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United, We Leave a Legacy: NOAC 2012

By **MONCHEN KAO**

Staff Writer

Thousands of Arrowmen gathered at Michigan State University this past summer for the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference. Notable in attendance were the Boy Scouts of America's National Key Three, two United States Congressmen (one past, one current), and an Olympic gold medalist, but most importantly, over seven thousand Arrowmen representing their respective lodges. "It's all about the Scouts," as BSA National President Wayne Perry says. Conference-goers were able to meet fellow Arrowmen from around the nation through fellowship activities, including daily training classes, the Grand HoDag, and the Founder's Day Fair.

Our theme for the week, "United, We Leave a Legacy," was selected by the section chiefs at the 2011 National Planning Meeting in Dallas, Texas. In preparation for the upcoming hundredth anniversary, it is especially important to join together as an Order to celebrate the bonds of brotherhood and the lasting impact they create.

A unique opportunity of the 2012 conference was the partnership with the National Eagle Scout Association for the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award this year. The Eagle Scout Award and the Order of the Arrow share several key principles, including servant leadership. A total of 2,182 Eagle Scouts attended NOAC this year, representing approximately 37 percent of all conference-goers. Among the events hosted by the National Eagle Scout Association was



Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge was one of many that had a tent set up at the 2012 Founder's Day.

the NESAs Banquet, which was one of the most popular events of the week. Due to great demand for admission, NESAs opened a second venue to the banquet, allowing for capacity to increase from 800 to 1,450 participants.

Another unique feature of this conference was its focus on technology. In an interview, BSA National President Wayne Perry cited the use of technology as a priority for his term, including this conference. The advent of new technology brought Arrowmen together in many ways – Facebook notified Arrowmen about their section gatherings, texting allowed Arrowmen to find each other, and a QR-code based game called Munzee brought Arrowmen together in friendly competition. Throughout the week, Arrowmen scanned QR codes in various locations with their smartphones. Each code scanned gave participants a select amount of points. Individual, lodge, section, and

region rankings were kept, allowing lodges, sections, and regions to work together to try to win the competition.

As with every conference, one of the best opportunities for Arrowmen to meet each other was the Grand HoDag on Thursday evening. This carnival-esque gathering began with the Reunion of the Regions, a new event designed to bring together the Order as one through a series of exercises played through a .mp3 file, before evolving into a festival complete with free root beer and games.

Another conference favorite were the evening shows. The shows staff spent months writing and revising scripts, and arrived much earlier than participants and other staff in order to prepare for the shows. Highlights from the shows included awards

(3 Red Arrow Award presentations,

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New lodge; new legacy

By **MATT ROSENDAHL**

Staff Writer

It is very rare in the Order of the Arrow for a brand new lodge to be formed in a council that previously did not have one, but that is exactly what happened on the weekend of May 18-20, 2012, as the Long Beach Area Council in California formed Puvunga Lodge.

Puvunga is the first lodge to be formed in a council without a merger since 1970, when Chamorro Council serving Guam launched Ashsin Lodge. No non-merger lodges had been formed in the continental United States since 1968.

Ray Capp, chairman of the national Order of the Arrow committee, and Steve Bradley, the vice chairman of region and section operations, were both in attendance as OA history was made. Thirty-eight youth and thirteen adults were inducted at the inaugural Ordeal, including the council president, four members of the council's executive board, and the council's camping chairman.

The lodge name that was chosen, Puvunga, translates into "gathering place" and the totem for the new lodge is a porpoise. The youth also chose their first lodge officers, setting the foundation for a great Order of the Arrow program in the Long Beach Council.

George Felix was elected as lodge chief and shared his excitement for this new position: "At first I was surprised, now I feel like the coolest kid on the block!" Felix said, "I feel honored, and I hope I make my council proud! I will work hard to try to live up to their expectations."

The creation of this lodge would not have been possible without the commitment of the council's leadership to youth development, the help of neighboring lodges who provided the necessary ceremonies teams, and the organization and passion of leaders on the section, regional, and national levels.

"I am proud of the body of careful and respectful work that Steve Bradley carried out behind the scenes with the council leadership, the region support, and the great work of both the surrounding lodges and section W4S," said Capp.



The first class of Arrowmen in the Puvunga Lodge, Long Beach Area Council.

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Relive the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference by checking out the photo spread!



