BY
THE IMPERIAL ROYAL
SOVEREIGN COURT OF
THE DESERT EMPIRE, INC.