



WAGION LODGE #6

THE T-BIRD TIMES



Volume 61, Issue 5 | "A National Honor Newsletter" | October 2024

A Final Weekend of Leadership for Yinz

Upcoming Lodge Events

- October 11-13
October Service
Weekend

Contents

- Officer Chat - pages 1-3
- Chair Chat - pages 4-6
- Activity Award - page 7
- In Memoriam - pages 8-9
- Eagles of Steel - pages 10-11
- Elections - page 12
- Vigil Class - page 13
- LEC List - pages 14-15

A Message from the Chief

Greetings Wagion!

I'm happy to announce that, as we approach our last weekend of the lodge year, we are looking forward to a great closing event. The October Weekend is the annual lodge election weekend. If you or anyone you know is interested in running for an officer position, be sure to fill out nomination forms when you get to the weekend and turn them into Jayden Mattis, our Leadership Development chair.

As we prepare to celebrate an excellent close to our 2024 lodge year this October, let's review some of our major events. In February, we held our annual Lodge Banquet and enjoyed many great activities and awards, as well as great food! During our April and June weekends, we prepared camp for an amazing summer that was full of fellowship, welcoming new candidates to our Order and, of course, gallons of ice cream. Our August Fellowship Weekend just recently occurred where we welcomed 48 new Ordeals and recognized seven recipients with the Vigil Honor.

At this next weekend, we are sure to have a great time as it is Yinzer themed. If yinz are familiar with anything at Wagion events you know that we live and breathe black and gold. At the weekend there will be many Pittsburgh-themed activities and especially the food that we know and love. Registration for this event is \$25, and if you or anyone you know have not paid their dues please do so at the weekend or the Council Service Center. The cost of dues is \$25. If you haven't registered already, please do so on our website www.wagion.org.

As the end of the lodge year approaches, I would like to thank each and every lodge member that has come to an event, participated in a service project, led an activity, helped with a unit election, or in any way supported the lodge. Everything that we do as lodge members reflects on our fellow Arrowmen, and it is because of the members of our lodge that we are such a great organization within our council. Thank you all, and Carry On Wagion!

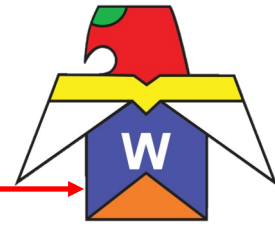
In Brotherhood,
Matthew Dalton
2024 Lodge Chief



WAGION LODGE 6
ORDER OF THE ARROW



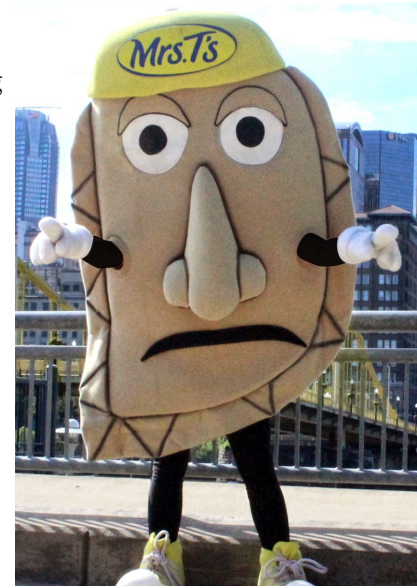
Officer Chat



Program Vice Chief - Brian Broadwater

Greetings Wagion!

We had an extremely fun and successful August Fellowship Weekend. I enjoyed seeing everyone there. Our next major event is the October Weekend. This year, our theme is Yinzer, and we are very excited to partake in Pittsburgh-themed activities! There will be a lot of fun events 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. Every October, we also have our lodge elections. This is where we vote for the officers for the coming year. It is important that all youth attend to play a role in the future of the lodge. As always, if anyone is interested in joining a committee, there are plenty of committees, peaking a variety of interests, that would love to have you. If you are interested in joining a committee or helping out at the weekend, please contact any one of the officers or chairmen. Thanks, and Carry on Wagion!



In Service,
Brian Broadwater

Administrative Vice Chief - Angela Henry

Hello Wagion!

