



Owaneco Lodge 313
Executive Committee Minutes
June 21, 2010

Opening: 7:37 p.m.
Minutes read to self
Minutes Approved: 9-0-0
Head count: 40 youth and adults present

Chapter Reports:

Achewon – Nothing to report.

Arcoon – Last meeting we had an ice cream social. In addition to that, we held elections. We filled all the positions besides vice chief of program.

Chief Pomperaug – Just got elected does not have a report.

Keewayden – Last meeting was the May Ordeal. Had a good turnout including 2 new members in attendance. We inducted 4 new members in total. We elected new officers for the 2010-2011 year and we also discussed Fall Fellowship Briefly.

Scatacook – We're Men! We're Men in TIGHTS! The May Ordeal went ALRIGHT!
Scatacook had a very large turnout for the May Ordeal, we are pleased with how well the weekend went. Food was good, and Nick Cloutier helped direct and make a "Robin Hood: Men In Sashes" movie during the Saturday Night Fellowship. The video can be seen on facebook and YouTube for those who haven't seen. Having a Service Chairmen also made the service during the ordeal go more smoothly.

Powahay – Powahay did not hold a chapter meeting between this ECM and the last. We did elect officers at the May Ordeal: Tyler Humphrey is VCP and Sam Oster is VCI.

Committee Reports

Finance Committees:

Trading Post – At Conclave we made \$322.22. Hundreds of dollars of Jamboree flaps sold.

Membership- We are at 600 members in the system. 67 % of last years membership. Doing well in the area of inductions of ordeal candidates. 140 remaining candidates left to be inducted. Have any questions email Mr. Clouts. 153 members at conclave. Two well attended ordeals.

Finance – Handed out the final budget from the 2009 year, Budget up to date, and the budget of operations. If anyone has any questions they can talk to rob or me.

Program Committees:

Dance Team – Conclave was awesome!!!

Inductions Committees:

Brotherhood – Brotherhood is looking forward to the new year with a new chief and looking forward to new people sealing their membership in the lodge.

Ceremonies - The team participated in evaluations and a training course examining the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, learning much about the presentation of the ceremonies. They have also been working with the Sequassen staff members who conduct the OA day Brotherhood ceremonies. The team will be cooperating with those staffers to improve all the ceremonies both at regular Ordeals and at Sequassen's OA day. The team is currently working on building a new set of regalia, which will be a major project during the summer. We look forward to having the basic components ready for the September Ordeal.

Vigil Honor – Nothing to report.

Unit election – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Tab Campaign – Still going to happen next year.

May Ordeal – It went super.

Lodge Picnic – 26 people attended. 2 different projects, one to keep deer out of certain areas. Another was digging holes for the new bb range. Got a lot of work done. Possible a different date next year so more people can attend.

New Business:

End of the Year Reports:

Lodge Vice Chief of Chapter Operations: As the lodge plan book states the job of all lodge officers is to attend all ECM's, attend all lodge events, I did both things. As for my specific goals as the Vice Chief of Chapter operation is to 1. Assist Chapters and promote interchapter activities, 2. Assist all chapters in attaining Quality Chapter. I feel as if I did the first one well, I encouraged all chapters to hold interchapter activities and most chapters did hold them. As for the second part of this sadly no chapters were able to attain the Quality Chapter award. I feel the main reason for this happening is because some of the requirements for getting the award are unrealistic. Since I am the VCCO again this year my personal goal is to change the requirements to make getting the award a more realistic possibility, and to then get the majority of the chapters to achieve the award.

Lodge Vice Chief of Inductions: I began the year with several specific goals for each committee, which I feel were critical to conducting successful inductions. For the ceremonies team, I aimed for more regular meetings and more practiced ceremonialists. I wanted to build two full teams so that we could effectively hold the Brotherhood and Ordeal ceremonies in different rings, and so that there would be a full set of alternates in the event that any

