

# Tail and Feather

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Indian Waters Council

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## Special Winter Edition



### CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Preston K, Lodge Chief

First, I would like to thank everyone for making our Winter Banquet on January 7th an outstanding success. We brought over 100 Arrowmen together to celebrate the successes of 2023 and our ambitions for 2024. We swore-in our new officers, recognized the recipients of our annual awards, and had the opportunity to learn from our keynote speaker, former National Chief and current National OA Vice Chair for Lodge Impact, Scott Beckett. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our amazing officers, advisers, and Arrowmen, so, again, thank you.



Since the Winter Banquet, our officers have been working diligently to plan and prepare for the upcoming Spring Fellowship, which will be held at Camp Coker from March 8-10. At this event, we will engage in the classic Muscogee #116 fun and fellowship, while also gearing up for the Section E-7 Cornerstone Conclave at Belk Scout Camp from April 26-28. Don't miss out on our first Fellowship of the year or the Conclave. If you haven't signed-up for either one, make sure to register using one of the QR codes or links in this newsletter.

One especially important action that our lodge officers have taken to prepare for the Spring Fellowship is the consideration of four amendments to the Lodge Rules, which will be voted on at the business meeting. In our recent Lodge Executive Board meeting, the LEB voted to recommend the approval of four amendments which aim to improve our lodge operations in the areas of officer

terms, rule amendment procedures, budget approval, and campsite assignments. Each of these changes should help the lodge run more smoothly, so I encourage everyone to carefully consider each of them and be prepared to vote at the Spring Fellowship Lodge Business Meeting.

Although 2024 is just getting started, I already know that it is going to be a great year. I look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Fellowship!



### RULE AMENDMENTS!!!

Preston K, Lodge Chief

At the Spring Fellowship, the lodge will consider four amendments to the lodge rules, each intended to incorporate the lessons learned during our first year as a new, combined lodge. Generally, the amendments aim to give a greater degree of flexibility to the lodge and its officers in planning events, empowering officers for the lodge year, amending the lodge rules, and making budget decisions.

As required by the current lodge rules, any amendments must be published in the lodge newsletter before we may consider them at

the next business meeting (on Saturday of the Spring Fellowship). The Lodge Executive Board (LEB) has reviewed the amendments, and you can check out the details using the QR code or link, below.



Here's a quick summary:

Amendment 1: Provide more flexibility and specifically designate the lodge officer responsible for assigning chapter campsites at each lodge event.

Amendment 2: Enable lodge officers to start their term earlier by administering the oath of office at the Chief's Retreat, rather than waiting until the Winter Banquet.

Amendment 3: Give greater autonomy to each lodge officer to determine how they spend their portion of the lodge budget; clarify the dates of the annual budget period; give the LEC limited authority to make budget changes, without prior approval from the lodge; and clarify the budget reports provided to the lodge by the VC of Finance.

Amendment 4: Modernize the process through which lodge rule amendments may be made.

## CONCLAVE REGISTRATION

Evans M, Newsletter Chairman

Cornerstone Conclave will be here soon! This year's gathering will be at Belk Scout Reservation in North Carolina from April 26-28. The price for this weekend of W.W.W. is only \$70, so register today.



In case you are unaware, Cornerstone Conclave is the premiere Section event of the year. Lodges from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia meet to compete for Lodge of the Year, vie for the Quest for the Golden Arrow, hold Section officer elections, and join in the spirit of Brotherhood with other Arrowmen. In addition to the "official" events, there will be plenty of time to meet Arrowmen from other lodges, learn about other Lodges' traditions, PATCH TRADE, and grow closer to fellow Muscogee brothers!

## REGISTER FOR SPRING FELLOWSHIP

Evans M, Newsletter Chairman

Spring Fellowship is March 8-10, 2024 at Camp Coker. Make sure to register before it's too late! At the Fellowship we will enjoy the spirit of Wimachtendienk, have loads of fun, and work together in cheerful service!

