New national leadership ready for great year

By ROBERT MASON
Program and Events Editor

Dallas, Texas has been the home of the National Planning Meeting for two decades now, as well as the election site of the Order’s national officers.

Each year, just as holiday festivities are winding down, section chiefs from across the country travel to the BSA Training Center in Westlake, Texas, for four days of fellowship, training, and to plan the national program of emphasis for the coming year.

Unique to this year’s meeting was the Train-the-Trainer instructor seminar. New section leaders were brought in for a training course on effective instruction and facilitation of the National Leadership Seminar.

The opening dinner was highlighted by keynote speaker, Bob Mazzuca. Since the fall of 2007, Mazzuca has served as the Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. In his address, he thanked the Order for its involvement with the ArrowCorps® Project and for Arrowmen being “positive role models” at a time when they are so desperately needed.

Saturday evening was the designated time for the election of the national chief and vice chief. In 2009, we will be guided by two outstanding Arrowmen from St. Louis and New York, respectively.

Following an early breakfast Sunday morning, the regional elections were conducted. Once the business of electing national leadership was completed, the meeting moved on to planning the upcoming national conference. Each section chief was assigned a committee and given the opportunity to assume key leadership roles.

The duration of the planning meeting was spent in committees working on the different aspects of NOAC under the direction of the national chief and vice chief.

Veteran national OA committeeman Del Loder gave the closing challenge. He spoke on the powerful delivery that “The Power of One” theme will have on the coming national conference.

Loder, a contemporary of Urner Goodman, entertained and challenged the section chiefs in the room with stories from previous conferences and national meetings. He see ELECTION, page 2.

National conference to focus on the power of one

By PHIL RAINE
National Events Promotions Team

The 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is all about you! That’s right, you. Not just you, but the power you have to make a difference in the world.

For the first time, NOAC will be driven by a theme. Going beyond just having a slogan that looks good on a patch, this NOAC is focused on the “Power of One,” the impact that one person, one group, or one organization can have on the world around them.

Arrowmen attending NOAC can expect to learn how they have made an impact, about others who have been influential, and how Arrowmen can continue to make a difference in the world. With this focus comes several new programs.

One of the new programs, derived from the success of the ArrowCorps® project, is the Arrowman Conservation School. The ACS is a specifically designed training track that will provide lodge and section-level youth officers with the knowledge and training to develop and execute a local ArrowCorps® type project.

Some of the traditional NOAC programs are getting in on the action by adding new activities related to the “Power of One.” The OA Museum will focus attention on some of Scouting’s greatest leaders, while allowing individual Arrowmen to record their personal OA history in the museum collection. Training has been revamped to focus on the individual needs of Arrowmen. “Your Training Experience” is a personalized track created for each Arrowman, rather than a collection of cells.

see NOAC, page 5
O’Neill, Higham elected

ELECTION
Continued from page 1

Jack is currently a sophomore at the University of Missouri. When not doing Scouting activities, he can be found playing tennis, baseball, flag football, or hanging out with friends. Jack is a huge Duke basketball fan and loves the St. Louis Cardinals.

Following his election, Jack’s initial thoughts were “...overwhelmed with joy and excitement. I am looking forward to working with all of the section chiefs on the planning process of the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Coming off a very successful summer, I want to further the idea of conservation through the legacy of ArrowCorps.”

The 2009 national vice chief is Dan Higham from Vestal, N.Y. He is a Vigil Honor recipient of Otahagon Lodge and is registered with the Baden-Powell Council.

National Updates
purchase great recognition items and gifts. Click on the National Endowment page to review the selection of coins, figurines and prints.

Fill-able OA Forms online
OA forms are available on oabsa.org that include text fields that allow them to be filled out online. Forms include high adventure applications, national award applications, the Vigil Honor petition, and the Distinguished Service Award nomination form.

2008 Quality Lodge Pins
Pins are now available for ordering. Lodges may purchase pins for $1.50 each. The order form is available in the 2009 Program Support Pak. Visit oabsa.org for more information.

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The National Bulletin is published quarterly. If you have an article and/or photo (with caption) for submission, please e-mail it to Mark Hendricks at mphendricks@gmail.com. Alternatively, submissions may be mailed to: Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015.