ceremonialist could not attend an Ordeal. With several very active and experienced members, the team is very close to achieving that goal. The team now meets more regularly than it ever did for some time, and all members have grown significantly in their knowledge of the ceremonies and their significance. The team has allotted several meetings to discuss the meaning of the ceremonies, and this has certainly contributed to the quality of their work. The team was also evaluated at Conclave and will be implementing its new knowledge in the upcoming Ordeals and at the Fall Fellowship. The team is also working on a new set of regalia, and has been collaborating with the Sequassen OA day Brotherhood ceremony team in achieving that goal as well as improving the ceremonies. A major goal for the Elangomat committee was to improve communication between the Elangomats and ceremonies team so that both can work together to achieve the same goals. The April Ordeal in particular was a good example of that coordination. Having discussed the expectations and roles of Elangomats before the Ordeal ceremony, they were able to fulfill their role with little confusion or difficulty. Once this becomes more of a practiced habit, Elangomats will be able to fulfill their ceremonial responsibilities very effectively. It was also very important to make the expectations of the Elangomats very clear at the start of the Ordeal. Elangomats must set a good example for the candidates, which has not always been the pattern in the past. By clarifying expectations and periodically checking up on the candidates and Elangomats, the problem can be resolved. The Brotherhood committee has sometimes had difficulty coordinating the Brotherhood hike with other events and people, particularly the afternoon dance and the Elangomats. The greatest problem was lack of communication between the ceremonies, dance, Elangomat, and Brotherhood committees. Arranging any replacements or substitutes before the hike has allowed everything to proceed without much difficulty. The Vigil Honor committee has continued to do their work well, selecting several new candidates who were inducted to the Vigil Honor at the past May Ordeal. Conducting unit elections is the most detailed and difficult stage of induction. Knowledgeable and well trained election teams are critical to the success of unit elections. Members were trained at the Lodge Leadership Development conference and at chapter meetings by more experienced Chapter Chiefs and Vice Chiefs. Many chapter officers and especially scoutmasters were unaware that elections could begin immediately after the September Ordeal. After overcoming that misconception by clear communication with scoutmasters and chapter officers, the elections were able to begin as early as November. Since we started so early, many were done by January and almost all were completed by March 1. Communication was critical throughout the process. I kept in contact with the chapter officers to ensure that they were fully equipped to conduct elections, and that they were able to use the online database. The database allowed greater communication between lodge and chapter officers so that we all knew where we stood in the election process. As long as it was updated regularly by chapter officers, it was an excellent tool. Consistent updating, however, was sometimes a problem. Officers either forgot or postponed filling in the candidate records, or there were difficulties in accessing or using the database. Ensuring that all chapter officers have access to and are familiar with the database before the elections begin would solve much of the problem. Elections were completed before the deadline. The ceremonies team has grown through their experiences and consistent practice and study of the ceremonies. The Brotherhood committee has conducted its work effectively and with very good cooperation with the ceremonies team. The Vigil Honor committee has achieved all of its goals, and the Elangomats have performed excellently at the Ordeals. Overall, the past year's inductions were a great success.

Arcoon Chapter: As I have been the chapter chief of Arcoon Chapter for the past year, I have realized many things. One of those is to increase chapter participation. This past year we as a chapter had taken part in a service project at the High Plains Community Center in Orange, CT. That was a very big plus to our chapter. Not only did it contribute to cheerful service, which is what our lodge is about, our chapter got together out of meetings and had FUN. As chapter chief, in the beginning, I used the help for our previous chapter chief, to get us started, as this whole position was new to me. While taking part in the position, I have also taken a role in the Events Committee and the Elangomat Committee. That has helped me a lot in the behind the scenes. While having these roles, they teach you more about how to plan things. Attending the ECM's help you figure out how to run your own chapter meeting in an efficient manner. As Chapter Chief, I have learned to try and force chapter participation, try to keep the members coming back to us for more fun and cheerful service. Sometimes it's a struggle, but overall, it's a great experience. The people you get to meet and become friends with is phenomenal. If I was to take this position again, I would try and do more inter- chapter activities. I think that would get EVERYONE together, rather than just the chapters separated. Also, I would try to get more participation from the staff of my chapter into the planning of the chapter. I felt like I was the only one planning things. The positions are made and held to be fulfilled, not just to have a title. In all, I think, due to how our chapter has been slow and small for the past couple years; this year has been a great step forward. Now we can just see what happens for the future chapter chief, and hope that things will only get better.

Achewon: Achewon Chapter had quite a successful year for 2009-2010. We held a few events and participated in District and Lodge events. The leadership for this year was voted on late, at the September Ordeal and the September Chapter Meeting. The chapter officers were: Chapter Chief- Jesse Morrow, Vice Chief of Inductions- John Quimby, Vice Chief of Program- James Depaola, Treasurer- Nick Baransky, and Secretary- Collin Brady. The chapter completed all of their elections on time before March. Somehow we got through all of them! At first John was struggling with the tasks he had as VCI, but eventually he got going and we successfully completed all the elections. There are a couple things for next year that might help when it comes to doing elections. First off, recruiting a number of arrowmen to be on an election team, and training all of them at a chapter meeting. This would provide the chapter with a number of people that could help run the election so we aren't constantly depending on the Chapter Chief and VCI to do a bunch on short notice! Also better communication and planning on the part of different elections and who will be running those elections would also avoid problems. On the program side of things, the chapter had one event it held and is planning for a couple more. For the March chapter meeting, we had a bowling night to celebrate finishing elections. The turnout was not very good for that, probably due to lack of communication within the chapter about the event. Achewon Chapter did a lot with program for the Sleeping Giant Spring Camporee. We had a service project of planting elm trees in Meriden as well as serving as the color guard for the weekend, and leading a rededication ceremony. What we did during the camporee was especially good because we had arrowmen in our district whom I had never met volunteer to help the OA. I am trying to do things like this that will bring more people to chapter meetings and events. The big Achewon Chapter event this year is going to be the Achewon Chapter Picnic. We are inviting all chapters to the event, hoping that it will bring a lot of people. It is a traditional event to have, and we hope that it will be full of fun and fellowship. Some improvements that I hope to make in the chapter for next year is bringing more people to chapter

