



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2016, Volume 38, Issue 1

38th Annual Dinner Dance Member of the Year Announced

by Ron Kulak

We are proud to announce Member of The Year Ken Graczyk. Ken has been a dedicated and hardworking volunteer at Owasippe over the last several years having provided his painting expertise and countless days toward the renovation of the Guest Lodge, the makeover of the Owasippe Museum and the rehab of the Camp Wolverine Chapel. At the Guest Lodge, Ken painted the drywall in the bedrooms and bathrooms in the new addition and stained the interior wood and all exterior walls and trim on both the original lodge and the annex. His work has breathed new life into all three structures.



Ken grew up in Chicago's Back of The Yards neighborhood and was a Scout in Troop 494 where he earned his Eagle Scout Award. His Eagle project was accomplished at the Hoover Scout Camp in Yorkville, IL. Ken was instrumental in helping to establish Troop 485 in Evergreen Park where he served as a Scoutmaster.

He worked on Owasippe camp staff in 1974 as Nature Director at Camp Wolverine North



and again in 1978 on aquatics at Camp Wolverine South. Later on, he also volunteered at Hoover Scout Camp under storied Ranger Leon Winckel.

Ken is married to his wife of 35 years, Mary Graczyk. They have three children, Melissa, Ken and Audrey, and a grandson, Aiden. All have pretty much been raised at Owasippe on their many trips to both camp and work there. They reside on Chicago's South Side. Ken is employed by the Chicago Park District as a painter.

Volunteering to do what he can at Owasippe has been a labor of love for Ken and his Family. We are proud to recognize his hard work and service for the camp. ♣

Silent Auction Items Needed

by Caitlin Boline

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past for the OSA Silent Auction. Donations at the 2015 Dinner Dance included an incredible variety of high-interest items, as well as many novelty Owasippe items. The creativity and resourcefulness of OSA members was notably apparent. Now is the time to submit donations you might be able to make to help the OSA raise funds at this year's Dinner Dance!

We ask that you get your creative juices flowing, as well as consider resources you may have with local businesses, restaurants, breweries, spas, sporting outfitters et cetera. All donations are a tax deductible donation to the OSA. To make a donation, please email Caitlin Boline at caitlinboline@gmail.com. All donations to the silent auction are welcome and appreciated very much. Thank you!

President's Perspective

by Kurt Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

Happy 38th Anniversary! I would like to thank Caitlin Boline for her past 6 years on the board. I would also like to thank the other board members for their support and hard work this past year. The BIGGEST Thank You goes to all of our members and friends who would have contributed to the OSA by attending work weekends or OSA events or by their generous financial donations.



Finishing up my first term on the board has made me reflect on my time so far. I am glad that I ran for the board, was elected and have been more involved in the OSA these past three years. I have enjoyed meeting many members that I would not have met if I hadn't been on the board. While on the board, I have enjoyed seeing OSA and Council projects being started, worked on and completed.

With reflecting on the past, I have also been looking forward to the future. With the merger of the councils it is more important than ever to get more members, staff, leaders and others to join us at Fix-its and to continue making a positive contribution to the camp we all love. I also hope to continue serving on the board for the next three years.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting and Dinner on March 5, 2016 and the May 20-22 Spring Fix-it. I hope to see you all soon. ♣

2015 Honorary Life Member -

Candy Merritt

by Caitlin Boline

We are proud to announce longtime OSA member, supporter and friend, Candy Merritt, as our 2015 Honorary Life Member. To many, the name Candy Merritt is synonymous with the OSA, especially when it comes to fellowship within the organization. Candy has cheerfully organized and facilitated OSA events for years, including the yearly OSA Dinner Dance and Family Picnic. She is the perfect person to take on these duties, as she is an inclusive individual who people enjoy due to her friendly nature.



Candy embodies many of the points of scouting, including being helpful and kind. She has served on the OSA Board of Directors for twelve years, most recently serving as President of our organization. Candy started working on Owasippe staff at Reneker Family Camp for 17 years as a counselor, pool director, and finally as Camp Reneker Director for 9 of those years.

On a personal note, I have had the opportunity to work for Candy during her time as Camp Director. Knowing her as a superior, peer, and friend, I have continually appreciated and admired her positive outlook and ability to "make it happen" for others, without reward. We appreciate her selfless loyalty to the OSA. ♣

Save the Dates - Spring Fix-it May 20-22

Making Owasippe Better April 1-3 and April 29-May 1

Besides the Annual OSA Spring Fix it on May 20, 21 and 22, Bob Landmichl is organizing MOB (Making Owasippe Better) weekends on April 1-3, and April 29 - May 1, 2016.

Several skilled and unskilled labor projects will be held to improve the camp. For MOB Work Weekends please let them know approximately 12 days before the date of the weekend that you would like to attend (the earlier the better!) so that we can properly arrange Food and Housing/Camping for you. Please let us know if you have any special food requirements, if you would like to camp or be in a building, and if you have any special trade skills.



