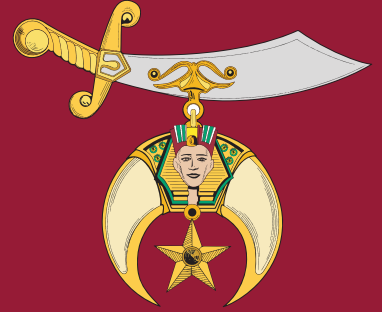


# The Arabian



The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

Houston, Texas | January 2022

## HAPPY NEW YEAR by Illustrious Sir Rick Peña

Dear Nobles and Ladies,

Happy New Year!

I hope that each of you, your lady and your family have a prosperous and safe 2022. And I hope that you and your family had a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

As I sit here to write this article, I realize that this will be the last article that I write as a member of the Divan. While reflecting on these last 5 years, I am so glad that you elected me as your Oriental Guide in 2017. Because of this opportunity

that you have given me, Naomi and I have met some of the best people in the Houston Area and beyond, all while making friends and relationships that we will cherish for many years to come.

*Illustrious Sir Rick Peña and First Lady Naomi at the First Lady's Luncheon*



*Continued inside*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Messages from the Divan -----	2
Pharoahs Car Club -----	4
Election Results -----	4
Inaugural Ball -----	5

### STATED MEETING REMINDER

The January Stated Meeting and installation of officers will be held on the 2nd Monday, January 10, 2022.



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The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

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## ARABIA SHRINE CENTER DIVAN

Rick Peña (Naomi) ..... Potentate  
Ralph "Corky" Bynum (Ruthann) ..... Chief Rabban  
Eddie O. Reed (Marty) ..... Assistant Rabban  
Bobby Hyde (Jamie) ..... High Priest and Prophet  
Ben LaBlanc Alyssa) ..... Oriental Guide  
Dennie Jackson (Elaine) ..... Treasurer  
Dale Dickman (Teresa) ..... Recorder

## IMPERIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Jerry Gantt, P. P. .... Past Imperial Potentate  
Rick Peña ..... Potentate  
Ralph "Corky" Bynum ..... Chief Rabban  
Eddie O. Reed ..... Assistant Rabban  
Bobby Hyde ..... High Priest & Prophet

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Travis Aldridge ..... 2019-2021  
Albert (Bubba) Hyde ..... 2019-2021  
Stephen Aganan ..... 2020-2022  
John "JJ" Johnson ..... 2020-2022  
Joe Mancuso ..... 2021-2023  
David Hankins..... 2021-2023

## ARABIA CIRCUS OFFICE

Ralph "Corky" Bynum  
Circus Chairman  
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Stephen Aganan ..... Graphic Designer/Editor  
Michael Paul McDaniel ..... Photographer  
James Matthews Dawson ..... Asst. Photographer

The Arabian Newsletter 2021

# SHRINE CLUBS

<b>BAYTOWN</b> Robert "Bobby" Wilson 713 539 8584	<b>HOBBY</b> Jeffrey Lewis 713 857 5927	<b>SAN JACINTO</b> David Hankins 713 898 7016
<b>BRAZOS VALLEY</b> Charles Lee 281 636 4193	<b>LAKE HOUSTON</b> Jack Morrison 281 798 3289	<b>SOUTHEAST</b> James Gorden 281 216 8053
<b>BRENHAM</b> Keith Killgore 979 777 8606	<b>MONTGOMERY</b> Jonathan Ramirez 936 232 4551	<b>TOMBALL</b> James Leigh 281 546 6273
<b>COLORADO VALLEY</b> Glenn Leist 361 594 3643	<b>NEW CANEY</b> Joe Melton 281 689 6377	<b>WALLER</b> John McGaughy 281 770 5499
<b>FORT BEND</b> Henry Gonzales 281 799 2045	<b>SAM HOUSTON</b> Michael Dowden 936 662 0327	<b>WESTSIDE</b> David Frishman 281 391 2589

# SHRINE UNITS

<b>ALCHEMIST</b> James Fristoe 512 525 9044	<b>DIRECTOR'S STAFF</b> Albert Hyde 832 266 8650	<b>ORIENTAL BAND</b> Camdon Lipe 832 435 0138
<b>ARABIAN KNIGHTS</b> Rene Quinones 713 552 5544	<b>GOLFERS</b> Tony Macias, PP 281 685 5929	<b>PATROL</b> Art Valdez 832 606 0589
<b>BOWLERS</b> Rick Gallier 713 829 1957	<b>GREETERS</b> Willie Rodriguez 832 278 5484	<b>PROVOST GUARD</b> David Ashley, PP 281 650 7455
<b>CIRCUS ROUSTABOUTS</b> Dale Dickman 936 581 3347	<b>HOT RODS</b> Paul Weber 713 899 7035	<b>SHENANIGANS</b> Russell Mayfield 281 426 7432
<b>CLOWN JEWELS</b> Marvin Lutz 713 417 5783	<b>LEGION OF HONOR</b> Alvaro Alvarado 832 701 9989	<b>SPORTSMEN</b> John Calhoun 210 669 8246
	<b>MOTOR CORPS</b> Larris Nolan, PP 281 830 4611	

## POTENTATE'S MESSAGE contd.

by Illustrious Sir Rick Peña

I've been asked several times these last two months - aren't you glad that your year as Potentate is about to end. My answer has always been NO, but I do realize that my year must end and my tenure as well as a board member. I honestly don't have any regrets, other than not being able to spend more time at Clubs and Units as I would have liked to.

