



WAGION LODGE #6

THE T-BIRD TIMES



Volume 61, Issue 4 | "A National Honor Newsletter" | August 2024

Leadership Back to it's Roots in ... 2000?!

Upcoming Lodge Events

August 16-18

**August Fellowship
Weekend**

- October 11-13 - October Service
Weekend

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A Message from the Chief

Greetings Wagion!

I'm very excited to say that we are almost to our August Fellowship Weekend. The August Fellowship Weekend is happening on the 16-18th at Camp Conestoga, and it is going to be a blast. This weekend's theme will be Y2K, and the Activities Committee has been hard at work to make this an awesome weekend. The cost of this event is going to be \$25, and if you have not paid your yearly dues yet, the cost is an additional \$25. There will be lots of service to help out with, so be sure to bring a helpful attitude and a cheerful spirit.

The August Weekend marks the later half of our lodge year, and we've had a lot of great events so far this year. Both the April and June weekends were a blast, and in February we hosted an absolutely amazing Banquet. I encourage every lodge member to please consider joining a committee and to help our lodge function to the best of our ability.

Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to mention that this will be our first event of the year in which we will be welcoming the Ordeals that have been called out during summer camp. Whenever we, as members, took our Ordeals, it certainly made a lasting impact on all of us, so please help make this event as memorable for the new members as it was for you. This doesn't need to be much, but by having a simple conversation with an Ordeal, attending ceremonies, or even working with an Ordeal crew, we can make it a great experience for those entering our lodge. Thank you all for your help throughout the year. I am looking forward to seeing you all in August, and Rock On Wagion!

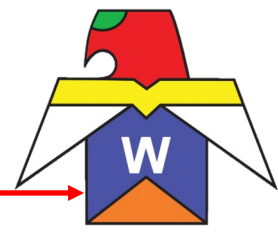
WWW,
Matthew Dalton
2024 Lodge Chief



WAGION LODGE 6
ORDER OF THE ARROW



Officer Chat



Program Vice Chief - Brian Broadwater

Greetings Wagon!

I'm happy to say that we had an extremely successful June Service Weekend. Our next major event is the August Weekend. This year our theme is Y2K, and we are very excited to celebrate the new year! There will be a lot of fun activities this weekend as well as many great service projects. I ask that you all attend and spread the word about this weekend to your troops and encourage any fellow lodge members to attend. As always, if anyone is interested in joining a committee, there are plenty of awesome committees that would love to have you. The Program Division (the best division) is always looking for members to help with and run activities, be an Elangomat, or even be a part of ceremonies. There are many great committees and ways to get involved that suit a variety of interests. If you are interested in joining a committee or helping out at the weekend, please contact any of the officers or chairmen. Thanks, and Carry on Wagon!



In Service,
Brian Broadwater

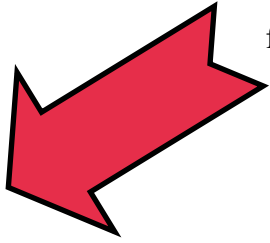
Administrative Vice Chief - Angela Henry

Hello Wagon!

Our August Fellowship Weekend is approaching fast, and we have lots of service to get done. August is our biggest weekend of the year, and we'll be welcoming in plenty of new Ordeals. So, please come out and help welcome our new Ordeals to show them what our Order is all about. If you have yet to attend a weekend, remember your health form! I'm so excited for our Y2K themed weekend and I'm looking forward to partying with you all!

In Service,
Angela Henry

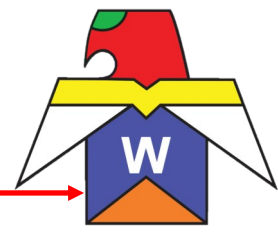
You're invited to an awesome party ... the August Weekend! Come join in with fellowship and fun guaranteed. Hope to see you there!



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Officer Chat



Secretary - Carl Schaefer

Hello Wagion!

We had a fun and festive Christmas In June Service Weekend, and now we look forward to bringing on the New Year! The Communications Division has been using this summer free-time to continue to develop the lodge website and bring more to the brand new Promotions Committee. Any and all suggestions for online and/or promotional material would be much appreciated, but what we'd really like to see is for people to get involved. If someone you know is interested in graphic design or other social media promotions, have them get involved with the Promotions Committee by reaching out to myself or the Promotions Chairman using the LEC contact information. As we work to make use of this committee, we need willing people with creative ideas to make the most of it. Looking forward to seeing everyone in August!



