

OSA VIBRATIONS

Whole 'Lotta Shakin' Goin' On!

by: Diane Posen - OSA Board of Directors

It's that time again! The OSA's Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance will be held on March 3rd, and we're shaking things up a bit this year! To begin with, we are changing locations. We've moved the festivities to the north side of the city. We want to see how they do things on the other side of town! The big event will be at Enzo Ristorante and Banquets, 7151 W. Foster Place, Chicago.

The other change you'll see is in the infamous raffle! The prizes this year will actually come in their original boxes...yes, sealed from the manufacturer. The OSA bought brand new items, including a DVD player, power tools and a TV/VCR combo, to put up for raffle. And let's not forget the cold cash prizes as well.

Some may miss the cherished porta-potty prize, but with tickets selling for \$5 and \$10 each, the winners will get more bang for their buck. You can purchase raffle tickets in advance, so invite your

family and friends to buy some too! The winner need not be present. We encourage those who won't be there to still participate in the great new raffle format.

Of course, a few things won't change. We are still holding the annual elections until 7 pm. Be sure you arrive in time for your vote to count. The newly-elected board will have its first official meeting to elect officers. And the food, music and conversation will still be there to satisfy and entertain everyone.

Last year we had a great turn out, and everyone had a good time so don't miss it this year. Come out and mingle with old faces! Maybe a few new ones will come out with the change in location. Together, we can celebrate Owasippe's 90th birthday.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on March 3rd! Check out the center spread for all the details. If you have any questions, call Diane Posen at (773) 935-3928.

In Search of...Camp Staff

by: Ron Kulak - Staff Development Program Director

Owasippe has announced that the next summer camp Staff interviews will be held on Saturday, March 3rd, at the Chicago Area Council Service Center, 1218 W. Adams, Chicago, from 9am-Noon. A variety of positions are still available, namely: Aquatics Director, Shooting Sports Director, Nature Director, Area Instructors, Commissioners, Outpost Guides, and Counselors-In-Training (C.I.T.'s). Candidates for regular Staff positions must be at least age 16 by the opening of camp, however Aquatics and Shooting Sports Directors and Commissioners need to be at least age 21. C.I.T.'s must be at least age 14, presently in at least 9th grade and Star Rank or better. C.I.T.'s must be able to put in at least 5 weeks of the 7-week training program.

Owasippe's dates of operation are June 23-30 (staff training and setup) and July 1

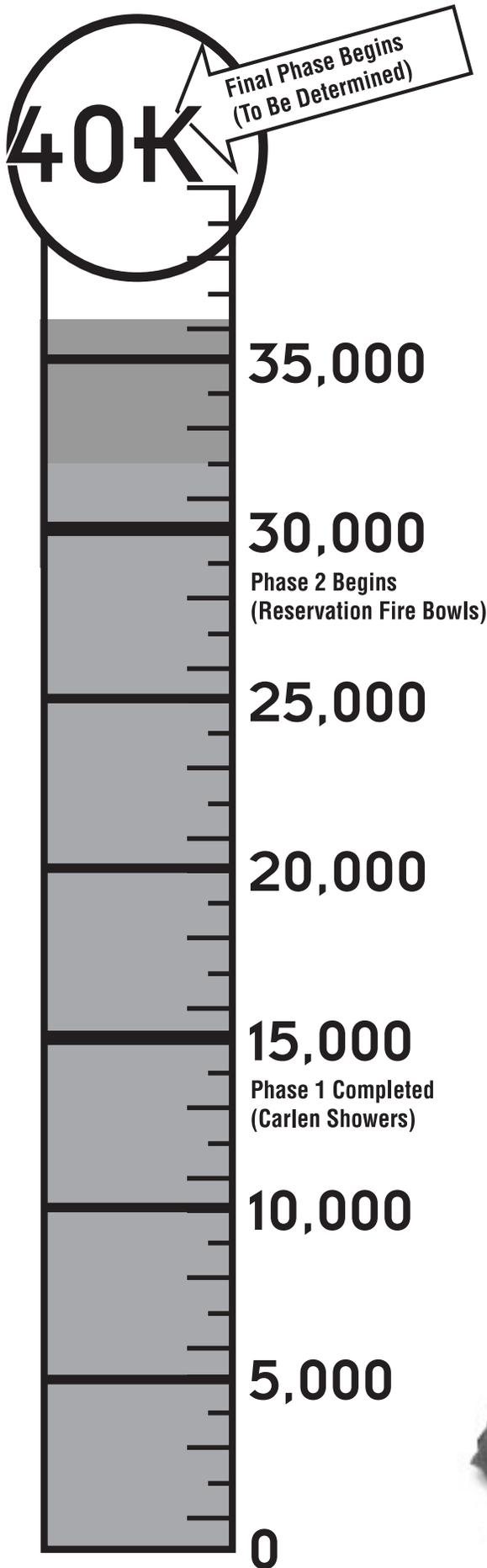
through August 11 for campers.

