



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

Vibrations

2020, Volume 42, Issue 1

42nd Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance

by Pete Kulak

On March 7, join us at the 42nd annual OSA Dinner Dance celebration for a night of friendship and fellowship, and of course, dinner and dancing. The banquet will be held in the Ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Countryside. New venue, new memories!

Tickets are \$65 and will not be sold at the door. There is a form attached to mail in a check or you can reserve via PayPal. Doors open at 6pm and

dinner starts at 7pm. Dancing ends at 11 pm, so please get your groove on before then! Blocks of rooms are available at the venue for \$105 a night.

The Annual Elections will be held the same night. We've got a great slate of candidates (see their bios on this page and the next), so pay your dues and make your vote count. Please contact Candy Merritt (see flyer for contact information) with any questions. ✦

2020 OSA Board of Directors Candidates



Eric Gebhardt, 39, lives in Bartlett, IL, with his wife and 9- and 7-year-old sons. For the past 17 years, he has worked as a Transportation Manager at XPO Logistics in Aurora.

Eric began Scouting in CAC Troop 935 on Chicago's northwest side. He attended Owasippe as a camper in '92 and joined staff as a CIT in '95. Continuing on staff until 2000, Eric worked at Blackhawk, first in Aquatics and then two years as Commissioner, during that time earning his Eagle rank.

Eric enjoys participating in sports and getting involved with his son's Scout Pack, where he will be its new Cubmaster in 2020. He is a Life Member of the OSA and loves volunteering for Fix-It weekends. "Scouting helped me grow into the man I am today, and I would like to pay that forward to the next generation of OSA members."



Jennifer Kempa Kotwasinski, 46, lives in Cicero, IL. She is married and has three children: Conor, Lorelei, and Gabriel. Jennifer has worked for Robert Bosch LLC for the past 20 years and is currently a Senior Business Analyst working on a Global Rollout of an Applicant Tracking System.

Jennifer was first introduced to Owasippe in 1983 as a Reneker camper participating in the age group program. In 1989, she joined the Reneker staff as a CIT. Through her five years as a Reneker staff member, she held various positions from assistant age-group leader to Aquatics Director. At the age of 18, she joined the OSA, enjoying the ability to see her camp friends in the fall and spring for OSA Fix-It work weekends, as well as giving back to the camp by ensuring its up-keep during the off season.

Besides working alongside other OSA members to ensure Owasippe's up-keep, she has also taken up the task of organizing the children's games for the past OSA Family picnics as well as organizing the food preparation for some of the OSA Fix-It weekends. Jennifer hopes that if she is elected as a Board member she can use her creativity to draw in the younger staff members as well as re-engage some of the older crowd.

Make your vote count!

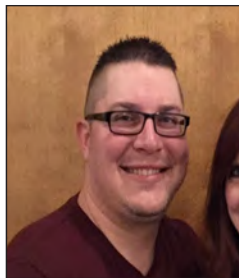
Voting for our Board of Directors takes place on March 7 at the OSA Dinner Dance. See Election Information and find the Absentee ballot on page 7 of this very issue of Vibrations!

Continued on page 3

President's Perspective

by Scott Dorencz, OSA President

My name is Scott Dorencz, and this is 2020. Believe it or not, the Owasippe Staff Association has entered its 6th decade. There have been 22 different board members elected OSA president since its 1978 establishment. At this year's Dinner Dance and annual meeting, the newly elected board will choose the 23rd president. My three year term has come to an end, and along with Treasurer, Doug Lotter, I will not be running for a second. Carl Young has graciously served two consecutive terms on the board and that means three seats are open. Good luck to this year's nominees: Chris, Eric, Henry, Jennifer, and Michelle. Members, read through their bios and make your vote count! If you cannot make it to the Dinner Dance, please send in your absentee ballot.



Speaking of the annual meeting and Dinner Dance, this year's rendition will be held at the Holiday Inn Countryside on March 7th. Details can be found in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all!

