



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2017, Volume 39, Issue 1

39th Annual Dinner Dance Members of the Year Announced

by Kurt Wolff-Klammer

Ron Kulak and Francis Podbielski, M.D. Rare this year's Members of the Year. Both have put countless hours into the restoration of the Guest Lodge. The Guest Lodge was in awful condition. Ron and Francis, along with others, saw the potential to rebuild this diamond in the rough. They worked with architects, contractors and advisors. Their dedication and determination has made a true asset for Owasippe that continues to help with programs for scouts. Please join us on March 4th to honor both of these outstanding members.

The Guest Lodge project started in 2011. Both Ron and Francis have put countless hours into this project. They wore many hats while working on completing the project including raising money, getting volunteers, overseeing construction, and coordinating donated materials. They volunteered many hours providing labor on the project. Since the project has been completed, the Guest Lodge has been used as a STEM outpost during the summer. The Guest Lodge has provided a great cabin for troop camping. Troops have enjoyed coming and staying there in all four seasons.

Along with that, Ron is a founding member



of the OSA and has been active ever since. He has spent many years on the OSA board and held many officer positions including President and Treasurer.

Francis recently joined the OSA but has been an active member of the OA both as youth and chapter advisor. He also helped form the Council Property Committee which has invested millions of dollars into Owasippe. He is one of the driving forces of the Owasippe Lodge Vigil Alumni group. ♣

Silent Auction Items Needed for 2017 Dinner Dance

by Caitlin Boline

Thank you to the OSA friends who have donated in the past to the OSA Silent Auction. Donations at the 2016 Dinner Dance included an incredible variety of high-interest and novelty Owasippe items. The creativity and resourcefulness of OSA members is always impressive.

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 39th Anniversary! I would like to thank Blaise, Carl, and Ryan for their past 3 years on the board. I would also like to extend good luck to Carl and the other candidates on the upcoming election. Also thank you to 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 have contributed to the OSA by attending work weekends, OSA events and generous financial donations.



While getting ready for this Dinner Dance, I would like to thank the many people that are helping to put this together. I would like to thank Candy Merritt for finding and booking the location. Also Caitlin for running the Silent Auction. Along with the many board members that are working on countless other parts. I would also like to thank everyone that has donated items to the silent auction.

The Annual Meeting and Dinner will mark our 39th year of supporting Owasippe and its programs. Many scouts have hiked the trails, earned merit badges and made lifelong memories while attending Owasippe. The hard work and dedication of the OSA has improved the camp and its programs.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting and Dinner on March 4, 2017 and the May 19-21 Spring Fix-it. I hope to see you all soon. ♣

Apply now for 2017 Owasippe camp staff

Spread the word — Owasippe camp staff positions are still open for the 2017 season.

Apply now! Take your mouse or your mobile device and head on over to:

<http://www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/campstaff>
to fill out an application.

2017 Spring Fix-it May 19-21

by Andy Sirota

Well, the new camping season is coming up and that means the Spring Fix-it is right around the corner, on the weekend of May 19-21, 2017. There is plenty to do, and spring is a beautiful time of year to head up to Owasippe!

We will meet at Food Prep for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Michigan (Eastern) time on Saturday morning. This year all of the meals will be provided by the OSA, so come hungry. Bring your cordless drills, saws, hammers, and willingness to help!



RSVP: Andy Sirota at a_sirota@msn.com or 630-310-0093 by May 14 to ensure we have enough food.

WHAT WILL YOU BE HELPING WITH?
We will be doing road crew, painting, roofing, carpentry, general repairs, etc.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- 2) Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property.
- 3) Ground fires are not allowed by Reneker Cabins. ♣



2017 OSA Board of Directors Candidates



Scott Dorencz

Scott Dorencz, 33, resides in Oak Lawn with his wife and two kids. For the last 10 years he has worked for Nabco Entrances, an automatic door contractor.

Scott was a member of the 1998 CIT Class, and worked the following 5 summers at Camp Blackhawk. Last year, he resurrected the OSA Pub Crawl and looks forward to another great turnout this year. His favorite events, however, are working the OSA Fix-its as part of the Dorencz crew. When not working, odds are you'll find him in the garage or enjoying a backyard campfire with his children. Scott's fondest Owasippe memories include the post-closing campfire traditions and changeover. All the wealth of earth and heaven...



Andy Kimbler

Andy Kimbler, 45 yrs old, currently lives in Elmhurst. He recently left his job as the Director of Maintenance for a country club on the North Shore to be a stay at home dad and to focus on starting his own handy man company.

He began attending Owasippe as a scout starting in 1983 where he always loved the outpost programs, c.o.p.e and canoeing the white river. His time at camp was the foundation to his love of the outdoors and escape from city life. Many of his fondest memories as a scout were at Owasippe with his lifelong friends and enjoying closing camp fires.

Andy was on staff in the early 90's for four years with a focus on Pack and Paddle and High Adventure. He spent 6 nights a week on the trail teaching wilderness survival, fishing, Indian lore and horse back riding to campers. And Andy's personal favorite the logging camp. He loved that he could teach young men in the same great environment he enjoyed growing up.

He is interested in joining the board as another way of giving back to a place that has been so important in his life. Andy has leveraged his handyman skills through the years at OSA work weekends and as a member of the board he would focus on maintenance of the camp and quality of programs for the scouts and future generations.

