



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

# Vibrations

Volume 24, Issue 1

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## Annual Meeting & Dinner 2002

by: Diane Posen - Events Chair

**B**ring your dancin' shoes and appetites to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2002. Join us for a night of fun and camaraderie at the **European Chalet Banquets, located at 5445 South Harlem**, just south of I-55! The night will begin at 6 p.m. for check in, the bar will open at 6:30 and the dinner buffet will be open from 7:30 to 9:30. We've decided to try something different this year by having a buffet-style dinner. By doing this, we thought it might provide a more casual atmosphere, allowing everyone to eat when they're ready, thus providing more time to socialize!

Throughout the evening we will have our annual meeting, present awards and make special recognitions, conduct elections and, of course, we will be raffling off some wonderful prizes.

We hope to see everyone on March 2nd! If you have questions please contact Diane Posen at (773)935-3928 or e-mail her at [dposen1212@aol.com](mailto:dposen1212@aol.com).

Last year's raffle turned out to be very successful, so we will be running things the same way this year. The prizes offered are as follows:

**24v Circular/Reciprocating Saw Kit**

40 tickets available at \$10 each

**12v Bosch Drill**

40 tickets available at \$5 each

**TV/VCR Combo for the Car**

50 tickets available at \$10 each

**DVD/CD Player**

40 tickets available at \$10 each

**\$250.00 CASH**

50 tickets available at \$10 each

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased in advance again, and you need not be present to win!

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## A Few of Our Own Make Good

**T**he Chicago Area Council held its Annual Dinner and Silver Beaver Recognition on Saturday, January 26, 2002. The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza and was preceded by the annual business meeting hosted by Lewis Greenblatt, Council President.

In his annual report to the membership, Jim Stone, Scout Executive, spoke quite highly of the efforts of the Owasippe Staff Association in completing the Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base and for all the other things the OSA has done for Owasippe.

A significant part of the annual meeting included the election of several OSA members as Members-At-Large. Notable in this list were Ron Kulak and Chauncey Niziol who were both re-elected.

In addition, Joe Sener was elected to the Council Board of Directors. In this position, Joe is responsible for oversight of Owasippe operations including chair of the Owasippe Camping Committee. This is

remarkable for many reasons but mainly because it is the first time in many years that one of Owasippe's own will be sitting on the Board that makes the decisions related to OSR. Joe credits his friend Chauncey for paving the way with years of hard work as his predecessor chairing the Owasippe Camping Committee. Furthermore Joe wants everyone to know that your input is always welcome and that he will be working hard for the continued success of Owasippe.

Last but not least, an old friend of Owasippe, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 923 and OSA Life Member, Reinhard Plaut received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award presented by a local council to a volunteer. The Silver Beaver is awarded for Outstanding Service to Youth.

*Congratulations Everyone!*

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## President's Perspective

by: Ron Derby - President

As 2001 came to a close, many people weren't sorry to see it go. It was a long year that seemed to be filled with bad news. I think we're all hoping that 2002 brings more prosperity and happiness.

The more I think about it, 2001 wasn't all bad. The members of the OSA really pulled together to accomplish some great things this past year.

For instance, we saw the Camp Wolverine firebowl completely restored. To make this happen it took donations of lumber, cash, bull dozer time, a bronze plaque and of course many hours of volunteer and Ranger time. Thanks goes to everyone involved!

We also launched a world-class Web site loaded with state-of-the-art Web technology. We have a news section, a links area, an events calendar, a picture page, a Vibrations archive, a chat room and the ever popular guest book. I am especially proud of this accomplishment because with it the OSA has boldly taken a leap into the future. We are still receiving compliments on the new site, which is now almost a year old. In keeping with our pledge to serve Owasippe, the OSA's homepage has become an informational lifeline to Owasippe fans literally all over the world. I want to thank the 2001 Board of Directors for having the courage to seize the moment, thus seizing endless opportunities.

Hmm... what else did we do this year? Well our crowning achievement of 2001 has to have been the funding, construction and dedication of the Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base. This project was another great team effort that included generous donations of materials, cash and lots of sweat. It was stirring to watch Scouts having the time of their lives negotiating the many challenging COPE events. Through teamwork, we pulled together and built a COPE course designed to teach young people how to pull together as a team. At the same time, we memorialized a dear friend. It just doesn't get any better than that. To everyone who helped make the Nagel COPE Base a reality, the Scouts of Owasippe thank you.

With every project we complete, we are improving the camping experience of the Scouts that come to Owasippe. What's amazing is I've only listed a few of the things we accomplished last year. We're getting it done and we're having fun doing it. As we head into 2002, take a minute and just imagine the possibilities!



