Do You Have an OA Troop/Team Representative?

It's now official: The Order of the Arrow troop representative has been approved as a youth leadership position in the troop. This Scout serves as a youth liaison between the troop and the local lodge. In his troop, he serves as a communicative link to the Arrowmen and adult leaders and Scouts who are not OA members. He does this in a fashion that strengthens the mission of the lodge and purpose of the Order. By setting a good example, he enhances the image of the Order as a service arm to his troop. The troop representative:

- Must be under 18 years of age
- Must be an OA member in good standing
- Is appointed by the senior patrol leader with the Scoutmaster's approval
- Reports to the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Serves as a communication link between the lodge or chapter and the troop
- Encourages year-round and resident camping in the troop
- Encourages older-Scout participation in high-adventure programs
- Encourages Scouts to actively participate in community service projects
- Assists with leadership skills training in the troop
- Encourages Arrowmen to assume leadership positions in the troop
- Encourages Arrowmen in the troop to be active participants in lodge and/or chapter activities and to seal their membership in the Order by becoming Brotherhood members
- Sets a good example
- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly
- Lives by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and OA Obligation
- Shows Scout spirit
- By implementing the troop representative program, lodges can expect to see participation by Arrowmen increase and higher brotherhood conversion rates. This new role will also increase the opportunities for youth Arrowmen to stay active in the OA and to continue providing leadership and service in their troops. Scouts may use this new position to meet the leadership requirements for the Star, Life, or Eagle ranks.

The 1999 OA Voyage

Answering the Call of Service

by Timothy Babb and Hansen Wendlandt

On July 4, 1999, Minnesota's greatest storm in more than 58 years devastated the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the most heavily used wilderness region in the United States. The awesome gale possessed winds near 100 mph, damaged millions of trees, and completely leveled a quarter million acres of lush forest.

When skies cleared, immediate attention was focused on the reconstruction of damaged campsites and impassable portage trails by participants of the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage. By chance, this overwhelming demand for help coincided with the inaugural summer of the voyage, which is stationed at the Charles L. Sommers High Adventure Base. Under the leadership of voyage director Jason Accola and assistant voyage directors Aaron Seier and David Yoder, more than 80 participants from throughout the country went on two-week adventures into the wild. With a staff of 16, including 12 OA voyage foremen, the trail crews completed work on six portage trails and more than 12 campsites for a total of more than 5,000 hours of unselfishness service to the BWCA. Each OA voyage crew traveled more than 50 miles by canoe. Arrowmen received training in low-impact camping, wilderness etiquette, and high-adventure canoeing throughout their two-week session. You, too, can participate in the adventure of a lifetime. Applications are already being accepted for the OA Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage in summer 2000. To obtain an application, contact the national Order of the Arrow office at (972) 580-2438.

NOAC 2000 Extended!

by Chris Sandrock

July 29, 2000, to August 3, 2000; just six simple days, only five Tennessee nights, but the experience will turn into memories that will be with you for a lifetime. The National Order of the Arrow Conference, or NOAC for short, is an international gathering of Arrowman for days of fellowship, training and fun. In 2000, the conference will return for the third time to the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville. This millennium NOAC will be developed at the upcoming national planning meeting in December. For the first time, the conference will start on Saturday to allow one additional day of fun and fellowship. The National Bulletin will keep you informed of all the details as the conference starts to take shape. In November, the national office will mail NOAC reservation kits to every lodge. Mark your calendar and start making plans to attend.

Ayers Hall at the University of Tennessee
**Central Region**
**Region Chief Aaron Kreager**

The Central Region has held three National Leadership Seminars since the beginning of this year, two in Indiana (January and April) and a weeklong seminar at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. All three seminars had great participants and staff members, which helped to make each seminar a success. The Central Region will hold one more seminar this year in Nebraska.

Several Central Region sections have already held their 1999 conclaves and elected new officers. Newly elected section chiefs include Lyle Lash (C 2A), Tim Flintoff (C 2B); David Yoder (relected to C 4A); Chris Sandrock (C 5A); and Shawn Jeffers (C 0B). Congratulations to all of the new section officers, and thank you to all the past officers for their service during the past year.

As many of you already know, this year’s recipients of the Quality Lodge Award were recently announced, and 51 of the region’s 86 lodges achieved Quality Lodge status. In addition, more than 80 percent of our lodges grew in membership over the last year. Keep up the good work in an effort to improve on these great accomplishments throughout 1999.

