

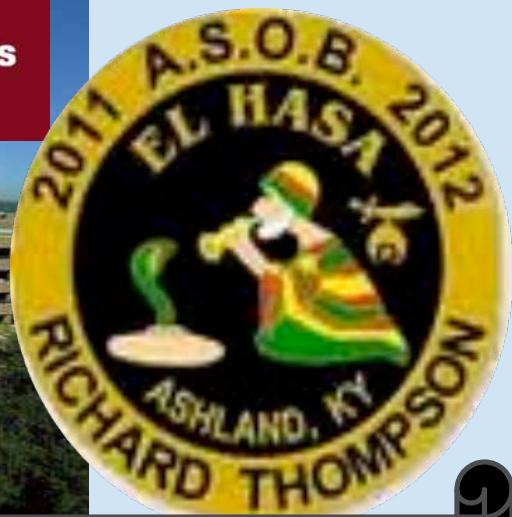
NA KHABAR

Association of Shrine Oriental Bands of North America

Volume 84 • Number 2 • May 2012



CINCINNATI SHRINER'S HOSPITAL



LADDER OF SMILES



***“Year of Fun...
Bringing Smiles to Children”***

Goal for 2011-2012 is \$75,000 to A.S.O.B. Ladder of Smiles

100% Participation per Band to A.S.O.B. Ladder of Smiles

100% Participation of Bands in joining A.S.O.B.

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Na Khabar

Association of Shrine Oriental Bands of North America



ELECTED OFFICERS **2011-2012**

PRESIDENT

Richard "Big" Thompson (Tish) El Hasa
7142 Overlook Drive
Ashland, KY 41102
Office: (606) 929-4065
Cell: (606) 922-2702
E-mail: rathompson@bop.gov

1ST VICE PRESIDENT & Protocol Chairman

Lonnie Merriman (Linda) El Raid
806 N. 3rd Street
Beresford, SD 57004
Home: (605) 310-0138
E-mail: obsouth@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT & Na Khabar Advertising Chairman

Vince Bobrosky (Maggie) Acca
PO Box 2
Ladysmith, VA 22501
Home: (804) 964-4168
E-mail: mlloyd32@comcast.net

3RD VICE PRESIDENT & Fantasy Chairman

David McCarthy (Sandy) Moslah
10629 Bluestone Road
Fort Worth, TX 76108-6928
Home: (817) 560-2992
Cell: (682) 478-7608
E-mail: caliphiv99@hotmail.com

4TH VICE PRESIDENT & Ticket Chairman

Scot Duncil - Al Kader
5234 NE Wisteria Drive
Portland, OR 97213-2559
Home: (503) 493-1801
E-mail: sduncil@shrinenet.org

SERGEANT AT ARMS & Registration Chairman

Jeff Moores - Melha
129 Spruceland Avenue
Springfield, MA 01108-2519
Home: (413) 781-0730
Cell: (860) 205-7951
E-mail: spanmoon67@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mahlon E. Hariu, P.P. (Joanne) Rajah
636 Ridge Street
Emmaus, PA 18049-2223
Home: (610) 965-5652
E-mail: mehariu@ptd.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER EMERITUS

J.V. "Bud" Moore - Zembo
1925 Ridgeview Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603
Home & Fax: (717) 397-7046

APPOINTMENTS

LADDER OF SMILES CHAIRMAN
W. Michael Hartup (Maggie) Midian
7418 E. 26th Street, North
Wichita, KS 67226
Home: (316) 684-1124
Cell: (316) 644-1482
E-mail: Mhartup@aol.com

1ST 100 CLUB CHAIRMAN
Morrie Toretsky (Corrine) Zuhrah
2554 Pennsylvania Ave., S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Home: (952) 544-5320
E-mail: MTORETSKY@msn.com

A.S.O.B. AUDIT COMMITTEE
Herb Wizansky - Amara
200 Lake Susan Lane
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Home: (561) 478-8288
Cell: (561) 598-9596
E-mail: herbzel@comcast.net

Don Moores (Glenda) Amara
47 Chestnut Trail
Tequesta, FL 33469-2129
Home: (561) 747-9698
Cell: (561) 379-2216
E-mail: shrinerdon@bellsouth.net

Vince Bobrosky (Maggie) Acca
P.O. Box 2
Ladysmith, VA 22501
Home: (804) 448-4488
Cell: (804) 994-4168
E-mail: mlloyd32@comcast.net

A.S.O.B. CHAPLAIN
Herf Bolyard (Betty) Beni Kedem
PO Box 626
Clendenin, WV 25034-0626
Home: (304) 546-6024
E-mail: herf33wv@cybernet.net

A.S.O.B. CHIEF AIDE
Ralph Jubb (Jannelle) Al Kadar
321 NE 69th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213
Home: (503) 255-3367
Cell: (503) 475-6017
E-mail: rjubb@comcast.net

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF AIDE
Todd Schmidt (Laura) El Riad
3105 W. Old Yankton Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
Cell: (605) 261-4092

**A.S.O.B. COORDINATOR/
LIBRARIAN**
Paul Gluck - Melha
P.O. Box 37
East Longmeadow, MA 01028-0037
Home: (413) 218-0455
E-mail: asob01@msn.com

A.S.O.B. HISTORIAN
Albert L. Zumpe (Gayle) Murat
8023 Dark Star Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46217
Home: (317) 865-3841
E-mail: Alruthie@aol.com

**A.S.O.B. MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN - UNITED STATES**
Norm Wold (Sarah) Nile
13417 78th Place
Kirkland, WA 98034-5102
(425) 820-9058
E-mail: asob_2006@yahoo.com

**A.S.O.B. MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN - CANADA**
Leo Halvorson - Al Azhar

F423 4240 37th Street SW
Calgary, AB T3E 3C4
Home: (403) 246-7055
E-mail: halvorl@telus.net

A.S.O.B. PARLIAMENTARIAN
Joe Brewton (Theresa) Khiva
3005 Mays Street
Amarillo, TX 79109
Home: (806) 353-2661
Cell: (806) 670-0447
E-mail: jdbrewton@msn.com

A.S.O.B. QUARTERMASTER
Don Baxter (Jan)
7718 SE 114th Court
Portland, OR 97266
Home: (503) 761-6935
Cell: (971) 570-2350

A.S.O.B. WEBMASTER
Dave Glass (Kathy) Ben Ali
6431 Valley Hi Drive
Sacramento, CA 95823-4838
Home: (916) 454-5335
Cell: (916) 616-3286
E-mail: dave@wasob.com
info@asob.org

AMBASSADORS

CENTRAL STATES
Rick Moody (Linda) Arab
5831 S.W. 28th Street
Topeka, KS 66614
Home: (785) 228-1416
Cell: (785) 806-2936
E-mail: rdmoody@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA
Bob Stihler (Nancy) Bahia
3321 Bennington Court
Winter Park, FL 32792-6221
Home: (407) 657-7521
Cell: (407) 463-9311
E-mail: resnwk@aol.com

GREAT LAKES
Randy Proctor (Jill) Syrian
4324 Mayhew Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45238
Home: (859) 393-1300
Cell: (513) 316-0849
E-mail: randy.proctor@fuse.net

MID ATLANTIC
Keith Oviatt (Joann) Zem Zem
R.D. #2, Box 337
Pittsfield, PA 16340
Home: (814) 563-4286
E-mail: knjoviat@verizon.net

MID WEST
James "Moose" Fitzgerald (Debora)
El Riad
111 E. Elm Street
Beresford, SD 57004
Cell: (605) 496-3209
E-mail: moose@bmte.net

NEW YORK/ONTARIO
Robert "Bob" Jones (Tina) Rameses
99 Keewatin Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 6Z2
Home: (905) 725-2541
E-mail: rojones@primus.ca

NORTHEAST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Jack Salsbury (Jill) Al Bedoo
2924 MaCona Lane
Billings, MT 59102

Cell: (406) 860-9095
E-mail: salsbury@bresnan.net

SOUTH ATLANTIC
Nolan Stanley (Mary) Acca
4106 Vancouver Road
Prince George, VA 23860
Home: (804) 541-7982
Cell: (804) 704-2446
E-mail: rcedar415@aol.com

SOUTH CENTRAL
Ronnie McCormick (Judy) El Karubah
676 Barron Chapel Road
Pineville, LA 71360
Home: (318) 466-5444
Cell: (318) 447-5444

SOUTHEAST
Artie Davis (Anna) Hadji
10135 Holsberry Road
Pensacola, FL 32534
Home: (850) 327-2906
E-mail: aldavis356@cox.net

TEXAS
J.R. Batesole (Carole) Moslah
475 Elbow Court
Weatherford, TX 76087
Home: (817) 441-6588
E-mail: jrbaresole@sbcglobal.net

WESTERN
John Conlan (Dell) Asiya
2466 - 30th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116-2210
Home: (415) 664-4627
Cell: (415) 637-5548
E-mail: jconland@pacbell.net

AIDES

PRESIDENT'S CHIEF AIDE
Ralph Jubb (Janelle) Al Kadar
1321 NE 69th Avenue
Portland, OR 97213
Home: (503) 255-3367
Cell: (503) 475-6017
E-mail: rjubb@comcast.net

PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AIDE
John Thompson Jr. (Patty) El Hasa
6421 Hoeing Drive
Ashland, KY 41102
Home: (606) 928-8137
Cell: (606) 922-2702

PRESIDENT'S AIDES
Ralph Cavalieri (Raelynne) Kena
20064 Northville Hills Terrace
Ashburn, VA 20147
Home: (703) 509-1983
E-mail: pepaw24@hotmail.com

Lone F. Saul (Rebekah) Oasis
809 Carriage Crossing Road
Greensboro, NC 27410-40068
Home: (336) 294-3717
E-mail: lonbec@aol.com

Don DaVania (Garnet) El Hasa
8224 Carla Drive
Ashland, KY 41102
Home: (606) 739-0275

Ron Kight (Wendy) El Hasa
636 Levee Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29541
Home: (843) 761-3639
Cell: (606) 923-3003
E-mail: rknight1@home.sc.home

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Editor: Donna Sambor
3361 Rose Hill Road • Millbrook, AL 36054
Phone: (334) 202-9196
E-mail: dsambor@elmore.rr.com
Reports assigned by each band

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ASOB Past Presidents & Honorary Caliph

1928-29 Dr. George H. Madill*	Medinah	1974-75 Harold Makinster, P.P. (Rita).....Afifi	(403) 242-4744 / E-mail: ceduffin@netscape.net
1929-30 Dr. Charles E. Wilson*	Yaarab	1132 19th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632 (360) 425-2046	1999 Len Turner (Doreen)Karnak
1930-31 Charles H. Dunn*	Mohammed	1975-76 Willard Pfluge*	Honorary Caliph
1931-33 Dr. Joseph Philippbar*	Syria	1976-77 Robert C. Schmiedel*	#5-422 Powerline Road
1933-35 Ivo A. Burton*	Al Menah	1977-78 Hoyd Brock*	Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3R 8A1
1935-36 Frank H. Graham*	Almas	1978 June Reavis*	(519) 752-7060 / E-mail: turmac@bell.net
1936-37 Dr. Elmer O. Hinman*	Islam	1978-79 Harding Campbell*	1999-00 Albert L. Zumpe (Gayle)Murat
1937-38 Forest I. Murphy*	Za Ga Zig	1979-80 Charles W. Robinson, P.P. (Birdie)	8023 Dark Star Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217
1938-40 Monty Fer Don*	Antioch	Gizeh 104-1569 Everall St., White Rock, BC V4B-3T2 (604) 535-7484 / E-mail: chucknbirdierobinson@shaw.cam	(317) 865-3841 / E-mail: alruth@ao.com
1940-41 James E. Varina*	Boumi	1980-81 David C. Martin, Jr., P.P. (Nancy)	2000-01 Paul D. Gluck
1941-42 R.G. Wallower*	Zem Zem	Saladin 4131 McCabe N.E., Ada, MI 49301 E-mail: Hilanderfarm@aol.com	Melha P.O. Box 37, East Longmeadow, MA 0128-0037
1942-43 Walter B. Drake*	Moslem	1981-82 William (Bill) G. Payne (Mary)	(413) 218-0455 / E-mail: asob01@msn.com
1943-44 Dr. G.E. Silverling*	Medinah	Nur 148 E. Paseo de Golf, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (520) 399-0488 / E-mail: WGPMEP1118@aol.net	2001-02 Robert F. "Bob" Johnson*
1944-46 George R. Hennig*	Syria	1982-83 George H. Hewell*	Beni Kedem
1946-47 Harvey G. Kiefer*	Al Koran	Morocco	2002-03 W. Michael Hartup (Maggie)
1947-48 C.R. Hutcheson*	Boumi	1983-84 Gordon Brittain, P.P.*	Midian
1949-50 F. Harry LeBaron*	Al Bahr	Rameses 1984-85 Edward Sanders*	7418 E. 26th St. N., Wichita, KS 67226
1950-51 Ray Arnold*	Tripoli	Moslem 1985-86 Kurt L. Plaut (Terri)	(316) 684-1124 / E-mail: Mhartup@aol.com
1951-52 R.L. Allen*	Al Chymia	Hella 8 Intrepid Dr., Rockwall, TX 75087 (972) 771-6173	2003-04 Bud Wilhite (Diane)
1952-53 William N. Vasser*	Murat	1986-87 William "Scotty" Cribbes*	Syrian
1953-54 Phil Glick*	Moslem	El Bekal 1987-88 W.E. "Bill" O'Neal (Brenda)	10254 September Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45251
1954-55 B.L. Worthen*	Pyramid	El Karubah P.O. Box 363, Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 442-8403 / E-mail: BOShrine@aol.com	(513) 851-9880 / E-mail: Syrian@juno.com
1955-56 S.A. Eddy*	Ararat	1988-89 Darrell Thompson*	2004-05 Jim Whitehouse
1956-57 R.S. Veltén*	Jerusalem	Zembo 1989-90 Stanley L. Snyder*	Alzafar
1957-58 R.L. Totman*	Kalif	Karnak 1990-91 W.A. "Bill" Paskaruk*	5710 Sendero Spring, San Antonio, TX 78251
1958-59 Burt Stillwell*	Arabia	1991-92 David L. Snoddy*	(210) 872-1932 / E-mail: jim.whitehouse@sbcglobal.net
1958-59 Ken McElroy, P.P.*	Zenobia	Algeria 1992-93 Arch L. Smithson, P.P.*	2005-06 Norm Wold (Sarah)
1959-60 R.N. Parkhill*	Al Kader	Alcazar 1993-94 Hal Withee*	Nile
1960-61 R.L. Price*	Khedive	El Bekal 1994-95 William A. "Bill" Brooks*	13417 78th PL N.E., Kirkland, WA 98034-5102
1961-62 Charles Cromwell, P.P.*	Luxor	Rameses/Hamilton 1995-96 Paul S. Shively (Dorothy)	(425) 820-9058 / E-mail: asob200637@yahoo.com
1962-63 W.C. Chase*	Ben Ali	Scimitar 2919 Misty Lane, Little Rock, AR 72227 (501) 227-6600 / E-mail: pssjr@prodigy.net	2006-07 Peter J. Lawn (Cy)
1963-64 Dale Wampler, P.P.*	Zembo	Calam 1996-97 Cliff Brown*	Gizeh
1964-65 A. Leon Singer, P.P.*	Al Sihah	Zembo 1997-98 Paul L. Pante (Miriam)	7074 Sheffield Way, Chilliwack, B.C., Canada V2R 3T5
1965-66 William E. Briece*	Ararat	El Bekal 1998-99 Charles Duffin, P.P. (Louise)	(604) 858-7072 / E-mail: ex-para@telus.net
1966-67 C. Richard Brough*	Antioch	Algeria 1999-2000 Don Moores (Glenda)	2007-08 Joe D. Brewton (Theresa)
1967-68 C. Thomas Gowling*	Rameses	Alcazar 2008-09 Wayne Wells (Terri)	Khiva
1968-69 H.B. Springer, P.P.*	Kerak	El Bekal 2009-10 Don Moores (Glenda)	3005 Mays Street, Amarillo, TX 79109
1969-70 Arthur Murphy*	Arabia	Rameses/Hamilton 2010-11 Ralph K. Jubbs (Janelle)	(806) 353-2661 / Email: jdbrewton@msn.com
1970-71 Peter Cortley*	Mecca	Scimitar 2919 Misty Lane, Little Rock, AR 72227 (501) 227-6600 / E-mail: pssjr@prodigy.net	2008-09 Wayne Wells (Terri)
1971-72 Clarence Compton*	Midian	Calam 1996-97 Cliff Brown*	2009-10 Don Moores (Glenda)
1972-73 W.H. Maddox*	Morocco	Zembo 1997-98 Paul L. Pante (Miriam)	47 Chestnut Trail, Tequesta, FL 33469-2129
1973-74 Dr. Ralph Benson*	Bektash	El Bekal 1998-99 Charles Duffin, P.P. (Louise)	(561) 747-9698 / shrinerdon@bellsouth.net

