



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2014, Volume 36, Issue 4

Call for 2015 OSA Board Nominations

Being on the Board has its share of benefits and commitments. These people make the decisions about Fix-it projects, event locations, fundraisers, membership and more. The Board's input is needed on many topics and situations. It's not all fun and games; a lot of work goes into running this organization. We need motivated thinkers and doers.

Candidates need to be OSA members in good standing, at least 21 years old and must be available for monthly meetings. The only other requirement is a dedication to Owasippe, the OSA and its members. If you or someone you know has the drive and ability to make things happen, we need to hear from you!

The Elections Committee will contact nominees to see if they are willing and able to serve. The Elections Committee will then review all the nominees and make a slate recommendation to the Board. Slated candidates will then be

contacted to garner their respective bios and goals for publication in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination does not guarantee a spot on the slate. The Elections Committee will review all the nominees and select a fair and balanced slate.

Please contact Dan Kleinfeldt, 2015 Elections Chairman, at (773) 505-4512 or DKleinfeldt@oprfs.org with any nominees. Nominations are due by December 14, 2014. Now is the time to step up and show your commitment to Owasippe and the OSA! ♣

Why should I run?

To preserve and promote the bond of friendship forged through Owasippe; To offer your time, talents, resources, and assets to the OSA and Owasippe; To continue to provide a great experience to Owasippe campers, Owasippe staff and OSA Members; And to HAVE FUN.

Current Board of Directors			Term expires
Andy Sirota	Candy Merritt*	Ron Kulak*	2015
Caitlin Boline*	Barbara Lea	Kurt Wolff-Klammer	2016
Carl Young	Ryan Gust	Blaise Lukasiewicz	2017

* Two consecutive term limit goes into effect.

OSA Pizza Night Rendezvous

Friday, November 28th
from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

At the European Chalet (lower level),
5445 South Harlem Ave., Chicago, IL 60638
(54th & Harlem Ave. Just off I-55)
www.EuroChal.com

Please RSVP to Ron Kulak
by e-mail at owasion@juno.com or by phone at 708-535-7748

PLEASE
NOTE

There will be a \$10 charge at the door, which covers pizza, snacks, promotional expenses and door prizes. There will also be a cash bar for your enjoyment.

Must be 18 or older to attend. No one under 21 will be served alcohol. Responsible drinking and designated drivers are encouraged.

President's Perspective

by Candy Merritt, OSA President

Where has the time gone now that summer is past and fall has begun? I would like to thank each and every one of you who came out to the Fall Fix-it, especially the OSA's Fix-it chairperson Edgar Wolff-Klammer, for coordinating and working diligently on a long list of projects needed for camp.



Owasippe is looking great. I would like to thank Edgar for the continued dedication as our liaison with the council, so that we can continue to work together on projects to benefit Owasippe.

Please like us on our Facebook page, Owasippe Staff Association. You will be able to follow our projects and see the continued renovations being done at Owasippe by the OSA and the Council. You can also see where we are with the final work being done on Guest Lodge. You will be able to keep track of all the OSA current events, like our Pub Crawl.

Thank you Ryan Gust for putting together the Pub Crawl. What a great fall activity for the OSA and an opportunity for all of us to gather with our friends. Please make sure you come out for another great OSA event put on by Ron Kulak, Owasipalooza. There is always great fellowship, food, and prizes at this event.

I wanted to take a moment to personally thank Kurt and Edgar Wolff-Klammer for their assistance while I was caring for my mother. They both have jumped in and made sure that deadlines were not missed and projects moved forward, as well as ensuring that monthly meetings were held.

Lastly, I would like to thank our members and friends that gave their sweat, time and money to assist the OSA in completing a project that we were asked to assist with, the Guest Lodge. Please go to our Facebook page, Owasippe Staff Association, to see pictures of the improvements at the Guest Lodge.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next event!

