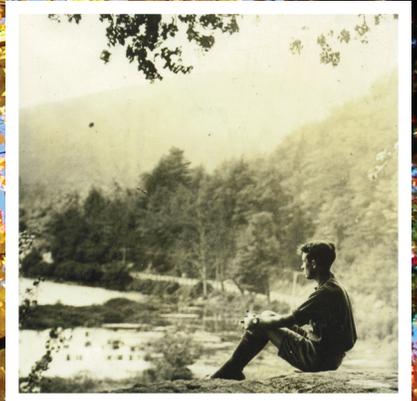
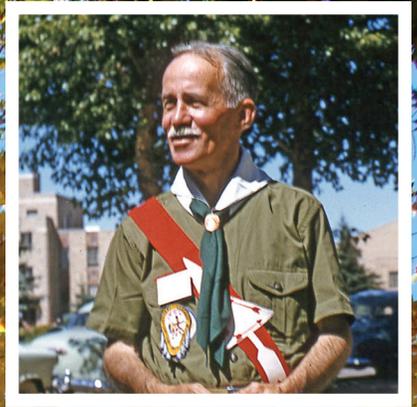




LODGE HISTORY BOOK CENTENNIAL CRATE





National Order of the Arrow Committee

July 2012

Members of the Lodge Key-3:

You hold in your hand our Centennial Lodge History Book Binder. We ask that you use it as a guide to write a history of the Order of the Arrow in your council as part of a nationwide project to collect local histories of the Order as we lead up to our celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Order (2015).

There are several well researched histories of the Order of the Arrow written from a national perspective. This project, however, asks you to tell your perspective. Through it, we will endeavor to gather almost three hundred histories from across the nation. Each lodge present at the 2012 National Conference will be receiving this binder. One of the commonalities which bind all Arrowmen together is that we each have raised our hand and promised to "observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow". This is a terrific chance to do so locally in concert with your brothers from all over the country who will also be telling their stories.

Contained in your binder is a template for helping your lodge research and compose the story of the Order of the Arrow in the council you serve. Notice that we are not necessarily asking for a lodge history. There have been so many lodge and council mergers over the past hundred years that many of the lodges familiar to the Order's Founders would not be recognizable today. So, please tell the story of the OA in the area your current council serves. It may contain many lodges and will certainly contain multiple OA heroes.

We ask that you work between now and 2015 to develop a history that can be presented to both your local council and at the 2015 National Conference. Along with your written story we hope that you will consider including official flaps, event patches, and lodge photos for the permanent collection to be kept in perpetuity by the national Order of the Arrow Archivist.

The time and energy you are willing to put into this project will pay future dividends as your work will educate a new generation of Arrowmen. We ask that you organize locally to create something which reflects the rich legacy left to us by those who heard the call of the Arrow in the early days of your council. You might consider appointing a Lodge Historian or Historical Committee to complete this project. When complete, your lodge will have a detailed and rich account of the events, figures and conversations that have transpired thus far in your units, chapters and lodge as you have supported your council through the WWW. Please be sure to include predecessor lodges, chapters and camps in your documentation. A sample outline template and sample council OA histories have been included to assist you in this endeavor.

We look forward to hearing your story and seeing the great work your lodge has done throughout the last century. Thank you for your involvement and commitment in leading both your lodge and in serving your council. Until we meet again, we remain,

Devotedly yours in Service,

RAY CAPP
Chairman

JOHN P. REHM
National Chief-2012

PRESTON H. MARQUIS
National Vice Chief-2012

CLYDE M. MAYER
OA Director

BRADLEY E. HADDOCK
Immediate Past Chairman

L. RONALD BELL
*Arrowhead of Service
Award Recipient*

CRAIG B. SALAZAR
*Vice Chairman
Communications & Technology*

EDWARD A. PEASE
*Vice Chairman
Council Relations, Special Projects*

N. ANTHONY STEINHARDT, III
*Vice Chairman
Development*

GLENN T. AULT
*Vice Chairman
Financial Operations*

HECTOR A. (TICO) PEREZ
*Vice Chairman
Membership and Joint BSA Programs*

MICHAEL G. HOFFMAN
*Vice Chairman
National Events and
100th Anniversary*

SCOTT W. BECKETT
*Vice Chairman
Outdoor Adventures*

MICHAEL L. THOMPSON
*Vice Chairman
Recognition, Awards
History and Preservation*

STEVEN D. BRADLEY
*Vice Chairman
Region & Section Operations*

ROBERT J. SIRHAL
*Vice Chairman
Training*

RANDALL K. CLINE
*Vice Chairman
Unit, Chapter, and Lodge Support*

National Chief

National Vice-Chief

National Chairman



Lodge History Book

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Developing Your Lodge History: Getting Started

Memories have faded like old photographs in the last 100 years. Local legends, the subjects of mythical tales of servant leadership, have slipped from this Earth. Over time, the campfires that warmed hearts and faces as brothers laughed at fellowships and conclaves have grown cold.

Often, we look back on our own experiences and wish we could somehow relive the “good old days.” Sometimes there is a place in camp, a familiar ceremonialist’s words, or the faint smell of a favorite camp dish that hearkens back a fond memory of those days. Despite our interest in progressing the good of the Order, we often still hope to—somehow—“preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow.”

Writing a lodge history is a rewarding undertaking. A lodge’s history is in its members, its events, and the story that its service tells. When a member resolves to record those memories, the “good old days” somehow seem not so distant anymore. The historian meets the local legends in person, on paper, and through stories. The historian will visit the places others faintly remember. And, ultimately, the historian provides one more service to those to whom he has pledged to serve.

Writing a lodge history is not necessarily an easy endeavor. In fact, it can be very difficult. Over the course of studying the lifespan of a lodge, there are likely large gaps in the information that a historian seeks. Few papers still exist from the earliest days of most lodges. Memories may conflict with one another.

But there are some benefits to writing about the history of an Order of the Arrow lodge. For example, those who have information to share often have an abiding love for the Order and enjoy sharing what they know. The historian frequently finds troves of information from former members who always knew they should hang on to old newsletters and minutes from meetings. Finally, each member shares a bond that instantly unites even those who have not recited the Obligation in more than fifty years.

This guide serves as a starting point for writing a lodge history. Use it as a way to develop ideas and create something others will enjoy for years to come. Otherwise, fifty years from now, an Arrowman will wonder what the first 100 years of the Order of the Arrow was like and why no one has bothered to put it down on paper. Now is your chance to tell him.

Planning and Research:

Of the processes involved in writing a lodge history, planning and research take up the majority of time, money, and energy. However, it is also the most important part of writing, and it will pay dividends if a historian plans and researches carefully and methodically.

First, decide on the scope of the project. What years do you want to cover? What information do you want to discover? Would you prefer to have a more in-depth history of the first ten years of your lodge? Is it worthwhile to write about the lodge’s entire history at the expense of glossing over some details?



Second, start digging in. Proceed in an organized fashion, and carefully document all of your research. Before long, you will have read hundreds of newsletters, called hundreds of old members, scoured the Internet and then . . . you will not be able to put your finger on a piece of information that you just *know* you found a month ago. With an organized database of your research methods and attempts, you will more easily stay on track.

Determine what sources you will use. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the amount of information available once you start looking. In order to more easily sip from the information fire hose, determine ahead of time what sources you will exhaust. Oral histories are a great source of information. Calling former lodge chief, advisers and Vigil Honor members and talking about their terms of office and experiences will begin to map out the history of your lodge. Record those conversations with permission, and transcribe them later.

Newspapers are infinitely important. Local libraries often have newspapers on microfilm. It takes many hours of staring at microfilm reels, but a lucky historian often finds gems tucked away in the newspaper. Start searching around the known dates of events: conclaves, national conferences, fellowships, and the like. Or, start from the beginning and proceed chronologically. Print or copy every source you use and carefully categorize all of the research. Make sure you keep a record of what newspaper you are searching, the page number, and the date of issue. This information will be invaluable later in your writing.

Talk to other local lodge historians. Many lodges have Arrowmen who have been active for many decades and still come to events. Do not discount them as sources of information. Not only can they give you great insight, but they also can tell you whom to contact and might also have saved a folder with old newsletters or program pamphlets.

Start calling. When you run across a unique name in a newsletter or newspaper, run it through an online “white pages” database. It is possible that they still live in the area, or perhaps their children do. Then, just pick up the phone. Although you will discover many, many dead ends, you will likely also find individuals who are very willing to open their memories up to you.

Writing:

Like researching, writing is sometimes more about preparation than putting pen to paper. A good history is well organized. Categorize your information in some clear manner. Many histories proceed chronologically. Histories can also be grouped according to subject matter. For a large council history, for example, it might make sense to have one section dedicated to council camps, another to Sea Scouting, and another to the history of the council’s relationship with local businesses. A lodge history may also lend itself to such organization. However you decide to organize the history, make it clear. Use headings to telegraph to your audience where they can find information on a specific topic.

A history should also tell a story. It is not enough to merely list facts, figures, anecdotes and names. Instead, discover a plot or storyline within your research. Then, focus on telling that



story through your research. Not only will this increase the interest level of the history, but it also adds tremendously to the final product.

As you write, document your sources. Footnote extensively so you and others can easily find where you came up with your information and can do future follow-up and verification of the work. Sometimes information conflicts and it is important to document your sources.

Write as professionally as possible. Use correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Ask friends, English teachers, and writers to edit your writing throughout the process. Take all of their comments seriously, resist the temptation to be defensive and remember that writing a lodge history is important and it is worthwhile to do it well.

Editing:

After you have finished planning, researching, and writing, it is wise to edit well. Don't embark on this step alone! Recruit others with an exacting eye to mark up your manuscript. Edit for consistency, grammar, spelling, source identification, and layout. Determine how you will organize your history. Will you have different chapters, subheadings, or sections?