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## The Outing in Scouting

by: Glenn G. Roberts

I joined the Boy Scouts on my 12<sup>th</sup> birthday — Sept. 26, 1924. That was a Friday, the same night when the Scout Troop met each week at the First Baptist Church in Berwyn. At that time, we were Troop 4. Later, the West Suburban Council changed our Troop number to 30 as the council included several towns along the C B and Q Railroad. At the time, I lived on Ogden Avenue and Elmwood (near Ridgeland) and the church was at Clinton and 34<sup>th</sup> streets, so we had a bit of a hike to those Friday night meetings. I was a bit closer when my family moved to 3535 Wisconsin the next year.

My title for this piece comes from the old expression, "You can't take the outing out of Scouting." I think that was what we liked most back in those days because we took overnight hikes with the Troop and spent several summers at Scout Camp on Lake Delevan in Wisconsin. My first year at Camp Delevan should have killed my joy of camping. I had gone there for two weeks with no one from my Troop, so I was in an eight-man tent with seven other lads who had already spent a week together. I was an outsider. The other tentmates went home after a week, and I had to get used to seven new boys the next week and go home alone the following week. Things got better the next few years as I attended during the regular two-week periods and was usually with Scouts from my own Troop or other Berwyn Scouts. I loved my time at Camp Delevan. I later spent all four two-week periods, one year even becoming a junior staff leader. Those eight-man army tents were something! Everything was done in army style — inspection every day, everything had to be done in a routine manner with four cots taken down and placed on top of four other cots on the outer edge of the tent floor. Remembering, we had to line up every morning outside of each tent for the flag ceremony. Nude, we wrapped a towel around our waists and, soap in hand, marched down to the lake at the bottom of the hill for our weekly (!) bath in the lake. Then back up the hill to get dressed and go to the mess hall for breakfast. We had to take our regular turn to serve as waiter for our own table and also serve KP duty from time to time. We thought the food at camp was great! I remember too those 14-mile hikes around the lake. I learned to swim there, passed merit badge tests and even had the honor of being Officer of the Day one period. I got to sleep in the HQ building with an alarm clock and had the job of waking the camp bugler and presiding at the morning colors ceremony.

My memories of Camp Delevan are entirely from my head. I have no notes or letters. The only items I have are a couple of photos. Those show all of the campers that were present for that particular period and also included the main top staff.

Back in the late 1920s, you had to be 12 to join the Scouts and you ended at age 18. The older boys and

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## ***The Outing in Scouting (Continued)***

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girls came later as Explorers. There were no young boys called Cub Scouts. My Scouting days seemingly ended as I got ready to leave high school at J. Sterling Morton in Cicero. It was over 40 years later in 1973 before I became active again, although I kept up my membership with annual registration as an adult. I got involved with Troop committees, merit badge counseling and other volunteer Scouting activities.

I became active in the BSA again when I agreed to go places in Sears' "loaned executive" program just before I was about to retire at the then-required age of 63. I was transferred to the staff of Bob Anderson, vice president of Sears Merchandise Division. Bob was also on the Board of the Chicago Area Council as its volunteer financial officer. He wanted me to replace a Sears man on his staff that had a prior assignment to work with the Scouts elsewhere. My initial Scout activity was in fund raising, first developing a direct mail program. I later got involved in all sorts of finance activities for the Scouts, including spending some time as the camp business manager, replacing the man on the staff who was called away during the later part of the camping periods to attend to some family business in California. It was a position that I held for the next 22 years (long after I had retired from Sears) and continued with the council as a volunteer.

That business manager position was at the Owasippe Scout Reservation in Michigan. Owasippe got its start in 1911, just a year after the beginning of the Boy Scout movement in America began on Feb. 8, 1910. It actually was the first Boy Scout camp in the nation. It was started with just 40 acres on Crystal Lake, later renamed Owasippe Lake. It was no more than just the single camp in the beginning. By the mid-60s, it had grown to a reservation of as many as 12 separate camping areas and covered more than 9,000 acres along the White River in the Manistee National Forest.

Because Michigan taxes for the total property had reached more than \$100,000 yearly back in the early '70s, the size of the reservation was reduced to a core area of about 5,000 acres in the early '90s. Only 400 acres were considered tax-exempt. To reduce the size of Owasippe and to help reduce the tax burden and some maintenance, I was involved in many of the property sales. After retiring from Sears, I volunteered to handle part of the tax and real estate problems of the reservation for the council. Some of the property was sold to our neighboring Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. In 1980, we had sold more than 1,500 acres in Oceana County along White River to the U.S. Forest Service. Some small acreage was sold to the nearby YMCA camp, and one of the largest sales was to real estate developers. Through the years, much of the camping activity had moved further north and east with the newer administration center, then located nearly 10

miles from Whitehall. By 2000, only the four main section camps remain.

I should review how the reservation was started back in 1911. A group of men who had summer homes in the White Lake area of Montague and Whitehall thought that a summer Boy Scout camp for Chicago-area Scouts could be established in the area. The White Lake Chamber of Commerce agreed and arrangements were made to give the Chicago organization 40 acres of land on Crystal Lake, about three miles from the city limits of Whitehall. After the camp was started, Scout troops came to the camp by lake steamer. From that small beginning, the camp started to grow and expand and became the Owasippe Scout Reservation. By the late '60s, it covered nearly 10,000 acres and extended north from Whitehall Township into Blue Lake Township, both in Muskegon and Oceana counties.