To participate in MOB Weekend please email: makingowasippebetter@gmail.com or contact Bob Landmichl at (773) 318-0871. ♣

2016 OSA Board of Directors Candidates



Samantha Canchola

Samantha Canchola, 25, lives with her family in Oak Lawn, IL. She is a graduate of Ferris State University where she obtained her B.S. in Recreation Leadership and Management. Currently, she serves

as a Program Executive for the BSA Pathway to Adventure Council.

Owasippe has always been the core of what has driven Samantha throughout her education and career path. While attending as a Reneker camper in 2004-2007, it was the memories and bonds of friendship she created that led her to become a staff member in 2008-2014 serving in the roles of COPE instructor, BLHK handicraft instructor, COPE Director, and High Adventure Director.

After all of the invaluable life and leadership skills she attained as well as introduced to scouts during her years of service, she knew she had an obligation to make sure others had to the same opportunities. Currently, Samantha's favorite means of accomplishing that goal is by supporting the mission of the OSA and preserving the life of Owasippe through participation in work weekend maintenance projects as well as the annual dinner dance gathering. As an OSA board member, Samantha would like to further her efforts by striving to continuously enrich the quality of program we provide for our scouting families and coming up with creative solutions in order to make that feasible. *There's a reason we refer to this camp as 'All the Wealth of Earth and Heaven' and I wholeheartedly look forward to giving back to it, what it has provided for me.*



Brian Feltner

Brian Feltner, age 37, lives in Wauconda. He currently works in manufacturing for a local company.

He first attended Owasippe as a camper in 1990 and did so every year until 1993. During his CIT year in 1994 he worked

with Tomoko Lutz in the Trading Post at Camp Blackhawk and continued to work in the Trading Post for the next three summers. In 1998, his final year on staff, he opted for something different and helped out at Photography Outpost.

Brian became involved in the OSA in 1999 where he enjoyed seeing old friends at Owasippe Fix-its and other OSA events. *I am really excited at the chance*

to help serve the OSA. I just can't begin to explain how many friends I have made and all the great times I have had while working at camp. By becoming a board member, it is my hope I can make more of a difference to the scouts that attend Owasippe.

Barb Lea

Barb Lea is the current OSA Board Secretary and is seeking a second term.

Barb served on camp staff for nine summers at Camps Reneker, Carlen and Crown High Adventure Base's Manistee Quest. She holds Owasippe dear to her heart and considers it her second home! She loves to share her love of camp with others and recently introduced a group of Kenyans to Owasippe! One of her most memorable moments at camp (actually in the Manistee Forest north of camp) was getting lost in the woods with a trek of scouts thus being the impetus for the creation of Owasippe's search and rescue program! She is getting married May 7th, 2016.

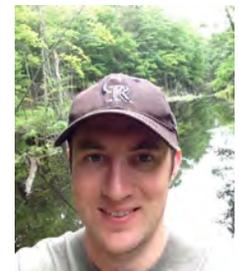


Doug Lotter

Doug Lotter, age 26, lives in the Printer's Row neighborhood near downtown Chicago. He earned a B.S. in Applied Meteorology from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, and recently earned an M.S. degree in Aviation Technology from Purdue University. He currently works at United Airlines as a Flight Dispatcher and enjoys traveling the world in his time off.

Originally from Aurora, CO, Doug grew up camping and hiking in the majestic Rocky Mountains. He joined scouting at a young age and eventually became an Eagle Scout. Doug first camped at Owasippe in 2003 with his uncle's troop, fell in love with the place and decided to join the Wolverine staff in 2005. He worked for 6 years at Wolverine as an Aquatics Instructor and as a Commissioner.

He is a Life Member of the OSA, with his favorite events being the annual Dinner Dance and the Family Picnic. As a member of the OSA board, Doug would promote investment in upgrading camp infrastructure at Owasippe and would work to plan exciting social events to continue the camaraderie we all share as Owasippe staffers.



(continued on next page)

Board Candidates

(continued)

Kyle Nystrom

Kyle Nystrom, 25, lives on the northwest side of Chicago with his family. Currently, He's working as a server part time while pursuing an Outdoor Education Degree. He is overly excited for Owasippe 2016 to serve his 12th summer on camp staff where he's worked Wolverine and High Adventure. This year he is serving as Blackhawk's 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. It's great to hear past staff men and women tell stories of their camp involvement. 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.



Kurt Wolff-Klammer

Kurt Wolff-Klammer, age 28, lives in Skokie, Illinois. He has been serving on the board for the past three years and is currently president. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Northern Illinois University. Currently, he is a high school math teacher in Franklin Park.