I would like to thank each of you for all your support and love you all have given Naomi and me. We plan to take some time off to spend it with our family, but we're not going anywhere. We do plan to stay active, and I plan to get back more active at my Church, Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite. Naomi and I are committed to the Temple, the Nobles and their ladies, our Hospitals, and our Children, and will continue to be for many years to come.

I want to thank all the past Divan members and Past Potentates that I've had the honor to serve and work with. And I want to thank all the Past Potentates and Nobles who have whispered good counsel in my ear these last few years. I would also like to thank Imperial Sir Jerry and Lady Lisa for all the support you have given Naomi and me.

And before I end this article, I must thank the 2021 Divan. Thanks to each of you for working for the good of Arabia. Have there been some differences? Of course, there has been and that's okay. It's important that everyone share their thoughts and our concerns, and for that, I thank you too. I want to wish each of you and your lady the best in 2022 and in years to come.

Our next stated meeting will be on Monday, January 10, 2022. Installation of 2022 Officers will take place.

I'm only a phone call or email away, so call me at 713-545-9204 or email me at (rpena1pasa@aol.com) with any questions that I may be able to help you with.

Yours in Faith,  
Rick Peña  
Potentate  
Arabia Shrine



## FROM THE CHIEF RABBAN'S SEAT

by Noble Ralph "Corky" Bynum

As 2021 comes to a close, I'd like to thank you all for the support and hard work that each of you provide for Arabia Shrine Center. It takes all of us working together to make a difference and Arabia does make a difference to many. My lady, Ruth Ann, and I also want to take a moment and wish Illustrious Sir Rick Peña and Lady Naomi the best as they enjoy their year of travel and relaxing after the years they have dedicated to Arabia Shrine Center serving the nobility on the Divan line.

Congratulations to the Officers of Arabia on moving up to the next office, I look forward to a great 2022 working with each of you. I would also like to wish Noble Travis and Lady Nikki Aldridge a fun-filled and successful journey as you begin serving Arabia Shrine as Oriental Guide. Enjoy the journey! Welcome to the new Board of Directors, Nobles Greg Edmonds and Shawn Trader. I hope you enjoy the time you serve on the Board.

Thank you to each of you for the confidence and support in myself as I prepare to serve as Potentate of Arabia Shrine for 2022. I look forward to the year with hope and excitement for the future and reflection of our past as we celebrate the 150th year anniversary of the world's greatest philanthropy and 100th year anniversary of our beloved Shriner's Hospital!

January will be a busy month with the memorial to remember the Nobles we have lost in the last year on Sunday, January 9, followed by the staff orientation for 2022 staff. Please remember our January stated meeting will be January 10, 2022 with the meal beginning at 6:00 pm, the stated meeting, and public installation of officers for Arabia Shrine will immediately follow the stated meeting.

Lastly, please mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 2022 Arabia Shrine Inaugural Ball. Lady Ruth Ann and I look forward to a fun-filled evening with dinner, dancing, and fellowship and we hope you can all join us. Please make sure you RSVP with Ms. Melissa by January 21, 2022. See you there!

Yours In The Faith,  
Corky Bynum  
Chief Rabban

## ORIENTAL GUIDE'S OUTLOOK

by Noble Ben LaBlanc

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and you have had a very Merry Holiday Season. We all need a little cheer in our lives, and hopefully the holidays have been just that for you over the last few weeks.

I'd like to give a recap of our membership efforts for the year 2021. We had a very good year, and finished out on a very strong note. In 2021, we created 80 new Shriners, and brought 22 of our members back who had gone suspended for non-payment of dues. Both of these numbers are the highest totals for those categories that we have had in a few years. I would like to highlight the month of December for you. In December, we created 12 new Shriners. Those 12 new creations are the highest monthly total we had all year, and as far as my records indicate, Arabia has NEVER created that many new Shriners in the month of December. December is a very busy month with the holidays and all the Christmas parties, so to create 12 new Shriners in that month is something to be proud of. Arabia should be proud of all the membership development efforts this year. We did fall slightly short of our goal for the year, but we still had a wonderful year, and hopefully we can build on this momentum for 2022.

In November we kicked-off a little incentive program for membership development, and we said that we would give away a \$300 VISA gift card for top line signers for the months of November and December. We will draw the winner's name during dinner on Installation night on January 10th. Please make every effort to attend and congratulate the winner of the gift card!

