



VIBRATIONS

NEWSLETTER

Another Successful Fall Fix it!

By Chris Sanchez

60 OSA Members and friends attended and tackled 17 projects.

The Nature Bridge at Blackhawk was the project of the weekend. Led by Gary Dorencz with the expert help of Adam Keene, The Wolf-Klammer Brothers, The Gebhardt Brothers, JG, Andy Sirota, Matt Sodaro and Jim Dorencz(I know I forgot someone)! The bridge work on Friday and was completed by 6 Saturday night. The youngest member of the crew was Aiden Keene. He was seen using a screw gun helping his dad. Way to go guys!!! While they were playing with wood, Tim Snow and Scott Weber were cutting and cleaning up trees in and around Health Lodge, GSV and Wolverine. Replacing receptacles in food prep and staff village were tasked to Kevin Boline, John Nuccio and Larry Deering. Cleaning out the gable windows in Reneker and closing them was led by Andy Kimbler, his buddy Scott, Joe DeLago and Kevin Joyce. Painting the dock boards that we installed in the spring and painting the warehouse dock deck, found Dan Vliet and Vice Guider a bit yellow. With the talents of the Kleinfeldt Brothers, Edgar & Diane Wolf-Klammer, Phil Pappas, Rich Gargas and Kevin Oster the shutters on all staff cabins in Wolverine and Blackhawk were repaired or replaced. The septic system dig was smoothed out by Michael Fenton and Jim Weiss. Tents that were overlooked at the end of staff week were taken down and folded by the Stull Brothers. Robert Fritz and John Crispo painted the hot pack stands in Wolverine. The road work crews were busy. Henry Nakazawa, Caroline Mindock, Brianna Baker, Sandy and Maddie Romcoe, Shannon Gargas cleaned Russell Road to Owasippe Road.

Beth Rychtanek and Laura Paull took care of Silver Creek Road and were crew members to their husbands Vince and Art on the roof repair at Reneker B Sanitary Unit and GSV #11 & 16. They will need to be fully replaced by summer. Bob Corrao and Ron Kempa flushed and winterized all of the coffee and water service machines on camp.

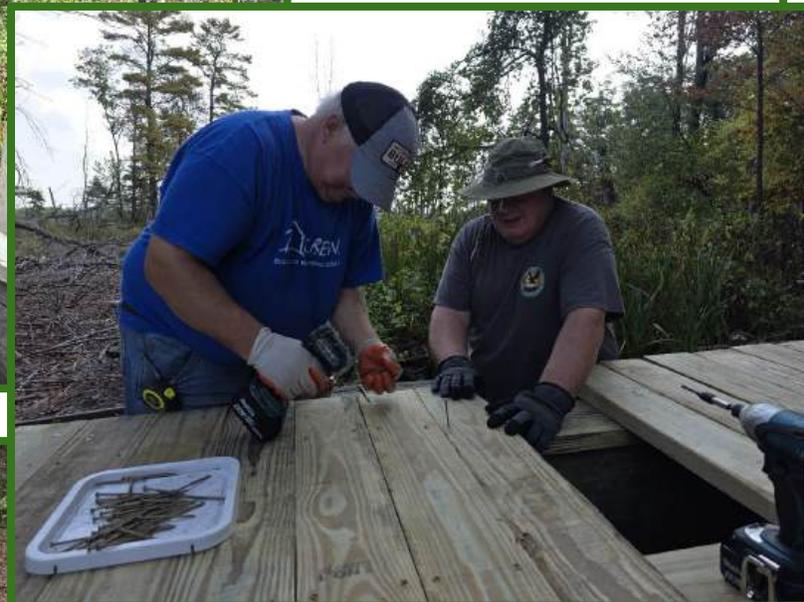
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Another Successful Fall Fix it!

Continued..

The museum crew of Bob Kurth, Randy Etapa and Mike Mieszczak placed tarps over all cabinets for the winter. Tom Crissey made a few new signs while Bob Halston serviced the trucks and ride on leaf blower. Scott and Ryan Carlson with the help of Steve Mangas cleaned debris off of the Staff Village Roofs. John Sanchez installed a sill plate at LC 6 and put a sweep on the bottom of both doors. Bye bye mice!!! Mary Kempa with the help of Karol Schaner moved Cambros and Coolers so the roof access could be open to check for roof leaks. Oh, and the Chef of the weekend was Marty Schaner with Sous Chef Karol Schaner. They provided our Breakfast and Dinner meals. A big thank to Jim Schilicting for providing lunch on Saturday at his farm. If I have forgotten anyone, please give me a shout out, it wasn't done on purpose. Each of you did an amazing job. Fishing and fires were both great. I thank you all for your time and talents.

See you in the Spring, May 15-17!