Mark Hendricks
Copy Editor

Jeffrey St. Cyr
Layout Editor

Robert Mason
Program/Events Editor

James Tarbox
People/Recognition Editor

John Kondziolka
Features Editor

Jack Wellman
Local Issues Editor

Clyde Mayer
Associate National Director

Brad Haddock
National Director

Carey Miller

2009 National Officer Directory

National Chief
Jack O’Neill
St. Louis, Missouri
jackoneill89@gmail.com

National Vice Chief
Dan Higham
Vestal, New York
dhingham@oswego.edu

Central Region Chief
Michael Beckman
Cincinnati, Ohio
chief@central.oa-bsa.org

Southern Region Chief
Mark Norris
Mobile, Alabama
chief@southern.oa-bsa.org

Northeast Region Chief
Ryan Hay
Springfield, Virginia
chief@northeast.oa-bsa.org

Western Region Chief
David Harrell
Fort Collins, Colorado
davidharrell89@yahoo.com

2009 National Planning Calendar

March
9-13 Philbreak Week 1, Philmont Scout Reservation
13-15 NLS, Phoenix, AZ
16-20 Philbreak Week 2, Philmont Scout Reservation
27-29 NLS/NLATS, Alpine, NJ
NLS/NLATS, Ashville, NC

April
24-26 NLS, High Ridge, MO

May
1 Camp Promotion Packets Available
1-3 NLS, Freedom, NY
20 National OA Committee Meeting
20-22 BSA National Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
31 Final NOAC Fees Due

June
2 OA Ocean Adventure Begins
7-13 OA Adviser Training, Philmont Training Center
8 Philmont OA Trail Crew Begins
10 Northern Tier OA Voyage Begins
30 OA Service Grant Application Distributed

July
19 OA Ocean Adventure Ends
27 OA Trail Crew Ends
28 NOAC Staff Arrives
29 Northern Tier OA Voyage Ends

August
1-6 National Order of the Arrow Conference, Bloomington, IN

September
11-13 SOS, Mobile, AL
25-27 NLS/NLATS, Alpine, NJ

October
1 OA Charter Renewal Kits Distributed
9-11 NLS, Denver, CO
12-14 BSA national meetings, Dallas, TX
23-25 SOS, Tempe, AZ
NLS, Dayton, OH

November
6-8 NLS/NLATS, Parkville, MO
SOS, Alpine, NJ
NLS/NLATS, Covington, GA
20-22 NLS/NLATS, Portland, OR
SOS, Islamorada, FL (Central Region)

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

Multicultural Markets replaces Scoutrace
OA mentoring will continue to serve with the Multicultural Markets Team. Visit scouting.org/MultiCultural.aspx for more information.

Online OA Trading Post
Click on the OA Trading Post banner on the home page of the OA Web site to see antiques, figurines and prints.

2009 National Notes
page of the OA Web site to view more information.
Canadian Odyssey unveiled

Online at www.adventure.oa-bsa.org

By DAVE NGUYEN
OA High Adventure

Throughout the last 14 years, the Order of the Arrow High Adventure programs have provided thousands of Arrowmen with the opportunity to participate in an adventure of a lifetime. It is through this adventure that Arrowmen can provide meaningful service at each of the BSA’s premier high-adventure bases.

From the coral reef restoration and ocean-based cleanup projects at the Florida Sea Base’s Ocean Adventure, to the portage trail building in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota during the OA Wilderness Voyage, and through the countless conservation projects and trail building at Philmont Scout Ranch’s OA Trail Crew, the OA High-Adventure programs and their participants have carried on the ideas of cheerful service that our Order was founded upon.

The ArrowCorps project built on the success of the high-adventure programs. In 2008, the Order had more than 3,600 Arrowmen come together in the largest series of service projects to our public lands since World War II. Continuing in the spirit of giving back to others, the Order of the Arrow has announced the expansion of the Northern Tier High-Adventure program, OA Canadian Odyssey at Donald Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Canada.

