

THE

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Lodge 40

WHIPPOORWILL



Fall Issue 2004

National OA Conference

How do you explain NOAC (National Order of the Arrow Conference) to folks who have never attended? Well, for some, NOAC is likened to a National Jamboree, only for OA members. One of the other major differences is that you live on a college campus, in dorm rooms, and food is served for you! No cooking. If you are fortunate, you get a nice air-conditioned room. The scale of the event is impressive as well. Nearly 7000 fellow Arrowmen from across the country came to this year's NOAC held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. When we meet in the large auditorium for our arena shows and assemblies, it is mighty impressive to see so many uniformed scouts in sashes.

Representing our Lodge was Brian Buesing, Keith McCammon, Tim Godsey, Alex Haak, Conner Williamson, John Miller, Rob Orr, Joe Jordan and Ev Williamson. Lee Kraut, Mark Dahlen, Brian Dennen and Jim Neubaum served as staff members. Adam Snyder once again worked on the shows staff, providing the incredible pyrotechnics that has been a principle feature of the shows. What follows are the reflection of those in attendance in hopes that you might become motivated to attend the next NOAC in 2006.



Butane (Brian Buesing) Lodge Secretary

Hey you guys. This is Brian here at NOAC, and all I can think about is where everyone else is. What could you be doing that's better than this? I've had more fun in the past three days than I could have in two weeks back on the shore.

First there's all I learned. I don't care who you are; there is something for you to learn here. I've learned everything from how to design a good website to how to do bead work to how to do a chicken dance (don't ask). You get to pick what you learn. You don't have to learn about business things. You can learn about crafts, dancing, or just have fun at TOAP or a scuba pool.

The one thing that I've noticed about the other lodges is that the ones that have a bunch of people are having a great time. If we can have this good of a time with only nine people in our contingent, I can't imagine what it would be like with twenty or fifty or more! It's a great way to get involved in the lodge or chapter. You can learn a lot to bring

back home with you.

Speaking of bringing things home, you can't go to NOAC without learning about patch trading. It's an adventure! You can see a bunch of awesome designs. I've seen patches that look like everything from Super Mario to Led Zeppelin to a mobster lobster. I found a bunch of old MaKaJaWan patches and a bunch of new ones that go for a lot in the patch trading circles. Whatever your fancy is, you'll find it at NOAC. I hope to see all of you at 2006. PS: Joe Jordan is the man!

NOAC 2004 Joe Jordan, Advisory At-Large, Vigil Ceremonial team

Forty years after I was inducted into Lodge 40, I attended my first National Order of the Arrow (NOAC) Conference in Ames, Iowa. I certainly don't recommend waiting so long to experience loads of fun and fellowship, and to be inspired by the sight of over seven thousand arrowmen who have gathered together to celebrate our membership in his great organization. The enthusiasm around us was infectious; the training sessions gave us many new ideas to bring home for the betterment of our lodge; and the positive messages we heard from our national and regional officers inspired me to rededicate myself to the obligation I first took forty years ago. Whether you were recently inducted or you're an old dog like me, NOAC is the place to go in 2006. I promise you won't regret it!



For me, the highlight of the week here at NOAC was attending the National Conference of Chiefs (NCOC) Tuesday Morning. This year's NCOC brought together every single Lodge Chief in the entire country and several foreign nations, the first time all of these leaders had been convened in one room in the history of convening in rooms.

We met to discuss new programs being implemented by the Order of the Arrow National Committee. Some of the programs introduced to us were the new Leadership in Service award (to replace the Arrowman service award), a new and expanded Lodge Leadership Development program, and a potential dues increase in the next calendar year. Look for each of these programs in your chapters and lodge in the next few months.

After having these programs presented to us by the Region chiefs, we moved into break-out sessions with other Lodge Chiefs to discuss those problems common to all lodges: Troop Rep programs, Membership retention, and nosy Lodge Advisors. This provided a valuable forum to get advice and guidance from experienced Arrowmen who had implemented successful programs in their lodges and learn their secrets.

Finally, the NCOC reconvened as one large group to vote on resolutions submitted by the Lodges in attendance. Each lodge had the opportunity to submit one resolution, and then a committee would pick three for consideration by the NCOC. With the support of the rest of the delegation, I submitted a resolution condemning the BSA's intolerant and discriminatory membership policies, and calling upon the National Order of the Arrow Committee to recognize and support the Inclusive Scouting Award as a way to solve this problem.

Needless to say, this resolution was not selected by the NCOC committee for consideration by the assembled chiefs, because they are tools. Instead we approved such startling and ground-breaking resolutions such as, "The OA shall continue to provide service to the community."

