

TORTOISE TALES

WITHLACOOCHEE

South Georgia Council
1841 Norman Drive
Valdosta, Georgia, 31601



2017 No. 1 (FEBRUARY)

WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE HOLDS ANNUAL WINTER BANQUET

Withlacoochee Arrowmen and their guests gathered at the Tifton First United Methodist Church social hall for the lodge's annual winter banquet on Saturday, January 21st, 2017 to celebrate our successes and gain inspiration for future cheerful service. The event was scheduled to coincide with the Lodge Leadership Development Course and the South Georgia Council's University of Scouting in order to further integrate Order of the Arrow programs into council events and give our membership a chance to attend more than one Scouting event at the same location. Highlights of the program included:

- ✦ Honoring our 2016 Vigil Honor Class
- ✦ Presentation of a James E. West Fellowship Award to Jonathan Thomas
- ✦ Recognizing the 2016 Lodge Officers and Lodge Executive Committee
- ✦ Presentation of the OA Founder's Award to Mr. David Vaughan and Saul Crumpton
- ✦ Installation of the 2017 Lodge Officers
- ✦ Recognizing the 2016 Lodge Ceremony Team
- ✦ Honoring Outstanding Arrowmen Award Recipients
- ✦ Presentation of a Native American painting to Noah Phillips by Mr. David Vaughan
- ✦ Inspirational remarks by Mr. Matt Hart, Council Executive and OA Supreme Chief of the Fire



Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal while they viewed a slide show of last year's events. The lodge would like to thank Arrowman Matthew Collins for helping us schedule the church facility and for operating the audio-visual equipment. We would also like to thank everyone who was involved in and contributed to the raffle and patch auction.

Spring Induction Weekend

Make plans now to join us at our Spring Induction Weekend, March 3-5, 2017 at Camp Patten in Lakeland, Georgia. We will induct new members, eligible Ordeal members will have an opportunity to finish their induction and become Brotherhood members. Vigil Honor member Mr. Walt Bryan and his super-fantastic Lodge Cook Team will prepare us delicious meals to fuel our service. We will also have opportunities for some training and chapter competitions. Plus you will be around some of the finest Scouts and Scouters in South Georgia Council who will build your character. (mention this part to your parents...). If that's not enough to inspire you to attend, we will exercise the *Witahemui* part of our Order and provide service to Camp Patten by expanding the amphitheater so please bring work gloves, pruning shears, and bow saws. We will also help prepare the camp for the South Georgia Council Merit Badge University which will be held 17-19 March. Part of the preparation will be to clean-up and assemble canopies for the merit badge classes. Register by February 27th using the event form on our website and Facebook. *An important FYI: To comply with National Camp Accreditation Program standard FA-711 and protect the safety of our Arrowmen, please park in the camp's designated parking areas (not in the pines behind the Copeland Center).* We look forward to seeing you at Camp Patten!

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Annual membership dues for Withlacoochee Lodge are \$10.00. You may pay your dues at either South Georgia Council Service Center or through the mail by sending a check to the South Georgia Council Valdosta Service Center.

Make checks payable to "South Georgia Council-OA Dues".

OA members may only wear the lodge flap of the lodge where their dues are paid.



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WHY ARE THESE ARROWMEN SO HAPPY ?

Did they just win the lottery? Did they get a new cell phone? Did they get a college acceptance letter? Or perhaps they are cheerfully following the Scout Law. Not even close. They are smiling because they graduated from the Withlacoochee Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) course held Saturday, January 21st, 2017. LLD is an intense full-day course where our new lodge officers learn how to lead an OA lodge using a national OA curriculum. Congratulations to our 2017 Withlacoochee Lodge LLD graduates!



Who: All Withlacoochee Lodge Arrowmen

What: 2017 Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering

When: April 21-23, 2017

Where: Camp Frank G. Lumpkin, 2818 Antioch Rd, LaGrange, GA

Why: Fun, more fun, fellowship, training, competitions, great food, patches

How: Register using the form on our website or Facebook by March 23rd

Other Stuff to Know: Uniform is Class A but bring Class B too for the Quest events. Bring your tent or share a tent with your buddy. Bring a can of food for the SR-9 food drive. Bring Parts A&B of your current AHMR. We will coordinate the transportation when we know how many Arrowmen are attending.