P.P. - Past Potentate * - Known Deceased

OFFICERS' REPORTS



PRESIDENT

Richard
Thompson

Greetings from the beautiful Bluegrass State! Spring is in bloom and we are out of the back stretch and headed for the finish line. All

eyes are on Charlotte.

I would like to invite everyone to join Lonnie, Linda, Tish and myself. We are planning a fun-filled jamboree with a lot of fun and camaraderie on the schedule. I have heard from several bands and we are expecting a great competition. The ASOB headquarters this year will be at the beautiful Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel. All of the functions will be held there. The hotel registration can be found in this Na Khabar. Nobles, please be sure all reservations go through Mahlon Hariu, ASOB Secretary/Treasurer. The Banquet and Luncheon reservation forms can also be found in this edition of the Na Khabar. Please come and join us! We welcome you to watch the competition on Monday morning and get your tickets for the banquet Monday evening and the luncheon on Wednesday. As always, the hospitality room will be open Saturday thru Wednesday for your enjoyment.

The last weekend of February, Tish and I traveled to Reading, Pennsylvania, for the Rajah Oriental Band's Ladies Night and Lancaster County Shrine Club's Past President's Event. We had a very enjoyable weekend with the Bandsman and their families. As usual, this association is very generous to Ladder of Smiles and this year was no exception. A big heartfelt thank you goes to MASOBA! Joining us was Second Vice-President Vince

and Maggie Bobrosky; Third Vice-President David and Sandy McCarthy; Secretary/Treasurer Mahlon and Joanne Hariu; Past President and Ladder of Smiles Chairman Mike and Maggie Hartup; Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Bud Moore; and Ambassador Keith and Joann Oviatt. Once again, thank you so much for your support to the Ladder of Smiles.

We flew down to Tampa for the Mid-Winter Cruise, and all I can say is...if you did not sail with us on the Carnival Paradise, then you missed one exiting and eventful cruise. It turned into so much more than just another Mid-Winter Meeting. We had an emergency that occurred the night before the cruise which restricted a couple from attending; a retirement; a honeymoon (that's right, Tish and I got married); a head injury that ended up in the infirmary; and a serious warfare on the putt-putt golf course. We all had a blast at karaoke all week and yes, "I Got You Babe" was re-performed. As for the rest...well...what happens on the cruise, stays on the cruise. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was a Mid-Winter gathering I will never forget.

Thank you to all the ASOB Officers I have had the privilege of knowing as well as serving with. This line has a wealth of leadership and I have enjoyed learning from each of you. ASOB is in excellent hands for the future!

In closing, I would like to say that Tish and I have met some very special friends along the way. It is hard to convey what this special group truly means to me. You are like family. Without your acceptance and support, Tish and I could not have made this journey without you. You have been there with advice and encouragement, just when it was needed most. I had no idea when we started this line five years ago, we would have gained such close and special friendships. Even though

my time is drawing near, there is no doubt this bond we have acquired will remain throughout our lives.

Lastly, thank you to all the Oriental Bandsman for allowing me the honor in serving you as President of this great association. Please don't forget our true cause, "Ladder of Smiles."

Until we meet again, from the Bluegrass State, BIG

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Lonnie
Merriman

Greetings from the great state of South Dakota! Winter is over and the parade season is underway. If your band has the ability

to parade, do so - the more we are in the public eye, the better chance of bringing in new members to the greatest fraternity in the world. We need to grow, and what better way than to be out there talking to people about the Shrine and what we do for our kids.

The Mid Winter cruise was a great time and I would like to thank Richard and Tish for such a wonderful place to have a meeting. The karaoke performance by Ralph and Big was the highlight of the cruise. The 2012 Imperial Session in Charlotte will be upon us before we know it. I think this will be a fun-filled Imperial and it looks like we will be having a great competition as bands are signing up to be in Charlotte.

I have been to Indianapolis with Linda to start setting up the 2013 Imperial Session. The ASOB will be staying at the downtown Hilton which is located under two blocks from the convention center and walking distance to numerous restaurants and shops.

More to come on that later. I should have all the information in Charlotte. As I start to sign off on this article for the Na Khabar, I want to remind us all to support the Ladder of Smiles because we do it all for the kids!

Your in the faith,
Lonnie Merriman, 1st Vice President



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Vince Bobrosky

Greetings from the Commonwealth of Virginia! And speaking of Virginia, which is usually known as a four-season

state; it seems we have gone from fall to spring with no in-between. At this writing, I couldn't help notice that Amarillo, TX, was 93 degrees today; Maggie might not want to be in her hometown today. Looks like you guys in TX are in for another long, hot summer!

A trip to Lancaster, PA, in February was once again one of the highlights of our year. We joined with A.S.O.B. President Richard Thompson and his Lady Tish, 3rd VP Dave McCarthy and his Lady Sandy, Past President and Chairman of Ladder of Smiles Mike Hartup and his Lady Maggie One, and Secretary/Treasurer Mahlon Hariu and Lady Joanne. I enjoyed the M.A.S.O.B.A business meeting, as usual. Maggie and I enjoyed the Hospitality Room, and the Dinner/Dance on Saturday and the usual warm welcome of this group. Maggie always enjoys scarring the hardwood with A.S.O.B.'s dancing phenomenon, Bud Moore. We would be remiss if we did not include our friends, A.S.O.B. Ambassador Keith Oviatt and Lady Joann. I enjoyed visiting with the M.A.S.O.B.A. officers and their ladies, and all nobles and ladies of M.A.S.A., and look forward to being with this

group at Virginia Beach in September.

Next, was our A.S.O.B. cruise which, for Maggie and me, had an early conclusion. We were, however, able to visit with friends at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Tampa. Unfortunately, as luck would have it, we were there but missed the boat. But, from what we heard, and from the pictures we viewed, everyone had a great time! I blame our misfortune on Ralph Jubb, because often when he's around, Maggie ends up in the hospital! Ralph, we both love you anyway, and will see you in Charlotte, if not before!

Our upcoming events include a visit to Minneapolis with our friends Dave and Sandy McCarthy in May; attendance at the T.S.A. in Tyler, Texas, in early June; of course, Imperial Session in Charlotte, NC. I hope to see many of our Shrine friends from throughout the country.

Yours in the faith,
Vince



THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

David McCarthy

Well, we are in full swing of a New Year and as spring blooms, our Shrine activities are on the up swing. Imperial

competition activities are being prepared for you and your bands in Charlotte, NC, at Imperials 138th Session, July 1st thru the 5th. Doing your part by getting your bands registered for competition and also you getting your registrations into the Secretary Treasurer is a great help. Don't forget to request your meal requirements for when you attend the awards banquet and incoming president's luncheon. Otherwise a piece of lone parsley on a plate will not be very appetizing.

Since we visited the last time, my Lady Sandy and I visited and enjoyed Mid-Atlantic Shrine Oriental Band Association (M.A.S.O.B.A.) hosted

by Lancaster's Shrine Club (Rajah). Hospitality extraordinaire created a great weekend late February at the Best Western Eden Resorts and Suites in Lancaster, PA. Trust you went and visited/viewed the pictures that were posted on Facebook under A.S.O.B. site. My sincere appreciation to the folks of Lancaster Shrine Club and MASOBA for their extending fraternal hospitality to Sandy and I and the other A.S.O.B. folks in attendance.

As this article goes to press the Texas folks should be recovering with a warm glow from T.A.S.O.B.'s Mid-Winter Session in Tyler, TX. Looking at the schedule, President Danny Settle and his right hand Secretary Treasurer Ray Dark PP, have provided what should be a bang up time. I will report back on this evolution next article. Also worth mentioning is Texas Shrine Association (TSA) which will be held also in Tyler, TX. May 30th thru June 2nd. Would love to have any Nobles and their Ladies come and enjoy a little Texas hospitality and enjoy the Oriental Band competitions. Come and watch the "mighty" Oriental Bands of Khiva and Moslah go head to head on the competition tune, Sinbad.

As I close this article I hope you go visit the pictures from TASOB and ASOB mid-winter activities at www.asob.org click on the facebook tab. Great times are being had and you can share your activity as well by just sending your pictures to share. (You don't have to be a face book member to view.) I encourage every one to send their OB activities to JR and he will gladly upload your organization's photos to the site for every one to enjoy. I believe this creates a tighter bond between ALL Oriental Bands just by sharing and new ideas emerge.

Hope to see every one at the 138th Imperial Session in July in Charlotte, NC. Remember the Oriental Band festivities are being held in the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel. You may also want to visit Imperial's web site at <http://www.imperial2012.com> for a broader view of all the activities. I encourage you to contact any one of your A.S.O.B.

officers with questions or clarifications of matters related to Oriental Bands functions. We are here to serve you, and I'm sure the other officers feel the same as I do. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are published elsewhere in this publication; please use them.

For those of you reading this article, I would highly encourage you to engage your fellow nobles to participate in every Shrine event possible. Top of your list should be Nobles having fun, just maybe you may find a new band members. Visit your Blue Lodge. Ultimately this will help our Shrine Kids. Let me leave you with the thought; let's all put an extra effort for The Ladder of Smiles. You will see that your efforts and contributions do make it all worthwhile. Go in Peace.



**FOURTH
VICE
PRESIDENT**
Scot Duncil

Greetings Fellow Sons of the Desert! Having Shrine Temples and Oriental Band Units throughout

North America gives us an opportunity to travel and fellowship with other like-minded "musicians" (?) but our recent A.S.O.B. Mid-Winter meeting took us - not over desert sands to seek out a rare oasis - but over vast bodies of water to beautiful sandy beaches in the Caribbean. President "BIG" and First Lady Tish (*it's legal now!*) provided a much welcomed venue in the middle of winter as several OBers, Ladies and guests sailed, sipped and stuffed to our hearts and bellies content! Thank-you!! Now if all our meetings lasted only a couple hours and involved several days of soaking-up Vitamin D, I'd be in heaven.

Besides solving the world's issues, we discussed the new PowerPoint presentation that will share with

the general Nobility what Oriental Bands and, to be more specific, our Philanthropy – The Ladder of Smiles – is all about. Created by ASOB Past President, Jim Whitehouse, updated and creatively edited by ASOB Past President Joe Brewton and beautifully and professionally illustrated by ASOB/TASOB Ambassador J.R. Batesole – this soon to be released DVD is indeed accurate, educational and down-right enjoyable to read and view. Please keep an eye on the ASOB website to review and share with others – especially non-OBers you've identified as potential members. Great work Nobles and Thank-you to all that had a hand in its development!

Speaking of North America, how long will it be before other Nobles from around the world call themselves Oriental Bandsmen and experience the FUN!, FELLOWSHIP and PHILANTHROPY we are known for? Won't be long, I guarantee!!

And speaking of The Ladder of Smiles, rekindle those fundraising efforts so we may surpass President Richard's goal and help get our special patients to our Hospitals. Not much time left in this fiscal year and each penny is more valuable than ever before in these tough economic times.

Lastly – if anyone has the answer on this matter that's been puzzling me for quite some time; whatever happened to Preparation's A – G?

Es Salamu Alaikum,
Scot Duncil
ASOB 4th VP



**SERGEANT
AT ARMS**
Jeff Moores

Greetings from the Northeast, During my last article I was hoping for a kinder 2012 than the 2011 that we had. Well so far this

year has started off pretty good. We

have had the mildest winter that I can remember in the 9 years that I have been up here. Here's looking to a great spring and summer.