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WILD WEST FALL FELLOWSHIP

Spruce up your lodge event by bringing in rodeo fun.



2012 National Planning Calendar

September

- 14-16 NLS/NLATS, Davis, Oklahoma - Southern Region
- 21-23 Gathering of Leaders, Alpine, New Jersey - Northeast Region

October

- 1 OA Lodge Charter renewal kits released
- 5 - 7 NLS, Delaware, Ohio - Central Region
- 12 - 14 NLS/NLATS, Estes Park, Colorado - Western Region
- SOS, New Braunfels, Texas - Southern Region
- 15 OA Steering Committee Meeting
- 26 - 27 SOS, Phoenix, Arizona - Western Region
- 31 OA Service Grant applications due

November

- 2-4 NLS/NLATS, Parkville, Missouri - Central Region
- NLS/NLATS, Haymarket, Virginia - Northeast Region
- 9-11 NLS/NLATS, San Francisco Bay Area, California - Western Region
- 16-18 NLS, Germany - Northeast Region
- NLS, King, North Carolina - Southern Region
- SOS, Islamorada, Florida - Central Region

December

- 27-30 National Planning Meeting, Dallas, TX
- 31 OA Lodge Charters due

2013 National Jamboree - Project 2013

July 15 - 24, Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia

Find out more information by visiting:
<http://event.oa-bsa.org>

To sign up, be sure to go to:
<https://summit.scouting.org>

New tools for lodges released during NOAC

During the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference, the national Chapter Operations Guide, Lodge Adviser’s Handbook, and Journey to Excellence Guide were released.

The Chapter Operations Guide provides helpful tools and resources for chapter officers and advisers. This guide contains best practices for lodge and chapter leaders to consider implementing in their local areas. Chapters are varied in size, membership, and focus, and this guide provides tools for chapters with diverse arrangements. The guide’s three chapters focus on chapter program expectations from a lodge or council perspective, chapter programming, and chapter planning.

The guide was released along with five presentation videos to support local chapters. Video topics include “Engaging New Members” and “Conversation Between a Chapter Chief and Troop Representative.”

The Lodge Adviser’s Handbook provides guidance for both new

and experienced lodge leaders. The handbook is a compilation of relevant information regarding the role of the lodge adviser and also includes a plethora of ideas and best practices to be considered by leaders supporting lodges of all sizes. The guide addresses lodge organization, lodge programming, lodge planning, administrative processes, and resources available to lodge leaders.

The Journey to Excellence Guide provides in-depth details of the Journey to Excellence (JTE) program. For each JTE requirement, the requirements are spelled out, its purpose is explained, and tips for success and resources are listed for lodges working towards receiving JTE recognition.

Visit the national OA website to download the Chapter Operations Guide, the Lodge Adviser’s Handbook, the Journey to Excellence Guide and available presentation videos.

New awards recognize local OA support

In May, the national Order of the Arrow committee approved two new awards designed to increase support for local program improvement, the OA Unit of Excellence Award and the OA Innovation Award.

The OA Unit of Excellence Award seeks to identify those units and leaders who excel at incorporating the OA into their annual programming. Those units that meet the award requirements will receive recognition, along with those Scoutmasters, Troop/Team Representatives, and Troop/Team Representative Advisers who provide leadership.

The OA Innovation Award honors innovation that has a positive impact on chapter, lodge, district, and council Scouting programs. This award challenges local leaders to design and implement programs that serve as solutions to local challenges. Local chapters and lodges that receive this award will have a \$1,000 endowment donation made to their council in their name and will be recognized in the *National Bulletin* and at the BSA National Annual Meeting.

NATIONAL UPDATES

2013 OA High Adventure applications

Applications for the Order’s 2013 High Adventure programs are available on the national OA website. Arrowmen between 16 and 21 years of age are encouraged to apply for OA Wilderness Voyage and Odyssey, Ocean Adventure, and Trail Crew today.

requirements for the nomination of adult unit Scouters to become candidates for induction into the Order. Download the modified policy from www.oa-bsa.org

Ask the Chairman questions answered

National Chairman Ray Capp has answered a query regarding a youth unable to attend his Ordeal. To read his reply and his responses to other questions visit www.oa-bsa.org.

Membership policy modified

The national OA committee released Operations Update 12-07, which details the modified

Hillcourt Trust to assist Arrowmen

The “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt Trust has announced the William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt Scholarship to assist youth Arrowmen serving on Order of the Arrow staff at the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. Download the application from www.oa-bsa.org.

