

SMIL-O-GRAMS

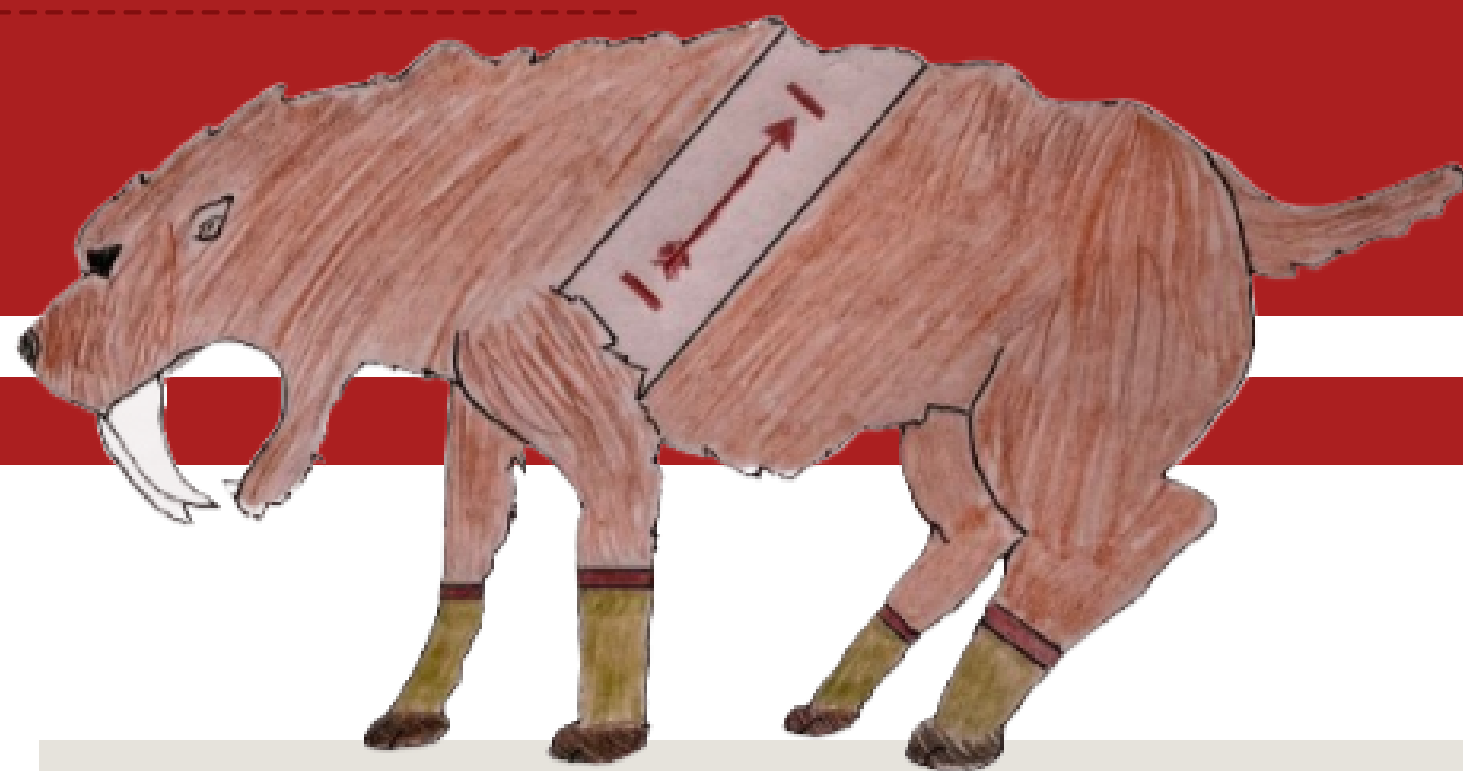
The official newsletter for the Oconomowoc Lodge.

Editor: Dylan LoPinto-Ludas

February 2026 Edition

DATES

March 27-29 @ Fort Steuben	Spring Induction
May 8-10 @ Camp Mountaineer	Spring Fellowship
May 15-17 @ Ona, WV	Section E13 Conclave
June 6 @ Camp Mountaineer	Super Summer Service Social
August 28-30 @ Camp Mountaineer	Summer Induction
September 26-27 @ Camp Mountaineer*	Vigil Weekend & Vigil Breakfast



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hello Everybody! My name is Dylan LoPinto-Ludas, and I am your current editor for the Oconomowoc Newsletter, *Smil-o-grams*. I cannot wait to bring forth a new and improved newsletter experience for our lodge.

This is my first newsletter that I am editing, so please tell me about anything that you want to be changed or added using our designated form! It would help me understand what people want to be included within the future newsletters and can improve how the newsletter continues!

Thank you all for the continued support and I hope I can bring forth an amazing newsletter this year!

