

SCOUTS-L

OA - INFORMATION

From jthorn@PRISM.NMT.EDU Ukn Jul 8 16:04:14 1994
Reply-To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>
Sender: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>
From: "J. Thornton" <jthorn@PRISM.NMT.EDU>
Subject: ARROW-L is now officially open.
X-To: scouts-l@tcubvm.is.tcu.edu
X-cc: jthorn@nmt.edu
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

This is the official announcement that ARROW-L has started up. ARROW-L is a listserv group that is to be devoted to discussing the Order of the Arrow and matters of concern to its membership. As such, membership is being limited to members of the OA. If you are an OA member and wish to join, send a request to:

LISTSERV@INDYCMS.BITNET

with the request:

SUBSCRIBE ARROW-L e-mail@where.you.are Name

Shortly after that, you will receive a questionnaire asking for some information from you. Within a couple of days after you return the questionnaire, you will be added to the list.

I have approximately 35-40 people who have asked for questionnaires previously. I will send (resend) a questionnaire to those people very soon. If after a day or so you have not received a questionnaire (and you had asked for one earlier) subscribe like above and one will find its way to you.

Many thanks go to Nathan Brindle for getting the list set up and for volunteering to do the work necessary to keep it working smoothly.

If you have any questions (about the OA or about ARROW-L) feel free to e-mail me at:

jthorn@nmt.edu

**I'll answer you question(s) as best as I can or refer you to somebody who
can
give you a better answer.**

Jack Thornton

**From NBRINDLE%INDYCMS.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU Ukn Jul 8
16:23:19 1994**

**Subject: Re: ARROW-L is now officially open.
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-
L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>**

**Aaack...don't go to all that trouble. (I already replied to August but
I didn't want to bother the list with it. However...)**

INDYCMS.BITNET does have an Internet alias...INDYCMS.IUPUI.EDU.

Nathan

From dhw@HPTELE24.TELERATE.COM Ukn Jul 8 17:53:05 1994
From: David Weintraub <dhw@HPTELE24.TELERATE.COM>
Organization: Dow Jones/Telerate
Subject: Re: ARROW-L is now officially open.

> Help,,, my mail server can't find

>

> **INDYCMS.BITNET**

>

BITNET is not a real domain. What your system is suppose to do is go through a Bitnet gateway in order to pass the mail onto INDYCMS. What you can do is manually route your mail through an Bitnet gateway like this:

If you want to send mail to ARROW-L@INDYCMS.BITNET send it to

**PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU!INDYCMS.BITNET!ARROW-L
(gateway!computer.bitnet!userid)**

or

**ARROW-L%INDYCMS.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU
(userid%computer.bitnet@gateway)**

PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU is the Bitnet gateway I use. According to "The Complete Internet Reference", the first form is the preferred address, but many systems will still take either form.

--

**David Weintraub | Opinions expressed are mine and not Telerate's
davidw@cnj.digex.net | Not that anyone listens to me anyway**

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PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU!INDYCMS.BITNET!ARROW-L
(gateway!computer.bitnet!userid)

or

ARROW-L%INDYCMS.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU
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David Weintraub | Opinions expressed are mine and not Telerate's
davidw@cnj.digex.net | Not that anyone listens to me anyway

From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Pluto is not just a silly dog!
X-To: SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.bitnet@UKCC.uky.edu
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L%TCUBVM.BITNET@PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU>

Gary:

Here's the information that I kept concerning the site...it's good that you've reminded us all of the location:

Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT : official scouting ftp site

This is the first announcement of an official scouting ftp site :

PLUTO.UTDALLAS.EDU (IP : 129.110.70.1)

This is intended to be THE Scouting site for software, clip-art, textfiles, FAQs and other stuff related to Scouting world wide. The site is just opened so the range of files available is limited, but will grow as the site is being used.

Please make an upload if you have something of interest to other scouters. If we all make contributions, the quality and service will be maintained. So, let's go for it !

