



VOLUME 45, ISSUE 4

# VIBRATIONS NEWSLETTER

## Another Successful Fall Fix it!

By Chris Sanchez

The 2023 Fall Fix-it is behind us and yes, we worked our behinds to the max at this one!

This is what was accomplished:

- Trees and shrubs at the Ad Center were trimmed and cleared.
- The back of snack bar got a total face lift. Weeds pulled, grass weed wacked, 8 stairs were exposed to the adjacent field (hadn't seen those in years).
- The snack bar was painted and followed up in the next week by a member of the hunt club. Looks great! Together we accomplish a lot.
- The sand in front of the Memorial Brick Patio was removed, and so were the trees. New sand was filled in and now looks fresh!
- White tables were scrubbed and power washed. They are WHITE!
- The hay wagon was taken apart and a new one built on the existing frame.
- Cooks cabins were emptied and ready for renovation.
- The containers behind the shop were emptied and reorganized with heating, plumbing and other necessary items from many places. All now have a centrally located home. Easy to access!
- The electricians were able to rewire lights in the pump room at Wolverine and other projects that were asked of them.
- We now have 22 canoes back in service thanks to 2 of our experts.
- The road crew did a super job making the perimeter of the camp look like their backyard!
- The meals provided by the kitchen crew were delicious and nutritious!

A huge thank you to all who attended! We had workers from the ages of 6 to 75. You missed a good time and hope you can add to the beautification of the camp in the Spring. May 17-19 are the dates for the Spring Fix-it. Mark your calendars now and join your fellow members!



The newsletter for the members of the Owaspippe Staff Association

## OSA Mission

The Owasippe Staff Association, Inc. (OSA) is organized to provide assistance in the maintenance of facilities and in service to the program of the Owasippe Scout Reservation in Blue Lake Township, Michigan, as is deemed necessary and/or feasible by the Owasippe Staff Association in cooperation with the ownership of that facility.

## Accomplishments

This past year is no different when providing assistance to Owasippe. Besides the two OSA Fix-its many people volunteered other weekends to complete the following:

Completely renovated Gray Staff Village cabins 9 & 10

Installed metal roofs on 5 staff cabins at Blackhawk, 5 staff cabins at Tent city, 1 staff village cabin

HVAC and refrigeration equipment was serviced all over camp

New curtains purchased and were installed in the Reneker cabins

Repaired drainage issues at Lake Cabin 6

Started renovation of the 2 cook's cabins behind food prep

And many other projects like repairing equipment, painting, cleaning, electrical upgrades, lighting, etc.

Besides the hundreds of hours that the volunteers gave to Owasippe, the OSA spent just over \$28,000.00 for supplies and materials for all of this.

## Please Donate

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated money, supplies and materials already. If you wish to donate now to continue the OSA's support of Owasippe you can do so by following:

Checks: Made payable to the Owasippe Staff Association and mailed to Owasippe Staff Association, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154 or bring to pizza night.

Bank Transfer: Zelle® to osainfobooth@gmail.com

Credit card: Please go to <https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store/> . Here you will see the [OSA's online store](#) and you can choose from a list of fund options. **General Donations help the most.**

## Pizza Night!

Our Annual Pizza Night will be held on Saturday, November 25th, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at European Chalet Banquets. 5445 S. Harlem Ave. Chicago, IL 60638



For just \$10, enjoy all-you-can-eat, local, delicious pizza while you reconnect with old and new Owasippe friends. Every attendee will be entered into a raffle for door prizes. The OSA will also have some items for sale and will be accepting membership dues and new applications. A cash bar is available for those 21 years of age and over. As always, we encourage our members to practice safe driving by having a designated driver. Kindly RSVP via email by Monday, November 20th, to [osainfobooth@gmail.com](mailto:osainfobooth@gmail.com). Although we certainly welcome walk-ins, your RSVP ensures that we have the necessary amount of pizza, drinks, and dinnerware.

Additionally, please contact our shared inbox if you are interested in donating a door prize for the event!

## Chicago Wolves Hockey Game Sunday January 28, 2024

The Chicago Wolves will be playing the Manitoba Moose at 3:00 pm. At Allstate Arena 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 (located near the intersection of Interstates 90 and 294) Registered OSA Members and their families and friends are invited to attend. The cost is \$20 per person

Attendance is by RSVP only by December 3rd accompanied by payment by:

Mail a check to the OSA ... P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154

Zelle (use [osainfobooth@gmail.com](mailto:osainfobooth@gmail.com) )

Bring cash or check to OSA Pizza Night Saturday November 25th

PayPal payment at via the OSA Online Store <https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store/>

Tickets will be available on the day of the game or arrangements can be made for advance pick up by contacting Jennifer Kotwasinski (224) 223-3489. All ticket purchases are final and non-refundable.