Consider spicing up the written word with photographs. Remember the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words! Choose your photographs carefully and select those that are most important, high quality, and easy to print. You can place these alongside text or in a separate section dedicated to pictorial representations of your lodge's history.

Telling your lodge story might seem like a daunting task. Therefore we have worked to create a comprehensive template for developing your history. The items listed below offer various areas for research, discussion, and reflection.



Developing Your Lodge History: Building the Team

Overview:

Writing your lodge history might initially seem like a pretty large burden. However, it is not designed to be. Certainly it will require a lot of work, time, and energy. If done correctly, the benefits of a well-researched history will be tremendous for your lodge. Therefore, it might be worth pulling together a team of folks to undertake the process. The purpose of a proposed lodge historical committee is to serve as the institutional memory of the lodge. Consider using them to oversee lodge archival procurement and preservation. They can assist in the research and can contribute greatly in crafting the lodge story. Ultimately, the committee will be a real asset in fostering relationships between the council and the lodge in developing proper preservation strategies.

Sample Responsibilities:

- Committee is responsible to the lodge secretary
- Develop and maintain a secure repository for storage and proper preservation
- Produce static exhibits and displays for lodge and council events
- Develop opportunities to educate Scouts on the history of the local OA lodge
- Provide a historical minute at lodge executive committee meetings
- Write a historically based article for each newsletter of the lodge
- Produce an annual addendum detailing an updated lodge history for planbook
- Prepare and maintain lodge scrapbook in conjunction with the lodge secretary
- Compile and maintain listing of:
 - Lodge Chiefs
 - Lodge Advisors
 - Lodge Staff Advisors
 - Lodge Vigil recipients
 - Founder's award recipients
 - Distinguished Service Award Recipients
 - Localized award recipients
 - Chapter Chiefs
 - Chapter Advisors
- The committee should strive to acquire and preserve:
 - Important lodge and council documents
 - Historic and current photographs
 - Items of memorabilia
 - Oral histories/ living history interviews
 - Written reflections
 - Lodge and council publications
 - The history of the local lodge and any predecessor lodges



Developing Your Lodge History: Project Template

Overview:

“the more you have, the more you know” is a familiar saying, yet this could not apply better to the process of documenting your lodge history. There are three key areas of focus- developing comprehensive lists, gathering memorabilia, and conducting proper documentation. Concentrate on collecting and cataloging both physical and digital copies of items. When originals are not available, try to obtain copies. Scanned images can be of great value when creating public displays and educational pieces. As you search for items, consider council repositories, veteran Scouters, Arrowmen and Troop leaders. The process of creating a lodge history is supposed to be an exciting adventure. The items below are extracted from the included sample histories.

I. Basic Lodge Information

- Council Formation
 - Geographical coverage area
 - Council headquarters location
 - Important people, places and dates
 - Important events and milestones
- Camp Formation
 - Long-term camps
 - Camp Name(s)
 - Camp location(s)
 - Dates of operation
 - Important / influential people
 - Important events and milestones
- Non-OA Honor Camper (“pre-OA”) Societies
 - Name of “pre-OA” Society(s)
 - Dates of existence
 - Membership requirements
- Lodge Founding
 - Important people, places and dates regarding founding
 - Predecessor lodges (from mergers, absorptions, etc.)
 - Lodge name changes and why name changed
 - Provide details on lodge that inducted your charter members
 - Listing of charter members
 - Origin of lodge name
 - Origin of lodge totem
 - Origin of other lodge traditions (e.g. lodge song or call)
 - Provide details of lodge’s first Ordeal

II. Your Lodge’s Infrastructure

- Supreme Chief of the Fire (Scout Executives)
- Officers, Advisers and Key Volunteers
 - Lodge Chiefs
 - Other lodge youth officers
 - Lodge Staff Advisers (BSA Professionals)
 - Lodge Advisers and Associate Advisers (Volunteers)
 - Other ‘Key Volunteers’
 - National / Regional / Section officers and committee members



- Chapters
 - Historical list of all chapters and their geographic areas
 - Chapter officers and advisers
 - Noteworthy chapter events
- Lodge Communication / Publications
 - Lodge newsletter
 - Lodge web site
 - Lodge social networking site(s)
 - Lodge “Where to go Camping” booklet
 - Lodge membership directory
- Lodge Executive Committee (LEC)
 - Operational / standing committees
 - Committee responsibilities

III. Lodge Activities and Service

- Lodge Social Events (e.g. Fellowships, Banquets, etc.)
- Area / Section Events
 - Activity information (events, dates and places)
 - Region, Area, & Section lodge historically has been assigned to
- Lodge Ordeals / Service Events
- Elangomat Program
- Lodge Training Events
- NOAC
 - First lodge NOAC delegation and subsequent noteworthy lodge experiences
- Other National Events (e.g. OA High Adventure and SummitCorps)
- Lodge-Sponsored Trails and Lodge-Built / Named Structures
- Lodge Dance and Ceremony Teams
- Lodge Anniversary Observations
- Lodge Insignia
- Special / Unique Lodge Traditions
- Camp Service Projects
- Community Service Projects

IV. Lodge Achievement and Awards

- The Vigil Honor
 - Lodge’s first Vigil Honor class
 - List of all Vigil Honor members
 - Noteworthy Vigil Honor members
 - Lodge Vigil Honor ceremonies / weekends
- The Founder’s Award
 - List all Founder’s Award recipients
- Distinguished Service Award (DSA)
 - List all DSA recipients from Lodge
 - Describe service that warranted DSA recognition
- Local Lodge Individual Awards
- National OA Service Grants



- National Service Awards

Developing Your Lodge History: Sample Lodge History Overview

The next three sections contain examples of local lodge histories. You will find that there are many approaches for crafting your lodge story. As you begin your research consider the best way to tell of the events, stories, figures, and items significant to your lodge. There is not just one way to write a lodge history, thus be creative. Use images when possible. Consider integrating technology to make your book more interactive. Lists can be helpful for spurring further questions and fostering insight into other areas of your lodge. You will notice three different methods of construction in these sample histories. Some may be lengthier than others; some choose to focus on a theme whereas others read more chronologically. While different, they accomplish the same objective—they tell a story. Your story is concentrated in the people, the service, the events, the relationships, and the brotherhood of those in your area.

As the centennial approaches, further resources will be made available to assist you in conducting research, the writing process, and in how to produce your lodge history. Utilize the items contained in the forthcoming Lodge History Toolkit on www.oa-bsa.org.

Sample Lodge Histories

Kawida Lodge Sample Historypage 10-27

Wagion Lodge Sample History.....page 28-32

Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge Sample History.....page 33-34

**THE HISTORY
OF
KAWIDA LODGE #480**

ORDER OF THE ARROW



**SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE
(1952 – 2012)**

Researched and Written

By

Timothy C. Brown



BSA Beginnings

As it must be with most lodges, the history of Kawida Lodge is a long and storied history. The Kawida Lodge that exists today is the culmination of many factors over a long period of time. Factors such as geography, demographics, and economics, as well as council/lodge mergers, policy changes, and the use of long-term camps all play an important role in the eventual success or failure of a lodge. Identifying and understanding these factors is critical to the formation of a lodge's true and accurate history. Thus, the historical evolution of Kawida Lodge must commence with the earliest beginnings of the Scouting movement in central, eastern, and southeastern Kentucky. That story is as follows...

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was incorporated on February 8, 1910. Modeled after England's successful British Scouting Association (founded in 1907 by Robert S.S. Baden-Powell), and introduced to this country by American businessman William D. Boyce, the new youth movement quickly took root and began to grow. Many Boy Scout troops were chartered that first year, including several in the state of Kentucky. As the number of troops per state increased, the BSA began dividing states into geographic 'councils' to better service the troops and further promote the Scouting program.

Kentucky's BSA Council Development

Headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, the BSA officially chartered the Lexington Council in 1917. This new council serviced the Scout troops in the central Kentucky area (locally known as the Blue Grass Region) from its office at 131½ Short Street in Lexington, Kentucky. The Lexington Council was continuously chartered from 1917 until 1928, when the name was changed to the Blue Grass Council. The Blue Grass Council itself was a composite of several earlier, short-lived councils. The councils, which gave rise to the Blue Grass Council, were the Frankfort Council (1916-1925), The Isaac Shelby Council (1925-1929), and the Kentucky, Daniel Boone Council (1924-1929). Although its name has been changed and geographically it's much larger than it was when originally chartered, the Blue Grass Council has been an actively chartered BSA council every year since 1917. Other former Blue Grass Council office addresses in Lexington, Kentucky include: 975 Liberty Road; 415 North Broadway; and 3445 Richmond Road.

Around the time the Blue Grass Council (formerly the Lexington Council) was getting started, the Scouting movement was also developing in other parts of Kentucky. The BSA chartered two councils in southeastern Kentucky, and these two councils were the Harlan Council, and the Upper Cumberland Area Council. The Harlan Council existed for only a single year in 1918. However, the Upper Cumberland Area Council existed for 20 years from 1929-1949. Beginning in 1949, the council's name was officially changed to simply the Cumberland Council. Headquartered in Middlesboro, Kentucky, the Cumberland Council was actively chartered from 1949-1963, and was comprised of eight counties...six from Kentucky and two from Tennessee. The Cumberland Council merged with the Blue Grass Council on August 15, 1963. Prior to the merger, the Blue Grass Council had been comprised of 34 Kentucky counties. The merger afforded the Blue Grass Council the opportunity to acquire the six Kentucky counties, while leaving the two Tennessee counties to be absorbed by another BSA Council. This brought the total number of counties within the Blue Grass Council's service area to 40.



Subsequent to forming councils in central and southeastern Kentucky, the BSA chartered a council in eastern Kentucky. This council was known as the Lonesome Pine Council. Headquartered in Pikeville, Kentucky, the Lonesome Pine Council was actively chartered from 1934-1979, and was comprised of 13 counties; 10 from Kentucky and three from Virginia. The Lonesome Pine Council merged with the Blue Grass Council in 1979. Prior to the merger, the Blue Grass Council had been comprised of 40 Kentucky counties. As it had done with the previous council merger, the Blue Grass Council acquired the 10 Kentucky counties and left the three Virginia counties to be absorbed by another BSA council. This brought the total number of counties within the Blue Grass Council's service area to 50.