Revisions to the GOA & FOG

The revised copies of these guides can be found at www.oa-bsa.org.

2012 National Officer Directory

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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The backcountry adviser training conference

By BRENT WESSEL

Staff Writer

Philmont Scout Ranch has always been known as the premier outdoor experience within the Boy Scouts of America, but once a year it is also home to one of the premier adult adviser trainings of the Order of the Arrow. Every summer, the Philmont Training Center hosts the Philmont OA Adviser Training Conference for any adult Arrowman seeking to improve their capabilities as an adviser in our organization. Topics range from the OA strategic intent to quality chapter meetings or the integration of the OA into the council and much more. This past summer, 26 Arrowmen participated in the June 17-23 conference.

Jack Butler, the conference chairman and a member of the national Order of the Arrow committee, commented that the focus of the conference was to address the specific questions and needs of the participants to allow them to be better advisers for their lodges. It is not your typical NLS or NLATS; it is a personalized experience. He said, "This conference sends people home excited and empowered to improve their lodge program."

Stephen and Kaleen Deatherage were two of the empowered participants at the conference. Husband and wife chapter ceremony advisers from Wauna La-Mon'tay Lodge in the Washington and Oregon area, Stephen and Kaleen were excited to first use this as an opportunity to visit Philmont and receive quality training as well. "At first, we treated this as more of a chance to go to Philmont," said Stephen Deatherage, "but then we were swept into the most amazing training we have ever been involved with. It greatly



Advisers are taught during a Philmont Scout Ranch training conference.

exceeded our expectations and we are ready to go back and do our part to improve our lodge program." Their favorite parts of the conference were the open discussion about challenges back home and time spent asking questions of the national committee members there on staff. Stephen Deatherage commented, "One night, we had a great discussion about a certain topic but we were not able to finish the conversation. The staff saw this and adjusted the schedule the next morning to allow us more time for this topic."

"I was humbled and inspired by the passion for the BSA and the OA that this staff had," said Kaleen Deatherage. "The OA is truly in excellent hands." The Deatherages' time was not just spent training, though; they were able to get the Philmont experience they wanted by taking a 12-mile hike through the backcountry. Butler said an important part of the conference is a day where participants get the chance to explore Philmont Scout Ranch.

Their experience inspired the Deatherages to give their lodge a taste of the conference. Back home, they gave an hour-long presentation to their lodge executive committee to review the important topics from the training. As a result, the lodge is covering the cost for two advisers to participate in the training next year as well. Kaleen Deatherage concluded, "I have been to a lot of Scout trainings, but this was different. It was so much more flexible and personalized to me."

It is not too early to sign up for this great program! The 2013 conference is open to any adult Arrowman and will be held June 16-22 and is only \$470 per participant. Spouses and children of the participant may also come to the conference at a reduced cost. For more information and to register, go to www.oa-bsa.org/programs/ptc. Everyone can have the personalized training experience that the Philmont OA Adviser Training Conference offers.

Aiding the transition into Boy Scouts

By JACOB SCHLIES

Staff Writer

Because approximately 90 percent of Boy Scouts come directly from the Cub Scout program, councils and lodges are providing significant resources to increasing the Webelos-to-Scout retention rate. For some members, the transition from the various Cub Scouting activities to the traditional Scout skills of knot tying, fire building, and more can be rather daunting. Fortunately for Cub Scouts in the Central New Jersey Council, a local OA lodge is helping ease the transition to Boy Scouts.

Sakuwit Lodge of the Central New

Jersey Council has created the Boy Scout 101 Training Program, which it dubs "A Webelos ladder to Scout Skills." The program, which often provides the first glimpse into Boy Scouts for Webelos, is led by a committee appointed by the Sakuwit Lodge Executive Committee to oversee the program and guide chapters in its implementation. The committee selects course directors from the various chapters, and assists with the general implementation of the program, which is run three times during the year. The course directors assign staff to one of three different positions: quartermaster, patrol leader, or instructor.

The actual event is a day-long program

with three breakout sessions designed to teach Scout skills to the participants. After an opening ceremony, Webelos are assigned to patrols with a staff patrol leader who leads the Webelos in cooking a meal (that they subsequently eat for lunch), making camp gadgets (to teach them how to properly use knives, saws, and axes), and using knots and lashings.

