

The Arrow Games

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It's that time of year where we convene at our annual Spring Conclave. Thanks to last year's theme of Apocalypse Survival Training, we all survived to safely see the end of 2012 and beyond. Again, we have the opportunity to assemble as a Lodge for a weekend full of competition, excitement, and just a small amount of mortal peril.

This year's theme, the Arrow Games, requires that each chapter shall muster up its resources and send the best of its Arrowmen into the games. Each chapter, now a District competing in the games will compete to claim the much sought-after prize, the Golden Arrow, and the be the 2013 Arrow Games Victors.

This event will have training seminars in the morning ranging from Wilderness Survival, American Indian activities, Ceremonies, Inductions and other training courses. The rest of the day will consist of competitive events that will ultimately be the deciding factor of who will be crowned this weekend's Victors.

Your best bet to victory is to rally up your chapter for food, fun and fellowship! Invite your Ordeal members of 10 months to seal their membership in the Brotherhood. Tell your new Ordeal members to join in on the fun too! If you don't, you might end up the first District out of the games.

The cost of the weekend is \$24, with an optional weekend patch for \$4. The brotherhood fee is \$10. Remember, your dues must be paid to attend the weekend. To register online, check your dues status, and more, please visit www.tipisa.org.

Chiefly Speaking - Greg Raymond



Brothers,

Let me begin by welcoming all the new members of Tipisa Lodge who recently completed their ordeals. Your job now is to return in service to your unit, putting into practice everything you learned and experienced at your Ordeal. However—you are the future of the Lodge. I encourage you to become involved in your chapter and attend lodge events. Looking to the future, I challenge each of you to seal your membership in the Brotherhood in 10 months and perhaps serve as an Elangomat.

The new year is upon us! You know what that means, right? It is time to pay your dues! Lodge dues are a very affordable at just \$9 a year. Aside from being a member in good standing, you also will receive every issues of this newsletter, *The Nimat*, as well as access to everything the Order has to offer. Visit www.tipisa.org for more information. New brothers, your dues are paid until the end of 2013.

A major aspect of the Order of the Arrow is American Indian activities. Tipisa Lodge is proud to say that we will once again be hosting the Tipisa Native American Weekend (TNAW) on February 8-10, 2013, at Camp La-No-Che. We need you to help out on staff! For more info, please visit tipisa.org/tnaw or contact Michael Todd (TNAW Chairman) at TNAW@tipisa.org.

I am proud to announce that Tipisa Lodge has achieved GOLD status under the new Journey to Excellence program. This is the first year this program is in effect, and we have earned the highest possible ranking! Our achievement is not something that we could have done without each and every one of you, so thank you for your hard work. To commemorate this great accomplishment, we will be issuing a special edition gold lodge flap. Come to Spring Conclave to purchase one.

And one final celebration: in December, a team of ceremonialists from Tipisa presented a brand new Brotherhood Ceremony to the National OA Committee. To read more about this amazing achievement, see the article later in this issue of *The Nimat*. Congratulations and thank you to all involved!

In WWW,

Greg Raymond
Tipisa Lodge Chief

Adviser's Minute - Howard Gross

Brothers,

Congratulations to all the new ordeal members! Welcome! It's a great honor to be inducted into Tipisa Lodge as the Order of the Arrow begins its Centennial celebration. Some of the opportunities now open to you as an Arrowman include service and adventure at legendary places like Philmont, Northern Tier, and Florida Sea Base. Locally, you'll be a part of the amazing programs at our annual service and fellowship weekends at Camp La-No-Che including the upcoming Tipisa Native American Weekend (TNAW). We invite you to attend as a member of our staff as we share native culture with Scouts from all over Central Florida. Please see more info in this issue, and contact your Chapter Chief.

We are a service organization, but most of what we do isn't like the Ordeal. You can even talk and have all the food you want! Looking ahead, we have some big service opportunities – University of Scouting, TNAW, the All-Hands Summit, and the Scout Show. You'll get to work with your chapter and lodge brothers, and through your service make friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Order isn't just service though; it's also about fellowship and fun. Come out to a lodge weekend and see for yourself! In March, Tipisa hosts the Spring Conclave for a weekend of fellowship, games, and competition. We will also recognize outstanding members of our Order with the Vigil Honor and Founder's Award. Look for more information about Spring Conclave in this issue of *The Nimat*.