TRADING POST

Want to get some cool Oconomowoc swag? Head down to the Trading Post during specific events to get some new Tees and Sweatshirts that are in stock!



Event Recap: ²⁰²⁶ Winter Social



Thank you to everyone who came to Oconomowoc's 2026 Winter Social! This event was filled with so much fun and fellowship, and it was so great to see so many faces, both new and old, participate.

Whether it was throwing paper plates into a bowl, building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows, or trying not to step on cups and tennis balls blindfolded, thank you to all of the event planners for helping to shape this weekend social to be filled with great activities!

This social's LEC meeting was also reported as incredible for everybody's outstanding participation and debate during the topics discussed. We hope to see future socials have even more incredible input and participation.

Once again, thank you to everybody for coming in to the 2026 OCONOMOWOC Winter Social, and we hope to see you again next time!

WANNA SUBMIT A QUESTION? CLICK THE SMILODON HOLDING THE Q & A BOX!

Any questions you have asked recently will show up here!



In Memoriam: Ralph Herron



Lodge Adviser from 2000 to 2019

As many of you already have heard, our lodge lost one of its most cherished and respected members over the holiday season, Ralph Herron. For decades, Ralph was the most integral member of the lodge, from helping guide his sons in leadership positions in the 1990s, to serving as the lodge adviser for many years throughout the 2000s and 2010s, Ralph was always there to lend a helping hand to youth and adults alike.

During his time as lodge adviser, Ralph guided over a dozen lodge chiefs and their LECs to help host some of the most memorable events the lodge had ever seen. From National Order of the Arrow Conferences to Conclaves, from Lodge Leadership Development weekends to some of the most fun Winter Socials, and everything in between, Ralph sacrificed countless hours of his time to ensure the lodge was successful in everything it accomplished. He contributed to thousands of hours of service through the OA, whether it be leading a volunteer day at the local Fairmont Soup Opera, helping set up countless tents every year at camp, or building some of the most recognizable structures at Camp Mountaineer, Ralph was always there for the lodge and the council to help. Beyond his tenure as Lodge Adviser, Ralph served as Council Commissioner for the Mountaineer Area Council for many years and as the Camp Commissioner at Camp Mountaineer continuing to exemplify leadership in service to others. Though there have been changes at the national level of the OA over the past few years, one thing remains true: The Order of the Arrow was built upon three main principles: Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service, and there was nobody in Menawngihella Lodge's history who embodied these 3 principles more than Ralph Herron.

There are no better words to describe the man he was than those on his Vigil Triangle:

“Wulamehelleu Achowalogen” – Gentle Hard Worker.

Thank you to Kenny Finch and Daniel Flowers for writing this article.

CHIEF'S CORNER

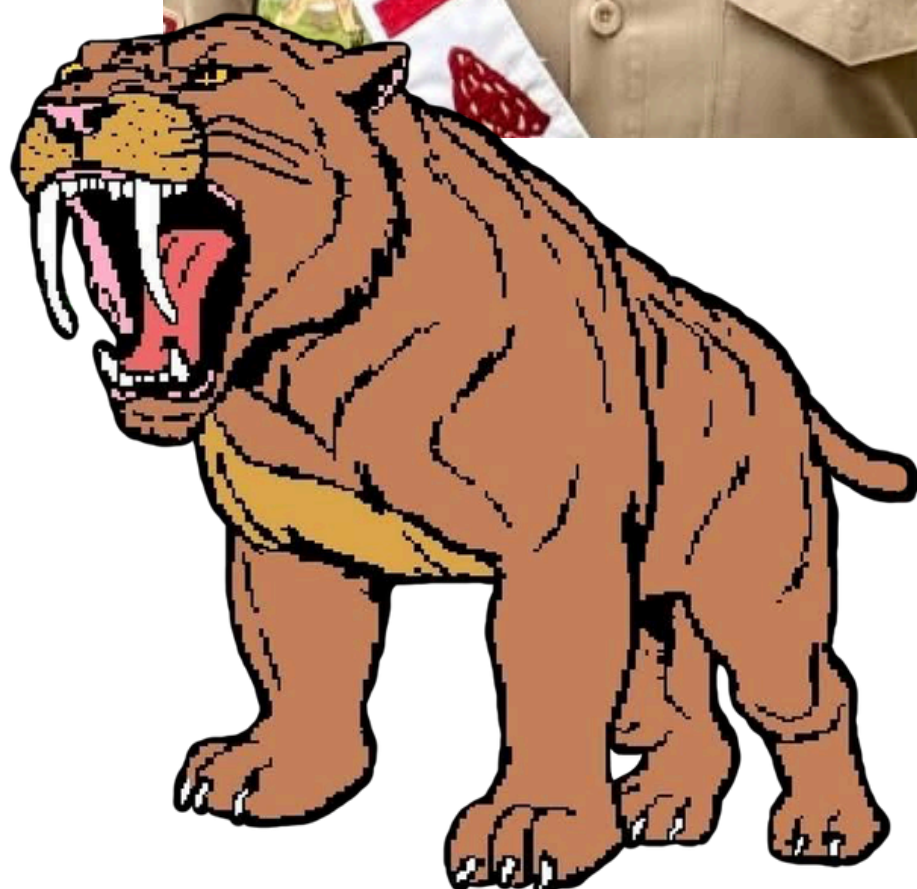
Hi!