What folks do not know about the area is that it was just being developed at the start of the century. It was a great lumbering area and much of the lumber that was used to rebuild Chicago after the great fire came from that area and was shipped across Lake Michigan. Land developers actually planned and plotted over 36,000 lots, most of them 25' x 100' in size, in the area that comprised most of the 5,000 acres that would some day become Owasippe as it exists today. That includes part of Big Blue Lake and several smaller lakes and creeks. Also, folks probably don't know that although the Scouts have sold off quite a bit of their real estate, they may never be able to sell off all the property that is now owned. There are still heirs paying annual taxes on small unusable land-locked lots that were acquired back in the early 1900s. Many are still being held with the hope that they will someday be worth something. The Chicago Area Council continues to pay annual taxes on real estate for which they have little or no chance of establishing a clear title.

Quite a bit of the land that the Scouts now use for camping is land that was obtained through the courts when it was abandoned by original owners. Someone will be given the task of trying to determine who owns a good part of the land that the Scouts now use. A big problem for the current administration will be to re-establish the relationship the Scouts once had with the state, county and township residents. There was a time back in the late 1970s, '80s and early '90s when the Chicago council took part in township activities and had good relationships with county and state officials. I doubt that they still have them. It may be part of the current problem they are having with fires and other vandalism.

Owasippe was a great Scout reservation and loved by hundreds of thousands of Scouts and Scouters for nearly a century. It is doubtful that it can regain the loyalty it once had. Let's hope it's not too late!



# Owasippe News

## **Owasippe welcomes new head ranger**

The new Head Ranger took over the reigns on January 14. Al Geisler, age 54, born and raised in Idaho, now hails from North Muskegon and is married with six kids, one still living at home.

Al is no stranger to youth programs, Scouting or to Owasippe. He has been a Scout leader with the Church of the Latter Day Saints and has taken part in activities at Owasippe with his local church. Al also has been an active leader with LDS youth events for the Grand Rapids Stake since 1972.

He replaces Rob Pruden, who vacated the position after the 2001 summer camp season. Al will work with Ranger Jim Hansen and volunteers Art Michaelson, Tony Krier and Ron Wilson to get acquainted with the lay of the land and the many needs of Owasippe.

Al, let us be among the first to welcome you and yours to the Owasippe family!

## **To Venture a Guess**

Venture crews are getting a special dose of specialization this summer at Owasippe. The camping committee has put together a proposal to bring a week just for Venture crews to Camp Carlen. The activities will center around helping the Venturers achieve their requirements for the Ranger Award. There are still some facts to be decided, like just how long the period will be, but Venture Crews can mark off sixth period as their own designated camping time.

Based on interest, participation and available materials and staff, Chicago Area Council hopes to create an annual Venture camp that will draw participants from all over the Midwest. If there is something you would like to see as a part of this program, or if you know Venture Scouts or Leaders who can offer their opinions, time or materials, please contact Owasippe Camping Committee member Bob McMillin at [rmcmilli@cphall.com](mailto:rmcmilli@cphall.com).

## **Key Staff Positions for Owasippe 2002**

Reservation Director ..... Bill VanBerschott  
Head Ranger ..... Al Geisler  
Warehouse Manager ..... Nancy Romcoe  
Camp Blackhawk Director ..... Carl Young  
Camp Carlen Director ..... Ed Kinnerk  
Camp Reneker Director ..... Candy Merritt  
Camp Wolverine Director ..... Mike Campbell  
High Adventure Director ..... Nick L'Heureux

## **Nature Conservancy to Conduct Bio-Blitz**

The Michigan chapter of the Nature Conservancy is planning to conduct an extensive inventory of the flora and fauna of Owasippe Scout Reservation, one of only a few remaining areas in Western Michigan where this has yet to be done. Chauncey Niziol and others from the Owasippe Camping Committee requested the land survey. Some members of the Michigan chapter already have hiked around the camp and looked over areas such as Paradise Valley and The Quaking Bogs. At this quick inspection, they have already identified seven different varieties of fern in Paradise Valley. And we thought there was just bracken and ostrich!

This study would better inform Chicago Area Council of what natural treasures are within the camp's boundaries and will benefit the nature staffs in their summer counseling of the Scouts and in nature hikes. The formal Bio-Blitz will be one weekend between late May and early June and then another weekend after camp.

We do need help with taking this very large inventory — 5,000 acres is a huge area to cover. Anyone interested in assisting as a volunteer should contact Joe Sener at [Joe\\_Sener@baxter.com](mailto:Joe_Sener@baxter.com).

## **Leader Meetings Scheduled for February and March**

Owasippe leader meetings are getting organized for the following dates and locations. Contact Chauncey Niziol or Steve Adams if you would like to help greet, speak or meet leaders for any of the meetings. Past camp staff are always welcome to help promote programs, answer questions and give helpful tips to camping at Owasippe.