The most recent acquisition of Kentucky counties by the Blue Grass Council occurred in 2009. The Blue Grass Council acquired five counties in Northern Kentucky from the Simon Kenton Council, which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. The reason for the transfer of counties by the Simon Kenton Council was geographic in nature, but was further agreed upon by both parties to provide these counties with an increase in logistical professional service. The transfer now brings the total number of counties within the Blue Grass Council's service area to an all-time high of 55.

Council Use of the 'Long-Term' Camp

Historically, the Scouting movement has always emphasized camping as its means for developing a Scout's outdoor skills, as well as their appreciation and understanding of the natural world around them. The use of the 'long-term' camp or 'summer' camp was the ideal tool to accomplish this methodology. In the early years, most BSA councils quickly found access to wilderness areas to establish these long-term or summer camps, and their usage was then (as it is today), viewed as extremely popular. The BSA councils of central, eastern, and southeastern Kentucky all had long term or summer camps available to the Scouts and Scouters who lived in their respective service areas.

The Blue Grass Council's first official Scout camp was Camp Offutt. Camp Offutt was located on the Kentucky River in Woodford County near Versailles, Kentucky, and serviced the Scouts and Scouters of central Kentucky from 1923-1959. The camp was developed by the Rotary Club of Lexington, Kentucky, and named for M. (Mitchell) Webb Offutt. Mr. Offutt was a Rotarian, financial supporter of Scouting, and the Blue Grass Council's first Silver Beaver recipient (1931).

The Blue Grass Council also had another Scout camp (McKee Scout Reservation) located in Montgomery and Powell Counties near Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Dr. P.L. McKee, a resident of the area, donated the original 330 acres of land for the camp to the Blue Grass Council in 1943, and thus the camp was named in his honor. The Blue Grass Council has acquired additional adjoining lands over the years more than doubling the camp's total acreage to a little more than 700 acres. Camp McKee (as it's commonly known), welcomed its first campers in the summer of 1959, and it has remained an active Boy Scout camp every year since that time.

The Cumberland Council's (formerly the Upper Cumberland Area Council) first official Scout Camp was Camp Blanton. Located in Harlan County near Wallins, Kentucky, the property was originally owned by Grover, Oxie, Jesse M., and Francis Blanton. On August 13, 1933, the Blanton family gave the property to Will Ward Duffield and O.M. Hoskins, trustees of the Harlan County Boy Scouts of America, for the purpose of a Boy Scout camp, which operated from 1934-1988. The Cumberland Council also had another Scout camp (Camp Sequoyah)



located on Norris Lake near Lafollette, Tennessee. Camp Sequoyah operated as a Boy Scout camp from 1948-1967.

The Lonesome Pine Council's first official Scout camp was Camp Arrowhead. Camp Arrowhead was located at Fishtrap Lake on the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River in rural Pike County near Pikeville, Kentucky. The camp operated as a Boy Scout camp from 1934-1951. The Lonesome Pine Council also had another Scout camp (Camp Shawnee) located on Dewey Lake in rural Floyd near Auxier, Kentucky. Camp Sequoyah serviced the Scouts and Scouters of the Lonesome Pine Council's service area from 1951-1979.

Honor Camper Recognition

As a means to stimulate excitement about attending these and other such camps, camp directors and staff members of many BSA camps sought to recognize those campers each week that they felt best represented the characteristics of the 'ideal Scout'. Both youth and adult campers considered this recognition an extremely high honor, and thus the term 'honor camper' was used to describe these individuals. Many camps (and their parent councils) chose to expand the activities and opportunities for their honor campers, and to make their existence somewhat a mystery. Secret 'honor camper' organizations, fraternities, orders, tribes, and societies were formed, and membership into these groups was both limited and exclusive. From the earliest days of Scouting through the late 1940s, hundreds of such secret entities were developed and existed at camps around the country. A few of the more notable organizations were the Wimachtendienk, W.W.; Tribe of Gimogash; the Ku-Ni-Eh; the Mic-O-Say; and Firecrafters. Some non-OA societies still exist even to today.

Birth of the Ku-Ni-Eh

Prior to the existence of today's Order of the Arrow, the councils of central, eastern, and southeastern Kentucky used the Ku-Ni-Eh as their honor camper society. Arthur E. Roberts founded the Ku-Ni-Eh in 1922 at Camp Edgar Friedlander, which was located on the Little Miami River near Cincinnati, Ohio. Camp Edgar Friedlander was the summer camp of the Cincinnati Area Council, and Arthur E. Roberts was the Camp Director for many of its early years of operation. Mr. Roberts also served the Cincinnati Area Council as its Scout Executive for many years. During those early years at summer camp, Mr. Roberts saw a need for the development of a brotherhood to honor a select number of Scouts who best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law. After many months of searching, Mr. Roberts found what he considered to be the best ceremony for the induction of candidates into this brotherhood.

This ceremony was based on a ritual used by the Kankau, a tribe of the Maidu Indians of Northern California. The Kankau used this ceremony to test their boys in the virtues necessary to become a brave. The word Ku-Ni-Eh means "Order of Manhood" in the Maidu tongue, and thus was chosen as the name for this new brotherhood. The symbol that was selected to represent the Ku-Ni-Eh was the "We-hin-ay-pay", which means Rising Sun. This symbol was taken from a design in the base of a ritual basket of the Maidu Indians.

The Ku-Ni-Eh had its own requirements for membership, rules and regulations, and even its own handbook. Its popularity spread throughout the Cincinnati Area Council, and the knowledge of the Ku-Ni-Eh's success spread into many other councils. Within a few years over forty councils had adopted the Ku-Ni-Eh as an integral part of their summer camp program. However, the Ku-Ni-Eh was never recognized as an official organization by the Boy Scouts of America. The local sponsor of the Ku-Ni-Eh in the Blue Grass Council was O.C. Rankin of



Cynthiana, Kentucky. He presided over the organizations many activities, as well as the selection of some 345 candidates from 1927-1951. Candidates for induction into the Ku-Ni-Eh were selected by the current Ku-Ni-Eh members, unlike today's Order of the Arrow where candidates are selected by members and non-members alike.

Order of the Arrow Founded

The national Order of the Arrow (formerly known as the Wimachtendienk, W.W.) had its beginnings on July 16, 1915 when the organization's founder, Dr. E. Urner Goodman and co-founder, Carroll A. Edson began our great and honored Order that summer at Treasure Island Scout Camp. Treasure Island Scout Camp was the summer camp of the Philadelphia Council, located on an island in the middle of the Delaware River between the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The founder's purpose and intent was to promote the ideals of Scouting and to strengthen the camping spirit. They utilized the local myths and legends of the Lenni Lenape tribe of the Delaware Indians to enhance their newly founded organization. Once the movement started, it vigorously began to grow, and soon many BSA councils adopted the Order of the Arrow and its principles into their own programs. Today, the Order of the Arrow is known as Scouting's National Honor Society.

Kentucky's OA Lodges

Even with the Order of the Arrow's ever increasing appeal, it was not until 1938 that the first Order of the Arrow lodge was chartered in Kentucky. This first lodge was known as the Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123, and it was headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the next fifteen years, seven other OA lodges chartered throughout Kentucky. Four of these lodges were in Northern and Western Kentucky...Nipperine Lodge #155 (chartered in Covington in 1939, changed name to Michikinaqua Lodge in 1953); Wapiti Lodge #367 (chartered in Owensboro in 1947); Land of Big Caves Lodge #405 (chartered in Bowling Green in 1949, changed name to Walah Elemamekhaki Lodge in 1950); and White Feather Lodge #499 (chartered in Paducah in 1953).

In 1943 the Order of the Arrow established itself in Eastern Kentucky when the Tomahawk Lodge #241 was chartered in Pikeville, Kentucky. Southeastern Kentucky soon followed in 1950 when the Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435 was chartered in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Even though by the early 1950s most of Kentucky's non-OA organizations had already been replaced by the Order of the Arrow, the Ku-Ni-Eh continued to flourish in the Blue Grass Council. There were many loyal Ku-Ni-Eh members, and the organization was very active. Still, there were those individuals that believed it was inevitable that the Ku-Ni-Eh would soon be replaced by the Order of the Arrow, as had happened to most of Kentucky's other pre-OA organizations.

End of the Ku-Ni-Eh in Kentucky

The eventual end of the Ku-Ni-Eh in Central Kentucky came at the hands of a Blue Grass Council district executive named Guy Walton "Walt" Ferrell. In the latter part of 1951, Walt began to actively support the idea of chartering an Order of the Arrow lodge in the Blue Grass Council. This idea of chartering an Order of the Arrow lodge created friction between those who wanted the Order of the Arrow, and those who wished to remain members of the Ku-Ni-Eh. After many debates and a final decision by the Scout Executive, eventually the Order of the Arrow replaced the Ku-Ni-Eh.



Kawida Lodge #480 is Chartered

Thus, the wheels were set in motion to charter an Order of the Arrow lodge in the Blue Grass Council with the submission of an application to the National Office. As a parting gesture of good will, the old Ku-Ni-Eh symbol, which was affixed to the top of the Ku-Ni-Eh member monument at Camp Offutt, was removed and transported in 1959 to the council's new camp (McKee Scout Reservation). There it was placed on a pedestal at the camp's new OA ceremony grounds to stand as a testament to the organization that had preceded the Order of the Arrow in the Blue Grass Council. The Ku-Ni-Eh symbol has long since deteriorated, but the pedestal on which it stood still survives and serves as a reminder of the developmental roots of our organization.