OSA Pub Crawl

by Ryan Gust, OSA board member

The much-awaited OSA Pub Crawl went underway on October 11, 2014. It was rescheduled from June due to lower turnout anticipation. It was a night full of laughter and Sprints....if you know what I mean. Going through the canal port area of Historic Lemont, 17+ attendees enjoyed an evening of crisp Fall weather, historic sites, and endearing friends to spend time with. This event, typically in the summer, may have allowed attendance of current members/camp staff, whereas in prior

years the June date may have proven more difficult for Camp staffers to attend. "Much fellowship was had by all," states fellow board member Blaise Lukasiwicz. In terms of OSA events I hope that this was a mark of celebration of the past summer's successes with camp operation and other OSA endeavors but also a kickoff towards the remainder of the year and what great things are in store for our membership and beyond. ♣



From Camp Staff...to Professional Scouter!

by Caitlin Boline, OSA Member

Growing up on staff at Owasippe, I have had the privilege of seeing fellow staff friends grow from boys to men who now devote their livelihood to give back to the organization that offered them so much in life. Here are a few bios of outstanding men who have recently begun their careers as Chicago-area Professional Scouters.

Alex Lohse, Chicago Area Council

Alex Lohse, Unit Serving Executive, is the Council's staff member responsible for the Arrowhead District. The District supports over 50 Scouting units in almost 30 chartered organizations. Alex works closely with Derrick Armstrong, District Commissioner and Bill Egan, District Chairman to ensure the delivery of quality Scouting programs to the 1,200 youth in the Southwest Suburbs and Southwest side of Chicago. He also serves as the Professional Adviser to the Order of the Arrow.

Alex joined the Professional Staff of the Chicago Area Council after graduating magna cum laude from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelors in Finance. Alex is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor member of Owasippe Lodge. He was on the Owasippe Scout Reservation staff for 7 seasons where he served as the CIT Director, OA Coordinator, Blackhawk Aquatics Director, Blackhawk Assistant Camp Director, and Blackhawk Director. He received the Staff Person

cont. on next page

2014 OSA Picnic

by Candy Merritt, OSA board president

We could not have asked for a better day for our Picnic this year. It's always great to catch up with old friends and meet current staff members.

The kid's games, chicken, and softball game were a great success. It was nice meeting staff people that



worked this past year and hopefully future member of the OSA. Thank you to everyone for coming out this year and sharing an exciting day with us. ♣



From Camp Staff... (cont.)

of the Year Award in 2009.

Alex joined the Professional Staff because of his desire to grow Scouting, ensuring that every family had the opportunity to enjoy the life-changing experiences and life-long memories that he cherished as a youth.

Blaise Lukasiewicz, Calumet Council

Blaise is a District Executive with the Calumet Council Boy Scouts of America. He services the Thunderbird District. His job is to recruit both youth and volunteers into the various scouting program. On any given day, Blaise may have meetings with School principals, church leaders, or community leaders. What has led to his employment with the scouts is the wanting to help progress the movement forward. As Blaise puts it, "I also do it for the kids. Scouting has given me so much and has made me so much of what I am, it was a natural fit to try to give that back to the next generation. The positions I have held at camp are from most recent in 2014 as the Betz Webelos Camp as the Shooting Sports Director/Assistant Camp Director. In 2013, I was the Blackhawk Shotgun Director, from 2008-2012, I volunteered a week at Wolverine, 2006-2007, I was a Sr. Aquatics instructor at Wolverine, 2005, I was an Aquatics Instructor, 2004 I was an Auxiliary Staff man assigned to Aquatics (aka Second year CIT), 2003 I served as a CIT."

Geoff Gawne, Chicago Area Council

I am currently working as the Exploring

Executive for Chicago Area Council. My job can be summed up in two words: grow and support. My duties include the creation of new exploring units and the strengthening of struggling units. To do this, I assist and train exploring advisors to help them run quality program, facilitate activities involving multiple exploring posts, and help recruit additional adult volunteers and even youth. I also am responsible for raising funds for the program, provide information and guidance for Venturing crews, serve as Lutheran relations person, act as staff advisor for Twilight cub camp, and "other duties as assigned," which is a catch-all for assisting with all manner of event and meeting at all hours of the day or night based on the needs of the council. In that way, it is not unlike camp staff!

Over my six years on staff, I saw the same youth come and go, saw them grow and develop. I saw with far more clarity than any other job would have shown me I think- the amazing benefits of the scout program. I knew the need was there, and so I figured that I would give the professional side a go. Twenty years as a participant and volunteer meant I certainly had some job related skills. During my time at Owasippe I have held the following positions: 2008: Paintball and Space Exploration Director, 2009-2011: Hizad Shooting Sports Director (Shotgun, Paintball), 2012: CIT Director (NCLD New Counselor Leadership Development that year instead of CIT), 2013: NCAP Standards Compliance Officer, Carlen Shooting Sports Director, NYLT Assistant Course Director. ♣

Guest Lodge—Ready for Use

by Ron Kulak, OSA Treasurer

After about 2 1/2 years of work and TLC, the Guest Lodge or LC2, is just about ready for use, probably for December 2014. It's been a labor of love for many Scouters, Friends Of Owasippe, and the Owasippe Staff Association.



