



KHIVA ORIENTAL BAND

Khiva Shrine Center



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Welcome to the Khiva Oriental Band!

Hopefully, the next few pages will introduce you to what the O.B. is and what "we" are all about. "We" is in "quotes" because that is the glue, which holds this unit together. It will be referred to several times in the following text. "We" pride ourselves in that the O.B. is one of the only units in the Khiva Shrine, which encourages the wives to attend meetings and functions. The women of the band call themselves **The Oriental Band Shebas** and hold their own meetings in conjunction with our monthly stated meeting. Our success (and oh have we had success over the years) is due in part to their contributions, support and "grandstand noise". Although not voting members, they have their own side degrees and are active in almost all of our endeavors. Participation with this lively crew is entirely at the discretion of every Lady.

The Oriental Band filed its initial petition in July of 1979 with 19 charter members. To this day, there are still a few "old crusty ones" actively participating with the band! We have grown continuously to our present status. Most of our history and protocol is included on the following pages. In 1982, members using materials that were scavenged or donated, built the Oriental Band room as it more or less exists today. This is another way "we" have been known to do things in The Band.

The first element you need to be familiar with is the officers. These fellows are elected on an annual basis. Should you or anyone else desire to hold an official position, you need to contact a present officer and let him know of your intentions. Elections are held in the December stated meeting of each year. Their tenure is one year with hopefully, each officer moving up a position the next year. There can be an election for any position in any year. The officers are as follows:

- SULTAN:** The unit President presides over all stated meetings, as well as officers' meetings; appoints chairmen or committees to perform duties throughout the year.
- EMIR:** The unit Vice-President; serves in the absence of the Sultan; works closely to learn the responsibilities of the Sultan.
- SCRIBE:** The Secretary; records minutes of each official meeting; responsible for articles in the Temple's Caravan and in the national Oriental Band publication Na Kabar.
- GOLD MINISTER:** The Treasurer; responsible for the direction of all funds, incoming and outgoing, throughout the year.
- CALIPH:** The Musical Director; a thankless job who must be in charge of all our practices, rehearsals, public appearances, etc. The one who must control the "Mob".

There are many committees appointed to handle various duties: All-State, Fund Raisers, Telephone, Wardrobe, Wine Master, Wrecking Crew, Parliamentarian, Hospitals, Maintenance, Directory and Instruments are some but not all. The Sultan will ask members to serve on one or another at his discretion.

Our costumes- we hopefully dress so that our wives, children or even mothers will not recognize us. Dare we say that some of our members seem to really "get" into this part? There is a wardrobe committee that will hopefully introduce you to the fine art of robes and jewelry. The

O.B. attempts to portray Arabs, so we try to look the part- robes, headdresses, sandals and jewels and dramatic scars abound. If you have any questions, please ask. That's what "we" are about. You will also see several different shirts or caps worn by members periodically. Every other year we attempt to purchase a shirt/cap at a reasonable price, which reinforces the bond of the unit. Many will have patches with past awards; some will proudly state our unit and where we are from.

The O.B. holds its stated meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month. The Temple's stated meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except when the Temple is "Dark"- June, July & August). We come early on stated meeting night, 6:30, to gather, converse and eat a light or not-so-light meal. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Our Shebas gather at 7:00 pm for their business meeting. Each member who participates in the meal is asked to serve with others in preparing and serving the meal. Each year a membership book is prepared after all dues (Blue Lodge, Temple, and Unit) are paid. This book is distributed with the membership roster and addresses/phone numbers, pending calendar, current officers, committees, host/hostesses and the month they are to serve and other misc. data.

The Caliph schedules Concert/Parade practices. He will usually ask for member input at various times of the year as to what days/evenings are best for most. Please voice your opinion! He has to make a decision for the best of the unit, but he doesn't know your schedule unless you tell him. He will also work with you to find the instrument that fits both you and the band.

In March, a contingent of members usually travel to the Texas Association of Shrine Oriental Bands (TASOB) Mid-Winter conference. Here is where policy and competition rules (usually controversial in nature) are made or unmade. All members are invited to attend. It is important for our Band to have a voice at such decision-making times and your attendance is encouraged.

Every first week in June, the O.B. packs up and heads to one of several Texas cities for the All-State Competition otherwise referred to as TSA. This usually covers a three to four day period beginning the Thursday and ending the following Sunday. All-State is where the thirteen Temples of Texas gather and have competition among the like units. It is our **big goal** for the year. Besides the fundraisers for our Unit, Temple and Hospitals, parties and others, all-state is the main purpose for practice. Because of the usual number of people we put on the floor at competition, our band is classified as a Class "A" Oriental Band at all-state (currently, at this level, our only competition is the Bedouins of Moslah Temple, Ft. Worth). Our competition is usually stiff and we take our preparation for it in earnest. The O.B. all-state committee will ask or help in several areas- food for the hospitality room, bus loading and unloading, instrument travel, etc. "We" are very proud of our All-State history and take it seriously.

Occasionally the Band will travel to a Shrine Imperial Competition (if within a reasonable travel distance) usually during the July 4th holiday and compete with Bands from all over Shrinedom. Here we are classified as an "unlimited" class band and compete with the "big boys". It is quite an enjoyment to be at this competition. We have been quite successful on the Imperial level taking home the moniker of "Imperial Champs" six times.

Other O.B. activities during the year; Spring and Fall ceremonials at Khiva Shrine, at which the O.B. is asked to take as active part; Parades such as the Tri-State Fair, Veterans Day, Fourth of July, the Texas Shrine Association parade at competition, etc.; Special appearances might include such as Special Olympics, Junior League, and other major events where the O.B. will play. Our recent fundraisers include Vidalia Onion Sales, A Barn & Dance, Casino Nights at the Shrine Center and others. Our fundraisers are ours and the Temple's lifeline. We expect everyone to help and participate.

Social parties are scheduled throughout the year to celebrate different activities. Examples are the pre all-state practice/cookout, a usual post all-state celebratory fest, a fish fry when the fishermen of the Band makes a good haul, and the Christmas party which is usually organized and performed by you, the rookie, (rookie- first year member) with plenty of help of course from the past presidents!

We certainly hope that you will find the Khiva Oriental Band an attractive unit. At present, we have approximately 47 members and are diversified in music, Temple Administration, Blue Lodge, Masonic Rites, golf, shuffleboard, and other activities. Being one of the larger units in the Temple and with the history of being quite active in State and Imperial competitions, we have become an ambassador for the Temple wherever we go. Our officers plan and organize for the unit. You will individually meet some terrific people. But, we may not be the perfect unit for everyone. We suggest you attend two or three practices, stated meetings, a Temple stated meeting (sitting with the O.B.), and a social function with us. Look at us, while we enjoy you. If after all that, we are not compatible, then no harm done. Whatever choices, the Khiva Oriental Band wishes you the best as a member of the Khiva Shrine Center!

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