Five 'Original' Kawida Lodge Members

In April of 1952, five individuals were selected to attend an Order of the Arrow induction weekend being held at Covered Bridge Reservation near Prospect, Kentucky. These five individuals were Guy Walton "Walt" Ferrell, Henry T. "Hank" Ravencraft, John Rue "Chunk" Beard, William D. "Bill" Hepburn, and Frank D. Lewis. This Order of the Arrow induction weekend was hosted and conducted by the Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 of Louisville, Kentucky. Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 had held similar induction weekends for other newly formed lodges in the surrounding areas. The purpose of this weekend was threefold:

1. To educate these five individuals on the history of the Order of the Arrow, its structure, and its rules and regulations.
2. To officially induct these five individuals into the Order of the Arrow.
3. To train these five individuals to conduct an Order of the Arrow induction weekend back in their own council.

Due to the enormous efforts of Walt Ferrell and countless other individuals, the Order of the Arrow was officially chartered in the Blue Grass Council on July 28, 1952 as the Kawida Lodge #480.

Lodge Name & Totem Selected

The selection of the lodge name has a colorful history. In trying to hold on to the past, the Blue Grass Council respectfully submitted the name of the "Ku-Ni-Eh" Lodge to the national office. To the Council's surprise, they were informed that the name "Ku-Ni-Eh" had already been issued to Lodge #462 of Cincinnati, Ohio. The old Ku-Ni-Eh members looked to their Ku-Ni-Eh handbook for guidance. In the back of the handbook there is a list of the (5) five "Chief Braves" of the tribe of the Ku-Ni-Eh, and one of those braves was named "Kawida", also known as the "wise" brave. Thus, the name Kawida was selected by the Blue Grass Council to be the name of the new lodge, and the national office approved it. The lodge chose the mythical thunderbird as their new totem, and they selected the call of their lodge to be that of the owl.

The selection of the thunderbird as the totem for Kawida Lodge is itself an interesting story. While researching the 'perfect' totem to best represent Kawida Lodge, the original five members stumbled upon what seemed to be a consistent theme in the legends of many Native American peoples. This theme was the frequent use of the word 'thunderbird'. Native American peoples believed that the thunderbird was a powerful force sent to man by the Great Spirit in the form of a bird. Descriptions of its image are vague because it is thought that the thunderbird is always surrounded by thick, rolling clouds that prevent it from being seen. It was commonly



believed by native peoples that lightning came from the blinking of its eyes, and that thunder came from the beating of its wings, hence the name...thunderbird. In many Native American legends, lesser bird spirits, frequently in the form of eagles or falcons, often accompanies the mythical thunderbird. The thunderbird petroglyph symbol, although varied in design, has been widely found across Canada and the United States, and within nearly all Native North American people's legends and stories. The thunderbird petroglyph symbol also appears twice on the actual "Legend Scroll" of the Order of the Arrow. On the "Legend Scroll" the symbol first appears representing a messenger in search of the worthy ordeal candidate. It appears again as the last symbol on the scroll representing the worthy candidate finding refuge in the lodge.

Like many other images, the thunderbird was used as an allegory in the culture of native people. This simply means that its image was used as an attempt to explain certain forces of nature that occurred in the natural order. Forces such as wind, thunder, lightning, etc. Basically, the thunderbird was used to represent the patterns of activity of a powerful, mysterious force such as storms in a way that could be grasped and if not totally understood, at least accepted in a natural way as opposed to remaining solely in the grips of spiritual mysticism.

The fact that the thunderbird is sometimes known or referred to by some native people as "grandfather" suggest they are held in considerable reverence and awe. Legend holds that it was very dangerous to approach a thunderbird nest, and many are supposed to have died in the attempt, supposedly swept away by ferocious storms. The symbol of the thunderbird most often incorporates the zigzag, lightning-bolt design, which some people mistakenly think represents a stairway. Most tribes feel that the thunderbird and other such beings were the first to appear in the Creation, and that by being first they have an especially close connection to the Great Spirit. Thus, the thunderbird is nearly universally considered by most Native Americans to be one of the most powerful and well-respected symbols of their culture. Therefore, it was decided that the thunderbird was the ideal choice as the totem for Kawida Lodge. Subsequently, as the result of two future lodge mergers with Kawida Lodge, the lodge's thunderbird totem was enhanced to include parts of the totems from the two merged lodges. Ursa Minor (or the Little Dipper) was taken from the totem of the Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435 in 1963, and the Tomahawk was taken from the totem of the Tomahaken Lodge #241 in 1979. Both of these symbols were added to the breast of the thunderbird as permanent elements of the Kawida Lodge totem.

Lodge Newsletter

Naturally, the name of the lodge's newsletter is also called **The Thunderbird**. This newsletter has been chronicling the activities of Kawida Lodge and its members since near the time of charter. **The Thunderbird** is written, edited, and published by the youth members of Kawida Lodge, and three to four editions are printed and mailed to the lodge's membership annually. Over the years **The Thunderbird** has been published by a variety of different printing methods (i.e. ditto machines, newsprint, photocopiers, scanners, laser printers, etc.). Since 2001 an electronic version has been available on the lodge's web site www.Kawida.org. The web site is now the dominant communication tool of the lodge.

Kawida Lodge's First Ordeal

Kawida Lodge #480 conducted its first Ordeal induction weekend on June 7, 1952 at Camp Offutt. One adult and one or two youth members (depending on troop size) from each troop in the council were selected to be charter members, and to undergo the test of the Ordeal Honor. The five members of the original induction team presided over the weekend with the help



and support from members of the Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 of Louisville, Kentucky. Many camp projects were completed during the first Ordeal weekend, and some of the more notable projects included the building of a new health lodge, improvements on the trading post and handicraft area, the raising of a new flagpole, and the building of a swimming crib to be used in the Kentucky River. The first Ordeal weekend concluded with the repeating of the Obligation, and the presentation of the Ordeal Honor sashes. This tradition, which had its beginnings that June weekend in 1952, has continued uninterrupted every year, with the induction of thousands of Kawida Lodge members.

Lodge Officers & Responsibilities

As with all OA lodges, Kawida Lodge was administratively designed to be led by elected youth officers (under 21 years of age), and supervised by appointed adult advisers (over 21 years of age). The five original lodge officer positions of Kawida Lodge included: the **Lodge Chief**; the **1st Vice Chief**; the **2nd Vice Chief**; the **Recording Secretary/Treasurer**; and the **Corresponding Secretary**. The individual responsibilities of these positions varied greatly, but collectively they provided a seamless method of governance. The Lodge Chief had many responsibilities, but none more important than to assure that the **'Purpose of the Order'**, as well as the **'Mission of the Lodge'** was fulfilled. The Lodge Chief, in conjunction with the Lodge Adviser and Staff Adviser (collectively known as the Lodge 'Key Three'), was ultimately responsible for all lodge matters. The 1st Vice Chief was responsible for all social/special events of the lodge (i.e. fellowships, anniversaries, Vigil Honor weekends, banquets, national conferences, conclaves, etc.), as well as all of the lodge's service activities (i.e. Ordeals, camp workdays, service corps, conservation projects, etc.). The 2nd Vice Chief was responsible for the orientation and induction of Ordeal candidates, the Elangomat/Spirit of the Arrow program, Brotherhood conversion, and all unit elections/camp promotions. The Recording Secretary/Treasurer was responsible for maintaining all membership/financial records of the lodge, collection of dues/event registrations, and lodge merchandise sales. The Corresponding Secretary was responsible for publishing the lodge's newsletter (**The Thunderbird**), recording the minutes of all lodge meetings, publishing chapter/committee reports, and sending notices to members of upcoming meetings and events.

Chapter, Committee & LEC Formation

The continued growth of the lodge soon outpaced the ability of these few elected lodge officers to adequately serve its members, and precipitated the need to develop a stronger internal organizational structure. Other lodges had developed a chapter system of government similar to the BSA's region system, and Kawida Lodge soon followed suit. Each chapter covered a particular geographic area within a lodge, and were used to enhance the OA's program at the unit level. Chapters had their own officers (elected by the chapter's youth members), and advisers (appointed by the Lodge Adviser), as well as their own activities (as long as they did not conflict with those of the lodge).

Many chapter officers and advisers later became lodge officers and advisers, and the lodge has been strengthened as a result. Kawida Lodge has had numerous chapter configurations over the years, utilizing many different chapter names. Currently the lodge has six chapters: Gikino Ballet, Lenni Lenape, Mischa Mokwa, Tecumseh, Tomahaken, and Wa-Ha-Li. In addition to chapters, new operating committees were also developed each led by a youth committee chairman (appointed by the Lodge Chief), and supervised by an adult committee



adviser (appointed by the Lodge Adviser). There were numerous ‘standing’ committees that functioned on a perennial-basis, as well as several ‘ad hoc’ committees created annually on an ‘as-needed’ basis. As the use of chapters and committees became more prominent in lodge affairs, the creation of the Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) was necessary to help manage their activities. The LEC was comprised of the elected lodge officers, the chapter chiefs, the committee chairmen, and the immediate past lodge chief. Decisions of the lodge were voted upon and approved by this body with the guidance of the lodge adviser, the professional staff adviser, and the Scout Executive (Supreme Chief of the Fire).

Training Opportunities

To further aid the lodge in managing the OA program, formalized training was adopted. The training emphasized local, regional, and national level information and was delivered to lodge members at annual Lodge Officer Training Conferences (LOTC). LOTC’s usually took place shortly after the election of new lodge officers. Lodge officers, chapter officers, and committee chairmen would gather for a weekend at camp and were instructed as to the duties and expectations of their position, as well as the purpose of the Order of the Arrow and the mission of the lodge. The training instilled confidence in the youth leaders, and their confidence bred success in lodge matters. LOTC’s were later called LLD’s (Lodge Leader Development). Training was also available at local conclaves and national conferences.