Tipisa is part of a larger group of lodges in Florida called Section S4. Once a year, we gather in a different camp and compete against other those other lodges to prove who is the best. (Hint: it's us!) On April 12-14, 2013, the Section S4 Conference will be hosted at Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation in Lake Wales. Section Conferences are a time to meet other Arrowmen and make new friends from around the section, and will be an experience you won't soon forget. Watch for registration information soon!

Finally, I want to congratulate Tipisa Lodge for attaining Gold status for Journey to Excellence (JTE). This is the first year for JTE for the lodge and we achieved the great honor. Please ask your chapter how they did in the chapter JTE rankings.

In Brotherhood,

Howard Gross
Tipisa Lodge Adviser



Welcome New Brothers

Brother,

I congratulate you on the completion of your Ordeal. It is not an easy feat but I am glad you were resolved to meet every challenge it presented you. If you are a brother reading this who has been a member of the order for some time now, I commend you for your dedication in sticking to the program. Anybody reading this can clearly see that this bright yellow piece of paper you have in your hands is called *The Nimat*. It is a newsletter put out quarterly by Tipisa lodge that highlights some of the significant activities the lodge is involved in and some of the programs we offer. For a more comprehensive list of the activities of your local chapter than just the one at the end, check your Chapter newsletter or talk to your chapter chief about programs you can get involved in.

Your chapter should have a program for anything you're interested in. Do you like the idea of making native-style clothing? Get involved in the American Indian program. If you want to convey a solemn message like you saw Friday and Saturday night of Ordeal, join the ceremonies team. If you like to work on computers or know how to program, see if you can work with your chapter's website chairman. If you love writing, you can even write for your chapter's newsletter. All of these programs and more are available through the Order of the Arrow. Consult your chapter chief to see what facets of the order are best for you.

Brent Weilhamer
Nimat Editor

Ceremonies

Are you interested in learning more about the OA? Then you should talk to your chapter chief about joining ceremonies! You get to learn about the order, make great friends, induct new friends, and of course have fun. If you are unsure who your chapter chief is you can go to tipisa.org/leadership or email me at ceremonies@tipisa.org.

At Spring Conclave, we'll be offering several ceremonies training courses, so be sure to check those out. Also, we will be hosting evaluations for the Preordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies. Our lodge ceremonial experts will be selecting our representatives to the Section Conference at the evaluations, so make sure your chapter team is still practicing!

Joshua Gwynn
Ceremonies Chairman



American Indian Activities

Have you ever envisioned yourself dancing to the beat of the drum? Have you ever dreamed of yourself dressed in American Indian garb, a feather bustle tied to your back and a horse-hair roach tied to your head? Can you picture yourself singing along with your fellow brothers in unison around the drum? All these opportunities are available to you through the Order of the Arrow. If any of these activities sound appealing, talk to your chapter chief to get involved with your chapter's American Indian program. Whether you're interested in traditional style beading, dancing, or drumming, the chapter has the resources to get you connected with somebody who can get you started and show you how it works. If you're interested in seeing some of this live in action, attend TNAW!



Above: An arrowman works on an intricate pattern on a beading loom
Top right: Kyle and Connor Gilmore in their fancy dance outfits.
Right: The Nefketch Drum Team at their weekly practice.

Brotherhood

Ordeal Members,

If you have been in our Order for ten months or more, we encourage you to complete your induction by attaining Brotherhood membership. To do this, you must attend Brotherhood counseling, offered at Lodge weekends and many of your chapter events. When you register for the event, be sure to select the “Yes, I’d like to go through Brotherhood” option on the registration form. Attaining Brotherhood is the next step in sealing your membership in the Order. In doing so, you will gain a deeper understanding as you reaffirm your commitment to the principles of our Order. As a Brotherhood member, you will be recognized as one who is dedicated to serving not only to the members of your unit but the brothers in your lodge as well.

The next opportunity to seal your membership is at the Spring Conclave in March. The cost is only \$10 for a new sash. Be prepared to learn more about the Order. Please arrive with a carved arrow (if you made one at your Ordeal, bring that one!).

If you have any questions, contact your chapter leadership or Lodge Inductions Chairman Johnny Cirillo at jonathancrll@gmail.com.