I know there have been some requests of scouting clip-art. I have almost completed a high-quality collection, which I will upload as soon as possible. This will include BP's drawings, all the Jamboree logos, all the national scouting lilys, and a lot of nice bitmaps of scouting activities.

Thanks to Jeff A. Webb <jwebb@utdallas.edu> for providing this service !

Any questions ? Contact Jeff.

-----**(end included text)**-----

Hope that helped you and others that are looking for more clipart (aren't we all?) and more information than what we can handle on our own listserver. Remember too, that there's a wealth of information that can also be obtained at your local Council offices as well....some of them have really nice clipart and sketches that I am sure they would be willing to share with you (or do an exchange with).

Settumanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (
(h) 502-782-7992 (f) 502-781-7279 (w) 502-782-7467 |--|]
3201-D Cave Springs Avenue -- Greenwood, KY 42104-4439 -====-
Internet: WALTOML@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU/America OnLine:
KYBLKEAGLE@AOL.COM
"Not speaking for WKU.....but I do speak well!!"

Date: Fri, 14 Oct 1994 00:16:34 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>
Subject: Re: BSA & Native American Culture.

In my youth, I was a member of OA in Ojibawa Lodge 173. By 1971 when I was chief we had developed a new set of costuming based on local Woodland Indiana culture and clothing and were surprised to receive thanks from a few Native American groups for respecting their ancestral cultures. Our Vigil Honor names were mostly taken from the Delawares, but some were also from the Ojibawas, Sauk, Kickapoo, Weas, Fox and other tribes native to the region.

Locally here in Virginia, we have in training encouraged leaders to be selective about cheers, being careful not use old ones in some books that could be offensive. There are still some in print in Group Meeting Sparklers and other cheer books that we found were offensive to various groups; e.g. the Chinese cheer - Fooey! Fooey! Fooey!, the Kiowa Indian Yell, etc. In looking over the Sparklers I found to my surprise that it does list the How! How! How! cheer as well. While well intentioned at some point, these cheers that now seem to give offense can be avoided. Its more important to make everyone feel welcome and there are plenty of other cheers.

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .
_____ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU _____**

Date: Sat, 3 Jun 1995 14:27:43 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Re: OA Elections - Another Perspective

Thank goodness this discussion is on Scouts-L and not limited to Arrow-L. This is a Troop issue that belongs right here where leaders can get at the problems encountered in Order of the Arrow elections. This is all the more valuable because we have had the benefit of the perspectives of youth members as well as older members.

I think that the discussion has amply demonstrated that a lot can be done to improve the relationships between election teams and Troops and that it is important the Scoutmasters set a time for the election where it won't be diluted by new Webelos cross-overs. Equally important Scoutmasters and election teams must make sure that the Scouts are calmed down enough to listen and understand what is going on in the election.

For those who have criticized the fact that a candidate for membership is selected by the votes of non-members, let's go back to the basics. Remember the goals of Scouting: Citizenship training, character development and personal fitness. Where does the OA fit in? Why is there an Order of the Arrow in U.S. Boy Scouting?

In the early years of Boy Scouting there was a feeling that something needed to be done to recognize older Scouts and to encourage their continuing service to younger Scouts. Several different programs were created in different Councils including the Order of the Arrow, Firecrafters, etc. The idea was to give recognition to honor Scout campers and to motivate them to stay with Troops to give continued service and leadership. This dovetailed nicely with Scoutings goals because it promoted important components of Citizenship - service and leadership, while fostering additional opportunities for character development in very positive ways.

The Order of the Arrow spread rapidly through many Councils and utilized an election system to select members. The idea here was to make recognition come from peers. Why? Because peer recognition for older boys is much more important than adult recognition. We all know from the countless studies that peer pressure is one of the most important parts of

teenage development. OA was simply using a known method to foster Scoutings goals and for the most part it has worked.

