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**Date:** January 12, 2009  
**To:** Scout Executives, Section Chiefs, Section Advisers and Section Staff Advisers  
**From:** Thomas S. Bain, Region OA Chairman  
**Subject:** *Order of the Arrow – Region Update*

**Distribution Requested**

**Scout Executives:** Please share this *Region Update* with the Key 3 of your lodge.

**OA Section Key 3:** Please share this *Region Update* with the members of your Council of Chiefs.

This *Region Update* is also available online at [www.northeast.oa-bsa.org](http://www.northeast.oa-bsa.org).

**2009 Region Chief:** Ryan M. Hay was elected Northeast Region Chief for 2009 at the OA's National Planning Meeting held late last month in Westlake, TX. Ryan is an active member of Witauchsoman Lodge, Minsi Trails Council #502 in Lehigh Valley, PA. Ryan is an Eagle Scout and holds the Vigil Honor. Prior to his election Ryan has served as a Lodge Chief, Section NE-4A Vice Chief, Section NE-5B Chief and as lead editor of the Region's newsletter, *The Visionary*. He has attended the 2006 NOAC, Section Officer Seminar, NLS Train-the-Trainer and National Conservation and Leadership Summit and has served on the staff of the National Leadership Seminar. Ryan is from Bethlehem, PA, 19 years old and attends DeSales University, majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in National Security. In his "spare time", Ryan is the EMS Director at DeSales University and is a Firefighter/EMT with Nancy Run Fire Department in Bethlehem Township, PA. Congratulations Ryan! It is great to have you representing and leading the Arrowmen of the Northeast Region this year.

**Other New National Officers:** Jack O'Neill, of Section C-5C, St. Louis, MO is the new National Chief; Daniel J. Higham, of Section NE-3A, Vestal, NY is the 2009 National Vice Chief; Michael Beckman, Section C-4B, Cincinatti, OH is the Central Region Chief; Mark Norris, Section S-1B, Mobile, AL is the Southern Region Chief; and Dave Harrel, Section W-5, Fort Collins, CO is the new Western Region Chief. Congratulations guys! We're looking forward to working with you and having several of you in attendance at our events during the coming year.

**Charter Renewals:** Lodge charter renewal applications were due in the national office on December 31, 2008. Please check to see that all lodges have submitted their renewals. Doug Fullman is e-mailing frequent updates to section leadership as he receives reports on applications received in the national office.

**Patrick Rooney Completes His Term as 2008 Northeast Region Chief:** With the election of Ryan Hay, Patrick Rooney concluded his term as Northeast Region Chief. During his term in office Patrick represented the OA, the Northeast Region and the BSA at 30 events, programs and meetings in 16 different states and Puerto Rico on at least 110 different days (almost one third of the year). These events included the OA's ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> Service Project at the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia, the National Meeting of the BSA in San Diego, CA, two Northeast Region Board meetings, a Southern Region NLS in Arkansas and numerous lodge banquets, training events and section conclaves.

Importantly, Patrick oversaw the presentation of three National Leadership Seminars, a Section Officers Seminar and two National Lodge Adviser Training Seminars. He also served on the staff of the NLS Train-the Trainer program in Westlake, TX. Thanks Patrick! Your leadership and service to our Order and Scouting during the past year has been inspiring!

**Lodge Assistance Program:** At the end of 2008, the Northeast Region had met the goal of completing 100% of its Lodge Assistance Program visits to the 75 lodges in the region in the past three years. Thanks to all who have helped with this program. A new cycle of visits for 2009 to 2011 begins now, and sections should make plans soon so that they can complete visits to all lodges in their sections over the next three years. Lodges being visited and section visitation teams should remember to submit electronic copies of the Visitation Reports to Doug Fullman and me following completion of the visits. The visit is not completed until the paperwork is submitted.