I hope yinz are ready for our final event of the year, our October Service Weekend! This weekend is our most important event of the year, as October is when the youth of our lodge get to vote on their next class of Wagion Officers! This weekend will allow you to make new friends, give back to your camp, and vote for who you think should be running our lodge next year! Every vote counts, so be sure to come out (health forms in hand if you still need to attend a weekend!). With that being said. It has been an absolute honor to call myself your Administrative Vice Chief for the past year. I've had a blast as your AVC, and I can't wait to see who you vote for next. I also want to thank the chairmen, advisors, and committee members that I've worked with over the past year, I couldn't have done it without you all! Wagion, thank you for the memories, opportunities, and fellowship I've experienced during 2024; I truly appreciate this experience I've had. With that, I hope you're ready for a fantastic October Weekend!

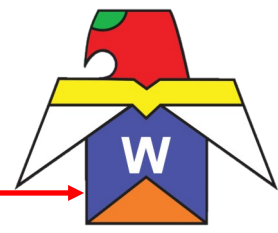
In Service,
Angela Henry



WAGION LODGE 6
ORDER OF THE ARROW



Officer Chat



Secretary - Carl Schaefer

Hello Wagon!

We had a great time filled with fun and meaningful service all around camp at the August Fellowship Weekend, but it's time to look forward once again. We've had a great lodge year so far and we're gearing up to close it off with a bang at the Yinzer-themed October Service Weekend. From service, to food, to activity, and the elections for the 2025 Officer Class — this will not be a weekend that you want to miss. Show up and show out as we close up camp for the season and determine the future of the lodge!

In Service,
Carl Schaefer



Treasurer - Alena Seder

Greetings Wagon,

I hope everyone had a fantastic lodge year. I know we had a great one full of fun and fellowship. We have our final lodge event on the way with our Yinzer themed October Weekend, so make sure to stop by the Trading Post for your Wagon Terrible Towel! Also, I would like to thank all the members of Wagon who made this year possible. I was very honored to be your Treasurer for the 2024 lodge year. I can't wait to see everyone both at the October Weekend and in 2025!

Carry on, Wagon,
Alena Seder

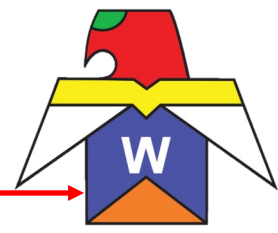


**Thank you for your
service to the lodge
2024 officers.
See yinz soon!**





Chairman Chat



Activities Committee - Jayden Mattis

Greetings Wagion,

Thank you for your enthusiasm at this year's August Fellowship Weekend. The Activities Committee hopes you enjoyed the gamut of events offered starting with light-up night on Friday. The OA Pavilion was brimming with glow in the dark spikeball, gaga ball, four square, giant pong, and nine square in the air. We built up a sweat on Saturday in the wiffle ball game and promptly cooled off at the slip n' slide. The nightcap featured a Wagion debut of escape rooms which ran until very early Sunday morning. The Activities Committee would like to thank Ken Koncerak for setting up nine square in the air and Kyle Collamer, Ben Hollerman, and Nathan Henry from Troop 205 for putting together Saturday night's escape rooms.



We look forward to seeing you in October for a Yinzer themed weekend where we'll be putting on our own Picklesburgh celebration. Come enjoy some sporting events and live music. We also would like hear from you! If you have suggestions for activities or if you would like to join our committee, then please come see me at the October Weekend.

Carry On, Wagion,
Jayden Mattis



Vigil Honor Committee - Thomas Kopasko

Wagion,

What an amazing weekend! For the first time in two years, we were able to conduct a Vigil Ceremony outside and our class of 2024 Vigil Recipients were able to sit out under the stars reflecting on their past and future service to the lodge!

The Vigil Honor Committee is delighted to welcome these seven worthy and amazing candidates into the Vigil Honor and look forward to seeing their contributions to the lodge which have only just begun.



Class of 2024 Vigil Honor Recipients

(Left to Right): Rick Broadwater, Emily Durst, Alan Methven, Logan Williams, Brian Broadwater, Noah Lazar, Steve Sulkowski

We also would like to thank all those who sat out over night with the memorial candle for Jacob Lazar. This memorial Vigil was truly moving and we can't thank you enough for giving your time in reflection in honor of our fallen brother.

Thank you all, and we look forward to seeing you in October!

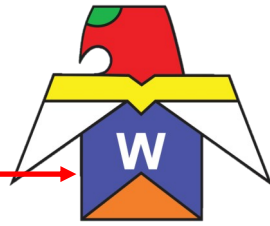
In Service,
Thomas Kopasko

**See Page 13
For Vigil Names . . .**





Chairman Chat



Conclave Committee - Christian Snouffer

Greetings Wagion,

As we come upon our October Weekend we must look ahead to next year as the new year will be upon us in no time. Next year's Conclave is shaping up to be a great one and a very important one, too. As many of you may know, Section E12 and E14 are merging next year. This merger will take place over Conclave. This means the elections at this Conclave are going to be very consequential as the CLC would be leading the new section as a whole into its next chapter of history.