Other organizations experimented with different methods. In Firecrafters, membership was determined by a different scheme for example. Scouts who wanted to join passed a succession of tests that emphasized Scouting skills to progress from Camper to Woodsman to Firecrafter. In the last step the skills included making fire by friction from a set built by the Scout. Any Scout could try to become a member. Like the Order of the Arrow there is an honorary level of membership bestowed on Scouts that have demonstrated unselfish devoition and service - the rank of Menisino.

Why did OA prevail and why did these other organizations dwindle? I can speak to one such organization because I was a member in my youth. At one time Firecrafters encompassed dozens of Councils. Other similar organizations also had a foothold. National backing for OA came for a variety of reasons, but one of the most important is that it had better success. A problem with Firecrafters was that its membership tests were duplicative of rank requirements in part and tended to distract from mainline advancement. I speak from experience here having been on the staff of several camps where Firecrafters operated. Boys would spend a great part of the week working on Camper, Woodsman and Firecrafter to the exclusion of merit badges and rank work. Not this was necessarily bad, because these Scouts returned to camp year after year. But in wisdom, we have to realize that there was and is a need for something special to encourage older boys to stay and participate without detracting from the main program.

The point of this discussion is to highlight why OA elections are viable and the problems of going to a different approach where any Boy could go through some sort of testing to become a member. Having been through both types of programs as a youth member, I can tell you that I valued both, but that OA was more special because it was a selection by peers.

In my own case I wasn't elected in the first, second or third year. I was already an Eagle Scout and SPL when I was elected. It took me a while to learn how to get along and how to work in a group. Early election would not have fostered that learning. >From experience, I can say that it was not pleasant to be passed over, but it taught an important lesson, one that caused character development! :-)

Yes, others who were more popular were elected first and some fell by the wayside. This is probably inevitable. But remember we are not seeking perfection, we are instead seeking to help the Scouts grow and develop. They will make mistakes and will learn. Likewise the Scouts who are not selected can learn and develop as well.

Lets do what we can to improve the election process and not get so frustrated that we terminate a great program asset that can be used to help a Troop grow, when used properly. Keep an open mind and keep asking how to turn it into an opportunity instead of bemoaning the flaws. There is much good that come from the organization.

As for the members of OA, they do a lot of service that often is not acknowledged and which would amaze most of us. I love to attend annual OA

banquets, because they are youth organized and youth run. Most of them have put to shame similar banquets organized by adults because of their quality. This indicates that the members are continuing to develop and are gaining useful skills at leadership and organization that will last a lifetime. I've also heard story after story about Scouts who because of OA membership have overcome some serious life challenges. We had a youth

speaker talk about moving to a new area. He got in with the wrong crowd and was getting into drugs. His old advisor got word from the lad's mom and contacted an advisor in the new area. The new advisor got the fellow back with a dance team and into a different crowd through patience. The old feelings snapped back into place and the Scout made some tough but commendable decisions. He later became a lodge chief and served nationally.

Let's not be too rash in our judgments. Look for the positive - its there and in abundance. Instead of carping, make it work - give these Scouts the opportunity. Let them make mistakes and let them grow from what they have learned.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
OA-Vigil Honor 1971, Firecrafter 1971, Ojibwa Lodge Chief 1970-71,
National Order of the Arrow Conference Leadership Seminar Leader 1971,
Prof. Beaver, Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

Date: Tue, 6 Jun 1995 23:16:29 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Re: Adult Recognitions

Ron Fox asked:

What are the qualifications and purposes for awarding the Vigil to anyone?

To answer as accurately as possible, let me take some of the text from the Order of the Arrow Handbook at pp. 50-51:

"The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office to one or more of the following: their lodge, the Order of the Arrow, Scouting, or their Scout camp. Under no circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation."

". . .Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavor. It comes as a recognition of his unselfish leadership in service."