Elangomat Program

In addition to a strong chapter system and a strong operating committee system, Kawida Lodge adopted an induction program that would quickly become a cornerstone for the lodge’s future success. This induction program was the ‘Elangomat’ program. Elangomat is the Lenni Lenape word for friend. Developed in 1969 by William Hartman in the Central Florida Council, the program was designed to provide a powerful example to Ordeal Honor candidates of what it means to be both a “brother” and an “Arrowman” who leads by example. Elangomats are Arrowman who volunteer to lead Ordeal Clans through the induction process. They eat scant food, keep the pledge of silence, sleep alone, and engage in cheerful-service work projects just like they did when they went through their own Ordeal. Their example is intended to inspire the Ordeal candidates during the Ordeal process, and to establish a friendship with their clan that encourages the new Ordeal members to return the following year to seal their membership in the Order by attaining their Brotherhood Honor. Kawida Lodge first used the Elangomat system in the early-mid 1970s, and actively uses the program in its induction process today. Both youth and adult Arrowmen may serve as Elangomats, and it is an esteemed position of honor in Kawida Lodge.

Lodge Chiefs

Henry T. “Hank” Ravencraft, one of the five “original” lodge members, was selected to serve as the lodge’s first chief, even though he was an adult member until the lodge could elect a youth member to serve as chief. The first person to be elected lodge chief as a youth member was Lucien Rice of Morehead, Kentucky. He served faithfully as lodge chief for two consecutive terms in 1953 and 1954. Lucien eventually entered the ranks of professional Scouting serving numerous councils throughout his thirty-seven year career.

Region / Area Designation



The National Council of the Boy Scouts of America divided the country into twelve regions in 1921 to better serve the organization. Kentucky was assigned to Region Four, along with the states of Ohio and West Virginia. Every region was further subdivided into “Areas”. The Order of the Arrow adopted this same designation system to better organize and service its program. Kentucky Order of the Arrow lodges underwent numerous “Area” designation changes throughout the years until May of 1949, when all of the Order of the Arrow lodges in Kentucky were assigned to Region Four, Area “B” (simply known as Area 4-B) with the single exception of the Tomahawk Lodge #241 of Pikeville, Kentucky which was assigned to Region Four, Area “E” (Area 4-E). The Tomahawk Lodge #241 would eventually join the other Kentucky lodges in Area 4-B in 1962, the same year they officially change their lodge’s name to the Tomahaken Lodge #241.

Area Conferences / Section Conclaves

This new restructuring gave rise to the “Area Conference” or “Conclave”, which was an annual weekend gathering of all of the Order of the Arrow lodges in an assigned area. The Area Conference was a time for training, Native American dance and ceremony participation, athletic competition, and good food, fellowship and patch trading. Also, of equal importance among the Conference’s activities, was the election of the Area Chief. This duly elected youth member presided over the Area’s affairs, and was responsible for organizing and planning the next Area Conference.

Since 1964, Kawida Lodge #480 has had eight youth members elected to serve as either Area or Section Chief. Their names and dates of service are as follows: Bill Grant (1964), David Sullivan (1966), Paul B. Hay, Jr. (1967), Guy Hatfield (1970), Tim Crowley (1974), Elvis Doll (1976), Don Combs (2007 & 2009), and T. Alex Hill (2011).

Of these distinguished Arrowmen, Don Combs has the unique distinction of being the only youth member of Kawida Lodge elected to serve two terms as section chief. In addition, Don also is the only member of Kawida Lodge elected to serve as region chief, serving as the Southern Region Chief in 2010. Along with Tom Fielder (former 1969 National Conference Chief as a member of White Feather Lodge), Don Combs is also one of only two members from Kawida Lodge to serve on the National OA Committee.

As the lodge’s membership grew in the 1950s, so did their participation in local and national Order of the Arrow events. Locally, the Area Conference was of great importance to Kawida Lodge. Any member of the lodge could attend the Conference, and many did, as it was one of the lodge’s highpoints of the year. Each lodge in the Area took its turn at hosting the event. Most Area Conferences were held at the host lodge’s council camp, however some were held at local high schools. The first officially held Area 4-B Conclave occurred on the weekend of November 6-7, 1954. It was held at the Greenville High School in Greenville, Kentucky, and Wapiti Lodge #367 of Owensboro, Kentucky hosted it. The inaugural Conclave was presided over by the first Area Chief, Bill “Tody” Strode of Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123.

Kawida Lodge #480 has hosted the annual Area Conference/Conclave many times. The first time that Kawida Lodge hosted the event was on the weekend of September 17-18, 1955 at Camp Offutt. Kawida Lodge also hosted the Area Conference a second time at Camp Offutt in 1957. Due to the national preparation for the Boy Scouts of America’s 50th Anniversary in 1960, there were no Region Four, Area “B” (4-B) Conferences held in 1958, 1959, or 1960. Thus, to re-establish the tradition, there were two Area 4-B Conferences held in 1961. One 4-B Conference was held in April, and one was held in October. Kawida Lodge hosted both 1961



Area 4-B Conferences at the Blue Grass Council's new camp, McKee Scout Reservation (Camp McKee). In addition to the two conclaves held in 1961, there have been numerous other conclaves hosted by Kawida Lodge at McKee Scout Reservation including those held in 1970, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1992, 1997, and 2004. Kawida Lodge is scheduled to host the section conclave again in 2018.

Region / Area / Section Restructuring

The rapid growth throughout the country in the number of Order of the Arrow lodges, as well as the extensive geographic expansion to accommodate such growth resulted in the frequent restructuring and subsequent renaming of the Regions, Areas, and Sections of the National Order of the Arrow organization. At the time of the granting of its original charter in 1952, Kawida Lodge #480 was originally assigned to Region Four, Area B. This designation continued in Kentucky from May of 1949, until December of 1963. The last Area 4-B Conference was held on the weekend of April 20-21, 1963. It was held at the Barbourville High School in Barbourville, Kentucky, and the Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435 of Middlesboro, Kentucky hosted it. The Area Conference was presided over by Sid Douglas (also of Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435) who served as the Area Chief for three other Area Conferences (April 1961; October 1961; and March 1962). This was the only Area Conference that the Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435 hosted, and the last one that they would ever attend as a lodge prior to being absorbed into Kawida Lodge #480 on August 15, 1963. The merging of the Blue Grass and Cumberland Councils precipitated the merger of the two lodges.

Beginning in January of 1964, Kentucky's Order of the Arrow lodges were reassigned to Region Four, Area "G". The first Area 4-G Conference was held on the weekend of April 11-12, 1964. The Area Conference was held at Camp Currie, near Benton, Kentucky, and the White Feather Lodge #499 of Paducah, Kentucky hosted it. The Area Conference was presided over by Area Chief Bill Grant of Kawida Lodge #480.

The second Area 4-G Conference was held on the weekend of April 3-4, 1965, which also happened to be the 50th Anniversary year of the Order of the Arrow. It was held at Prestonsburg High School, in Prestonsburg, Kentucky and Tomahaken Lodge #241, Pikeville, Kentucky, hosted it. It was the first time Tomahaken Lodge had hosted an area conference, and it was presided over by Area Chief Larry Young of Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123.

The Area 4-G designation would continue from January 1964 through December of 1972, with the last Area 4-G Conference being held on the weekend of April 14-16. The 1972 Area Conference was held at Camp Oyo of the Scioto Area Council in Portsmouth, Ohio, and the Shawnee Lodge #109 also of Portsmouth, Ohio hosted it. It was the first time that the area conference was held outside the state of Kentucky. The last Area 4-G Conference was presided over by Area Chief Robbie Carle of Wapiti Lodge #367.

Beginning in January of 1973, the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America reduced the number of Regions from twelve to six. That same year, the Kentucky lodges were reassigned to the new Southeast Region, Area II, Section B (simply known as SE-IIB). The Area Conferences (as they had been called for years) became known as Section Conclaves.

The first Section II-B Conclave was held on the weekend of September 7-9, 1973 at Covered Bridge Reservation near Prospect, Kentucky, and Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 of Louisville, Kentucky hosted it. The Section Conclave would be presided over by the new "Section Chief", Gene Foster of Wapiti Lodge #367.



The 1975 Section II-B Conclave was held on the weekend of April 18-20, at Camp Shawnee near Endicott, Kentucky. Tomahaken Lodge #241 of Pikeville, Kentucky hosted the conclave. It would be the last conclave that they hosted, as Tomahaken Lodge was absorbed into Kawida Lodge in 1979 as a result of the absorption of their council (Lonesome Pine Council), into the Blue Grass Council. The Section Conclave was presided over by Section Chief Larry Leach of Wapiti Lodge #367.

The designation of SE-IIB would continue from January of 1973 through December of 1981. Of special note, the 1977 Section Conclave would be called the "Area II" Conclave, as all of the lodges from both Kentucky (SE-IIB) and Tennessee (SE-IIA) would come together for the first time for a total Area II Conclave. The event was held on the weekend of April 29-May1, 1977 at Fort Campbell Military Reservation in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and hosted by both Wapiti Lodge #367 of Owensboro, Kentucky, and Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge #111 of Nashville, Tennessee. This joint Conclave between the Kentucky and Tennessee lodges would unknowingly set the stage for the future merging of the two Areas years later on a permanent basis. The Area II Conclave weekend was presided over by the Section Chief, Elvis Doll of Kawida Lodge #480. Both the Kentucky and Tennessee lodges reverted back to their own section designations after the 1977 Area II Conclave. They would not meet again until the 1981 Section Conclave (known as the Section IIA-IIB Conclave).

The 1981 Section IIA-IIB Conclave was held on the weekend of April 24-26, 1981, at Boxwell Reservation located near Lebanon, Tennessee, hosted by Wa-Hi-Nasa Lodge #111 of Nashville, Tennessee. The last SE-II Section Conclave was presided over by Section Chief John McKelvey of the White Feather Lodge #499.

After less than ten years, SE-IIA and SE-IIB were combined and renamed SE-VI in 1982. This brought together the five remaining Kentucky lodges, and four of the six remaining Tennessee lodges. Tennessee's Itawamba Lodge #235 and Chickasah Lodge #406 were reassigned to the newly formed SE-II. The OA's new designation format would remain in place for ten years through December of 1992 when the BSA's six regions were consolidated into the four regions we have today.