We had a great Mid Winter meeting aboard the Carnival Paradise. We had a small group, but it was a great time had by all. Thanks to Richard and Tish for a great time and congratulations on your nuptials. So glad you didn't spend part of your honeymoon in a Mexican jail. I believe our Secretary Mahlon has had the minutes published elsewhere in this issue. As Sgt at Arms, I feel it is my duty to report one of the changes that we discussed. Recently Shriners International revised their Flag Protocol, and the only requirement now is that we fly the Flag of the country in which we are holding our meeting or events. The Imperial Officer that is the Chairman of the protocol committee however advised me that it would be acceptable to fly the flag of the countries in which our association has member bands. After discussion, we decided that we will fly the flags of Canada and the United States at all of our functions and retire the flags of Mexico and Panama to only be used if we hold a meeting in those countries or establish an Oriental Band there in the future.

Richard reminded us all to "Thank" all of those bands that have contributed to the Ladder of Smiles. As I write this, I am in finalizing plans to go to Ottawa, Ontario, to visit with the Tunis Oriental Band. A few years back I had a traveling trophy created for the Band in the Northeast that contributes the most to the Ladder of Smiles in any given year.

I had intended to present it to them at our Northeast Field Days, but they were unable to join us for that trip. This past Shrine Year



that honor goes to the Tunis Oriental Band with a \$5,000 donation. That was a job well done by those Nobles and their Ladies. I know that my band takes great pride in the money we raise for our hospitals and consider this one of the most important trophies we compete for.

Speaking of the Tunis Oriental Band, it is with great sadness to report the recent passing of their Secretary, Noble Wally Webb, at the end of March. Wally was a Past Master of his Lodge and had been the Secretary of the Oriental Band for as long as I have been in an Oriental Band. I never personally met Wally, but as a Past President of NESOBA and the ASOB Ambassador for the Northeast, I had the pleasure of communicating with him over the years. Please keep Wally's family and the Nobles of Tunis in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of their brother.

The upcoming Imperial Session in Charlotte is starting to come together. I'm sure we will all have a grand time in the Queen City of Charlotte, NC. A little known fact that I am sure Past President Joe Brewton will appreciate, is that I saw my first Grateful Dead show in Charlotte over 20+ years ago. College was a fun time, Thanks Mom and Dad! I'm looking forward to seeing some of those bands we don't usually see at an Imperial. The rumor is we may be seeing some bands from the Southeast and South Atlantic Regions and maybe even Florida.

See ya'll in July, until then, please remember the Ladder of Smiles and our 100% participation program. Any donation will help as we work to hit our goal.

*See you in Charlotte, NC
at the 2012 Imperial Session
June 30-July 4!*



SECRETARY TREASURER

Mahlon Hariu

The Dues Notices were sent in September as usual. As of this writing I have received dues from sixty-six (66) Bands. Please

keep in mind that dues are due the end of January, not June. I can not tell you how many times I have heard the excuse of "we are not going to compete or go to Imperial, so we are not paying dues this year". My question to those Nobles is, what are you going to do when there is no competition or Imperial to go to because you were more concerned with your savings account than the Shrine or its organizations?

The 2012 Imperial Session is in Charlotte, NC. Please find the reservation slip in the last issue of the Na Khabar or on line, and if your band is going to attend, mail your information and payment for the first night's lodging plus the Imperial fee, in the amount of \$149.00. As of this writing we have received only 30 reservations, and one of them is mine. You will also find the reservation form for the Awards Dinner and Presidents Lunch. Please send this info and payment to Scot Duncil. We have reserved and paid Imperial \$20.00 per room for 50 rooms, so we would like to break even. If anyone has any questions concerning Imperial, give me a call or E-mail me at mehariu@ptd.net

I hope to see many of you and your families at Imperial. We always have a great time, and this year promises to be no exception.

Yours in the Faith,
Mahlon



Remember the Ladder of Smiles

APPOINTMENTS



LADDER OF SMILES CHAIRMAN

Michael Hartup

Welcome to the land of Beep, Beep, Beep. Yes, it is spring and the weather radio is working overtime, predicting wind, severe thunderstorms and hail. It hasn't been wrong!

In February, Maggie and I attended the Lancaster County/Zembo Shrine Presidents Night in Lancaster, PA. The A.S.O.B. was well represented; President "Big" and Vice Presidents Vince and David and their ladies were there also. As usual, we were treated royally!

We did not make the A.S.O.B. Mid-Winter cruise. Midian had a trip planned to Laughlin, NV, and I'm sure the cruise would have been a lot cheaper. Congratulations go out to the newlyweds, Big and Tish. I'll kiss the bride at Imperial!

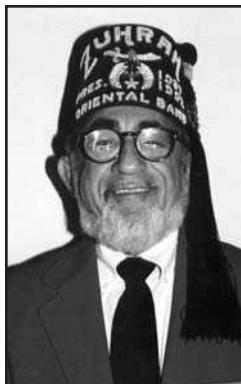
Later in March, Maggie and I visited Tyler, TX, for T.A.S.O.B. Mid-Winter meeting. On the way to Tyler, we stopped off in Ft. Worth for a fabulous dinner cooked by Chef Sandy McCarthy. Maggie and Sandy also took advantage of some Ft. Worth bargains and spent an afternoon shopping. During the T.A.S.O.B. business meeting Past President Joe Brewton (now retired) gave a very informative presentation about the A.S.O.B. and Ladder of Smiles. I understand that he will give the same presentation in Charlotte, NC, during Imperial Session. I hope that our ladies will be able to view this great presentation. Sharon Oriental Band had a lot of activities planned for the weekend including a Texas Hold-em Tournament and I was the unexpected winner of a "gold" bracelet. I will wear

it proudly during parades and hope my wrist doesn't turn green. Thanks, for all the hospitality!

Speaking of Imperial Session, I hear we have a few rooms left so if you haven't made your reservations yet, do it now! The information is in this issue of the Na Khabar. I understand that Charlotte is beautiful and there are lots of things to do in the area.

President Big has not yet reached his goal of \$75,000.00 and it is up to ALL of us to make it happen. Forego that second cup of coffee at the corner coffee store, that new golf ball, that lottery ticket, that new pair of socks without holes in the bottom, and that last can of camel's milk. You won't miss those things TOO much. Donate that money instead to the Ladder of Smiles and make President Big happy. Remember the smiles of children DO make it all worthwhile.

I bid you peace. Mike



**FIRST
100 CLUB
CHAIRMAN**

Morrie Toretsky

Greetings from the land of Sky Blue Waters! We had a beautiful fall, and a very mild winter, not much snow, and warm temperatures.

I am not receiving communications from band secretaries to keep me informed of any changes, with our members of the First 100 Club. I like to keep the roster up to date. We welcome and need new members in the A.S.O.B. First 100 Club. The black camel visited two of our hard working members. Gerald W. Suttner (Ismailia) and Don Sloman (Rameses Oshawa). Our sympathies and condolences go out to these families.

Repeat, we do need new members in the First 100 Club. Please mail your name, address, Shrine Center and a check for \$100.00 with each application

to Morrie Toretsky, 2554 Pennsylvania Avenue South. Minneapolis, MN 55426. Make checks payable to First 100 Club ASOB. You will find an application below. On Wednesday, July 4, 2012, at 7:00 am, we will have the First 100 Club Breakfast at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel. Please keep me up to date on any changes. Thank you for your contributions and support.

— — — — —

**APPLICATION FOR THE
A.S.O.B. FIRST 100 CLUB**

— — — — —

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State____ Zip_____
Phone_____
E-Mail_____
Shrine Center_____

— — — — —

Please make check payable to:
A.S.O.B. First 100 Club
in the amount of \$100.00

— — — — —

Mail to: Morrie Toretsky
2554 Pennsylvania Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55426

— — — — —

See you at the
1ST 100 CLUB BREAKFAST
at the 2012 Imperial Session!



**ASOB
COORDINATOR
LIBRARIAN**

Paul Gluck

Greetings from the Pioneer Valley! In this issue I would like to tell you about the accordion from Calgary. Back in the spring of '99 I was given an accordion by a member of the Al Azhar Oriental Band, Malcolm Tolton. In the days

when Malcolm grew up there were no televisions or high density LCD flat screens for family entertainment. Not even every family had a radio. Many families had a musical instrument such as a piano, guitar, fiddle or harmonica that one would play for family and neighbors for entertain themselves. Malcolm's family had a piano in their home on their farm. As a young boy Malcolm had a passion for the accordion as I do. Every time Malcolm went to the store he would look at this accordion sitting on the shelf and dreamed of the day he would have enough money to buy it. His family could not spend the money for an accordion, especially since they already had a piano in the house. Malcolm wanted the accordion so much that he had to figure out a way to raise the money to buy it. He thought long and hard about it and came up with an idea. Since he lived on a farm he could raise a couple pigs and sell them to get enough money to buy the accordion. He talked his mother into giving him the money to buy a couple piglets and would pay her back when he sold the full grown pigs. His desire for that accordion made him work hard every day feeding, watering, and tending the pigs. As a young boy that was a lot of work. Finally the day came when the pigs were big enough to sell and he would earn enough to pay back his mother and buy the accordion. Malcolm passionately played the accordion every day (like some Oriental Bandsman play their musettes) until he got older and packed it away in his closet. Occasionally he would take it out and play.

When I visited the Al Azhar Shrine Center, Malcolm thought his accordion would get more use if he gave it to me to play. And so it did as I played it during my stay and on my flight home through Dallas for the passengers on the airplane which included Paul Pante and Kurt Plaut. My motto "Have accordion will travel" and the accordion and I have visited nearly every state in the U.S.A. and province in Canada.

Recently I read about a young boy,

Master Bellhassen, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, looking for an accordion and decided to ship it to him. Perhaps some day you may see him playing Malcolm's accordion at some Shrine function or entertaining at one of our 22 hospitals for children.



*Master Bellhassen
with Malcolm's Accordion*

Melha Oriental Band is working on converting their double reed musettes to single reed. A die has been cast and they are working to fine tune a finished product. More info to follow in the next issue. Until then please remember the LADDER OF SMILES. Shalom Aleikum

Musically yours,
Paul "Squeezebox" Gluck

AMBASSADORS



**CENTRAL
STATES**
Rick Moody

Greetings from the Bands of Central States. Parade Season has already started here in the Midwest and I know of several bands that have al-

ready been in one. St. Patrick's Day is one of the biggest celebrated days in America and this year was on a Saturday. Arab Temple and Abdallah Oriental bands participated in parades

that between the two estimated over 40,000 people in attendance along the parade routes. What a great way to get the word out how great it is to be a Shriner. Please don't overlook the local parades wherever they may be. The smaller town parades really enjoy what we have to offer and the Oriental Bands are almost treated like celebrities. They see how much fun we have and it sparks interest in wanting to become a Shriner. Some of the Shrine Temples have a Circus for a fund raiser. This is another great place to perform. Any opportunity that you may have to perform, if you can, take advantage of it, so we can grow our membership.

In September, the Bands of Central States will be competing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and will be hosted by El Kahir Shriners. The competition song is one that most of the bands are familiar with and it should be fun to hear the different ways it will be played. I look forward to being reunited with my fellow bandmen there. Well, that's all for now. Remember the kids, the Ladder of Smiles, and keep playing the sweetest music this side of heaven.



FLORIDA
Robert E. Stihler

Condolences to the family of Charlie Tacy, Treasurer of the Great Sahib Band at Sarasota, FL, as he was visited by the Black Camel in December,

2011. Charlie was a long time member of the Band and will be sorely missed.

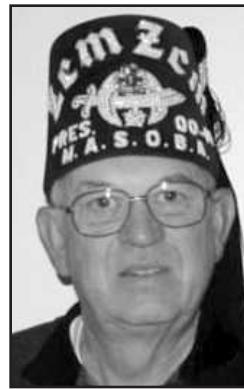
Bahia Oriental Band President Gayle Brown has been diagnosed with cancer and needs continuing prayers.

FSOBA President Butch Cox of Araba Oriental Band at Ft. Myers, has been working on the convention scheduled for 2 - 5 May 2012. Unfortunately the Great Sahib Band will miss the convention as they will be concentrating their efforts on the

Imperial Session. Best of luck to Sahib at the competition.

Remember the Ladder of Smiles and help ASOB President Richard "Big" Thompson meet his goal. Remember the Ladder of Smiles and the children in the hospitals.

God Bless You, God Bless Our Troops, God Bless America



**MID
ATLANTIC**
Kieth Oviatt

The MASOBA Mid-Winter meeting was held in Lancaster, PA, on February 25, 2012. All MASOBA line officers were present as

well as 9 Past Presidents and several band members. The ASOB was well represented with President Richard "Big" Thompson, 2nd VP Vince Bobrosky, 3rd VP Dave McCarthy, Sec/Treas Mahlon Hariu, Ladder of Smiles Chairman Mike Hartup, Sec.Treas. Emeritus Bud Moore and myself.

Discussion was held concerning a lack of Bands for stage competition at VA Beach. Last year 4 bands had committed but 2 of the 4 failed to compete due to several reasons. It was decided that Sec. John K. Grumbein send a letter requesting that bands register for the competition with a \$100 deposit which will be refunded on the day of competition if that band competes. If they back out the fee will be given to the Ladder of Smiles. Sign up deadline with deposit will be April 15 with cancellation date of May 31 with no penalty. There has to be a minimum of 4 bands competing. If stage competition is held it will be following the Annual Meeting at Virginia Beach on Sept. 7, 2012. The competition tune will be the same as the ASOB tune, "Sinbad."

A collection of \$162.00 was taken at the meeting and Pres. "Big" gave a word of thanks to MASOBA for their

support of the Ladder of Smiles.

Later that evening the annual combined LCSC/Rajah Ladies/Past Presidents Night was held with a fine banquet and dancing. Donations received at the banquet totaled over \$4000.00 for the Ladder of Smiles. A good time was had by all. A special thanks to the LCSCOB for a well stocked Hospitality Room.

A thought to remember: When somebody tells you nothing is impossible, ask them how to get off a mailing list!

Remember the Ladder of Smiles as that is what we are all about!!