**Highlights of other OA Initiatives in 2008:** At its December meeting, the National OA Committee received reports and acted on a number of other items, some of which are highlighted below:

- Awarded camperships totaling \$19,913 to 335 American Indian Scouts to attend summer camp as part of the Maury Clancy Indian Campership Fund. Lodges, councils and sections can support this program through contributions and councils can receive funds to support the participation of American Indian youth in their camps. Contact Doug Fullman or me for more information.
- In 2008 about 635,000 visitors accessed the main National OA web site, with 2 million pages served and 10 million hits recorded, not counting separate sites such as event.oa-bsa.org and jumpstart.oa-bsa.org.
- 2008 Regional training statistics: 15 NLS courses with 813 participants, including 3 courses in the NE Region with 145 youth and 61 adults participating; 8 NLATS courses with 224 participants, including 2 courses in the NE Region with 57 participants.

**ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup>:** With the theme "*Five Sites, Five Weeks, Five Thousand Arrowmen*", ArrowCorps<sup>5</sup> proved to be the largest service project conducted by the Boy Scouts of America since World War II and the largest single volunteer service project ever received by the Forest Service in its rich 103-year history. Overall, through the efforts of 3,600 participants and staff, the OA provided 275,000 volunteer service hours worth \$5.5 million to the Forest Service. Some site-specific accomplishments were:

- Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri – June 7-14
  - Completed 134 acres and cut down more than 285,000 invasive Eastern Red Cedar trees
  - Work exceeded original plans, resulting in restoration of a natural glade necessary for the sustainability of the environment as well as wildlife in the area

- Manti-LaSal National Forest, Utah – June 14-21
  - Completed approximately 13,000 acres or 33 miles of channel area affected by removing invasive Tamarisk, a non-native shrub harmful to other vegetation and wildlife
  - Involved 21 agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Emery County, Emery County School District, and City of Huntington
  - Work exceeded original project plans with less than half of the projected participants
  
- George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, Virginia – June 21-28
  - Completed 8.3 miles of new multi-use trail, repaired and improved miles of existing trail, constructed and installed four information kiosks and 86 trail signs, and surveyed and constructed seven camping platforms and adjoining trails
  - Work far exceeded original plans
  
- Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California – July 12-19
  - Removed 22 tons of illegally dumped trash, constructed or reconstructed more than 75 miles of trail on Pacific Crest Trail, Sisson-Callahan Trail, and McCloud Loop Trail, and rebuilt a lookout tower and four comfort stations
  - Project exceeded all expectations and met all goals
  - National Chief Jake Wellman, Western Region Chief Mark Hendricks, and Youth Incident Commander Alex Braden were presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award by President Bush during his visit to Redding, California
  
- Bridger-Teton National Forest, Wyoming – July 26-August 2
  - Completed more than 12 miles of multi-use trail on the Teton Pass, removed allotment fencing and 10 miles of exclusion fencing, constructed off-highway vehicle closures and wash bars, and provided campsite maintenance
  - Project went above and beyond expectations; with early completion of planned projects, a fuels reduction project consisting of accumulation and piling of residual slash from cutting operations was developed and completed on 17 acres, and the group provided support to the Forest Service firefighting effort in the New Forks area north of Pinedale

The Forest Service originally estimated the work planned for all five sites would have required at least a decade of consistent volunteer recruitment and direct management by the Forest Service to accomplish. Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA stated that

“Frankly, without the Order of the Arrow’s leadership and dedicated service, the Forest Service would not be able to perform the much needed work planned for each site. The projected wildlife and environmental benefits alone are significant. But, we also hope the Order of the Arrow’s example of leadership in service will inspire other volunteer groups to provide additional needed service to our forest lands.”

**Lodge Service Grants:** Nine lodges have been selected to receive \$40,000 in matching service grants from the National OA Committee in 2009. The grants are for lodge service projects that improve camps or service centers. The OA provides up to 50% of the money for a service project, with a \$5,000 maximum. This year, none of the recipient lodges are from the Northeast Region. If your lodge is considering applying for a grant later this year for a project to be done in 2010, please keep these points in mind:

- In making their decisions, the evaluators consider the innovative scope and design of the projects, how the projects impact a significant number of Scouts, and how the projects enhance Cub Scouting and/or Boy Scouting in the council.
- Applications must be postmarked by October 31, 2009 and be signed by the Lodge Chief, Lodge Adviser, Council President and Scout Executive.
- Applicant lodges must be a Quality Lodge for 2008 and not have received a grant in 2008 or 2009.