Unit Leaders, Senior Patrol Leaders and Crew Leaders are encouraged to attend to review highlights and changes in the 2002 summer camp program. Program Guides will be distributed and unit deposits accepted at this time. Camp directors and key staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Feb. 25, 7:15 p.m. – Five Holy Martyrs School  
4325 S. Richmond, Chicago (enter from parking lot at rear of school),  
2 blocks west of California Ave.

March 4, 7:15 p.m. – Tinley Park United Methodist Church  
6875 W. 173rd Place, Tinley Park (1/2 block west of Oak Park and 1  
mile north of I-80)

March 9, 10 a.m. – Hoover Outdoor Education Center  
Yorkville, IL

March 12, 7:15 p.m. – St. Patrick's High School  
5900 W. Belmont, Chicago (at Austin)

# Lots of Staff Applications are in... is Yours?

by: Ron Kulak - Staff Developer


Since camp ended last summer, Chicago Area Council has taken in lots of applications for Owasippe staff. The CAC has conducted three interviews since the end of November and well over a hundred individuals have been interviewed, including twenty C.I.T. candidates. An alternate interview date is set for Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to noon at Five Holy Martyrs School, 4325 S. Richmond, Chicago (enter from parking lot at rear of school), 2 blocks west of California Ave.

There are still plenty of job openings. Applications are still being accepted even as the camp staffs are being assembled. This also holds true for C.I.T.s, who will come together for a special orientation weekend on May 10 and again during Staff Week, which begins June 22. We hope there will be a C.I.T. class of as many as 25 candidates by the summer.

Interested in getting your staff application in? Call the CAC Service Center at (312) 421-8430, extension 227, or e-mail Director of Camping Steve Adams at [Stadams@bsamail.org](mailto:Stadams@bsamail.org).

C.I.T. info and applications are available from Chauncey and Mary Beth Niziol at (708) 562-4874 or via e-mail at [Bookwormom@aol.com](mailto:Bookwormom@aol.com). The OSA is sponsoring the C.I.T. training program again for the 2002 summer season. Please help us make it a success by letting us know of any possible recruits!

If you would like to volunteer for a week or more at Owasippe, contact either Steve Adams above or the 2002 Reservation Director, Bill Van Berschott, at [Billyvb@yahoo.com](mailto:Billyvb@yahoo.com). Bill will be assisted by Pete Klaeser. Both are OSA members and are looking for the assistance of experienced staffers to help out wherever possible.



**REMEMBER!**  
**Staff Development**  
**is Owasippe's Future**

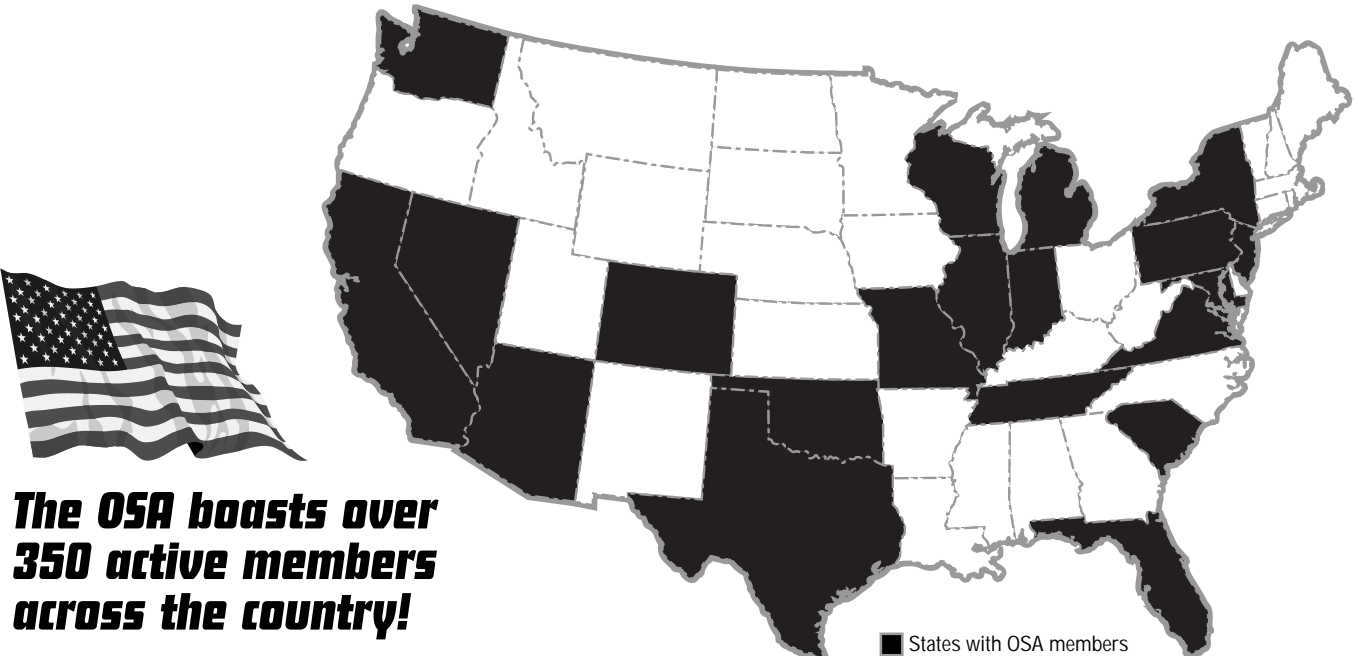
Send all contributions to:  
Staff Development  
P.O. Box 7097  
Westchester, IL 60154

