



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2015, Volume 37, Issue 1

37th Annual Dinner Dance Member of the Year Announced

by Candy Merritt, OSA President

We are very proud to announce Member of the Year Gary Dorencz. Come out and help us celebrate his accomplishment and this great Honor as we share stories of his hard work and dedication to the OSA and Owasippe.

This is our biggest annual event filled with fun raffles, silent auctions, the annual meeting, tasty dinner, dancing and lots of time for socializing. Take a few minutes right now to mark your calendar and send in your ticket reservation on the enclosed form or via PayPal. Tickets will not be sold at the door. The banquet will be held at Victoria Banquets (In the “penthouse” of the Holiday Inn Express) in Rosemont. Doors open at 6 pm, and dinner starts at 7 pm. Plan on sticking around until 11 pm to take advantage of all the raffle drawings, silent auction items and open bar. Holiday Inn has blocked some rooms for us at the price of \$99; please mention the Owasippe Staff Association in order to get your discount. Please refer to the Dinner Dance information sheet for further details about exciting raffles.

Elections will be held the night of the Dinner Dance, and the results of the election will be announced during the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you all there! And bring a



friend to help celebrate 37 years of the OSA and as Camp Wolverine (Zaxie) turns 50!

Camp Wolverine will be celebrating its 50th birthday this summer and we will be singing Happy Birthday Owasippe Style to our beloved camp. ♣

Silent Auction Items Needed

by Edgar Wolff-Klammer

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past for the OSA Dinner’s Silent Auctions.

Now is the time to start submitting your donations that you might be able to make to help the OSA raise funds at this year’s dinner dance. Also if you could ask for donations from local businesses, restaurants, spas, sporting outfitters et cetera we would appreciate it. All donations are a tax deductible donation to the OSA.

To make a donation, please email Candy Merritt at candy_merritt@yahoo.com or Edgar Wolff-Klammer at osainfobooth@gmail.com or call 847-677-1688.

All donations to the silent auction are welcome and appreciated!

See next page for a couple of the 2015 silent auction items.

President's Perspective

by Candy Merritt, OSA President

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

The annual dinner dance, in March, will mark the end of my second term, so I will be leaving the board. I have really appreciated the opportunity to serve on the board and to work with so many dedicated OSA members. This has been a challenging year for me personally, and I can't thank the officers of the board enough for their support. I want to thank all of the members of the OSA, who support Owasippe and our organization. Honestly, it is amazing how much the OSA has accomplished over the years, because of people like you, our members, and board. I am proud of the support that we continue to provide to camp, the scouts, and the staff. I have served many years on the board and I continue to be amazed at the support our members provide to us, so we can support Owasippe and the camping program. As our organization grows older we have grown stronger and wiser. I am proud of the relationship that we continue to build with the Council. We understand that change can be a challenge and we are very excited about continuing our relationship with the new Pathway to Adventure council.