My name is Lorelei Namsupak and I'm Oconomowoc's 2026-2027 lodge chief. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone! I know we'll accomplish a lot this year, and I'm excited to see everyone put their best foot forward!

Lorelei Namsupak
Lodge Chief



LODGE ADVISER SHORT



In 1915, at Treasure Island Scout Camp Dr. E. Urner Goodman founded the Order of the Arrow with a simple but powerful idea to recognize those Scouts who best exemplify brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service, and to challenge them to live those ideals more fully in their units and communities.

This year marks 111 years since that moment. Over a century later, those same principles continue to guide us not because they are easy, but because they are enduring. Goodman did not create the Order to be an honor worn on a sash alone. He created it to be a call to action. The OA was built on the belief that leadership is service, that true influence is earned through example, and that the best leaders are those willing to step forward when others step back.

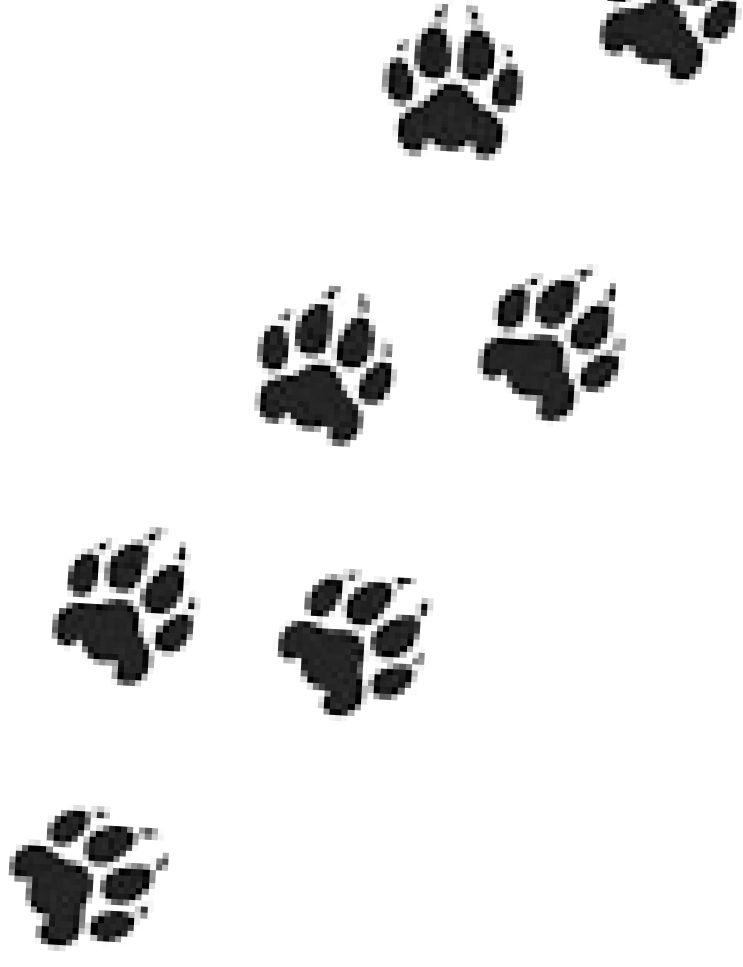
As I write my first message to you as Lodge Advisor, I ask each of us, youth and adults alike, to pause and reflect on what those founding principles mean in our lodge today. How are we living brotherhood within our lodge and units? How are we choosing cheerfulness when service is hard or inconvenient? How are we making a real impact through service, not just checking a box?

I want to especially challenge the youth of our lodge this year. Whether you currently hold an elected or appointed position or have never worn a patch or title at all, I encourage you to stretch yourself. Say yes to a new leadership role. Volunteer for a committee. Help lead an event. Mentor a younger Arrowman. Leadership in the OA is not reserved for a select few. It is something each of you can grow into through action and commitment.

The strength of our lodge doesn't rest on a single officer team or adviser corps. It rests on Arrowmen who choose, again and again, to answer Goodman's call to serve. My hope for this year is that we honor our past not just by remembering it, but by living it together.

I am grateful to serve alongside you, and I am excited to see how each of you will help write our lodge's story.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Tony Antonini
Lodge Adviser



Did you read
the
newsletter?
Let us know
by filling
out the
Google form!

By filling out the
Google form, you're
helping us know what
types of communication
work best with members
of the lodge!

Thank you!