In the upcoming months many new and exciting things will happen in the Central Region. The next edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Compass, will be out soon and a new and improved Web site will be unveiled.

Aaron Kreager’s e-mail address: akreager@dad.umn.edu

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**Northeast Region**
**Region Chief Ken Jenkins**

Outstanding. There is no better adjective to describe the first half of 1999 for the Northeast Region. From the region to the sections to the individual lodges and chapters, the Order of the Arrow has been successful at all levels. Forty of the region’s 86 lodges achieved Quality Lodge status for 1998, while nine of 11 sections earned the Quality Section Award.

The Northeast Region has been contributing to this success in a variety of ways. The region has continued its quality quarterly newsletter, The Visionary, with the expertise of editor Mike George. The Northeast Region has also established its official home on the Web, thanks to Webmaster Sage Lichtenwalner. Drop in and check it out at: www.physics.rutgers.edu/~csage/ner

To top it off, two National Leadership Seminars were held in the Northeast Region. More than 120 Arrowmen an opportunity to participate in the best training program offered by the BSA.

In the remaining six months of 1999, the Northeast Region plans to improve upon what it has already begun. What would be the best adjective to use for the rest of 1999? Phenomenal.

Ken Jenkins’s e-mail address: kjen9202@postoffice.uri.edu

**Southern Region**
**Region Chief John Isley**

The Southern Region has had a very busy year. At the planning meeting last December, Will Parker was elected national chief and John Isley, Southern Region chief. Kyle Wingfield serves as the editor for The Voice, the Southern Region newsletter. We have published two issues, which have been distributed to lodge and section Key 3s throughout the Southern Region.

Work has begun on the Southern Region One Day program of service. Dave Heaton is chairing this event and has been working hard. We made a pamphlet about One Day that has been sent to all section Key 3s. Sections were asked to promote the event at their conclaves. We are looking forward to November, when we will carry out the service.

Last January, we sent delegates to a train-the-trainer session held at the Florida Sea Base. This has been helpful as we prepare for our National Leadership Seminars in the fall. We are now finalizing staff positions and preparing for the best NLSS ever held.

Conclaves in the Southern Region this spring were great! Eleven of our 12 sections held their events in April. All were full of exciting spirit and stellar training.

This fall promises to be as exciting as the first half of the year. The organization is shaping up for this year’s region gathering, which will be held in September in the Atlanta area. This event will help build the nucleus of our region for the future. We will have training and fun for the leaders of the Southern Region. All section officers in the Southern Region are invited. Plans are in the works for the remainder of 1999.

John Isley’s e-mail address: johnj@hotmail.com

**Western Region**
**Region Chief Hayato Nakawatase**

The Western Region had an awesome first half of 1999. All the conclaves have been huge successes. At the National Leadership Seminar in Whittier, California, Arrowmen from around Southern California attended and learned how to lead others. Also, the BSA National Annual Meeting was held in sunny San Diego, California, in May.

Looking back on the first half of the year, the Western Region can be very proud that it has continued the quality programs and its emphasis on youth leadership. Our June National Leadership Seminar at Philmont Training Center was well-attended. We look forward to an equally exciting second half!

Hayato Nakawatase’s e-mail address: hydromint@aol.com

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**Arrowmen Gather at National BSA Meeting**
**by Aaron Kreager**

In late May 1999, the Boy Scouts of America held its National Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. Hundreds of professional Scouters and volunteers from throughout the country gathered for training sessions, awards and recognition banquets, and committee meetings.

Our national officers represented the OA there and served as official youth representatives at various events. In addition to participating in banquets and awards ceremonies, National Chief Will Parker and National Vice Chief Andy Oh attended meetings of the National Executive Board and national Advancement subcommittee. Region chiefs John Isley and Hayato Nakawatase each spoke at the Duty to God breakfast in front of more than 800 people, and Ken Jenkins and Aaron Kreager participated in the council Key 3 meeting.

The national OA committee received word that the new troop representative position had been approved by the Boy Scout Division as an official youth leadership position. The committee approved the new Quality Lodge requirements for the year 2000 and the new Lodge Leadership Development Course that will include an exciting interactive CD-ROM. The national OA committee also welcomed several new members—Nathan Rosenberg, Max Sassen, and Bruce Walcutt.