This two-week journey will allow Arrowmen to explore the Quetico Provincial Park, learn the fundamentals of portage trail building and reinforce the fundamentals of good Scout camping.

The Quetico Provincial Park is adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. Similar to the OA Trail Crew and Wilderness Voyage, the first week of the program will be spent practicing trail conservation techniques. The second week will be a “crew designed” trek through this pristine wilderness. This summer, the OA Canadian Odyssey will conduct four sessions of seven Arrowmen each for a total of 28 select slots for this new adventure.

Interest in the OA’s High-Adventure programs is greater than ever and only a limited number of slots remain. Several OA high adventure programs are already full for this summer.

If you are between the ages of 16 and 20 and are interested in one or more of these dynamic programs, you can find information about these high-adventure programs as well as promotional materials by visiting www.adventure.oa-bsa.org. Start planning now for 2010. New applications will be posted by July 1, 2009.

I’ve heard there’s been a change in the OA Scoutreach Mentoring program. What’s up?

Burning Issues

There has in fact been a significant change. As of December 31st of last year, OA Scoutreach Mentoring as we knew it ended. The BSA’s new Multicultural Markets Department have sent recognition items to all OA Scoutreach Mentors whose applications were received before this date. The Multicultural Markets Team will continue to serve urban and rural units. Arrowmen are encouraged to continue in their “OA Mentoring” efforts (without the word Scoutreach) as another form of cheerful service.

Send your Burning Issues to Editor in Chief Mark Hendricks at mphendricks@gmail.com.

Chiefly Speaking

Brothers,

It is truly a privilege to serve as your national chief. I accept this honor with enthusiasm and humility. Along with the other national officers, I am grateful for the opportunity. My expectations for the upcoming year are very high, and I am certain that it will be a year to remember in the history of the Order of the Arrow.

The first week of August will bring many of us together for the 2009 National Order of the Arrow Conference in Bloomington, Indiana. To say that every Arrowman attending NOAC will leave with unforgettable memories is an understatement.

The conference committee is developing a great event with innovative training, new activities, and sporting competitions, as well as creative, stadium-style shows. The theme for the conference is, “The Power of One.” Truly as individuals have great potential. This year, I look forward to seeing what you can accomplish. What mark will you leave?

I challenge each of you to take advantage of the numerous opportunities that our Order has to offer, including OA programs at all three high-adventure bases this summer and our new addition to the Wilderness Voyage treks—OA Canadian Odyssey. This event is the first international service project that the Order of the Arrow has ever attempted. Arrowmen will travel across the Canadian border to Don Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Canada, to give cheerful service abroad.

I look forward to meeting countless Arrowmen in the coming year at section and lodge events, on the trails of Philmont Scout Ranch, paddling the pristine lake waters of Minnesota, or at the end of summer at Indiana University. In 2009, let us show the nation just how much an Arrowman can accomplish through “The Power of One.”

I remain yours in the

Jack O’Neill
2009 National Chief

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I remain yours in the

Jack O’Neill
2009 National Chief
Regions Chiefs inspired to lead, make an impact

Central Region Chief
Michael Beckman

Michael is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a Vigil Honor recipient of Ku-Ni-Eh Lodge of the Dan Beard Council. In 2008, he served as the C-4B section chief and as an active Eagle Scout in Troop 145 of Cincinnati. Michael currently attends the College of Mount Saint Joseph with plans to major in graphic design. He has attended NOAC, OA Wilderness Voyage, OA Ocean Adventure, the Section Officer Seminar, and the National Leadership Seminar. His personal hobbies include bowling, baseball, playing computer games, and doing artwork.

Northeast Region Chief
Ryan Hay

Hailing from Bethlehem, Pa., Ryan is a Vigil Honor recipient in the Wituachusom Lodge of The Minis Trails Council. Until his election as region chief, Ryan was chief of Section NE-5B. He has attended the National Leadership Seminar, NOAC, Section Officer Seminar, and the National Conservation and Leadership Summit in 2007. Ryan is enrolled at DeSales University with the goal of graduating in 2012. His hobbies include rappelling, firefighting/EMS, football, camping, and backpacking. When asked about his initial thoughts, Ryan said, “I am honored to be able to serve my brothers in the Northeast Region. I am looking forward to an awesome year as region chief.”