## Owasippe's 91st Season

Staff Week .....	June 22-29
Session 1 .....	June 30- July 6
Session 2 .....	July 7-13
Session 3 .....	July 14-20
Session 4 .....	July 21-27
Session 5 * .....	July 28-August 3
Session 6 ** .....	August 4-10

\* Webelos II Camp held in Carlen: July 28- August 1

\*\* Venture Camp - final details TBA



**The OSA boasts over 350 active members across the country!**

■ States with OSA members

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## 2002 Elections

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**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 a shorter term. A Director must be a currently registered Staff or Associate member age 21 or older as of the day of election (March 2, 2002), 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
Diane Posen	Vince Rychtanek	Pat Troy (Treasurer)	2002
Kevin Oster (Vice-Pres.)	Art Paull	Dan Kleinfeldt	2003
Michael Campbell (Secretary)	Ron Derby (President)	Jim Rich	2004

**WHO MAY VOTE** Each Staff and Associate Member currently registered (2002) 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 24th Annual Meeting at the European Chalet Banquets, located at 5445 South Harlem on Saturday March 2, 2002, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Alternately, ballots will be accepted via the U.S. mail. A list of candidates, their resumes and a ballot will be sent out in a separate mailing in mid-February.

**BE SURE THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY REGISTERED (2002) 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 Chairman Pat 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 2002 Annual Meeting. For 2002, 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.

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## 2002 Nominations

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**George Korzen**, age 29, has been a Chicago resident his whole life and is now living on the Northwest side with his wife, Charity, and his 3-year-old daughter, Bethany. While also a part of a family-run construction company, George is a full-time firefighter on the Chicago Fire Department. An Eagle Scout of the class of 1990 and a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, he has been an active volunteer in many Scouting activities. After camping at Owasippe for many years previous, George finally discovered the joys of working on staff in 1989. While living on the Camp Robert Crown staff row, he held the job of Project COPE aide. He returned the next two years as COPE assistant director, staying at Camp Blackhawk. He has been a member of the OSA since 1996 and has taken part in many spring and fall work-weekends. Hobbies of his include reading, music and his job. *If elected to the board, George pledges to see that the OSA becomes as important a social organization to its members as it is a valuable tool for maintaining Owasippe.*

**Ronald Kulak**, age 50, is a resident of Tinley Park, IL, and married to long-time Owasippe staffer Marilyn (nee Young). They have four sons, ages 17 to 23, all past Owasippe staffers. Ron is a graduate of Chicago State University where he received a BS degree in Finance and graduated cum laude. He is president and CEO of Illinois Credit Corp. of Arlington Heights, IL, which he founded in 1989. Ron has been Scoutmaster of Troop 442 in Tinley Park since 1992 and also has served as Committee Chairman and Webelos leader. He is the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and the Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor and has been a Scoutmaster to a National Jamboree troop and a Philmont crew. He is an Honorary Life Member of the OSA and a founding board member, which he previously served for nine years in the positions of president, secretary, membership chairman, newsletter editor and banquet chairman. He served on the Owasippe staff for 6 years and has been on the Owasippe CIT training staff since 1979. *Ron sees the OSA as playing an integral role in the development of camp staff and in the upgrading of camp programs and facilities, but he also feels that OSA membership and related benefits can be enhanced.*

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## **2002 Nominations (continued)**

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**Hans Anderson**, age 36, lives on the Northwest side of Chicago with his wife, Denine, and two children, Nathan (2) and Claire (11 months). He attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he earned a BS in Geography in 1990. Hans has worked at Rand McNally as a GIS Specialist for the past nine years. An Eagle Scout, he worked at Owasippe for four summers, all at Camp Robert Crown. Starting as a Senior Aquatics Aide in 1984, he became Asst. Aquatics Director in 1985 and Aquatics Director in 1988 and 1989. Having been a member of the OSA since 1988, he has shown his support by attending spring and fall Fix-Its during that time. Along with spending time with his family, Hans enjoys volunteering at the local Scout Troop, coin collecting and antiques shopping, and he is an avid cribbage player. *Hans is interested in helping the OSA promote Owasippe and its traditions to local and regional councils. He also would like to be involved in solidifying the connection between the OSA and the Chicago Area Council.*

