

OFFICERS' REPORTS



PRESIDENT Tom Crow

What a great time we had in Kansas City! This being the first time we have held an event like this, we had no idea what to expect. What did happen was that we had 140 registered and five bands competing. It turned into an exciting time to be had by all. We had our competition in the morning followed by lunch in the hospitality room. The ASOB annual meeting was held on Saturday afternoon and we elected a full slate of officers. Our new Officers will be President Chris Tsaros, 1st VP Harry Pressman, 2nd VP Darren DeHass, 3rd VP Norm Tinkham, Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Sobek and Secretary/Treasurer Don Moores. This will be great set of officers for the Association.

We had an entertaining time at the banquet giving out the awards to the bands as all were winners. We then gave away some prizes to make the evening complete. The hospitality room was then reopened to celebrate the winners and say our good-byes. The hospitality room could not have happened without friends of ASOB, Luther and Lucretia Carmichael, Gerald and Marie Ledbetter, and 1st Sergeant Isaac and Koleen Bray. Katie and I have work with these people on many events over the years and they are always there to help. Gerald is now the Oriental Guide for Moslah Shrine. Koleen is our daughter and this is the first time that she and her husband have been able to attend an ASOB function. I want to give a big thank you to the ladies of Ararat Temple who were quick to offer their help and support. They provided the centerpieces for our

banquet. I would be remiss if I did not thank Chairman of the Ladder of Smiles, Mike Hartup, for all his hard work. He and his wife Maggie have devoted years to furthering the cause of collecting money to support our hospitals for the benefit of the children treated therein.

The next function for us will be June 19th at Arlington National Cemetery. ASOB officers will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 1:15 p.m. that day. All Shriners and their friends and families are invited to attend this ceremony. We will meet one and a half hours before our time at the tomb. There is a shuttle bus available but there is a charge and you need to buy tickets in advance. I hope that we can have a nice turn out.

We will be in Daytona for Imperial in July. ASOB will be at the Hyatt Place Daytona Beach. We will be sharing a hospitality with Al Kadar Shrine Center. The bands that wish to perform will be putting on an exhibition on the Market Place stage on Monday afternoon. There will be no judging of competition as that was done at Kansas City. Come and watch the bands as they preform for the enjoyment of the crowds.

It is with a certain amount of sadness that I write this, my last article, as President of ASOB. It has been a long while since I joined the Oriental Band at Moslah (1985). I had no idea what Oriental Band was. I was told that it would be fun and something that you would remember. Well they were right on both counts, it is fun. I encountered things that will be forever etched in my memory, from parades in San Antonio in front of the Alamo, to the flats in Amarillo, to Mayfest in Fort Worth with hail the size of softballs and everything in between, tropical storms that rolled into Myrtle Beach at the same time we did and blew our loaded luggage cart across the parking

lot, miles long parades at both Myrtle Beach and Virginia Beach, getting to know interesting new cities at Imperial and mostly friendships made. The friendships I have made and will cherish for as long as I will wear a Fez. In my humble opinion, they are what makes Oriental Bandsman and their Ladies the greatest part of the Shrine. I cannot go away without thanking my partner for life, Katie. She has been by my side this entire journey and I could not have done the things I have without her support. Thank you. I will always remember my time on the line with the smile that comes from good friendships made and enjoyed along our journey. Thank you for allowing me this time.

Yours in The Faith,
Tom Crow



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Chris Tsaros

*Getting the
Future Right*
Many of us
throughout
life's journey on
this planet have
contemplated
of how to get
the future right.

Many have tried to convince us they have the right tools to outsmart the market, read the stars to tell our future, for many it is the tea leaves, or the coffee grounds etched on the sides of a cup of Greek coffee.

Lacking any technology that can help us accurately predict the future, we locked a bunch of us in a room and used some good old school, sweat and some prognostication, to arrive at how we might get the future right for all the oriental bands in Shrinedom. This is what we came up with:

Annual Jamboree in Kansas City in late spring after most of the regional associations have held their meetings.

