

Tail and Feather

Vol. I, No. I

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"Things of the spirit are what count: brotherhood – in a day when there is too much hatred at home and abroad; cheerfulness – in a day when the pessimists have the floor and cynics are popular; service – in a day when millions are interested in getting or grasping, rather than giving." – **E. Urner Goodman**

Chiefly Speaking

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

In February, we held our first ever Muscogee #116 Chief's Retreat (LLDC for those who haven't heard it called such). Though training might not be every Arrowman's favorite part of the OA, it is a vital part. Training is one major way that we, as an Order, empower our leaders to grow; but, without experience and service, training lacks a purpose. People need to practice service in order to apply what they have learned.

Service is one of the tenets of our Order - one of the three W's. It is one of the key ways that Arrowmen can not only grow as leaders, but also support the lodge. As a new lodge, we are going to need the support of all our Arrowmen. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Anybody can be great, because everyone can serve." I believe every member of our lodge has the potential for greatness. We simply need to find the place for you to shine. Whether that means serving as a lodge officer or a committee member, find your place in the lodge. No member is more important than any other. Without the individual Arrowmen who support the individual parts of our events through committees, like shows and dance, Fellowships would not happen. And, you never know...when you join a committee, you might find and make some of your best friendships. I found some of my best friends to this day in the ceremonies committee when I joined.

I'm excited to see each of you at events this year! I cannot wait to see what our lodge is capable of when we all work together. Keep being your awesome selves!

Winter Banquet – A New Lodge

At the Winter Banquet in January, we held our first business meeting, officially making us a lodge! During the meeting we formalized lodge rules discussed in the preceding months. Many changes were made with both previous lodges in mind. Some changes included the merging of the totems, awards, and an overall revision of



Successful Business Meeting at Winter Banquet

both sets of bylaws to give us a fresh start as a lodge. Going forward, we will be Brothers under a single lodge.

The inaugural business meeting also provided an opportunity for the lodge to conduct officer elections. Elections this year were somewhat different than the processes followed by either lodge in the past. Each legacy lodge was given 10 votes to be allocated via poll of the youth members. Anyone in attendance could run for office, though there was a one-time rule in place for the Lodge Chief and the Vice Chief of Chapter Support. The rule required both offices to come from a different prior lodge, ensuring equal representation from both prior lodges.

Spring Fellowship – Come for fun!

The Muscogee Lodge #116 Spring Fellowship is May 19-21, 2023, at Camp Barstow. Be Prepared: get Registered! There are plenty of fun events planned, so come out and show your spirit as we remember to **KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!**



2023 Spring Fellowship Patch

Introducing Your Vice Chiefs

VC Chapter Support

Gabe Gainey

Is it just me or are the Chapters SUPER DUPERLY supported right now? Who knows why? Oh, wait, I did that! Let me introduce myself: I'm Gabe Gainey, your VC of Chapter Support. I formerly served as a Chapter Chief, AVC, and as the Santee Lodge Chief. I am a Vigil Honor member and an Eagle Scout. As a former Chapter Chief, I know the difficulties and ins and outs of running a chapter. So, I am very passionate about making sure our chapters have the best support from the lodge! I'm looking forward to a great year and lots of fun with y'all!

VC Program

Joshua Prevette

Hello, my name is Joshua Prevette, and I'm the Vice Chief of Program. I've been a part of Scouting since I was a Tiger Cub and have reached the rank of Eagle. I am grateful to have received the Vigil Honor within the Order of the Arrow as well, but who really wants to know about that? Instead, let me tell you all about the greatest story ever told. A story of wealth, fame, and power. One part, which is a popular manga series in Japan, is a story about self-identity and freedom of expression that has inspired me for years now. As well as arguably the greatest story ever told. It's a series I highly recommend to everyone despite it being over 1,000+ chapters worth of content... I hope to see everyone at the upcoming Spring Fellowship not only so I can tell you more, but to meet all our new Brothers.

VC Inductions

Madelyn Ridley

Hello! My name is Madelyn Ridley, and I am your new Vice Chief of Inductions. I am from Troop 425G in Lexington, and I earned my Eagle Scout in 2020. I completed the Ordeal at the Summer Super Fellowship in August 2019, then sealed my Brotherhood in Spring 2020.

I am very excited to serve the Lodge in this position, as Vice Chief of Inductions. Last year I served as Ordeal Chairman, where I developed a passion for Inductions. The experience showed me opportunities for how we can make Inductions even more successful. My goals are to increase the number of candidates who complete their Ordeal and increase the number of Ordeal members who seal their membership with the Brotherhood Honor. With the combining of our historic lodges into Muscogee #116, our Lodge will grow bigger and better together. Together we can become a high-performing Lodge with national recognition. I look forward to working with you all, and I hope to see you at each of the exciting events planned for 2023.

