

Lodge Adviser's Minute...

...by Ed Sexton, Lodge Adviser



Wow... where has the time gone? It is again time for our Pow Wow, the biggest Lodge Event of the year and that means the Golden Sun Lodge's program year of 2003-2004 is quickly drawing to a close. Of course as we

think of the past year, it is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we didn't get done, so let's look back at what has happened in our Lodge since the last Pow Wow.

In September 2003, our Lodge hosted the Section C6B Conclave at Camp Cornhusker. As it turned out, this was the last C6B Conclave as the Sections were re-aligned and we ended up in the new Section C5A. That Conclave had 318 OA members in attendance making it the largest Conclave in the short history of C6B. At that Conclave, Shea Svoboda was elected Section C6B Vice-Chief. When the Section re-alignment took effect in May, Shea was elected the first Section Chief of the new C5A and another Golden Sun Lodge member, Karl Wiese, was elected as the first Section Secretary.

In November at the Fall Fellowship, we celebrated our 50th year as an Order of the Arrow Lodge. In commemoration, the Lodge issued a 50th Anniversary Lodge Flap...the first different flap in almost 25 years. We also had the opportunity to meet some old friends who had played an important part in the Lodge's past, including Art May who was the last chief of the Order of the Golden Sun and the first chief of the OA Golden Sun Lodge.

One of our goals during the last year was a growth in the Lodge's membership. Right now, our membership is at 475 and our Administrative Adviser, Bruce Abernethy, says that this is the largest our lodge has ever been. We also had one of the biggest election results this last spring that we have ever had with over 200 Scouts and Scouters being selected to join our Lodge. Hopefully that growth enjoyed this last year will continue into the coming years.

Another one of our goals was to improve the promotion of camping within our Council. We had

several members of the Lodge involved in producing a video promoting Camp Cornhusker. If you haven't seen it, it has also been posted on the Council Website. This video was extremely well done and I'm sure that as more and more units take the time to view it, it will help to promote our Council Camp.

In May of 2004 our lodge, under the direction of Adviser Lonnie Davis and Service Committee Chairman Tom Osienger, participated for the first time in the Central Region OA's One Day of Service Program. This program was developed so that all the Lodges in the Central Region would have a specific date that they would all perform some act of service to their communities outside of Scouting. The Golden Sun Lodge, in conjunction with the Nebraska Parks and Recreation Department decided to conduct a campsite clean up at Wagon Train State Recreation Area. Completion of this project will allow numerous people to enjoy the great outdoors just a little more.

With the 2004 NOAC at Ames, Iowa just around the corner, the Golden Sun Lodge is issuing the **FIRST EVER** Golden Sun Lodge Special Event Flap designed just for NOAC. That flap will be sold by NOAC Contingent members until the Pow Wow, but I'm not sure there will be any left by then. If you want to get one of these Historic Lodge flaps for your collection, you probably should be talking to one of the members who have registered to attend NOAC.

Hmmmm...I really haven't included all the things done by the Chapters or the other Events held, but it sure seems like there were a lot of "first" and "biggest" adjectives used in the preceding paragraphs...and that isn't what I really wanted to portray. What I wanted to point out is that there are a lot of people, working every day, to improve the program that our Lodge presents to Scouts, Scouters, our communities and our Council. These people have made, and will continue to make, a difference through their service. You too can make a difference in the life of a young scout...come join us as we have fun while cheerfully performing a variety of services for the scouts in our Council and enjoy the brotherhood that comes with a **JOB WELL DONE!**

Ed Sexton - Apatschin Achwangundowi
Golden Sun Lodge Adviser