NEWS FROM SECTION SR-9

The Section SR-9 leadership has been closely following the news covering the tornado damage at Camp Osborn and have offered their support and encouragement as we restore the camp facilities and move forward to rebuild. Our lodge leadership has been working with the section leadership to develop a plan for future section events that were to be hosted by Withlacoochee Lodge. In order to allow us to focus our efforts on Camp Osborn service projects, Section SR-9 has relieved Withlacoochee Lodge from their 2018 Heartland Gathering service lodge responsibilities until the 2020 Heartland Gathering. This will give us more time and resources to assist in restoring Camp Osborn without the competing priority of preparing Camp Patten for the 2018 Heartland Gathering.

The LEC has been very aggressive planning camp improvement projects to make Camp Patten the best it can be for the Heartland Gathering and some Arrowmen may be disappointed by this change in service lodge rotation. The good news is that Withlacoochee will be the 2019 Indian Winter service lodge and will now have the opportunity to act as the service lodge for the 2020 Heartland Gathering. With the 2018 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Indiana University, the 2019 Section SR-9 Indian Winter at Camp Patten, and the 2020 Section SR-9 Heartland Gathering, the Arrowmen of Withlacoochee Lodge have exciting opportunities for years to come!



There is still plenty of time to earn the Withlacoochee Lodge Outstanding Arrowman Award before the end of our program year which is the 2017 Heartland Gathering 21-23 April, 2017. Award requirements are on the lodge website at www.withlacoocheelodge.org

LODGE CHIEF MATTHEW STOKES ESTABLISHES 2017 GOALS FOR WITHLACOOCHEE LODGE

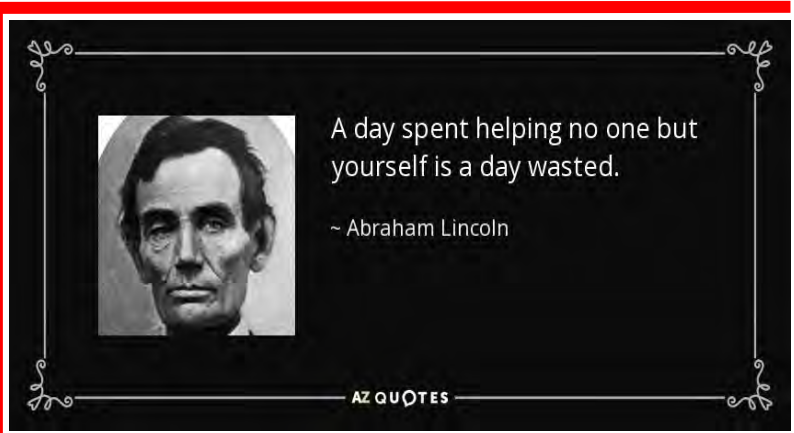
Goal 1			
Short Title: Increase Event Participation			
S	Increase membership at our four major events by at least 10%		
M	The goal will be measured using records in OALM. The specific participation goal for each event is: Winter Banquet-76, Spring Inductions-84, Summer Fellowship-57, Fall Inductions-119		
A	This goal is reasonable, using the average of the past four years for each event as the baseline.		
R	The only way the lodge can run and function is to have people active and participating. The more people we have at events the better they are and the more possibilities they hold. This increases our positive impact on Scouting in South Georgia Council.		
T	This goal shall be completed before the year 2018 and we will check our progress at each event.		
Objectives	Leader	Completion Date	
1	Check and update all member contact information in Lodge Master database	Chapter Chiefs	Constant and on-going effort by Chapter Chiefs
2	Increase participation on all lodge social media	Communications Chairman	Continually at least two weeks prior to event registration deadline
3	Rebuild the lodge/council OA troop representative program	Matthew Stokes/ Chapter Chiefs	August 2017