"Any member of the Order of the Arrow registered in Scouting and in good standing in a regularly chartered lodge is eligible for recommendation to the national Order of the Arrow Committee for elevation to the Vigil Honor, provided that, at the time of his recommendation, he has been a Brotherhood member for a minimum of 2 years. Because the Order of the Arrow is primarily an organization for youth, it is suggested that, in recommending candidates for the Vigil Honor, preference be given to those who became members of the Order as Scouts rather than to those who were inducted into the Order as adult volunteer or professional Scouters."

Hope this helps.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
Prof. Beaver, Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

Date: Mon, 18 Sep 1995 13:34:00 +0000
From: "Jim Miller Jr." <jmillerjr@LSFCU.ORG>

Subject: FW: More NOAC News

From: Branden Morris

To: rec.scouting

Subject: More NOAC News

Date: Monday, September 18, 1995 1:28PM

This information came from the National Director of the Order of the Arrow, Clyde Mayer, who was a staffer at the most recent Northeast Region National Leadership Seminar held this past weekend at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, Pennsylvania.

1> The dates for the 1996 NOAC are August 11-15, 1996, at University of Indiana at Bloomington (site of the first NOAC as well as the 75th Anniversary Conference).

2) There are spaces for 7500 Arrowmen; a 2 youth to 1 adult ratio will be established and enforced. Each lodge will receive an initial quota of 10 delegates plus 1.5% of your 1994 year-end membership. Additional spots will be opened up after March 15 (they think; date hasn't been firmed up yet).

3) The cost for NOAC will be a little bit higher this year -- \$200 for youth members, \$230 for adult members.

4) Registration materials will be available in council offices in late October/early November. HOWEVER -- you know the dates and location, and can figure out your quota -- start promotion and planning NOW! :) You can get your tour and delegation all planned out, and have it ready to send in the papers as soon as you get them.

Clyde also announced some other National OA news for 1996:

1) The Philmont trail crew is being continued next year. The OA trail is currently about 1 mile long; there is a little over a mile to go. Participants will do a one-week trail crew work experience, and then have a personal one-week trek. Cost is still \$100. The sessions run for two weeks from June 12 through July 31 (it's being stopped a little early because of NOAC this summer). Councils have these applications NOW!

2) The Service Project grant program will continue next year as well.

The National Committee has budgeted \$30,000 for projects, with a maximum grant of \$5,000 per lodge. Lodges that received grants this year are not eligible. Councils have these applications NOW, and the deadline is NOVEMBER 30! Projects will be chosen at the December meeting.

BTW, we had a great NLS in the NE Region -- Clyde was a guide, as were National Chief Josh Feigelson and Region Chief Dan McDonnough. Over 84 people participated in the NLS program this time.

I humbly request that someone also please post this info to Scouts-L, as I'm no longer on that list.

Thanks, and Good Scouting!

Sincerely,
Branden Morris
Section Chief, NE-1B

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* Branden C. Morris -- Northeastern University -- Boston, Mass. *
* bmorris@lynx.dac.neu.edu *

Date: Mon, 16 Oct 1995 13:45:33 EST
From: LARRY RUH <ruh@EUROPA.UMUC.EDU>
Subject: Re: Face paint

National policy on the use of face paint is quite clear:

It is prohibited above the Lodge level (Council in your example is the same as Lodge). Use of wigs or skin coloring is prohibited at all levels. Symbolic paint may be used at the local/lodge/council level (these three are equivalent) provided the Lodge has done appropriate research and coordination to ensure that it is not offensive to the Native Americans involved (the locals, if any, and the communities whose traditions are exemplified by the dress used).

