



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

# Vibrations

2019, Volume 41, Issue 3

## Another Unforgettable Owasippe Summer in the Books

by Terry Dutton, 2019 OSR Director

Owasippe Summer 2019 was a huge success! All of our camps (Blackhawk, Reneker, Webelos, and Wolverine) saw significant growth in attendance this year. The feedback from campers was very positive, and the staff did an amazing job working through some long and hot days to provide an excellent program for our campers. With regards to some attendance figures, Blackhawk and Wolverine served approximately 2,450 BSA youth! This attendance level hasn't been seen at Owasippe in several years, probably since the 2011 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

A new program highlight was the Owasippe County Fair, which we held each week on Wednesday nights at the Ad Center. ALL CAMPERS from ALL THREE CAMPS participated in an evening of fun and fellowship which wrapped up with a flag ceremony and Order of the Arrow callout. It was amazing to



see nearly 1,000 people on the Ad Center lawn during our busiest week. This was a memorable event planned by the camp staff — and they did a great job delivering the program!

We also hosted two weeks of National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) at Carlen this summer. This was a success and will continue

*Continued on next page*

## OSA Fall Fix-it — September 20 - 22, 2019

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

**PLEASE RSVP** by September 18<sup>th</sup> to: Adam Keene, 708-567-2678 or akeene2@gmail.com.

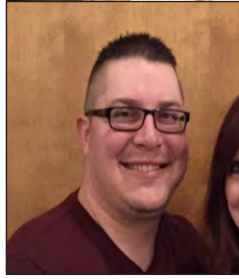
We need to know who is planning to attend so we can provide lodging, buy enough food and assemble work crews. If you have a cabin preference please let us know.

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

## President's Perspective

by Scott Dorencz, OSA President

I'd like to congratulate the 2019 Owasippe Scout Reservation staff on their recently completed camping season. The OSA decided to reward this year's staff with a Christmas in July gift, free Monster Shakes! Gift certificates were delivered by OSA vice president Candy Merritt. Thank you Candy!



We also held a successful Staff pizza night during staff week. This has been a long running tradition and an introduction for most staff to the Owasippe Staff Association. Back in 2001, I remember listening to Ron Derby introduce the OSA at my first pizza night. Ron was there again this June and we had a great turnout. The board of directors is focusing on contacting those prospective members.

If you made it up to camp this past season, there's no doubt you felt the OSA's impact. Campsite KYBOs needed to be converted for private shower and toilet stall usage. We had a crew convert some of these during the spring work weekend. A portable generator was purchased and donated to the Ranger staff to more easily facilitate these retrofits. The Pathway to Adventure Council is committed to updating these campsite facilities, as evidenced by the Blackhawk Wilderness hill KYBO reconstruction. Other OSA projects include the BLHK waterfront red trail bridge and new wash basins at the dining hall.

The Fall work weekend is September 20-22. We've averaged 30 or so volunteers the past couple years, with lots of skilled trades willing to donate their weekend to camp. There's always room for more and I'd like to see those numbers increase. We especially need volunteers to walk the three miles of roads adopted by the OSA. If you are interested, please contact the new Fix-it chair, Adam Keene (contact info in the work weekend blurb). ♣

## Unforgettable Summer

(continued)

next year. After summer camp ended, a group of Marines came to Owasippe with the Friends of the Windward Wounded Warriors program. These Marines were just as happy as the Scouts were when they were out fishing, boating, and ATVing. They had a great time! It was great to see expanded use of our property through programs like NYLT and Wounded Warriors.

Thanks to the OSA, the Blackhawk staff finally have a brand-new shower house! This model of single-stall bathrooms is the direction we're headed across the reservation, as we work towards compliance with Youth Protection policies and the needs of a staff that include youth and adult, males and females. This project wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the



generosity of the OSA – thank you!

Likewise, when you look around Owasippe's program areas, the OSA's support and impact can be seen everywhere! From physical program equipment donations, like paddle boards being used on Lake Wolverine, to facilities projects like bridges at Blackhawk, the OSA's efforts and donations are greatly appreciated.

We're looking forward to another great summer in 2020!

Yours in Scouting,  
Terry Dutton  
Owasippe Reservation Director ♣

# 2019 Steve Schaefer Memorial Scholarship Recipients

by Doug Lotter, OSA board member

At the Owasippe Closing Banquet on Sunday, August 4th, the OSA presented scholarship checks to 18 Owasippe staff members. The scholarship was set up in memory of Owasippe staffer Steve Schaefer and is presented every year to current Owasippe staff that are also full-time college students, in order to help these staff members advance their education.

## 2019 Steve Schaefer Scholarship recipients

**Jeremy Ames** Blackhawk Aquatics Instructor  
**Julie Bachman** High Adventure Horse Ranch  
**Kristin Baert** High Adventure Horse Ranch  
**John Crispo** High Adventure Mountain Biking  
**Dalton DeVries** Blackhawk Program Director  
**Edward England** Blackhawk Pathfinder Director  
**Keith Goldberg** Wolverine Program Director  
**Kathleen Johnson** Blackhawk Nature Director  
**Edward McCarthy** Blackhawk Assistant Aquatics Director  
**Thomas Nelson** Blackhawk Aquatics Instructor  
**Anne Nyberg** Reneker Director  
**Kade O’Laughlin** Wolverine EcoCon Director  
**Zula Pendowski** High Adventure COPE/Climbing  
**Kyle Peters** Wolverine Handicraft Director  
**Tyler Pondel** Wolverine Food Service Coordinator  
**Charles Pronger** High Adventure Tubing/Canoeing  
**Nicholas Udell** Blackhawk Commissioner  
**Elizabeth Zielinski** High Adventure COPE/Climbing



2019 Steve Schaefer Scholarship Fund recipients

The Steve Schaefer Memorial Scholarship is funded entirely through donations from OSA members and friends. This year, the Schaefer family and the OSA hope to meet their fundraising goal of \$2,000. If you are interested in contributing to the Scholarship Fund, you may do so via the Online Store on the OSA website: <https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store/> or by sending a check indicating your desire to donate to the Scholarship Fund to:

P.O. Box 7097  
Westchester, IL 60154

Congratulations to these dedicated Owasippe staff and students! ♣

## 2019 Staff Members of the Year

The OSA gives a hearty congratulations to the 2019 Staff Members of the Year!