**OAOA, Trail Crew and Wilderness Voyage Continue to Prosper:** Lodges and sections are encouraged to actively promote the OA's High Adventure programs, Philmont Trail Crew and OA Wilderness Voyage, available to Arrowmen this summer. Past participants rave about these great Scouting adventures.

- **Philmont OA Trail Crew:** An unmatched outdoor and service experience for youth. For a bit of cheerful service, Scouts get a second week of trekking free. It is a good deal and great fun!
- **OA Wilderness Voyage:** Our US Forest Service award-winning service project in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota continues.
- **OA Ocean Adventure (OAOA):** BSA's Florida Sea Base is home base for this unique marine experience and service project. Already Sold Out for 2009!

New this year will be the Canadian Odyssey Program which will be based at the BSA's Donald Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Ontario. The OA will provide portage trail maintenance to the Quetico Provincial Park and the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources. This will be the first OA High Adventure that will require a passport! More information is at [www.adventure.oa-bsa.org/index.php?p=odyssey](http://www.adventure.oa-bsa.org/index.php?p=odyssey).

All three High Adventure programs filled up in 2007 and 2008, so it is important to register early. Visit the National OA website at [www.adventure.oa-bsa.org](http://www.adventure.oa-bsa.org) for more details. Just watching the A-V presentations on the website will get you enthused about these programs.

**Quality Lodge 2009:** If lodges are planning to achieve Quality Lodge Recognition in 2009, they will need to review the requirements now and begin making plans to qualify now. As a section leader, you can help the lodges in your section to succeed. The requirements to qualify as a National Quality Lodge were significantly revamped for 2008 and 2009 is the second year for the "new" requirements. Based on feedback from lodges around the country and to support the Order of the Arrow 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, the lodge Key Three and the Scout Executive can customize five of the fifteen requirements to meet council and lodge needs, such as aligning lodge goals with the council's strategic plan. The Quality Lodge Recognition Petition for 2009 is included in the Lodge Program Support Pak that is mailed out following receipt of a lodge's charter renewal application at the national office; it is also available at [www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/Quality-Lodge-2009.pdf](http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/Quality-Lodge-2009.pdf). If lodge Key Threes have not yet met with their Scout Executives to set their five goals for 2009, they should do so soon, so that they can agree on meaningful goals that can realistically be met by the end of the year. Don't forget that pins are available from the national OA office for purchase by lodges that earn Quality Lodge status. Lodges can purchase the pins for their lodge leaders or for all members, as the pins provide an important way to recognize this important lodge accomplishment. (Income from sale of the pins goes into the OA endowment; the income from the endowment funds many national OA programs, such as the High Adventure programs.)

**Lodge Program Support Pak:** The Lodge Program Support Pak is mailed out by the national OA office following receipt of a lodge's charter renewal paperwork. This year's version is much thinner than previous versions, as many of the forms and other materials that used to be included in the Pak are now available through the national OA website, [www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org). Most of the forms on the website can be filled out on a computer and printed. (If you have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, you cannot save the completed forms; saving the completed forms requires Acrobat Standard or Pro.)

**OA Scoutreach Mentoring:** How is your section promoting the OA Scoutreach Mentoring program? What successes are lodges having? How are those successes being shared? Detailed information is available on the OA website to explain and promote the role the OA can play in support of various Scoutreach projects. Scoutreach continues to be a national priority, as outlined in the OA's latest Strategic Plan. If your lodge or section has not yet considered the possibilities of this program, the New Year is a good time to start.

**OA Adviser Training at PTC:** From June 7 through 13, 2009, the Philmont Training Center will offer an OA Adviser Training Conference addressing myriad topics all related to the successful operation of an OA lodge. The conference will be tailored to the specific needs of those in attendance, share information from successful lodges nationwide and convey the thinking of the best and the brightest in a way that will enhance the program and operation of every lodge. Conference participants will benefit from the latest training tools, techniques, audiovisuals, discussions, idea sharing and activities. Participants will leave the conference prepared to achieve the purpose of the Order of the Arrow and to be of greater service to their councils and to the community.

Attendance is by invitation only. Council approval is required. Don't delay; make plans to attend today. Contact your OA lodge staff adviser for an application. For more information about the course itself, contact NER OA Chairman Tom Bain at [bain@acm.org](mailto:bain@acm.org).