MID WEST

James "Moose" Fitzgerald

Greetings fellow nobles from the Mid-West Oriental bands. January started out at our temple (El Riad in Sioux Falls, SD)

with our Band hosting the Wednesday night social.

Half-way into the month we were invited to Abu Bekr (Sioux City, IA) to help "jump start" their band. A.S.O.B. 1st Vice President Lonnie Merriman, fellow nobles Brian Landsdowne, Todd Miller and myself ventured south and had a very productive meeting with past, current and future members of their band. While at Abu Bekr, we also met with their incoming potenteate who invited us to participate in their spring ceremonial, adding to that great sound that their small band fills the air. Twelve members of El Riad were in attendance on March 24th. Together with their band of ten we put on a great show. I personally talked to each of the newly created nobles, and feel that in the future, can give El Riad and other bands a run for the money at Mid-West (and hopefully Imperial) competition.

Lonnie and I have discussed future trips to get some enthusiasm drummed up at other Mid-West Temples. I have

sent out e-mails trying to jump-start other temples in the Mid-West with less than lack-luster results. Remember, that the only way to ensure that our bands do not fade into oblivion, is to recruit new members. If not your own Temple, then help or refer potential candidates to their local Shrine.

That said, our band has already marched in one parade in 2012. Perfect parade weather, mid 70's, light wind and sunshine. All this on St. Patrick's day in SOUTH DAKOTA! (Usually our reeds are freezing to the mouth pieces). Other parades are on the schedule as we enter into another great marching season.

I know that mouth-pieces are at a premium, so over the winter I started casting a mouth piece (and ligature) that uses a B-flat clarinet reed (available at any music store). I make them using a silicone mold, casting with a two part resin. Our band has started using them and are very easy to play. I have sent several samples out and am ready to provide any ambassador or band the same.

I am looking forward to Imperial in Charlotte and seeing all the fellow bandmen that I met last year in Denver and meeting new friends and comrades. Remember, that the only way to ensure that our bands do not fade into oblivion, is to recruit new members!

Always, yours in the faith:
James "Moose" Fitzgerald
Mid West Ambassador
El Riad Shrine
(605) 496-3209



NEW YORK/ ONTARIO

Bob Jones

Greetings from Lake Ontario North. What a great winter. If we had the Florida beaches it would have been perfect. Golfers were out in force (the earliest season

ever). Last year 3 of our Ontario bands participated in the Rameses Ceremonial in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Rameses-Hamilton did the honours at the initiation. All bands performed well and looked good on the street.

Noble Doug Wanamaker and I attended the Fantasy Parade and Competition in Denver. What a show. The President's Award Night was a highlight and was thoroughly enjoyed by Doug and I and our Ladies.

I know Noble Richard's Presidency is just about over and trust he has had a good year.

In New York/Ontario we now have only 3 bands - Oshawa, Hamilton and Sudbury. It is with regret that I report the demise of Rameses-Owen Sound. Their band is having a difficult time putting enough members on the street, and have decided to go dark. I visit this club annually and will attempt to revive.

Oshawa and Sudbury are active and have regular practices. Oshawa has a weekly practice for full band and another for musettes only. The Sudbury Club meets for practice every other Monday. Both these Bands have several activities during the year and fun and socializing seem to abound.

Hamilton is struggling and again age and health is the issue. Hamilton has 2 events each year to raise funds for the LOS.

All bands are gearing up for the parade season and hopefully events will bring in tons of money for the Ladder of Smiles. That's all for now, we'll see you in Charlotte.



TEXAS

J.R. Batesole

Greetings everyone, Winter is pretty much over here and it is finally spring time in Texas. Down in the Stockyards, at

the old White Elephant Saloon, they are playing that old cowboy song, "I'd Like to be in Texas (for the round up in the Spring)," and as the song suggests, Texas Association of Shrine Oriental Band's President Danny Settle declared it was time for a TASOB Spring round up of Texas Oriental Bandsman and set our annual Mid Winter meeting for March 23 and 24 in Tyler, Texas. It was a great event and if you missed this Spring round up you missed a good one. The registration fee for this event was \$130 and it was well spent. With the same \$130 at Disney or Six Flags they would have let you stand next to the gate.

Danny, together with his trusty sidekick TASOB Secretary/Treasure Ray Dark, PP, called for Texas bandsmen to come to the Spring round up and come they did. Members and their ladies rolled in from all over the State of Texas and beyond to attend and participate in one of the finest displays of Shrine hospitality that one could possibly imagine. Danny, Ray and a host of Sharon OBers together with their ladies planned, staged and conducted a truly fine event. As it worked out, they could not have picked a better weekend for the gathering. The weather was absolutely great. Warm sunny days with clear cool nights and most everything that Tyler is famous for was in bloom. The azaleas were in full blossom, the dogwoods were out, the famous Tyler roses were everywhere and patches of blue bonnets were popping up throughout the area.

The roundup was held at the Broadway Holiday Inn in downtown Tyler which was an ideal spot for such an event. The hotel is a full service place, centrally located with plenty of eateries and such nearby. It was well appointed and seemed to cater to everyone's needs very well. The hospitality room was well stocked with plenty of goodies and premium refreshments, the meals were superb, the entertainment was outstanding and the range of activities available for both the men and ladies was diverse

and well scheduled. To top all of that off we actually managed to conduct a little business and raise a dollar or two for the Ladder of Smiles.

This year's meeting was attended by representatives from Alzafar (San Antonio), Moslah (Ft. Worth), Sharon (Tyler), Arabia (Houston) and Hella (Dallas). Suez (San Angelo) was not present again this year. As luck would have it we also had a cast of ASOB dignitaries on hand for the event to include the current ASOB 3rd vice president, David McCarthy, and ASOB past presidents, Joe Brewton, Jim Whitehouse and Past President/Ladder of Smiles chairman, Mike Hartup. It should be noted that Mike, as usual, departed Tyler with a pocket full of Ladder of Smiles money which exceeded \$2,100.00. Additionally, I have been advised that when the silent auction and other activities are totaled up there will be more to be presented at the TASOB breakfast meeting to be held during TSA meeting and competition which will be also in Tyler, 30 May thru 2 June 2012.

After registration and a little hospitality room mixing, Danny started Friday afternoon off with a tour of the UT Tyler Patriot Center. This is the field house/arena where we conduct our OB competition in June. None of us had performed there before so it was an educational experience for the directors and section leaders to look at ways on and off the performance floor and the amount of area we had to deal with. After the big tour it was back to the hospitality room until happy hour and dinner at the hotel. Danny and Ray had us set up for a full sit down dinner in a very elegant setting at the hotel, with a little light live mood music. The environment was just right, the food was superb and the entertainment was more than special. After dinner, where else, but back to the hospitality room until closing.

Saturday started off with our normal TASOB breakfast followed by a director's meeting and a general membership meeting. The usual topics

were cussed and discussed and elections for next year were held, which I will discuss in detail later. Then there was a special treat. Joe Brewton, past ASOB President, gave the first presentation of the revised and updated Jim Whitehouse ASOB/Ladder of Smiles talking points. The Whitehouse talking points were developed and propagated by Jim when he was ASOB president and have led the way toward a better general understanding of ASOB and a progressive overall improvement in the results of our Ladder of Smiles program. Jim's work has now been edited and updated and we are in the process of getting the word out one more time, but on a broader scale and in a modern multi-media format. Joe and I have been working on this project with Jim and several others since last fall. The goal is to produce and distribute a DVD that provides a solid overview of ASOB, the Ladder of Smiles and the 100% participation program. Joe's presentation was another major milestone in making the project a reality. While we still have a number of major milestones yet to meet we hope to have a final product ready by July of this year and to start getting them out to all of the OBs and temple divans by September 2012.

The remainder of Saturday was filled with activities for both bandsmen and their ladies to include tours, luncheons and tournaments followed by the big dance at the hotel Saturday night. Unfortunately, personal illness sent my lady and me back to Fort Worth a day earlier than I had planned. However, I have been told by many that it was just the final crown set upon a perfect weekend of fun, fellowship and a little business.

And now that part that you have all been waiting for, what else but the election results. Congratulations are in order for Moe Rahmeh of the Moslah Bedouin Oriental Band, newly elected to the TASOB line up during the Mid Winter Meeting. Moe will assume the office of 2nd vice president. John Barron of Arabia, our current 1st vice president

was elected and moves up to President and John Meyer of Khiva, our current 2nd vice president was elected and will move up to fill behind John as 1st vice president. All will be installed and take their new offices at our 1 June 2012 meeting in Tyler. I had hoped to spend more time with John discussing his plan for next year, but that didn't work out the way I had planned. I do know he already has a number of things set up and I am looking forward to joining him and his crew in Houston next spring. John is certain to provide a great time for all who attend. I hope to see many of you there.

As usual Dave McCarthy and I got a number of photos of the event and they will have them posted to the ASOB face book page by the time this goes to press. Speaking of photos, don't forget if you have photos of your band's activities please send them to photos@asob.org with a short explanation. I will see that they get posted to the face book page in short order.

Congratulations to our TASOB President Danny Settle, his illustrious, trusty sidekick, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Dark, P.P., and the whole Sharon crew for putting on one great Spring Roundup for everyone.

Yours in the Faith,
J. R. Batesole
Texas Ambassador
jrbatesole@sbcglobal.net

2011/2012 PATRONS LIST

BRONZE: (\$10.00)

SILVER: (\$25.00)

GOLD: (\$75.00)

PLATINUM: (\$150.00)

LIFE: (\$1,000.00)

*W. Michael Hartup (Midian)

Joe Brewton (Khiva)

Peter Lawn (Gizeh)

Donald Moores (Amara)

James W. McIlhattan

Richard Thompson

Khiva Oriental Band

Maggie Hartup (Midian)

Midian Oriental Band

C. Vince Bobrosky

Gerry & Joann Suttner

* Indicates second donation

The 138th Imperial Session is very close and is being held in Charlotte, NC, this year. At that time I will be seeking the position of **Sergeant at Arms** for A.S.O.B. line and along with my bands support, I would appreciate your support.



- Raised in South Hills Lodge - June 2, 1979
- Fort Worth Scottish Rite - June 6, 1979
- Moslah Shrine; created - June 9, 1979
- Past Master Panther City Lodge - 1995
- Past Caliph of Moslah Bedouins Unit - 1992
- Past President of TASOB - 1995 / 1996
- Fort Worth DeMolay Active Member and Chapter Dad
- Following Awards: Chevalier, Cross of Honor, Active Legion of Honor, Guild of the Leather Apron
- Past President of South Side Lions Club
- Past President of Julien C. Hyer Lions International Youth Camp
- Married 37 years to Katie Crow, met at Rainbow DeMolay carwash in High School
- Three daughters: Reagan, Koleen, and Ashley
- Six Grand children

Questions or desiring other information please contact me at Bedouin@charter.net or 817-335-1832 at my business.

Thanking you in advance,
Thomas Crow

Fez Case Medallion

Medallion includes your name, Shrine Center and unit name and logo. Disk is black on brass, 3.5 inches wide. This attractive medallion distinctively identifies your Fez case.



Price of medallion is \$15; for each purchase \$4 will be donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children through the Ladder of Smiles if you mention you saw it in the Na Khabar. To order, call The Engraver's Touch at (413) 734-2098 or you can email at sales@theengraverstouch.com

A.S.O.B. Mid Winter Meeting

March 6, 2012

Aboard the M/V Carnival Paradise

Attendees

Richard Thompson, President
Lonnie Merriman, 1st Vice President
Scot Duncil, 4th Vice President
Jeff Moores, Sgt. at Arms
Joe Brewton, Past President
Ralph Jebb, Past President
Don Moores, Past President
Nolan Stanley Ambassador
Stu Stuart, Khiva OB

Meeting opened at 10:00 AM by President Richard Thompson who called upon past President Don Moores to offer a prayer and Sgt. at Arms Jeff Moores to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Richard introduced all present.

President Richard called for the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report. Motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Richard did report that he discussed the budget with Mahlon before the Mid Winter Meeting and he reported that the treasurer's report was right where he expected it and all appeared to be normal.

Discussion was held concerning the 2011 Imperial minutes concerning the motion that a band member can only participate in one band even if he is a member of more than one band competing. Minutes read as though the motion carried, but Sgt. at Arms, thought that the motion had been defeated. Will discuss at Imperial in Charlotte for clarification.

Richard called for Officer and Committee reports. Sgt. at Arms Jeff Moores reported that all of his travel had been posted in the Na Khabar and was planning a trip to Karnak and Tunis

prior to Charlotte. He also reported that he had purchased a telescoping flagpole and collapsible stand. He reported that based on the new Flag Protocol the only requirement was to fly the flag of the country in which our meeting is being held. The chairman of the Imperial Protocol committee also stated that it would be acceptable to fly the flag of the countries in which our association has members. That means it would be acceptable to fly only the US and Canadian Flag at our function sand retire the Panama and Mexico flag unless we are holding a meeting in those countries. He also reported that a full set of flags are now available which now includes Germany the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Motion was made and seconded to purchase another collapsible flagpole and base and carry bag for approximately \$50. First set was purchased and donated by the Sgt. at Arms. Motion was carried.

Discussion was also had about whether we wanted to fly the Shriners International Flag and Hospital Flag as well. There are only 2 approved vendors and 1 flag is \$190 and the other is \$160. It was tabled for discussion at Imperial when more members are present due to the cost.

4th Vice President Scot Duncil reported that he had received 1 reservation for the banquets so far.

1st Vice President Lonnie Merriman reported that things are taking shape for Imperial in Indianapolis. Contracts have been reviewed by Mahlon's Temple attorney and signed with the Downtown Hilton. Hotel is about a block and a half from the convention center. Competition will most likely be at the convention center, but that can

not be confirmed until after Charlotte. Room will be \$142/night negotiated down from \$179/night. Parking has also been negotiated down to \$5/day from \$20/day. It also includes 2 breakfast buffets a day.

President Richard called on Past President Ralph Jubb to give a Ladder of Smiles report. Past President Jubb reported that Ladder of Smiles is just over \$50,000 at the end of February. President Richard reminded everyone that if we are at any association to extend our thanks for their support of the Ladder of Smiles.