Southern Region Chief
Mark Norris

Mark is a resident of Mobile, Ala., and member of the Mobile Area Council. He just finished two years of service as the S-1B section chief, and is a Vigil Honor recipient of Woa Cholena Lodge. Mark attends the University of South Alabama with plans to major in engineering.

During his time in the Order, he has attended NOAC, OA Trail Crew, NLS, Section Officer Seminar, and served on the Instructor Corps at ArrowCorps this past summer. His personal interests include canoeing, golfing, and playing disc golf.

Western Region Chief
David Harrell

David is the former section chief of W-5 and a student at Colorado State University. He is a Vigil Honor recipient in Kola Lodge of the Longs Peak Council. He has attended NOAC, the National Leadership Seminar, OA Service Corps at the 2005 Jamboree, Section Officer Seminar, and ArrowCorps. When not Scouting, David enjoys basketball, political discussions, friends, and watching the Denver Broncos.

When asked about the upcoming year, David said, “I’m proud, humbled, overwhelmed, and excited all at once. I can’t wait to get started making an impact.”

National OA Service grant recipients announced

The Order of the Arrow was founded on four principles, one of which is to “crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.”

With this idea in mind, the Order of the Arrow established the National Service Grant program in 1995. Lodges apply to receive funding in order to complete projects at their council properties.

This year, $40,000 has been awarded through the grant program and the recipients are:

Achewon Nimat Lodge, San Francisco Bay Area Council received $2390 for the construction of a mountain-biking trail and to purchase two new mountain bikes for camp.

Kidi-Kidish Lodge, Coronado Area Council received $5000 to complete a 2.5 mile hiking and biking trail and improve an area of camp for fishing access in order to offer ecology hikes, biking access, fishing outlets and other activities to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Chippewa Lodge, Clinton Valley Council received $4110 to completely restore the waterfront property area at Camp Agawam.

Wah-Sha-She Lodge, Ozark Trails Council received $5000 to build a conservation trail, fishing pond and outdoor education area.

Yah-Tay-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge, Great Southwest Council received $5000 to construct four campsite pavilions.

Colonneh Lodge, Sam Houston Area Council received $5000 for post-Hurricane Ike projects, including replacing a bridge, reconstructing seating in a chapel, and making structural repairs to several pavilions.

Awaxawae Awacha Lodge, Trapper Trails Council received $5000 to build 112 foot bridge at Camp Fife to facilitate access for additional campsites.

Es-Kaielgu Lodge, Inland Northwest Council received $5000 to construct a new BB gun range for Cub Scouts at Cowles Scout Reservation.

Hornaday awards to ArrowCorps IC’s

By JAMES TARBOX
People and Recognition Editor

ArrowCorps was a highly successful service project completed in the summer of 2008 at five national forests across the United States. The projects themselves were the culmination of years of planning and hard work. Each site had a member of the National Order of the Arrow Committee providing leadership.

Thanks to their hard work, each site was able to accomplish and exceed its weeklong goals.

In recognition of their contributions, the five Incident Commanders were awarded the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge Award. The awards were presented at the national planning meeting last December.

The recipients were:

Matt Walker—Mark Twain National Forest
Jack Hess—Manti-La Sal National Forest
Ron Bell—George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
Steve Bradley—Shasta Trinity National Forest
Dan Segersin—Bridger-Teton National Forest

The Hornaday Award
Meet the NOAC 2009 Conference Vice Chiefs

Jeffrey St. Cyr
Communications

Jeff currently serves as section chief for NE-1A and is a Vigil Honor recipient from Passaconaway Lodge of the Daniel Webster Council in New Hampshire. Jeff attends the University of New Hampshire and studies hospitality management. In addition to his responsibilities in the section, he also serves on the National Bulletin staff as layout editor.