Recap: Section Seminars

Tipisa had an amazing time at Section Seminars at Camp Miles. The attendance by our Lodge was even better than expected, and Tipisa had several instructors in ceremonies, American Indian activities, online tools and resources, and much more. TNAW and High Adventure programs were promoted vigorously by Tipisa Lodge members throughout the weekend. Our Lodge Chief Greg Raymond

actively engaged the Council of Chiefs (a committee of all 8 Lodge chiefs in our Section along with the Section Officers.) There, they decided that the Section would offer scholarships for National Leadership Seminars and High Adventure. Check these out at sections-4.org and apply before the April 15th deadline. Tipisa would like to thank Osceola Lodge for hosting the event and all the instructors who gave selflessly to further the knowledge of our brothers from around the Section.

Michael Todd
Section Seminars

New Brotherhood Ceremony

The Brotherhood Ceremony is a special and important time for Arrowmen. With the approach of the Order's 100th Anniversary, the OA's senior-most leaders feel that the time is appropriate for a revised Brotherhood ceremony that speaks to the sensibilities of Arrowmen poised to lead amid the challenges of a new century. We are proud to announce that not only is a new Brotherhood Ceremony coming, but that members of Tipisa Lodge have been instrumental in making it happen.

To rewind: at the 2011 Indian Summer, Chris Tito, Johnny Cirillo, Michael Burton III, and Phil Daly conducted the revised Brotherhood Ceremony's first reading for key national OA leaders who undertook further development in earnest. These leaders tasked the new ceremony's writing group to continue to revise the text.

Then, at NOAC 2012, Alex DeLoach, Johnny, Michael, and Phil presented a refined version of the ceremony, with Josh Gwynn serving as the Nimat. While the words of the new ceremony rival the Pre-Ordeal for richness, balance, and beauty, the select members of the National Committee, who have read and seen it, have stated that the most compelling influence on them has been the moving presentations by these two teams.

Then, on December 27th, the team traveled to OA's National Planning Meeting in Dallas, Texas, and presented the new ceremony to the National Committee, Section Chiefs and Advisers, and key volunteers. The next morning, the National Committee voted to have the new ceremony demonstrated at all Section gatherings this spring. They will then vote, at the 2013 National Planning Meeting, whether to adopt the new ceremony.

In addition to the Tipisa ceremonialists mentioned above, Paul Lackie and Ryan Showman have assisted both the ceremony and the teams' development from the beginning. Kyle Gilmore, Connor Gilmore, Bryan Rogers, Michael Todd, and Edison Velez served, selflessly, as candidates for a long day of recording for the DVD. David Mott has outfitted the team with authentic Seminole attire and served as a candidate for the DVD. Terrel Miller is the videographer and editor, whose selfless and ongoing work makes the DVD possible.

We are proud to recognize all these individuals for the time and effort they have spent on this project. We look forward to the demonstration of the new ceremony at the Tipisa Spring Conclave and later at Section Conference.

In December 1969, Eddie Simmons of Tipisa Lodge became the first Elangomat. In January 1980, the Elangomat Clan System became an official program of the Order of the Arrow. Today, Tipisa Lodge continues this legacy of national leadership in Ceremonies and Inductions.

AYOCHATTA CHAPTER

We held our Ordeal on the first weekend of December and would like to congratulate the 40 new members we inducted that weekend for their accomplishment.

-Alex Field, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at First United Methodist Church in Winter Garden

HURACAN CHAPTER

Five members plus one guest worked at the Project One Day with the Seminole County Sheriff's Department Christmas Village. We did tomahawk throwing at our last chapter meeting. We are still working on training our back-up ceremonies team. Thanks to Alex DeLoach for advising our ceremonies team. New chapter ceremonies adviser and we are continuing to welcome new members.

-Jonathan Catiller, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month along with Roundtable in the Church of Later Day Saints at Lake Mary

KIKAPE CHAPTER

At our past chapter meeting, we had festively decorated donuts and that was a hit with our members. We just had our ordeal with 35 ordeal candidates and 31 staff. We would like to congratulate our new members and ceremonialist. We also enjoyed running Webelo Woods. Our ceremonialists are training for crossovers. We also had members attend and staff at La-No-Che's Winter Camp.

-Nick Young, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of every month at Cocoa Presbyterian Church

LEMHEE-OKEE CHAPTER

Lemhee-Okee Chapter just held a very successful ordeal weekend and would like to welcome 42 new brothers into our Order. We would also like to congratulate five of our members for obtaining brotherhood during our ordeal. We hope that all our new brothers join us in fellowship throughout the year and attend our service days, chapter meetings, lodge events, and section events; information can be found at <http://www.lemheeokey.org>. Our next chapter meeting will be held Thursday, February 7th, 7:00 pm at Pirate's Cove Mini Golf in the Lake Buena Vista area.

