



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2017, Volume 39, Issue 3

Steve Schaefer Scholarship Fund Awards \$7,200 to Deserving Staff

by Kristin Mazanowski (Schaefer)

At the closing banquet ending the 2017 Owasippe camping season, eighteen staff persons were each awarded a \$400 check from the Steve Schaefer Scholarship Fund. Many of you may have known Steve or his family, but most of you probably do not know the fund exists, let alone the story behind it. It's an important one to share so that Steve's legacy can carry on with your support. Steve spent much of his childhood at Owasippe. He was a Gray Staff Village kid in the early 70s, a scout with Chicago Troop 978 a few years later, CIT of the year in 1983 and on the Blackhawk aquatics staff from '84-86. Steve was fun and hard-working, making him well-liked by scouts and staff alike.

Steve's life ended tragically his sophomore year in college when the house where he lived at Southern Illinois University broke out in fire. Before succumbing to smoke inhalation, witnesses on the scene credit Steve with saving his friends' lives by waking them up throughout the house. Steve was the only person to perish in the fire. The National BSA recognized his bravery by posthumously awarding Steve the "Golden Palms" award, and the plaque is now displayed in the Owasippe Museum.

In the midst of their grief, Steve's parents wanted to honor his memory, and knew his love for Owasippe was his legacy. Bill and Linda Schaefer understood that college students often could not afford to work at camp, but they also knew that experienced college-age students were essential leaders in a successful program. Since the Steve Schaefer Memorial Scholarship was started in 1990 over \$110,000 has been awarded every year to hardworking staff enrolled in college to help them pay for school expenses.



The members of the OSA have been essential in supporting Steve's fund, and we want to continue this tradition well into the future. To help, go to Owasippe.com, choose the "Ways to Help" tab, click "Donate" and specify the Steve Schaefer Scholarship Fund to make your tax deductible donation.

Thank you to all of this year's scholarship recipients for your service at Owasippe this summer. We wish you continued success in college, and we want to see you back as leaders on staff next year.♣

President's Perspective

by Kurt Wolff-Klammer, OSA President

For the first time in many summers I did not make it up to Owasippe during the camping session. I did, however, hear many great things about the summer. I was happy to hear that the stairs that were added to the Blackhawk dining hall are a big hit. I hope that we are able to do many more projects like this to improve the camp. If you have ideas, please let us know and we can consider them for Fix-it projects.



I am looking forward to working with this past year's staff and hoping that many of them will join the OSA. Many of the staff members have great ideas on ways to improve camp. Maybe we can make some of them into reality. If you know any of the current or even past staff members, encourage them to come out and join us at our upcoming events.

Regarding the future, I am looking forward to hearing about new projects from the Owasippe properties committee that we can help with to improve camp. Hopefully we can start some of them during the Fall Fix-it September 15-17. Hope to see everyone then.♣

2017 Staff Members of the Year

Reneker: Kathryn Milschewski

High Adventure: Elliot Brinker

Wolverine: Over 18: Aaron Heldt

Under 18: Joe Bradly

Blackhawk: Over 18: Edward England

Under 18: Tyler Youngdahl

Door Prizes Needed for Annual OSA Pizza Night

by Eric Hetland, Board member

The OSA Board is already planning for our annual pizza night during Thanksgiving weekend. An event that always brings out a large crowd, the annual pizza night is a great opportunity to reconnect with former camp staff from over the years and catch up on each other's lives while enjoying some delicious, local pizza. A highlight of the event each year includes the door prizes that attendees are automatically entered into. If you are able and interested in providing a fun door prize for this event, please contact OSA Board Member Eric Hetland at hetland.eric@gmail.com. The Board is looking forward to seeing you at the event!♣

MOB Weekends

Bob Landmichl is organizing MOB (Making Owasippe Better) weekends:

Oct 6-8, 2017

April 6-8, 2018

May 4-6, 2018

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



OSA Fall Fix-it — September 15 - 17, 2017

WE NEED YOU! We will be doing a number of odd jobs & special projects to help get the camp ready to close down for winter ... painting, roofing, carpentry, general repairs, etc. We also need cooks for the weekend.

We will meet at Food Prep for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Michigan (Eastern) time on Saturday morning.