Carry On, Wagion!
Christian Snouffer



Membership Committee - Landyn Queer

Wagion

What a great OA year we have had so far. Come and be apart of the last weekend of the year and support your favorite Pittsburgh sports team. It is your last chance to pay your membership dues, and don't forget it is election time, so come and vote for the officers for the new year! As always, get involved as we need your help.

Yours in Scouting,
Landyn Queer



Brotherhood Committee - Jack Knopsnider

Greetings Wagion,

We had a great time at the Y2K August Weekend, we had nine members seal their membership in the lodge. We are looking forward to a great Yinzer-themed October Weekend! Since this is the last event of the year I wanted to thank everyone for a great year full of memories and service! As always, if you or someone you know are eligible to take their Brotherhood, please come out to the October Weekend and encourage fellow members to seal their membership.

Carry On,
Jack Knopsnider



Communications Committee - Thomas Kopasko

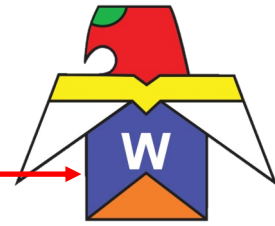
Wagion,

Thank you for your hard work this year and effort in supporting the T-Bird Times. The Communications Committee could not do it without your work toward content. Thanks again, and see yinz in October!

In Service,
Thomas Kopasko



Chairman Chat



Inductions Committee - Cody Kuehn

Hello Wagion!

The Inductions Committee had an incredible August Weekend with many Ordeals. As we prepare for an exciting October Weekend, we encourage everyone to participate in service with an Ordeal crew. There's no better way to welcome our new members than by sharing cheerful service together. The bonds formed during service weekends create lasting memories and strengthen our lodge as a whole. Whether you have stories to share, skills to teach, or simply a willingness to help, your involvement is essential to Ordeal retention and the future of our lodge.

If you're interested in helping out with inductions or would like to become an Elangomat, please reach out to me.

Thank You!
Cody Kuehn



Finance Committee - Alan Methven

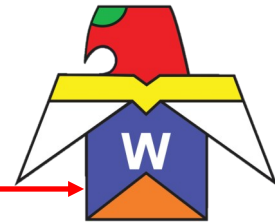
Hello from the Trading Post. We had a great August Weekend. We have tons of new items coming to the Trading Post in October. Some of those items include: Wagion rally towels, new black t-shirts, and an OA Circle flap. I am very excited to see everyone in October!

In Service
Alan Methven





Activity Award



It's not too late to finish your Wagon Lodge 2024 Activity Award! Please fulfill these requirements and send the completed form to Alena Seder before the end of the lodge year.



Wagon Lodge 2024 Activity Award



Name _____

Unit ____ Date _____

	Requirements	Initial
1.	Attend 3 of Wagon's main events, as well as attend each of the business meetings concluding the event. Main events include: The Banquet, Spring Nature Walk, and the 4 service weekends: (April, June, August, October)	Events Attended: _____ _____ _____
2.	Join and be an active member of at least one committee. Committee Joined _____	_____ Committee Chairman
3.	Attend a pre-ordeal ceremony	_____ Elangomat Chairman
4.	Participate in a service project with an Ordeal Clan.	_____ Elangomat Chairman
5.	Get a picture with each of the 5 officers and either 2023 Thunderbird award recipient.	Show the pictures when you turn in the form.
6.	Provide 20 hours of Service **Please keep track of your service hours on the back of the Page. Both what the project consists of, as well as the time spent.**	_____ Hours completed

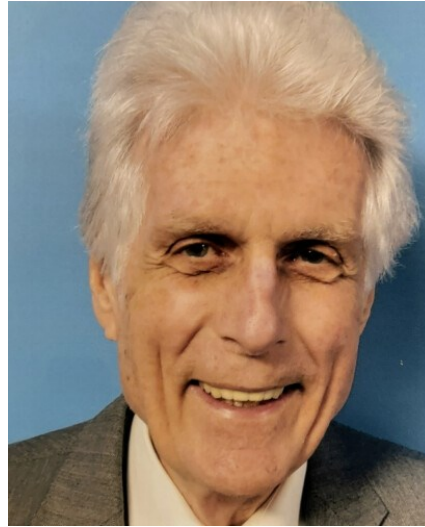
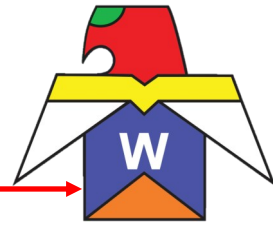
Please read and complete the following requirements before the end of the Lodge year.