**Josh Sain Scholarship:** The Josh Sain Memorial Youth Officer Scholarship honors the spirit and memory of Josh Sain, a former National Vice Chief of the OA. The scholarship is provided to immediate past national officers and immediate past section chiefs, based on exceptional service and scholarship achievement. The application, including the minimum criteria, is available at [www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/sain-scholarship2009.pdf](http://www.oa-bsa.org/resources/forms/sain-scholarship2009.pdf). (Applicants who meet the minimum criteria are not guaranteed a scholarship.) The deadline for receipt of a signed application at the national office is February 1, 2009, so swift action is required by those eligible.

**Area Realignment:** In 2008 the NE Region announced a realignment of councils into seven new geographic areas. As a result, the region's lodges were reorganized into twelve sections that align with the seven new areas, effective July 2008. All of the twelve sections have held initial organizational meetings and are well underway with planning for 2009, including their conclaves and their Lodge Assistance Program visits.

**Did you know?**

- The Order's national office processes about 2,500 Vigil Honor petitions and about 500 Founders Award petitions every year.
- About 3,500 2007 Quality Lodge Pins were purchased by lodges in the Northeast Region in 2008.
- Buckskin Lodge, Theodore Roosevelt Council, Massapequa, NY was the first lodge in the region to submit its rechartering information. The national office received Buckskin's paperwork on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Has your lodge rechartered?

## **2009 Calendar:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Comment/Location</u></b>
March 1	NE Region Quality Section Award	Deadline for sections to submit award form and check to the Region Chairman
March 27 – 29	National Leadership Seminar	Camp Alpine, NJ (for all Sections)
March 27 – 29	National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS)	Camp Alpine, NJ (for lodge advisers and staff advisers from all Sections)
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Comment/Location</u></b>
May 1 – 3	National Leadership Seminar	Camp Scouthaven, Freedom, NY
May 20 – 22	B.S.A. National Annual Meeting	Orlando, FL
August 1 – 6	National OA Conference	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
September 25 – 27	National Leadership Seminar	Camp Alpine, NJ (for all Sections)
September 25 – 27	National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar (NLATS)	Camp Alpine, NJ (for Lodge Advisers and Staff Advisers from all Sections)
November 6 – 8	Section Officers Seminar	Camp Alpine, NJ (Section leaders)
December 27 – 30	National Planning Meeting	Dallas Marriott Solana, Westlake, TX (for Section Chiefs and Natl. OA Cmte.)

**Visit our website:** The Northeast Region's OA website, [www.northeast.oa-bsa.org](http://www.northeast.oa-bsa.org), is your source for accurate information and resources. It is updated regularly. A new version was unveiled in late December that includes support for subscriptions, either through e-mail or through RSS.

**Change in Chairmen:** Randall Cline became chairman of the Northeast Region's Boy Scouting Committee in May 2008. He had served as the NE Region OA Chairman since January 2001 and concluded his service as Region OA Chairman in late 2008. Please join me in thanking Randy for his service as OA Chairman and wishing him well in his regional leadership new role.

**Thank you:** **As always, thank you all for your service and support to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow in the Northeast Region. Each of us contributes to Scouting and the Order in our own way, and the combined impact of our contributions will help the youth of America now and into the future.** Feel free to contact me directly should you have questions regarding the OA or its work to support Scouting in the Region. I can be reached at 165 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt. 11B, New York, NY 10016-6014, [bain@acm.org](mailto:bain@acm.org) or 212.686.6543 (evenings/weekends).

cc: Gene Stone, Director, Northeast Region  
Doug Fullman, Associate Regional Director – Program, Northeast Region  
Ryan Hay, 2009 Northeast Region OA Chief  
Patrick Rooney, 2008 Northeast Region OA Chief  
Scout Executives in the Northeast Region  
Northeast Region Professional Staff  
Clyde Mayer, National Director, Order of the Arrow  
Carey Miller, Associate National Director, Order of the Arrow  
Brad Haddock, Chairman, National OA Committee  
Tom Reddin, Vice Chairman, Region & Section Operations, National OA Committee  
Members of the National OA Committee in the Northeast Region