One other thing I would like to mention as we head into next year is the Hospital Benefit Kick-off. Next year, we will be doing things slightly different, and we will be holding the Benefit Kick-off in conjunction with the Ceremonial planned on March 26th. Hopefully this will not only allow our newest nobles (who are created that day and throughout the last year) a chance to partake in the Benefit kick-off and get excited about raising money for our Hospitals, but will also get

some of our more seasoned nobility to come out for the ceremonial and enjoy an event that we haven't had at Arabia in a few years. We hope to see everyone there!

This month's fact is about our Little Miss Avery. We know that you all love to see her and are a big part of her growing up, so I thought I would share with you that she is now walking! She really took off over the Christmas break, and by the time you see her next, she will be running away from all of us. Thank you so much for all the love that is shared with her. Lady Alyssa and I really appreciate the family we have here at Arabia.

Fraternally,  
Ben LaBlanc  
Oriental Guide 2021  
lablanclegacyshriners@gmail.com

## FROM THE RECORDER

by Noble Dale Dickman

I would like to provide a quick update on our 2020 tax situation. If you are unaware, the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD), decided to apply our 2021 Tax Exemption to 2020 - which means we are tax exempt for the period 2020 through 2024. With this decision we were successful in securing a refund for the 2020 taxes we paid to Alief ISD (\$106,660.00), the City of Baytown, Goose Creek ISD & Lee College (\$1633.42), and HCAD tax bill of \$111,747.19 went away.

Also, I want to thank everyone, especially our Outreach Club and Legion of Honor, who made donations in support of this relief effort. I also want to recognize Corky Bynum and others packed and transported this material to Paducah the last week in December.

If you have not completed recording your charitable contributions - please do so as soon as you can - this information will help us to justify our tax exempt status for the period 2020-2024, and also contribute to building our request for the 2025-2029 renewal .

January will be a busy month - we start with a Memorial Service, to recognize those Noble who passed away in 2021, with a Staff Orientation on January 9th. Stated Meeting (Installation) is on January 10th, and Grand Lodge starts on January 20th. Preparation for the Inaugural Ball begin the week of January 24th, and the Ball is on January 29th.

Notice is given January 2022 Stated meeting is on January 10th; February Stated meeting is February 21st; and, March Stated meeting is March 21st. Meal at 6 P.M. and meeting at 7 P.M.

Fraternally,  
Dale Dickman  
Recorder



## PHARAOHS CAR CLUB

by Noble James Bennett

The Arabia Motor Corps has established a new Club. The Pharaoh's Car Club was approved by the Motor Corps at the October Meeting. Presently, the unit is looking for members. We formed this club for Shriners with a mutual interest in powerful, unique and beautiful cars and trucks, regardless of age, who will have fun while supporting the Arabia Shrine and Shriners Hospital for Children. We are open to membership who live all over Houston area and are a social unit with parade privileges and will be sometimes asked to drive dignitaries in the parades. Our outings will include our Ladies and children. We will be having Monthly Meet-ups and an Annual Car Show, which will be our major fund raiser. The proceeds are used support the good works of the Shriner's Hospital, Motor Corps and the Pharaohs Car Club.

We will be planning to participate in multiple parades throughout the year. It is not necessary to own a vintage automobile to be a member of the Club - an interest in cars and trucks will do! We create a close -knit membership and welcome new members. We will be becoming Ambassadors of the Shrine, displaying the fez and sharing what our hospitals do for so many children at local car-shows. In addition to parades, we plan to host an open car show each year where all makes and models of cars, trucks and motorcycles are invited.

Please join us for fun, adventure, and to help our children.

To Join us please contact:

James Bennett

832-275-8827

asmc.pharaohscc@gmail.com

## TEMPLE ELECTION RESULTS

by Noble Stephen Aganan

Last Month, Arabia Shriners held its election of officers at the ballroom. The following are the results:

Potentate-elect: Noble Corky Bynum  
Chief Rabban-elect: Noble Eddie O. Reed  
Assistan Rabban-elect: Bobby Hyde  
High Priest & Prophet-elect: Noble Ben LaBlanc  
Oriental Guide: Noble Travis Aldrige  
Recorder: Dale Dickman  
Treasurer: Noble Dennie Jackson

Board of Trustees:

Noble Greg Edmonds  
Noble Shawn Trader

Congratulations to all the new elected officers!



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## NOTICE OF STATED MEETING

Notice is hereby giving that the next regularly scheduled meeting of Arabia Shriners will be held on Monday January 10 2022 7:00 pm. Dinner will be served.

Please RSVP online or to the Temple. Wear your fez, dues cards will be scanned at the door.

Dale Dickman  
Recorder

Rick Peña  
Potentate

# **The Arabian**

*Arabia Shrine requests the honor of your presence  
at an Evening Under the Stars  
for the 2022 Inaugural Ball  
Honoring*

*Illustrious Sir Elect Corky Bynum  
&  
Lady Ruth Ann*

*Saturday, January 29, 2022  
At 7:00 o'clock in the evening*

*Arabia Shrine Temple – Ballroom  
10510 Harwin Drive • Houston, TX 77036*

*RSVP by January 21, 2022  
Melissa at 713-664-3437*

*\$20 per person*

*Men: Tux/Dark Suit - Ladies: Formal*