

# NA KHABAR EXPRESS

## Association of Shrine Oriental Bands



*An interim publication till the launch of the new ASOB website*

**Compiled and edited by Chris Tsaros**

**Vol: 1, Issue: 1 – September, 2017**

**PNSA and CSSA 2017**



## PNSA and CSSA 2017 (continued)



### President's Travel Report

Hello Everyone,

My first official visit as President of the Association took place in August when I had the opportunity to attend PNSA 2017 hosted by the Nile Shrine Centre, in Lynnwood Washington. This was a triple duty affair as I competed with my band (Al Azhar), officiated as a past president of PNSOBA and had a chance to catch up with so many old friends with who I had travelled the sands of the desert. My congratulations to the Al Bedoo Oriental Band and their director PC Umf Moran for winning top honors in the competition. Their performance was inspiring. My band took pride for being the best 3rd place band in PNSA. But it was not all about winning and losing. PNSA hosted a tremendous event and fun was had by all.

Having honed by presidential gravitas at PNSA 2017, my next visit was to CSSA in September. This was my first visit to CSSA and I felt like the new kid on the block for about 30 seconds. I was greeted very warmly by all bandsmen and their ladies and soon I got to feel that I knew everyone for years. The hospitality in Central States is legendary. Tip of the hat to the Ladies of Abdallah Oriental Band for their hospitality. Everyone was treated to gourmet delicacies and the banquet hall was artfully decorated for the awards evening. Congratulations to the Abdallah band and their director Ed Harvey, for sweeping up top honors in the competition.

In closing, I had the opportunity to attend two signature events in Shrinedom. These organizations sure know how to put out the welcome mat. I am looking forward to attending more regional events as they get scheduled. Don't forget to update me about your upcoming events.



## From the editor

Dear Nobles and friends, with the retirement of Donna Sambor, our long term Na Khabar editor, the ASOB board of directors approved an initiative to upgrade the ASOB Website and transform it to communication medium where up to date news and information regarding the Oriental Band community can be found. In essence the Na Khabar will become an updated website with links to all relevant social media and an active news feed of everything happening in our community. Look for up to date videos of the latest performances, video music tutorials and a new market place for instruments, surplus uniforms and other items of interest to you and your band.

To this end a contract was awarded to the Inclinet Group for the complete overhaul of the website. I am happy to the report that this work is well underway with a projected launch date for the new website projected for the late fall, early winter time frame.

During this period the **Na Khabar Express** will keep us connected with what is happening in our community throughout North America.



Thank You



Thank you Donna Sambor for the many years of publishing the Na Khabar. You have helped us come a long way. We will miss you. Our best wishes to you for a well-deserved, happy and fulfilling, retirement.

# ASSOCIATION OF SHRINE ORIENTAL BANDS INTERNATIONAL



## VISION

A HEALTHY ORIENTAL BAND COMMUNITY  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF  
SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN



## MISSION

TO PROVIDE THE TOOLS FOR FUN, MUSIC,  
RECRUITMENT AND FUNDRAISING  
FOR THE ORIENTAL BAND COMMUNITY

WE WORK

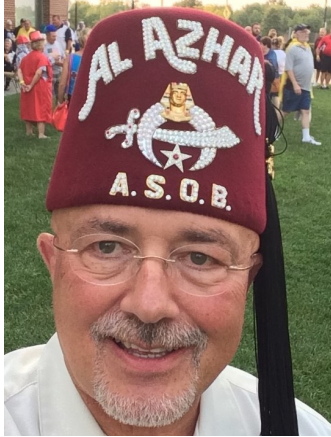


SO OUR KIDS CAN PLAY

Chris Tsaros – President  
Ladder of Smiles Goal for 2017-18

\$85,000

*Join me in making this year's goal a reality*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nobles All,

The inauguration of a new executive team brings with it the expectations of knowing what is on the agenda for the ensuing term.

On behalf of the executive team and myself, I am pleased to share with you our priorities for the year.

Our agenda, is a continuation of the work defined in our strategic document in support of:

### **Our vision:**

*"A healthy Oriental Band Community for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children."*

### **Our Mission:**

*"To provide the tools for fun, music, recruitment and fundraising for the oriental band community."*

In support of the above we have set 3 major priorities:

1. A successful and even bigger 2018 Kansas City Jamboree.
2. The successful launch of our redesigned website.
3. The completion of a business model for the generation of annual funds for the association as well as our member bands.

The work ahead in support of these priorities.

### **1. Kansas City Jamboree May 4 -5 2018**

Arrangements are progressing satisfactorily with the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza for a better experience in 2018.

I am considering the addition of entertainment for the dinner event, as well as possibility of a golf tourney on Thursday morning. If there is enough interest. Let me know if this is a good idea and you are interested in participating.

### **2. Redesigned Website.**

A timeline for the website redesign project has already been communicated to you. The work so far is with our consultant who is busy with the background work that is required. Noble Darren and I are providing technical and project management consulting input as well as executive guidance to the

project. We intend to canvass you as well as the membership with design input choices at appropriate milestones in the project's timeline.

3. **Supporting our Vision and Mission.**

Our mission defines dimensions of services and support that we can be provided assuming a solid financial foundation.

During a brainstorming session of our 2016 planning session we developed the outline of a business case for an annual income generating model for the association and our member bands. I have asked noble Ralph Jubb to lead the effort for the detailed development of all aspect of this funding model with the assistance of our second vice president Norm Tinkum and myself. We will be calling on some of you in the ensuing few months to lend your expertise as the need arises. The goal is to have a robust model to review and further develop during our October planning session in Calgary, Alberta.