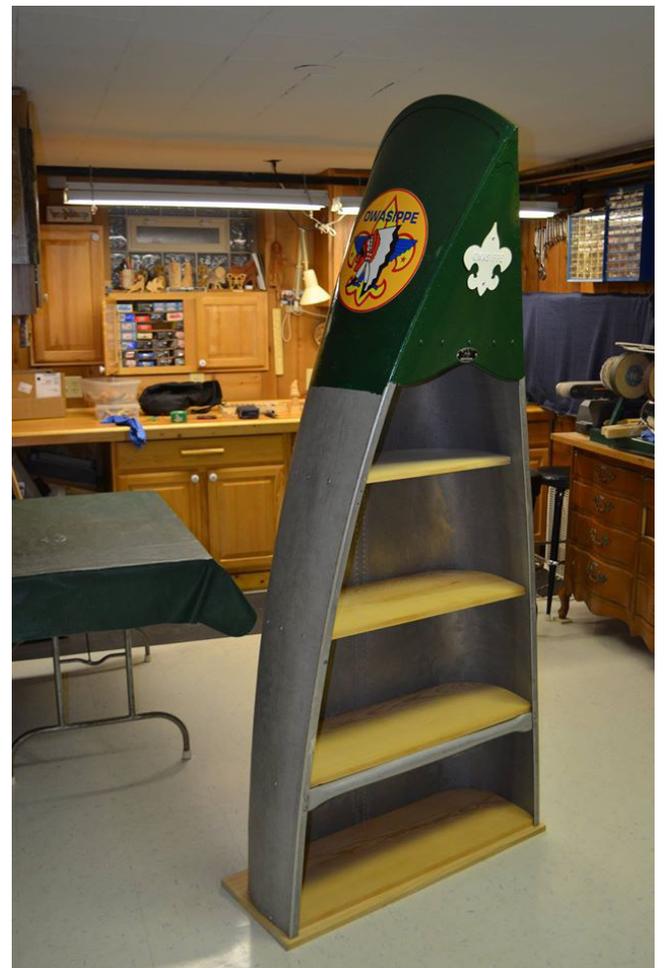
I am very proud to be an OSA Member, and extremely proud to be an officer on the board. As members of this organization, electing members to the board is one of the most important jobs you have. Every vote counts, and every election is important. I have had an exceptionally positive experience working with our incredibly talented board members throughout the years. Our board takes this organization very seriously, and we are very diligent in the projects that we choose to take on. In addition to myself leaving the board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank two additional members leaving the board. Ron Kulak's term as Treasurer is ending. Andy Sirota, who has served as the Membership Chair, is throwing his name in the hat for another go-round. Please read the candidate's bios and vote for who you would like to see on the board. You do not need to be present at the dinner dance to vote; you are allowed to mail your vote in. I look forward to seeing many of you at the dinner dance. ♣



Some Silent Auction Items



Clock with Owasippe logo hand carved by Edgar Wolff-Klammer



Canoe bookshelf (or is that a Bookshelf Canoe?) built by Edgar Wolff-Klammer

37th annual OSA Dinner Dance
Saturday, March 7, 2015

2015 OSA Board of Directors Candidates



Eric Hetland

Like all of you, I have an unquenchable love for Owasippe and consider it a personal responsibility of mine to see to its continued success. This is done by maintaining the bonds of Brotherhood we first experienced as staffers and campers at Owasippe. By keeping those bonds alive and well, we are

inspired to give back to the camp that has given us so much.

As an OSA Board member, I would primarily focus on increasing the turnout at our events and deepening member involvement for the organization as a whole. As any of my camp friends can attest, it is my second nature to organize social opportunities for us to spend time together, reminisce about our times spent at camp, and stay up-to-date on each others' lives. I gain a great satisfaction from doing this and I am confident that I can expand this to the larger OSA organization by helping organize our events and assisting with our membership efforts. Working at Owasippe taught me the importance of following through on what you promise, and you can be confident that, as an OSA Board Member, I will bring an undeniable passion and drive to fulfilling the OSA mission. Thank you for your vote!



Kyle Nystrom

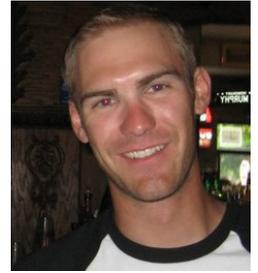
My name is Kyle Nystrom, 24, and I live on the northwest side of Chicago with my family. Currently, I'm working as a server part time while pursuing an Outdoor Education Degree. I am overly excited for Owasippe 2015 to serve my 11th summer on camp staff (Wolverine and High Adventure) and my 2nd

year as COPE Director. I have always enjoyed the OSA banquets because they seem to have the largest attendance and it is amazing to see an organization at its strongest. And to hear past staff men and women tell stories of their involvement to the camp. If elected, I aspire to commit myself as much as possible to help the camp that has given me so much. As a current staff member, I would like to help the upcoming camp season with materials or repairs we, the OSA, can provide.

Andy Sirota

Andy Sirota, age 29. He lives in his house in Warrenville, IL, alone and sometimes with friends. He works as a GIS Tech for Peoples Gas in Chicago.

Andy is an Eagle Scout and he camped at Carlen in 1999, and then worked at Blackhawk and Carlen Aquatics during the summers of 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2007. He is currently serving on the OSA Board as the membership chair. He has been active in attending work weekends and working on the Guest Lodge project. If relected, he says he would "try and increase the involvement of non practicing members and bring them into our OSA family with different events and programs."