In Service,
Carl Schaefer

Treasurer - Alena Seder

Hey Wagion!

I hope everyone's summer is going well. We are so excited to see everyone at the August Weekend for lots of fun, food, and fellowship. While at the August Weekend, make sure to check in either Friday night or at one of the meals. Can't wait to see everyone there!

Carry on, Wagion,
Alena Seder



CONTRIBUTE TO THE T-BIRD!

You may notice that this T-Bird is a bit shorter than usual. While it still has a lot of great information in it, getting enough content to fill the pages is hard. That is why I challenge everyone who is reading this article to contribute to the T-Bird and be bold in giving back to your lodge.

A perfect example of this is our article on Unity in this edition. Be like the communications team and take a little time to make great, meaningful content that brings us together! This contribution does not go unnoticed, and the Communications Committee is hard at work looking to find some way to say thank you to all who are going out of there way to create great content for what most call our most important form of communication.

Contribute! Contribute! Contribute!





Chairman Chat



Conclave Committee - Christian Snouffer

Wagion,

Conclave this year was a great success. I would like to thank all the drivers who transported all the participants to and from Conclave as they made Conclave possible this year. Our lodge was able to win the main event, swampathon. Swampathon is an event where you have teams of two in a canoe. The person in the front has a bucket, and the one in the back has a paddle, and your goal is to sink everyone else in the water. Our lodge was successful in sinking all the other vessels in both sections. We also had plenty of fun doing other activities like AIA, the scavenger hunt for the killer, and patch trading. I would like to thank all who participated in this year's Conclave and helped make it such a great success.

Carry On,
Christian Snouffer



Membership Committee - Landyn Queer

Wow! What a great summer! Congratulations to all the new Ordeals. Please welcome them and help them on their OA journey. Membership dues can be paid at the August Weekend. Please get involved on a committee and give back to our lodge. Can't wait to see everyone for a weekend of fun and fellowship.

Yours in Scouting,
Landyn Queer

Communications Committee - Thomas Kopasko

Wagion,

On behalf of the Communications Committee, I want to thank you for your help in submitting articles and getting them in when asked. We appreciate your contribution, and you help in keeping the lodge up to date on what's to come!

We would love to see more participation in the T-Bird and hope that you will consider submitting an article for the October Weekend!

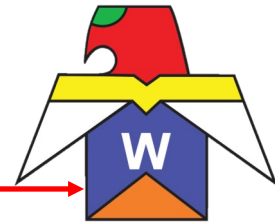
As shared in previous issues, the competition for the best content submission is still running, and I encourage you all to do your part and submit something of value to the T-Bird Times past your immediate duties.

Yours in Service,
Thomas Kopasko





Chairman Chat



Web Tech Committee - Hunter Dumnich

Greetings Wagion,

Looking forward to a great August Weekend. If you have any suggestions for the website, please reach out to me via email or find me at a weekend.

In WWW,
Hunter Dumnich



Brotherhood Committee - Jack Knopsnider

Greetings Wagion,

We had a great time at the June Weekend, we had nine members seal their membership in the lodge. We are looking forward to a great Y2K themed August Weekend! As always, if you or someone you know are eligible to take their Brotherhood, please come out to the August weekend or encourage fellow members to seal their membership.

Carry on,
Jack Knopsnider



Vigil Honor Committee - Thomas Kopasko

Wagion,

I hope to see you all at the August Weekend! We will have our Vigil Ceremony on Saturday night and would love a good turnout as it always makes the ceremony extra special!

There will be a Vigil Honor meeting Saturday afternoon to discuss the regular meeting place and flow of the Vigil procedures following the ceremony.

If you are a Vigil Honor member who would like to participate in the Vigil Breakfast, please bring \$5 to cover the cost of food.

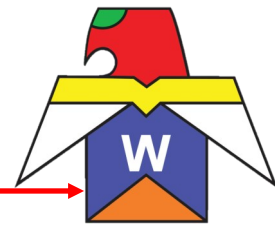
We have a great class to pull out and I know that my fellow Brothers are just as excited as I am to guide them through the night.