Most contracted work was completed over the summer, which included all new electric and plumbing, windows and doors trimming, wainscoting in the new bedrooms and hallway, a new water well, and a new septic system. The kitchen was totally redone with new cabinets, counter-top, and appliances, and a new textured epoxy floor installed. Eight sets of bunk beds were acquired, delivered and constructed.

Since camp closed, our electrician installed baseboard heat in all rooms, and insulation was blown in the crawl space over the new annex. The Annex includes the two large bedrooms, a second bath, hallway, and a gabled roof that replaced the old carport.

Ken and Mary Graczyk have painted and stained the interior of the Guest Lodge, giving it a nice new coat of paint in the bedrooms, hallways,



kitchen and bathrooms (now 2). The Graczyks have spent a handful of weekends devoted just to this and are to be commended on their talents, hours and devotion to duty. The place has never looked better.

Special mention goes out to our Guest Lodge Taskforce of diligent volunteers and craftsmen who tended to the above tasks on those two weekends, namely:

- Ron & Susan Derby
- Gary, Tracy and Julie Dorencz
- Scott & Barbie Dorencz
- Ken Graczyk
- Dave Parrish
- Edgar & Kurt Wolff-Klammer
- Adam Keene
- Andy Sirota
- Mike Payne
- Scott Riley
- Kevin Boline
- Marty McGarry
- Dr Francis Podbielski
- Ron Kulak

Special thanks goes out to Scott Peterson, Terry Ross, Dr Francis Podbielski, Jim Schlichting, and Wally and Pat Kleinfeldt whose special material contributions helped to furnish and rehab the GL Kitchen and put into place the necessary bunk beds. We also greatly appreciate the help provided by Al Geisler and his ranger staff of Dennis Mitchell, Jerry Lutz, and Josh Lau.

Kudos also to contractor Shannon Popp of Whitehall, MI, whose supervision, vision, and subcontractors did the major amount of work and kept this going when we couldn't be there. Without them, the new annex superstructure, porch, windows, and roof and all contents therein would not have been possible.

While the lodge is ready for occupants and is fully functional, there are some items in progress. This week, we fully expect to have installed a wood stove insert with a new steel flu liner, to have the chimney tuckpointed, and to repair the flashing and chimney cap. By mid-November, we expect to have curtains made courtesy Lynn Mesirow and then hung in selected rooms. We have to bring in a handful of canvas cots for bedding overflow as well.

By next Spring, we will focus attention on staining the inside of the main lodge (Great Room) and the outside original building and annex. It will have to be all hands on deck for that task. We also will need to construct a storage shed and to install added split rail fencing. It has even been suggested

Guest Lodge (cont.)

that we construct a short trail to the overflow parking area (where LC4 used to be). As the council STEM program is developed, we will also need to enhance the facility to host those activities for summer camp.



Funds are still needed to help pay for work already finished, for work in progress, and for next year's tasks.

Fall Fix-it Recap

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer, Fix it chair

The 2014 Fall Fix-it weekend (September 19-21) was a little bit wet but was truly another great OSA event. Not only did a large group (68) show up for various parts of the weekend, but we got a chance to complete some ongoing projects and get a step closer to finishing Guest Lodge. Here is part of the list:



Cook Cabin 1 & 2 - Scraped and painted panels
Gray Staff Cabin 8, 10, 11- Repair holes on exterior sides.

Wolverine Staff cabin #9 remove floor tiles & Staff cabin #13 repair floor tiles

Wolverine Staff Shower house - repair and paint animal damage on rear of building.

Wolverine South Lodge - repair and paint animal damage on the back side of building.

Blackhawk - Floor Board Repair at dining hall and campsites.

Maintenance and back by boat storage - Floor Board Repair.

Museum - Clean up the inside for spring painting.