<Larry Ruh -- National Ceremonial Events Staff>

* <Larry Ruh> *
 * "HARDWARE: The part of the computer that can be kicked. If you can
 *
 * only curse at it, its software." *
 * Best address: LAWRENCE_A.RUH@XMAIL.HA.OSD.MIL *
 * Army Office for Defense Medical Information Systems 202-782-1467 *
 *
 * Any opinions are my own. I have a lot of them so they tend to get *
 * confused and changed over time. *
 * STUDENTS: Send routine communications to Class Instructor Acct *ONLY*
 *

Date: Tue, 17 Oct 1995 06:17:24 -0600
 From: Ted Burton <tedburtn@cris.com>
 Subject: Re: Face paint

Face paint is 'strengst verboten' above the Lodge level, and should be discouraged at the Lodge level, unless with specific training and permission of a Native American tribe, band or clan. How would members of the Lodge feel about someone dancing around in Catholic priestly vestments with a chalice dangling around his neck, or wearing LDS 'garmants' as outer wear, or wearing a skull cap and blowing a Shofar? It is one thing to admire a tradition of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service; it is another to 'ape' the customs, traditions, and religious ceremonies of a proud and ancient People without their knowledge, approval, or even accuracy. If someone were to tell me they did not know that a dance had religious connotations, that would strike me as equally inappropriate. Would we excuse someone who did not know what a chalice was?

Now to enter into such customs with knowledge and approval is another matter altogether. Our Lodge dance team is very careful only to learn (and accurately to learn) social dances and social/utilitarian outfits, or modern intertribal competition outfits. War dances, power/medecine dances of any sort, are off limits.

Thank you for listening.

----- II <<<==<I==<<< II -----
 Alappiechsin Wiechcheu, TalksFast Wolf

Tukarica Lodge 266, Chapter Adviser, Hemene Chapter
Ore-Ida Council 106, D. Eagle Rep., Post 246 CR, Troop 246 MC

----- "a good ol' Fox too..." -----

YIS, Doc Fox who is netAddressed for, personal use, as:

tedburtn@cris.com

and for business use as: tedburtn@halcyon.com

Date: Wed, 13 Dec 1995 16:48:27 -0500

From: Robert Sheneman <rsheneman@PPPL.GOV>

Subject: The OA: Service and Secrecy

I'd like to take up some bandwidth to speak to the issues of OA service and the "secrecy" of the OA. Most of my experiences are 15 or more years old, but the principles of Scouting and the Order have not changed so I think they are still pertinent.

When I was active in my troop, district, OA chapter and lodge, we had many opportunities for service. As both SPL and Chapter Secretary at the same time I saw many many examples of how the Order could help strengthen the local Scouting program. Our activities ranged from helping new troops with camping skills, teaching Indian lore and other appropriate skills/subject areas, to the assisting the district to organize events and serving on the staff, to actually taking complete charge of our district's fall Camporee (the theme was Indian Lore). That started with a request from the district that we help by doing a few demos and maybe getting our dance team to do some campfire programs. As a chapter, and with the very strong support of our adult advisors, we went back to the district and said, "We'd be glad to help with the Camporee, but why not let us do the everything for the Camporee...and allow you busy adults to concentrate on other things." The truth is we didn't want "them" messing up a good thing. After some hemming and hawing by some of the more entrenched leaders, they agreed. What followed was one of the most hectic six months of my life at that time...I was the Camporee Chairman. Well, with lots of support from our adult leaders, a core team of about a dozen Scouts who worked incredibly well together, and much sleep deprivation, we pulled it off with overwhelming success! This was the same core group of Scouts that

regularly helped organize the district first-aid meet and Klondike Derby, helped with an international camping exchange program with Scouts from the Toronto area, and most of whom served as the core of the district and council Junior Leader Training program staff. Today, most of these guys are still my closest friends although we are geographically quite scattered.

What was the effect on other Scouts?

I know that many Scouts learned to look to OA members for role models. They knew that at just about any district event they could look for someone with the OA sash for guidance, assistance, and information. When you couldn't find an adult who knew what was going on, you could always look for an OA brother who would get you back on track. I have no doubt that each Scout's home troop benefited immensely from the growth of us all through the OA. I like to think we made some positive impact during our tenure as Scouts.