**Reneker:** Molly Tomzik

**High Adventure:** Nick Lisowski

**Wolverine:** Matt Novak (Over 18)  
Kendall Robinson (Under 18)

**Blackhawk:** Tom Case (Over 18)  
Emma Case (Under 18)

**Well Done! ♣**



# OSA White Sox Patio Party

by Kevin Harper, OSA board member

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, about 35 OSA members and their families came out to watch the White Sox vs. Indians game. On the patio, the group enjoyed a large pre-game buffet until the third inning before making our way to our seats in the bleachers. We were lucky enough to have great weather, food, and fellowship.

The board is looking at dates to do this again in the 2020 baseball season. More info to come!



# Spring Fix-it Weekend

by Scott Dorencz, OSA President



**R**ain storms threatened over 40 volunteers at this year's Spring Fix-it. When the group arrived for Saturday morning breakfast, however, the grass at food prep was dry and the showers held off for a perfect day of service.

We tackled many projects with our extremely skilled members. The Kleinfeldt crew retrofitted 2 Wolverine KYBOs for private shower and stall use. The Kimbler crew installed new hand washing stations at the Blackhawk dining hall. OSA Ranger Paul manned the chipper

while Carl and Marilyn Young and Mike Campbell gathered fallen branches. Thanks for being troopers you guys!

Matt Sodaro wrenched on 3 camp vehicles and got them ready for summer use. The Joyce family dug postholes and installed new signs around the AD Center. Thank you Ron Kempa for the signs!

Our skilled HVAC volunteers of the Cimarusti crew installed a new furnace in the shop. The Dorencz crew wrapped up the Blackhawk bridge at the waterfront.

Special thanks to Chauncey Niziol, the Jim Sullivan family, and the Jay Sullivan family for heading up the kitchen crew. Our work weekends would not be the same without your dedication.

Lastly, I'd like to thank a group of OSA members who took time during the OA weekend to walk the OSA adopted mile of Russell Road for road crew. Thank you Kevin Harper, Chris Skopec, Sam Canchola, Maureen Haneberg, and Chase Budziak. The OSA appreciates your service! ♣



## Galloping Grapevine



Former Board Member Andrew Sirota married Emily Margosian on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations and best wishes from the OSA!



## See You at the End of the Trail

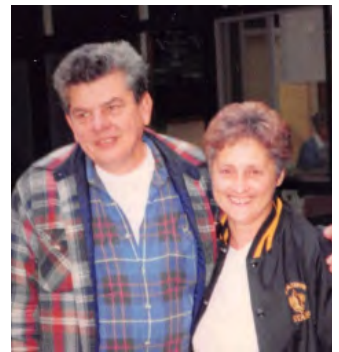


We've recently had to say goodbye to a few members of our OSA family. Our deepest condolences to their friends and families.

Mike Finnegan, former OSA president (1988, 1989, 1991). A member of Troop 475 with Bob Ward, he was

a Vigil member of the OA. A long-time member never shy to lend a hand, Mike chaired several Fix-it weekends and was awarded an honorary lifetime membership.

Lee Fell, former OSR Ranger and husband of long-time Reneker director Mary Ann Fell. Lee served as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 600. Lee's love for repairing and fixing things around camp led to his joining the maintenance crew. Known as a teddy bear with a kind heart, Lee enjoyed working around Reneker and helped with Senior Camp for many years.



Joe Koncel, former Aquatics staff member at Blackhawk.

All the Wealth of Earth and Heaven ♣

## OSA Word Search

by Rachel Weber, OSA Board Member

P A R A D I S E V A L L E Y L  
 T T H Q B O X A P U K N K G A  
 F S O I P P D N S D W C A O K  
 B C O B G C E G F O L T L W E  
 E L Q P E H V I R K U S E A W  
 M X A N G K A C X R S A U S O  
 Y X T C G N T D T B D H L I L  
 F E E A K R I L V H R R B P V  
 R X W M E H E D T E L E G P E  
 C N S B A V A Z A B N Q I E R  
 P D O B A R V W U R I T B N I  
 M R K L X N U D K D T T U H N  
 B H L D A O R L L E S S U R E  
 Z E W O L V E R I N E Z C A E  
 Y I N O D N O M A I D C P L W

### Word List:

AD CENTER  
 BIG BLUE LAKE  
 BLACKHAWK  
 DIAMOND-O  
 HIGH ADVENTURE  
 LAKE WOLVERINE  
 OWASIPPE  
 PARADISE VALLEY  
 ROBERT CROWN  
 RUSSELL ROAD  
 TRADING POST  
 TURTLE VALLEY  
 WOLVERINE

2019 OSA Picnic Pics



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**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. Email 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*

### *September*

- 2..... Labor Day
- 18..... Fall Fix-it RSVPs due
- 20-22 ..... OSA Fall Fix-it Weekend

### *October*

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

### *November*

- 11..... Veterans' Day
- 28..... Thanksgiving Day
- 29..... OSA Pizza Night

### *December*

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