## Dues Are Increasing

We are advising you that there will be an increase of five dollars to become a member and to renew for membership effective on January 1, 2024. The cost will now be \$25 or \$20, respectively. \$5 of the new membership will continue to be placed in mandatory reserves. Life membership cost is not changing.

This increase is due to increased operational costs such as insurance, postage, web services and other expenses. This increase will help ensure that the OSA can continue to provide the high-quality support to Owasippe.

Members are more than welcome to prepay dues for the upcoming year at \$15 per year as long as the money is received by the OSA by December 31, 2023.

# Hot Pot at Blue Lake Farms



Thank You **Jim Schlichting** for once again providing a delicious meal to all the work weekend volunteers. His crew served salmon burgers, bratwurst, cilantro lime rice, chili, pasta salad, and so much more! Next time you visit camp be sure to stop at Hot Pot at Blue Lake Farms. Not only is the food delicious but The Farm Market has so much to offer!



## Trade-o-ree 2023

Thank You **Mike Mieszczak** for organizing the Trade-O-Ree. It was a success and we can't express how much we appreciate all your time, effort and hard work.



## President's Perspective

*By Kevin Harper*

Another successful work weekend in the books! What a great turn out by our volunteers, great conversations with friends, and great food!

### New Members

John Salata

John Nelson

Charles Regan

### New Life Members

Jeffrey Wolowiec

I'd like to take a moment to highlight the OSA eBay store. Since starting this year with a few items donated from members and families after they have passed we have sold and shipped nationwide nearly 200 scouting items and patches, mugs, pins and trinkets. In total as of mid october that has amounted to around \$ 2685 back to the OSA. If you see an item you are interested please reachout, everything is best offer and selling offline eliminates fees and shipping costs. We also have a few black t-shirts, hoodies and long sleeve shirts in XL and Large sizes, as well as 45th Anniversary YETIs left that we are trying to closeout. If you sell on eBay on your own page you can also have a portion of sales be donated back to the Owasippe Staff Association by searching under the donate to charity option. Every little bit helps!



## **2024 Nominations and Election:** Dan Kleinfeldt, Elections Chairman

We are looking for members to run for the OSA Board. Board members make a personal commitment to help the organization run effectively and smoothly. This is done by holding a position, helping with a committee and providing input on topics and situations. The positions we need filled are: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair, fix-it chair, event chair, fundraisers and more.

Candidates need to be OSA members in good standing, dues paid up to date (2024), at least 21 years old and must be available for monthly meetings. The only other requirement is a dedication to Owasippe, the OSA and its members. If you or someone you know has the drive and ability to make things happen, we need to hear from you!

The Elections Committee will contact nominees to see if they are willing and able to serve. The Elections Committee will then review all the nominees and make a slate recommendation to the Board. Slated candidates will then be contacted to garner their respective bios and goals for publication in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination does not guarantee a spot on the slate. The Elections Committee will review all the nominees and select a fair and balanced slate. Please email the OSA at [osainfobooth@gmail.com](mailto:osainfobooth@gmail.com) with any nominees. Nominations are due by December 9, 2023.

Term Expires 2024	Term Expires 2025	Term Expires 2026
Michael Brus	Ryan Carlson	Jennifer Kotwasinski **
Wally Kleinfeldt	Kevin Harper**	Pat Troy
Chris Sanchez	Eddie McCarthy	Edgar Wolff-Klammer

\*\*Two term limit goes into effect

## **Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Saturday March 9, 2024 At Allegra Banquets - Villa Park**

We have moved the date one week later to avoid conflicts with other scouting dinners held on the first Saturday of March. More information regarding this event including pricing will be announced in our first newsletter of 2024. We are currently looking for raffle prize donations as well as people will to sponsor gift baskets. For any questions regarding dinner dance, please contact Jennifer Kotwasinski or Chris Sanchez via [osainfobooth@gmail.com](mailto:osainfobooth@gmail.com).

# Galloping Grape Vine



This summer True Merritt (High Adventure '12) left the US Army after 6 years of service, as a Captain. She has moved on to begin studying at Harvard Law School this past August..

## Engagements

Chris Skopec is engaged to Grace Stiegler and was promoted to Major in the Marine Corps.



Congrats to Annie Nyberg and Paul Kerchberger on their engagement. The couple met in 2014 while working on staff and have inseparable since! Additionally, Annie graduated from Loyola law school in May and recently passed her BAR exam!



## End of the Trail



Marty Young, loving husband to Jackie, son to Ken and Rosemarie Young and brother to Carl Young, Marilyn Kulak, Elaine Redden and Diane Wolff-Klammer passed away on September 14, 2023.