Andy is looking forward to making 2017 his 34th straight year visiting Owasippe, never having missed a year getting his feet wet at Wolverine Lake.

Andy recently got married and has twin 11 year olds, plus a dog. He has shared his passion for Owasippe with them on their yearly camping adventures.

Doug Lotter

Doug Lotter, age 27, lives in the South Loop neighborhood of 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.

Michelle O'Connor

Michelle O'Connor, age 34, lives in Wicker Park, on the north side of Chicago, and is the Tourism and Group Sales Manager at the Field Museum. She previously served on the OSA Board of Directors from 2007-2013.



Spending a week at camp every summer as she grew up inspired Michelle to serve on staff, where she worked various position on the Reneker staff from 1997-2003 and served as the COPE director in 2004. She's also active in Girl Scouts, running a troop of Cadettes and Seniors for the last 8 years.

Owasippe holds a special place in Michelle's heart, and she's looking forward to further supporting it and the OSA's membership.

Board Candidates

(continued)

Carl Young

Carl Young, 62, lives on the Northwest side of Chicago with his wife and two daughters.

He is a Physical Education Instructor/Elementary School.

He first camped at Owasippe in 1966, as a Boy Scout, at Wolverine South. He has continued to come to Owasippe each summer either as a camper or on staff. His troop currently camps at Blackhawk.

In 1971, he started working at Owasippe as a CIT. He was on staff in aquatics at Wolverine North, Camp Stewart, Sauger Lake, and Blackhawk from 1971 to 1979. He started out as an aquatic aid and worked my way up to Aquatic Director. He also worked as a senior commissioner (1982-1984) at Wolverine and Blackhawk. In the early 1990's, he worked as assistant reservation director for two years and one year as Camp Director at Wolverine. In 2002, he was Camp Director at Blackhawk. His last year on staff was in 2006 as Camp Director at Wolverine.



Chris and Christy Townsend will be relocating to Kalamazoo, MI, as Chris has accepted a new position with the Michigan Crossroads Council.

Jennifer Belanski (Carroll) has accepted a promotion as a Nursing Supervisor in the Advocate Healthcare system.

Alex Lohse has been promoted to Director of Community Impact with Pathway to Adventure Council.

Jeff Rich, a Chicago firefighter, was recently injured when he fell 20 feet while putting out a blaze in the city's Austin neighborhood. He is expected to make a full recovery. The OSA wishes him well!

Whitney Thorne has completed her Marine Boot Camp — she graduated on January 13th and is now a Marine of the United States.

Laura Levan married Steven Chmura on December 3, 2016, at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Make your vote count!

Voting for our Board of Directors takes place on March 5 at the OSA dinner dance. See Election Information and find the Absentee ballot on page 7 of this very issue of Vibrations!

Galloping Grapevine



Chase Budziak is now the Dean of Math, Science, and Business for Kishwaukee College.

Maureen Haneberg has graduated with her second Master's degree, specializing in Integrated Curriculum for Special Education.

Emily Gesell has accepted a March 2017 assignment with the Peace Corps supporting the country of Armenia.



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

*The Owasippe Staff Association's
39th Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance
on March 4, 2017 from 6-11 p.m.*

at Holiday Inn William Tell



6201 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-4200 • holidayinnwilliamtell.com



Ticket price is \$55 per person and includes dinner with an open bar.



Mail-in ticket orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 27th

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.



There will be a block of rooms available,
at the Holiday Inn William Tell, for \$99 per night.

The rooms will be held under “the Owasippe Staff Association” until February 9th.



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.

Pay in advance and get your FAST PASS!

OSA Members

Pay for your event ticket, raffle tickets AND membership dues in advance, and you'll be able to breeze through the check-in table! Simply grab your GOLDEN TICKET, head straight to the elections table to cast your vote, and get right to the good times!

Non-Members & Guests

Pay for your event and raffle tickets in advance and you'll be able to breeze through the check-in table too! Simply grab your placecard and make your way 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 4, 2017. Winners need not be present. Mail-in orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 27th (or PayPal by March 1st) **Raffle tickets cannot be purchased online.***



amazon echo

Always ready, connected, and fast. *Just ask.*

Amazon Echo
\$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 \$55	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Membership Dues Renewal		x \$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Life Membership		x \$350	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amazon Echo (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 4, 2017, 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
Ryan Gust	Blaise Lukasiewicz	Carl Young	2017
Eric Hetland	Conrad Zadlo	Andy Sirota*	2018
Barbara Lea*	Kurt Wolff-Klammer*	Kyle Nystrom	2019

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

Who may vote?

Each OSA member currently registered (2017) 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 39th Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2017, 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 (2017) 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 Eric Hetland at (773) 332-8661 or hetland.eric@gmail.com.

Winners Those candidates receiving the largest number of valid votes will be inducted into the Board of Directors during the 2017 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

- Scott Dorencz
- Andy Kimbler
- Doug Lotter
- Michelle O'Connor
- Carl Young

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 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

29..... OSA Ad Book Deadline

February

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

March

1..... Online Deadline: Dinner Dance Tickets
4..... OSA 39th Annual Meeting and Dinner
17..... St. Patrick's Day
20..... Spring Equinox

April

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

May

19-21 OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
29..... Memorial Day