Ambassador Nolan Stanley reported that Vince is already planning for his Mid Winter meeting, which will most likely be held in Charlottesville, VA as part of the Dogwood Festival Parade.

President Richard reported on Charlotte Imperial. Hotel is the Airport Sheraton. Free Parking. There is a shuttle that runs close to the convention center, but possibly not all the way. Hotel believes we should be able to talk them into taking us all the way, but the hotel can not make them. Still no plans yet on a friends and family dinner. Currently have about 29 rooms booked. Everyone needs to get their reservation booked for better planning purposes. He also reports that we already have about 6-8 bands planning to compete.

President Richard called for any Old Business

Sgt. at Arms Jeff Moores commented on Richard request to thank the Bands. Northeast has created a Traveling Northeast Ladder of Smiles Trophy that is given to the band in the region that contributes the most money to the Ladder of Smiles in any given Shrine year from July to July.

Past President Jubb asked if everyone was satisfied with how we handle the competition trophies. He commented that it was easy, but possibly a little more expensive than it had to be. President Richard stated he was satisfied with it.

Past President Jubb brought up music at Imperial. A long discussion was held concerning the competition tune and the rules around having music present, make up, etc. Discussion was had concerning the electronic Na Khabar. Appears to very well received. From all members present everything was positive concerning that.

President Richard called for any New Business

Past President Brewton brought up the fact that many of the members of our Association do not understand what our

Association and the Ladder of Smiles is all about. In Jim Whitehouse's year he had created a set of talking points about them. The discussion also included whether we would want to share this with all of our bands. Plan would be to show it in Imperial. In Charlotte, we would need to have a discussion on how to proceed for the ASOB, if we wanted to follow through on this.

VP Scot Duncil brought up the name change of our association. The Association of Shrine Oriental Bands of North America. It was discussed that we should drop the North America. This will require a by laws change. The Parliamentarian is the chairman of the by laws committee. A presentation of the recommended by laws changes will be presented at Charlotte, printed in the Na Khabar, and voted on at Indianapolis.

VP Lonnie Merriman also brought up that we needed to court future Sgt. at Arms candidates.

President Richard asked for reports on sickness and distress. It was reported that Charlie Duffin was home and resting comfortably, Nolan mentioned that he talked to Vince just prior to the ships sailing and Maggie had not been released yet, but they were expecting that shortly and then were heading home.

Richard was congratulated on his recent marriage to Tish.

Meeting closed at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Moores, Sgt. at Arms

Melha Oriental Band

*Wishes the ASOB another
great year for the
Ladder of Smiles*



*We meet every Friday night for social
hour and band practice at 6:30.*

*Our Business Meeting is the
1st Friday of each month.*

*Melha Shriners, 133 Longhill Street,
Springfield, Mass*

Amara Oriental Band

*Wishes the ASOB and
President Richard "Big" Thompson
a Successful Year*



Band Rehearsals 1st and 4th Wednesday

**Our Business Meeting is on the
3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30
Our Ladies, the Harem Belles,
meet at the same time.**

**Amara Shriners, 3650 RCA Blvd.
Palm Beach Gardens, FL**

BAND NEWS

Acca

Richmond, Virginia



Nolan Stanley

415 Cedar Lane
Hopewell, VA 23860
804-541-7982
rcedar415@aol.com

Greetings Nobles. Winter is gone and once again warm weather is upon us. The flowering trees, bushes and daffodils are in full bloom in Virginia. Even though we had a mild winter it is always great to see the flowers come out and know warm weather is here.

I recently had the opportunity to attend ASOB's mid-winter meeting. On March 5th, along with my Lady Mary, we boarded Carnival Paradise in Tampa for a week that will be remembered for a long time. Besides spending time on the beautiful beaches another highlight was attending the mid-winter meeting and spending time with ASOB members and their Ladies. If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of ASOB's meetings you should do it. We had a wonderful time and met some great people. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Richard "Big" Thompson and his Lady Tish and all the ASOB members and their ladies for being so kind to us and showing us a really good time. They really made Mary and I feel like we had known them forever. The week was great, the food was out of this world and we are ready to go again.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Charlotte, NC, in July! I'm sure it will be a good time for all and maybe Big and Kitty will do an encore. Remember that our goal is to raise the most that we can for

the Ladders of Smiles. Our children

are our primary concern.

Fraternally, Nolan Stanley



THE ALEPO ORIENTAL BAND



REHEARSALS on THURSDAYS at 6:30 P.M.
From the Second Thursday in January
To the Second Thursday in November

ORIENTAL BAND ROOM

Second Floor
99 Fordham Road
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887-0578
Exit 39 off of Interstate 93

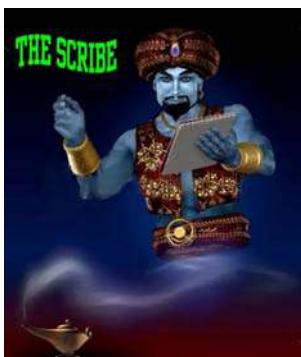
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.oband.mysite.com>

News from the Aleppo Oriental band may be found at our website which is located at:

<http://www.oband.mysite.com>

Thank you for visiting the site. We hope your visit will be an enjoyable one and that you will return to the site frequently for updates.

Shalom,



Arab

Topeka, Kansas



Adam L. Villalobos
3337 SW 44th Street
Topeka, KS 66610
Avillalobos3@att.net

Hello from the great state of Kansas; home to some of the most fun loving Oriental Bands around. It has been a while since I have shared any information on our Mighty Oriental Band. While we never miss a Ceremonial or CSSA, we seemed to have hit a bit of lull in the action. However, our success at CSSA in Overland Park in 2011 sparked something in us and got our juices flowing again. We are looking forward to CSSA in Iowa this year.

We seemed to have skipped the winter season with very little snow and seasonably warm temperatures. While this surely was a disappointment to some, it proved to be blessing for the Shrine Circus. The weather was absolutely beautiful during the three days the circus was in town. This may also have contributed to the success of the event this year. There was an increase in revenue through higher attendance and toy sales and the performance was top notch. The Oriental Band has in the past played for the audience in one of the rings before the start of the show. This year we decided to do something different and be a roving troupe. We strolled through the Expocentre playing in the main arena, hallways and even outside. It gave us a great opportunity to strut our stuff and be closer to all the attendees, young and old alike. We even took several pictures with many children who were in attendance. The people really seemed to enjoy our performance and we were delighted to have such an enthusiastic crowd. It went so well we hope to be able to perform this way in the future.

As I look at the calendar, I see the next opportunity for us to perform is in

the St. Patrick's Day Parade. At this point, we plan to participate in this very popular parade. We will cross our fingers for nice weather and an abundance of Irish Camel's Milk. This event should also help us warm up for our Spring Ceremonial on May 5.

Each of the Shrine Units and Clubs must find ways to raise funds to operate and food sales are a great source of revenue. We have sponsored a number of various events, but recently have been given a wonderful opportunity by our Brothers in the Arab Patrol. They have graciously offered the OB a chance to join them in their fundraising event, the Fall and Spring Pancake Breakfast. We will once again combine efforts to host the Pancake Feed on Saturday, March 31. We thank the Arab Patrol for choosing the Oriental Band to partner with them in this fund raising effort.

Arab Oriental Band Meeting Information: The Oriental Band meets at 7:00 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Shrine in our very own private Oasis located upstairs in the Temple. We welcome any Brother who would like to stop by and see what we are all about. We have a wonderful group of men who enjoy playing music even though the majority of the members have no real musical background. We have a great time performing and we are always competitive at Central States and Imperial. We look forward to another great year of fellowship and the continuation of our efforts to help the children.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt condolences to our OB Brother, Tommy Jamrozek who lost his Lady Lynda to cancer. We will all miss her, but she will always remain in our heart.

Araba

Fort Myers, Florida

Jeff Powers

jefftpow@comcast.net

Tel: (239) 541-1745

Cell: (508) 308-3138



"This year the Florida Shrine Association (FSA) and the Florida Shrine Oriental Bands (FSOB) will meet in Fort Myers, 4-6 May. Several Florida members will not be present because they are saving their money to spend at the Imperial Session. So mote it be. We are all struggling.

The Araba Shrine Oriental Band does not have enough players to deserve marching status. Accordingly, we meet to rehearse our participation in Ceremonial activities, the next "hot sands" event to be 28 April.

Last month we were privileged to have four (4) Nobles meet the Great Mandarin and for their efforts we donated to the Ladder of Smiles. On Sunday, February 10, 2013, our Great Mandarin will greet any and all Nobles who wish to pass through the gate into his domain. Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly. While you are thus engaged, your lady will be welcome to meet the "Draggin' Lady." A sumptuous oriental dinner follows. Y'all come, hear!"

Jeff Powers, Scribe

a-helping, it was another success. A BIG THANKS to fish fry Chairman PP John Pierson, head cookie Millard Smith, and our Lovely Ladies for their efforts at the dessert table. Our next event will be hosting the Stated Meeting Dinner on June 7th.

Bahia's Spring Ceremonial was advanced from April to May's Grand Lodge session. Wouldn't it be nice if the Band could pick up one or two pounders and/or puffers.

It is with sadness that President Gayle Brown had to step down due to his fight with cancer. Our prayers are with him, Lady Faye and their family.

God Bless the children in the hospitals. God Bless You - God Bless Our Troops - God Bless America

Ben Ali

Sacramento, California

Paul McDaniel

5870 Lone Star Valley Road

Auburn, CA.95602-9207

(530) 269-0625

[pjmcda@vfr.net](mailto:pjmcdan@vfr.net)



A warm winter greeting from your Bengal Lancers of Ben Ali Temple located in California's capital city of Sacramento. We have been having summer like weather but are in dire need of some of the Al Kader liquid sunshine. If we don't get some rain soon we may even be using the "D" word. That's "D" as in Drought.

We got off to a really good start in 2012 with our annual BASCO meeting in January followed by our joint Potentates visit with the Ben Ali Patrol unit on the 18th of February. It was a great evening dining with our Potentate Gary Darrow, his lady Elaine, his Divan and members of another of the Temples great units.

We participated on the 25th of February in the annual Bok Kai parade in Marysville, California. This parade I understand is the oldest ongoing parade in the state.

On the 2nd of March many of us attended the memorial for our 2005 past Potentate John Hopkins Jr. There was standing room only as so many were

Bahia

Orlando, Florida



Robert E. Stihler

3321 Bennington Court

Winter Park, FL 32892

Tel/Fax: 407-6547-7521

resnwk@aol.com

Unfortunately, Yours Truly and Lady Nancy were the only Bahia Oriental Band representatives at the May 2012 FSOBA Convention hosted by Araba Oriental Band at Ft. Myers, FL. I mingled with the percussion sections of some of the other bands at the Thursday night Jam Session.

On April 6th, the Band held its Annual Fish Fry and with all hands

Visit our website
www.asob.org

for the latest
information!



there to honor this great man, mason and shriner. John was a Captain of one of the areas fire houses and along with our Masonic and Shrine tributes he was honored by many from areas Fire Departments. "Rest in Peace John," you were one of a kind, you were very much loved and will always be missed.

At our March dinner in nearby Folsom, California's "Old Europe" restaurant our members received awards for "The Medal of Merit" program. Our Temple's High Priest and Prophet Sid Leutholtz was on hand to do the honor of presenting the awards.

For the month of April we had the annual Easter egg hunt and breakfast. Many attended and enjoyed the "Western" night at the Temple on the 21st of April. There was great food and wonderful entertainment.

In late April our temple had its Spring Ceremonial. This year it took place in the Corning, Red Bluff area which is just a few hours north of here.

We are all looking forward to the month of May as we will really be getting in gear with many functions. We will have the Elk Grove, California parade on the 5th, WSA will take place 9 thru 12 May. (Band Competition on the 12th) in Reno, Nevada. Don't forget Mothers Day on the 13th of May. We will perform for the annual Shrine/Masonic night at our great Sacramento "River Cats" baseball game on the 25th of May in our favorite Raley field. And on Memorial Day we will be with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4647 for the annual parade in the North Highlands, California. Many of our temples nobles are veterans and members of this VFW Post. This parade is now one of our temples command performances.

Our officers for the year are Sultan: Bob Moseley, Rajah: Dave Glass, Treasurer: Tom Krummel, Secretary: Paul McDaniel. Dave is acting Sultan for the present time as Bob Moseley has recently undergone back surgery and is recuperating. Bob's Lady Betty is also recuperating as she had a bad fall and is in a temporary care facility in Auburn, California.

We are looking forward to seeing all the various Oriental bands in Reno, Nevada for WSA. A favorite saying of mine is for you to, "Be there or be square." Hope to see yall at the Sands in Reno for this event. For now I will sign off with my favorite line from our all time favorite the late, and ever so great Red Skelton, "God Bless."

Cairo

Rutland, Vermont

Peter J. Wendt

27 Church St. / PO Box 331
North Springfield, VT 05150
peterj1937@yahoo.com



We held our years end dinner at the Black Rock in Springfield, all attended and a wonderful meal had by all. Sad to report, the Vermont squad at the Maple Sugar Shrine football game lost again to New Hampshire, can't remember the last time we won.

Will start practice for the Northeast field days after the holidays, put on by Anah of Bangor, Maine. This is second home to me as I have a camp 50 miles in the woods from Ashland, Maine, which is in Aroostock County, largest county this side of the Mississippi River, and to residents it is known as the county.

Seems like old times, we get 9 inches of snow beginning in November and is still here at the end of November. Band has been in hibernation for the winter months, things have pretty much gotten back to normal after hurricane Irene. I lost an apple tree and shed off its foundation, small for what the rest of the state received. The rest of winter was fairly mild.

Glad to hear the required tune for the fantasy has gone the way of the dinosaurs. Over the winter we had a major setback, our vice president, music director and competition judge, Ed Fenton, took a tumble down his stairs, breaking his femur.

We all wish Ed a speedy recovery. Anyone wanting to send cards and wish him well can send them to: Mr Ed Fenton, Room 219, Pine Heights, 187 Oak Grove Ave., Brattleboro, Vt. 05301

Irem

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Olin W. Evans, Jr.

8 Eleanor Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702



When our winter hibernation swiftly faded away, it allowed the balmy spring breezes to blow open the tent flaps at the Irem Oasis. This harbinger of Spring had our bandsmen emerging with great anticipation of our upcoming events.