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**Wapashuwi Lodge’s Neatoka Chapter**

Painesville, Ohio, provides year-round community service at the Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown, Ohio. Recently, members served as ushers at an Oak Ridge Boys concert and had the opportunity to meet members of the group.


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**Shenandoah Lodge of Waynesboro, Virginia, took a new approach to training lodge leaders by tying each session with popular TV shows. Between sessions, members battled each other in game shows with an OA twist. Former National Vice Chief filled in as hostess Vanna White, while former Southern Region Chief Mark Angeli served as the “matchmaker.”**

Web page: http://home.rica.net/loopawagon/
Dear Brothers,

As Arrowmen throughout the country receive this letter, summer will be “ripening” into autumn. Brothers everywhere will be heeding the autumnal callings to school and work—and the desire to reflect upon a summer of council Scout camp experiences, Trail Crew adventures, and induction weekends.

We hope your musings will include some thoughtful reflection on the National Leadership Summit—whether you attended or not. This event will undoubtedly go down in history as an event that “made the difference,” a turning point, if you will. The Summit, for us, was simultaneously energizing and tiring, humbling and inspiring. We had fun. The success of our Summit should not and will not be judged on the mechanics of what happened on-site in Colorado. The victory of the Summit will occur only when we have achieved the implementation of our strategic plan, and only when we have strengthened the relationships within our brotherhood.

This means that the success of the Summit depends even upon Arrowmen who did not attend the Summit. Arrowmen everywhere must assertively embrace our new vision for service.

The success of our National Leadership Summit has only begun.

Your brothers,

Will Parker
National Chief

Andy Oh
National Vice Chief

Outstanding Adventureships
90 Scouts to Receive High-Adventure Scholarships

In celebration of the BSA’s 90th anniversary and in an effort to continue its strong relationship with Scouting, the Coleman Company has committed to help fund the program fees for 90 Scouts from throughout America to attend a high-adventure experience in the year 2000.

Recipients of the 90th Anniversary Outdoor Adventureships will receive up to $375 to be applied toward the outdoor experience of their choosing. This may include Philmont Scout Ranch, the Northern Tier National High Adventure Program, the Florida Sea Base, a local council high-adventure program or Scout camp, or a unit high-adventure activity.

Order of the Arrow lodges and leadership are being asked to coordinate the selection of Scouts at the troop, team, council, and national levels. Unit youth leadership (the patrol leaders’ council) will nominate one Scout, which the unit will then forward to the local council service center by November 1, 1999, for pooling a lodge nominee. This lodge nominee will be forwarded to the national selection committee, composed of the 1999 national OA officers, for selection of the 90 Outdoor Adventureship recipients. The recipients will be notified in writing by January 10, 2000. All troop and team nominees will receive recognition from the Coleman Company.

All Scout executives received an Outdoor Adventureship packet in early August that outlined the program, provided lodge administration instructions, and Scout application and troop/team information forms. Additional Adventureship materials may be obtained from the national OA office in Irving, Texas.

The national Order of the Arrow needs every lodge’s help and support in promoting the Outdoor Adventureship program. Lodges are being asked to send a troop/team information form and a copy of the Scout information’s subcommittee addressed two objectives: increasing the visibility and awareness of all the awards, and giving Arrowmen the opportunity to make recommendations on how awards and recognitions can better serve the Order.

In response to those goals, the subcommittee produced an attractive informational brochure on the awards, mailed a survey to all lodge Key 3s before the Summit, and conducted two workshops to answer questions and gain feedback from participants after gauging their levels of understanding from the survey. The subcommittee has been working with the national Web site team to feature all awards and recognitions and their nomination forms in downloadable format shortly following the Summit.

Awards and Recognition Pamphlet Released

At the national planning meeting in December 1998, the National Leadership Summit awards and recognition’s subcommittee presented two sessions that examined two of the most pressing financial concerns of lodges and sections. The first session examined the monetary implications of the strategic plan.

Summit Attendance

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<td>Western Region</td>
<td>279</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Region</td>
<td>319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
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<td>Central Region</td>
<td>297</td>
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Questions surfaced that addressed issues like what it will cost the OA to fulfill the plan’s pledge. The second session covered how the effective use of the trading post can help place a lodge or section in a more secure financial position.