Chris Skopec

Chris Skopec, age 25, is a resident of Worth, IL. He attended the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign where he earned his BS in Agricultural and Consumer Economics. He is currently transitioning from active duty and is a Platoon Commander in the



United States Marine Corps Reserve. Chris joined Scouting in 1997 and first experienced Owasippe as a Webelos at Carlen in 2000. He joined staff in 2008 and has served as an Aquatics Instructor, Sailbase Director, and Aquatics Director at Blackhawk. Since college, Chris has focused on volunteering at Owasippe, working with his troop, and instructing at National Camping School. He currently works to implement new summer programs and is passionate about helping Owasippe realize its unmatched potential. Chris' favorite OSA events are the work weekends and dinner dance.

Owasippe is at a critical point in its incredible history. The OSA is in a unique position to serve as its greatest advocate and help shape the future. It is my goal to sponsor exciting programs, create a stronger relationship with current staff, and add value to our Scouts' summer camp experience.

2015 OSA Board of Directors Candidates

(continued)

Conrad Zadlo

Conrad Zadlo, age 34, is single and lives in Bolingbrook. He earned a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science from Dominican University and an M.S. in Computer Science from DePaul University. Conrad is a Cyber Security Engineer at Argonne National Laboratory and is also an Adjunct Instructor at Dominican University. He is an Eagle Scout, Brotherhood Member with Vigil Honor, and life member of the OSA.



In addition to camping with his troop at Wolverine, he has served on Owasippe staff for 7 years (hopefully 8 after this summer), working at Blackhawk, Carlen, Reneker, and Wolverine. His roles have included aquatics/aquanaut instructor, aquat-

ics director, and assistant camp director. He has enjoyed attending OSA events ranging from work weekends to candlelight bowls to Owasipalooza. His hobbies include running, triathlon, and hot air ballooning.

Owasippe, with the assistance of the OSA, has provided many opportunities for scouts, like me, to develop into the leaders of tomorrow. I look forward to being able to help provide these opportunities to the next generation of scouts.

Make your vote count!

Voting for our Board of Directors takes place on March 7 at the OSA dinner dance. See Election Information and find the Absentee ballot on page 7 of this very issue of Vibrations!

Galloping Grapevine



Chris and Christy [Sener] Townsend welcomed baby girl Caroline Kelly Townsend on December 22nd. Congrats also to Joe and Linda Sener on their first grandchild.

Thom Sullivan is currently touring North America with Disney on Ice "Worlds of Fantasy" as a carpenter. From there he will also stop in South America and head to Europe for 8 months on the *Frozen* leg of the tour.

In December, Caitlin Boline graduated from Dallas Baptist University with Master's degrees in both Educational Leadership and Reading/English as a Second Language.

Membership Corner

New Life Members

Frank J Camerino

Paul Kerchberger

Doug Lotter

John Weiss

New Members

Christopher Skopec

True Merritt

For the Birds

by Barb Lea, OSA board member

After earning her Master's in Science Education, OSA board member Barb Lea decided to try her hand (with help) at raising backyard chickens! They can often be spotted foraging for food in the West Rogers Park yard. There are five Ameraucana breed and one Maran. The eggs are blue and brown.

You can read about them in a Center for Humans & Nature blog post at www.humansandnature.org/blog/animals.



You are cordially invited
to an evening of great fellowship, fine food,
good spirits and raffle drawings at ...

*The Owasippe Staff Association's
37th Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance
on March 7, 2015 from 6-11 p.m.*

at Victoria Banquets

(in the "penthouse" of the Holiday Inn Express)
6600 North Mannheim Road • Rosemont, IL
www.victoriabanquets.com/rosemont • 847-544-7500



Celebrating Camp Wolverine's 50th year!

Ticket price is \$50 per person
and includes dinner with an open bar.

Mail-in ticket orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 25th • Tickets will also be available online (via PayPal) until March 1st

NO tickets will be sold after March 1st • Tickets will NOT be sold at the door

Discounted hotel rooms are available for \$99 while they last. Call 847-544-7500 ...
You MUST mention the "Owasippe Staff Association Block" to get the discounted price.