In Service,
Thomas Kopasko





In Honor of Jacob Lazar



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we, members of Wagon Lodge, mourn the loss of our dear fellow arrowman, Jacob Lazar.

“He who camped and served among us,
He who always stood beside us,
Now has left his earthly trail
For the trail of his Maker.”

These words, found in the Broken Arrow Ceremony script, have been used to honor countless Arrowmen who have passed from this world and risen to new life. These same words will be used to honor Jacob and are truly befitting for a young man who may be the most perfect example of what our order is founded upon: a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service.

The difference Jacob made in Scouting cannot be described. There are no words that can evoke the joy he gave to his friends, family, fellow Scouters, and anyone who crossed paths with him. No one, our communications team included, is worthy or capable of quantifying the immense impact Jacob had on the lives of many, and the sadness and emptiness that has spread over the lodge and Camp Conestoga over his passing.

As a lodge and a Scouting family, we must go forward with Jacob in our hearts, keeping his memory alive in the work we do. As we continue the routine of service to our camp, it is important to break the mundane attitude toward what we do as a lodge and as Arrowmen.

As we come up to camp in the coming years, let us offer our service up for Jacob’s soul and the souls of all our departed Arrowmen. Let us not be hypocrites, only doing service for personal benefit and attention, but rather embody Jacob’s virtuous life and serve others out of humility and charity.

I ask and challenge each of you to come to the August Weekend bearing Jacob and all those whom you love in your heart, and offer up the service you do, the suffering you experience, and every action you make as a sacrifice for these dear men and women.

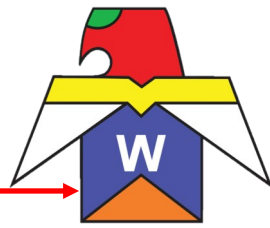
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In Honor of Jacob Lazar



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In offering up our service to Jacob and all those men and women who faithfully served others as they lived among us, we send a prayer of thanksgiving to our Creator, which is received by those watching us from above and brings us to a holier and greater life. Only then, may we embody the spirit of service that Jacob gave as an example to each of us.

Through this tragic and sudden loss, our lodge has a true opportunity to further dedicate ourselves to the Scout Oath and Law and to faithfully serve one another. Let us not take this opportunity for granted, and rather stand together and move onward and upward on a path which, shown to us by Jacob, leads us to the trail of our Maker.

The thoughts and prayers of our Scouting family are with Jacob, his family and friends, and all the souls of the faithfully departed who are now set on an eternal path, and who, by their example, have kept the fire burning which lights the pathway for our lodge to follow.

In closing, I ask that you take some time, whether it be this August Weekend or in your own community, to reflect on your life and on the example given to us by Jacob and the countless Scouters who have led us forward. Pray for them, and then go out into the world, serving others as an offering to those who have served among us.

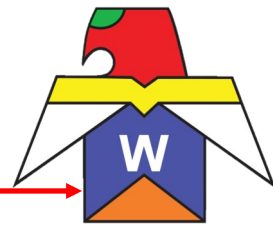
Lord God, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with all the Scouters who will serve you throughout the world. I offer them up for my dear brother, Jacob Lazar, for all the Scouts who have camped and served among us, and for all those in the silence of my heart. May you make me, a humble sinner, into an instrument of your peace, that I may grow closer to you through the ministry of the Scouting program. I ask this in your name. Amen.

Eternal Rest grant unto Jacob, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.





A Call For Unity



It feels like the world is in crisis. So much division, violence, turmoil, and lack of morality are present in the world, the United States, and even in communities as small as the council we call home. With this being said, there is one thing that we, as Scouts, can do. We all come from different walks of life, different lifestyles, different communities and families, and we all bring diverse opinions, beliefs, and feelings. And yet, as Scouts, we come together in the same organization to build up the next generation of leaders, to help young men and women to grow into mature and responsible adults, and most importantly, to serve one another to the best of our abilities. Serving one another unites us to one cause. And herein lies the solution: we can be that example of unity that the world so desperately needs! We, as Order of the Arrow members, are given a unique responsibility of representing the Scouting program and bringing the best and brightest parts of it to our communities. And, with this unique responsibility, it is more imperative today than ever before to stand united as a group of Scouts, a family of volunteers, that can stand strong even in the face of increasing division. We have a call for unity.