Woot! This is why we elect you guys! To eat from the feedbag of sophistry hung on your head by the gold-epauletted, unmarried, assisted-living-candidates on the National Committee! You are sheep! Sheep! So, anyway, I was going to try to use my intimate (and I mean intimate) knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure to force this resolution through, but I was denied my opportunity because the whole session (including the three resolutions we passed) took place in about a minute and a half.

Ultimately, despite failing to meet my own personal expectations, the NCOC will prove to be a valuable tool in improving our lodge's overall performance. I received print resources and guides, but far more important, I received the personal wisdom of those chiefs who had been there, done that, and had succeeded.

Timothy Godsey, Troop 55, Waukegan

This is my very first National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC). While the ride was kinda boring, and the first night was not very good for me; I had an excellent time. For the first time, I have become a heavy patch collector. I have collected many great looking patches. Another excellent thing that caught my fancy was how friendly folks can be. There were many folks that I met from around the country. The classes that I took were worthwhile. They would help to better our Native American craft sessions at our Chapter or Lodge meetings. The shows that I got a chance to see were excellent. If I had a chance to attend the next NOAC, I would. I would also like to encourage you, the reader to sign up and have a great time, as I had here at NOAC, in Ames, Iowa. I believe that all members of our lodge should attend NOAC at least once in their tenure here in Lodge 40.





Neubaum receives special award

We were very proud to see our own staff advisor, Jim Neubaum, receive the Distinguished Service Award at NOAC. This is special honor for people who have provided service to the national organization. You get this award for being a volunteer...not for being a professional. Many people don't realize the many things Jim has done for the OA outside of our Lodge as a volunteer. Often he will take his vacation time to participate in national training events or work on Section staff. In the entire history of the OA, only 700 people out of the nearly 1 million OA members have ever earned this award. Jim joins a very select group.

NOAC: A Connection to the Rest of the Country

Connor Williamson

A lot of times, during the summer at camp or even during the winter on the shore, we often forget that there are a lot of other lodges out there that can provide such valuable resources for us. NOAC is an excellent opportunity to strengthen those connections by meeting different people and sharing ideas.

"A stranger in the order, is a brother not yet met." This was a common quote and theme that was used this year. I know from my experiences that you can really learn a lot of new things on just about anything dealing with the order. I met people from Texas, Maine, California, Nebraska, Minnesota, and many others each with their own lodge that does things each on their own way. I met people while patch trading, or attending training seminars, attending religious services, and even through sports. Also, I met someone from our own lodge that I never knew before on this trip and I have really enjoyed getting to know him.

Also, NOAC is a great place to meet some famous people and some individuals very important to scouting. For example, there is this program called "Meet the Man" and through that program, I met Joseph Csatari, the official artist for the BSA. Also, you can meet the National Chief, the Vice Chief, and each of the region chiefs. As you can see, National OA events and even lodge events are great places to meet new people and learn new things. I encourage you all to go to as many functions as you can, you never if you'll find someone new and cool.

Fall Conclave

For those of you who may have not been able to complete your Ordeal at summer camp, we will have a special Fall Conclave to be held at Camp Oakarro, October 1 and 2. This event is open to any who would like to help us do service projects or be part of the Conclave staff. See the enclosed flyer/ Cost is \$40 for Ordeal candidate and \$10 for members who want to help or be on staff. There will also be a Brotherhood ceremony. Brotherhood fees are \$20.

Advisor's Corner



This was my second NOAC and I can't believe that I had never gone to others before. This experience is unparalleled. I have been to the National Jamboree and to other National training events, but this takes the prize for its scale and scope. My first impression this time - I can't believe how many people just come up and say hello! It is like we are all friends because we all share a common bond. And this is not just with adults. Everyone seems to be genuinely friendly to one another. This extends to the classroom and beyond. People are anxious to share their experiences and knowledge with others and the result is that we all come away with something we can use back home. I only wish we could have brought more people from our own Lodge so that you can see first hand what this experience is all about.

Rob Orr
Lodge Advisor

Vigil applications

Every year, we ask people to nominate deserving OA members to the Vigil honor. The Vigil Honor is a highest recognition a Lodge can extend to its members for service they have provided the Lodge and our Council. Applications can be downloaded from our web site (www.neic.org...go to the OA page). The form must be received in the Council office by November 1, 2004. Anyone can nominate a person for this honor, but the nominee must be a member in good standing with the Lodge (that means has paid his dues), is a Brotherhood member for at least two years and has provided significant service. A panel of youth member will review the applications and make recommendations to the Key 5. See attached flyer.