As many of you know, summer camp Staff can be an experience of a lifetime and can be rewarding personally through new skills learned, new friendships forged and leadership development.

Those seeking information on available staff positions or who would like an application can call the Reservation Director, Steve Adams, at 312-421-8800 or contact him via e-mail at Steve_Adams@chicagobsa.org. Those Scouts interested in serving as C.I.T.'s should call the Staff Development Program Director, Ron Kulak, at 708-429-5596 or e-mail him at Owasiron@juno.com. More information on Owasippe is available on the Chicago Area Council's Web site at www.chicagobsa.org or through the Owasippe Staff Association at www.owasippe.net.



President's Perspective by: Pat Troy - President



Looking back at the past two years as president, I am proud of the many goals the OSA has accomplished. I have been impressed by the number of times we have pulled together in work and in play, in joy and in sorrow. The friendship and camaraderie among our members lets me know that the lines from the Owasippe Hymn ring true today as much as they ever have; "Bonds of Friendship, Seal our Loyalty," to the camp, to the OSA, and to each other.

It is time for me to step down as president as I do not feel that I have the time necessary to perform the task. Being president has been an experience I am glad I undertook. Knowing that I had a hand in what the OSA has done over the past few years gives me a great feeling of accomplishment. I thank everyone who has helped in any way with the organization. My job as president has been made easier thanks to the help of so many people. And I hope to continue working with all of you for many more years.

In closing, I would like to share what I feel is the goal of our organization: To have a positive impact on the outdoor experience of the scouts and campers at Owasippe. Fortunately for me, I have a daily reminder of this—the boy who lives behind my house is a Scout and camper at Owasippe. Every summer he tells me of the great summer camp experience he and his troopmates had. I know that the OSA has, in some way, helped improve his experience. For that I am proud to be a part of this organization.



Due to the ever changing needs of Owasippe, the final phase of the 40K project will be determined at a later date.

Spring Fix-it Preview

It's time to start spreading the news. The Spring Fix-it is fast approaching, so mark your calendars and start gearing up. It's going to be May 18-20, the weekend before Memorial Day. That means everyone can put in a good weekend of work for Owasippe and spend the next weekend relaxing and enjoying the great outdoors.

This year we are only planning one Spring Fix-it, so it's especially important that everyone lends a hand. We have the big task of finishing the Wolverine firebowl, which includes landscaping, building benches and leveling the land. There's no follow-up weekend so this is our only chance to get it all done.

As always, we need some great food to nourish those bodies in the field. If you can help out, either by cooking one meal or helping in the kitchen for the weekend, please give us a call. Without fuel there can be no work. The kitchen crew is one of the most important components to a successful fix-it.

Dan Kleinfeldt is coordinating the Spring Fix-it. Call him at (773) 594 - 9585 to let him know how many people you're bringing, reserve your cabin or sign up for cooking. Come be a part of this great gift to Camp Wolverine and to all of Owasippe.



***The OSA Spring Fix-it • May 18-20
See you there!***



Thank you.