At the end of the day, each participant receives a patch and certificate. They then participate in a closing ceremony, and leave the day much more knowledgeable of Scout skills. This experience goes a long way in helping to aid the transition from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts.

Chiefly Speaking



Brothers,

The Order of the Arrow is coming off of an incredibly exciting summer season. This July over 7,000 of our brothers gathered for a week of engaging training, thrilling activities, and meaningful shows. Truly, the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference was an unbridled success. In addition to the aforementioned features, Arrowmen also had the opportunity to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award, all while exploring the conference theme "United, we leave a legacy."

As we move into the fall, now is the time for each of us to look towards the future and what it holds for the legacy of our Order. Next year's national Scout jamboree is one such example. At the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, the Order of the Arrow will field the largest program commitment in its history. Over 700 Arrowmen will be part of our Project 2013 corps, which will consist of our traditional staff areas such as the OA ServiceCorps and Indian Village, while also featuring new opportunities for service. I would encourage anyone who is interested in being part of our groundbreaking operation at the Summit to check out www.event.oa-bsa.org for more information.

Of course, we also have the ability to leave great legacies right in our backyard. In preparation for our own 100th anniversary in 2015, we need lodges to be the tip of our spear. Service to the council, camp, and community will play a pivotal role in enhancing the image of the Order at the local level, which in turn helps move us forward as a national organization.

Thanks for all you do,

Preston Marquis
2012 National Vice Chief

2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference in review

NOAC

Continued from page 1

69 Distinguished Service Award presentations, and a Lifetime Achievement Award presentation), a laser and light show complete with confetti and smoke, and special guests including Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX), reality show winners Derek and Drew Konzelman, Olympic gold-medalist Steven Holcomb, and theater troupe Fighting Gravity, all of whom received rousing acclaim.

At this conference, Arrowmen were encouraged to unite to leave a legacy. Plenty of opportunities existed to do just that. The Order of the Arrow has provided one such opportunity in the form of Project 2013—a chance to be a staff member for the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. Details are available on the national OA website. Make sure to be at both Project 2013 and the OA's hundredth anniversary conference in 2015!





Ed Pease honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

By **TAYLOR BOBROW**

Staff Writer

Edward A. Pease was recognized with the Legacy of Servant Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference recognition show at Michigan State University.

National OA Committee Chairman Ray Capp presented Pease, an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of Jaccos Towne Lodge, with the award in recognition of his lifetime of servant leadership to the Order of the Arrow and Scouting.

During the recognition show, Pease accepted the award and unveiled the Order's centennial celebration painting, which was crafted by Scouting artist Joseph Csatari. Pease expressed his gratitude for the honor, and said he was humbled by the opportunity to be a part of the Order of the Arrow. He explained that "in linear terms, there is a line that began with Dr. Goodman running through the years to the present day. Each of us finds himself somewhere on that continuum." He said that all Arrowmen are "privileged" to have a place on the continuum, "to be part of a movement bigger than any of us – to share in the common experiences of a tradition we received and who

understand that we are simply their stewards." The continuum is not simply a "linear progression," he said, "but an embrace of the spirit that wraps itself around each of us, making us stronger as the beliefs we share are magnified through the bonds of brotherhood."

Pease is the fifth to be recognized for his significant contributions to the furthering of the Order's continuum, joining the ranks of the notable group of Arrowmen who have received the Lifetime Achievement Award since its creation in 2002. The national OA committee developed the award to "recognize only those extraordinary Arrowmen who have deeply influenced and significantly contributed to the vision, direction, and growth of the Order of the Arrow, faithfully demonstrated a lifetime of servant leadership, and, through their daily example, illuminated and reinforced the significance of the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law." The recipients must be approved by 75 percent of the national OA committee members and must meet the award requirements: a Vigil Honor member; Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipient; continue to render service to the Order of the Arrow on a section, regional, or national level since the presentation of their DSA; and an Order of the Arrow member for

at least 25 years. The award is only presented at the national OA conference.

Pease has continually distinguished himself since he began his involvement in the Order of the Arrow as a youth. He began in a very active troop and local Scouting program. Pease worked camp staff for nine years and attributes some of his most memorable experiences to his time there. His work in the Order of the Arrow began when he was elected lodge secretary, and then lodge chief at the age of 15. Pease attended the Region 7 Area G conference, and was elected secretary, followed by area chief at the age of 17. "The Area Conference is where my view of Scouting and its possibilities was opened," Pease said. "I was fortunate enough to be elected at a time when youth were beginning to take a bigger role in the Order."

