



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2018, Volume 40, Issue 2

40th Annual Dinner Dance — Marking Another Major Milestone

by Barbara T. Lea, OSA Secretary

Owasippe Staff Association members, friends and family came out in force for the 40th annual meeting and dinner dance held on March 3, 2018. Attendance was over 150 people—an amazing turnout, as we saw many faces we haven't seen in quite a while! Members and friends enjoyed the great food and hospitality at Victoria Banquets in Rosemont, renewed friendships and had rejuvenating conversations. Special this year was a slideshow of photos, videos and camp songs (thank you Chauncey and our DJ's Johnnie Villarreal & Daniel Schergen) as well as an anniversary trivia game!

We began the evening with an invocation from one of our new board members, Greg Lange. We recognized our newest life members: Craig Burkhardt, James Stech, Jacob Klein, Matt Vlies, Randy Etopa, Zachary Russo, and Peter Escobedo and honored our nine charter members with the foresight that made this organization possible: Tom Crissey, Ron Kulak, Phil "Chauncey" Niziol, Larry Miller, Bill Lotter, Chuck Nagel, Jack "Tiny" Norman, Scott Weber and Joe Sener. We took a moment of silence to remember those members



who have passed on this year, as well as in previous years. We made numerous other special recognitions, held board elections (thank you again Dan Kleinfeldt!), raffled off great prizes and had a fun and creative selection of silent auction items. Folks enjoyed a gift of a very useful tape measure with our official OSA 40th Anniversary logo (thanks, Ron Derby!)

A HUGE thanks to all of those who ran for the OSA Board this year, and to our outgoing board members: Andy Sirota, Eric Hetland, and Conrad Zadlo. Your hard work and dedication to the OSA has been essential in keeping it strong! We welcomed three new board members: Bob Kurth, Rachel Weber and Greg Lange. Many thanks to the Board and all of those who made the evening

(more Dinner Dance on the next page!)



President's Perspective

by Kyle Nystrom, OSA President

My name is Kyle Nystrom and I would like to express my excitement to be serving as the Owasippe Staff Association's president. I owe so much to the camp that we all call home. Owasippe has given me more experiences, friends, and family than I could have ever asked for! I was lucky enough to serve 12 summers as camp staff at Wolverine, High Adventure, and Blackhawk. This camp has given me so much and I ran for election for the board to give back to the camp that has given me, and all of us, so much. I look forward to another year on the board and even more so to serve as president.



Forty years of the Owasippe Staff Association is an achievement! Especially since our charter members never expected it. Look at us now!

A big thank you to everyone who attended and made the 40th Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance a success. There was a great turnout! We hope to see all of you again at our other events in the upcoming year such as the Fix-its, Bar Crawl, and Picnic!

Thank you to everyone who ran for election onto the board and we hope you continue to run in the future. I would like to welcome and congratulate the newest members of the OSA board: Rachel Weber, Greg Lange, and Bob Kurth. We are so thankful to have you as part of our team.

A big shout out to our elected officers of the board: Kurt Wolff-Klammer (Treasurer), Barb Lea (Secretary), Scott Dorencz (Vice President), and Kyle Nystrom (President).

An even bigger thank you to the board members leaving us: Andy Sirota, Conrad Zadlo, and Eric Hetland.

Some say 40 is over the hill. Guess they have never walked up Cardiac Hill. This organization is far from peaking! ♣



Dinner Dance

continued from page 1

possible, all of those who attended, donated silent auction items, and those who placed ads in the Ad Book. The 40th will go down in history as an unforgettable evening!

A related side story—the day after our annual meeting, I went to Mass at St. Gregory Church in Andersonville (Chicago) and was telling the pastor, Fr. Paul Wachdorf, about the great evening. Not only had he heard about Owasippe, but he burst out in song, singing both Camp West and Beard songs jubilantly! He surprised himself by remembering the tune and lyrics from attending those camps over 50 years ago! I include this little personal anecdote because it inspired me and reminded me of how far Owasippe's reach goes and how important it remains to so many people from so many walks of life. Owasippe is and will always be essential and unforgettable to so many!