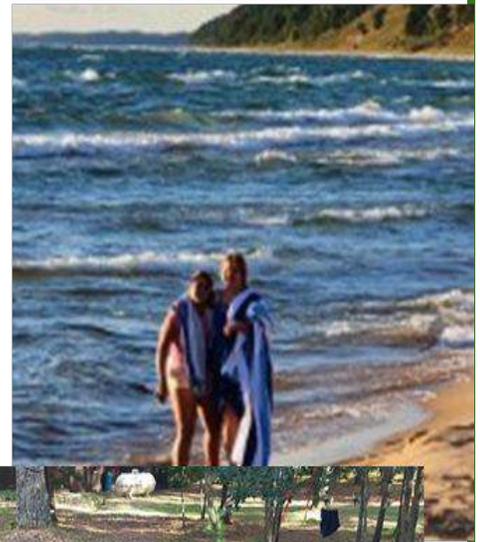
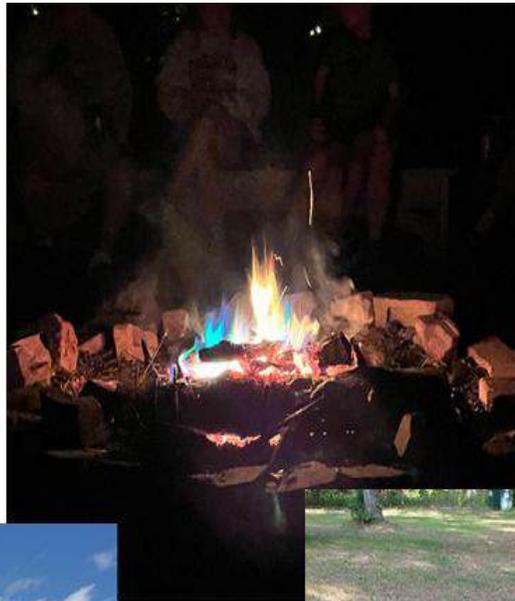




Reneker Weekend Recap:

By Jen Kotwasinski

This past August, OSA members got together with family and friends trying to squeeze in one more trip to Owasippe before the 2025 season ended. This year we decided to try something new and in place of the usual minor league baseball we collaborated with the PTAC council to offer a weekend at Camp Reneker (Go For It) at a discounted rate. No work to be done, just relaxing. There was a wide variety of activities to be seen being done on and around camp. Activities included (but not limited to) tie-dyeing t-shirts, S'mores by the campfire, kayaking in the White Lake Float-A-Palooza. We will be starting earlier to talk with the council in hopes to have information out earlier and get the attendance for this even higher than it was this year.



President's Perspective

By: Jen Kotwasinski

It is that time of year again: brisk mornings, falling leaves, and of course PUMPKIN SPICE. As many heard we replaced the baseball outing to test out a OSA Reneker weekend. This inaugural weekend was well appreciated and much fun was had. Looking to making this a regular event, so stay tuned for more information regarding the 2026 weekend.



Fall Fix- It though smaller in numbers; was still just as mighty in the work accomplished. Thank you to all the members and friends of the OSA that were able to attend and help getting the camp closed for the season and prepared for the upcoming winter months. For those not able to come or just looking for to the next one please mark your calendars for our Spring Fix-IT (May 15-17, 2026).

Next up in the line up will be the OSA Pizza night November 29 th (Saturday after Thanksgiving). Hope to see you there.

Upcoming OSA Dates

November

5.....Board Meeting 7 PM CT
29.....Pizza night

December

3.....Board Meeting 7 PM CT

January

7.....Board Meeting 7 PM CT

February

4.....Board Meeting 7 PM CT

March

14.....Annual Meeting TBD

See you again at the end of the trail...

Anne Graczyk, mother of Ken Graczyk.

Ronald "Pez" Pezdek, Eagle Scout, Owasippe Staff, Vigil Honor. Husband to Mary Pezdek nee Nedza, father to Becca/ Chris and Matthew/ Beth, grandpa to Joe and Ben.

Dan Gilbert, Scout leader, supporter of Owasippe.

Welcome to our New Members

Shannon Viveiros (Gargas)
Joseph DeLago
Jim Nebor
Sean Willuweit

We're excited to have you
join the OSA!

Pizza Night!

Our Annual Pizza Night will be held on Saturday, November 29th, from 5:00pm to 9:00 P.M. This year's Pizza Night will be held at a new location: **Moose Lodge 424**, 3625 Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402.



For just \$15, 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 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 24th, to **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!

Time to Renew Your OSA Membership!

Your support keeps the Owasippe Staff Association strong—funding alumni programs, camp projects, and lifelong connections.

Annual dues are just **\$20** and can be paid online at

<https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/osa-online-store/>, by sending a check in the mail, or at the next OSA event.

You can also consider upgrading your annual membership to a lifetime membership and show your lasting commitment to the OSA and Owasippe.

Thank you for helping us carry on the Owasippe spirit!

Jacob Ross
Membership Chair

2026 Nominations and Election: Dan Kleinfeldt, Elections Chairman

We are seeking enthusiastic members to run for the OSA Board. Serving as a board member involves a personal commitment to ensure the organization operates effectively and smoothly. This includes holding a specific position, contributing to committees and providing valuable input on important issues. We currently have openings the following roles: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair, fix-it chair, event chair, fundraisers and more.

