



WOLF'S DEN

- Pocumtuc Lodge -



Vol. IV • Issue I

<http://www.pocumtuc.org>

November 2011

Lodge Leadership

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Unit elections

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Training

Evan Perrault

Vigil

Brandon Weyant

Communications

Erik Bernier

Brotherhood

Chiefs Minutes

I would like to thank you guys for electing me to be your chief. I am very excited to lead you this year. I believe the theme for this year is "Opportunity" because we have so many opportunities this year. We have come a long way since our lodge was formed. We ended last year with Conclave Service Lodge - showing how great our lodge is because we are united and can accomplish so much as a team. This year, we will be strengthening our committees and overall our lodge. This is not going to be an easy task. We need arrowmen to be a part of the committees and to attend lodge events. If we are all involved in something and work together, just imagine what this lodge can accomplish!!! If you care about the OA and Pocumtuc lodge and want to help us towards success, please let me know.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Mitchell Heisler

Lodge Adviser's Minute

Snow was flying, trees were falling and everyone was without power, but that didn't stop the LLD (Lodge Leadership Development) / Fellowship that was held at Moses. Twenty Arrowmen participated in the weekend event. The planned activities changed from pumpkin carving and costume contests to snow removal, pulling plows out of snow banks and fixing flat tires! Keep your eye out for any "we survived the 2011 LLD/Fellowship" t-shirts...

There are lots of activities and changes going on in the Lodge. We finished up our third Ordeal of the year in September, held a gathering of the brothers at the Metacomet District fall camporee (hosted by Troop 205 - home of our Chief and Vice-Chief), survived the LLD/fellowship and have a new home for our LEC meetings.

I'm pleased to see there are many new Arrowmen getting involved. Some brothers are afraid to be part of the different committees because they think they'll end up running it or be the chairman - not true. Everyone I talk to has great new ideas for Lodge activities or suggestions to improve our operations. Committees are successful when brothers share their ideas - your voice and input are welcome. Don't be afraid to participate as a member of a committee. If you have questions, feel free to talk to Mitchell or me.

New ideas??? - here's an example of a great idea. The Lodge is talking about hosting an event outside of traditional OA activities. Some of the suggestions were to attend a Springfield Falcons' game, a UMASS hockey or basketball game, etc. These aren't expensive events and it's an opportunity to get everyone together (including friends and family). If you have other ideas or want to be part of the planning, let Erik Bernier know (the Vice-Chief is in charge of activities).

The bottom line is that for the Lodge to be more than a few Ordeals, fellowships and a banquet each year, we need your input. Talk to Mitchell, attend an LEC meeting, submit an article to the Wolf's Den, be on a committee, trade an OA patch, be your Troop's OA Rep - get involved.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Bob Walz

Upcoming Events

12-4-11

LEC

1-6-12

LEC

2-5-12

LEC

2-10-12

Winter Fellowship

4-22-12

OA Banquet

Important Reminder

Make lasting friendships and learn about the true meaning behind the Order of the Arrow. Speaking and non-speaking positions always available. Come help us make lodge events memorable. Contact Andrew Parent Ceremonies Chair ceremony@pocumtuc.org

Member Info

We would like you to update your information for our records. If you are a member of Pocumtuc Lodge or were ever a member of Allogagan or Memsochet Lodges, we would appreciate your help. You can update your information at our website <http://www.pocumtuc.org> under the link: "Update Your Info."



Brotherhood

Hello brothers,

For those of you who don't know, Brotherhood is the next step on the OA trail after your Ordeal. There are several things that must be done before you obtain the Brotherhood honor. First, you must be an Ordeal member in good standing for at least 10 months to be eligible. Second you must write a letter that addresses two things: What you have done as an Ordeal member and what you would like to do as a Brotherhood member. Third, you should have a familiarity with the Obligation and the Admonition. There only two chances to ascend to Brotherhood each year: the June Ordeal and the September Ordeal. If you are an ordeal member and you will be eligible in either June or September, or have any questions about Brotherhood, please email me at, vicechief@pocumtuc.org.

Yours in Brother,
Erik Bernier

Communication, Communication, Communication

Over the next few months Pocumtuc Lodge is going to be improving on how we communicate with our brothers. Our communications committee will be working on utilizing different methods of communicating. If you are interested in helping out and being involved in this upgrade, please contact Brandon Weyant, Communications Chairman, at secretary@pocumtuc.org.
Thanks

LEC meetings – New Location

Does anyone know what show used to end with "same bat time, same bat channel"? In this case Alfred (the butler), our LEC meetings are on a new channel (aka location). Starting in November, the Lodge Executive Meetings are now held at the Westfield office. They're still on the first Sunday of the month beginning at 4PM. When in doubt, check the Council calendar or Lodge website.