During the event, we will once again hold the Quest for the Golden Arrow—a fierce and fun competition that pits chapter against chapter as Arrowmen participate in events that may remind many of the upcoming Olympic games. Events will include a cross country race (around the camp), ultimate frisbee, rope throw, knot tying, tug o' war, and more!

Wondering how to register for this fantastic Fellowship? Go to the Muscogee Lodge 116 Website → Events → Spring Fellowship → Register.

## FEW NOAC SPOTS LEFT

Michael O, NOAC Chairman

The National Order of the Arrow Conference, or NOAC, is the Order of the Arrow's largest event, held biennially at a university campus. This year, it has attracted 6,000+ attendees and staff members. NOAC includes massive shows, patch trading, Quest-style events, and training sessions. Our lodge shines brightest at this nationwide event, as evidenced by our four consecutive national ultimate frisbee wins.

With NOAC right around the corner at the University of Colorado in Boulder from July 29 – August 3, 2024, our lodge is taking an elite delegation. Only a few spots are still open, and they are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Find out more (including costs and travel plans) by joining the #noac channel on the lodge's Slack workspace. If you are ready to register, do so on the [NOAC 2024 Event page](#) on the lodge website. Also, order your NOAC patch sets today through the [Lodge Store](#).



2024 NOAC Patch Sets On Sale Now

## GET YOUR PATCHES!!!

Michael O, VC Administration

Our lodge has some awesome memorabilia items for sale from several upcoming events. Even if you cannot attend NOAC or the Cornerstone Conclave, you can still purchase the Lodge's memorabilia. At the [Lodge Store](#), you can find our lodge's Conclave and NOAC patches for preorder. Not only can you check off items from your collection list, but you can also support our youth delegates by purchasing items, such as the NOAC fundraiser patch sets. Consider a purchase at our [Lodge Store](#), but only for a short time, while our patches are still available.

## ADVISER'S CORNER

Mason Thomas, Lodge Adviser

As we embark upon our second year as a new lodge, I am thrilled with the progress our youth leaders and their advisers have made towards reclaiming the mantle of being the best. But what does that mean, exactly?

Being the best is not about comparing ourselves to others, but rather, it is a measure of our fulfillment of the Mission and Purpose of the Order of the Arrow. Over the course of the next five installments of the Adviser's Corner, I will highlight the Order of the Arrow's Mission, then the four pillars of the OA's Purpose.

"The mission of the Order of the Arrow is to fulfill its purpose as an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America through positive youth leadership under the guidance of selected capable adults."

Now that we have firmly established ourselves as a High Performing Lodge, it is important to understand how we can further solidify our place as Scouting's National Honor Society, and what drives us towards that end.

The two inextricably linked components to achieve this are simply stated in our Mission: positive youth leadership and selected capable adults. Together, these components form a team to advance the Scouting Movement and enhance the experience for our members and those we serve.

Positive youth leadership is not an intrinsic trait that should be assumed of every Scout or Arrowman, but must be cultivated, nurtured, and honed. Through both leadership training opportunities and hands-on experience, the OA provides our youth Arrowmen with the tools to go beyond what they have learned at the unit level and build upon their knowledge and skills. All of this, though, must be in support of making progress within our lodge and its core identity as a leadership-through-service organization.

The development of selected capable adults is a similar labor of love that can take years of careful preparation and placement. While every adult leader in the OA can and should contribute to the progress of the lodge, being a high-quality adviser requires a greater level of commitment and understanding of both how youth develop and the specific functions for which they advise. The intrinsic trait of a highly capable adult adviser is the ability to share a vision for where we are going and how we need to get there.

As we endeavor to build upon our tradition of excellence, it is only together that our youth leaders and their advisers will achieve success. As a partnership and team, we will work together to make these days to remember, destined for history.



2024 EVENT CALENDAR