Our tribal chieftains have put together another busy schedule for 2012. With gas prices soaring to the "n"th degree President Jim Mason has assigned our rookies Joe Albert, Jim Connors and Tony DeLeo to keep our herd of camels well fed, watered down and groomed for our upcoming caravans.

The bands first main event was honoring St. Patrick at the Scranton 51st annual parade, the 3rd largest in the USA. Best of all the weather was perfect for the four hour parade as spectators lined the parade route with plenty of excitement. Plaudits to our Meri Aides who made it possible for the band to be garnished in Irish green attire.

As this article goes to press the 63rd Annual Shrine Circus will have had eleven shows starting Easter Monday. We take our "turbans off" to all our band members and their wives who devoted much of their time in maintaining our novelty stand. In addition our band is well represented when it comes to erecting and dismantling the armory bleachers.

We continue to practice at our regularly scheduled rehearsal sessions as our sheiks get in shape for the Irem June Outdoor Ceremonial, our local parades and the upcoming Virginia Beach September MASA convention.

As I close my tent flaps with the sun dropping low, we are thankful there is ONE who cares so that weak legs will run again.

Khartum

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Bernie Gross
11 Rosewood Place
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2H 1M4
berniegross@shaw.ca



Welcome, from the Great White North. Although while we may be great, calling ourselves the white north this year may be wishful thinking. We have had an exceptionally warm winter and there is little snow to be found, at least in the southern part of Canada. This spring, the weather forecast claims, will be mild and warm. We will see what nature brings.

The summer session of the Midwest Shrine Association in 2011 was held in Winnipeg and it was just wonderful meeting old friends and making new ones. Unfortunately, there was no Oriental Band competition because of insufficient competitors, there were only two bands attending. But the spirit of competition was maintained with El Riad from South Dakota and Khartum from Winnipeg playing off against each other. I think I can speak for all participants we had a great time with wonderful friendship and enjoying the excellent music from both bands. Although Khartum was declared the winner there really wasn't any loser as both bands, in my opinion, were winners. To the members of El Riad's credit, when the winner was announced they gave the Winnipeg band a standing ovation. This action proved the class and the appreciation of the perennial winners of the Midwest Oriental Band competitions. Long may the rivalry continue.

We have a new slate of officers elected for this year and we hope this year will be better than previous years. Our concern is that for a number of years our numbers have been dwindling and we need new members, especially young Nobles. I know this problem is not specific to our band but it is something that has to be attended to if we want to look after our kids. It is an issue that affects us all and one that is

a concern of many Shrine temples. We hope that this year will be a turnaround year for all of us in solving this problem. May peace be upon you and yours.

Khiva

Amarillo, Texas

John G Wilson III
3801 Puckett Dr.
Amarillo, TX 79109
(806)626-7573
iwilson@pathwayz.com



To catch up with our Band activities since the last issue, let us start with December. About thirteen of us rode on a bright and well electrified float in downtown Amarillo on a cold Friday evening of December 2nd, 2011. We were lucky that the forecast of freezing rain, sleet and snow never materialized. The parade theme was "Rock & Roll Christmas". Our float emphasized the theme with a lighted tree and beside it, a live elf in a rocking chair, rocking away to Brenda Lee's "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree". As the float passed, the multitude gathered, and laughed at the spectacle. The three horns aboard were props as the Crash, Tambs, Drums with an amplified Brenda, provided all of the "live" noise to an estimated 8,000 frozen souls along the parade route. Our Caliph was up to his usual with the "thunder stick" and he delighted in startling children and parents on the curb multiple times along the route. The float committee did so great a job decorating the float that we were bestowed 3rd place non-profit and a \$100.00 cash prize from the parade judges. We have been awarded 3rd place in the past at this parade and that speaks well as we encounter mighty stiff competition on those floats. That night, we represented Shrinedom very well before a large crowd and most of us didn't seem to suffer too much with the cold (our "antifreeze" helps).

Our Sultan for 2011 ended our year with a memorable Christmas party. Joe Kiestler organized some great parties last year and with help from his Lady Sheila and others, he did it again. Our

Divan & Ladies honored us by joining our festivities. The Sultan thanked all who helped him make 2011 a great year for the Band. Tables were moved and space was made for some dancing. Joe, and especially Sheila, let loose with what looked like intense stress relief on the floor. Again what a great time we had that December night- thanks to Joe and all his helpers!

Forwarding to Super Bowl Sunday now - arriving on the cold, overcast Sunday, the Shrine Center was dark with no sign of occupation. This is until that merciful last step was reached on the stairwell (more on the elevator later). Behold on a frigid third floor, a table-long feast was spread about with bar set-ups on our new portable bar in the corner. Stepping through the threshold in the lower Band room was like walking into a comfortable den at least 20 degrees warmer. The Shuffleboard room had a husband vs wife game in progress with a few others watching the second quarter smack down. Venturing upstairs found some 15 members more, watching and yelling at the flat screen. As the game progressed, the numbers board eluded all who had invested in squares and this helped build to an even more suspenseful conclusion of the game. Something that some of us were beginning to think was not going to happen did. Someone finally won the cash pot! Seems the right numbers with a pot of money at the end transformed a turncoat Boston Fan suddenly into an instant New York fan. Thanks to our new Sultan, Rick Beecher and everyone who helped to pull off this intimate and comfortable Super Bowl watch party.

In May, before we leave for state competition, we will have our annual Vidalia Onion fund raiser. This is by far our largest fund effort of the year. Thank goodness that our grower is saying it has been a mild winter in onion country and that the bulbs are coming along fine, no tornados or crop-ending floods. We sell a truck-load over two weekends and have fun doing it. Our onion chairman, Tim Beecher who has

spearheaded this for a few years now is getting into a groove and has it down now.

These are trying times at Khiva's facility. The main elevator, some 47 years old, has given up the ghost and refuses to safely transport the membership up and down the four levels at the Center. We have a Bandsman that says he will never ride it again after an encounter one day in it. Rather than making the long painful ascent up the stairwell (for more than half of us) to the third floor Oriental Band Room, the Caliph made the most practical decision to move our concert practices to the lower level ballroom. Acoustics could be better, but it will do as it does resemble some hotel ballrooms the Band has had to play in at Imperial Sessions in the past. Next Monday we start our marching practice at the county fairgrounds. Our new state and national competition song, ***The Timeworn Sinbad***, is sounding pretty good right now. While the Band has not played Sinbad in recent times, we certainly are familiar with its bygone melodies when played by others at our in-state and Imperial competitions.

Our Texas Association of Shrine Oriental Band's Mid Winter Conference delegation returned from beautiful Tyler, Texas, last week and they tell us the host, Sharon Oriental Band, helped make it a great success. Our delegates have hopefully reinforced (or improved) our reputation the Khiva OB has down state. Our Caliph and his co-conspirators have also scoped-out our competition venue at upcoming all-state competition (also in Tyler) to avoid any late-hour surprises.

As some other bands have discovered, the KOB have their own shuffleboard table in the lair at Khiva Shrine. When traveling in distant cities, our members seek such shuffleboards and so was the case in Tyler. After given directions to the nearest destination that might have one, and some 35 miles of driving (Tyler just isn't that big), they arrived at the VFW hall to find no board. Then, those fine members there directed our men to the American

Legion because they did have such a table. Upon arrival, they found a shuffleboard covered with a tarp. Upon further investigation, the underside of the board had succumbed to a severe roof leak and as a result, the board (maybe the last existing one in Tyler) was destroyed. The guys settled on pool and all watched Ron Frymoyer and John Meyer play three rounds before retiring back to the hotel. The unnamed soul that gave this account to the scribe, said that it was more entertaining than it sounds – let us hope.

Our Band is blessed with the recent addition of two new members, Bryan Adcock and Matt Crafton (our current Potentate's son). Exciting is the fact that they are new blood and both under the age of thirty! They intend to travel and compete with us this year. I wish all of our Oriental Bands in our state and nationwide could be so fortunate. It is so sad to see so many of us drying up and becoming memories. Only half of the twelve Shrine Centers of Texas will stage Oriental Bands at the TSA competition in June. Here's hoping for a reversal of such fortunes.

If anyone reading happens to come our way and would like to visit us, please drop in on one of our Monday/Thursday night practices- you will be most welcome. You can contact us from our web site at www.khivaorientalband.org. It will be down April 30th through about May 15th (it's moving).

That's about it for now, I hope everyone who reads this has a great summer with good fortune. Don't we deserve it? The Scribe



Looking for a shuffleboard - found this instead



John Meyer bestows 2011 Sultan Joe Kiestler the official KOB timepiece



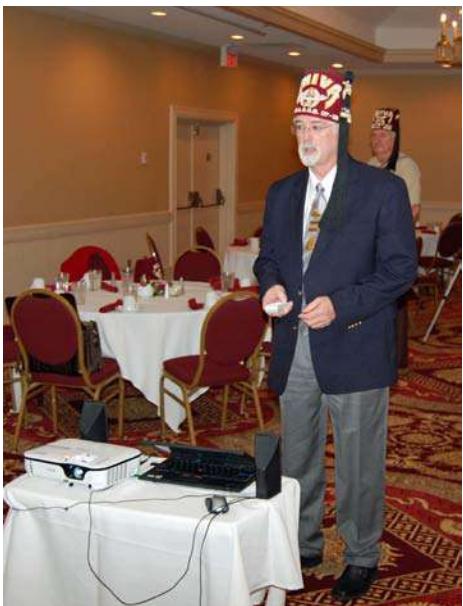
During commercial break - super bowl party



Our Christmas parade elf in his rocker



Someone let Stuart in on the joke



*Past ASOB, TASOB President
Joe Brewton with his Ladder of Smiles
presentation at the business meeting.*



*Theresa Brewton & Valecia Snyder
at the KOB Christmas Party*



*Second VP John Meyer & Lady Luann
with the 2011-2012 TASOB line
of officers & wives at breakfast*



Where might I be this morning

last weekend of April. The OB has supported this shrine fundraiser for years, distributing the programs and greeting the public as they show up.

Our 1st VP, Chris Parker, pulled off a very successful pasta dinner fundraiser with a lot of help from band and their ladies. A job well done. I missed this event, as I was at the ASOB Mid Winter meeting, but I heard that we had about 200 people at this event for some very good food and entertainment well into the evening.

We will be holding our 24th annual Golf Tournament on July 28th at Westover Golf Course. This event is always a great time and a wonderful opportunity to let people know about our hospitals and raise some money for them. Last year's tournament raised over \$8,000 for our hospitals. If you will be in the Northeast that weekend and would like to join us, we would love to have you. You can download a registration form at www.asob.org on the calendar page.

We also have entered the facebook age, with the help of Past President Alan Kinsley. He has created a page to try and let everyone know what is going on in the band. Search for us on Facebook. That's about all the news for now. Get out there and play that beautiful music and remember those kids in our hospitals.

Kora

Lewiston, Maine



Jim (James) Hanson

Hanson7567@roadrunner.com

Hi everyone, Jim (James) Hanson here, I am now secretary of Kora of Lewiston, Maine, and I just wanted to say Hello to every one. We are planning a busy summer and fall for parades. We do want to say that we appreciate all the years that Carl Seward has been secretary and all the good things that he has done for Oriental Band. He has kept us on the straight and narrow... thanks Carl. He is still playing in the band. My E-Mail is Hanson7567@roadrunner.com See you on the road.

Thanks again

Jim

Melha

Springfield, Massachusetts



Jeff Moores

spanmoon67@yahoo.com

Another parade season has rolled around for us in the Northeast. It's starting to warm up, so that means it is time to take the uniform out of the closet and get ready to get out on the street and entertain the community. So far the band has participated in two St. Patrick's Day Parades, and we have two more parades coming up in May. In Holyoke, Melha put 300 Nobles on the street. In between the parades, we are gearing up for our Circus on the

Moslah

Fortworth, Texas



Johnnie E. Wallace

jewallace@hurstbaptist.com

At Moslah the Bedouins are so busy filling key positions we hardly have the time to be Bedouins. Allow me to elucidate. Past Caliph (PC) David McCarthy is the ASOB Third Vice President and PC J. R. Batesole is the ASOB Texas Ambassador. Ken Sapp is the Shrine Imperial Membership Chairman for Texas.

On the 2012 Moslah Divan is PC Michael Wallach, High Priest and Prophet, and PC Harold, Oriental Guide. We have three members on the

2012 Moslah Appointed Divan: Scott Williams, Second Ceremonial Master; Carter Russell, Temple Marshall; Ken Sapp, Moslah Chaplin.

At the TASOB Mid-Winter PC Moe Rahmeh was elected as the TASOB Second Vice-President.

PC Jeff Ingram is the Moslah Hospital Fund Drive Chairman. George White is the Moslah Shrine Club Ambassador. In addition to his position as Second Ceremonial Master, Scott Williams also serves as the Co-Chairman for Moslah's Circus novelties sales. PC Gerald Ledbetter is the Moslah Temple Blood Chairman.

This year Moslah has launched two new clubs, both chaired by Bedouins: The Moslah Master Masons Degree Team headed by PC Moe Rahmeh and The Moslah Wine Club headed by Caliph Johnnie E. Wallace.

The Moslah Bedouins, with no reservations or shame, tout themselves as, "the best Moslah has to offer." Judging from the above list, apparently while not stated aloud, others outside of the Bedouin rank-and-file think that as well.

The band as a whole has stayed busy. Recently we serenaded the participants of the Cow Town Marathon and worked security for the Moslah City Wide Egg Hunt. On IHOP Free Pancake Day our store collected over \$2,500 for the Shrine Hospitals. The Moslah Bedouin Officers have made several trips to visit with the Shrine Club we sponsor.

The Moslah Bedouin Ladies have also been busy. They have been involved in a range of activities from wine tasting events to staffing the face painting booth at the Moslah Egg Hunt.

Yet, with all the activity we have not lost focus of our primary purpose; this year we are making a consorted effort to educate our members regarding the Ladder of Smiles. PC J. R. Batesole and Past ASOB President Joe Brewton are working together to develop a DVD for distribution to all Temples to increase the fraternal awareness,

both within ASOB and outside ASOB, of the importance and function of the Ladder of Smiles. Brewton gave a stellar premier at TASOB Mid-Winter.

