



The Newsletter for the Members of the Owasippe Staff Association

# Vibrations

2020, Volume 42, Issue 2

## The 42nd Annual Dinner Dance

by Rachel Weber



Is there a president in the house? The Dinner Dance saw a gathering of 10 former OSA presidents to welcome Kevin Harper in his new role. From left to right: Edgar Wolff-Klammer, Kevin Harper, Scott Dorencz, Kurt Wolff-Klammer, Candy Merritt, Ron Kulak, Bill Van Berschot, Vince Rychtanek, Ron Derby, Mark Behnke, and Pat Troy

Oh what a night! We had such an amazing turnout. The event was hosted at the William Tell Banquets at the Holiday Inn Countryside Illinois. Thank you to everyone for their donations and support to help raise money for this amazing organization.

Your new board of executives are as follows: Kevin Harper (President), Rachel Weber (Vice President), Adam Keene (Treasurer), Jennifer Kotwasinski (Secretary), Greg Lange, Bob Kurth, Candy Merritt, Henry Nakazawa, and Michelle O'Connor. Thank you and congratulations to our three new board members: Jennifer, Henry, and Michelle. I also want to thank all those who ran for the board.

We are so happy for everyone who won any one of our many silent auction prizes. We had

so many hand-made items from cheese platters, ornaments, license plate signs and carved Owasippe signs to a beautiful hand-stitched T-shirt quilt. We can't forget all the wonderful businesses from all around the Chicagoland area that donated amazing products, gift certificates, and events. ♣

Some of our top winners for the evening were:

**50" TV Door Raffle Prize:** Jon Swanson

**Split the pot:** Derick Steggall

**\$250 Amazon Card:** Jayne Kosik

**9900 Raffle First Place \$1680:** Katrina Hockin

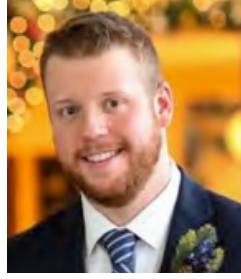
**9900 Raffle Second Place \$960:** Phil Hizel

**9900 Raffle Third Place \$360:** Mike Algozine

## President's Perspective

by Kevin Harper, OSA President

**H**ello OSA Members! First, I hope all of you and your families are doing well during this unparalleled situation that has changed our daily lives in many drastic ways. As of April, the Council has closed Owasippe to visitors until May 1st, however, they are still planning to host and open summer camp as scheduled. Obviously, this could be subject to change in the coming weeks.



Even during all of this, there is no shortage of projects at camp and the OSA is still planning on holding a work weekend in the spring until otherwise communicated. With all this time inside, I am already excited to get up to Owasippe and spend some time at our slice of paradise that brings us all together.

In the beginning of March, we held our annual meeting and dinner dance. It turned out to be a success, with just over 100 people in attendance. We had a very diverse and vast silent auction, some great door prizes, and the large “9900 Club Raffle” drawing. All of these things contributed greatly toward our fundraising efforts. I would like to thank everyone that helped put this event together in their own ways. An additional thank you to our outgoing board members: Carl Young, Doug Lotter, and Scott Dorenz. Congratulations to our newly elected members: Michelle O'Connor, Henry Nakazawa, and Jen Kotwasinski.

As I had mentioned at the dinner dance, one of my first prerogatives is to truly make the board meetings accessible to all members. It is my belief that all members can and should be able to contact the board with their ideas, concerns, and overall feedback. After all, without the membership we would not have as strong of an organization as we do.

On page 7, you will find a Skype call-in number and information for our next board meeting on April 19th, from 12:00 to 3:30pm. ♣

## 2020 Spring Fix-it May 15–17

by Adam Keene, Fix-it Chair

**A** new spring is upon us and with that, a new list of things needing fixing before the camping season starts. Our Spring Fix-It weekend (May 15-17) is coming up fast and although the future is uncertain at this time, we need to plan as if we are still going to have it. The latest information from council says Owasippe is closed to visitors through May 1st and summer camp is currently still being planned as scheduled, so hopefully things will be better by then. As the weeks draw closer, we'll continue to keep everyone updated through email/Facebook/the website, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, please consider keeping that weekend open so you can make it up to your favorite place on Earth and do some satisfying volunteer work. We have a healthy to-do list provided by the ranger staff, which I'll paste below for everyone to look over so you can get a taste of what is needed and plan for what tools you should bring.

We also have a need for kitchen volunteers — cooks, someone to plan the meals and buy the food, and helpers in general. If you're interested in helping with this or know someone who would, please let me know!