And so how do we answer this call? Well, this is up to interpretation, and each of us should take time to discern how we can stand united in the Scouting program and use it to be a witness of selfless unity to our communities.

Some material that touches on this call to unity can be found in Pope John XXIII's Encyclical on Truth, Unity and Peace, in a Spirit of Charity. While this encyclical does mainly touch on the roles of unity in the church, it has very similar parallels to the Scouting program, and even setting religious beliefs aside, there are some great words of wisdom that I feel we could use in such a time as this.

This encyclical calls all people to attain truth, unity and peace, which all desire, even though prejudices, great difficulties, and many obstacles stand in the way of their achievement. I believe that our Scouting program promotes these same objectives to all Scouts when following the Scout Oath and Law.

Pope John XXIII believes that "it is possible for us to attain natural truth by virtue of our intellects. But all cannot do this easily; often their efforts will result in a mixture of truth and error." As trustworthy citizens who promise to do our duty to God and country, we must come to the realization that we will never be able to attain perfect truth 100% of the time. As humans, we are imperfect and have a mixture of truth and error. It is important for us to understand this and to accept that we are not made to perfectly know the truth, but rather to accept that we must depend on other people. We must be slow to speak and quick to listen in order to truly discern and reveal the truth and to promote this truth throughout our Scouting program. As an Order, we have many checks and balances in place, along with many leaders who collaborate, which helps our lodge to function in truth as we work together and share our imperfection with one another for the betterment of the lodge as a whole.

Stemming from this, we must realize that in truth, we must work together as a lodge and a Brotherhood. An interesting point in the encyclical states the following: "God created men as brothers, not foes. He gave them the earth to be cultivated by their toil and labor. Each and every man is to enjoy the fruits of the earth and receive from it his sustenance and the necessities of life. The various nations are simply communities of men, that is, of brothers. They are to work in brotherly cooperation for the common prosperity of human society, not simply for their own particular goals."

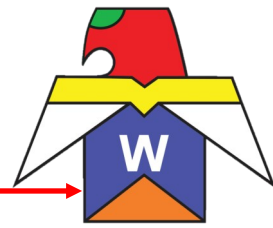
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ORDER OF THE ARROW



A Call For Unity



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This statement encompasses much of what our program sets out to do. We bring young men and women together to labor and cultivate the earth, and in doing this exact thing, we work for common prosperity. Working in cheerful service as a Brotherhood brings us unity, as we become a community of people working toward the prosperity of the Scouting program and of the world. We work toward a world centered in service and brotherly cooperation, and so unite ourselves to one another.

Even in the song of our Order, we sing “weld tightly every link”, which in turn shares this same sentiment: that we are not merely a gathering of people, but a Brotherhood bound together by service and fellowship. We, as Scouts, become united as a chain does in the fire, and are transformed into something stronger than we could ever think imaginable. Channeling this unity that we receive from one another brings us peace.

What is the most effective way to live this life of truth, unity, and peace you may ask? Well Pope John XXIII shares this answer when saying that we should all “strive to preserve in ourself and to bring forth in others, be they of high or low degree, the queen and mistress of all the virtues, charity. The salvation we hope for is to be expected primarily from a great outpouring of charity. That charity is always ready to spend itself in the interest of others.” And so here is our call to action. In order to establish this unity, we must do what we do best: Cheerfully serve!

While the world may feel divided, and while it may feel easy to lose hope, we must remember that this is only one moment in time, one season on earth, and that the best thing we can do in this time is to remove ourselves from the worldly desires that compete for our attention, and rather serve our fellow man in the hopes of a world full of truth, unity, and peace.

“Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.”

- Pope Francis



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ORDER OF THE ARROW

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Medical Forms Reminder:
Remember to bring a Copy of your Medical Form (Parts A and B only) to ALL Lodge Events!

The T-Bird Times is the official newsletter of Wagon Lodge 6 of the Westmoreland-Fayette Council. The publication of the T-Bird Times has been a tradition in the Lodge since 1964. This newsletter is made by Arrowmen, for Arrowmen. Thank you for your underlying and unconditional support of this publication, our great lodge, and our proud heritage and tradition.

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