We are looking forward to our Spring Formal and then our sights are set on Tyler, Texas, and TASOB. Sandwiched between those two events in May will be Hospital Fund Drive Street Collections. This year the Bedouins will be in charge of four major intersections and two Wal-Mart store front collection centers. Last year our corners and store fronts collected over \$8,500 in six hours. This year we hope to collect over \$10,000 for the hospitals.

As you can tell we stay busy in Fort Worth...which is just the way we like it.

Fraternally yours,
Johnnie E. Wallace

Nile
Seattle, Washington

Bruce Garner
15000 Village Green Dr.
Condo 50
Mill Creek, WA 98012
mrnibs@comcast.net



Another Spring Training and as I sit here in 80 degree weather, I think of my friends suffering back home in Seattle with a serious Monsoon Season, snow, rain, hail, flooding! I fear I shall have to trade a car in for a swamp buggy or a hovercraft!! I am glad the forecasters indicate a warm, dry summer. I, of course, am fearful of this as the weathermen get their goats and chickens for the auguries from the lowest bidder!

In February, we had a relatively successful Crab Feed, despite several set backs. Again, the usual stalwarts stepped up to make this a success! I thank Tony Bernales, Ed Thornton, Debbie Garner, Acki Muller, Mark Goldberg and several others. We played and sounded pretty good.

Speaking of that we played for the recent Installation of the Daughters of The Nile and we kicked butt! We

are working on getting a percussion section that sounds coherent! By the way, I misspoke in the last article. Our Director, Jim Hart, changed his mind, may Allah bless him, and will stay on as Director.

In April we will be doing the LaConner parade and the Marshal will be Lila Long the lady of the dear departed Luke Long. It will be a good picnic there as well!

I will add here that several of us Past PNSOBA Presidents along with Scott Duncil from the ASOB, met in Spokane and "re-birthed" the PNSOBA from its 3 year long hiatus.

Elected to office from our band were Dave Barney as 2nd VP and myself as Sec/Treasurer. There will be a lot of news on this issue at a later date!

Norm Wold, who is on a cruise, has gotten better about leaving his fez lying about. No worries as he frequently misplaces his cymbals!! The fines will continue to roll in, I am sure!!

This missal is a bit shorter than usual as I do not want to bore folks and, I see the help coming with the fork-lift to get me back into the pool. I must escape now!! So..stay tuned!!

Fraternally,
Bruce

2002 Imperial World Champions
Vancouver, B.C.



Meets at
Nile Shrine Center
Tuesdays, 6:30 PM
6601 244th St., SW
Mountlake Terrace
Washington 98043
Exit 177 (W) off I-5

Rajah
Seattle, Washington

Mahlon Hariu
636 Ridge Street
Emmaus, PA 18049-2223
meharui@ptd.net



Es Selamu Aleikum from the winningest Band in MASOBA. The World Famous

Rajah Shrine Oriental Band is alive and well awaiting the warm weather in this part of the Mid-Atlantic region.

Our combined Ladies and Past Presidents Night with the Lancaster County Shrine Club Oriental Band, was held in Reading this year. We always have a great time together because both have been friends for many years. It appeared to this scribe that all had a good time and the Lancaster County Shrine Club Oriental Band did a great job of hosting the hospitality this year. Next year it will be Rajah's turn and we have a good time seeing who can out do who.

The Band will not be going to Imperial this year in Charlotte. In order to compete in the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association Oriental Band competition, we need to be in Virginia Beach the beginning of September. With money as tight as it is, we have to do priorities. We do have some of our members who are young enough to still be working and have young families that need vacations that do not cost so much.

We will be rehearsing each week to be ready for MASA in September. If we are to continue our high standards of excellence we need to stay sharp.

Until next time
Aleiekum Es Selam.
Mahlon

Rameses-Oshawa

Oshawa, Ontario

Bob Jones
99 Keewatin St. S.
Oshawa, Ontario L1H6Z2
905 725-2541
rojones@primus.ca



Greetings from the Oshawa and District Shrine Oriental Band. Hard to believe we are into another year and parade season is upon us. The winter has seen the band practicing each Sunday morning averaging 10-12 members each day. We are attempting to have 3 sets representing about 15-20 new and old tunes. Things are coming along. Sure would like to be practicing for

Charlotte but due to age, health etc the band will not be going. We will attempt to have a couple of members at the Fantasy.

Our first parade is the Pickering Easter Parade on April 7. The band held a successful St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance on March 10 and a good number of Nobles and friends came out for the "Wearin' O' the Green."

In February the O'Band held a pot luck supper and Noble Doug Wanamaker and Director Bob Jones gave out achievement awards to several members. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the Ladies for the delicious food, a feast befitting a king.

The awards presentation followed:

- Youngest

- 2 yrs service, Steve Aspioti, Slave

- Oldest

- 40 yrs of dedicated service, Norm Morrison, Musette

- Recipients

- 5 yrs service, Leo Riel, side drum

- 5 yrs service, Harry Vanstaveren, Tambourine

- 10 yrs service, Barry Williamson, Musette

- 10 yrs service, Arch Hindorff, Musette

- 35 yrs collar bar, Reg Sherren, Bass Drum

- 40 yrs collar bar, Norm Morrison, Musette

We also presented a 35 year collar to our honourary Bandsman, Noble Norm Lawton, Colour Guard. Noble Norm is a 61 year Shriner! He was initiated in St. Louis April 1950. He has been a strong supporter of our O'Band and its functions.

TRIVIA TIME – 20 Bandsman have accumulated Age of 1371 years – Average Age 68.6. 20 Bandsman have accumulated years of service of 305 years – Average years of service 15.3.

The new officers for 2012 are as follows: Director – Colin Blakelock; Assistant Director – Doug Wanamaker; Secretary – Arch Hindorff; Treasurer – John Deacon; Music Director, Archivist and Quartermaster – Doug Wanamaker. Look well to the Ladder of Smiles.

We welcome Noble John Deacon to the band. Noble John is presently playing the gong and when needed, the bass drum. John is also learning the musette. John played horn in a former life and I am sure will be an excellent member of the unit.

Our Treasurer, Noble John Spink resigned for personal reasons and we welcome Noble John Deacon and Noble Fergie Ferguson as our Treasurer and Assistant. We wish Noble John success in his future endeavours.

The O'Band is looking forward to the Rameses Spring Ceremonial, this year to be held in beautiful downtown Niagara Falls, Ontario. Dates are June 10th, 11th and 12th. It should be a good time. Until next time, remember the Ladder of Smiles.

Sahib

Sarasota, Florida

Paul Pante, P.P. A.S.O.B.
915 Southern Pine Lane
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 351-1356
mrnice20@hotmail



Greetings from the unusually warm Sarasota, FL. It was a busy holiday season with several Christmas parades and children's party, but since then has been a rather quiet winter season. Our band sponsored an Irish entertainment evening in Feb. and hosted the Shrine Center birthday/anniversary dance in March. We're practicing for and looking forward to Imperial in Charlotte, N.C. in July. Expecting a good competition this year with so many eastern bands within a day's drive. The Great Sahib O. B. is looking forward to the challenge.

We're sad to report that our band treasurer and tamborine player, Charlie Tacy, passed away this fall. We're missing him in more ways than we can describe. Our other tamborine player, Jack Wakely, lost his dear wife Laurie, and he's now residing in a rehab center in Lakeland. Our deepest sympathy to both Ruth Tacy and Jack Wakely on their and our loss. Bill Caraker, our musically inclined percussionist,

has been hospitalized for back surgery twice, but is now back home recovering. Our gong player Jim King's wife Dee has had shoulder surgery and is in rehab and we all wish her well.

Through all this loss and illness our band is keeping on. We send out a personal challenge to No Show Nile in Seattle - we know you guys have to put up with the #4 cymbol player in your band, Norm Wold, but hope you'll come to Charlotte so our music director and #1 cymbol player in N. A. , Floyd LaDue, can give him some lessons. As Floyd always says, "Bring 'em on, we accept all challenges."

Glad to hear Charlie Duffin is almost back to his old self, but more than 50 lbs. lighter and heart healthy again!!!

Thanks go out to Bob Stilher with Bahia O. B. for all his dedication to the FL Shrine O.B. Assoc. and for his hard work as our FL Ambassador to the A.S.O.B.

Yours in the Faith,
Paul (Greek) Pante

Sudbury

Sudbury, Ontario

Gord Fraser, Chairman
259 Elm Street
Sudbury, Ontario
Canada, P3C 1V5
705-524-0335
sudburyshriners@eastlink.ca



The Sudbury Shrine Club Oriental Band and Colour Party have organized a busy 2012 schedule, with 6 parades and 3 fund raising socials and our annual Ladies night.

We are encouraging other members of the Sudbury Shrine Club to join with us in our "fun with a purpose" to strengthen our numbers in building our 2014 Rameses Ceremonial. Ceremonial is to be held in Sudbury, Ontario, June 2014.

Congratulations to the new executive of ASOB and remember the Ladder of Smiles.

Zem Zem

Erie, Pennsylvania

Keith Oviatt
366 Patti Lane
Pittsfield, PA 16340
(814) 563-4286 / knjoviatt@verizon.



Since the last article we have had our annual Christmas get together. This was the first time in my memory that the entire Divan was in attendance. Usually they have to divide up to attend other club and unit functions.

We are getting ready for our annual Reverse Drawing event in May. This is our main fund raiser for the year. We are also starting to prepare for the upcoming parade season. Getting the drums in tune but weather the musettes will ever get in tune is another story. Last year we were not very active due to several band members having health problems. This year we hope everyone will stay healthy and we will be able to make several parades.

MASOBA Past President John Seastead and I made the annual trek to the MASOBA Mid-Winter meeting held in Lancaster this past February. One of the very few times that we have gone with even a hint of that white stuff falling from the sky.

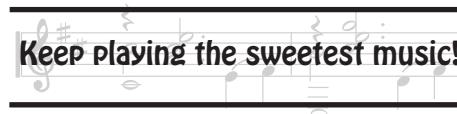
Remember the Ladder of Smiles and those kids in our hospitals that need our support.

A thought to remember - True friends see heart to heart even when they don't see eye to eye.

Zenobia
ORIENTAL BAND

Meets 1st Monday of every month.

Zenobia Shrine
8048 Broadstone Blvd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551



TOP 10 BANDS

EL KARUBAH OB	\$13,065.11
MELHA OB	\$10,791.55
NILE OB	\$6,447.10
MIDIAN OB	\$4,159.00
ABDALLAH OB	\$2,872.50
LANCASTER CO. OB	\$2,708.00
CAIRO OB	\$2,000.00
ACCA OB	\$1,766.87
ZEM ZEM OB	\$1,625.00
LULU OB	\$1,500.00

11-15

MOCHA OB	\$1,500.00
MOSLAH OB	\$1,300.00
AL BEDOO OB	\$1,140.00
AMARA OB	\$1,100.00
RAJAH OB	\$846.00

OTHERS

SAHIB OB	\$760.00
AL AZHAR OB	\$740.00
ALZAFAR OB	\$650.00
ARABA OB	\$530.00
ABOU BEN ADHEM OB	\$500.00
ARAB OB	\$500.00
ARARAT OB	\$500.00
IREM OB	\$450.00
SHARON OB	\$400.00
AL KADER OB	\$330.00
KOREIN OB	\$250.00
JAFFA/CLEARFIELD OB	\$225.00
KALURAH OB	\$220.00
ARABIA OB	\$200.00
EL KAHIR OB	\$200.00
SALAAM OB	\$200.00
ZENOBLA OB	\$150.00
EL BEKAL OB	\$120.00
RAMESES/OSHAWA OB	\$120.00
EL HASA OB	\$100.00
INDIA OB	\$100.00
GIZEH OB	\$75.00
KARNAK OB	\$50.00
AZAN OB	\$25.00
BEN ALI OB	\$25.00
EL RAID OB	\$25.00
KHIVA OB	\$25.00
HELLA OB	\$20.00
RAMESES/HAMILTON OB	\$20.00
ZUHRAH OB	\$20.00

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS

December 2011 Thru March 2012

In Memory Of

Gerald "Jerry" Suttner

By: Jim Whitehouse
Morrie & Corrine Toretsky
Len And Ddoreen Turner

Elaine Richardson

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Betty Crawford

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Ben Neff

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band
Nile Oriental Band
Norm And Sarah Wold
Peter And Cy Lawn

Robert F. Johnson

By: Jim Whitehouse

Dave Wendt

By: Jim Whitehouse
Sharon Oriental Band

William M. Baker

By: Keith And JoAnne Oviatt
J V "Bud" Moore

Abed Rahmeh

By: David And Sandy Mccarthy

Gerald Hawk

By: Jim And Barb Longenbarger

Shawn McDonald

By: Clearfield Shrine Club OB

Charles Tacy

By: Sahib Oriental Band
Kathleen W. Oppermann
Barbara J. Koehler
Vaughan & Eileen T. Abbott
John & Elizabeth Lettich
Siegfried H. And Sonja Pahl

Mike Lane

By: Nile Oriental Band

Mitsuyo S. Wright

By: Elmer F. Wright

Evelyn G. Burke

By: Donald And Frances Weber

John Ayer

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Walter Woodward

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Jack Tate

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Royden Whitney

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Nina Deboeck

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Georgina Mcadam

By: Al Azhar Oriental Band

Simion "Sam" Cristea

By: Keith And Joanne Oviatt
Zem Zem Oriental Band

Norma Jean Batesole

By: James And Carol Batgesole

John W Simmons

By: Helen S Simmons

Kenneth Johnson

By: John And Deborah Seastead

Michael Bomberger

By: Ike And Lois BoMberger

Dale Morgan

By: Louise E. Morgan

Dolly Moore

By: J V "Bud" Moore

Michael And Steve Moore

By: J V "Bud" Moore

Jo Ann Gordon

By: Harem Belles

Clayton Peters

By: Clearfield Shrine Club OB

Ted Werkheiser, Sr

By: Ted E Werkheiser Jr

George And Laverne Grumbein

By: John And Sharon Grumbein

In Honor Of

Eleanoral Johnsan 88th Birthday

By: John And Deborah Seastead

NA KHABAR ADVERTISING RATES

1 col. inch	\$15.00	4 Col. inches	\$47.00	1/2 page	\$165.00
2 col. inches	\$25.00	5 Col. inches	\$58.00	Full Page.....	\$315.00
3 col. inches	\$36.00	1/4 page	\$86.00	Inside Cover	\$350.00

10% Discount for three issues NOTE: a 50% discount will be given to each band for ads announcing their meeting place and time, if payment of three issues accompanies order. Contact Mahlon Hariu, P.P., for information (610) 965-5652 or mehariu@ptd.net. Make checks payable to ASOB and mail to: Mahlon E. Hariu, P.P., Secretary/Treasurer ASOB, 636 Ridge Street, Emmaus, PA 18049-2223. Be sure to include your ad information.