I am excited at our prospects for the future and invite you to be actively participating in the building process by engaging me and the rest of the executive with your questions, and suggestions.

More updates to follow as new information becomes available.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

*Chris Tsaros*

**President,**

**Association of Shrine Oriental Bands**



## FROM OUR

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Es salaam Alaikum, my Brothers!

I hope that everyone had a great summer and parade season. Looking on Facebook it would appear that a lot of our bands have been very busy. Keep those pictures and post coming, I love to see what all of our bands are up to. If your band does not have a Facebook page, you will have an opportunity to create your own space in the upcoming redesigned ASOB website. I am very excited about this project and I am working very closely with our website developer to ensure that the final product will meet our needs for the years to come.

This project is well underway and we are working to have all the data information from our present website transferred to the new site. We are hoping to present everything an easy and useful way that benefits everyone. New content is being developed as well, if you have ideas as we go down this path, please let us know, the

ASOB is your association and we want to know how we can help our bands.

We will continue using our email list to communicate with our membership as well as to let you know when there is new content on our website. Please make sure we have your email addresses so we can reach as many of you as possible. If someone happens not to have email, which is very rare these day, please make sure that you are helping those members to stay informed of all ASOB information and activities. I would also like to ask that all of our bands secretaries are including current and updated email addresses of your members when you turn in your rosters each year.

Again, I am very excited for these changes! I believe in the direction that we are going can only make our association much more cohesive and brings us closer to the vision of an Oriental Band community that we keep talking about. Please jump on board and help us build the vision for our future.

Stayed tuned....we will talk to you all soon.

**Darren DeHass P.P.**

**Second Vice President**

**A.S.O.B.**



**From the Ambassadors near you**

## **Keith Oviatt - Mid Atlantic**

Since our last article we had our annual reverse drawing with less than desired results. We will be having a drawing for a gift certificate at the Temple's Sportsman Spectacular in September. We have attended several parades, however many of our members have been on the unable to perform list. AS a result our flying carpet has not been full, but we prevailed and showed up for most parades. We still have a couple of parades to attend before we put up our instruments for a well needed rest this winter. One of the parades, the Warren,PA 4th of July Parade with the entire Shrine Center attending brought in a donation of \$10,000 for the hospital. This is the largest amount ever for the area. Needless to say we will be back in Warren next year. The sweetheart of the Oriental Band, Emily Mellish, has been named as one of the Patient Ambassadors at Imperial this year.

Have you ever wondered why the third hand on a watch is called the second hand?

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## **Robert Jones – New York and Ontario**

The New York Ontario Region now consists of only two bands.

Shriners Club of Hamilton and Oshawa and District Shrine Club.

1- The Hamilton band continues to operate in the form of a unit but are having challenges having enough members to parade. They have no musettes. They attended our Spring Ceremonial in Collingwood, Ontario but without musettes. As I wasn't there I am not sure if they actually performed. This O'Band continues to have a Ham roll around our Thanksgiving Day and members take part.

2-Oshawa Oriental Band also continues to operate and has been active in parades, ceremonials and events.

The O'Band performed at the 2016 Fall Ceremonial in Toronto with 6 members taking part.

2 musettes, 3 side drummers and 1 bass. We have a member who is willing to play the cymbals but because of work commitments has been unable to attend on a regular basis.

The musettes of which I am one of the two, practice on a regular basis only to keep our lips in shape, drummers not so regular.

This unit holds events two times each year. Recently tribute artists performed music of the 60's and 70's. A dinner and show brought in 130 to eat and watch the show.

Another event is planned for Nov 4 and we hope it will be as popular.

The Oshawa Band has been a major contributor to the Ladder of Smiles with a recent donation of \$2000.00 and consistently in the top 10 of donations.

New York Ontario has lost all the New York Bands and 2 of 4 bands in Ontario.

**Editor:** *A tip of the hat to the bandsmen in Hamilton and Oshawa*

*for the work that you do despite the challenges. I would like to visit you at an opportune time. Let Keith know what this may look like.*

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## News in Brief

### **New Band to be chartered outside the US and Canada**

Exciting news everyone, as we are getting ready to travel to Panama City, Panama to welcome the Abou Saad Oriental Band into the ASOB family. I will be presenting their charter at their November 18, 2017 Abou Saad Ceremonial. This is a very big event for Shriners in Central America as candidates from all over Central and South America will be in attendance to be Fezzed as brand new Shriners.

This is a historic moment for all of us as the Abou Saad Oriental Band is about to become the first band to be chartered outside the United States and Canada.

### **Test Tune for next year**



**Misirlou**

## **ASOB Executive to Meet in Calgary, Alberta.**

In another first for the history books, the ASOB executive will be travelling to Calgary for the mid-year strategic planning sessions. These sessions are scheduled to take place on October 20, and 21, 2017.

Although some in the executive have been to Canada before, to most this will be a first time visit. Finally they will be able to answer the question: Is it true that all Canadians live in igloos? Stay tuned for answer to that question.

## **Call for Agenda Items**

As we head toward our planning session in October we are asking our members to forward agenda items for review in our strategy meeting. Being in touch with what is important to you will make us a stronger association.

Please forward a complete description of what you will like to have considered to:  
[christsaros@gmail.com](mailto:christsaros@gmail.com)

no later than October 14, 2017.

## **A Big Word of Thanks**



Thank you Megan Johnson, for stepping in and being our official photographer at the recent PNSA get together in Lynwood, Washington. Megan's pictures appear in the cover of this issue.

## **Contact Info:**

**Your feedback is important.  
Please get in touch me and let  
me know how we are doing.**

**[christsaros@gmail.com](mailto:christsaros@gmail.com)**