VC Administration

Preston Kunkle

Hey everyone! I'm Preston Kunkle, and I am serving as your Vice Chief of Administration for the 2023 year. I'm excited for what the Administration team plans to achieve this year. Some administrative goals that my team looks to achieve include publishing the minutes of lodge business meetings publicly in Slack, informing members of the lodge on how our parliamentary procedures work to streamline business meetings, and working with Chapter officers to maximize chapter performance on the recognitions awarded at our annual banquet.

As the Vice Chief of Administration, I also oversee the Lodge History Committee, and I am currently serving as its interim chairman. We have a few important goals that we would like to achieve this year. A few of these goals include compiling Santee and Muscogee Lodge histories into a shared public document, gathering information about past memorabilia issues from legacy lodges, and creating recorded interviews with lodge alumni. I am looking forward to working with my team to achieve these goals, and we'd welcome anyone else who is interested in joining the effort!

VC Finance

Aiden Dong

I am Aidan Dong, your 2023 Vice Chief of Finance. I worked on Camp Barstow staff in 2022 and hope to return in the future. Also, I am on the Indian Waters Council COPE and Climbing Committee and currently serving as the Crew 553 treasurer. My role in the lodge as the Vice Chief of Finance is similar to the past positions of treasurer, and my team is responsible for creation of the budget, management of the lodge store and auction, and patches and memorabilia. This year the finance team includes: Tripp Payne as our Lodge Store Chair, Ashley Fogleman as our Lodge Store Adviser, Daniel Lacoste as Patches, Insignia, and Memorabilia Chair, Brad Hutto as our Patches, Insignia, and Memorabilia Adviser, Hunter Eisele as the Adviser to the Vice Chief of Finance, and myself as the Vice Chief of Finance.

Our immediate goals as a team are to complete a full inventory of in-stock store items from each prior lodge in preparation for the Spring Fellowship as well as the continued revamp of the lodge store. It has been amazing to work with such a great team thus far, and I am excited to see what we can do with the rest of 2023.

VC Indian Affairs

Sean Green

I'm Sean Green, your VC of Indian Affairs for 2023. I am also Vice President of Crew 553, and I have served on Camp Barstow Staff for four years. I look forward to working with

everyone interested in American Indian Affairs this year, as we look to expand our numbers in AIA.

VC Communications

Nathan Arant



Prize for first
to find the
hidden VC
Comms
Introduction!
-Yours Truly

Adviser's Minute

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

The famed author on leadership, John C. Maxwell, notably said "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." At many times in Scouting's history, we faced change, challenge, and adversity, and this past year was no different for us in the Midlands and Pee Dee of South Carolina. As we navigate a new norm for Muscogee Lodge #116, we must all be mindful of our shared traditions, values, and strengths. And, while change may be inevitable, growth is not just optional, but a goal to be shared by all who work towards a successful first year together.

Fostering growth from change will not come easily. It will take our collective efforts and a strong will to do better and to be better. By doing so, we can ensure a successful future for our organization. To accomplish this, we all must have a growth mindset. As Scouting's National Honor Society, each of us is a leader in our own right. Leaders must help facilitate growth by asking at every turn "how will this grow our lodge, our membership, and our service to others?" Each Arrowman, from a brand-new Ordeal member to the Lodge Chief, must ask himself "what will I do today that will help ensure a better tomorrow?"

This time of change gives our lodge a tremendous opportunity to be the best possible version of itself and, through doing so, enables each of us to be the best version of ourselves too. With this new foundation for our lodge, I am confident that we are well positioned to meet the needs of our members, both present and future, as well as to carry out the mission of the Order of the Arrow.

Already, our youth and their advisers are on the path towards an incredible, generation-defining year. Following our first Lodge Business Meeting and Winter Banquet, we held our Chiefs Retreat at Camp Coker in February. There, our leaders mapped out the lodge year and developed exciting, engaging plans for our members. Our leaders have truly come together in this most important hour of unity and progress so that we may build a future worthy of celebration.

Inaugural Muscogee #116 Flaps

At the beginning of 2023, Santee Lodge #116 and Muscogee Lodge #221 completed a merger of equals, joining to become Muscogee Lodge #116. The new lodge combines each lodge's rich history and traditions of excellence, forming a new, stronger lodge, through which the Arrowmen from the Pee Dee and Midlands regions of South Carolina will be "better together."

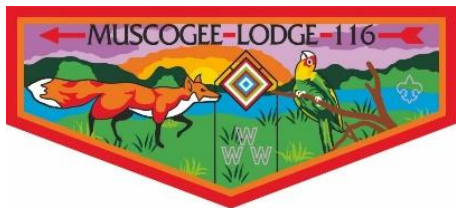
During the lodge business meeting, held prior to the Winter Banquet on January 7, 2023, the members of Muscogee Lodge #116 selected designs for the inaugural lodge pocket flaps. The flaps were designed by Kyle Hughes, who also designed many recent Santee #116 patches. Along with the artist's rendering of each pocket flap, below, Muscogee #116 Lodge Adviser, Mason Thomas, provides commentary on some of the symbolism and meaning included in each design.