**Candy (Romcoe) Merritt**, age 29, is married and has two daughters, True and Bailey. She and her family reside in LaGrange Park. Candy currently works part-time as a hair stylist and is a full-time homemaker. She is president of the PTO for Project Ideal Preschool. Candy started her Owasippe experience as a camper in 1974. Her staff experience began in 1989, and she continued on the staff through 2001 holding various duties such as Trading Post Manager, Age Group Leader, Aquatic Director and Assistant Director. Candy has spent the last three summers as Reneker Family Camp Director, where she will return once again this summer. She currently is registered as a volunteer committee person with the Chicago Area Council. *Candy says that Owasippe is very near and dear to her heart, and she would like to bring to the OSA the experiences of current staff member. She would like to help the OSA reach out to younger staff in order to keep this organization, as well as Owasippe, going. Candy plans to help in the task of recruitment and spreading the word on what the OSA is about.*

**Pete Kulak**, 23 years old, is single and lives with his family, which includes Ron and Marilyn Kulak, as well as younger brothers Nick, Rich and Jason. Pete is currently working as an English teacher at Joliet Township High School (West Campus), where he is also an assistant coach for the speech team. He graduated in December of 2000 from Eastern Illinois University with a BA in English, and a minor in music. He has visited OSR every summer since birth, but worked there from 1992 to 1997, all but his CIT year being served in Blackhawk's Scoutcraft area. Pete actually passed his Eagle board of review at Owasippe's Hillcrest cabin in the summer of 1996. More recently, Pete volunteered as a commissioner for one week at Blackhawk in the summer of 2001. Pete will be serving for the second time as a leader for Troop 442's Philmont trek this summer. In his spare time, Pete enjoys playing the drums and reading (but not at the same time). *Pete would like to see the OSA become more visible to both staff and scouts during the summers, and sponsor more events for current staff in the hopes of recruiting more members to help continue the organizations outstanding contributions to Owasippe.*

**Cheryl (Voliva) Merritt**, age 34, is divorced and lives in Dolton with her 6-year-old daughter. Cheryl is currently working full-time as an 8th grade Math, Science and Social Studies teacher in Roosevelt Junior High in Dolton. This is her first year teaching after doing social work for 11 years. She currently is attending Governors State University to obtain her teaching certificate in the Alternative Certification program. She has a BA in Psychology from North Central College and a M.Ed. in Community Counseling from Loyola University. She also is a Licensed Professional Counselor. During her free time, she enjoys camping, traveling and movies. Cheryl was a Girl Scout for 22 years earning her First Class, Gold Award and Silver Award. She also was a Brownie leader during college. She worked at Owasippe for seven summers, six at Reneker as an age group leader and Pool Director and one at Blackhawk as Sailing and Water skiing Base Director. A member of the OSA since 1988, Cheryl has attended many work weekends. She also has assisted with raffles at the Annual Meeting. *Cheryl would like to see the OSA continue and strengthen its relationship with the Chicago Area Council. She would also like to involve more OSA members in events that benefit Owasippe and the OSA.*

**Bill Tenner**, age 34, is single and lives in Norridge. Bill received his Associates degree in Communication from Triton College in 1989. Bill is currently employed by 5-Star Audio Visual in Chicago-area hotels as an audio/visual equipment technician. Bill is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. He currently is a member of the Camping Committee and is a Committee Member of Post 9900. Bill started his tenure at Owasippe in 1985 and worked 7 summers full-time and 8 summers part-time. He started as a Dining Hall Aide and rose through the ranks to become the Dining Hall Director for 5 years. He worked double duty in the summer of 1988 as a Commissioner and as the Assistant Field Sports Director. In 1988, Bill was again a Commissioner. Bill likes to spend his free time camping and woodworking. Bill joined the OSA in 1988 as a Staff member and became a life member in 2000 and has served on the Board of Directors previously. *Bill would like to see the OSA concentrate on membership issues and getting people involved.*

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## **Too Much Information**

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So you think you know everything after the list of household solutions last issue? One member sent in another list of useful, and not so useful but definitely interesting, information. Pay attention; you'll be quizzed on this later.

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
5. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
6. There are more chickens in the world than people.
7. Two-thirds of the world's eggplants are grown in New Jersey.
8. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screached."
9. On a Canadian \$2 bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
10. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20. Hmm, why is that?
11. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
12. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
13. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
14. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
15. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
16. Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
17. There are only four words in the English language that end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous and hazardous.
18. Los Angeles' full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reinade los Angeles de Porciuncula."
19. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
20. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
21. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
22. In most advertisements, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
23. Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
24. The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life."
25. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
26. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
27. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
28. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
29. The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
30. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
31. The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
32. Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
33. The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
34. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
35. "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

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## **It's a Party!**

*by: Scott Weber - Old OSA Member*

**A**s you read on page 1, March 2 is the day the OSA will celebrate 24 years of existence, something that I never would have thought possible as I sat at a table in the now defunct Beef & Barrel in Oak Brook, eating and drinking with my brothers from Owasippe. Everything that we discussed that night has come true for the organization and the camp we serve. Some ideas have taken longer to reach fruition, but the majority of our objectives have been on the mark from day one.