2018 OSA Board Election Results

Kyle Nystrom, PRESIDENT
Scott Dorencz, VICE PRESIDENT
Barb Lea, SECRETARY
Kurt Wolff-Klammer, TREASURER
Carl Young
Bob Kurth
Greg Lange
Rachel Weber

2017 Member of the Year Recipients

The OSA Charter Members: Ron Kulak, Phil "Chauncey" Niziol, Joe Sener, Jack "Tiny" Norman, Bill Lotter, Tom Crissey, Scott Weber, Larry Miller, and Chuck Nagel

Raffle Winners

Winners Ultimate Split-the-pot: Rev. Francis Scanlan

Owasippe Map: Andy Sirota

Amazon Gift Card: Ron Derby

Net Funds Raised for OSA Programs

The OSA Ad Book: \$1,819.13

Dinner Dance Raffles: \$820

Dinner Dance Silent Auctions: \$1,757

Thank you to all who attended and worked to make this year's Dinner Dance a success! We look forward to seeing you next year! ♣

Meet Your 2018 Camp Directors



Terry Dutton
Reservation Director

Terry is a professional scouter and the Director of Program for Pathway to Adventure Council. Although new to the profession, Terry is a long-time scout volunteer and serves as Scoutmaster of Troop 16 in Oak Park, IL. Previous to becoming the Director of Program for

PTAC, Terry was an elementary school principal. He also has previous summer camp staff experience as a Camp Program Director and Camp Director. Terry is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow.



Justin Feld
Asst. Reservation Director

Justin Feld has been working on Camp Staff for 14 of the last 19 summers. He worked in several areas at Camps Shin-Go-Beek and Mach-Kin-O-Siew in Wisconsin. For the last 2 summers he served as the Program Director at Rainbow Scout Reservation in

Morris, IL. He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 89 in Downers Grove, IL and a Vigil Honor member of Pachsegink Lodge.



Annie Nyberg
Reneker Family Camp Director

Annie began at Reneker as a camper in 1999, eventually transitioning to a first-year staffer in 2013 and then the director in 2017. She is excited to expand on some of the improvements that were made last year and keep working to make Reneker

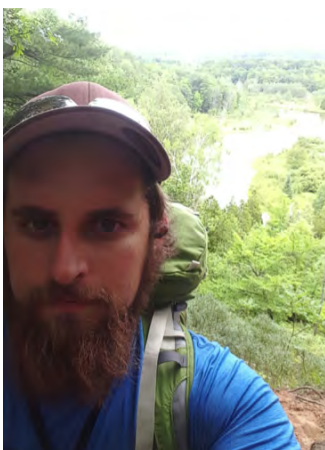
better than ever. Annie is an undergraduate student at Marquette University studying Political Science and Law. In addition to being a student, Annie is a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. She looks forward to combining her multiple interests to make this summer the best one yet at Camp Reneker- Go For It!



Nick Chavarria
Blackhawk Camp Director

Nick is originally from Homer Glen, Illinois and attended Illinois State University. He is in his 10th year as a high school social studies teacher and currently teaches at Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Illinois. For the past 9 summers Nick has

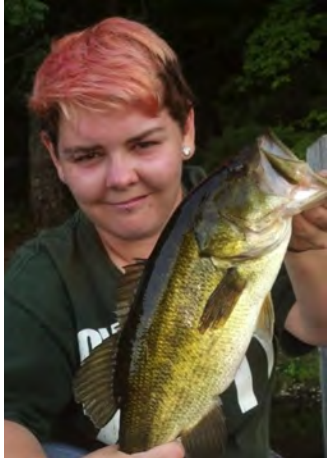
served as the Camp Director at Rainbow Scout Reservation in Morris, Illinois. He is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member. In his scouting career, he has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 65 in Lockport, Illinois. Nick has a passion for ensuring that scouts and scouters experience the best example of the Boy Scouts of America and working with young people.



Kevin Goldberg
Wolverine Camp Director

Kevin is returning for his 2nd year as Wolverine Camp Director. This will be Kevin's 11th summer working at a Scout Camp spending 9 prior years at Gerber Scout Reservation. Kevin recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a secondary education degree in Biology and Mathematics. He is active in the OA serving as an Advisor and is a recipient of the Vigil Honor and Founder's Award. Kevin is also active at the unit level, serving as Committee Chair and Asst. Scoutmaster over the past 10+ years for Troop 1051 in Muskegon, MI.