For additional information, call
Candy Merritt at 708-860-2555 or e-mail candy_merritt@yahoo.com

REMINDERS: This is an 18 and over event. NO ONE under 21 will be served alcohol.
Responsible drinking and designated drivers are strongly encouraged.

What are Golden or Green Tickets?

This year we are again using the "Golden Ticket/Green Ticket" system in a continued effort to speed up the check-in process. As mentioned above, each Dinner Dance ticket is \$50.

Mail-in ticket orders must be postmarked by Feb. 25th (PayPal by March 1st).

- A Golden Ticket will be mailed (or confirmed by phone) to each OSA member who has their ticket and membership dues paid.
- A Green Ticket will be mailed (or confirmed by phone) to each non-member who has their ticket paid.

Present your Golden or Green Ticket at the door and you're set to meet and greet friends!

NOTE: In order for this to work smoothly we will need the names of all the attendees in your party as well as an indication of their membership status (see order form).

See reverse for the order form & raffle info!



Dinner Dance Raffle Info.

Drawings to be held at the OSA Dinner Dance/Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2015
 Winners need not be present. Mail-in orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 25th (or PayPal by March 1st)

SAMSUNG Galaxy Tablet SM-T320

- Loaded with features!
- 16GB



**Samsung
Galaxy Tablet**
\$10 each



amazon.com

\$250 in
Amazon
Gift Cards
\$10 each



There will also be an
awesome silent auction
on the night of the
dinner dance!

OSA Dinner Dance & Raffle Order Form (Please Print)

(Golden Tickets)

OSA Member Name (s): _____

(Green Tickets)

Non-Member Name (s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Item	Qty.	Price	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Dance Tickets		x \$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Membership Dues Renewal		x \$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Life Membership		x \$350	
<input type="checkbox"/> Samsung Galaxy Tablet (raffle)		x \$10	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ultimate Split-The-Pot Cash (raffle)		x \$10	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 in Amazon Gift Cards (raffle)		x \$10	

Enclose a check payable to the
Owasippe Staff Association in the amount of:



Mail to:
The Owasippe Staff Association
c/o Dinner Dance
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

2015 Election Info.

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 to be held on March 7, 2015, 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
Andy Sirota	Candy Merritt*	Ron Kulak*	2015
Caitlin Boline*	Barbara Lea	Kurt Wolff-Klammer	2016
Ryan Gust	Blaise Lukasiewicz	Carl Young	2017

*OSA bylaw two-consecutive term limit goes into effect.

Who may vote?

Each OSA member currently registered (2015) 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 37th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from the time doors open until dinner is served.

Alternately, signed ballots will be accepted via the U.S. mail. A list of candidates, their resumes and a ballot are included in this issue of Vibrations.

Be sure that you are currently registered (2015) so that your vote can be counted! 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 Andy Sirota at (630) 310-0093 or a_sirota@msn.com.

Winners Those candidates receiving the largest number of valid votes will be inducted into the Board of Directors during the 2015 Annual Meeting. The top three vote-getters will be considered duly elected. Seats are held for a term of three years.

Operating Officers The first official duty of the newly constituted Board of Directors will be to select operating officers for the next 12 months, namely President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Absentee Ballot

Owasippe Staff Association



2015 Board of Directors
Official Mail-in Ballot

Vote for 3 candidates

- Andrew Sirota
- Chris Skopec
- Conrad Zadlo
- Eric Hetland
- Kyle Nystrom

write-in _____

write-in _____

write-in _____

Mail-in ballots MUST BE SIGNED for authenticity and received at the P.O. Box by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2015 to be counted in the election.

Owasippe Staff Association
Attn: Elections
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

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: **osa.vibrations@gmail.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

February

- 2..... Groundhog Day
- 14..... Valentine's Day
- 20..... Gift Card order deadline
- 25..... Mail-in deadline: Dinner Dance tickets
- 27..... Mail-in deadline: Board Election absentee ballot

March

- 1..... Online Deadline: Dinner Dance Tickets
- 7..... OSA 37th Annual Meeting and Dinner
- 8..... Daylight Savings Begins (spring forward)
- 17..... St. Patrick's Day
- 20..... Spring Equinox

April

- 1..... OSA Vibrations copy Deadline (no joke)

May

- 15-17 OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
- 25..... Memorial Day