This March, I personally will reach a magic milestone, and I can't think of anyplace better or with a better bunch of people than my brothers and sisters of the OSA to celebrate this point in my life. On the evening of the annual meeting, I will hit the magic 50... the big Five-Oh. So if you have been sitting on the fence trying to decide if you were going to attend this year's meeting, come out and help me enjoy being another year closer to the day when I can join the AARP.

For those of you who are unable to participate in the OSA events held during the year, here is your biggest chance to support the OSA as we celebrate the organization's 24<sup>th</sup> year of existence, and party with me as I try to figure out what I did for 35 of those 50 years. Don't be a pooper; make your reservations now.

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## **Thanks for a Thrilling Season!**

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**Chicago Bears**  
**2001 NFC Central Division**  
**Champions**



# What's News?

## **Bridge over calm waters**

The old train bridge over the White River has been renovated to extend the Hart-Montague bike trail and provide handicap-accessible fishing. The recently opened bridge cost \$131,000 to complete and spans the 244-foot distance, joining Whitehall and Montague. To commemorate the opening, the mayors of both cities rode a tandem bicycle over the bridge on a cool December day.

The money came from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and a grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. Further improvements of the area include a new parking lot, already installed, and a handicap-accessible restroom, which should be completed in the spring.

The combination of trail bridge/fishing platform is a unique design that seems to serve two user groups quite well.

## **Down and still in**

The proposed ferry line that was to have run from Milwaukee to Muskegon has moved a little further south for another shot at actuality. The new proposed line runs from Waukegan, Ill., to St. Joseph, Mich.

The original plan was scrapped after Thomas Rankin, owner of the proposed Hydrolink LLC, requested a federal loan guarantee. The request drove supporters of the Ludington-Manitowoc Lake Michigan Carferry to dig up information about Rankin's past two bankruptcies and one fraud conviction to protect the existing service.

Rankin's current Waukegan-St. Joseph service is dependent on a \$107 million federal loan guarantee from the U.S. Maritime Administration. Once approved, Rankin plans to have service operational by mid-2003. A one-way trip would take one and a half hours.

But all hope is not lost for the Milwaukee-Muskegon ferry route. Lubar & Co. is working with both cities to establish that route. If either one of these services gets going, we can all look forward to a new route to Fix-its!

## **Change for good**

Remember that tiny little county park on the way to Ishnala's? \$180,000 bucks says you may like it a lot more the next time you see it.

A grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and additional funding from Muskegon County have given county officials the green light to make some much-needed improvements to the campground/park. The entire restroom/shower facility will be replaced to include handicap-accessible stalls and

showers. Three campsites will also have accessibility modifications, including paved walkways to the restroom.

County officials are making changes to many parks to bring them in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The renovations should take six months to complete. Futures plans include a new playground, improving the other campsites and updating the electrical and water systems.

## **Hand-me-downs**

Two camp-area favorites are changing hands. Big John's Pizza (you know, that red-roofed place nestled at "The Curve" in Whitehall near Corsi's) has been bought by Jack Miller, eldest son of previous owner, Gloria Miller. She's retiring after 30 years tossing crusts. Gloria and her husband started the business in 1970. He had a heart attack and died four years later. Gloria raised her six kids and ran the pizza joint, but is ready to slow down and enjoy all that she has worked so long for.

The owners of Mac Wood's Scenic Dune Rides are also retiring. Though they will keep ownership of the business, Bev and Pete Wood are turning over the operation to their kids. The dune dragging business was started by Pete's father in 1930 with a Model A Ford. The newer buggies are a lot better equipped for the terrain. Bev and Pete's grandkids are getting in on the business too, working summers at the peak of the tourist season.

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# Galloping Grapevine



## **Tom Patterson ~ Fort Carson, CO**

Tom writes in with nothing but good news. Currently a first lieutenant stationed at Ft. Carson, he expects to be on the Captain's list this March and should get pinned by September. He and his wife are kept busy by their son, now three years old, and daughter, who just turned one. The family plans to stay out West for a while, but Tom sends best wishes for Owasippe. We send our best to you!

## **Art Olson ~ Hammond, IN**

Art, a past commissioner at Camp Wolverine, is still the same old Art despite his struggle with diabetes. He is having some vision problems and has lost both legs to the disease, but he is trying to keep his spirits up. He would love to hear from anyone via phone or mail. 7425 Jefferson Ave., Hammond, IN 46324. (219) 933-7153. Our thoughts are with you Art.

## **Victor Ortiz and Adam Keene ~ Chicago, IL**

We can add two more names to the distinguished list of Owasippe Eagle Scouts. Victor Ortiz and Adam Keene both achieved the rank of Eagle in the past few months. Both are recent Owasippe staffmen. Congratulations on your amazing accomplishment!

