

2008 State of the Chapter

Howard J. Limburg
Lakota Chapter Chief
19 December 2008

Greetings brothers and guests and welcome again to our annual recognition dinner.

I am your 2008 Lakota Chapter Chief, Howard Limburg. I am proud to stand before you all and say that this was an extremely successful year in Lakota Chapter history. I would like to take this time to thank those who made this year happen.

We are combining our regular December meetings into this dinner. Tonight you will hear from the Officers and learn what they have accomplished. Each month we have a regular Chapter Meeting – this is the twelfth we have had this year. We have also had monthly meetings of our Chapter Executive Committee, or CEC, as well as participating in the Pacifica District Committee meetings and the ten Lodge Executive Committee meetings.

Early this year our Lodge hosted the annual Sectional Conclave which is a gathering of several Lodges. Many Lakota Arrowmen worked hard to make the Conclave a success including John Broadhead who was a Conclave Vice Chief and Brian Wilder who was the Section Adviser. The Conclave was at Forest Lawn Scout Reservation near Lake Arrowhead and we were hit with snow on Saturday night. Those of us who stayed the night woke up to a beautiful sunny sky over a snowy landscape. I wasn't able to attend Conclave but apparently the youth of Lakota attempted to assassinate our Adviser by snowball when everyone gathered for a picture.

Another tremendous opportunity we were sure to take advantage of was the OA's National Leadership Seminar, or NLS. This national event is put on by each of the four regions a few times a year. In October a course was offered at Lost Valley Scout Reservation in Orange County. Of the sixteen Arrowmen our Lodge sent, ten were from Lakota Chapter. They are: Matt Affa, David Dye, Soren Fulton, Thomas Lidikay, Brian Major, Garrett Maldoon, Morgan McNally, Andy Perrine, Tim Affa, & Will Althoff attended. Over the weekend, they participated in an extremely rigorous training – the best our national leadership has for Arrowmen. At the end of the weekend each participant leaves with a pin and a 'ticket' with three goals through which the Arrowman will put the class into practice. When they complete their tickets they will receive the patch to go with the pin.

This year we held two great Chapter Fellowship Days. The first was at the Ice Chalet in Palos Verdes where we played broom hockey and had hot dogs, chips, and candy for dinner. This was a great event and one of the best things about it was that everyone fell down at least once – and some people several times. We had helmets but no pads so most of us were sore the next few days. Our broom hockey game was tough and competitive but in the end wound up too close to call.

Our second Chapter Fellowship Day was indoor rock climbing at Bay City Rocks where the Chapter climbed the various routes for a couple of hours and had pizza, soda, and candy for dinner. The rock climbing event was planned and led by David Dye. Everyone in attendance had a great time. The best part was when our Chapter Adviser, Will Althoff, fell away from the wall and in doing so pulled the staff belayer several feet up into the air. This provided a great laugh for those who witnessed it and won't soon be forgotten.

Each year the six Chapters in Siwinis Lodge gather together at Forest Lawn Scout Reservation for Potlatch - essentially an OA Camporee. At the 2008 Potlatch there were more Lakota Arrowmen than from any other Chapter and almost all of us were in our great youth-designed black tee shirts. Lakota Arrowmen participated fully in the classes, sports, and competitions. On Saturday night we watched as four Lakota Arrowmen were called out for the Vigil Honor.

The Order of the Arrow is a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. The Arrowmen of Lakota Chapter work hard to bring that to life. This year we have provided significant support to Los Angeles Council, Siwinis Lodge, Pacifica District, and the units of our members.

Lakota Arrowmen actively served Los Angeles Council and Siwinis Lodge at the Lodge Leadership Development course, all three Ordeals, both Cub Rocket Academies, the Lodge Fellowship Day, Potlatch, the Fall Cub encampment, the Lodge Service project, the Lodge booth at the University of Scouting, and the Lodge Banquet.

Lakota Arrowmen actively served Pacifica District at the Spring Camporee, the Soap Box Derby, the Pinewood Derby, Webelos Woods, and Fall Camporee as well as many smaller events and projects. We also conducted the OA Unit Elections and Camping Promotions program and are working to build up the OA Unit Representative program. The District website has had huge increase as the OA section of it has grown and grown. The reports, newsletters, and forms were all updated on the website as well as a brief summary of upcoming events. This section on the District website helped to spread the word about the many and various opportunities for Arrowmen to help out and go camping.

Lakota Arrowmen actively served their Units throughout the year in a variety of ways. An Arrowman's first duty in Scouting is to his or her unit and we take that seriously in Lakota. A high percentage of the Unit leaders - especially the youth leaders - in Pacifica District are Lakota Arrowmen. Some of the evidence of their success can be seen in part through the Lakota Arrowmen who became Eagle Scouts in 2008.

Throughout this year, I believe that every single Officer and Adviser that gave of their time to serve our members has grown closer in fellowship as well as gaining valuable leadership experience. Through every success and failure we have grown closer as leaders of this Chapter. This year has been so remarkably successful. It was proved

through every event, meeting, and decision that was made that this Chapter was run by excellent Officers – who have dedicated Advisers. No one person could have made all our successes happen.

I am not sure exactly what motivates all of our Officers and Advisers because it probably differs for all of us. My personal motivation for becoming the Chapter Chief was that I believed that I could help this Chapter become better and stronger than it was. This looked like it was going to be a hard task as I since I saw the tremendous growth it had under last year's Chapter Chief Brandon Villalpando. As I standing here today, I can definitely say that the Chapter has grown and become better: the Chapter meetings became more attended, the Chapter Executive Committee meetings had more business done with greater thought, and more people attended Lodge functions. I could not have done it alone as it was the other officers and advisers that put their heart into their job. Many a time I sent and received emails and phone calls at odd hours of the day to make sure that all business and events were going to be taken care of.

Over the fifteen years since we were founded in 1994, Lakota has made its mark in the OA, Pacifica Districts, and the units of our members. The outstanding commitment to service I have seen started on day one. I have no concern for the state of Lakota as I hand the Chapter over to Soren Fulton and his 2009 Executive Committee.