Jake B. Knudsen
The Experience

Jake is the section chief from W-3N and a Vigil Honor recipient from Tannu Lodge of the Nevada Area Council. Jake has attended NLS, OA Trail Crew, OA Wilderness Voyage, NOAC, and SOS. Last summer, Jake served on the Instructor Corps for the ArrowCorps® Service Project. Jake hails from Reno, NV, where he studies finance at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Robert Lukowiak
Founders Day

Robert is the section chief of W-6W and a Vigil Honor recipient from Wipala Wiki Lodge of the Grand Canyon Council. He hails from Peoria, AZ, and currently attends Arizona State University where he plans to major in theatre and acting studies.

Michael Kling
Special Events

Michael is the current section chief of NE-7B and hails from Nacha Nimat Lodge of the Hudson Valley Council. Michael has served as lodge chief and section chief, and attends Monroe-Woodbury High School.

Jack Chinn
Training

Jack is the section chief of W-4N and is a member of Tosa Lodge of the Gila Bend Area Council. He has attended NLS, NOAC, OA Ocean Adventure, OA Trail Crew, and ArrowCorps®. Jack hails from Simi Valley, Calif., and studies fire technology at Oxnard College.

Dylan Ellsworth
Chief’s Corps

As the section chief of W-2N and a Vigil Honor recipient from Shunkah Mahneetu Lodge of the Grand Teton Council, Dylan has attended NLS and ArrowCorps®, and has served as lodge chief. He hails from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and attends Skyline High School.

Taylor Clark
Inductions and Ceremonial Events

Taylor is the section chief of SR-6, a member of Pellissippi Lodge of the Great Smoky Mountain Council, and a recipient of the Vigil Honor. He has attended NOAC, NCLS, NLS, and is a member of the Pellissippi drum team. Taylor hails from Knoxville, TN, and studies at Pellissippi State Community College majoring in business administration.

Fred Gross
Outdoor Adventure

Fred comes to NOAC as section chief of W-66 and is a Vigil Honor recipient of Yah-Tah-Hey-St-Kess Lodge of the Great Southwest Council. He has attended OA Trail Crew, NLS, and the Section Officer Seminar. Fred is from Santa Fe, NM, and studies outdoor leadership at Western State College in Colorado.

James Tarbox
Shows

James is the section chief of SR-9. He is a Vigil Honor recipient of Coosa Lodge of the Greater Alabama Council and has attended NLS, NOAC, ArrowCorps®, and SOS. James is from Hoover, AL, where he attends the University of Alabama majoring in political science. In addition, James serves as an editor on the National Bulletin staff.

NOAC 2009 patch design winners announced

At the national planning meeting, the section chiefs of the Order of the Arrow gathered to decide the winner of the NOAC Patch Design Contest.

From the numerous submissions received last November and December, they decided that it was a tie! The three winning designers are: Matthew S. of Octoraro Lodge, West Chester, PA; Michael D. of Chippewa Lodge, Waterford, MI; and Steven V. of Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge, West Palm Beach, FL.

Elements of two different designs were combined to create the 2009 patch. A third design was chosen to be featured on NOAC merchandise at the NOAC trading post.

Because there were three winning designs, it was decided that all three designers would receive a $100 credit at the NOAC trading post, as well as a skybox seat at a NOAC show.

Congratulations to our winners, and thanks to all who submitted entries.

Top 10 Reasons to get excited about the 2009 National Conference

1. The first-ever theme driven conference—feel “The Power of One!”
2. The return of ceremonies competitions
3. A pre-conference Trade-O-Ree (Wednesday through Saturday)
4. The new Arrowman Conservation School, bringing ArrowCorps® to your lodge
5. Exciting and entertaining NOAC shows
6. Live on the IU campus for a week
7. The bus/car/plane/train ride there—and sleeping on the way back
8. There won’t be another one until 2012
9. A chance to meet the 2009 national officers
10. You, and 7500 of your brothers, having the time of your life

In action: St. Cyr heads to N.H. State House

Jeffrey St. Cyr

By BRENDAN BERTAGNOLL
Passaconnaway Lodge

For 20-year-old Section NE-1A Chief Jeffrey St. Cyr, Nov. 4, 2008, marked the fifth time he has ever exercised his 26th Amendment right; but also the second time he was able to select his own name on the ballot.

