

Tail and Feather

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Indian Waters Council

December 2023

"We must change [youth] from a 'what can I get' to a 'what can I give' attitude." - Lord Robert Baden-Powell



CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Grace Franklin, Lodge Chief

When E. Urner Goodman talked about the principles of our Order, he called them "things of the spirit." I can see how that value has grown and developed in our lodge. This has been a year full of ordeals. As a lodge we faced many challenges in our first year, yet we have come out triumphant. And it is our spirit that has allowed us to do so.

Our spirit can be seen in so many ways. You can see it in how we celebrated our victories at Conclave, taking home the Quest for the Golden Arrow and placing in a multitude of competitions across Conclave. And in our high-performing PMP statistics. But more importantly, you can see it at every fellowship and event. We have come together with a cheerful spirit to tackle the tough challenges before us. Without the spirit of brotherhood, our lodge would not be the success that it is.

I hope that as we continue through the holidays and into the new year our spirit will only continue to grow. I hope that everyone has fantastic holidays, and I cannot wait to see you at the Winter Banquet!

WINTER BANQUET

Michael O, Iswa Chapter Chief

All Arrowmen and their family members are invited to attend the annual Lodge Winter Banquet, which will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Florence on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

During the banquet, we will recognize our new Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil Honor Members as well as present the Jimmy Duffy and Bernie Moore Service Awards, the Ralph Grier and Charles Youngblood Chapter Awards, and the Founder's Award. Additionally, we will swear in our new Lodge Chief and other lodge and chapter officers in special ceremonies.



NLS/DLYC

Evans McNair, Newsletter Chairman

We are incredibly fortunate to be chosen to host an NLS/DYLC course in Columbia, SC from January 26-28, 2024. This is the first time in over a decade that these courses will be offered within our council's borders, so

we strongly encourage you to register in the hope that we can be added to the regular rotation every few years. The premier leadership training courses of the Order of the Arrow, NLS, provides Arrowmen with an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, while the DYLC strengthens each adviser's capacity to develop youth leadership within the lodge and chapter, each delivered through a weekend of intense training. Once you have registered in NOAERS, you will also need to sign up and pay through the lodge website's event page.

PAY YOUR DUES!!!!

Michael O, Iswa Chapter Chief

Dues are collected for each calendar year and correspond to the lodge's annual recharter. Lodge members have two options for paying their dues. Arrowmen may simply pay their dues, then pay for each event they attend. Or they may purchase an annual pass at a discounted rate. The annual pass covers the event registration cost of all major lodge events, plus an extra event patch for those who pre-register and attend the event.

To support our lodge throughout the 2024 year and to attend our events, we kindly ask that you pay your lodge dues.



REGISTER FOR WINTER BANQUET!



PAY YOUR 2024 LODGE DUES!

SIGN-UP FOR 2024 NOAC

Michael O, NOAC Chair

The National Order of the Arrow Conference, or NOAC, is the Order of the Arrow's largest event, held every two years at a major university campus. This year, it is expected to have 6,000+ attendees. NOAC consists of massive shows, patch trading, Quest-style events, and training sessions. NOAC is one of the areas where our lodge shines brightest, as shown by our four consecutive national ultimate frisbee wins.

Our next NOAC is at the University of Colorado in Boulder from July 29 – August 3, 2024, and our lodge is taking a delegation. Spots on the delegation are available on a first-come-first-served basis, and you can find out more (including costs and travel plans) by joining the #noac channel on Slack. If you're ready to register, do so on the NOAC 2024 Event page on the lodge website.



HOW WAS OUR FIRST FALL FELLOWSHIP?

Joshua Prevette, VC Program

At the recent Fall Fellowship, not only did all of the chapters in our lodge meet together for a lovely weekend at Camp Coker to have fun, brotherhood and cheerfulness, but there were a few highlights that I would like to mention. First off, we had tons of fun with the chapters in our ring toss and pumpkin bowling quest. Secondly, spirit was higher than ever with the various themes, such as Knights, Tailgate football, and so much more. At the end of the weekend, we had our religious service along with awards, where the Chicora chapter won best spirit and Tschitaneu Aptonagan won Quest and Chapter of the Fellowship. Program is already working on making the next year better for everyone else, and we are excited to see the amazing turn out in the spring at the upcoming ordeal and fellowship.

OUR NEXT LODGE CHIEF!

Preston K, Lodge Chief-elect

Hey, Muscogee Lodge! I hope you've had a great year! I'm Preston, and I have the privilege of serving as your Lodge Chief for the upcoming year. Some of you may have seen me serve as the Vice Chief of Administration this past year. I have also previously served as the Chapter Chief of Tschitaneu Aptonagan.

As we move into 2024 as a lodge, I would like to share a few of my goals with you. First, I would like to place more emphasis on administrative operations and unit relations. While these areas of our lodge may be overlooked, they are vital to our operation. Improving our relationships and communication with our units is critical in growing our lodge's membership and extending the OA experience to as many Scouts as possible.

Second, I would like to improve the production value of our Lodge's shows and training sessions. Providing Arrowmen with unique experiences through our program is one of the biggest parts of membership retention. The final goal that I would like to share with you is perhaps the most important: to get feedback from each and every Arrowman who attends a lodge event on how we can improve. Above all else, our members are what matters most.

The reason that I decided to share a few of my goals with you is that I believe it is important to always look to the future. In the Ordeal Ceremony, Meteu challenges us to "catch the higher vision." Just as Uncas passes the legend down to a young Scout in Joseph Csatsari's painting, The Higher Vision, we should always strive to make the Order of the Arrow better for the Arrowmen who come after us. To do this, we must always remember that "the legend lives on."