If you can't make it to the Dinner Dance, think about joining our crews for the Spring Work Weekend. Adam Keene is our Fix-it Chair and you can contact him for a cabin. Remember, the OSA "is organized to provide assistance in the maintenance of OSR facilities..." Yes, I took that directly from our mission statement. Funding our work weekends is one of our annual budget line items. That leads me to my next thought.

If you take a look at our Life Member list in the 2020 ad book you'll notice the large number of life members. I'm thrilled that so many of our members are die-hard Owasippe through and through; there are plenty of tattoos to prove it! The board decided to bring back a raffle ticket fundraiser AKA the 9900 Club Raffle. The idea is to supplement some of the lost annual membership funds with a raffle fundraiser. Recent donations have been utilized for camp and program improvements, and more improvements are still to come. We would like this fundraiser to continue to fund our own events like the Work Weekends and the Family Picnic. These events aren't huge expenses and a little goes a long

way. Consider purchasing a raffle ticket (or 2 or 3) at the dinner dance where the winners will be drawn. You can also print a form from our website and mail in a check. Good luck to all ticket holders! ♣

2020 Spring Fix-it May 15-17

Everyone mark your calendars! This year's Spring Fix-It will be held on May 15-17, 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 Adam Keene a ring and you are in. Email and texts are also accepted. See you there!

RSVP: Adam Keene at 708-567-2678 or akeene2@gmail.com by May 12th.

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. ♣

Pizza and Trivia Night

by Rachel Weber

I want to start by shouting THANK YOU to everyone who came out to share in food and fellowship. We had a ton of pizza! This year we tried something a little different. A little Reneker twist to the pizza night, if you will. We added a trivia night to the evening and it was a HUGE SUCCESS.

The questions consisted of Scouts, Owasippe history, and Chicago-based questions. Teams had a blast racing to answer. The winning team by only a few questions was ... Carl Young and Vince Rychtanek. This powerhouse team had so much knowledge to pull ahead of some really sharp teams. To top off such a stellar team, they ended the evening by donating \$100 of their winnings back to the OSA. Come out next year and help make these evenings even more memorable! ♣

Board Candidates (continued)

Henry Nakazawa

Henry Nakazawa, Jr., 51, from the southeast side of Chicago, still resides in the city. Henry is a graduate from DePaul University with a BS in Computer Science. Henry is an Information Technology deployment manager for Honeywell International.



Henry started camping at Owasippe in 1981 and first became a staff member in 1984 at Camp Carlen (Bahooka!), returning to Owasippe every year until 1989, then back in 1992 and 1994, having worked at Blackhawk, Canoe Central, and Wolverine.

Henry has been fortunate to travel the world through work, yet says “Owasippe is one of my favorite places in the entire world.” As a board member, he says he “would like to bring older staff members that worked with me in the 80’s in to join the OSA and attend some of our events.”

Michelle O’Connor

Michelle O’Connor, 37, lives on Chicago’s northwest side. She works at the Field Museum as the Special Events department’s Operations Manager, though you can also find her volunteering with the plant collections. In her spare time, you’ll catch her baking, traveling, reading, or hiking (over 2,000 miles walked last year!).



Michelle joined camp staff as a CIT in 1997 after years of camping at Reneker. She then spent the next seven summers on staff, doing just about everything she could think of at Family Camp before giving COPE staff a try. She’s also served a previous two terms on the OSA board of directors and currently leads a troop of Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts.

Michelle is really proud of the work the OSA does to make Owasippe such a great place for campers. She’s looking forward to the chance to further this relationship and support the OSA.

Chris Skopec

Chris Skopec, age 30, is a resident of Chicago, IL. He attended the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign, where he earned his BS in Agricultural and Consumer Economics. He works in operations for McMaster-Carr Industrial Supply Company and is a Company Commander in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Chris joined Scouting in 1997 and first experienced Owasippe as a Webelos at Carlen in 2000. He joined staff in 2008 and has served as an Aquatics Instructor, Sail-base Director, and Aquatics Director at Blackhawk. Since college, Chris has focused on volunteering at Owasippe, working with his troop, and instructing at National Camping School. He currently serves as the Committee Chairman for BT/ GT 668 in Worth, IL. Chris’ favorite OSA events are the work weekends and dinner dance.