To that end, we need your collective monetary assistance to make this possible. Contributions may be sent to the OSA, c/o GL Rehab, PO Box 7097, Westchester, IL, 60154. Questions and ideas can be emailed to the OSA Guest Lodge Task Force c/o Ron Kulak, Owasiron@juno.com.

Thanks to those who have already contributed their time, ideas, talents, and money! By rough reckoning, this project cost a bit more than \$80,000 in labor and materials, about half of which came from free-will offerings from OSA Members and Friends Of Owasippe. Lord knows what value one could put on just the volunteer labor. This great undertaking couldn't be possible without teamwork and your unselfish assistance in many different ways. THANKS TO ALL!!! ♣

Extensive Guest Lodge repairs were also taken care of (see article in this newsletter for more details).

If you haven't made it to a Fix-it in a while, let me extend an invitation to you and yours to come back to the woods again. Hope to see you this spring! ♣



Vigil Dinner for Lodge #7

Saturday, November 22, 2014

European Chalet Banquet Hall, 5445 S. Harlem Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Cost: \$35.00 per person (Vigil members and spouse/guest are invited)

Fellowship: 5:30-7:00 PM, Dinner: 7:00-8:00 PM, Program: 8:00-9:15 PM

This year they will honor two Vigil Brothers and OSA Members who have dedicated their lives to Scouting and the community, living lives of cheerful service—John Sanchez, Sr. and Donald E. Studaven. The decades of service provided by each Brother in their contributions to the Scouting movement in Chicago have touched the lives of countless youth and adult members.

For more information: <http://www.moqua.org/event/2014-vigil-dinner>. ♣

New Owasippe Programs

by Chris Skopec

Mountain Biking, Kayaking, and Geocaching are coming to Owasippe in 2015! Twenty new kayaks and eight additional mountain bikes are being acquired to boost our program opportunities for older Scouts. The Outdoor Programs Committee is currently looking for Scouters and volunteers with kayaking, mountain biking, or geocaching experience to assist with staff training and program implementation. You can help make Owasippe stronger! Please contact Chris Skopec at (708) 612-2369 or chris.skopec@gmail.com for more information. ♣

Make Plans Now for 2015

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer

Many will say that not much has been done to Owasippe in the past few years for repair and upgrades. This past year was completely different. With one million dollars to upgrade and do repairs from CAC, donations to refurbished Guest Lodge and donations from the OSA you will see many improvements that have been completed. New metal roofs on many buildings including the Blackhawk dining hall. The Museum got new doors, windows and painting. New Mattresses. A new deck and fence at the Reneker Pool. New shot gun shelter at Wolverine. A new special needs camp site at Wolverine. Floor boards repaired. New floors, cabinets and other cabin upgrades at Reneker. Clean up of trash. And many other items.

Many of the improvements were done by great volunteers – OSA Members, MOB Workers, Leaders attending camp and many others, THANK YOU. Is it done? No. Hopefully next year the momentum will continue with new kayaks, more mountain bikes, new radio tower, STEM Program and more. How can you help? Plan on coming to a Fix it weekend and donate some time to make OSR better. Try and bring another scout or even a troop to camp at Owasippe for a week. ♣

OSA Membership Corner

presented by Andy Sirota - OSA Board Member

New Members:

Kevin Boline
Sam Canchola
Ray Gawne
Beth Lukasiwicz
Martin McGarry
Patrick McGarry
Dr Alexander "Alex" Radosavljevic
Brian Weems

Galloping Grapevine



Rachel Weber recently began a graduate program at Elmhurst College in Speech Pathology. Good Luck!

Bill Tenner recently moved to Austin, TX to pursue a new job. Congrats, BBT!

Following being promoted to Major with the U.S. Army in June, Dannielle Carroll was married on September 10th in Santa Clara, CA to Mariya Wakem. They are now house hunting in Louisville, KY, as Dannielle has accepted a new position as a Military Intelligence Career Management Facilitator Manager. Holy Cow! HUGE CONGRATS!

The Sullivan Family participated in the S.E.A. Blue Prostate Cancer walk on September 14 following a successful surgery for their father, Jim. Way to go, "Warrior"!

Corrections:

In the last issue, we missed a Staff Person of the Year: Joe Sener at High Adventure. We regret the error.