What message can I draw from this experience?

We were all very active in our home troops, schools, sports teams, religious institutions, and families. Most were Eagle Scouts or well on their way. Most held significant youth leadership positions in their home troops, schools, and other organizations. But it was the Order of the Arrow that brought us all together and gave us a very special bond of Brotherhood. It was that bond which enabled us to do extraordinary things for the good of Scouting and the community. Frankly, we developed a bit of a reputation for not being afraid to rock the boat, question the way things had always been done, and generally try anything that sounded like it would enliven the program. If it wasn't illegal, immoral or life-threatening, we were probably willing to give it a try.

I'm very distressed to hear of Pat Hamilton's experience with the "tapping out" for Ordeal (his posting of 12/12/95). It is incumbent on the local OA leaders, as well as troop leaders, to help Scouts understand what the Order is, how it compliments the Scouting program (or should compliment it), and the general principles of membership. It's important that Scouts understand that membership is an honor that is bestowed by one' fellow Scouts. I'm not afraid to tell Scouts about the Order in some general ways. You don't need to know the legend, ceremonial details, etc. to

understand what Dr. Goodman and the others had in mind when they created a "Brotherhood of Cheerful Service." Let's not get wrapped around the issue of secrecy and forget that the OA is a service organization within Scouting. We all play an important role in helping it achieve that goal.

Thanks for the chance to share.

=====
Rob Sheneman, Tiger Cub Coach
Pack 61, Flemington, NJ - Geo. Washington Council
Eagle '81, Ahoaltuwi Nihillalatschik ("One Who Loves Others")
|<<----<|----<<<<|
"Lord, help me to love, so my children will learn to be loving."
rsheneman@pppl.gov (My comments are mine alone)
=====

Message-ID: <v01540b02adea896108b4@[206.163.122.231]>
Date: Wed, 19 Jun 1996 21:16:41 -0800
From: Berk Moss <mossfam@TELEPORT.COM>
Subject: Re: OA Membership - Its Meaning

\$0.02 from the Northwest:

I agree with Michael F. Bowman, members of OA are and should be all equal. I entered the order a few years ago as an adult. In my youth scouting career, I always looked up to OA members and thought membership would be quite an honor. Because my folks moved to a different town when I was second class and I transferred to a rather inactive troop, I had a 30 year time out from scouts and was not elected to OA as a youth.

My sons were elected to OA before me and greeted me at my tap-out, ordeal, and brotherhood ceremonies. I am proud of the honor and have seen the call to "cheerful service" responded to many times by fellow members. It is impressive to need staff for an event or just grunt work done and see a young man change his answer when I tap his pocket flap. He realizes I wouldn't ask if we didn't really need his help and he realizes that he has reached his position through the service of others. I wouldn't want to stratify the membership. To me Brotherhood means a member has lived the

enjoy a great program opportunity. Well done. Bravo Zulu.

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle
Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**Date: Sun, 16 Jun 1996 09:34:42 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: CHUCK BRAMLET <chuckb@aztec.asu.edu>
Subject: Re: OA Pocket Flap**

Chuck,

Sounds like a situation that is in need of change from the additional information. This is very wrong. It smells to high heaven like the individual responsible is doing for self-profit; e.g. the miniature sash patches, which by the way are not authorized for uniform wear at all by BSA. I've got one of them for Vigil and a beaded miniature. I purchased them and kept them as a curiosity. They are about as appropriate for uniform wear as a railroad patch is for a temporary patch. Not. This jerk has forgotten that Scouting is to help boys grow in citizenship, develop character, and become physically, mentally and moral fit. It is not about some private self-aggrandizing club for his self-worship. Such an individual is unworthy to wear a Scout leader's uniform. Now ask me how I really feel about this one. ;-)))

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle
Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Sun Jun 16 10:41:16 1996
Date: Sun, 16 Jun 1996 10:41:15 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-
L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: OA Membership - Its Meaning; Was OA Pocket Patch question**

Rhett,

At the conclusion of the Ordeal ceremony, A.S. tells the heretofore candidates "I congratulate you, my brothers, on your achievement of Ordeal membership. You are now entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Order of the Arrow, . . ." (Ordeal Ceremony Pamphlet) This is not only a congratulatory message but a promise to these Scouts that they are full and equal members of the OA.