2017 Camp Directors continued



Nicole Valle
High Adventure
Director

Nicole has worked on High Adventure staff since 2010, first serving on the COPE and Climbing staff and then as the 2014 Hi-Ad Assistant Director. In 2015, she moved into the position of high adventure director and has been working to grow the program ever since. When not at camp, Nicole works as part of a reading intervention team servicing students at the early elementary level in Calumet City District 155. She has an associate's degree in art and has begun working towards a degree in social work. When Nicole first joined camp staff, she was entirely new to scouting, but now Owasippe has become a second home to her.



Andrew Baert
Webelos Camp
Program Director

Andrew has been working at Owasippe and Wolverine since 2011. When he's not at camp, he is a middle and high school science teacher in a small town in Wisconsin. He also coaches middle school track and advises the Rube Goldberg Machine team. Andrew is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow.

More from the 2018 Dinner Dance



Galloping Grapevine



From Phil Pappas: Sorry I had to leave the OSA banquet early, we were off to Singapore for the start of a cruise. These modern Singapore Scouts didn't help us old folks across the street. Instead they helped us use our GPS. Notice they are coed.

Congratulations again to all you charter members.



Adam and Abby Keene of Oak Forest, IL are happy to announce the newest addition to their family - the birth of their daughter Charlotte Kathryn! Charlotte came into this world on January 22. She was 6 lb. 2 oz. and 20.5 in. long. Both mom and baby did great. Their son, Aiden, just turned 3 in March and is a proud big brother. Adam is proud to now have two future Owasippe campers and staffers!

Kyle and Amber Kron welcomed son Brett on March 6.

True Merritt, OSA member and daughter of former OSA President Candy Merritt, recently graduated Field Artillery Basic Officer Leaders' Course after graduating from The University of Memphis, and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. True graduated last May Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Political Science with University

Honors. She commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the ROTC program at the University of Memphis. From there she went to Ft Sill to attend the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leaders' Course, a 5 month course designed to instruct Lieutenants how to become Artillery officers. From there True went to Vilseck, Germany, where she currently is assigned to the Field Artillery Squadron of the Second Cavalry Regiment.

2018 Spring Fix-it May 18-20

by Scott Dorencz, OSA Vice President

Everyone mark your calendars! This year's Spring Fix-It will be held on May 18-20, the weekend before Memorial Day. If it's been a few years since your last trip to camp, the work weekend is a great excuse!

All skill levels are welcome and there will be a job for everyone. If working hard labor isn't your cup of tea, don't fret. We also need cooks to re-fuel the crews. Guests are put up in Reneker cabins and all meals on Saturday are provided.

Reserving a spot is simple. Just give Fix-It chair Scott Dorencz a ring and you are in. Email and texts are also accepted. See you there!

RSVP: Scott Dorencz at 708-567-7714 or ScottDorencz@icloud.com by May 14th.

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. ♣



What if...?

by John Krysa

Did you every think about what you'd do if you won the lottery? I mean, did you seriously plan on what you would do if you hit it big, after the normal stuff of paying off the bills or making sure the kids college was covered? I did, and after what I'd do for myself and the family, I had some good deeds in mind.

Well, I never hit it big with the lottery. But life turned out pretty good for this Polish kid from a blue-collar neighborhood on Chicago's NW side. My folks had divorced, and the Boy Scouts and all that it offered became an incredibly important part my life. Experiences at Owasippe, both as a camper and staffer, gave me some important lessons for later success in life. Graduating from U of I Circle I had a 20-year career as an Army officer, ending in the Pentagon. My wife and I had 2 kids, now productive adults with families of their own, and my son was also an Eagle Scout.

After a few years in the corporate world as a management consultant I returned to public service, back again in the Pentagon as a civilian manager before retiring from the FBI as a Section Chief. I walked out of the Pentagon on 9/11 without a scratch. My son, a Marine officer, came home in one piece after making 4 combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The grand kids are healthy. My wife of 43 years and I are retired to a place with a dock on the shore of Lake Gaston NC. No, we didn't win big with a lottery ticket, but we hit it big otherwise.