See You at the End of the Trail

The OSA is very sad to have lost Nancy Romcoe on September 2, 2014. She passed away at the age of 69. Mother to Thomas, Michael, Patrick, Candy, and Sandy. A life member of the OSA, Nancy devoted her life to scouting and was a lifelong volunteer for Boy Scout Troop 465 FHM, recipient of the Silver Beaver Award, member of Order of the Arrow, and Mother to two Eagle Scouts.

New Life Members:

Anna M Montes
Francis J Podbielski MD
Dr Angela Thompson



It's OSA Ad Book time again, 37 years and still going strong!

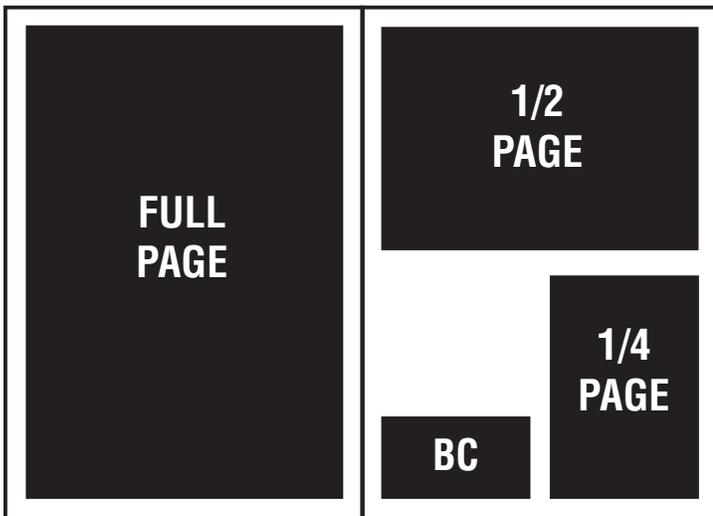
Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are seeking sponsors for the Owasippe Staff Association Ad Book distributed at our Annual Meeting in March of 2015. Here is an opportunity to promote your business, extend greetings to your friends, and/or wish Owasippe and the OSA well. The annual Ad Book is an important fundraiser for the OSA, and its proceeds help us carry on our mission of supporting Owasippe.

As you probably know, Owasippe is located in scenic Western Michigan near Whitehall and Montague, and it is the nation's oldest Boy Scout summer camp. Owasippe serves youth and families from the Chicago area and throughout the U.S.

ONLINE FEATURE OFFERS YEAR 'ROUND EXPOSURE!

The ad book consists of a program for the annual meeting, our annual report and a yearbook of event photos. We have four ad options as outlined below and each ad comes with a corresponding space on the OSA website for one full year!



Please respond with your materials by January 16, 2015 using the form provided below.

Enclose your camera-ready art or any message you wish to present and mail it to the address below.

Email ad submissions (PDFs) are preferred.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Derby at (231) 557-0770 or osa.adbook@gmail.com

The OSA thanks you for your support and reminds you that we are a not-for-profit organization, therefore your participation is tax deductible.

AD BOOK ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send with a check payable to the Owasippe Staff Association to...
OSA Ad Book c/o Ron Derby • 510 Holton Whitehall Rd. • Whitehall, MI 49461

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Date: _____

Business Name: _____

web address: _____

Message (or attach copy) _____

Qty.	Ad Description	Size (width x height)	Cost
	Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$25
	1/4 Page	3.5" x 4.75"	\$40
	1/2 Page	7.5" x 4.75"	\$65
	Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$100
	Cover Full Page (inside front, inside back, outside back)	7.5" x 10"	\$125

The Owasippe Staff Association
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154



Vibrations is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

Editor: Pete Kulak

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.

Articles, tidbits, photos and artwork are encouraged. E-mail all such materials to: **vibrations@owasippe.com**. Submissions can also be made by mail to: **OSA 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 (Issue 1) January 15
- Summer (Issue 2) April 1
- Fall (Issue 3) August 7
- Winter (Issue 4) October 15

Dates of Interest to OSA Members

November

- 4..... Election Day
- 17..... OSA Gift Card Deadline
- 22..... Owasippe Lodge 7 Vigil dinner
- 27..... Thanksgiving
- 28..... Owasipalooza Pizza Nite

December

- 7..... Pearl Harbor Day
- 14..... OSA Board Member Nominations Due
- 21..... Winter Solstice
- 25..... Christmas
- 31..... New Year's Eve

January

- 1..... New Year's Day
- 15..... Deadline for Spring issue Vibrations submissions
- 16..... Ad book Deadline
- 19..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

