



OPERATIONS UPDATE

09-2

DISTRIBUTION:

- Scout Executive
- Section Chief
- National Committee
- Section Adviser
- Area Director
- Lodge Adviser

Membership Reinstatement

Frequently, OA members have let their active membership status lapse by not keeping their dues up-to-date. Many times these members still reside in their original council area and are getting back active in Scouting and the OA. Other times the member has moved to a new location and wants to become active in the lodge of their new council. We want to encourage inactive OA members to become active in Scouting and in the Order; therefore we should make it easy for them to reinstate their active membership. The national committee recommends the following dues payment reinstatement policy:

A former Order of the Arrow member, more than 18 months in arrears in paying dues, who is a member of the Boy Scouts of America in good standing, can rejoin the Order of the Arrow by paying the current year's dues to the council's OA lodge.

OA Membership Verification

In March 2005 the national OA committee announced the availability of a new ScoutNet process to verify the BSA registration of dues-paid OA members. The new capability was distributed to all councils in the February 2005 ScoutNet production release. Complete details of how to use the process were included with the announcement. In the August 2008 release of ScoutNet, the LODGE RECORD ID field has been increased from 6 to 15 numbers. This is the second field in the comma-delimited file (named **oaupload.csv**) required to submit lodge membership data to the ScoutNet verification process.

The OA Membership Verification process needs to be run several times during each calendar year. Councils renew unit and district charters at different times throughout the year to balance registration workloads. Therefore the BSA registration status of OA members will change each time a unit/district charter renewal is processed. It is important to remember that all OA members must be registered in some way in the BSA. Without BSA registration they cannot be OA members and cannot be counted or recognized in the Order.

OA LodgeMaster Membership Management System

OA LodgeMaster has now been deployed in 217 councils – that’s a little more than 72%. A new version of LodgeMaster was released this February which includes a large number of fixes for common bugs users have encountered. The installer has also been improved to avoid an installation problem some users have experienced.

The volunteer LodgeMaster team is planning a number of additional releases leading up to NOAC this summer. Both beginner and advanced user training classes will be available at NOAC, along with a support lab where the team will be available to answer all user questions.

2009 National Quality Lodge

As with the Quality Lodge Recognition Petition last year, the 2009 petition requires that the lodge Key 3 and council Scout executive jointly identify and approve five additional objectives to be accomplished during 2009. The key phrases here are: “jointly identify”, “approve” and “during 2009”. The first two of these things need to occur very early in the calendar year if the third is going to have a chance of happening by the end of 2009. The lodge Key 3 and the Scout executive must choose three objectives from the list of nine suggested on the reverse side of the form. The last two objectives can come from the same list or they can be locally developed. Time is escaping. If you haven’t had this meeting and identified your five objectives, it’s not too late. If you wait another three months it will be more difficult to accomplish and you won’t be realizing the benefit of this new direction: to accomplish things that are important to the local council.

Quality Lodge Pins

Councils with certified Quality Lodges for 2008 are eligible to purchase pins for youth and adult members of the lodge. Only the most recent pin awarded may be worn, and it must be mounted against the left vertical border of the lodge flap. The pins may be purchased for \$1.50 each from the national office.

Fill-able Forms

The following fill-able OA forms are now available at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/>

- Vigil Honor Petition.
- Founder’s Award Petition.
- Distinguished Service Award Nomination.
- E. Urner Goodman Camping Award Petition.
- National Service Award Petition.
- National Election Candidacy Petition.

Voting in the Order

OA policy related to voting on lodge matters is clearly stated in the following citations:

- *OA Handbook*, page 41, Operation of program by youth states: “Members under 21 plan and operate the program of the lodge. Members 21 and older may not vote.”
- *OA Handbook*, page 37, third paragraph states: “Each lodge (and chapter) is run by youth officers under 21 years of age. Only those younger than 21 may hold office or vote on any action.”
- *Guide for Officers and Advisers*, page 20 states: “No lodge rule, policy or procedure may deviate or change in any manner a requirement in the current printing of any of the Order’s literature.” And on the same page Lodge Rule VIII – Voting states: “Arrowmen under the age of 21 may vote in matters of the lodge business.”
- *Guide for Officers and Advisers*, page 31, Choosing Vigil Honor Candidates states: “In selecting Vigil Honor candidates, the lodge nominating committee may reach agreement through consensus, without a formal vote. However, if a vote is taken in order to select Vigil Honor candidates, only those members younger than 21 may vote, as in all OA matters.”

Youth empowerment and governance within a lodge is at the core of our Order. All voting within the lodge, not only decisions of the lodge executive committee, but also voting on any award or recognition (like the Founder’s Award etc.) must be done by only the youth members.

Lodge Resource Materials

The 2009 lodge resource materials, formerly the Lodge Resource DVD, have now been moved from the single DVD format to a special section of the national OA Website. The annual *Lodge Resource Book*, region training schedule, national calendar, *Lodge Finance Manual*, *2008-2012 Strategic Plan*, high adventure applications, and video resources are now all available on the Web.

To access these materials, please go to <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/lodge/>.

E. Urner Goodman Camping Award

The E. Urner Goodman Camping Award was established in 1969 as a tribute and testimonial to the Order's founder. Its purpose is to encourage and challenge members and lodges to improve their effectiveness in promoting and bringing about increased Scout camping in each council. Awards are presented annually to two lodges, which have the best promotion effort, in each region. All National Quality Lodges are eligible and strongly encouraged to submit the petition with the lodge charter renewal each year. The form is downloadable at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/>. Please download now and review with your LEC so that camping promotion remains high on your list of achievable goals for 2009.