Kansas City has proven to be a great destination for the bands as it is within an almost two day drive for most of the bands. The feedback from this year's Jamboree has proved this to be correct.

Continued emphasis for the Jamboree to be a great venue for competition, offering competitive stage venue, as well as providing experience for bands that wish to up their skills in a supportive and fun environment.

Use the Jamboree as a destination for learning. We will be offering workshops geared to novice bandsmen starting with the 2018 Jamboree in Kansas City.

Use better tools to reach all our members. The hit and miss approach of the past has been relegated to the dust bin of history.

We have deployed a new email utility which in the last 2 months, has helped us provide you with timely information (make sure we have your email). We will continue to use and leverage this technology for cutting edge communications with you our valuable stakeholder.

We are transitioning from the Na Khabar which reached some of you on a quarterly basis, to a Na Khabar which will live as a newly revamped website with timely updates from all the bands. Yes, information and news as they happen. We are aiming to make our new website, the Oriental Band Community's electronic village square. We will reach all our bands to ensure that they have a presence on this website. Live streams from videos you provide, pictures and news of parades, profiles of band members, and anything pertaining to oriental bands you wish to post will all be there. If you already have a web presence we will make sure that you will have the right links to your site.

One feature of the website will be the virtual market place, where instruments and uniforms can be sourced and or traded.

We are currently working on a

fundraising model for the association and all the bands that can help the entire community be better self-funding. More on this as the model takes better shape.

Amazing what can happen when we put some bandsmen in a room lock them up throw away the key and ask them to come up with things for a better future.

Did we get it right? I don't propose we lock all of you up and throw away the key, but you can help us by giving us feedback. What can we do better, what have we left out? I would like to hear from you. Contact me at christsaros@gmail.com. Let's start building a better future together.

Chris Tsaros
President Elect



SECOND VICE
PRESIDENT
Harry
Pressman

Things have been quite down my way. Since we last met, the 1st Annual Jamboree was held in

Kansas City. We had 5 great bands that participated. Our President Tom Crow put on a fantastic weekend.

The end result was very favorable from everyone who attended. I sincerely hope that more bands will come to Kansas City next year. The date and place will be announced at a later date. Congratulations to our newly elected officers for the 2017-2018 season.

Here in Texas, we are getting ready for the Texas Shrine Association meeting that will take place the second weekend in June. Karem Shriners are the host temple this year. Unfortunately they don't have an Oriental Band, but promised that the 6 bands in the Texas Association that attend will have a great time.

My summer will be filled with college graduations of my granddaughters that will keep me on the road and broke. I will also be trying to heal my broken body. Trust me when I say "getting old is not for sissies." Hope to see all of you in Kansas City in 2018.



THIRD VICE
PRESIDENT
Darren
DeHass

Can you say WOW!? What a tremendous time in Kansas City. If you did not go, you better believe you missed out on a great

OBE (Oriental Band Experience)! It was a great setting and the plans were well laid out. President Tom and Lady Katie did a great job getting this all set up and coordinated. A huge thanks to all of those bandsmen and their ladies who came out to support this new endeavor of the ASOB. You are the reason that we do what we do, and why Oriental Bands are the greatest Shrine unit going. I won't rehash the whole weekend here, I think you will get the idea from all of the officers' reports.

For my part of the weekend, I attempted to do a Facebook Live Stream of the competition. I was not completely successful, but I learned a lot from the attempt and those lessons will move us forward for next year. Yes, I intend to try it again next year. I did get the whole competition recorded and it can be found on the ASOB Facebook page as well it has been uploaded to YouTube, search for ASOB 2017 Jamboree. If you did not make it this year, start planning now to attend next year. Encourage your band to come and compete, though you are all welcome to attend even if they don't. I promise you will have a great time!

Next year the Jamboree will be in Kansas City again, it is a great central