The Order of the Arrow Guide for Officers and Advisors states,

"From the inception of the Order in 1915, it was intended that all members should be of the same rank or standing. Brotherhood membership does not carry with it any degree of rank, status, or special privilege within the lodge. It is not to be thought of as a separate honor in the same sense as the Vigil Honor."

"Social and service activities are not held for Brotherhood members apart from other members of the lodge."

"The Brotherhood is an opportunity for members to evaluate their past contributions to Scouting and the lodge and to reaffirm their belief in the high purposes of the Order. The ceremony is intended as a source of inspiration, motivating its members to render even greater service to Scouting."

Reading this it seems pretty clear that an Ordeal member is a full member and need not become a Brotherhood member to become a full member. When a Lodge uses special patches, neckerchiefs, jackets, or the like that can only be worn by Brotherhood or Vigil members, whether it intends to or not, it is creating a special set of privileges in the Lodge that run counter to National policy and the purpose of the Order.

There is a natural tendency to want to recognize those who have accepted the obligation of service cheerfully and who have continued in service, along the way reaffirming this obligation through a Brotherhood ceremony. Many Lodges have done so in the past, but self-evaluation by youth officers over the years has resulted in a decision to discourage such practices and the policy in the OA Guide for Officers and Advisors.

We have to remember that the OA has as its purpose the recognition of Scouts who best live up to the Scout Oath and Law in the daily lives and

to inspire those Scouts to continue in service to their fellows. The Order promotes Scout camping, emphasizing that the good camper is not only an expert in Scoutcraft, but one who practices true Scouthood as expressed in the tradition of the daily Good Turn. The OA was created to promote the best of Scouting through cheerful service not to be a special society apart.

When I attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 1971 as chief of Ojibawa Lodge, I was fortunate to have the chance to sit down with Carroll A. Edson, one of the co-founders of the Order of the Arrow, and to be able to chat with him for a bit. Mr. Edson, he'll always be Mr. Edson to me, awed me completely with his humility and his explanations about the Order. I left the discussion feeling challenged to be of service to others for life! He really made clear the in truth one who is of service to his fellows is of his fellows greatest and needs no other reward than to know the value of being of service. As a teenager getting ready to go to college that wasn't all that easy to understand, but it took hold. Now as I look back, I can see more clearly the importance of this.

For me this means that in the OA we should be focused on service and not so much on recognitions. The sash and pocket flap are ample recognition. For those who have gone beyond to be recognized as a Vigil Honor member or with a special award like the E. Urner Goodman Award, I think that most understand that the recognition is more an obligation of future service than of special privilege as it should be.

I would encourage you and others in your situation to discourage special indicia of membership within a lodge for Brotherhood and Vigil members only. This may discourage Ordeal members more than help, making them feel they are really not yet a part, when we need each and every one of these full members to be active in promoting Scout camping and Scout spirit in their units.

In closing, let me share a poem that conveys far better than what I could what the Order of the Arrow is about. This poem was written by Major Arthur M. Tate during his second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968 far from home. In a letter to the National Office to he stated,

"While many miles from my family and Scouting, I found that the principles thatt the Order of the Arrow engenders are a constant source of comfort and strength."

"The Order of the Arrow has molded my life since I became a member in 1956. It is my desire to return a portion of the good I have received from it to others."