As a youth, Pease was selected to be a Report to the Nation delegate and attended the 1967 World Scout Jamboree. 1969 National Conference Chief Tom Fielder appointed Pease to be the deputy national conference chief. At the 1971 and 1973 conferences, Pease had the opportunity to escort E. Urner Goodman and Carrol A. Edson.

In 1984, Carl Marchetti, then-national OA committee chairman,



Ed Pease and National Chairman Ray Capp during the NOAC awards show.

appointed Pease to the national committee. Nine years later, Pease was appointed chairman of the national Order of the Arrow committee and resolved to expand youth involvement in all aspects of the Order. During his tenure, the OA Philmont Trail Crew program was developed by a youth. The Trail Crew program has led to the creation of two more high adventure programs, OA Ocean Adventure and OA Wilderness Voyage, and several national programs of emphasis, including SummitCorps and ArrowCorps⁵. "One of the biggest accomplishments while I was national chairman was ensuring that young people were involved in the leadership structure at all levels," Pease said. The youth's voice expanded dramatically during Pease's term, and it has remained that way ever since he said, stating "A lot more young people can be involved in the Order in different ways."

Pease has also distinguished

himself in his workplace and community. Pease practiced law as an attorney, served in the Indiana State Senate for twelve years, and remains actively involved in Indiana State University, where he served as vice president and general counsel. Pease's commitment to his community continued after his election to the United States House of Representatives, where he served two terms. He is currently the senior vice president of government relations at Rolls-Royce North America.

In Scouting, Pease is a member of the Crossroads of America Council executive board, the BSA national advisory board, and the national OA committee. He was recently appointed to serve as the chairman of the national Scouting Alumni Association and plans to remain active in Scouting for a long time. He said, "Scouting has been a big part of my life since my childhood, and I hope that I will always be involved in some way."



Pease during his speech at the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference.

2012 Red Arrow Award recipients recognized at national conference

The Red Arrow Award is presented by the national OA committee for distinguished service to the Order by either non-Scouters or Scouters who are not members of the Order. This distinguished service may take many forms and should involve a significant period of time, as opposed to a single event. A limited number of awards are presented to those whose accomplishments are of the highest order. There were three Red Arrow Award honorees at the 2012 National OA Conference:

Barry G. Funderburg is from DeMotte, Indiana and has served as sound director, sound engineer, and composer for the NOAC shows since 1994, as well as for OA Shows at

the national jamborees from 1997 to present.

Jeanette C. Lord is from Nashville, Tennessee and has served the OA for more than two decades, at different times aiding in the production of the *National Bulletin*, compiling the 2008-2012 OA Strategic Plan, and supporting numerous national OA officers and advisers.

Cory D. Mensen is from Ely, Minnesota and served as the primary U.S. Forestry Service liaison for the OA High Adventure program at Northern Tier. In this position, Cory has worked with the OA Wilderness Voyage for over ten years, training the staff in trail-building techniques and supporting their efforts.



2012 Red Arrow Award recipients receiving their awards. Shown are Barry G. Funderburg (left) and Jeanette C. Lord (right). Not pictured is Cory D. Mensen (not present due to his duties as a U.S. Forest member fighting fires in Colorado).

69 Arrowmen recognized with Distinguished Service Award

The Order of the Arrow created the Distinguished Service Award to recognize and honor those Arrowmen who have rendered distinguished and outstanding service to the Order on a section, area, regional, or national basis. The award is given primarily for dedicated service to the Order and Scouting over a period of years.

