

'Possum Tales



Order of the Arrow Newsletter

March, 2020

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2020 Section Conclave

This year's Section C-3B Conclave will be held at Camp Warren Levis from September 18-20. Make sure to attend this annual event. This year's event is shaping up to be a great one. Every Arrowmen should be prepared for camping. The lodge will work out a carpool for those who need it.

This year's theme is "Luau at Levis". Information on pricing and registration will be out soon.

Important Update - COVID-19 & Scouting

The Greater St. Louis Area Council's top priority is the health and safety of our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their family members. In this spirit and given the unprecedented circumstances related to COVID-19, the following are now in effect through April 5:



All UNITS are to discontinue in-person meetings and all activities including camping trips.

All DISTRICT and COUNCIL in-person meetings, activities, and camps are cancelled. Instead, consider using technology apps such as Zoom, Skype, Facetime, Duo, or Google Hangouts.

All COUNCIL camps will be CLOSED.

All SERVICE CENTERS will be closed. Council staff will be working remotely per CDC social distancing recommendations. Minimal services will continue via remote functions.

These cancellations do NOT apply to our summer camp programs and events occurring beyond the closure period of April 5. The Council will continue to monitor the situation closely.

This does affect the previously scheduled Woapink Lodge Trade-O-Ree for March 28th. This event has been canceled. The Lodge Executive Committee will determine if it is possible to hold the event later in the year. Visit www.stlbsa.org for more information.



Woapink Lodge is the Order of the Arrow Lodge serving Arrowhead and Redhawk Districts (Plus Fayette County) in the Greater St. Louis Area Council.

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Ceremonies Team

Director: Blake Girdner

Hello brothers! I am Blake Girdner, I am the Ceremonies Director of our lodge. I grew up in scouting. I was originally part of a pack that disbanded, but during Webelos, I joined Pack 901, and eventually joined Troop 901. I learned about the OA during my first year of summer camp. I immediately saw these people with sashes, and I knew I had to be involved. I was elected the following year and immediately started getting involved. I started participating in ceremonies, and after a few, the previous director asked me to take his place.

I have held a lot of positions in the lodge, in my second year of OA I was able serve as Service Chair. I headed up the lodge project of the flag retirement ceremony. We collected well over 300 flags and respectfully retired them. The following year, I would take the position of Elangomat chairman. During the year, I was able to help plan the inductions weekend, and I was able to find Elangomats to help the candidates through the ordeal. I took over as director this year, and my goal is to have awesome and well-practiced teams for years to come. We will also be competing at NOAC this year for the Pre-Ordeal ceremony! Thank you for reading about me, and always remember "He who serves his fellows, is of all his fellows, greatest" WWW

2020 Woapink Spring Fellowship

The 2020 Spring Fellowship is just around the corner. Be prepared to have a great time of fellowship and get to see some of your brothers in the Order. This event is for all Arrowman as well as those Ordeal Candidates who did not attend the Induction Weekend in 2019.

Spring Fellowship will be held May 1-3 at Rhodes France Scout Reservation. Arrowmen who have been Ordeal members for at least 6 months can complete their Brotherhood membership during the Spring Fellowship. Register today at the link below: <https://scoutingevent.com/312-2020WoapinkSpringFellowship>

Administration Adviser: Shawn Renfro

I've been in Scouting as a leader since 2013 when my son joined as a Tiger. I now have my son and two of my daughters involved in Scouts BSA. I'm currently an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 91 in Niantic-Harristown, an Assistant Scoutmaster at female Troop 475 in Decatur, and an Arrow of Light Den Leader at Pack 91 in Niantic Harristown. I was called out for the Order of the Arrow in 2019 and currently serve as the Advisor to the Vice Chief of Administration on the LEC.

-Shawn Renfro

WWW

Publications Adviser: Shane Brown

Shane Brown is the current adult advisor for publications. Mr. Brown is an Eagle scout and was first inducted into OA in Kiondaga Lodge 422 in 1985 in Southern Illinois. He was formerly the Railsplitter chapter advisor and recognized with the vigil honor in 2019. He is the Scoutmaster for Troop 104 in Decatur, IL and works professionally as a product designer in the outdoor lighting industry that supplies Home Depot, Costco and many other retailers.

NOAC 2020 Contingent Meeting

Woapink Lodge will be holding a contingent meeting for the 2020 National Order of the Arrow Conference on Saturday, April 25th at 1:00pm at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Shelbyville (1201 N Chestnut St). This meeting will be for all Arrowmen attending NOAC and their parents.

We will be discussing all aspects of the Conference. We anticipate the meeting lasting until around 3:00pm. For more information on NOAC, please visit noac2020.org.

National OA Response to COVID-19

As always, your safety and the safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees is our top priority. We know there are questions and concerns about how COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus, could affect the National Order of the Arrow Conference and other upcoming Order of the Arrow events. Please know that we are monitoring developments regarding COVID-19 both nationally and locally with the BSA Health and Safety Department, Michigan State University and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

More detailed information on specific events can be found on the national website at www.oa-bsa.org.

Woapink Lodge 2020 Merit Badge Fair

Woapink Lodge held its 3rd annual Merit Badge Fair on Saturday, March 7th at Lake Land College in Mattoon. Over 100 Scouts participated in the fair. Scouts took classes in Citizenship in the Nation, Communications, Disabilities Awareness, Engineering, Fire Safety, Law, Moviemaking, Programming, Public Health, Railroading, Scholarship, and Traffic Safety.

A special thank you goes out to all of our Merit Badge Counselors who helped make this day possible. Also, thank you to Vice Chief of Activities Will Newton and his Adviser Misty Curl for all of their hard work.



Woapink Lodge Officers & Advisers

Garrett McMillion - Lodge Chief
Will Newton - Vice Chief of Activities
Logan Brown - Vice Chief of Administration
Ditton Curl - Vice Chief of Inductions
Nate Wieman - Secretary/Treasurer
Kyler Peer - Arrowhead Chapter Chief
Thomas Smith - Redhawk Chapter Chief

Greg Rau - Lodge Adviser
Misty Curl - Activities Adviser
Shawn Renfro - Administration Adviser
Steve Lusietto - Inductions Adviser
Mark Potter - Secretary/Treasurer Adviser
Jeff Taylor - Arrowhead Adviser
Tom Osborne - Redhawk Adviser