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CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Greetings Brothers: May I am the first to welcome you to our Lodge's new year. I am delighted to know that you have elected me as your Chief for 2005.

I have been a member for 5 years and now as your chief I have several goals I hope we can accomplish. I would like for us to have an increase in membership; I would like to see higher Brotherhood Conversion and greater attendance at our events. I see a hard journey ahead to accomplish these goals, but with your help we can make this a great year for our lodge.

Yours in Service,
David Scott
Lodge Chief

Fellow Arrowmen:

I had a great time serving this lodge in 2004, and as the outgoing chief, I know that David Scott will do an excellent job serving Immokalee Lodge in 2005. Although I am no longer a youth member, I still plan to remain active in the lodge. I will continue working with the National Lodge Leadership Development Task Force. We will continue to work to improve the content for training our lodge officers.

I would ask every lodge member to plan to attend at least one lodge event in 2005. Our lodge cannot grow and improve unless every lodge member is willing to be active in the lodge.

Yours in Service,

Jason Adams

CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2004

Our Annual Christmas and Awards Banquet (December 4, 2004) was one of the best ever with 50 members and guests attending. The turkey dinner was prepared by members Rodney and Miki Hutchinson and David Foil. "SamaClause" gave out numerous presents to several lucky attendees.

Officers were installed: David Scott, Lodge Chief; Patrick Johnson, Vice Chief-Programs and Service; Devin Hutchinson, Vice Chief-Ceremonies; Emory Greene, Historian and Trevor Fennell, Secretary.

Devin Hutchinson was awarded the Youth Arrowman of the Year for his work with the ceremonies teams; Miki Hutchinson was awarded Adult Arrowman of the year for her work as Adviser to the Ceremonies Committee.

2005 WINTER POWWOW AND FUN WEEKEND

OA SURVIVOR

The weather was terrible, but the weekend was great! If you weren't there, and very few were, you missed a great time. We managed to stay warm most of the time and had a lot of fun and laughs. Changes had to be made in the schedule and we were unable to play most of the outside games. But new inside games were "invented" to take their place. In a dramatic opening ceremony Friday night, everyone was put into one of two clans. Because of the bad weather, the clan idea didn't work out like planned, but each clan did show lots of enthusiasm while their members were playing the games.

We played individual games like seeing who could whistle after eating peanut butter and crackers and "worms"; how many bottles we could knock over with a rope; seeing how far you could get while throwing an egg into the air three times.

We did manage to get in two outside games played by the two "clans": a blind man obstacle course while being harassed by the other clan and tossing an egg around a circle. The Elephant Clan got it around eight times, while the "MOSS" clan only managed four times.

Then we "elected" a youth and an adult from each clan as the "sole" survivor. These four brothers had to do some "Fear Factor" stuff like using only their mouth to get worms out of a cream pie; find object in sacks of flour and then again using only their mouth, get two objects out of a large tub.

And the winners were: Youth, Mario McCray and Adult, Jason Adams (yes, he is an "adult" now).

After a nice dinner of chicken, green beans, scalloped potatoes and biscuits, we cleaned up the dining hall and went home.

MEMBERSHIP

If our lodge is to prosper, among other things, it must increase in membership. We do this by maintaining as many members on our rolls as possible and then having new members undergo the Ordeal. Every year since 1997 we have had an increase in membership, until 2004. The gains have been small: from 1997 to 2003 our membership went from 209 to 222, but we did have increases each year. **When we re-chartered in 2004 our membership had dropped to 178! A loss of 44 members!** How did this happen? We did not have as many new Ordeal members as in past years, 30 as compared to 45-50. But mostly it was because we didn't have enough members maintaining their membership by paying their dues. There are probably more than 200 active Scouts and Scouters who, when they put on their uniform, there is an Immokalee Lodge flap on the right pocket flap. But they are not members for the simple reason that they have not maintained their membership by paying their yearly dues.

Why should anyone maintain their membership in the Order of the Arrow? Those who come out to our events and participate in the Lodge stay active in the lodge. Yet, less than 20 percent of our membership actually participates in these events. For example, the Winter Fellowship and Powwow, January 28-29, there were only 27 members who participated. And as the story above about this event describes, everyone there had a great time. Certainly everyone cannot come to every event: there are troop events, school, etc that often conflict. But certainly there is at least one event every member can come to.

We usually have two Ordeal/Fellowships, the Powwow, One Day of Service and the Endurance Ride and attend a section conclave every year. Most of these do involve service, but when you completed the Ordeal, you were told that the Order of the Arrow is a service organization and service is what we do. But most of our service is to Camp Osborn, our Scout Camp. Every scout and scouter should be interested in helping at Camp Osborn.

Our dues aren't very expensive—\$6 in 2005, the first increase in over 10 years. The cost of attending events like the Powwow and Fellowships is relative inexpensive. They just barely pay for the cost of food and supplies for the weekend. Participating in the One Day or the Endurance Ride costs nothing. In fact, at the Endurance ride, you get to eat free and get a nice T-shirt for helping. And at these two, while you have to do some service, you can also have lots

of fun in fellowshiping with your Brothers. **If you haven't been to one of these since your own Ordeal, why don't you come on out and find out what the Order of the Arrow is all about.**

DUES FOR 2005

Our dues for 2005 were increased to \$6.00. This is the first dues increase in over 10 years. We had to do this as the National Dues have increased and were just about equal to our \$4 dues.

If you did not go through the Ordeal, convert to Brotherhood or attend the 2004 Banquet, you probably have not paid your 2005 dues. **They are now due and payable at the Scout Office.** Let's don't have another year of membership loss. Maintain your membership and come on out and participate in one of our events.

THE ORDER OF THE ARROW AT THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE

If you are 16-20 years old and maybe wanted to go to the Jamboree, but you couldn't come up with the \$1250 to go with our Council Troop or maybe didn't get signed up for the troop, you can go for only **\$250**. You can do this by joining the OA Service Corps. While "Service" might sound like a lot of work, it isn't. Yes there is some service involved, but nothing you can't do in your Class A Scout uniform. And there is lots of free time to visit the Jamboree. Just go to www.scouting.org/jamboree and down load a staff application and send it in. You won't regret it.

ENDURANCE RIDE

Lodge members are needed to help at the Endurance Ride, February 12. This is a money making project for our lodge. Money earned at this event will allow our lodge to make improvements at Camp Osborn. This spring we plan to put new metal roofs on the hooches in the staff area. They are badly in need of repair. If you have ever been to Camp Osborn or plan to go there for Summer Camp, you certainly should help us in this endeavor by helping us to earn money for this. Please come out to camp and help out. If possible, come out Friday evening to find out how you can help. If not then, Saturday morning, by 7AM.