The OSA Board of Directors and Owasippe would like to thank everyone who contributed money, materials and time to the OSA 40K. We set a lofty goal to raise \$40,000 over two years and came very close to reaching that mark. Our final total raised was in the excess of \$36,000 in cash and materials, not to mention the thousands of dollars worth of labor. This is something we all can be proud of.

To date, the money has funded OSA projects like re-roofing every staff cabin, installing hot water heaters in every Carlen KYBO, and our current project of restoring each camp's firebowl. Like each of those projects, the 40K may have begun as a daunting task, but the loyalty and generosity of our members made it happen. Each donor should take pride in helping our great camp truly be "All the wealth of Earth and heaven."

2001 Nominations and Election

by: Vince Rychtanek - Election Officer

YOUR OSA BOARD The affairs of the OSA are managed by the nine members of the Board of Directors whom you elect. Their terms are staggered so that three must be elected each year. Each Board member serves a three-year term unless a vacancy must be filled for the remainder of a term. A Director must be a currently registered Staff or Associate member age 21 or older as of the day of election (March 3, 2001), have a genuine interest in the success of the organization and be available for monthly Board of Director meetings.

Current Board of Directors			Term Expires
Michael Campbell (Secretary)	Ron Derby (Vice-Pres.)	Scott Weber	2001
Diane Posen	Vince Rychtanek	Pat Troy (Pres.)	2002
Kevin Oster (Treasurer)	Art Paull	Dan Kleinfeldt	2003

WHO MAY VOTE Each Staff and Associate Member currently registered ('01) is entitled to one vote at the annual meeting for the purpose of election of the Board of Directors. Voting may be done in person at the 23rd Annual Meeting at **Enzo Ristorante and Banquets, 7151 W. Foster Place, Chicago, IL** on Saturday March 3, 2001, from 6:30 to 7:00 PM.

Please note that each member who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting may authorize another person to do so by a written and signed proxy.

BE SURE THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY REGISTERED ('01) SO THAT YOUR VOTE COUNTS. The current year of your membership will be on the mailing label addressing this mailing. Any questions regarding the status of your membership can be presented to the Membership Committee Chairwoman Donna Troy at (630) 257-6967.

WINNERS Those candidates receiving the largest number of valid votes will be inducted into the Board of Directors during the 2001 Annual Meeting. For 2001, the top three vote-getters will be considered duly elected. The positions will be three-year terms.

OPERATING OFFICERS The first official duty of the newly constituted Board of Directors will be to select operating officers for the next twelve months, namely: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Owasippe Staff Association
Board of Directors

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Vote for 3 candidates

Mike Campbell

Ron Derby

Jim Rich

Please make sure you sign your ballot. If you are returning your ballot by mail, it must be received at the PO Box by 12:00 PM on Saturday March 3, 2001 to be counted in the election.

Owasippe Staff Association
Attn.: Election Balloting
PO Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

Signature _____

23 Years and Counting

by: Scott Weber - OSA Board of Directors

At this year's banquet, I will have finished my 3-year term as a member of the Board of Directors and will not be running for re-election for another term. It is not so much that I would have to commit my time for another 3 years. It is more that, with the death of my mother in December and the move of my father to an assisted living facility, I will not have the luxury of a place to stay overnight following each meeting. As a result, it is time for another member of the organization to step up and help the association move forward with our plans for this coming year and the future.

I've had a chance to look back at what the OSA has done, not only the past few years but since the start of the OSA some 23 years ago. We were fresh, rambunctious and bullet-proof in 1978. While we scared the Council executives in the early days because of our reputation for wildness and disdain for authority, we had friends in the right places, and over time they grew to appreciate the reasons for the organization's existence. The work we did was truly something that the camp had never seen before. And as one Council executive replaced another, we continued our aggressive approach, working to improve the facilities of the camp and maintaining the personal relationships established when we worked together on the camp staffs. The executives that followed Ed Black and his counterparts benefited from a concerned group of people who worked to provide some sort of consistency in the operation of Owasispe. From an initial membership of about 50 people the first year, we have grown to nearly 700 members over time. While not all 700 are still active members, those that have remained are steadfast to the principles we stand for and are the strong backbone of the OSA.