“Owasippe is at an exciting point in its incredible history. The OSA is in a unique position to serve as its greatest advocate and help shape the future. It is my goal to sponsor exciting programs, work to improve efficiency and the volunteer experience during work weekends, and increase the impact Owasippe has on our Scouts’ lives.”

OSA Pop-up 2/15

Meet the board at Bulldog Ale House at 100 E. Roosevelt Rd., Villa Park, IL

Drop off Dinner Dance Registrations
Purchase 9900 Club Raffle Tix

Apply now for 2020 Owasippe camp staff


Spread the word — Owasippe camp staff positions are still open for the 2020 season.

Apply now! Grab your mouse or your mobile device and head on over to:
<http://www.pathwaytoadventure.org/camping/campstaff>
to fill out an application.

Vibrations always needs copy...

Send your Owasippe memories, stories, pictures, news items, grapevine tidbits, or editorial comments to:

OSA Vibrations
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

Preferred Method  e-mail: kulak.pete@gmail.com

Something Old, Something New



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

*The Owasippe Staff Association's
42nd Annual Meeting & Dinner Dance
on March 7, 2020 from 6-11 p.m.*

.....
at Holiday Inn Chicago SW-Countryside



6201 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-4200

Ticket price is \$65 per person and includes dinner* with an open bar.

*If you have any dietary restrictions, please email Candy Merritt (contact information below) or mail a note with payment if paying with check.



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

Event tickets will also be available at owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store (via PayPal) until Feb. 27th

NO tickets will be sold after Feb. 29th • Event tickets will NOT be sold at the door.



There will be a block of rooms available, at the venue, for \$105 per night + tax.
Call 708-354-4200 and mention Owasippe Staff Association Annual Dinner Dance for this discount.



For more info, please contact Candy Merritt at 708-860-2555 or 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 7, 2020. Winners need not be present. Mail-in orders MUST be postmarked by Feb. 27th (or PayPal by Feb. 27th) Raffle tickets cannot be purchased online.*



**50" Samsung
Ultra-High-Def Smart TV**
\$10 each



**ULTIMATE
SPLIT-THE-POT**
\$10 each

amazon.com

**\$250 in
Amazon
Gift Cards**
\$10 each



9900 Club Raffle

\$50 a ticket

Limited to 250 tickets sold!

1st Prize \$3,500

2nd Prize \$2,000 • 3rd Prize \$750

More info at:

owasippe.com/osa-9900-club-raffle-fundraiser

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 \$65	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Membership Dues Renewal		x \$15	
<input type="checkbox"/> OSA Life Membership		x \$350	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50" Samsung UHD Smart TV (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	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9900 Club Raffle (250 ticket raffle)		x \$50	

Enclose a check payable to the
Owasippe Staff Association in the amount of:

Pay in advance & get your FAST PASS!



Mail to:
OSA
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

2020 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, 2020, 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
Carl Young*	Scott Dorencz	Doug Lotter	2020
Bob Kurth	Greg Lange	Rachel Weber	2021
Adam Keene	Candy Merritt	Kevin Harper	2022

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

Who may vote?

Each OSA member currently registered (2020) 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 41st Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2019, 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 (2020) 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 Greg Lange at (773) 206-1727 or greglange89@gmail.com.

Winners Those candidates receiving the largest number of valid votes will be inducted into the Board of Directors during the 2020 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



2020 Board of Directors
Official Mail-in Ballot

Vote for 3 candidates

- Eric Gebhardt
- Jennifer Kotwasinski
- Henry Nakazawa
- Michelle O'Connor
- Chris Skopec

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 27, 2020 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: **kulak.pete@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

February

- 2..... Groundhog Day
- 14..... Valentine's Day
- 15..... Board Meeting
- 15..... OSA Pop-Up Event - Bulldog Ale House
- 27..... Mail-in / online deadline: Dinner Dance tickets

March

- 7..... OSA 42nd Annual Meeting and Dinner
- 17..... St. Patrick's Day
- 20..... Spring Equinox

April

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

May

- 15-17 OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
- 25..... Memorial Day