meetings, because it is really hard to run a meeting with only 4 people. Also I hope to expand the communication through the chapter. We have already started to do this by making an Achewon Chapter Facebook group and using an email list.

Unit Elections: Elections were scheduled to begin and end earlier this year. All elections were done before the deadline. We elected a good amount of members this year. We did have some problems with the website. Some could not input information on a daily basis. Should have check-ups on website weekly. Should have reminders weekly after website check-ups. Should have better communication between Chairman, Lodge and Chapter VCI's.

Ceremonies: The ceremonies team had several goals at the start of the year. The first was to conduct great Pre-Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies at the National Order of the Arrow Conference over the summer. The team worked hard to prepare for NOAC ceremonies, and performed well at the conference. The team also learned much from evaluations and training cells at NOAC, expanding our understanding of the ceremonies and developing new techniques for communicating their meaning to the candidates through inflection and gestures. At the start of the year, not everyone had their parts in the ceremonies memorized. This issue was the primary concern of the team throughout the year, and now everyone is completely comfortable in their primary roles and, to some degree, the roles of others. A major goal was to expand our knowledge and understanding of the ceremonies' meaning and their role as a continual process. This was advanced at NOAC, and we spent some time at meetings discussing the ceremonies' meanings and relationships between them. Evaluation and discussion at Conclave was also very beneficial to the team's understanding of the ceremony and their presentation of their meaning. The whole team now has a far greater understanding of the ceremonies and is able to use that understanding to bring a more meaningful experience to the candidates. The team has improved dramatically in the past year in our presentation and understanding of the ceremonies. The team has grown in size, allowing far more flexibility and allowing some members to participate in only one or two of the ceremonies. In the future, each ceremonialist plans to learn his principle's role in every ceremony. In addition to allowing more flexibility at Ordeals, this will help expand each member's understanding of the whole ceremonial process. Overall, the past year has been a success, and we expect that the coming years will be better still.

Rest of the New Business:

Conclave: Had a good turnout, half of it was Owaneco members. Registered 368, had 315 in attendance. Glad it's almost done.

Summit Corps: Smaller event than arrow corps. Looking for chairmen, email Mat if you are interested.

Indian Summer: Looking for a chairmen, talk to Mat if you are interested.

Committee Chairmen: Looking for a chairmen, talk to Mat if you are interested.

Ordeal Experience Survey: Talked about how the Ordeal went from a new member's point of view, questions and suggestions were read.

September Ordeal: Achewon in charge of running it. Will be talked about at the Chapter Picnic and August meeting. Need theme, ordeal master, and menu. Will be held at Camp Pomperaug.

Dance Team: Slightly low membership. Few grass and fancy dancers too many traditional. People do not want to join because they think it is bad to join.

Cohen Lodge (Conclave) - \$250 of damage made. Need vote to see if we pay or if we are banned from using cabins. Discussed for about 10 minutes. Vote to pay for damages: 11-0-0.

Open Forum:

Motion to send \$100 worth of gifts to help out the Vill family/ for their lost. Discussed. Motion declined (no second vote.)

Lodge Chiefs Corner – Thanks to everyone for everyone making a smooth transition. If you want to be a committee chair contact me. No ECM next month. August ECM will be last Monday of the month. September ECM and on will be on the 4th Monday, except in December. Day camp is looking for 3 scouts to do day camp.

Lodge Adviser's Minute – Thanks to Dave and Mr. Gallup for doing well on conclave. Thanks to Bill Chin for his hard work over the past three years. Interested in advisors for Summit Corps. And Indian Summer. Looking to send a good size contingent to Indian Summer. Summit Corps will probably be in July, mini Philmont event. Keep promoting events. Advisors Meeting before next ECM.

Staff Advisor's Minute – National has sent out their yearly report. Conclave was awesome. Took out on how the lodge works together. Received a letter from the Section Staff advisor and the Area director on how well they liked conclave. OA day is the Tuesday starting next week. Would like to thank at the service of the arrowmen at all of our camps.

Closing – 8:49 p.m.