No awards will be accepted after December 31st.





Rest in Peace Jerry



On behalf of the Westmoreland – Fayette Council BSA Alumni Association, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Sutherland Family on the passing of Jerry Sutherland. Jerry has been an important part of Scouting in our Council since the 1950's. He loyally and passionately served the Forbes District, Council committees and Wagion Lodge. When there was a need for leadership, Jerry always answered the call.

My first memory of Jerry was when I was a young Order of the Arrow member and he was the Lodge Lay Advisor. I would listen closely when he would speak at meetings. So knowledgeable, so wise. And the white hair – he must be important so I better pay attention! I later learned he had white hair when he was 18 years old.

The Wise Leader and Friend – that's how I remember Jerry. I truly believe he is what the founders of the Order of the Arrow referred to when they wrote "... observe and preserve the traditions of the Order of the Arrow." He opened his heart, his family and his home for all of us to learn how we need to carry the message of love for one another to Scouting and our world. Jerry will be in the hearts and memories of many Scouts and Scouters for years to come. The Scouting Program and our community are a better place because he was here. His legacy of altruism, leadership and service will remain for us to carry forward.

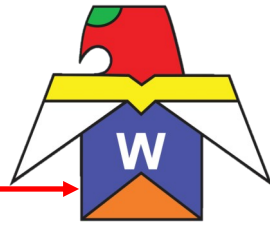
With sincere gratitude,

Dave



WAGION LODGE 6
ORDER OF THE ARROW

The Dash



This poem, read at Jerry's Funeral Service, calls us to step back and reflect on our lives. It brings us back to the time in silence we had during our Ordeal or when we kept the Vigil. I hope you are as moved as I was.

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears but said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

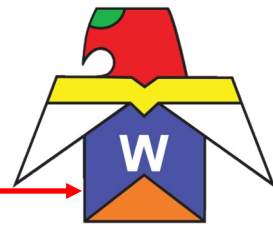
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

Linda Ellis



Eagles of Steel



Eagles of Steel: From Scout Badges to Super Bowls

As the crisp autumn air sweeps in, the landscape transforms into a mosaic of gold and crimson leaves, crackling underfoot. The scent of bonfires lingers, and the days grow shorter, ushering in a season steeped in tradition. It's a time when the roar of the crowd and the echo of a referee's whistle cut through the cool evening air, marking the return of football. Let's take a look at some of the most influential Eagle Scouts with ties to football in the steel city.

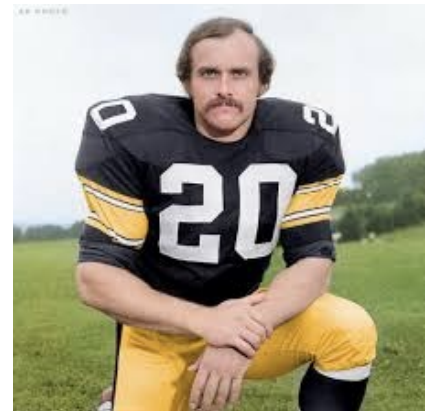
One of the most respected football players and coaches from the Burgh has to be Mike Ditka. Mike is a native of Aliquippa, PA and is an Eagle Scout from Troop 44. As a Scout, Ditka learned the values of discipline, leadership, and hard work that would propel him to success in both college and the NFL. Ditka attended the University of Pittsburgh from 1958 to 1960, where he quickly established himself as a versatile athlete, excelling as both a tight end and defensive lineman. He earned the Consensus All-American in 1960 and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1986. While in college, his ability to both block and catch passes revolutionized the tight end position, which had traditionally been used more for blocking. Ditka was selected fifth overall in the 1961 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears, where he became a dominant force as a tight end. He played 12 seasons in the NFL, spending time with the Bears, Philadelphia Eagles, and Dallas Cowboys. He played in Super Bowl VI for the Dallas Cowboys and earned NFL Rookie of the Year in 1961. In 1988, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the first tight end ever to receive that honor. After retiring as a player, Ditka embarked on a successful coaching career. He served as an assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys before being hired as head coach of the Chicago Bears in 1982, later going on to win Super Bowl XX. Ditka's coaching career was marked by his fiery personality and leadership skills, which he developed during his time in Scouting.

