

QUALITY CHAPTER MEETING

Number 1—Unit Elections Preparation

Background: Every chapter needs to conduct quality unit elections in the troops it serves. Holding proper elections ensures that the integrity of the Order is preserved. To conduct a proper election, there are some rules to know, but it also takes a great personality and a willingness to educate others.

Meeting Resources: The National Order of the Arrow Committee developed two videos for your benefit. Both are available on the Order of the Arrow web site at <http://oa-bsa.org/resources/lodge/lodgeresourcedvd/videos.htm>. The first, entitled *Electing New Members—Unit Elections*, contains a brief summary of the Order of the Arrow as well as an explanation of the election procedures. The unit elections team should show this video at each election. The second, *Conducting a Quality Unit Election*, will help train your unit elections teams to provide a quality experience to the units in your district. Show this at the chapter meeting. Also, download the Guide for Officers and Advisers from <http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/pubs/GOA-2008.pdf> and print pages 22–27 for proper election procedures.

Utilize someone from another chapter who has conducted effective unit elections in the past. The experienced Arrowman will prove to be a great resource.

Consider the timing of this important chapter meeting. Set it up at least one month before the cycle of unit elections begin in your district—timing is everything.

Meeting Content: Show the videos. Make sure you have the necessary equipment to show the videos, and test it out before the meeting begins. Then, discuss specifics with the chapter members, such as:

- ◆ Calling unit leaders to arrange the date, time, and location of the election
- ◆ How many votes are needed for election
- ◆ Scoutmaster approval
- ◆ The process for adult leader nomination
- ◆ How to proceed if no Scout is elected

To make it fun, hold a mock election within the chapter to see which of the sitting chapter officers are elected. Members should also brainstorm ways to maximize the effectiveness of the election. Discuss the following:

- ◆ Wearing the proper uniform, with sash
- ◆ Bringing resources such as the OA Handbook, Guide for Officers and Advisers, extra pencils, and perhaps preprinted ballots provided by the unit leader
- ◆ Bringing a copy of the lodge's *Where to go Camping Guide* and summer camp promotional items to leave with the unit
- ◆ Utilizing the Troop/Team Representative to help facilitate the election

Finally, set up at least two chapter unit election teams with a blend of new and experienced Arrowmen who can best present the OA to the troops while holding elections.