Last August, my Mother suffered a major stroke and died at age 96 after a long, full life. She was active until she dropped of the stroke. But I had some inheritance coming from Mom. And I thought of the good deeds I intended if I were ever to hit it big. Only one was possible. That possible good deed was to buy a pick-up truck for Owasippe.

You see, long, long ago, in the last century, I was in college and working what was to be my last time at Owasippe in the AD Center as the Reservation trading post system manager (8 camps back then) and asst. business manager. It was pre-camp and I was bunking with Chauncey. The call came in one evening for assistance with fighting a fire. We hurried down to maintenance with an old pickup and loaded up all the 5 gal. Indian pumps we found (all on one side of the truck.) Chauncey decided to ride in back to keep them upright and we took off at a brisk pace toward the fire hall. So much for teenaged judgements and adrenalin combined with an old truck. Well, the laws of physics and inertia

took over when we hit the first real turn. Applying brakes and steering didn't do much with worn shocks and the weight of the load so the truck went straight when the road didn't.

The truck rolled, flipping Chauncey out of the back and through the pine trees. He landed OK on the soft floor of the pine forest, until it started raining down 5 gal. Indian Pumps. The truck rolled with me in it, crushing the cab when it sheared off a telephone pole while on its side. The "Great Scout Master of all Scouts" was watching over us. Chauncey suffered a busted collar bone but we were both mostly just scratched and beat up. After a ride by ambulance to Hackley Hospital, where we were checked out and quickly discharged, we returned to camp where we were afforded a night in real beds in the health lodge.

So that's the story behind my wanting to buy a pick-up truck for Owasippe, and not one too terribly old.

All the Wealth of Earth and Heaven,
John Krysa ♣

The OSA would like
to sincerely thank John
Krysa for his generous
gift!

More 2018 Dinner Dance



Donations and Projects

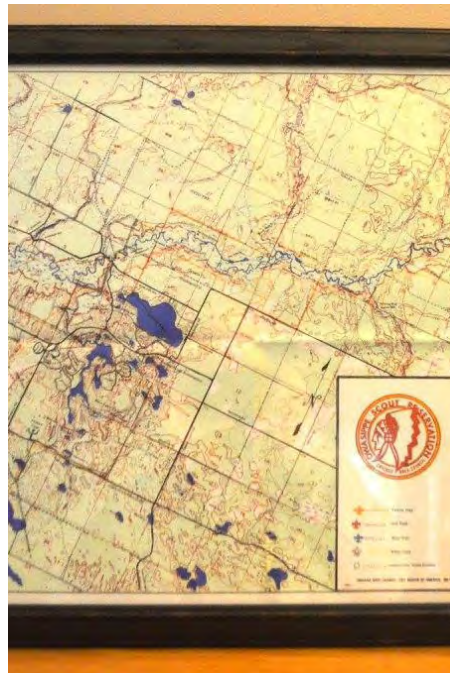
by Kurt Wolff-Klammer, OSA Treasurer

Over past year the Owasippe Staff Association was very fortunate to receive many donations and this allows us to make many improvements for the upcoming summer. These improvements include 16 paddle boards (8 at Blackhawk and 8 at Wolverine), pontoon boat motor replacement, new Electric Clay Thrower, 10 new camp radios, and 6 GoPros. We also made improvements to COPE by adding a cargo net to the high ropes course making it easier to climb up to the high course. Also at COPE we paid for an improvement to the repelling tower which is used for camping merit badge.

Other projects, including improvements to the staff KYBOs, are slated to be completed over the next couple years.



Some Dinner Dance Silent Auction Items



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

May

- 18-20 OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
- 25-28 Owasippe Lodge OA Work Weekend

June

- 17 Owasippe Staff Week Begins
- 24 Owasippe Open to Scouts

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 25 Christmas in July

August

- 5 Camp Shutdown Week Begins
- 7 OSA Vibrations copy Deadline
- 12 OSA Family Picnic - Sundown Meadow