Today the OSA members play an instrumental part in training future staff with the C.I.T. program, improving camp facilities through aggressive plans, participating at the Council level on various committees, and providing individual troop leadership in the community. While our wildness has certainly decreased to a more tempered level, the turnover of Council executives continues to give members a reason to question authority, raise red flags of caution, and scrutinize responses to our concerns. Holding the Council accountable for its actions regarding Owasispe has replaced the outright disdain that once was the norm.

During the past three years, we have seen a complete turn-over in the Council leadership that directly affects the membership of the OSA—that being the Chief Executive, Finance Executive, Director of Camping and Owasispe Property Superintendent. These are the people that the Board of Directors must deal with on a constant basis, and they all have specific ideas as to how things are going to be

done within their area of influence. We have all seen the results of the changes that have come about in the past couple years. Some have been excellent, some have been all that could be expected given the circumstances, and some changes have created some very strong criticisms. The unfortunate by-product of these changes is that many good, experienced OSA members are now ex-volunteers or ex-camp staff members. At a time when the Chicago Area Council and Owasispe need every qualified volunteer available, people are being driven away, or their ability to participate in activities and committees has been drastically hindered.

We shall survive as an association, mostly because in 1978 we separated ourselves legally from the Council. This has kept our membership records private and our limited finances in our control, two things that set the OSA apart from other staff alumni groups around the country. And the independence of the OSA will continue to be preserved through the years. With time, it is my hope that the current administration will forget about the reputation of the OSA as a "bunch of partiers" (which by the way has supposedly spread across the U.S. within the BSA executive circles). If we continue to do as we have done for years, the continued efforts and contributions to the Council and Owasispe will add to the *good* reputation we have...that of supporting the programs and facilities in which we were trained.

For the past three years, I have called upon the membership to get back to the woods, to support the OSA by any means possible. Some members have returned, and others continue to support the association financially as their way of staying involved. I sincerely hope that last year's decrease in participation in the fix-it weekends was a fluke and that you can again make your way to the woods to physically support the OSA's goals. I also encourage those who cannot or choose not to travel to Michigan on those weekends to get involved in the Chicago area, either with the OSA or within the Chicago Area Council. Your voice needs to be heard, and with enough experienced and knowledgeable voices, a difference may be made. If you don't speak up or get involved before a decision is made, then don't complain about the outcome because it won't change the decision. History has proven that time and again. Stand up, vote for your new board of directors in March and contribute.

See you in the woods.

Progress...
is pulling together.

What's News?

by: Susan Bisset - OSA Member

Owasippe loses a little of that warm, fuzzy feeling But it's a good thing

Most of the gypsy-moth caterpillars have left Muskegon County after two summers of strong infestations. The Gypsy Moth Suppression Program has called off all spraying for the spring and summer of 2001 due to the low presence of the gypsy moth egg masses. There still is a small amount of the leaf-eating pests, but not enough to warrant aerial spraying. The county will monitor the area for future infestations and spray if it becomes necessary.

The drop in population is credited to successful spraying over the past few years as well as favorable weather conditions. Owasippe property will certainly benefit from the absence of the gypsy-moth caterpillars, who have favored the tree-rich land as a great food source.

Fire at another Boy Scout camp, suspicions flare

It seems Owasippe is not the only Boy Scout camp with fire problems. Camp Kikthawenund in Madison County, Indiana, was the most recent target for suspected arson. In mid-January, the camp dining hall was burned, leaving \$750,000 in damage and no central building for the quickly approaching camping season. Council leaders have plans to rebuild the dining hall, hoping to have exterior walls and a roof by summer. The rest of the building will be completed after the camping season.

This is the sixth suspicious fire at Midwest Boy Scout camps in two years. The first occurred at Camp Friedlander in southwest Ohio in February 1999 where the dining hall was burned, causing \$500,000 in damage. The second through fifth fires were spread across Owasippe from the September 1999 fire at the Blackhawk dining hall to the most recent fire claiming the Reneker lodge last September.