Standard



The standard design features a daytime scene, with the Red Fox and Carolina Parakeet posed together as if to state that they "have each other's back" in recognition of the formal joining of Santee and Muscogee lodges. The red and black double border is emblematic of the Santee #116 flaps of old, while the colorful landscape is a nod to the attractive designs of Muscogee #221's past. The standard issue flap is worn by any dues-paid member of Muscogee #116.

Ordeal



The Ordeal flap features a scene from the chapel at Camp Barstow, overlooking Lake Murray. The sun is seen rising over the horizon, symbolizing the dawn of a new morning. Our Ordeal members are beginning their journey in the Order, so the flap appropriately features a rising sun and a single arrow at the top. The Ordeal flap is worn by any dues-paid member of Muscogee #116.

Brotherhood

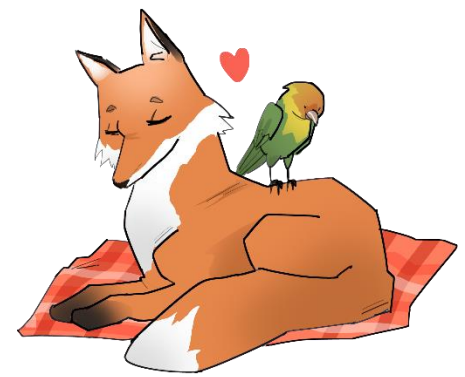


The Brotherhood flap is distinguished by a scene of the island at Camp Coker. The sun is setting in the sky, as if in the evening, symbolic of a Brotherhood member's experience and tenure in the Order. This flap adds two bars, one to each end of the arrow, symbolizing the sealing of one's Brotherhood membership. Any dues-paid Brotherhood or Vigil Honor member may wear the Brotherhood flap.

Vigil



The Vigil flap features the Red Fox and Carolina Parakeet, joined together at a single fire, bonding in fellowship. The scene is set during the night, when a Brother is transformed into a Vigil Honor member. As the light of the fire rises in the darkness, a Vigil triangle is added to the arrow, signifying the highest ideals of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. In recognition of those who were bestowed this high honor, only those Arrowmen who hold the Vigil Honor may wear the Vigil flap.



"OC do not steal plz ok thx" - Nathan

Spring Induction Weekend

Muscogee Lodge #116 held the first Induction Weekend from March 10-12th, 2023 at Camp Barstow, with 54 Ordeal candidates registered for the weekend. The weekend also provided two Arrowmen the opportunity to seal their membership in the Order by earning the Brotherhood Honor.

During the weekend, a special Conclave Fellowship Prep. event was held to prepare the contingent of lodge members attending this year's Conclave at Camp Ho Non Wah from April 21-23. The Conclave includes the Quest For The Golden Arrow, a collection of challenging events in which each lodge across our Section competes head-to-head. Other competitions include ceremonies teams, Native American dance, and drum/sing. There are always last-minute participant substitutions at Conclave, so don't worry if you missed the prep weekend – there are loads of ways to participate in Conclave!



Ordeal candidates hard at work at Spring Inductions 2023!

Muscogee Lodge No. 116
Indian Waters Council
Scouts, BSA
715 Betsy Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

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Arrowmen,

Every youth should have the opportunity to benefit from Scouting and its programs. There may be circumstances where a youth and their family need a little help financially to take part in Order of the Arrow (OA) activities. To address this, our lodge has allocated part of its annual budget to help. The lodge offers assistance in the areas of OA lodge membership and program activities.

You will also want to see if your unit and its Chartering Organization can help. We do this because many units and charter partners offer this kind of help, and we want to make sure we prioritize our available funds at the lodge level to help as many Scouts as possible who can't get help elsewhere.

If approved, Muscogee Lodge will generally provide an annual membership at no charge or up to half of the program activity cost on a reimbursable basis (not to exceed \$250). In certain circumstances, full assistance may be provided. All financial assistance is subject to the availability of funds.

Financial assistance is available to Scouts who may find some hardship in attending events – A form can be found at:

<https://muscogeelodge.org/resources/forms/>

Membership Assistance:

The OA charges a national membership fee for all youth and adults who register as members of the lodge. Although you pay this fee to the lodge or council office, we are required to send this money to the national organization. The Membership Assistance program helps make sure every youth has the opportunity to join the Order of the Arrow and be a member of Muscogee Lodge.

Program Activity Assistance:

The OA delivers its programming through various activities and events offered in service at multiple levels (lodge, section, region, or national). These activities include events such as Lodge Fellowships, Section Conclave, National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC), National Leadership Seminar (NLS), OA High Adventure, and OA Service Corps at the National Scout Jamboree. Program Activity Assistance provides part of the fee for Scouts to attend OA programs much like camperships do for Summer camp. The combined cost of service can be cost prohibitive for some Scouts and as such, the lodge may help with registration fees and/or travel cost.

Yours in WWW,

Grace Franklin | Lodge Chief
Muscogee Lodge #116
chief@muscogeelodge.org