Kurt started his Owasippe career in 2002 as a CIT. He worked at Camp Blackhawk as a nature instructor from 2003-2005 and was nature director from 2006-2008. In 2013 was the assistant High Adventure director. Kurt is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 72 in Skokie.



Galloping Grapevine



Laura Levan recently became engaged to Stephen Chmurra . What a lucky guy! Congrats!

Heidi Edgecomb (Schlichting) – represented the US Forest Service at the Rose Bowl Parade.

Sue Thotz (Lutz) – *Let's Make a Deal*. Sue was in the January 4 episode. She won a fabulous shoe collection, but traded it in for another prize during the final showcase. You can view the show online at: www.cbs.com



Jenny Carroll-Belanski recently completed her coursework to earn her B.S.N. She is currently an R.N. at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Welcome Home Private Anne Nyberg. Anne completed her 13 weeks of boot camp. On January 8, 2016 she officially change from being Recruit Nyberg to being US Marine Nyberg at the US Marine Corp Base, Parris Island, SC. Anne is Karen Schaefer Fitzer's daughter and Bill Schaefer's granddaughter.



See you at the end of the trail...

Longtime Owasippe staffer **Anthony William "Bill" Dopke** passed on Sept. 11, 2015. Bill was 83 and lived in Keithsburg, IL. He enjoyed his time on staff (1967-1974). He ran the original Pack N Paddle and Voyageur Programs, was Director of Camps Blackhawk, Wolverine North and Wolverine South, and managed Owasippe's CIT Program. We all will miss Bill's wit, wisdom and philosophy.

Tomoko Higa Lutz passed away Nov. 7, 2015. She was 65. She spent 33 summers at Owasippe, many on staff at the Trading Posts. Always laughing and working with her hands, she taught many the joys of origami and other crafts. She will be missed. Tomoko leaves behind husband Jerry Lutz; daughter Susan Thotz (Lutz); stepson John Lutz; grandchildren Nitsa, Cyric, and David. A celebration of her life will be held summer 2016 at Owasippe.

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

*The Owasippe Staff Association's
38th Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance
on March 5, 2016 from 6-11 p.m.*



at Georgio's

8800 W. 159th St., Orland Park, IL 60462
(708) 403-1100 • www.georgios.com



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



Mail-in ticket orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 24th

Event Tickets will also be available online (via PayPal) until March 1st

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



Georgio's is attached to a Quality Inn and Suites. Please call 708-403-1100 and ask for The Owasippe Staff Association room block. We have a block of rooms for \$99.99 until February 5, 2016. You can also check the internet for prepay specials.



For additional info. please contact Candy Merritt: 708-860-2555 • 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.

A Golden or Green Ticket is your *FAST PASS!*

OSA Members

Your GOLDEN TICKET is an OSA member's FAST PASS through the door. Pay for your event ticket and your membership dues in advance, and you won't have to stop at the check-in table! Your GOLDEN TICKET entitles you to a fast pass to the elections table to cast your vote and gets you on a FASTER track to the FUN!

Non-Members & Guests

Your GREEN TICKET is also a FAST PASS through the door. Pay for your event ticket in advance and you won't have to stop at the check-in table! GREEN TICKET holders are not eligible to vote as they are typically non-members, so head straight to the FUN!

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 5, 2016. Winners need not be present. Mail-in orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 24th (or PayPal by March 1st) **Raffle tickets cannot be purchased online.***



- Loaded with features!
- 32GB



Apple iPad Mini 2 WiFi
\$10 each



ULTIMATE SPLIT-THE-POT
\$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!

***PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to PayPal restrictions, raffle tickets cannot be purchased online. Raffle tickets must be purchased by mail or at the event.

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"/> Apple iPad Mini 2 (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:

Pay in advance & get your FAST PASS!



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

2016 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
Caitlin Boline*	Barbara Lea	Kurt Wolff-Klammer	2016
Ryan Gust	Blaise Lukasiewicz	Carl Young	2017
Eric Hetland	Conrad Zadlo	Andy Sirota*	2018

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

Who may vote?

Each OSA member currently registered (2016) 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 38th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 5, 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 (2016) 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 2016 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



2016 Board of Directors
Official Mail-in Ballot

Vote for 3 candidates

- Samantha Canchola
- Brian Feltner
- Barb Lea
- Doug Lotter
- Kyle Nystrom
- Kurt Wolff-Klammer

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 26, 2016 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

January

31..... OSA Ad Book Deadline

February

2..... Groundhog Day
14..... Valentine's Day
19..... Gift Card order deadline
24..... Mail-in deadline: Dinner Dance tickets

March

1..... Online Deadline: Dinner Dance Tickets
5..... OSA 38th Annual Meeting and Dinner
17..... St. Patrick's Day
20..... Spring Equinox

April

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

May

20-22 OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
30..... Memorial Day