LEC meetings are where the Lodge business is conducted. Any and all youth members are encouraged to attend. This is your Lodge and the big decisions are made at this meeting. Make sure your voice is heard.

If you're interested in being part of a committee or planning an event, the chairmen are all at the meeting. You don't have to be in charge of a committee to participate - your ideas and suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

Directions: The Westfield office is located at 1 Arch Road. When you get off the Mass Pike at Exit 3 (Westfield), take a right onto Rt.10 / 202. Arch Road is a quick right and the office is at the bottom of the hill on the right. Easy to remember – three rights and you're there.

Lodge Dues Reminder

All current and recently lapsed brothers in the Pocumtuc Lodge were sent a mailing at the end of September that included a *Dues Payment Form*. Lodge dues remain at \$10 for the year. Please take the time and send them in today.

You can mail the form to:
146 Spear Road
Springfield, MA 01119

Pocumtuc Summer Experience 2011: A Week of Brotherhood and Cheerful Service

The lodge launched a new venture this past summer with Pocumtuc Summer Experience. It was a week filled with service, fellowship, fun and a bit of training. While we had a smaller turnout than expected, the group we had put forth a ton of work.

The main focus of the week was setting up H.A. Moses Scout Reservation for the joint Cub/Venture week. The first few mornings were spent in arduous labor setting up the needed campsites. After getting all hot and dirty, we spent part of each afternoon cooling off at the waterfront by putting the docks together, then testing out the kayaks and water basketball hoops. A few of the brothers spent time in the blacksmith shop trying out their skills at the forge. A couple also put some time into fixing up the council's mountain boards, although we ran out of time to give them much testing. After a hearty dinner, we spent the evenings relaxing with free time and movies.

Once we had finished with physical camp setup, the group looked towards other ways to improve the camp. We settled on rebuilding the steps on the hillside to Cabin 2. The existing steps approaching the actual cabin stairs were many years old and severely dilapidated. To say they were both a hazard and eyesore is an understatement. Over the course of two days, our work crew was able to totally rebuild the steps. We started by ripping out the old railroad ties and salvaging as much of the existing rebar as we could. Then we reshaped part of the hillside, set in new boards, at more natural distances and heights. Finally we put a layer of rock to fill in the top of each step, and smoothed the surrounding landscape to match our work. Each of our brothers was proud of the effort they put into this project. The work they did will be around for many years for the troops, packs and crews renting Cabin 2 to enjoy.

While we didn't fill the camp with brothers, the week was a great success. Pocumtuc Lodge is looking to make this into a yearly venture and we are already working on plans for Pocumtuc Summer Experience 2012. While the dates are not yet set in stone, we are looking at July 15-21st. If you are interested in attending next summer, keep an eye on the website and we'll post updated details as they become available.

LLD/ Fellowship

Moses Scout Reservation on October 29th started out like any other day expecting just "one inch of snow" and ended with two and a half feet of it. On the morning of this day all those in attendance at the 2nd Annual Pocumtuc Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) were ready to get serious as they opened in a formal business meeting to make the serious decision on what Ice Cream flavor our lodge should specifically boast as our Lodge's Official Ice Cream Flavor. Many motions were made and our meetings secretary Eli Harris was formally motioned into service to maintain written records of these occurrences. After our meeting was adjourned it was time to learn about the role of youths and the role of adults in our lodge and how they interact. It was determined that the youth should be the force running the lodge under the guidance of selected capable adults. To finish off our morning of training we got up and went outside to learn how we communicate and some road blocks to effective communication. As a team with a designated leader we were able to get our way out of the knotted mess we had become. After lunch we expanded on the power of technology and how to communicate effectively using different forms of technology. We used what we learned to break into subcommittees to set some goals and action items for our publications and ordeal administration teams. We finished our training with a reflection on why we were here and what our Ordeal was really all about. At this point, although our training was complete and we had 15 arrowmen earn completion in this year's LLD, the fun was just about to begin. As many across Western Massachusetts lost power Saturday night, we adventurous scouters up at Moses were no exception. From candlelight pumpkin pie, to Bryon getting the camp truck stuck (twice!), to frozen flat tires, to playing out in the two feet of snow, to settling in for the night snug in our sleeping bags it was an adventure that none of us will forget. As we woke on Sunday morning and encountered buried cars and mounds of snow it was hard to imagine what was ahead of us as we took with us what we learned and hoped to use it to make a brighter, powered, (and less snow filled) tomorrow.

The First of Many Gatherings

At the Metacomet/Appalachian Trails Fall Camporee, Pocumtuc Lodge held its first gathering at a Camporee. On Friday night, members of Pocumtuc Lodge gathered together to learn about some upcoming events, and have some food, and get to know each other. It was the perfect example of lodge fellowship. Be on the lookout because Pocumtuc Lodge will be conducting more OA Gatherings at future camporees.