Beginning January 1, 1993, the Boy Scouts of America was organized into four geographical regions. The four regions were designated as the Central (C), Northeastern (NE), Southern (SR), and Western (W) Regions, and all four regions were serviced out of the National BSA Office in Irving, Texas. The 1993 region restructuring placed all of the former SE-VI and parts of the former SE-II into the new Southern Region, Area 6 or simply SR-6.

The first SR-6 Conclave (1993) was hosted by Talidandaganu' Lodge #293 at Skymont Scout Reservation near Altamont, Tennessee. SR-6 now consists of the six Tennessee lodges (#111, #184, #230, #235, #293, and #558); the three Kentucky lodges (#62, #201, and #480); and one lodge from Mississippi (#202).

NOAC / DSA

The Order of the Arrow holds a national conference every two or three years at a college or university campus. These conferences go by the acronym NOAC, which stands for National Orders of the Arrow Conference. During a NOAC, lodges from every state in the union, as well as several overseas / US Territory lodges, come together for a week of brotherhood and exchange of information, ideas, and fellowship.

Most lodges send a contingent to attend the event, and to gather information to bring back home. Kawida Lodge has sent members to every NOAC since 1952. The National Conference is



also host to the presentation of the Order of the Arrow's national Distinguished Service Award (DSA). This award is presented by the national Order of the Arrow committee for outstanding service to the Order of the Arrow on a national, regional, area, or sectional basis. It is presented to both youth and adult members, and only about 800 of these awards have been given since the award's inception in 1940.

Kawida Lodge has had only one recipient of the DSA, and that recipient was William "Bill" Grant who was presented the award at the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 1963 at the University of Illinois. Chief Bill was one of the first actual 'youth' members to ever receive the award, having just turned 20 years old prior to the National Conference. Chief Bill was a four-term lodge chief (1961, 1962, 1963, and 1964) for Kawida Lodge, and he also served one year as the Area 4-G Chief in 1964.

Kawida Lodge Awards

Kawida Lodge has been blessed with numerous youth and adult members over the years that have given of themselves cheerfully to see that the original purpose and intent of the Order of the Arrow was perpetuated. To honor many of these outstanding individuals, Kawida Lodge has developed five annual recognition awards, which are presented to its members at the lodge's Annual Awards Banquet. The five awards are: the Founder's Award, the Mike Butcher Memorial Award, the Chief's Citation Award, the William 'Bud' Tobin, III Award, and the Lodge Adviser's Award.

The **Founder's Award** was created in 1980 by the National OA Committee to honor and recognize those Arrowmen who have given outstanding service to their lodge. The award is reserved for Arrowmen who demonstrate to their fellow Arrowmen that they memorialized in their everyday life the spirit of achievement as described by the founders of the Order of the Arrow, Dr. E. Uner Goodman, and Carroll A. Edson. Kawida Lodge presented its first Founder's Award in 1982 to an adult Arrowman, the late Douglas W. Cox. Kawida Lodge's first youth Arrowman to receive the award was Craig Norris in 1991. Since that time, the lodge has presented numerous other deserving youth and adult Arrowmen with this prestigious award.

Of the five annual awards, the **Mike Butcher Memorial Award** is the only award reserved solely for youth members of the lodge. The award is given annually to the year's outstanding youth member from Kawida Lodge. The award is given in memory of Mike Butcher who tragically lost his life in 1972. Mike was a member of Troop 14, which was chartered by the Second Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. While on a canoe trip with his troop, Mike's canoe overturned in some high-water rapids in the "Little Narrows" section of the Rockcastle River, and tragically Mike was trapped under the water and drowned. Mike's death was not only a great loss for his family and friends, but it was also a great loss for the lodge. A committee of youth Arrowmen appointed by the lodge chief selects the annual recipient of the Mike Butcher Memorial Award. The award was first given in 1972 to both Mike Butcher (posthumously), and to his co-recipient, Tim Crowley, and it has been given annually to a deserving youth member every year since that time.

In any given year, Kawida Lodge has numerous individuals who distinguish themselves from all others due to their hard work and dedication to cheerful service. Of these individuals, the Lodge Chief selects those whom he feels has helped him the most throughout the year, and those individual are recognized with the presentation of the **Chief's Citation Award**. This annual award was first given in 1961 to Frank Barnett of Somerset, Kentucky by then Lodge



Chief Bill Grant. There has been at least one annual recipient of this award every year since that time.

The **William ‘Bud’ Tobin, III Award** was authorized by Kawida Lodge and presented for the first time in 2007 to Claudette Watts. The award is given annually to any youth or adult lodge member who exhibits the values embodied in our brother who passed on well before his time. Bud was a Vigil Honor member of Kawida Lodge and for many years maintained the lodge’s merchandise inventory, and ran the lodge trading post. He always had a smile on his face and a helping hand for his fellow Scouts and lodge members. He undertook this sometime irksome task despite numerous health challenges that limited his own abilities to be as active as he would have liked. Bud also served several years as the Baden-Powell Director at McKee Scout Reservation, and was an Assistant Scoutmaster and Chartered Organization Representative for Troop 60 at the Cynthiana United Methodist Church. He will forever be fondly remembered, and his ‘Legacy of Service’ to others will be carried by all he came in contact with.

The **Lodge Adviser’s Award** was created in 1993 and presented to Dorothy Sparks by then Lodge Adviser Kevin Willis. The award is given annually to recognize an individual (or individuals) whom the lodge adviser feels has aided him the most throughout the year. The award may be given to anyone whom the Lodge Adviser feels is deserving of the recognition. This individual (or individuals) can be an Arrowman, a Scout, a Scouter, a Scouting professional, or a layperson.

Kawida Lodge Advisers / Key Volunteers

Kawida Lodge has a long list of outstanding past lodge chiefs, lodge officers, and countless other youth members who attest that the Order of the Arrow and Kawida Lodge are youth-led, adult-supervised organizations. However, even though Kawida Lodge is a youth-led organization, it would not have achieved the degree of success that it currently has if not for a long list of dedicated adults. Adults have played a key role in the organization and development of Kawida Lodge ever since it was chartered.

This list of special individuals includes Guy Walton “Walt” Ferrell (first staff adviser), and Henry T. “Hank” Ravenscraft (first chief and first lodge adviser). The efforts of these two individuals in the early years of the lodge’s existence were instrumental in laying the foundations of the Order of the Arrow that are still perpetuated today.

Also, on the list of special individuals are the names of three former lodge advisers (formerly known as lay advisers) whose service and devotion to Kawida Lodge has carried the ideals of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service from decade to decade. The first individual was Frank Barnett who served as lodge adviser from 1960-1964. The second individual was James B. “JB” Morris who served as lodge adviser from 1965-1969, and the third individual was William “Bill” Hunt who served as lodge adviser from 1970-1985. These three former lodge advisers supervised the lodge’s administration on a day-to-day basis for over twenty-five years.

Another special individual who was instrumental in utilizing the lodge’s resources to develop and enhance the council’s current camp (McKee Scout Reservation) was J. Carlisle Meyers. Carlisle served the lodge and council in numerous positions, and he dedicated his life to making sure that the camping spirit would always have a place to live and grow.



Finally, there is a special individual who gave “exceptional” service and devotion to the cause of the Order of the Arrow, Kawida Lodge, and to Scouting. This charter year member exemplified not only the principles of the Order of the Arrow, but the very ideals of Scouting in his daily life for over seventy-five years. From the time he became an Ordeal member during that first induction summer of 1952, he was active in the lodge’s activities every year. He symbolized the true Kawida Lodge Arrowman, and was known to everyone as a leader, adviser, and friend. This individual was Douglas W. “Doug” Cox. Doug was a “charter year” (1952) member of Kawida Lodge, a 1957 recipient of the Vigil Honor, the 1970 recipient of the Chief’s Citation Award, and Kawida Lodge’s first recipient of the Founder’s Award in 1982 (it was presented to Doug at the lodge’s Annual Awards Banquet in March of 1983).

The Vigil Honor

The Vigil Honor is the highest level of recognition that a lodge can bestow on its members. The Vigil Honor is reserved for those individuals who unselfishly serve others cheerfully in the spirit of brotherhood. The honor dates back to 1915 when E. Urner Goodman (the Order of the Arrow’s founder) became the first recipient of the Vigil Honor. The honor is bestowed annually (according to national standards), to deserving members following a special “Vigil” night and Vigil Honor ceremony. Kawida Lodge’s first Vigil Honor recipients were Guy Walton “Walt” Ferrell, Henry T. “Hank” Ravencraft, and William D. “Bill” Hepburn. They were all adult members and received the honor on September 15, 1956 at the Area 4-B Conclave, which was hosted by Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 at Covered Bridge Reservation near Prospect, Kentucky. As Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge was the only lodge in Kentucky to have Vigil Honor members at that time, their ceremonial team presided over the event. Coincidentally, the first three members of Wapiti Lodge #367 to receive the Vigil Honor also received the honor at this event.

Prior to 1960, the vast majority of Vigil Honor members nationally were adults. As this fact became more evident, the National OA Committee encouraged lodges to seek youth candidates to receive the honor. In 1958, Stephen Palmer became the first youth member in the history of Kawida Lodge to obtain the honor. Also of note, Kawida Lodge’s first female recipient of the Vigil Honor was Joan Stacy. Joan kept her Vigil on May 14, 1995. Since 1956, hundreds of Kawida Lodge members have “kept the Vigil” during a special Vigil weekend at the council’s camp property. These annual Vigil weekends typically include: a Vigil rededication ceremony, a Vigil only breakfast, and a Vigil service project.