Financing Your Lodge and Section
Lodge Training for the Future

The Lodge Leadership Development Course delivers nuts-and-bolts information on lodge administration and programs. The new format utilizes a CD-ROM program to evaluate the Key 3 and lodge leadership to accurately assess the lodge’s training needs. The program then chooses from among 30 training sessions to develop a custom, prioritized training schedule for the lodge. In addition, the new course contains 12 advising guides and a comprehensive guide that helps the lodge plan an LLDC.

TNT: Today’s kNown Training

A session called “Today’s Training” took an in-depth look at the new Today’s kNown Training (TNT) matrix that illustrates the OA’s current training sessions, their objectives and intended audience. “Tomorrow’s Training” included three sessions the OA is developing: section officer training, lodge adviser training, and Boy Scout Leadership Day.

A report will be given to the training subcommittee of the national OA committee, detailing participant views and ideas on how to develop future training sessions.

2000 Quality Lodge Requirements

The Quality Lodge committee previewed the year 2000 Quality Lodge requirements and explained that these new requirements were designed to help integrate lodges as part of the local council program and to help reinforce the Order of the Arrow’s strategic plan at the local level. Quality Lodge status serves as a badge of “best in country” and acknowledges a lodge’s ability to meet the needs of local Arrowmen.

At the end of the session an enhancement survey was distributed that allowed participants to provide suggestions or examples that would help lodges achieve Quality Lodge status. The feedback from these surveys, along with information compiled by the field services subcommittee, will then be distributed as a Quality Lodge program resource book.

Selling the Plan

PowerPoint presentations. Flip charts. Stacks of handouts concerning the strategic plan. All of these items were utilized by the communications and marketing subcommittee as it imparted to participants the origination and vision of the OA strategic plan and how to sell the plan to members back home.

The committee gathered feedback on current national, regional, sectional and lodge publications. Everything from lodge newsletters to the OA Web site was discussed. Its goal is to help the national OA committee utilize this feedback to improve communication and marketing among all levels of the Order.

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“He Who Serves His Fellows...”

The service subcommittee developed a national service initiative detailing the vision of service in the OA. Participants shared ideas and helped develop the initiative during sessions entitled “Service Where It’s At, Parts I and II.” The concept will eventually be presented to the national OA committee to assist in charting the course for implementation of the strategic plan and OA service in the 21st century.

In addition to updating participants on the status of the Service to America program, the committee conducted a session on the Scoutreach mentoring program. This program, which is being developed by the BSA’s Scoutreach and Urban Emphasis Subcommittee, would involve OA members who would serve as mentors to youth in urban areas.

New OA Ceremony Books

New Order of the Arrow ceremony books for the Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor are now available from the national BSA Supply Division. These books contain new movement diagrams and additional coaching and staging instructions. The use of Elangomats in the Ordeal is now fully incorporated in the ceremony.

The new ceremony books have been printed in an 8 1/2-by-11-inch format with three-hole punch, which should make it more user friendly. All three books have also been given new covers.

When ordering the books through Supply, use the following information:
- Ceremony for the Ordeal, No. 34993A
- Ceremony for the Brotherhood, No. 34994A
- Ceremony for the Vigil Honor, No. 34043A

New OA ceremony books were displayed at the Summit.

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As part of a continuing effort to promote community service through the Service to America program, the National Bulletin is pleased to profile two lodges whose service efforts have made a significant impact on their local communities.

Last fall, the members of Quinipissa Lodge of the Istrouma Area Council, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, teamed up with weathercaster Pat Shingleton and television station WBRZ. Kean’s the Cleaners, and the Salvation Army to support “Pat’s Coats for Kids.” This yearly initiative helps provide coats for disadvantaged children throughout the Baton Rouge area.

Under the leadership of third vice chief Paul Murphy and lodge adviser Utah Cox, Arrowmen helped to label and distribute coat barrels at 19 different Keans’ locations, where the donated coats were cleaned. Lodge members later helped pick up and deliver all the donated coats to the Salvation Army, where the clean coats were sorted and distributed.

During the campaign, which lasted from October 19 to November 15, 1998, more than 5,000 coats were collected and distributed. Each night, Pat Shingleton made live broadcasts on WBRZ from the Salvation Army, giving daily coat totals and interviewing Orde of the Arrow volunteers.

This past spring, the Houmaas Chapter of Chiltantakoba Lodge, Metairie, Louisiana, completed its annual service project benefitting the Terrebonne Association of Retarded Citizens. Spearheaded by chapter chief Chris Adams and chapter adviser Dudley Stadler, Arrowmen completed more than 425 hours of community service.