NOAC

From July 30 – August 4, over 8,000 Arrowmen from around the world will be attending the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) at Michigan State University. Scouts travel from as far away as Europe and Asia to attend this week of training, fun and fellowship. NOAC is the BSA's second largest national gathering behind the Jamboree.

During the week, we'll experience the pinnacle of OA national opportunities highlighted by quality training courses, great programs and activities, phenomenal evening shows, American Indian events, Founder's Day and a solid week of brotherhood.

Many brothers from Pocumtuc Lodge have attended in the past and will be happy to talk to you about the benefits and FUN of attending. There'll be a lot of communication over the next several months about NOAC 2012.

A deposit of \$100 will be due in January. The final cost for the event is still being determined based on event cost, size of our contingency and transportation.

If you are interested in attending or want to learn more, please contact Lodge Chief Mitchell Heisler or Lodge Adviser Bob Walz.

2012 Pocumtuc Scholarship

The semester may not be over yet, but I know many of our High School seniors are looking at and visiting different colleges. It's not too soon to start thinking about the 2012 Pocumtuc Scholarship. The 2011 scholarship recipients were Aaron Astley and John Gundelfinger.

The Pocumtuc Lodge scholarship is designed to recognize youth members who plan on a career in Human Services. Human Services is defined broadly as work in fields that help others (i.e. teaching, healthcare, fire/police/rescue, the military, government service, non-profit work, etc.). This is a direct association to the Order of the Arrow's philosophy of a lifetime of cheerful service to others.

The applications for this year's awards will be available soon and presented at the Lodge Banquet. Any Lodge member who is planning on or is currently enrolled in a college is eligible for the scholarship.

Funds for the scholarships come from sales of our Lodge scholarship flaps. If you're interested in purchasing one, check with Mr. Atanian.

OA Presentations

On Thursday November 10, the Lodge Officers will be giving a presentation to the Metacomet District Roundtable about the OA and Pocumtuc Lodge. If you and your unit would like to have one of these presentations done at one of your meetings, contact Lodge Chief Mitchell Heisler at chief@pocumtuc.org to arrange something.

Upcoming Events

2012 Annual Lodge Banquet

The Lodge Banquet is scheduled for April 22, 2012. The location and program are still in the planning stages. If you have any ideas for speakers or a presentation that would be appropriate at the banquet, let Mitchell Heisler or Mr. Walz know. There was great feedback about last year's "It's Not About the Hike" presentation by Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper. The agenda will include our traditional 2011 Vigil Honor recognition, Vigil tap-out, Founders Award presentation, Mr. G's store, silent auction, great food and of course, fellowship. Mark your calendars now.

Conclave 2012

Section NE- 2A's 2012 conclave will be on June 8-10 at Edmund Strang Scout Reservation. The theme is "The NE-2A World Wide Weekend." (an international theme). Every meal will be from a different country. Saturday afternoon will be filled with multicultural games and competitions. It is going to be an exciting weekend that you do not want to miss. The cost is \$35 if you pay before April 30, and \$45 after that.

Unit Elections

We are quickly approaching unit election season. If you would like to help out and be a part of the elections committee. We definitely need some arrowmen to help out and run an election or two. If you are interested, contact the unit elections chairman Chris Mazzeau at mmazeau@starband.net

Founder's Award Nominations

At the 2011 Annual Lodge Banquet, the Pocumtuc Lodge presented its first Founder's Award to Bob Gunnells. The Founder's Award "is reserved for those Arrowmen who memorialize in their everyday life, the spirit of achievement as described by founder E. Urner Goodman." It is our intention to present this award annually to our Arrowmen who give exceptional service to the Order. Nomination forms will be available on the Pocumtuc website beginning in December or by email request to Mr. Walz (lodgeadviser@pocumtuc.org). The deadline for nomination submittals is January 31, 2012.

Vigil Honor Nominations

The Vigil honor is reserved for Pocumtuc Arrowmen who have gone above and beyond in their service to Scouting—whether it be to their troop, council, camp, or the Lodge. The Vigil honor is the highest award a Lodge may bestow upon an individual, and it's earned not by any conscious efforts but by unselfish devotion to the Scouting program. Nomination forms will be mailed to all current members of the Pocumtuc Lodge in December and or by email request to Mr. Walz (lodgeadviser@pocumtuc.org). The deadline for Vigil honor nominations is January 31, 2012.



Pocumtuc Lodge
 Western Massachusetts
 Boy Scouts of America
 Council officers located at:
 1 Arch Road
 Westfield, MA 01085
 and
 2 South Street Suite 125
 Pittsfield, MA 01201

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