Kawida Lodge Recognitions

The Recognition and Awards Subcommittee of the National OA Committee annually selects two lodges from each region to honor with the presentation of the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award. The award was established as a tribute and testimonial to the Order’s founder, E. Urner Goodman. Its purpose is to encourage and challenge Order of the Arrow members and lodges to increase their effectiveness in promoting and increasing scout camping in each council. All lodges are judged by a set list of criteria, as set forth by the National OA Committee. This list of criteria includes such items as membership growth, brotherhood conversion, and service to the council (in both man-hours of labor and monetary support). Kawida Lodge #480 was selected to receive this prestigious award in 1977, and again for a second time in 1991. Kawida Lodge is one of only a few lodges in the country to receive this award more than once, testimony to the dedication of its members, and the quality of its program.



Kawida Lodge Sponsored Trails

There are numerous other significant events, which have marked Kawida Lodge's sixty-year history. One such event in the early years of the lodge was the opening of the Kawida Lodge sponsored Daniel Boone Trail on April 15, 1956. This was a twenty-mile hiking trail, which started at Bryan Station Springs on Bryan Station Road in Lexington, Kentucky, and ended at Fort Boonesboro in Boonesboro, Kentucky. A special opening day patch and neckerchief was issued to commemorate the event. The idea of Kawida Lodge sponsoring this trail as a money making project, was the brainchild of Frank D. Lewis. The lodge used the proceeds from this trail to help purchase maintenance equipment for its council camp, as well as some office equipment for the Blue Grass Council. The Daniel Boone Trail celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1966, and a special 10th anniversary patch and neckerchief was also issued. The very next year in 1967, the Daniel Boone Trail was re-routed and moved to the Daniel Boone National Forest in Eastern Kentucky due to increased highway traffic along the original route.

Kawida Lodge also sponsored the Zollicoffer Trail in Southeastern Kentucky as another moneymaking project. The trail started at Burnside State Park in Burnside, Kentucky, and ended at the Zollicoffer monument. This trail was named in honor of the famous confederate Civil War general, Felix Zollicoffer. This trail opened in 1960, and a special embroidered neckerchief was issued on opening day. James "JB" Morris and Frank Barnett created the idea for this trail, and it too was a huge financial success for the lodge.

Kawida Lodge developed and sponsored the highly coveted "Trail Hiker" award program. This program was designed to promote scout hiking and camping, consistent with Order of the Arrow goals. The program consisted of seven hiking trails scattered throughout the council. If a lodge member completed all seven trails, he could submit his unit leader approved hiking card and ten dollars to the Lodge Adviser of Kawida Lodge. He would receive a fully embroidered, six-inch, multi-colored jacket patch. The patch was designed to include the logos of all seven of the required hiking trails. The "Trail Hiker" award was one of the most sought after of all lodge items, as only about 100 of the patches were produced. They were all distributed between 1967 and 1972.

The two lodge sponsored trails, (the Daniel Boone Trail and the Zollicoffer Trail), were among the seven trails. The other trails included the Blue Grass Trail, the Pioneer Mountain Trail, the Wilderness Road Trail, the Wah-La-Ha Trail, and the Mischa Mokwa Trail. Just completing the program in itself was a great accomplishment, as three of the seven trails were more than twenty miles in length. Sadly, only two of the original seven trails still exist today; the Mischa Mokwa Trail and the Pioneer Mountain Trail (PMT). The PMT is located solely on the property of McKee Scout Reservation, and members of the PMT Trail Crew (sponsored by Kawida Lodge), maintain the trail. For their efforts, the lodge produced a 'Trail Crew' patch for its members who give service maintaining the trail.

Kawida Lodge Social Events

In addition to the lodge's Annual Awards Banquet (a.k.a. Winter Banquet), the lodge also holds annual fall and spring fellowships. These are weekend events for Kawida Lodge members similar to the activities experienced at a conclave. Fellowships offer training, competition, ceremonies, good food, fun, patch trading and a sense of brotherhood for all who attend. Fall fellowships have occurred since the earliest days of the lodge. However, the first ever spring fellowship occurred on the weekend of May 13-14, 1994, and one has been held annually ever since. On certain anniversary years, the lodge conducts additional activities and celebrations to



commemorate the event. The first anniversary celebration was held in 1967, which was the fifteenth anniversary of Kawida Lodge. There has been an anniversary celebration every five years since that time.

Kawida Lodge Building / Cox OA Lodge

Kawida Lodge had always longed for a place of permanence, and something to call its own. The lodge's executive committee (LEC), with the approval of the Blue Grass Council, embarked on a plan to erect a lodge building on the property of McKee Scout Reservation. After unanimous lodge approval, the groundbreaking began in 1973 on a 4,500 square foot structure. Using only lodge finances and resources, the project took nearly four years to complete. The Kawida Lodge Building was officially dedicated on October 30, 1977, the same year as the lodge's 25th anniversary. The Kawida Lodge Building has proudly served the members of Kawida Lodge for thirty-five years.

This place of permanence was renamed the "Douglas Winn Cox OA Lodge" on October 14, 2000 at Kawida Lodge's Fall Fellowship. Much to the sorrow of all who knew him, Doug Cox passed away on October 21, 2000. Although Doug is no longer with us, the values he taught us, the examples he set for us, and the memories he left us, will better the Scouting program here and abroad, and better the scouting spirit in each of us. Of all of the many areas of the Scouting program that Doug was involved in, he always had a soft spot in his heart for Kawida Lodge and McKee Scout Reservation. During his Scouting tenure, Doug spent countless thousands of hours at the camp over the forty years that it had been in operation to ensure that every youth member had a rewarding outdoor experience. He accomplished this through his lifelong efforts of cheerful service with Kawida Lodge.

Kawida Lodge Service Grant / Service Projects

One of the four fold purposes of the Order of the Arrow is "to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others." It is with this spirit of cheerful service to others that the Order proudly offers the matching funds program known as the "OA Service Grant". For several years, the National Order of the Arrow Committee has provided matching service award grants for a limited number of projects submitted by application to the national office. Respective council offices receive letter notification from the national office when they are awarded the grant. Matching grant money is given to lodges for camp or service center projects in their local council. The Order will provide up to one-half of the money for a service project, with a \$5,000 maximum amount granted for any lodge project.

Kawida Lodge was one of ten lodges to receive an OA Service Grant in 2007. The lodge received the maximum \$5,000 amount from the National Order of the Arrow Committee, and combined it with local matching funds to convert an abandoned campsite into a large athletic field at their council camp. Lodge Adviser Tom Fielder was instrumental in drafting the service grant proposal, and submitting its subsequent application.

Commencing in the fall of 2011, Kawida Lodge recently took on another service task, as requested by the Blue Grass Council's Executive Board. This task was the designing, funding, and building of a new shower facility at the council's camp (McKee Scout Reservation). The



project's cost was approximately \$38,000.00, a very challenging amount to obtain. However, the members of the lodge came through in as they always have and raised the funds. The structure was completed in the spring of 2012.

Echoes of the Past / Visions for the Future

Kawida Lodge #480 is now in its sixtieth year of existence. The lodge has evolved greatly from its early humble beginnings as a pre-Order of the Arrow society, to the great and honored lodge that it is today. Kawida Lodge has not only survived numerous changes and adversities, but it has built upon these experiences for the continued success of the program. With all of the council acquisitions, lodge mergers, and program restructuring, Kawida Lodge has emerged as the only surviving originally chartered Order of the Arrow lodge in Kentucky.

Kawida Lodge has never waived from its original purpose and intent since granted its original charter back in 1952. The lodge has promoted the ideals of Scouting, worked hard to strengthen the camping spirit, and given service cheerfully in the spirit of brotherhood. Kawida Lodge has proudly and diligently perpetuated the message that was set forth by the founders of our great and honored Order. Kawida Lodge stands prepared to face the new challenges as our Order enters its second century.

WAGION LODGE 6

Westmoreland-Fayette Council B.S.A.

LODGE HISTORY



Researched and Written

by Tom Price

**WAGION LODGE #6 – EARLY YEARS (1921-1965):**

Boy Scouts first appeared in the Westmoreland-Fayette counties in 1911. In 1920, a First-Class Council was organized at Uniontown in Fayette County.

John Getz, Scout Executive of the Uniontown, Pennsylvania Council, sent a formal application “for the institution of a Lodge of the Wimachtendienk” to E. Urner Goodman, Scout Executive in Philadelphia on June 7, 1921. The Lodge became known as Umpah Lodge 6 and was associated with the Scout Camp at Confluence, Pennsylvania. The Lodge was chartered under the supervision of Mr. Getz and operated under the auspices of the Philadelphia council. The totem for Umpah was a white buffalo. Mr. R.C. Witt became the Scout Executive in Uniontown late 1923. After several unsuccessful attempts to keep Umpah Lodge organized, he finally recommended on May 15, 1925 that the Lodge be considered inactive.

Owing to financial and other problems that developed, the Fayette County Council dissolved. Troops were placed on direct service with the National Council.

In the late 1920's, the Scouts that camped at Camp Wildwood near Normalville, PA started a fraternal organization. They named their organization the Society of the Wigwam and their totem was a chenille style patch of an Indian Chief's profile. Their ceremonies for induction were based on Indian customs and fraternity-type initiations. The Wigwam was not affiliated with the Order of the Arrow.

In September of 1937, the Westmoreland County Council absorbed the Fayette County Council forming the Westmoreland-Fayette Council. In the summer of 1938, thirty-two members of the Westmoreland-Fayette Council were inducted into the Order of the Arrow at Camp Wesco. The Council Executive Board approved a charter for an Order of the Arrow Lodge on May 7, 1939. This new Lodge became known as Wagion Lodge and was assigned lodge number 147. Since it revived the old Umpah Lodge of Uniontown, the National Lodge confirmed Lodge #6's revival and reverted the number back to the true and original number. The name “WAGION” was derived from the Indian word meaning Thunderbird. It was chosen as our totem since it symbolized good luck.

The Society of the Wigwam dissolved after the new Westmoreland-Fayette Council closed Camp Wildwood. At the time of the closing (1949), all Wigwam members were given the opportunity to transfer as Ordeal members into Wagion Lodge #6. They had one year to do this. After one year they had to be elected and take the Ordeal in the normal manner.