PLEASE RSVP by September 8th to: Andy Sirota, Fix-it Chairman, 630-310-0093, or osafixit@gmail.com.

We need to know who is planning to attend so we can provide lodging, buy enough food and assemble work crews. If you have a cabin preference please let us know.

PLEASE NOTE: Persons under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
Alcohol is strictly prohibited on Owasippe property.

OSA Spring Fix-it 2017

by Andy Sirota, OSA board member

It with great pleasure that I am able to report that the 2017 OSA Spring Fix-It was a great success. I know I continue to say this, but it is true, that camp continues to improve after another work weekend. This is all because of contributions of our dedicated volunteers. I would like to thank our volunteers again for the gift of their service. All of this would not be possible without your continued support.

This past spring we were able to complete many of our tasks. We had three crews repairing the screens throughout camp. We fixed many of the screens on the Kybos, Staff cabins and at Health Lodge. Those screens are often overlooked but always appreciated at night when the bugs are out. There was a crew of electricians tackling the electrical odds and ends throughout Reneker. They repaired and replaced several switches and light fixtures throughout the camp. The future of Camp will be a little brighter from now on. There was crew cleaning and preparing the wolverine pool for a new coat of paint. Unfortunately, we were unable to do the painting due to the inclement weather. However, due to their efforts another crew

of volunteers were able to work more efficiently to complete the project. We had a crew removing trash from along the highway, making the community a little cleaner. There was a mechanic working on the trucks at maintenance, and building a new battery box for the grader.

Last but not least, the OSA had a crew install a beautiful set of wooden stairs on the side of the Blackhawk dining hall. These stairs are located on the left hand side of the dining hall when you look at the dining hall from Big Blue Lake. For many years at Blackhawk, the path where the stairs were installed was damaged by erosion created from time and thousands of scouts enjoying the camp. The OSA was happy to lead a project to preserve the camp for many years to come. These stairs took several months to plan, design, and two long work weekends to complete. I would like to thank the large amount of volunteers for all of their time and effort.

All of these projects would not be possible without you, our dedicated volunteers. Thank you again for your time and effort.♣



Spring Fix-It, continued



2017 OSA Picnic



OSA Bar Crawl 2017 — Oak Lawn

The 2017 OSA Pub Crawl was held in Oak Lawn on June 10th. A few dozen OSA members and friends gathered for stops at 4 bars. Table-top shuffleboard was a great hit! Trivia winners donned some brand new OSA ball caps.

If you would like to host the 2018 Pub Crawl or have a location suggestion, please contact ScottDorencz@icloud.com.



Galloping Grapevine



Matt Dorich married Kelsey Hayes on 5/6/17 in Evergreen Park, IL. Over 20 former Owaspippe staffers were there to help them celebrate their special day. Owaspippe brotherhood ran deep that night and featured the groom being serenaded with “You’ve Lost that Loving Feeling” and a cowbell-fueled dance-off between two former Wolverine Staffers. Our many congratulations to the newlyweds!



Top Row (l to r): Blaise Lukasiewicz, Ryan Gust, Nick Johnson, Andy Lukasiewicz, Chrissy Lukasiewicz, Chase Budziak, Mike Rinard, Doug Lotter, Eric Hetland, Amanda Sullivan, Laura LeVan, Jim Sullivan, Kevin Hanlon, Kyle Nystrom, Lauren Sullivan, Jason Roepke
Bottom Row (l to r): Jay Sullivan, Kelsey Dorich, Kristopher Dorich, Matt Dorich, Thom Sullivan.

See You at the End of the Trail



It is with great sadness that we bring the news of the passing of Rusty Martino.

Rusty was in Scout Troop 494 and an Owaspippe Staffman, starting as a CIT in 1975. After his years on staff Rusty could

be seen at many OSA work weekends helping build the shooting ranges, shower houses, staff cabins and many more items. His many talents, smile, and friendship will be missed.



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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

September

- 4..... Labor Day
- 8..... Fall Fix-it RSVPs due
- 15-17 OSA Fall Fix-it Weekend

October

- 15..... OSA Vibrations copy Deadline
- 31..... Halloween

November

- 11..... Veterans' Day
- 23..... Thanksgiving Day
- 24..... OSA Pizza Night

December

- 25..... Christmas
- 31..... New Year's Eve