During the project, which spanned several months, Arrowmen helped to paint the TARC facility, park cars during the Christmas Wonderland Celebration, and plan and host the association’s annual Fishing Rodeo.

The National Bulletin is always looking for stories about noteworthy community service projects. Please let us know about your lodge or chapter’s community service efforts and your lodge or chapter may be featured in our next issue.

Professionally Speaking: Strategic Plan
An Eye on Youth Membership Retention and Growth: Implementing the Strategic Plan

by E. Earl “Sonny” Hays

Years ago, 1960, to be exact, I served as lodge chief for Siwisni Lodge in the Los Angeles Area Council. It was a year full of challenge and opportunity to improve communications among our members, to strengthen and improve participation in lodge and chapter activities, and to always remember that our true measure of success comes in terms of youth membership served.

Almost 40 years later, as we prepare to enter the 21st century, national focus on traditional youth membership retention and growth is still our number one priority. With these thoughts in mind, I’m delighted that membership is one of the four major points outlined in the national Order of the Arrow strategic plan. Here are the points of emphasis regarding membership.

We will implement a membership growth program nationwide, helping lodges assist local councils to serve more boys.

- In conjunction with councils, we will provide resources to help lodges mount a public relations campaign conveying the many positive attributes of Scouting.
- We will develop and promote activities for use by Arrowmen to encourage more Webelos Scouts to join Boy Scout troops.
- We will pursue the addition of an OA membership field on BSA registration forms to ensure our members are registered, track their retention more effectively, and provide the opportunity for direct mail communication with them.
- If every lodge, clan, chapter, and individual member will commit to these membership objectives using the tools provided by the national Order of the Arrow, the OA will rise to a new level of importance and stature in each local council.
- I’m especially pleased with the national OA goal for every lodge to mount a public relations campaign emphasizing the many positive attributes of Scouting. Who better than the Order of the Arrow to put Scouting’s best foot forward!
- For the fourth consecutive year, our Grand Canyon Council’s Wipala Wiki Lodge has earned the designation as a National Quality Lodge. If we stop for just a moment and review the criteria required for such recognition, we can indeed be proud of this achievement and know that each major point contributed to membership retention and growth.
- Requirements include these 10 major points:
  - Our active membership continues to grow.
  - Members continue to renew with paid dues.
  - Our Brotherhood membership continues to grow with the Lodge membership.
  - We publish and distribute the lodge newsletter, The Tom-Tom, to our members.
  - Our lodge actively promotes camping and publishes a “Where to Go Camping” guide.
  - Our membership makes up the majority of the staff members at our local council summer camps.
  - We conduct quality leadership training.
  - We conduct service projects at all our meetings.
  - We conduct elections for new members with every unit that desires an election.
  - Through the Friends of Scouting program, we donate at least $1,000 per year to the local council.
  - We publish a written annual plan and budget.

In conclusion, I’m reminded once again of 1960 and my year of service as lodge chief. Mr. Karl Stamms, our lodge adviser, was an inspiration to us all and never failed to remind us that our year in office would pass by quickly. His challenge to me was to make my year in office really count and to set the bar high for those who would follow.

That’s my challenge to each of you as OA brothers: Set the bar high, elect and retain more members than ever before. If we can accomplish this singular objective the impact of the new OA strategic plan will be felt and measured for years to come. The values-based character building program of Scouting will truly make a positive difference in the lives of Scouts and Arrowmen.

Sonny Hays serves as the National Chairman of the Grand Canyon Council in Phoenix, Arizona. He is a Vigil Honor member and recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.
Nomination Deadline Set for DSA and Red Arrow Awards

by Tee Pruitt

The Order's Distinguished Service Award was created to honor Arrowmen for outstanding service on a sectional, regional and national basis. The DSA is unique because youth members, adult volunteers, and professional Scouters are all eligible for this award. Approximately 60 percent of recipients have received the award based upon their service as youth members. The Red Arrow Award was created to recognize nonmembers of the Order for outstanding contributions to the organization on a sectional, regional or national basis. These awards are presented only at NOAC.

Nominations for the DSA and Red Arrow Award must be submitted using the DSA or Red Arrow Application. These forms can be obtained from the national OA office or from the official OA Web site: http://www.oa-bsa.org. Nominations for both awards are due by February 1, 2000, to the OA director to be eligible for selection.