Candidates must be OSA members in good standing, with their dues current through 2026, at least 18 years of age, and available for monthly meetings. A genuine dedication to Owasippe, the OSA, and its members is essential. If you or someone you know is passionate and ready to make a difference, we want 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 with any nominees. Nominations are due by December 9, 2025.

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028
Jennifer Kotwasinski **	Paul Kerchberger	Mike Dorich
Pat Troy	Kevin Oster	Jacob Klein
Edgar Wolff-Klammer	Chris Sanchez**	Jason Roepke

**Two term limit goes into effect

Save the date!!
Annual Meeting will be held Saturday March 14, 2026
Location to be announced soon

Newsletter updates!

By Jason Roepke, Vibrations Editor

Hello all! I have taken over prepping and editing the quarterly Vibrations newsletter. To keep the newsletter on track, I have asked to adjust the submission deadlines. Hopefully these dates will be easy to remember and make it easier for you to send in your news and well wishes.

New Due Dates:

Issue 1: January 5th

Issue 2: April 1st

Issue 3: July 1st

Issue 4: October 1st

Then the Newsletter is expected out roughly two weeks later on the 15th of the month: January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th. Holidays may move these dates a day or two, but these are the goals to keep the Vibrations a regular part of your year.

Submissions for articles always welcome to osainfobooth@gmail.com or osa.vibrations@gmail.com.

NEXT DUE DATE: January 5th, 2026!

Owasippe 2026 Staff Applications

By Kevin Oster

They are now accepting applications for all positions for the Owasippe 2026 Staff. This also includes CITs (Counselor in Training) for those interested. Here is a link to the application: <https://pathwaytoadventure.org/owasippecampstaff/>. If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of the 2026 Owasippe Staff please have them fill out an application.

Dalton DeVries will be returning for 2026 as the Owasippe Reservation Director. He has also decided to turn pro! Dalton is taking on the role as the Director of Camping for the Pathways to Adventure Council. Best of luck to him in this role.

Please Consider Donating to the OSA

A heartfelt Thank You to everyone who volunteered or donated money, supplies and materials this past year.

Your loyalty and support for the Owasippe Staff Association (OSA) mean the world to us. As you know, our mission is to help maintain the facilities and support the programs at the Owasippe Scout Reservation.

**If you're considering making a donation,
here are the ways you can contribute:**

Qualified Charitable Distribution: To support the OSA, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This allows you to transfer funds directly from your Traditional, SEP, or SIMPLE IRA without incurring any tax liability.

Checks: Please make them payable to the Owasippe Staff Association and send them to Owasippe Staff Association, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154. You can also bring them to pizza night.

Bank Transfer: You can use Zelle® to send funds to osainfobooth@gmail.com.

Credit Card: Visit <https://owasippe.com/ways-to-help/store/> to access the OSA's online store, where you can choose from various fund options. General donations are especially impactful.

Purchase an ad in our Annual Dinner Ad Book (form in this newsletter)

**Thank you once again for all that you do to support us and give back to
Owasippe. Your contributions are invaluable!**

It's OSA Ad Book time again, 48 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
- Share a joke or a story

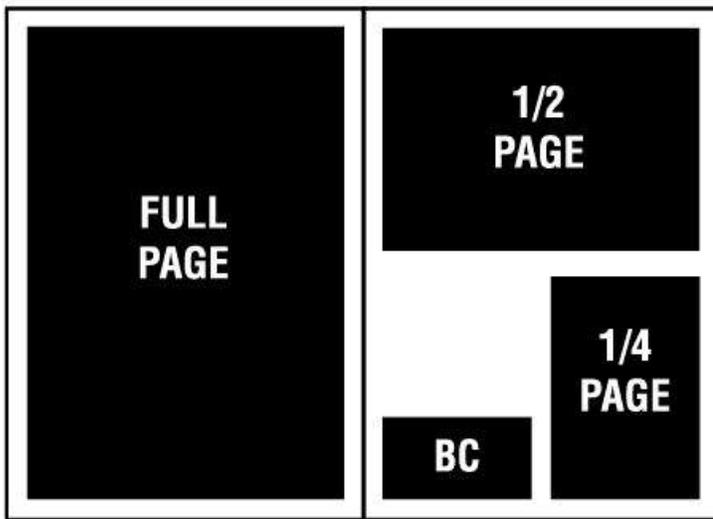
Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are seeking sponsors for the Owasippe Staff Association Ad Book distributed at our Annual Meeting in March of 2026. 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!



Please respond with your materials by January 15, 2026 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

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

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

Editor: | Jason Roepke

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 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:

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| • Spring | (Issue 1) | January 5 |
| • Summer | (Issue 2) | April 1 |
| • Fall | (Issue 3) | July 1 |
| • Winter | (Issue 4) | October 1 |

Connect with us!

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The newsletter for the members of the Owasippe Staff Association