2012 IMPERIAL SESSION

June 30 thru July 4, 2012

A.S.O.B. HEADQUARTERS HOTEL



(Front of Hotel view)

Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel

3315 Scott Futrell Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-392-1200
FAX: 704-393-2207



(Sleeping Room view)

Contact Mahlon Hariu, A.S.O.B. Secretary / Treasurer for all questions:
Phone: 610-965-5652 / Email: mehariu@pdt.net

***** Room Rate: \$129.00/night (plus tax) *****

To: Mahlon Hariu
Re: 2012 A.S.O.B. Imperial Session
636 Ridge Street
Emmaus, PA 18049-2223
(610) 965-5652

A.S.O.B. Reservation Request

The Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel
3315 Scott Futrell Drive
Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: (704) 392-1200
Fax: (704) 393-2207

I/We plan to attend the 2012 ASOB Imperial Council Session. Please reserve a room at the ASOB Headquarters Hotel, The Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel.

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ Shrine Center: _____

Noble: _____ Lady: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____ Postal Code/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Room Type Preferences

Your room type preferences will be submitted with your reservation and are subject to hotel availability.

King Bed Two Beds No Preference Non-Smoking Smoking
 H/C Accessible Small refrigerator for medical purposes

HHonors Card # _____

Please remit \$129.00 U.S. Funds plus \$20.00 Imperial Fee. Make cheque/check payable to: Association of Shrine Oriental Bands (cancelled cheque/check is your receipt.) A confirmation email will be sent to you, if you listed your email address.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

A.S.O.B. IMPERIAL SCHEDULE JULY 2012



Saturday, June 30.....

3:00 pm	Elected Officers Meeting Dress: Casual... Casual... Casual... Owner: Richard Thompson	Location: President's Room
4:00 pm	Hospitality Room Opens Competition & Delegate Registration – Banquet Tickets on Sale Owner: David McCarthy & Scot Duncil	Location: Meeting Room A/B Location: Lobby

Sunday, July 1.....

8:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room A/B
10:00 am	Elected Officers and Past President's Meeting Dress: Casual or ASOB shirt, tan pants, no fez, jewel or nametag Owner: Richard Thompson	Location: Meeting Room D
11:00–3 pm	Competition & Delegate Registration -- Banquet Tickets On Sale Owner: David McCarthy & Scot Duncil	Location: Lobby
2:00 pm	Hospitality Room Closes	Location: Meeting Room A/B
3:00–5 pm	President's Reception By Invitation Dress: Red jacket, tan slacks, ASOB shirt & tie, jewel, nametag & fez Ladies Dress: Business casual attire with nametag Owner: Richard Thompson & Lonnie Merriman	Location: Meeting Room A/B
5:30 pm	Music Director's Meeting Dress: Same as Welcome Reception Owner: David McCarthy	Location: Douglas/O'hare
6:30 pm	Family & Friends Dinner (Make own arrangements to be with your own band and family)	ASOB Individual Dinners
8:30 pm	ASOB Hospitality Room Opens After Family Dinner	Location: Meeting Room A/B

Monday, July 2.....

7:00 a.m.	Make-up Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room D
8:00 a.m.	Parade Competition Dress: For officers that are not competing ASOB shirt, tan pants, jewel, nametag, and fez Ladies Dress: Black, White and Hot Pink, nametag Owner: David McCarthy	Location: West Wing
Immediately After Parade Competition	Fantasy Competition Dress: ASOB shirt, tan pants, nametag, no jewel or fez Owner: David McCarthy	Location: Grand Ballroom

After Fantasy	Delegate Registration Banquet Tickets On Sale Owner: David McCarthy & Scot Duncil	Location: Lobby
After Fantasy	Hospitality Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room A/B
4:00 pm	Hospitality Room Closes	Location: Meeting Room A/B
5:00 pm	Cocktail Reception By Invitation Dress: Formal Tux with White Dinner Jacket, white tux shirt, black tux pants, black shoes, jewel & fez (No nametag) Ladies Dress: Formal (Cocktail Attire) Owner: Richard Thompson & Lonnie Merriman	Location: Meeting Room A/B
6:00 pm	Social Hour	Location: Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:00 pm	President's Award Banquet Dress: Same as Reception Owner: Richard Thompson & Lonnie Merriman	Location: Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, July 3.....

8:00am	Sergeant At Arms' Breakfast Dress: ASOB shirt, tan pants or tan shorts, jewel, nametag & fez Owner: Jeff Moores	Location: Douglas/O'hare
9:00 am	Hospitality Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room A/B
10:00 am	S.A.S.O.B.A Summer Meeting Dress: Casual, Fez, jewel or nametag	Location: Meeting Room D
11:30 am	First Lady's Luncheon Dress: Business Casual Owner: Tish Martin	Location: Junior Ballroom
6:30 pm	Depart for No Host ASOB, Past ASOB, Ambassadors and Guests Dinner Dress Officers and Ladies: Casual or ASOB shirt, tan pants no jewel, nametag or fez	Restaurant Name: TBA Street Address Phone Number

Wednesday, July 4.....

7:00 am	First 100 Club Breakfast Dress: ASOB shirt, tan pants, or tan shorts, jewel, nametag, no fez Owner: Morrie Toretsky	Location: Restaurant
8:00-9 am	Hospitality Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room A/B
9:00 am	ASOB Annual Meeting Dress: Red Jacket, tan slacks, ASOB shirt & tie, jewel, nametag, fez Owner: Richard Thompson	Location: Junior Ballroom York
9:00 am	Ladies Gift Exchange Dress: To be determined by the Incoming President's Lady Owner: Linda Merriman	Location: Meeting Room A/B
11:30 am	Incoming President's Luncheon Dress: Same as ASOB Annual Meeting Owner: Lonnie Merriman	Location: Grand Ballroom
2:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting Dress: Travel clothes Owner: Lonnie Merriman	Location: President's Room
3:00 pm	Hospitality Room Opens	Location: Meeting Room A/B

IMPERIAL NIGHT PARADE JULY 4th DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTE

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL AND HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME



2012 Imperial Session A.S.O.B. Meal Reservation Request Form



Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel • 3315 Scott Futrell Drive • Charlotte, NC

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE JUNE 20, 2012

Noble's Name _____

Lady's Name _____

Shrine Center _____

PRESIDENT'S AWARD BANQUET

Monday, July 2, 2012 • Cocktails (no host) 6:00 PM / Dinner 7:00 PM

Please mark your choice of Entrée, \$48.00 per person, U.S. or CDN Funds

Pecan Chicken

Duo of Pork Tenderloin Medallions

Either served with: salad, rolls, seasonal vegetables, starch, coffee, iced tea and dessert

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Wednesday, July 4, 2012 • Cocktails (no host) 11:00 AM / Lunch 11:30 AM

Please mark your choice of Entrée, \$40.00 per person, U.S. or CDN Funds

Maple Lacquered Salmon

Beef Roulade

Either served with: salad, rolls, seasonal vegetables, starch, coffee, iced tea and dessert

Amount Enclosed

Please make your cheque/check **payable to Scot Duncil** and remit to:

Scot Duncil, 4th VP

5234 NE Wisteria

Portland, OR 97213-2559

A.S.O.B. Fantasy Registration

IMPORTANT - Please Print
Complete and Return as soon as possible.

(Name of Band and Temple)

We will attend the ASOB Fantasy Parade

We will will not compete for trophies. There will be approximately _____ performing members.

Signature_____

Title_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Send to:
Vince Bobrosky
P.O. Box 2
Ladysmith, VA 22501

ASOB Imperial Session

Please Print

Band Information

This is Preliminary Information Only

(Name of Band and Temple) _____

City/State_____

Member of Regional Associations_____

Year Organized_____ Number of Members_____ Number Performing_____

Officers: President_____

Vice President(s)_____

Secretary_____

Treasurer_____

Director_____

Current Shrine Honors_____

Past Shrine Honors_____

Additional Remarks_____

Submitted By:_____

Date:_____ Title:_____

Fantasy Rules and Regulations
(Revised July 2008)

Any band desiring to appear in the A.S.O.B. Fantasy shall notify the Chairman of the Fantasy Committee by mail. A form is furnished for this purpose. Please indicate whether the Band will appear in the Stage Presentation, the Parade or both, and indicate the number of bandsmen who will be performing. Additionally please indicate if the band desires to compete for awards, as it is permissible to appear for exhibition only. Bands appearing for exhibition only will receive Judge's Sheets for their performance review, but the exhibition scores will not be included in the Fantasy competition.

For those bands wishing to compete in the Fantasy (Stage Performance, Parade or both), there will be a registration fee of \$2.00 per member, payable either in advance or during the Music Director's Meeting. Registration for the Fantasy and Parade competition will be open through the Director's Meeting. To be eligible to perform all Bands must register prior to the conclusion of the Director's Meeting. All bandsmen appearing in the performance are counted as A.S.O.B. members in good standing. The number of performing bandsmen cannot be more than the number of current A.S.O.B. dues members for a band. The A.S.O.B. Secretary/Treasurer will confirm that the number of performing members is equal or less than a band's current A.S.O.B. membership total. Should a discrepancy occur regarding the number of performing members, a band can make payment for current dues to the A.S.O.B. Secretary Treasurer at the Music Director's Meeting to correct this situation. Performance Class assignment will be made at the Director's Meeting based on the number of bands and the number of performing bandsmen in each band. After the class assignment is announced, a drawing to determine the order of appearance within each classification for the Stage Presentation and Parade will occur. One number will be drawn by lot for each band in their respective classification. Once the Music Director's Meeting is over, no changes to the classification or order of appearance will be allowed.

Judging will be based for stage performance and parade as follows:

	Stage	Parade (Marching)	Parade (Float)
Make-up/Costumes.....	10%	0%	0%
Overall Sound.....	10%	0%	0%
Showmanship	10%	20%	20%
Appearance	10%	20%	20%
Musical Presentation (Warm-up Numbers).....	25%	60%	60%
Musical Presentation (Competition Number).....	35%	0%	0%

*Note: Showmanship for units riding on a float includes points for the float itself.

CLASSIFICATIONS: Stage Presentation and Parade

Small	19 members and under
Medium	20 to 29 members
Large	30 to 39 members
Unlimited	40 members and over

*Note: Classifications may be changed numerically, dependent upon number of bands participating.

There will be a Best Oriental Band trophy awarded to the Band who has the highest overall point accumulation for the Fantasy and Parade.

First and Second Place trophies for Fantasy and Parade will be awarded based on the highest and next to highest score for a category.

A Caliphs trophy for the most outstanding Music Director will be awarded at the discretion of the Caliphs.

The Concert Number will appear in issues of the Na Khabar and all bands are required to play it. It shall be the closing number of each presentation. Arrangements and/or embellishments to the theme can be at the discretion of the band, and they may be as elaborate as they wish.

Each band shall have warm-up numbers WHICH MUST BE OF ORIENTAL MOTIF before presentation of the Concert Number. However, the band must remain on stage at least eight (8) minutes and not to exceed twelve (12) minutes. There will be a loss of five (5) points per minute (or fraction thereof) for any over/under time. Time will commence following the announcement of the band by the M.C. and the first sound made by a band member whether it is spoken, sung or played by an instrument. If the competing band elects its own introduction, entrance or other opening spectacle, time will run from the commencement of such activity. Personal microphones are not permissible and if used, that band will be disqualified. Pyrotechnics will be permitted.

All music played by competing bands including warm-up numbers must be of Oriental motif. There will be an automatic five (5) point penalty for any visible music used during Fantasy/Parade competition. There can be limited solo presentation not to exceed one (1) minute. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. The same solo rule applies to music played at the point of Parade judging which is designated by appropriate street signs.

Make-up: Beards should look authentic and make-up when used shall be applied so that the resulting character is believable.

Costumes: Bands are asked to be appropriately dressed in Oriental and Mid-East motif-type costumes; however, due to political climates and concerns for showing respect for our military, bands may wear non Oriental or Mid-East costumes as long as the band's costumes are uniform. As an example, points would be taken away if a band had members in unit shirts and slacks and other members in Oriental or Mid-East costumes. As long as a band has a uniform look, judging will not be reduced. Neatness should be considered.

Showmanship: This is the flourish and enthusiasm shown by all members and the originality of performance and presentation.

Overall Music Presentation: Playing ability, music of Oriental motif, and arrangement will be highly considered. Continued playing ability will be most important in Parade and concert.

Judging: Will be made up of impartial judges who have knowledge about musical, theatrical, marching, showmanship and costuming. Judges will be briefed by selected member of the Fantasy Committee and their will be no identification worn such as name tag, fez or other types of Shrine Center identification at this briefing.

Float Design: Must be of Oriental Motif, indicative of Oriental Bands.

Sinbad

Sheet music for a single melodic line, likely for a wind instrument like a sheng or ocarina. The music is in common time (indicated by '2' over a vertical line) and common key (indicated by a treble clef). The notes are represented by numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) placed above the staff, corresponding to fingerings on the instrument. The music consists of eight staves of varying lengths, ending with a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) instruction.



Articles for publication are due **December 1st** for the January issue, **April 1st** for the May issue, **August 1st** for the September issue. Please have your articles in by the due date. Be sure to include with your article the name of the association or band, your name and address. My e-mail address is **kpc@elmore.rr.com**. For those who need to submit a photo, please mail a photograph or e-mail a high resolution photo for better quality. Articles written for the Na Khabar may be edited. Thank you!

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