Marty was an Eagle Scout, a Life Member of the OSA and worked on staff at Owasippe during the 1970's at Blackhawk, Stuart and Ad Center.



David Jacobs, loving husband to Sinead; loving son to his mother, Jean Jacobs and lated father Ed Jacobs and loving sister Laurie (Chris) Tomaino passed away on September 29, 2023.

David was an Eagle Scout and and spent many summers and weekends at Owasippe while his dad was the Chicago Area Council Scout Executive.

# Owasippe 2023

*By: Nick Chavarria - Reservation Director*

Summer 2023 is in the books and what a summer it was! First and foremost, we are so proud that this summer we ran 7 weeks and served over 2,800 scouts, over 1,000 adult leaders, more than 600 Reneker Campers, and more than 200 units called Owasippe home this summer! Despite the struggles of the BSA membership and other area camps facing closures and shortening summers, we continue to see growth. This is a direct testament to the staff, the program, and the history at Owasippe.

Huge thanks to all those from the OSA that volunteered at fix it weekends and helped prepare the camp for the summer. Your hard work and dedication are appreciated and valued. It is having a direct impact on the staff and their ability to get to summer, train, and prepare program for campers.

This summer featured a revised merit badge schedule, expanded Owasippe World's Fair, and a new food service company (returning from 2018 and 2019), all of which were met with positive reviews. We welcomed new staff from Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois, as well as returned a sizeable number of staff from last year. The culture of camp staff continues to improve thanks to the leadership of our camp directors, program directors, commissioners, and area directors. This core group of leaders are some of the most dedicated individuals I have ever worked with and each day I am impressed by their commitment to Scouting and Owasippe. I am so grateful for all the OSA does to support this group and hope we continue to find ways to support them in summer 2024 and beyond.

This year, the entire staff, not just adults, were treated to pizza dinner and an introduction to who the OSA is and what we do. This was well received, and our staff very much appreciated the pizza. Huge thanks to Ron Derby who helps organize and plan this event, along with serving as the main presenter to the summer staff.

Congratulations to OSA board member, Chris Sanchez, who served for her 40<sup>th</sup> summer on staff this year!

Each summer I am humbled by the history that continues to be built at Owasippe and the dedicated summer staff that serve. We are grateful for the support of the OSA and look forward to a continued partnership with the camp. Thank you to everyone for your support, however you did it, and look forward to another great summer in 2024.



# Renekor Recap

By: Caitlin Boline

Consider yourself at home...consider yourself one of us!

This summer I “went for it”, again, and attended Camp Reneker (Go For It!) for my second year in a row. As a past staffperson, coming to camp as a parent is a weird transition, but so incredible. How lucky the OSR community is to have Reneker as a place that anyone - young and old - can return to experience “all the wealth of earth and heaven” has to offer, as so many councils do not have a place, nor a program, as robust as our Reneker. (Complete sidenote: but I have a distinct long-ago memory of Edgar and DeeDee WK explaining another camp’s family camp as a primitive farm with a female staffer who ran the show and fed the pigs. Honestly, sounds interesting, but maybe not the vibe we are all going for to spend our vacation).

Despite all the beauty and nostalgia, it is no secret that the staff and the people are the secret sauce. And, admittedly, I can be a bit of a harsh critic. This year I attended 4th period (or, the “old 3rd period” depending on who is asking) and despite being a bit low on staff I was completely blown away by the energy, excitement, and personalization that the staff infused into every moment. The only reason I even mention that they were low on staff is because I wouldn’t have even known as the team was giving 150%+ all week. I cannot overemphasize the caliber of the current season of Reneker staff and highly encourage you to book your 2024 cabin to spend your week with this incredible gang. The program, pool, and people were exciting, fresh, and fun and left me wondering why so many aspects hadn’t been attempted before.

Perhaps life is just catching up on me and this is “normal” or perhaps the stars are aligned, but I not only attended a week filled with previous staffers I worked with (as you can imagine...it was the best) but I also caught wind of many more weeks of staff members who were coordinating stays with their families - children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews - to enjoy Owasippe together. What better way to experience the place we hold “so dear to memory” than doing it together? I hope you accept my challenge and gift yourself the experience to come home to a place that is ready to welcome you back!