Goal 2			
Short Title: Prepare Camp Patten for Future SR-9 Events			
S	We will be building, repairing, and upgrading the facilities at Camp Patten.		
M	Specific objectives listed below will be measured based on the completion of the project.		
A	We will work on these projects at our lodge inductions weekends and camp service days. We can also have special lodge service days throughout the year.		
R	Indian Winter will be at Camp Patten in 2019, and Heartland Gathering will be at Camp Patten in 2020		
T	Camp improvements and enhancements will need to be completed by the end of the year.		
Objectives	Leader	Completion Date	
1	Increase amphitheater capacity to ~800 by clearing brush, procuring small bleachers, and widening/opening the area. Building amphitheater media booth	Jacob Halbrook	November 2017
2	Support enhancements to new pavilion (wiring, tables, water filling station, fans)	Matthew Stokes	TBD
3	Build regulation horseshoe pit	Jansen Bryan	November 2017
4	Refurbish the volleyball court with new sand, net, borders	Jonathan Lewis	November 2017
5	Provide new mattresses for family cabins and bunk rooms	Jacob Halbrook	November 2017
6	Ensure the 11 campsites have a table, trash can, and lodge sign	Allen Lehman	November 2017

Please take time to review these goals and consider how you can support the lodge's youth leadership in achieving success in 2017!



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GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

- You'll get a brand new OA sash to prove your perseverance.
- Contribute to the lodge's Journey to Excellence goal.
- Create an indelible memory when we gather as brothers.
- Accept responsibility for maintaining the *fire of cheerful service*.
- Learn what can happen when you apply the Admonition.
- Increase your knowledge of what it means to be a servant leader.
- Learn more about the customs and traditions of the OA.
- Fulfill a requirement to earn the Outstanding Arrowman Award.
- Inspire you on how you can provide better service to Scouting.
- Evaluate your service to your troop while an Ordeal member.
- Complete the final step of your induction into the OA.



If you have been an Ordeal member for more than ten months, you are eligible to take the next step and become a Brotherhood member. The requirements can be found in the *OA Handbook* under **THE CHALLENGES OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERSHIP**. The next opportunity to become a Brotherhood member will be at the Spring Induction Weekend, March 3-5, 2017 at Camp Patten. The Brotherhood session starts at 1:00 PM Saturday and ends at the Brotherhood Ceremony before the evening meal. If you are unable to attend the entire weekend but would still like to earn Brotherhood membership, please let us know at oaalm@withlacoocheelodge.org for special registration and a discounted event fee.

SOUTH GEORGIA COUNCIL IS AWARDED WITH 2017 ORDER OF THE ARROW SERVICE GRANT

SCOUTING'S NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

South Georgia Council was selected by the national Order of the Arrow committee to receive a \$1,000.00 service grant for Camp Patten to prepare the property for future Section SR-9 events. "This is the second OA service grant our council has received and we are very honored" said Mr. Merrill Dickinson, Lodge Adviser. "The first service grant, in 2013, was used to help fund the remodeling of the old staff pavilion at Camp Osborn into the Burrow", he added. 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 OA proudly offers the matching service grant program. Since 1999, the National OA Committee has annually selected lodges from each region to receive matching service grants.

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Camp Osborn was severely damaged by two consecutive tornados on January 2 and January 22. Damage to the camp facilities and trees is extensive and it will take many months before the camp can be used. Nearly every building was damaged or destroyed by the EF1 tornado that struck main camp. The OA Burrow has significant damage to the roof and water damage to the structure. The second tornado, which was an EF3, skirted main camp but destroyed hundreds of acres of timber in the camp's back country. Many more trees on the ridge and other buildings on main camp were lost due to powerfully destructive winds.

There are months of heavy work to be done by professionals at Camp Osborn before it is safe for Scouts.

After the timber salvage and stump removal, the power lines have to be buried, the water service restored, the roads repaired, and parking lots reconstructed. When the property is restored to a safe condition, Arrowmen will have many opportunities to provide meaningful service to rebuild our beautiful Camp Osborn. Tough times don't last. Tough people do.



The lodge is looking for the following items for Camp Patten to help us improve the facilities and prepare the property for future events:

- Picnic tables
- Metal trash cans
- Institutional mattresses for the Family Cabins and bunkrooms
- Patio ceiling fans
- Pruning Shears
- A digital map of the Camp Patten property and facilities

Please contact the lodge adviser, Mr. Merrill Dickinson, at dickinsons112@gmail.com if you can assist with these items. Thank you.