One of the most iconic Steelers to have Scouting ties is Rocky Bleier, a former 1000-Yard Season (1976) running back and four-time Super Bowl champion (IX, X, XIII, XIV). Bleier's story is one of resilience and determination, qualities honed through both his Scouting experience and his time serving in the U.S. Army. Bleier was an Eagle Scout from Troop 100 in Appleton, WI and learned the values of perseverance and courage early on. He played college ball for the University of Notre Dame from 1965 to 1967. Getting drafted in the 16th round of the 1968 draft, Bleier played one NFL season for the Pittsburgh Steelers before being drafted into the US Army for the Vietnam War. After being seriously injured in Vietnam, he fought his way back onto the Steelers roster, becoming a key player in their dynasty years of the 1970s. He was given the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service and sacrifice to our great nation. His experience in Scouting helped lay the foundation for his military and football careers, teaching him the value of service and hard work.



Mike Ditka

Continued on
Page 11 . . .

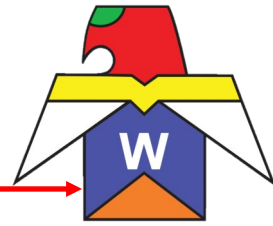


Rocky Bleier





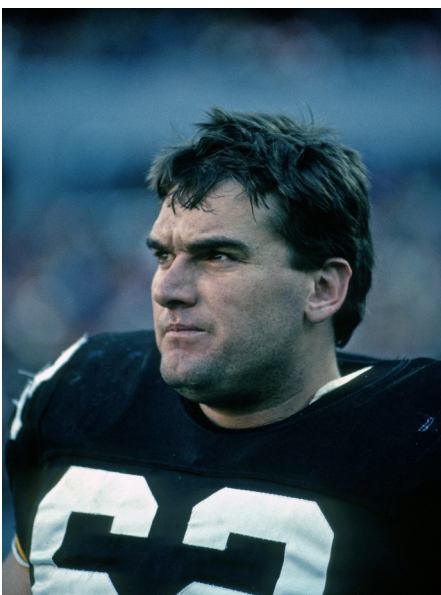
Eagles of Steel



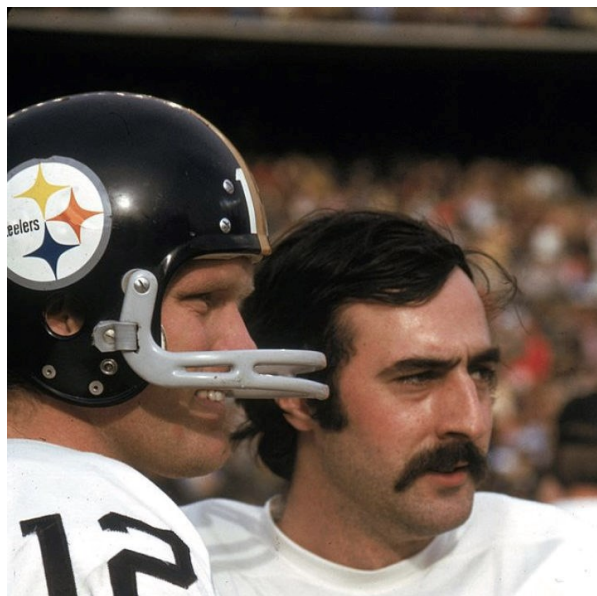
Born in Istanbul, Turkey, Tunch Ilkin moved to the United States with his family as a child, settling in Chicago, Illinois. It was in this new country that he embraced Scouting, joining the Boy Scouts and working his way to the rank of Eagle Scout. Tunch Ilkin’s football talents earned him a scholarship to Indiana State University, where he played offensive line from 1975 to 1979. During his time at Indiana State, he became known for his intelligence, strength, and technique—traits that would define his NFL career. Tunch Ilkin’s professional career with the Pittsburgh Steelers spanned 13 seasons, from 1980 to 1992, during which he became one of the most respected offensive linemen in the league. Known for his toughness, intelligence, and leadership, Ilkin was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and a vital part of the Steelers’ offensive line during the 1980s. After his professional career with the Steelers, Ilkin became a radio broadcaster for the team and an active member in the community through youth outreach and charitable work with the Light of Life Rescue Mission. Though born in Turkey and raised in Chicago, Tunch Ilkin’s legacy is forever tied to Pittsburgh. His contributions to the city, both as a football player and as a humanitarian, have left an indelible mark on the Steel City. Tunch Ilkin embodied the spirit of Scouting, living a life dedicated to service, faith, and leadership. Whether it was protecting quarterbacks on the field or serving meals to the homeless, Ilkin’s actions spoke louder than words—just as an Eagle Scout’s should.