Presentation of the award is limited. Arrowmen whose service extends most beyond the local lodge are normally selected. Both youth and adults, as well as professional Scouters, may receive the award. The 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipients are:

Justin Abshire
Brian T. Ahrens
Timothy Babb

Ryan D. Bajan
Michael Beckman
Ryan J. Bell
Joseph G. Buchman
Michael R. Card
David W. Carlson
David M. Carson
Robert "Bob" Chaballa
William B. Chin
Marc Circus
John Clark
Don Combs, III
Travis Cunningham
Raymond R. Czech
Daniel T. Dick
Joseph M. Dworak
Richard P. Ferolo
Frank D. Fodero
Dwayne A. Fontenette, Jr.
Richard M. Fore

Robert W. Fudge
Calvin J. Fulks
Joseph Garcia
Brian R. Gray
Fredrick Gross
Jordan Hammons
Frank Harper
David Harrell
Ryan M. Hay
Henry K. Hayashi
David Heimann
Josh Henry
Daniel J. Higham
Jonathan Hillis
Collin P. Huerter
Jess A. Hurwitz
Mark Ishizu
Howard Kern
Bradford C. Lichota
Spencer A. Long



Matthew N. Madderra
Mark A. Norris
Gregory A. Nygren
Nick Ochsner
John J. "Jack" O'Neill
Elam M. Patterson
Joshua A. Peloquin

Michael R. Philbrook
Phillip Raine
Scott A. Robin
Sara L. Seaborne
Thomas E. Starr
Jeffrey L. St. Cyr
Jeff Stout
William G. Swingle
James Tarbox
Timothy E. N. Terry
John "JT" Thomas
William "Bill" Topkis
Ronnie D. Turpin
John Van Dreese
Russ Votava
Deanna J. Westmyer
Ted W. Williams
Jason Wolz
Mackinley J. Zewalk



The 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipients stand as one at the awards show.

Does anyone need a ride?

By **JACOB SCHLIES**

Staff Writer

Have you ever found yourself calling all of your OA buddies or begging your parents to give you a ride to an OA event? Most Arrowmen without cars know this exact feeling. The Tutelo Lodge Executive Committee came up with a great solution for their members. The committee organized a rideshare program where Arrowmen needing rides could easily connect with those Arrowmen with empty seats in their car. Tutelo Lodge Chief Matthew Rosendahl said that since the inception of the rideshare program, the lodge has been able to break recent attendance records at their functions and it has allowed the lodge to break its all-time attendance record at a single function since the lodge was chartered.

So how does the program work? The lodge has created a special webpage on their lodge website (www.tutelo161.org) where Arrowmen needing rides can easily connect with other Arrowmen who have logged in to the site to offer seats in their car. Arrowmen are able to plan ahead and request or offer rides to all the lodge's functions this year including their section's conclave.

Rosendahl said Arrowmen usually help the driver with gas money, providing a benefit to a driver who was already planning to attend a lodge function with extra room in his car. Rosendahl also said that the program has been successful in that it has strengthened the family atmosphere within their lodge. By sharing rides, Arrowmen are able to get to know each other better and because the attendance at lodge functions has grown, Arrowmen are able to meet more people than before.

If you are interested in starting a rideshare program in your own lodge or chapter, Rosendahl offered a little advice. He recommends creating a program that is user friendly and heavily promoted. You don't need to create a fancy website to have a rideshare program. Lodge and chapters can simply set up a group on Facebook where Arrowmen can connect with each other. A Facebook group can be just as efficient as a website in that many of your members are already using social media and are already familiar with how to use it. Rosendahl said that once your program gains its first users, it should pretty much promote itself. Once your rideshare program takes off, you could be looking at record breaking attendance at your own chapter, lodge, and section events.

Richards Arena opens with a meaningful celebration

By **JORDAN HUGHES**

Staff Writer

All too often, lodges are forced to grapple with the passing of young men. Unami Lodge One of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania chose to honor a departed young brother in an extraordinary way.

In August 2010, the members of Unami Lodge and Section NE-5B were shocked and saddened to learn that Thomas J. "Tom" Richards, a Vigil Honor member, Founder's Award recipient, and former section chief had passed away. He was only 19 years old.

Since Resica Falls Scout Reservation became the flagship camp for the Cradle of Liberty Council in 2009, attendance numbers have skyrocketed. It became clear that the camp needed a new site to conduct campfires and camp-wide gatherings on a larger scale. The members of Unami saw a clear opportunity to fill a much-needed void at their camp, while also honoring Tom.

The colossal project began in the fall of 2010 with Unami Lodge contributing \$90,000 for the effort. The Cradle of Liberty Council also stepped in to help,



The Richards Arena during its first official use.

donating \$50,000 towards its completion.

Council Camping Chairman Mike Coyne designed an arena area to meet the bill. The arena features seating for 800 people, a permanent stage with lighting and sound equipment, and campfire circles. After about 18 months of hard work, the arena plan finally came to fruition.