-Brandon Eiler, Chapter Chief

MATO TANKA CHAPTER

Our chapter's Ordeal was held on January 18th-20th. Our ceremonialists prepared intensively to pull off a great Ordeal. We have prepared for the meeting after the Ordeal to be fun and exciting for our new members.

-Damien Richards, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at Delaney Baptist Church along with Roundtable

MICCONOPE CHAPTER

We had a chapter meeting and a CEC. We planned our annual lock-in and promoted it. At our lock-in, we played video games and other fun activities. We had a total of 44 participants. Our chapter also earned Gold JTE. We also would like to present our chapter plan-book and lock-in patch to the museum, lodge chief and lodge staff adviser.

-Elliott Gregg, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of every month at Four Towns Community Church in Deltona

NEFKETEH CHAPTER

In the month of December we held our callout; it was very successful and we called out 80 candidates. Also the chapter had a joint ordeal with Kikape chapter this past weekend where we welcomed 59 new brothers at Camp Oklawaha. We cleared lots of trails, sanded and sealed wooden tables, pressure washed the flag pole deck, and also replaced a water heater. We held our first chapter meeting of the year on January 31, where we welcomed all the new brothers. We also had 3 people go through Brotherhood at the ordeal.

-Niral Patel, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of every month at Melbourne Church of Christ, 810 Hollywood Blvd.

TOMOKA CHAPTER

We had an amazing Christmas party during the month of December. We also had a CEC to plan for our upcoming meetings. At our next meeting, we are meeting at the Daytona Police Department station. We enjoyed our Ordeal which on January 18th-20th, 2012. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

-Ben Cavillari, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of every month at Central Baptist Church

TOSOHATCHEE CHAPTER

Our ordeal was January 11-13, 2013. We had over 80 candidates preregister. We enjoyed a great ordeal. We have 3 cub ceremonies planned. We are looking forward to helping out at TNAW. For more information check out our website at Tosohatchee.tipisa.org

-Thomas Calvert II, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at the Church of Later Day Saints of Oviedo

WAHITLAW CHAPTER

We just finished a successful Ordeal. We had a total of 32 new ordeal members, with a total of 45 that actually went through. I would like to thank Lemhee-Okee for lending us an elangomat and help for ceremonies.

-Steven Kirsch, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of every month at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Kissimmee

WEWAHITCHKA CHAPTER

We are enjoyed a good Ordeal with the help of Tosohatchee. We also would like to donate a chapter patch to the museum.

-Trent Shipton, Chapter Chief

Chapter Meeting Info: 7:00 PM on the Thursday following the first Monday of every month at Haines Creek Baptist Church

LODGE CALENDAR

Tipisa is on the web at
<http://www.tipisa.org/>

February 2013

2/8-2/10 Tipisa Native American Weekend (TNAW)
at Camp La-No-Che

March 2013

3/15-3/17 Spring Conclave at Camp La-No-Che
3/25 All-Hands Summit ant Camp La-No-Che

April 2013

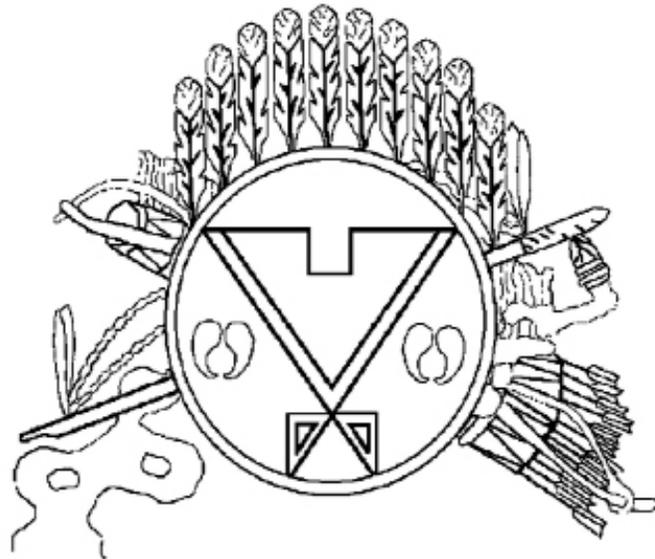
4/12-4/14 Section Conference at Flaming Arrow
Scout Reservation
4/27 Scout show at UCF Stadium

May 2013

5/17-5/19 Service Weekend at Camp La-No-Che



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