In March of 2007, while still a senior in high school, Jeff was elected to the local school board, which he now chairs, making him the youngest member ever elected to that board. Jeff’s enthusiasm for local politics led him to run for state representative and last November he became the New Hampshire State Representative for District 5 of Belknap County.

“Scouting has taught me about leadership and what it means to be a servant leader.”

— Jeffrey St. Cyr

In the capital, Jeff serves on the Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee and is already utilizing his experience in introducing a bill to require non-voting student representation on local school boards in New Hampshire. The intent behind this bill is to increase civic responsibility within high school students.

“There are many ways for young people to get involved in local and state politics. Each decision a school board or city council makes has an effect on each citizen within the community,” Jeff said.

Jeff is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, and serves as an assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 53 in his hometown of Alton, N.H. He is the former Lodge Chief of Passaconnaway Lodge and is in his second term as Section Chief. Jeff served on the ArrowCorps staff last summer and will serve as the CVC for Communications at the 2009 NOAC.

“Scouting provided me with the basis for . . . my local political involvement. Scouting has also taught me about leadership and what it means to be a servant leader.” Jeff’s story should resonate with Arrowmen everywhere and serve as further inspiration to become more involved in the direction of our communities and nation.

Jeffrey St. Cyr
serve as further inspiration to become more involved in the direction of our communities and nation.

Editor’s note: Send your Arrowmen in Action story to Editor in Chief Mark Hendricks

in Statesville, N.C.

Editor in Chief Mark Hendricks

Arrowmen serve at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration

By PATRICK ROONEY
2008 Northeast Region Chief

Ever since the first inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson in 1913, the Boy Scouts of America has played a major role in the support of the swearing-in of our nation’s commander-in-chief.

The 2009 Inauguration of President Barack Obama saw a continuation of this tradition. Approximately 200 Scouts and Scouters from the National Capital Area Council, along with Girl Scouts from the nation’s capital, turned out on the cold morning of Jan. 20, 2009, to support the event. Of the 200 present, roughly 50 were members of Amangamek-Wipit Lodge 470.

Alongside selected Boy and Girl Scout troops, crews, and teams, Lodge 470’s volunteers (uniformed in distinctive blue cap and red tunic) distributed several hundred-thousand U.S. flags, provided directions and rendered needed assistance to many of the nearly 2,000,000 visitors present on the National Mall.

The work started at 4 a.m. and didn’t end until nearly 2 p.m. following the swearing-in ceremony and the President’s Inaugural address.

By the time the group respectfully collected discarded flags amid all the blankets, clothing, and blowing trash left behind, all of the Arrowmen present knew that their cheerful service had made a difference. Amangamek-Wipit was happy to host the many guests from across the nation for the event, including past and present national officers Jack O’Neill (2009 national chief), Jake Wellman (2008 national chief), Patrick Rooney (2008 Northeast Region chief), and Don Hough (2007 Central Region chief).

Carolinias Indian Seminar celebrates 25th anniversary

By PETER MCANULTY
Section S5 Vice Chief

The Carolinas Indian Seminar is one of the largest Order of the Arrow-sponsored pow wows in the nation. It has grown from its small beginnings to an event with three days of activities, fellowship, and hands-on training.

The participants range from Cub Scouts and adult Scouters. Many have attended every year since the event’s official inception.

Throughout the seminar, nationally renowned instructors, who are also popular at the National Order of the Arrow Conference, teach on various aspects of Native American culture. The classes that are taught include all levels of skill from singing and dancing to the construction of ceremony regalia.

The Carolinas Indian Seminar is held annually the weekend after Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Mitchell Community College in Statesville, N.C.
Scouting inspires lifetime of conservation

By PAUL JENSEN
2005 Central Region Chief

Nature isn’t simply a hobby for Howard Kern, an Eagle Scout and section adviser for W-4N—it’s a mission to conserve the environment he’s enjoyed all his life. It would seem rare today to find corporate finance managers interested in environmental issues, however these anomalies do occur. Originally from Hemet, Calif., Howard’s troop as a young Scout had held progressive views on conservation in the 1970s, and practiced a set of outdoor ethics eventually incorporated into the principles of Leave No Trace.