# Schaffer Fund Recipients

## Staff Person of the Year

Matthew Bush	Blackhawk	York St. John University
John Salata	Blackhawk	Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Liam Archer	Blackhawk	The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Lorelei Kotwasinski	Blackhawk	Iowa State university
Tyler Youngdahl	Blackhawk	Northern Michigan University
Christina Pronger	Blackhawk	Joliet Junior College
Nick Baker	Blackhawk	University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Tim Vinci	Blackhawk	Northeastern
Kaylyn Dix	High Adventure	Augustana College
Christopher Chambliss	High Adventure	University of Denver
Daniel Stull	High Adventure	University Of Illinois Chicago
Julie Bachman	High Adventure	Indiana University South Bend
Jennifer Lazowski	High Adventure	Western Illinois University
Nathan Brodsky	High Adventure	Rochester Institute of Technology
Raymond Stull	High Adventure	College of DuPage
Joyce Reising	Reneker	Carthage College
Daniel Torres	Wolverine	The University of New Mexico
Kendall Robinson	Wolverine	Webster University
William Knogl	Wolverine	Harper College

### Blackhawk:

Nick Baker

Rylee Heeter



### Reneker:

Clara Fitzer



### High Adventure:

Tim Regan

### Wolverine:

Alessio Valsecchi

Jill Harvey



# It's OSA Ad Book time again, 46 years and still going strong!



- Promote your business
- Give out coupons
- Thank someone
- Remember someone
- Encourage someone
- Say happy birthday
- Say happy anniversary
- Say I love you or I miss you
- Tell a joke or a story

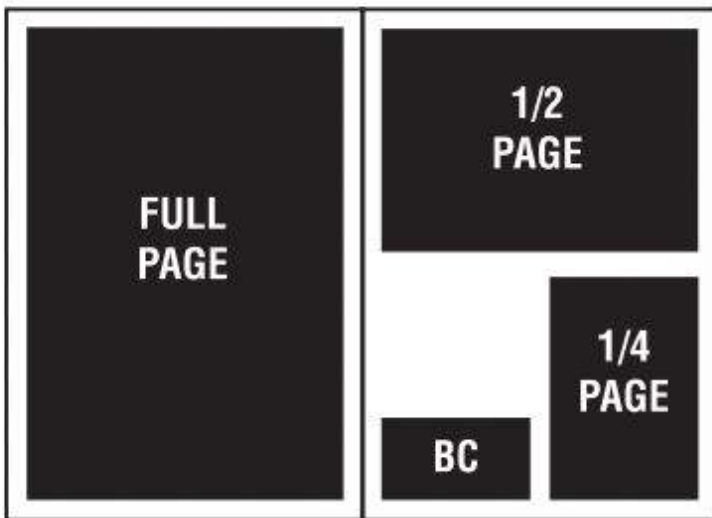
Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are seeking sponsors for the Owasippe Staff Association Ad Book distributed at our Annual Meeting in March of 2024. Here is an opportunity to promote your business, extend greetings to your friends, and/or wish Owasippe and the OSA well. The annual Ad Book is an important fundraiser for the OSA, and its proceeds help us carry on our mission of supporting Owasippe.

As you probably know, Owasippe is located in scenic West Michigan near Whitehall and Montague, and it is the nation's oldest Boy Scout summer camp. Owasippe serves thousands of youth and families from the Chicago area and throughout the U.S. each year!

### ONLINE FEATURE OFFERS YEAR 'ROUND EXPOSURE!

The ad book consists of a program for the annual meeting, our annual report and a yearbook of event photos. We have four ad options as outlined below, and each ad lives on in the online Ad Book archive on the OSA website at [www.owasippe.com](http://www.owasippe.com)!



Please respond with your materials by January 15, 2024 using the form provided below.

Enclose your camera-ready art or any message you wish to present and mail it to the address below.

**Email ad submissions (PDFs) are preferred.**

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Derby at (231) 557-0770 or [osa.adbook@gmail.com](mailto:osa.adbook@gmail.com)

The OSA thanks you for your support and reminds you that we are a not-for-profit organization, therefore your participation is tax deductible.



### AD BOOK ORDER FORM

Complete this form and send with a check payable to the Owasippe Staff Association to...  
OSA Ad Book c/o Ron Derby • 510 Holton Whitehall Rd. • Whitehall, MI 49461

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ web address: \_\_\_\_\_

Message (or attach copy) \_\_\_\_\_

Qty.	Ad Description	Size (width x height)	Cost
	Business Card	3.5" x 2"	\$30
	1/4 Page	3.5" x 4.75"	\$45
	1/2 Page	7.5" x 4.75"	\$70
	Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$105
	Cover Full Page (inside front, inside back, outside back)	7.5" x 10"	\$130

Owasippe Staff Association  
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Westchester, IL 60154

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**Vibrations** is published four times per year by the Owasippe Staff Association.

**Editor:** Maureen Harper

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, and photos are encouraged. Submissions can be made out to [osa.vibrations@gmail.com](mailto:osa.vibrations@gmail.com) or mailed 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 |

## Connect with us!

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