

## Lodge Adviser's Minute...

By Ed Sexton, Lodge Advisor



I know that the Order of the Arrow is a fraternal service organization and our focus is supposed to be on providing service to our Units, our Camp, our Council and to Scouting in general, but I also know that it gives us a chance to do things and to grow as individuals as

well. As my tenure as the Associate Lodge Adviser and Lodge Adviser draws to a close, I can't help but look back at the opportunities that my involvement in the Golden Sun Lodge has given to me.

It has allowed me to attend and be a part of contingents to two National Order of the Arrow Conferences and four Section Conclave contingents; attend five different Section Councils of Chiefs; visit 5 different Boy Scout Camps, and attend a National Lodge Adviser Training Seminar at Philmont.

I was able to witness close to 12 different Call-out ceremonies at camp as we watched the Lodge grow from about 400 members in 2002 to almost 600 at the end of our 2004-2005 program year. The membership growth and the ensuing activities of the Lodge have allowed us to increase our presence at Camp, too. Although not all of the projects at camp have been strictly OA projects, I've watched and participated as the Lodge has been involved re-placing the seating in the Council Ring at camp, participated in the construction of at least 3 buildings at camp as well as re-roofing others. We've seen trees trimmed; program areas expanded, fencing added, trails rebuilt and the beginnings of new camp sites.

Even with all the accomplishments that we have done as a lodge, perhaps the thing that makes me the proudest though, is when a youth member of another lodge says, "I wish our lodge was more like yours" or when an Adviser from another lodge tells one of our youth members, "I like your style...why aren't you running for Chief?"

All of this has given me a great perspective when I have met and talked with adults and the youth from lodges in our section as well as from lodges across the country. I've listened to their accomplishments and issues, compared them to our lodge and learned that we really do have a great lodge. We have lots of advantages and we really do shine in comparison.

I wish that I could take credit for all the accomplishments of the Lodge, but that credit really belongs to the other Lodge Advisers preceding me, several different Lodge Chiefs, our Staff Advisers, all of the members of our Lodge Executive Committees, our Chapters, countless Advisers and parents...but mostly to the people who make up our membership. There are none finer!

As for the future...Change happens...and in this case it is going to be a great thing. With the foundations that have been laid and the visions that our Lodge Chief, new Lodge Adviser, and the incoming LEC have...I have no doubt that the Golden Sun Lodge will continue to improve and attain greater things yet! The one ingredient that remains to be seen is what your involvement will be.

This is your opportunity to see another side of scouting and be a part of something much larger than yourself. We need you to help us take the next step. It was part of the obligation you took when you joined the Order of the Arrow...but it is a great opportunity to grow as an individual and the pride you can take in providing service is limitless!

## NOAC

By Richard Lowery, Associate Lodge Adviser—Program

Are you ready to have fun? Are you ready to meet thousands of other Arrowmen? Are you ready to learn more about the Order of the Arrow? Are you ready to see some of the best shows that Scouting has to offer? If so, you need to plan on attending the 2006 NOAC (National Order of the Arrow Conference) on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

The 2006 conference will be an outstanding opportunity for youth and adults alike to see and experience what Brotherhood is all about. There are training classes, dance team competitions, team and individual sports activities, and Oh! the Shows. There will not be another NOAC until 2009, so this is your opportunity to experience the event of a lifetime.

The contingent will be gone about 10 days. They will take two days to travel to East Lansing and 2 days to return. On the return trip the contingent hopes to spend some time in the Chicago area doing some site seeing and spending some time at an amusement park.

National has not set a final cost for this year's event but the contingent is planning on a cost of about \$800 for the trip. This will include travel to and from Michigan State, meals, lodging, and activities. Those planning on attending will be asked to make a \$100 deposit to reserve their spot in the contingent.

Openings are on a first come, first serve basis, with preference going to the youth of the Lodge. Golden Sun Lodge will have a limited (*continued on page 6*)