Growing up in Butler, Pennsylvania, Terry Hanratty became involved in Scouting from a young age. Although the specific troop number isn’t widely recorded, Hanratty’s time in Scouting was instrumental in shaping the leadership qualities that would define his football career. Hanratty’s talent on the football field earned him a scholarship to play quarterback at the University of Notre Dame, where he was a standout player from 1966 to 1968. At Notre Dame, Hanratty made a name for himself as a leader and competitor, guiding the Fighting Irish to significant victories during his tenure. In 1969, Hanratty was selected by the **Pittsburgh Steelers** in the **second round** of the NFL Draft, joining a franchise on the verge of greatness. While he played a supporting role at the position of quarterback for the legendary Terry Bradshaw during much of his career, his presence was vital during the early stages of the Steelers’ dynasty. He was part of the roster for **two Super Bowl championships** (IX and X) and contributed to the Steelers’ success during the early 1970s. After his NFL career, Hanratty remained active in business and community service. His experience as an Eagle Scout and a Notre Dame graduate equipped him with the tools to succeed beyond the football field.

Jayden Provance
Communications Committee



Tunch Ilkin



Terry Bradshaw [L] and Terry Hanratty [R]

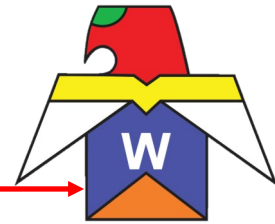


Jayden Provance inquired on trying out for the Steelers Practice Squad and is waiting to hear back.





Wagion Elections



The upcoming October Weekend is one of the utmost importance. I think Matt and his fellow officers said it best when they chose the yearly theme:

Today's Arrowmen, Tomorrow's Leaders

We will hold our annual lodge elections in just a few short weeks and need all youth to attend. This is your chance to be a part of Wagion history, to take up your responsibility, and decide who will lead us for the 2025 lodge year.

If you are interested in serving your lodge further as an officer, please fill out the form below and return it to Jayden Mattis. Thank you, and see you in October!

WAGION LODGE NO. 6

ORDER OF THE ARROW

FORM W16

OFFICER CANDIDATE RESUME

Name _____ Rank _____ Age _____

Troop No. _____ District _____ Birthdate _____

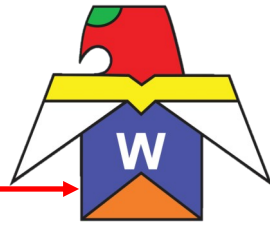
Check one: Ordeal _____ Brotherhood _____ Vigil Honor _____

Nominated for the position of:

List any activities pertinent to the office being sought, such as church, community, school, unit, district, and lodge.



Vigil Class of 2024



Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024 Vigil Honor recipients. The Vigil names and translations can be found below. Thank you!

Rick Broadwater
Wulelendamwi Nag'atamen Takachsín
Joyful Reliable Leader

Emily Durst
Wulaloewagan Tgauchsín Achgeketum
Hard-Working Kind Teacher

Alan Methven
Gischitélien Pemsit Mahallamagen
Determined Running Salesman

Logan Williams
Allogagan Wingelendam Quilutamén
Service Loving Wrestler

Brian Broadwater
Lauchsoheen Eschochwalan Wendamen
Funny Helpful Fisherman

Noah Lazar
Chotachsún Najundam Laphatton
Stone Hauling Mechanic

Steve Sulkowski
Qualcheu Klakaptonaganall Wendamen
Smoking Storytelling Fisherman



Westmoreland-Fayette Council, Inc.
Boy Scouts of America
2 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601-1393

- Contents
- Officer Chat - pages 1-3
 - Chair Chat - pages 4-6
 - Activity Award - page 7
 - In Memoriam - pages 8-9
 - Eagles of Steel - pages 10-11
 - Elections - page 12
 - Vigil Class - page 13
 - LEC List - pages 14-15

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.

THE T-BIRD TIMES WAGON LODGE #6