Mr. E. T. Ewing, the first Scout Executive of the new Council did much to insure the growth of Scouting and prosperity of our Lodge. The 88 Troops of the new Council camped at Camp Wesco and Camp Wildwood. As Scouting and interest in camping grew the Council secured the use of Camp Pleasant in Laurel Hill State Park. This camp now is known as group camp #2 in the park.

In 1943, representatives from Anicus Lodge 57 inducted nine Wagion members into the Brotherhood honor. Wagion hosted it's first Area “F” Meet in 1944 at Camp Wesco. The OA



Circle at Camp Wesco was placed on the ridge of the hill opposite the dining hall. If visiting this site today, you are aware of it by the circle of hemlock trees, which were planted around the OA Circle.

Camp Conestoga was secured in 1949 and developed for the increasing number of Scouts. The first ORDER OF THE ARROW circle at Camp Conestoga was placed in the wooded area behind the rifle range and just behind the present-day Shawnee Campsite. The present circle was built in 1953 in preparation for the Area Fellowship Conclave held at Conestoga the following year. No major changes were made until 1965 when the circle seating was replaced for the first time with the old log seats from the Barclay Campfire Circle (and have been replaced four times since), the candle holders were converted from logs to steel pipe, and the bear-skin back drop was replaced.

Other changes at that time included; constructing the altar behind the circle with stones from Camp Wesco, building a new shed for storage, cementing the stone altars, and planting trees.

WAGION LODGE #6 – SERVICE ABOVE SELF (1965-2011)

Service to the Council's camps has been the highlight of our accomplishments. Among the projects completed at Conestoga were: The purchase of resuscitation equipment for the swimming pool, the purchase and installation of a metal flagpole at the main parade ground, at Ruth Rhoda Lake, and at the Buck Run parade grounds; five renovations to the Barclay campfire circle, the building of the Wagon Training Center (Aug. 1965), and two renovations of the Camp Showerhouse which is now the visitors restroom facility (as of 1990). The Lodge has also built a paint shed for the camp, a large Handicrafts Pavilion on the path to Barclay Campfire Circle (1980's), and smaller Pavilions in the Grove, Hill, and Buck Run. In 1985, the Lodge reshingled the Wagon Training Center, Miller's Lodge, several latrines, and the Dining Hall. In 1986, reshingling continued with the Kunkle Staff Lodge, Ewing Administration Building, Sipe Health Lodge, and activities buildings on Raccoon Ridge and Rocky Ridge. The Lodge also built a parking area at Camp Buck Run and performed a variety of maintenance projects at Camp Conestoga and Camp Tenacharison.

In 1987, the Lodge refurbished the concrete pool apron and built Wolenter Lodge at Camp Tenacharison. In 1988-1989, the Lodge built the Grove and Hill Showerhouses and the Scruggs Pavilion at Camp Tenacharison. In 1991, the Lodge built the COPE climbing and rappelling Boat Tower near Ruth Rhoda Lake. In 1993, the Lodge constructed the showerhouse at Camp Buck Run. In 1994, the Lodge built the Buck Run pavilion, and in 1995, two flush toilets on each ridge at Buck Run.

In 1997, the Lodge helped finance a portion of the new mile-and-one-quarter main waterline feeding Buck Run and Conestoga. 1999 marked the dedication of Rohrbacher Center – Conestoga's premier central-camp office and training facility. Camp Conestoga also witnessed the development of a sand volleyball pit and the introduction of an improved COPE course.

The decade of 2000-2010 noted several camp improvements, including the building of a generator structure, refurbishment of the Brinker Trading Post (2009), relocation of the Graham



Activities Center to the Valley (OA) Pavilion (2008), repairs to the Barclay Campfire Circle (2011), and massive repairs to the Uncle Ben Robinson Dining Hall (2009-2012). The Lodge also led construction of the Smily Family Walkway (2001-2003): a brick walkway for Scouts who have special needs in traversing the fields between the Dining Hall, Rohrbacher Center, Valley Showerhouse, and Pool.

The Lodge dedicated the OA Circle to Dwayne Welling in 2004 in an effort lead by Ed Lewis. Welling is recognized as the “father” of the modern Wagion Lodge and among the Lodge’s most admired and venerated brothers. Welling in all accords is the proudest and most iconic member of Wagion Lodge – first in song and laughter, reverence and respect.

Noteworthy is the dedication of the “Weekend Warriors,” a group of Wagion brothers who constantly attend to the maintenance and repairs to the properties of the Westmoreland Fayette Council. This group of volunteers, under the leadership of former Lodge Chief Fred Franks (1975-1976) and aided by Ross Hackle, Tom Irwim, Jim Gettins, Bill Hogel, Herb Harris, and Bobby Frye – among many others – deserves the gratitude of all.

Without Wagion Lodge, the upkeep and care of the beautiful facility at Camp Conestoga would be impossible. Thousands of Scouts each year are able to attend summer camp through the countless volunteer hours and dedication of the brothers of Wagion Lodge 6.

WAGION LODGE #6 - PATH TO 100 YEARS (2011-2021)

Wagion Lodge #6 has grown to become one of the strongest Lodges in the Order of the Arrow program, with one of the riches and most revered histories. Our officers and committee chairmen have worked diligently to provide a well-rounded program aimed at carrying out the objectives of the Order of the Arrow. We, as a Lodge, have done much to be proud of and grown to be a vital part of the Scouting program in the Westmoreland-Fayette Council, B.S.A.

WAGION LODGE #6 – BEYOND THE LODGE

Between 1954 and 1973 our lodge was assigned to Area 3-F. The outstanding leadership development provided by our Lodge produced two Area conference chiefs: Art Seitz (1956) and Ed Lewis (1966). We also produced an Area Leader who received the Distinguished Service Award in 1963, Dwayne E. Welling. Wagion hosted the Area Conferences of 1954, 1960, 1966 and 1972.

In June 1973, Northeast Section 5-C was organized and replaced the former Area 3-F. Wagion Lodge #6 has provided leaders for the Section since its inception. Wagion Lodge #6 had the honor of providing the first Section Chief, Vince Johnson (1973-74). Mitch Clauser (1976-77), Tom Vater (1979-80), Dave Hostoffer (1982-83), and Mark Henry (1985-87) also have served as Section 5-C Chiefs. In 1982, Charles L. Dunn was appointed Section 5-C Advisor. In addition, several other Lodge brothers held Area offices and various Area Committee Chairmanships. Wagion has hosted the Section Conclave in 1976, 1984, and 1992.



In 1988, Mark Henry served as a Conference Vice Chief at the National Order of the Arrow Conference. Henry received the Distinguished Service Award in 1990, marking Wagion's second member to receive the honor.

In June 1997, owing to the reorganization of the NE Region, Section 4B was organized replacing the old Section 5. Wagion hosted the 4B Section Conclave in 2001 and 2008. Section NE-4B saw 3 chiefs from Wagion, John Krempecki (2000-2001), Kenneth Hager serving two terms (2005-2007), and Tom Price (2007-2008). Dan Wright served as Associate Section Adviser (2006-2011).

In June 2008, the NER reorganized and NE-4B was again divided. Wagion remained in 4B with 4 other lodges (57, 103, 275, 540). Wagion provided the first Section Chief of the new NE-4B with Allen Martello (2008-2009).

In June 2011, Section NE-4B again changed when lodges Enda Lechauhanne 57 and Nachamawat 275 merged and Kuskitannee 168 rejoined 4B. During the third realignment of NE-4B, Wagion once again provided the first Section Chief in Eric Bush (2011-2012). Kenneth Hager served as an Associate Section Adviser (2011). Wagion was selected to host the 2013 Conclave at Camp Conestoga.

Notably, a youth leader from Wagion Lodge has held the office of Section Chief in 20 of the past 39 years (1972-2011), and nine of the past eleven years (2000-2011).

In December of 2006, Kenneth Hager was elected as the 2007 Northeast Region Chief. He became the first National Officer and National OA Committee Member from Wagion Lodge. Hager was recognized in 2009 with the Distinguished Service Award. This marked Wagion's third recipient of the DSA.

In December of 2011, Eric Bush was elected as the 2012 Northeast Region Chief. Bush will help lead the 2012 National Order of the Arrow Conference in East Lansing, Michigan.

THE THUNDERBIRD AWARD

The Thunderbird Award has been presented continuously in Wagion Lodge 6 since 1957. The Thunderbird Award is the most prestigious award given by the lodge. Each year, one youth and one adult are selected by former receptions based on service to the youth of Wagion and continuing the tradition of service at all levels of scouting and the community.

The lodge does not present the Nation OA Founder's Award because of the highly respected tradition and history that the Thunderbird Award carries with it. Those selected have come from equal parts of Westmoreland and Fayette Counties and all walks of life and occupations. The most respected element of the Thunderbird Award is that it has never been a conclusion; but merely recognition, as a testament to the numerous Thunderbird Award recipients who still serve as advisors, volunteers, professionals and supporters of the lodge, council and camp.



Developing Your Lodge History: Centennial Patch Page

This section of the binder is for you to collect items of memorabilia that are unique to your centennial year. Please include any official issue flaps, lodge event patches, lodge photos and National Order of the Arrow Conference memorabilia that you wish to include in the Centennial display. If possible, use the plastic patch pockets that are included in this booklet. Your contributions will be used for the 2015 NOAC and will remain in the Order of the Arrow repository. As we approach the centennial year, further details on this special project will be released.

Developing Your Lodge History: Collecting Histories

In the fall of 2014 we will begin to call for local lodge histories and items of digital memorabilia as we usher in the Centennial Anniversary. These items will be housed in the National Order of the Arrow digital archive. Each lodge will be asked to contribute a digital copy of their history book, as well as any images or patches associated with their Centennial celebrations. Everyone will be available to view these items at www.oa-bsa.org or by scanning the following QR Code.