The Circle

**Why make the world a better place?
For what reason respect the human race?
I'm asked to trust my fellow man,
To love my home--to covet this land.**

**To what avail is all this "right?"
Why should I shine to illumine the night?
Why not selfishly spend my day,
And let others make their own way.**

**The hint of reply now suddenly blends
With billowing smoke which slowly ascends.
The fire breeds cheer as flames leap and dance,
Eyes stare at the drama as though in a trance.**

**Across the fire, my brothers stand there,
Humbly proud of the red arrow they wear;
Hands clasped together, they form the ring,
With the spirit of fellowship they start to sing.**

**Voices proclaim that where cheerful service is found,
The clan and its brothers are solemnly bound;
An Order based on brotherly love,
Evoking the blessing of the great spirit above.**

**I perceive now the weld of our handclasp so strong,
The air ceases to move at the end of our song.
In this arbor of nature, the silence is sweet,
Reverent and inspired, the clan begins to retreat.**

**Empty, the isolate council ring gleams,
Dying candles yet reflecting ideals and dreams.
Words of devotion and dedication resound:
Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, Service; my answer is found.**

In reflecting upon this poem and your own participation in the ceremonies

of the Order of the Arrow, your answer should be found. In WWW I am,

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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**Date: Sun, 16 Jun 1996 21:13:14 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-
L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Getting Elected to the Order of the Arrow**

Kevin, Rob, Mike Walton, et al.,

Mike suggested in one of his postings that he recalled that voting for membership in the OA was restricted to non-members and this changed in the late sixties. Kevin raised a question, not recalling such a change. And Rob correctly pointed out that the literature does not reflect there was such a change.

Mike was correct in recalling that there was a change in who could vote in an O-A election. That change in fact did take place in 1969, but it was a slightly different change. To understand it, a relatively short bit of history is needed.

From what I could find in The Brotherhood of Cheerful Service: A History of the Order of the Arrow, there were some differing opinions on who should vote in an election. In 1926 these differences were fairly well resolved by determining that candidates could be voted on only by those boys who had been associated with the candidates in camp during the time immediately preceding the vote. At the same time the Committee on Ideals proposed that the election be in two parts with Arrowmen compiling ratings on each candidate and only those candidates getting a minimum score established by the lodge were to be put up for election. Some Councils adopted this particular suggestion. However by 1929 at least one Region, Region 3, had declared that a Lodge does not have the privilege of veto. This left election by Troop members as the method of selection.

In 1946 elections were to be held in troops during the year and not at camp.

At the 1967 NOAC in Nebraska changes were approved that became mandatory on January 1, 1969 based on E. Urner Goodman's 50th Anniversary Challenge. Those changes were:

- 1. The rank requirement was restated to allow an electee six months after an election to obtain First Class.**
- 2. Explorers had to have six months of service.**
- 3. There was a time limit established on induction - one year.**
- 4. Unit leaders had to certify formally that each candidate met all of the requirements including Scout spirit and participation.**
- 5. The number of candidates was now to be based on the total number of unit members, not just Scout campers in the unit.**
- 6. The unit leader was to announce the results immediately after the election.**
- 7. Eagles were given special consideration and did not count against the unit's quota.**

Since 1969 there have been a few other changes and previous postings have accurately described the current election rules.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training, G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Mon, 24 Jun 1996 23:54:09 -0400 (EDT)

From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>

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cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Subject: Re: OA Meaning

Rob,

Sounds like you already have the right idea. It doesn't have to be complicated, just sit down with the five boys and congratulate them on being selected by their fellow Scouts and what an honor it really is to be recognized for their Scouting spirit, etc. Let them know they are now candidates for membership, which will be granted when they compete their

Ordeal successfully. I think it would be fair to tell them that this weekend will be very special for them and that you hope they look forward

to it. Make sure they know when, where, etc. the Ordeal is being held. Check to see that they are going, have a ride, etc. At this point you don't need to do much more. They'll pick up on the idea that you see this as important. Don't worry about explaining too much, the Ordeal weekend will take care of this. Let them experience the Ordeal without any preconceptions and then the ceremony will mean more.

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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