"The Higher Vision" J. Csatsari



FALL INDUCTION

Madylen R, VC Inductions

The first Fall Induction weekend for Muscogee Lodge #116 was a huge success. Running from September 15-17th, this event brought current and new Brothers together to perform service for Camp Coker. Beginning on Friday night, 48 candidates came out to go through their Ordeal at Coker and successfully became new members of the lodge. These candidates were able to complete several worthy service projects, including clearing and widening the many trails throughout Camp Coker, clearing the many campsites, and removing old pallets from those same campsites. They also worked to demolish and remove old concrete stairs from the Stallworth and Ecology lodges.

While the Ordeal was a major part of the Induction Weekend, Brotherhood was also a large component. At the weekend, there were 16 brothers who earned the Brotherhood honor, 3 also serving as Elangomats. These members were not only able to complete their Brotherhood, but also participate in one of the best ceremonies of the year. Many of those who attended not just the Brotherhood, but also Ordeal ceremonies agreed that the ceremonialists were able to conduct the best ceremonies of the year at the Fall Induction Weekend.

Of course, none of this could have been accomplished without the assistance of all the lodge members who volunteered to serve during the weekend. The Brothers of Muscogee truly stepped up for this weekend as over 100 Brothers came out to serve. From serving as Elangomats, as principles for ceremonies, working on kitchen staff, or any other position needed to conduct an effective Inductions Weekend, the members of Muscogee Lodge were vital to ensuring the weekend ran smoothly and successfully.



WITAHemui AWARD

Michael O, Iswa Chapter Chief

The Witahemui Award is a service award in our Lodge, available to those who complete at least six hours of service to the Lodge and a minimum of 12 hours of service to the community outside of Scouting. The Vice Chief of Administration then reviews these completed requirements, and once signed off, the candidate is eligible to purchase one Witahemui award neckerchief at that year's Winter Banquet. This award has been designed to promote service, as the Order of the Arrow is the "Brotherhood of Cheerful Service." I hope many of you will complete this challenge by the 2025 Winter Banquet or the upcoming 2024 Winter Banquet. I hope you all can enjoy the service as much as I do.

OFFICER INTRODUCTIONS

Evans M, Newsletter Chairman

With the holding of the Fall Fellowship, we have a new list of officers for the 2024 year. These officers will be sworn in at the Winter Banquet and hold their positions until the beginning of 2025.

Lodge Officers:

- Preston K., Lodge Chief
- Jackson D., Lodge Vice Chief
- Michael O., Vice Chief of Administration
- Joshua Prevette, Vice Chief of Program
- Tiwaii F., Vice Chief of Inductions
- Sam W., Vice Chief of Finance
- Sean G., Vice Chief of Indian Affairs



Chapter Chiefs:

- Finn K. for Maskek Woakus
- Turner Peel for Santee
- Christian C. for Tschitanek Woakus
- Derwyn B. for Sukeu Sipo
- Andrew Joseph for Tschitanek Aptonagan
- Ella C. for Chicora
- McKenzie D. for Iswa

NEW VIGIL MEMBERS

Evans M, Newsletter Chairman

For our inaugural Vigil class, Muscogee Lodge 116 had seven of eight eligible candidates earn the Vigil Honor. These Vigil Honor Candidates were chosen for their dedication to Scouting, both in their unit and our lodge. So, congratulations to them all.

Those who earned Vigil Honor at the Fall Fellowship include:

Youth:

- Reagan M.
- Eli Bostick
- Joshua R.
- Madelyn R.

Adult:

- Troy Bostick
- Sara Clayborne
- Terry Skipper



CHIEF'S RETREAT

Preston K, VC Administration

From December 1-3, both the outgoing group of lodge officers as well as the incoming officers and committee chairs gathered at Camp Barstow for our annual Chief's Retreat and Lodge Leadership Development Conference. A total of 53 participants, including youth and advisers, attended. At this event, our lodge officers learned how to be better leaders and envisioned what our lodge program would look like in the 2024 year. The Chief's Retreat program is designed to equip our lodge leaders with the knowledge and skills that they need to be the best leaders that they can be.

During the event, each leadership team, led by one of our Vice Chiefs, developed and presented their plans for what our lodge program would look like. Whether it's making our administrative processes more efficient or hosting fun quest events at our fellowships, our lodge leaders have a plan and are super excited to get to work for our Arrowmen!

ADVISER'S CORNER

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

As we look ahead to the new year, I am proud of what our leadership team has accomplished and for what we are poised to achieve in 2024. Our lodge has come together in a way that has left me in absolute awe of the personal commitment and sacrifice made by so many outstanding individuals. By working towards the common goals of unity and excellence, we have laid a strong foundation that will raise our expectations year after year.

However, this is not a time to rest or become complacent. There is still much work to be done, both to improve our lodge and to show others that we have the best program, the best engagement, and the best membership. The opportunity before us is to build on our culture of excellence, fostered through hard work and determination. This culture is not self-sustaining, as it must be nurtured and continuously honed.

To do this will require a renewed focus on the principles that have brought us to this point. These principles will sustain our culture of excellence and bring us further success in 2024 and beyond: 1. Focus on the member experience, 2. Cultivate high quality youth-adult partnerships, 3. Meet our members where they are, then bring them with us, 4. Find ways to conduct business better, 5. Try new things, 6. Include a variety of experiences and views, and 7. Do what is right for the long-term health and success of our lodge.

As Scouting's National Honor Society, it is our duty to work harder, be smarter, and support Scouting in all we do. If we commit ourselves to these seven principles, then our lodge will have the tools it needs to become a model for implementing the OA in councils across the country. These foundational building blocks will give future generations a chance to grow and thrive so that others may enjoy the benefits of OA membership that we have all come to love and appreciate.



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2023-24 EVENT CALENDAR



* Fall 2024 dates to be announced upon publication of fall sports schedules