### Potential Project List:

- Wolverine: KYBO, Pool showers & bathrooms modifications for male/female/adult/youth compliance
- Roof Repairs from storm damage at BLHK Dining Hall and Wolverine Trading Post
- Blackhawk Dining Hall: powerwash and stain newer staircase on East end
- Trading Posts: cut attic access hatch (where needed) and paint ceilings. Also install plexiglass windows
- Blackhawk: reconstruct railing pickets on red trail bridge (by waterfront)
- Maintenance Shop: repair ceiling on the East end
- Museum: repair/refit new screen door
- Auto repair and/or maintenance is always needed and appreciated

Please remember to RSVP with Adam Keene at 708-567-2678 or akeene2@gmail.com by May 12th. Email, texts, and phone calls are accepted. See you there! ♣

# Meet Your 2020 Camp Directors

by Terry Dutton, 2020 Reservation Director

The Owasippe Reservation leadership team has many returning and familiar faces for 2020. We hope that the consistency of leadership helps us to continue to grow the program to provide an amazing experience to as many Scouts and units as possible!



**Terry Dutton**  
Reservation Director

This will be Terry's third summer as Reservation Director at Owasippe. He is a professional scouter and the Director of Program for Pathway to Adventure Council. 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.



**Annie Nyberg**  
Asst. Reservation Director

Annie is excited to bring her years of experience at Owasippe to her new role as ARD. Annie began at Reneker as a camper in 1999, eventually transitioning to a first-year staffer in 2013 and then the Reneker

Director in 2017.

Annie is currently finishing her BA 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.



**Allison Betke**  
Reneker Camp Director

Allison is returning to Reneker for her third summer, looking forward to her first season as the Reneker Director. Outside of camp, Allison is completing her BA in Recreation and Outdoor Education with an emphasis in Outdoor Leadership at Western Colorado University.

Her passions lie in encouraging stewardship of our beautiful lands, delivering an educational and enriching program, and creating meaningful memories for campers for years to come.

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**Nick Chavarria**  
Blackhawk Camp Director

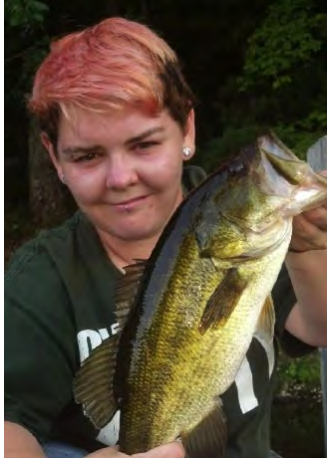
Nick is returning for his third summer as Blackhawk Director. Outside of summer camp, he is in his 12th year as a high school social studies teacher and currently teaches at Hinsdale South High School in Darien,

Illinois.

Previous to Camp Blackhawk, Nick 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.



# 2020 Camp Directors continued

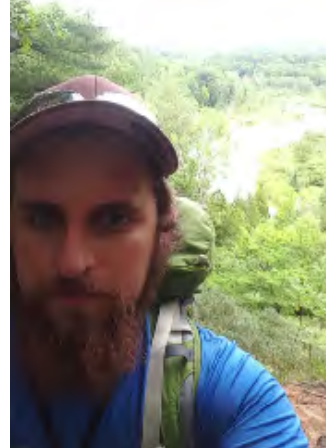


**Nicole Valle**  
High Adventure  
Director

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.



**Kevin Goldberg**  
Wolverine  
Camp Director

Kevin is returning for his 4th year as Wolverine Camp Director. This will be Kevin's 13th summer working at a Scout Camp spending 9 prior years at Gerber Scout Reservation.

Kevin is a middle school math teacher and is active in the OA 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.

## 2020 Dinner Dance Pics



## Galloping Grapevine

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Kevin Harper and Maureen Haneberg were married on Jan. 4th, 2020. Exactly half of their bridal party was made up of friendships created through scouting and Owasippe.



### Congratulations all around:

Scott Wolff-Klammer was recently engaged to Jackie Reitz.

Matt Dorich and his wife Kelsey welcomed their second child, Benjamin Michael, in late March.

Kristopher Dorich and Teri Wehye are expecting twin girls.

Laura Chumara and her husband Steven welcomed their second child, Hailey June, in early February.

Scott Kerchberger completed his US Army Ranger Training.

Kevin Shotas graduated from the Palomar College Fire Fighter Academy.



## See You at the End of the Trail

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### Bob Wilcox, Sr.

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, Bob Wilcox Sr. passed away from natural causes. He was 95 years old. Due to virus transmission safety procedures, services were limited to immediate family. He was interred next to his wife Marie at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Bob was an icon of Scouting on the southwest side of Chicago for many years. He had a quiet, steady manner and a true desire to help however he could. The list of Scouting positions he held in his life is endless. He was a recipient of both the Silver Beaver and Bronze Pelican, and numerous other awards. He also had a deep affection for Owasippe, which he attended yearly from the 1950's until the early 2000's. He was a long-time member of the OSA.