After graduating from college, Howard joined the conservation organization Trout Unlimited and currently volunteers as the project coordinator for the Golden Trout Restoration Project, a collaboration of government and volunteer conservation groups aimed at protecting and restoring the California Golden Trout, California’s state fish.

Howard’s continued involvement with conservation groups on the local, regional, and national levels led him back to the BSA and, eventually, the OA. While he still finds time to go backpacking with his Scouting brothers, most of his recent work focuses on conservation education, with projects ranging from the new fly fishing merit badge to the upcoming Arrowman Conservation School (at NOAC this summer).

When asked about the major issues facing the environment today, Howard replied, “People need to become aware of what really can be done. They need confidence in their skills and their ability to make a positive change. Scouting does this so well; it gives young men the opportunity to improve their world.”

Howard has received numerous awards recognizing his conservation efforts, including the William T. Hornaday Gold Badge (presented by the Ventura County Council, BSA), the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics’ National Volunteer of the Year (2008), and designation as one of Field and Stream magazine’s 2009 “Heroes of Conservation.”

The perfect ceremony - memorization is key

By DEL LODER
Founder’s Advisory Council

Many ideas have been proposed regarding changes to the Order’s ceremonies over the last several years. A concerned member once came to me with a suggestion to help the principals deliver the ceremonies; his idea was to equip each principal with ear buds concealed under a headaddress leading to an audiotape clipped to his belt. Clearly, this was not a good idea.

The tape would contain the ceremony verbatim and would be turned on at the start of the ceremony. The principal would then repeat, without error, the text. This would eliminate the tedious work of memorizing the ceremony and ensure the “perfect” delivery each time.

He did not realize the delay involved between hearing a line of text and repeating it—the result would be complete confusion. I thanked him, and after some time, told him that we had found his suggestion fraught with problems. Later he came back to me with another idea to avoid the memorization problem.

This time he suggested we drop the spoken text completely and have the four principals learn American Indian sign language. This would make the delivery easy for the principals as well as acquaint new candidates with Indian sign language. Several problems would manifest with this idea as well. I thanked the colleague and hoped he would continue to think up usable ideas.

The memory work needed for accurate and dynamic delivery of the ceremonies is easily obtained through frequent reading of the text among the four principles before starting memorization. After familiarization with text and movement they can begin to commit the lines to memory in easy stages. The more you use your memorizing skill the better you will become. All OA ceremonies should be delivered from memory and never read out of a pamphlet. Urner Goodman and Carroll Edson delivered the first ceremonies of the Wamachtendienk entirely from memory.

Urner went on to become the National BSA Director of Program and was frequently called upon to deliver speeches to professional as well as volunteer audiences. All of his speeches were delivered from memory. It was a skill he perfected; a skill that we, too, should aspire to perfect.

Where are they now? ‘95 National Chief

By JAMES TARBOX
People and Recognitions Editor

Inducted to the Order in 1988, Josh Feigelson became a member of Allohak Lodge of the Wolverine Council where he later served as lodge chief, two-term section chief of C-2A, CVC of Publications at the 1994 NOAC, and the 1995 national chief of the Order of the Arrow.

Following his term as national chief, Josh graduated from Yale University in 1998 before moving to Israel for a year. He returned to the United States and enrolled at YCT Rabbinical School in New York City and became an ordained rabbi in 2005.

Josh now serves as campus rabbi and senior director of educational initiatives at Northwestern University Hillel, an organization that brings Judaism to campus life. On campus, Josh started an initiative called “Ask Big Questions.” The objective is to help create an online environment where questions of ultimate concern can be discussed and explored. Ask Big Questions is hosted on the Web at www.askbigquestions.com.

Josh has remained active in Scouting and has served on multiple NOAC staffs, in addition to playing an integral role in developing the National Council of Chiefs at the 1998 conference. Of his time in Scouting and as national chief, Josh revealed that these experiences “taught me how to learn from others. I learned that everybody has something valuable to share.”

Present - The Feigelson Family - Jonah, Natalie, Mica, and Josh
National Conference
August 1-6, 2009
Indiana University

Online at www.event.oa-bsa.org