All together, the six fires have caused \$1.7 million in damage. Despite the involvement of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, no arrests have been made. It is unsure if the six fires are all related or just some coincidence. In either case, investigators are taking all leads seriously. If you have any information, please call the Arson Tip Line for Michigan at 1-800-442-7766.

The Oak Park Eight

The BSA has refused to renew the charters of eight Cub Scout packs in Oak Park due to disputes over the ban on homosexual leaders within the organization. The packs have been affiliated with the Parent Teacher Organization in Oak Park for 60 years. But the PTO supports the non-discrimination policies adopted by the community.

The eight packs included a statement with their annual application for renewal, stating the community's diversity statement and the intent to side with the town policies if a dispute arises over gay leaders in their packs. The Council responded by refusing to renew the charters, reinforcing their position with the recent Supreme Court case.

At least one of the packs has already found alternative sponsorship in a local church. The rest will have until Feb. 28 to decide whether to seek a new sponsor, form a parent-led pack without the PTO, or to disband. Some Oak Park families have already dropped out of the BSA altogether.

Star struck

Muskegon Community College is building a new telescope and observatory to be completed this spring. The \$50,000 facility will be built at the Muskegon County Wastewater Management site next to the existing two-telescope observatory owned and operated by the Muskegon Astronomical Society. Both groups plan to share their facilities with each other.

The new observatory will be open for public use. MCC wanted to put the telescope and observatory on campus but could not find a suitable location away from lights and trees. Construction should be completed by May.

Vibrations needs copy!

**Opinions • Stories • Legends
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Address all such materials to:

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P.O. Box 7097

Westchester, IL 60154

e-mail: vincer@foxvalley.net or rderby@xbx.com

Visit the OSA online at: www.owasippe.net

Galloping Grapevine



Tom Ewan ~ Bonsall, CA

Tom Ewan is in California working with Val, his wife, at the Rawhide Ranch. He says it took a little time to adjust to the non-BSA lifestyle, but they have settled nicely into their new surroundings and tasks. He's right back at the top as director of the ranch. Tom has been getting a good laugh at the Californians' complaints over the "cold" 50 degree January weather. Tom regrets that he will miss the OSA Dinner Dance but sends a smile and a 'hello' to everyone.

Ned Swanson~ Norfolk, VA

Ned Swanson recently completed a Mediterranean deployment on USS WASP, an amphibious assault ship. He's moved to the Washington D.C. area and transferring to the Department of Defense in the Finance and Accounting headquarters. He sounds busy with his new promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade, his CPA on-line courses through the universities of Illinois and Georgia, and finding his way through the streets of D.C. We wish you the best in your new location and job!

George Sparks ~ Keller, TX

George Sparks and wife Susan have moved to Texas. He's still working for the BSA, serving as Associate Director of the Relationships Division. Hey George, soak up some of that sun and warmth for all of us in Chicago!

Steven Heiress ~ Chicago, IL

Steven has been a troop leader at Camp Blackhawk for 30 years now. Troop 935 is lucky to have such a steadfast leader camping with them since 1970. Two weeks per summer...30 years...now that's dedication!

Richard Golz ~ North Muskegon, MI

Richard worked at Stuart, Blackhawk, Robert Crown and Ad Center in the 70s and 80s. He's still an important part of Owaspippe, serving as the physician and advisor for Health Lodge. Thanks for keeping us all healthy! He's looking for Dave Tala's address which has escaped our records. If you can help, contact Richard at Richard.Golz@gte.net.

Pete Kulak ~ Tinley Park, IL

Pete graduated in December from Eastern Illinois University with a BA in education. Way to go, Pete!!

Steve and Terry Horvath ~ Palos Heights, IL

Steve and Terry are awaiting their seventh grandchild. It will be the first child of Paul, their youngest, and Stacey who live in Chicago. Congratulations!

Phillip Young ~ Blue Lake Township, MI

Phil is completing a 26-year run in Blue Lake Township politics, turning over the gavel and returning to retirement. Phil worked 10 years as a township trustee and the past 16 years as Blue Lake's supervisor. Don Studaven is taking over for Young after being elected the new Republican supervisor in Blue Lake. Phil said during his years of work he's been blessed with lots of great help.