Wounded in the D-Day invasion, Bob went on to become a successful optician. He was an active volunteer in several veterans groups.

The number of people Bob effected during his lifetime is incalculable. He epitomized the ideals and spirit of Scouting. A true Son of Owasippe, he has gone on to join the others at the heavenly campfire. God Bless.

Our Sympathies to Jeanny Shotas Wilcox, Kevin Shotas, and the rest of his family.

### Bill Tenner

At the time of publication, the OSA has just learned of the unexpected passing of Bill Tenner. We are shocked and saddened. Bill was a longtime member of the OSA, and spent many summers on staff in various roles. Wherever he went, he brought relentless positivity and a deep, loud love for Owasippe.

He will be missed. All the Wealth of Earth and Heaven. ♣





# Reunion of CIT classes 1969-1971

by Daniel Vliet, OSA member, CIT class of '70

**J**une 5-7, 2020: If you were a CIT at Owasippe in the early 70s when Bill Dopke was running the program with the able assistance of Tom Crissey, now is your chance to come back to camp, see old friends and relive old memories. We are planning a long weekend starting on Friday, June 5th, running through Sunday June 7th. We will be staying at Family Camp so there is plenty of room.

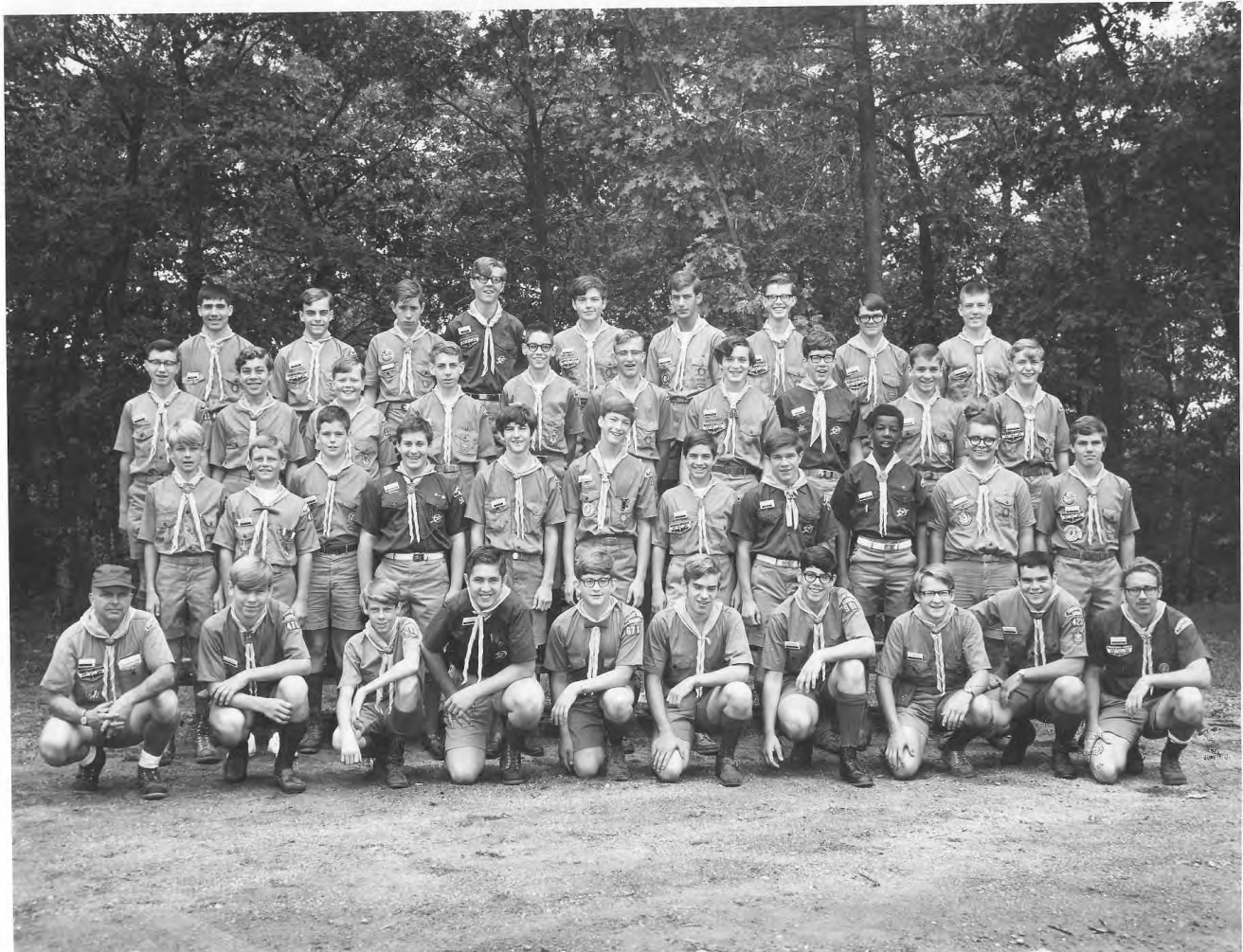
If you know any CITs who worked at Owasippe from 1969-71, please let them know. If you are interested in heading up to Owasippe the first weekend in June let me know and we will get this rolling. Tom Crissey is on board