On Saturday, June 23, the Cradle of Liberty Council and Unami Lodge One hosted a grand dedication program, just in time for the 2012 summer camp season. Nearly 800 people, including local Scouts, representatives from section NE-5B and the Northeast Region, and members of the Richards family gathered for the event. Northeast Region Chairman

Mark Chilluti led the dedication ceremony and presented flowers to Tom Richards' parents. Following the dedication, an all-out celebration began, featuring musical performances, an OA calling-out ceremony, and more.

Matt McGovern, Unami Lodge member and friend of Richards, said of the occasion, "It was very gratifying to see the work of so many dedicated volunteers come together in the beautiful space that is the Richards Arena, and in the incredible show put on in Tom's honor. The countless Scouts and Scouters who will enjoy it in the years to come will ensure that Tom's legacy will continue on into the future."

Texas lodge aces spring fellowship with wild west theme

By **RAYMOND CHEUNG**

Local Features Editor

Think back to your Ordeal experience. For many, the experience was a weekend of challenges that were designed to test candidates completely and thoroughly, causing inward reflection amidst irksome tasks.

If you were asked the first word that came to your mind after your Ordeal, "fun" would probably not be it. However, through growth and continued dedication in the Order, many more exciting opportunities presented themselves. Not long after an Ordeal, most Arrowmen will come to find the Order of the Arrow to be not just a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, but also a fun and exciting Boy Scout program.

There are many ways that a lodge can capture this spirit of jubilation and relaxation through its own functions; a lodge fellowship is the perfect way to boost membership, build the bonds of brotherhood within your lodge, and promote future OA events.

Netopolis Sipo Schipinachk Lodge recently held their Spring Fellowship at

Worth Ranch in Palo Pinto, Texas. This annual event dating back to 2003 has been a great way for the Longhorn Council lodge to get members hyped up about the OA and future possibilities.

One unique feature of Netopolis' fellowship is its flexibility – rather than constricting the same weekend every year at the same location, the lodge leadership adds a touch of spontaneity and unpredictability to it, further increasing the excitement. Their fellowship, while always centered on brotherhood and fun, can be held either in the spring or fall. Additionally, the location cycles through the three major camps in the Longhorn Council, ensuring that Arrowmen who attended the previous year's fellowship get a new perspective and a new camp to explore.

Netopolis' leadership developed and appointed key youth and advisers to a fellowship committee and got to work in October of 2011. Before long, they were already dreaming up ideas and out-of-the-box techniques to make the 2012 spring fellowship stand out. They effectively backdated and also used a positive lodge-council relationship to get equipment for

rifle/shotgun shooting as well as archery and rock climbing. These fun activities were in place, but the committee didn't stop there!

They created promotional materials such as a flyer that was released in January 2012 and distributed to the council service centers, Scout shops, and online on social media networks. A "western" theme was set, and activities such as quick draw and roping were added.

With the LEC's approval, 2012 Southern Region Chief David Joyner was invited to attend and experienced the fellowship for himself. One of the fellowship highlights for David was riding a mechanical bull in full cowboy chaps and all as Netopolis members cheered him on. "This was probably the first lodge 'fun fellowship' that I've been to which was actually centered around having fun," Joyner recalled. "You could tell it got people excited about the OA and made them want to come back."

While the activities and guest experience all added to the enjoyment of the fellowship, other aspects also stuck out as productive and helped the lodge grow. The LEC decided that an American



Southern Region Chief David Joyner getting ready for his wild west ride.

Indian focus was important to draw out in the fellowship, so morning training classes were blocked into areas such as drumming, singing, ceremonies, and a particularly popular session on making regalia.

Saturday afternoon, an opportunity was given to eligible members to seal their membership in Brotherhood, furthering the lodge's progress towards their Journey to Excellence goals.

Lodge Chief Andrew Busby remarked on the success of the fellowship with hopes for an even better event next year, saying "The lodge's leadership felt that

our fellowship really brought us together. We really promoted the side of the OA that was fun, relaxing, and allowed Arrowmen to have a great time."

Does your lodge run its own "fun fellowship" or an event just focused on having a good time? If not, look into it – it can be the boost you need to rally membership and spur enthusiasm.

If you already run a fellowship, take note from ideas that Netopolis Sipo Schipinachk Lodge brought to the table this year. Make your fellowship shine, and your lodge will reflect that light through its future adventures and actions.