William Finkler ~ Chicago, IL

He spent this summer at Philmont 3-Key training with his entire family. He's still very active in the BSA as Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Cub Scout Training Coordinator for the Thunderbird District. Phew! Hope you have time to catch your breath through all that.

Scott and Caroline (Lea) Mindock ~ Chicago, IL

The Mindocks received the ultimate Christmas gift this year, a bundle of joy. Their son Jacob was born on Saturday December 9th around 5:30am. Mom and baby are doing great! Congratulations! Future C.I.T. of the year?

Laurie (Jacobs) Tomaino ~ Chatham, NJ

Laurie and husband Chris are busy working and chasing their two children, Kevin, 5, and Kimberly, 1. Her father, Edward Jacobs, retired from the BSA in September after 53 years in Scouting. James Chandler, director of the Human Resources Administration for the BSA and OSA member, spoke at his retirement party. Edward and wife Jean moved out to California.

Ken Kaczmarz ~ LaGrange, IL

Ken checked in via e-mail from a recent trip to Amsterdam, Netherlands. He said it was a wild trip. The room flooded. Huh? He went to Anne Frank's home, but she wasn't there. Then he stopped by Van Gogh's museum but he wasn't there either. Keep looking, Ken. Maybe they'll turn up somewhere.

Ed Landmichl ~ Oak Lawn, IL

In a joint ceremony, Ed Landmichl and Chris Adamow held their Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, January 13. Both are members of Troop 652 and Owaspippe Staffmembers. Ed was recently presented with the Hand In Service Award by Owaspippe Lodge at their annual banquet. Congratulations to the both of you!

Richard J. Dates ~ Elk Grove, IL

Dick was last registered in the OSA in 1990 and is about to re-join. He was a Waterfront Director at the Lower Lakes and Camp Blackhawk and one of the charter members that helped start the OSA. He is currently a science teacher in the Cicero School District and has given up his chiropractic practice. He says "hey" to one and all. Dick's hoping to see some familiar faces at the Spring Fix-it. Welcome back old friend!

Joe "Duke" Olechno ~ Hayward, CA

Duke has been spending a lot of time chasing solar eclipses. He and Judy have gone to Baja, Curacao and Romania to see complete solar eclipses. They aren't sure whether they'll make it to the next one in Africa. It's good to hear that things are 'looking up' for you guys.

See you at the end of the trail...

On December 12, 2000, Eleanor Weber, mother of Scott Weber, passed away from pancreatic and liver cancer. Mom Weber had been diagnosed in mid-September, and the cancer was too far along for any treatment to be effective. A former Girl Scout camp counselor herself, she served as a Cub Den Mother for Scott and his brothers, supported the principles of the OSA, and served as host at her home during the formative years of the organization when the Board of Directors would hold meetings at the Weber household. Plans are for an April memorial service to celebrate her life.

Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues DIRECTLY paid for this very newsletter!

Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154

Owasippe Staff Association
2000
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Service at Owasippe:

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names & Ages: _____

Mail to:
OSA
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154
attn: Membership

New Member \$20 _____

Renewal \$15 _____

Lifetime \$250 _____

*The Owasippe Staff Association
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The opinions stated by contributors to *Vibrations* are those of the authors, and are not by fact of publication necessarily those of the Owasippe Staff Association or its Board of Directors. Publication does not imply endorsement. All materials are subject to editing.

Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: *Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154*. All materials which the author wants returned, must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring ~ January 15
- Summer ~ April 1
- Fall ~ August 7
- Winter ~ October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

March

- 3..... Final Staff Interviews (9-12 at C.A.C. Office)*
- 3..... Dinner Dance/Annual Meeting*
- 23-25 Director's Weekend*

April

- 15..... Board Meeting*
- 20-21 C.I.T. Shakedown Weekend*

May

- 16..... Board Meeting*
- 18-20..... Spring Fix-it*

June

- 23..... Staff week begins*

July

- 1..... 1st Period begins, Owasippe's 90th Birthday*