and undoubtedly will get us all out on a hike and maybe a trip down the White River.

Time for one more campfire with old friends at the camp that still tugs at your memory. Come back to Owasippe and lets have some fun!"

Of course given the Coronavirus situation, it is possible we may have to delay things a bit. But June in Michigan is so nice that I hope we can keep the date. Updates will follow. You can reach me at [danielgvliet@gmail.com](mailto:danielgvliet@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to let me know if you can make it.

See you there! ♣



**Save the Date August 8 OSA Family Picnic**  
**Sundown Meadow Countryside IL**

## First Fundraising Committee Meeting — Open to All

by Kevin Harper

In my past year on the board, we have tossed around ideas from time to time on ways that we can generate revenue for the OSA to ultimately put back into camp. While still running other events and activities over the past few years, we all agreed that this was one area that could use some attention. With that said, I would like to invite all interested members to join a fundraising committee. At a minimum, the committee will meet quarterly.

The main goal of this committee will be to help solicit donations from corporations, individuals, come up with fundraising goals, events, and ideas. The first meeting will be Sunday April 26th at 1:00 pm and will be held at 142 S. Yale Ave, Villa Park, IL. This meeting will also be held on Skype. ♣

### Dial-In Info:

#### Join via Web or Skype App:

Conference ID: 846728519

#### Join by Phone:

Toll number: 1 (872) 239-5508

Dial-in Number: 846728519#

## Steve Schaefer Fund

by Greg Lange

The Steve Schaefer memorial fund was started in 1999 by Steve's parents Bill and Linda Schaefer. This fund is set up to give cash assistance to staff members who are attending college. Since its conception the fund has given over \$150,000 in cash assistance.

Steve grew up at Owasippe, first spending his summers in the Grey Staff Village and later becoming a staff member. He became a CIT in 1983 and was on Blackhawk aquatics staff from 1984–1986. Steve's life ended tragically his sophomore year of college when the house he lived in at Southern Illinois University caught fire. Instead of saving himself, Steve made sure all of his roommates were awoken and got out of the house safely. He is credited with saving all of his roommates.

Please donate to the OSA Steve Schaefer Fund. This money helps staff members with their college expenses. ♣

## Join the OSA Board Meeting - LIVE

Hear it all, straight from the Board's mouths. Join them on April 19th 12:00-3:30 pm CST, either in person, online, or over the phone.

The meeting will take place at 142 S. Yale Ave, Villa Park, IL. ♣

### Dial-In Info:

We know all of you have got a sweet teleconference setup now. We will be using Skype for this meeting.

#### Join via Web or Skype App:

Conference ID: 711558139

#### Join by Phone:

Toll number: 1 (872) 239-5508

Dial-in Number: 711558139#



## Let's Go, Go, White Sox

by Rachel Weber

Hey everyone! Save the date! Sunday, June 7 is the planned date for the OSA fellowship event of attending a White Sox game together. It was such an amazing event last year and had such an awesome turnout!

While these are currently very confusing times for social events, the itinerary of the event will continuously be updated with times and details. We still plan on hosting this event, so MARK YOUR CALENDARS. If anything changes, everyone will be updated. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to the board at osainfobooth@gmail.com. ♣

The Owasippe Staff Association  
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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. 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*

*\*disclaimer: all event/camp dates subject to change due to COVID-19*

### *April*

- 19..... OSA Board Meeting
- 26..... OSA Fundraising Committee Meeting

### *May*

- 15-17 ..... OSA Spring Fix-it Weekend
- 22-24 ..... Takhone Lodge OA Work Weekend

### *June*

- 7..... OSA White Sox Game
- 14..... Owasippe Staff Week Begins
- 21..... Owasippe Open to Scouts

### *July*

- 4..... Independence Day
- 25..... Christmas in July

### *August*

- 2..... Camp Shutdown Week Begins
- 7..... OSA Vibrations copy Deadline
- 8..... OSA Family Picnic - Sundown Meadow