## **Reinhard Plaut ~ Chicago, IL**

Reinhard has been awarded the Silver Beaver. The distinguished award for outstanding adult Scouting participation was presented at the Council dinner on January 29, 2002. Way to go, and thanks for all your dedication.

## **Pat and Donna Troy ~ Lemont, IL**

The newest Troy family member, Hannah Louise, was born on Nov. 27. She weighed-in at 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was a tall 20.5 inches. Ironically that's the same height and weight as her older brother, Kevin, was at birth. Though Kevin was hoping for a little brother, he's just glad to be a big brother. We're glad to hear the whole family is doing well!

## **Mark Herman ~ Robinson, IL**

Mark married his wife, Valerie, in 1996, and they have since had two children. Alex is now two years old and Jeffry is just one month. Mark is working as a Captain for Chicago Express Airlines based out of Midway. Glad to hear what you've been up to Mark! Congratulations on the new baby.

## **Gale Stoffregen ~ Chicago, IL**

Gale has been spotted on a station ID for WTTW, appearing with his Coast Guard helicopter crewmates. Tune in to channel 11 to catch Gale and crew but be careful, you might just learn something in the process!

## **Carlen's 2001 Senior Staff Award ~ Take three**

I recently received the newest issue of the OSA newsletter. It stated that they were correcting that Jack Newell did not receive Carlen's Senior Staff Award and that it was I that received the award. It was not me that won the award either; I worked at Crown. My brother, Kevin Egan, won the award. I hope you can correct this again in your next issue. Thank you, Sean Egan

We apologize for the mistaken correction. Apparently we want to give that award to everyone, but the award really did go to Kevin Egan. Congratulations Kevin!



**Ed Black (left) circa mid 70s**



## **See you at the end of the trail...**

### **Edward P. Black ~ Vero Beach, FL**

It is with great sadness and regret that we must report to you the passing of Edward P. Black, on Monday, January 7, after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and son, John. He was born May 7, 1932, in Pittsburgh, Pa., and moved to Vero Beach six years ago from the Chicagoland Area.

Ed worked for the Boy Scouts of America for 39 years prior to retirement. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He was current District Vice President of the Florida State Elks, member and past exalted ruler of Vero Beach Elks Lodge No. 1774 and member of the Republican Club.

Ed was a retired long-time career professional with the BSA having served in a variety of positions in Miami, New York, Far East Council, Rochester, Chicago, Munster and LaGrange. He most notably served with great distinction as the legendary reservation director of Owasippe at a time that many people feel was the camp's "glory years," 1971-1978, when it operated with unprecedented record attendance utilizing 8 camper periods at 7 section camps and 5 Lone Troop Camps.

It was during this period that the innovative "outpost" programs were introduced including the Diamond-O Ranch and the sailing base, the Owasippe museum was founded, the trail program and the vehicle fleet expanded, the Pack N Paddle and CIT programs modified and enhanced, and the OSA given life and encouragement. The Order of the Arrow Owasippe Lodge also saw record growth with 30 active Chapters and with Ordeal inductions conducted at Owasippe during each of its eight periods. As Chicago's Director of Camping, Ed was also the professional advisor to the Order of the Arrow.

Ed relished his time at Owasippe, was passionate in his duties, influenced and motivated many, and really loved driving his jeep, OSR99, around camp in his visits with the staff and troops. And who could ever forget his visit to roll call at Montague's Village Inn? What a charismatic leader and great communicator he was!

You can send your messages to Donna and John at OSR99@aol.com, or 5055 Third Manor, Vero Beach, FL, 32968. A memorial service in Ed's honor will be planned soon at Owasippe.

Donations may be made to the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, Headquarters Office, P.O. Box 49, Umatilla, FL, 32784, in his memory.

A campership fund is also being established in Ed's memory with the Des Plaines Valley Council. (708) 354-1111.

### **Pat Foster ~ Haines City, FL**

We were recently informed that Pat Foster passed away last summer. Pat put his experience as a Sears & Roebuck executive to good use in the Warehouse/Trading Post. Serving as director he organized the storage, sales, inventory and records of the Warehouse. He got his start at Owasippe through the "loaned executive" program that also brought Glen Roberts to camp. He continued his involvement with the Chicago Area Council by doing the council newsletter. Pat was also an OSA member, and he will be dearly missed.

# Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues DIRECTLY paid for this very newsletter!

Check the 4 digit number on your mailing label. According to our records, that is the last year you paid your dues.

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service at Owasippe:**

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_



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*The Owasippe Staff Association  
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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***

### *February*

20 ..... *Board Meeting*

### *March*

2 ..... *Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance*

17 ..... *Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

23 ..... *OSR Staff Interviews*

### *April*

? ..... *Director's Weekend (to be determined)*

### *May*

10-11 ..... *CIT Shakedown Weekend*

15 ..... *Board Meeting*

17-19 ..... *OSA Spring Fix-it*

### *June*

19 ..... *Board Meeting*

22-29 ..... *Staff Week Begins*

