



# THE PORTAGE TIMES

Portage Lodge #619

Heart of Ohio Council #450

[www.Portage619.org](http://www.Portage619.org)

July 2009

## LODGE CALENDAR

August 1 – 6, 2009	NOAC	Indiana University
August 21-23, 2009	Ordeal	Firelands Scout Reservation
Sept. 18-20, 2009	Ordeal	Firelands Scout Reservation
Nov. 14, 2009	Banquet	VFW Post 1079, Elyria Ohio

## CHIEF'S WORDS

Hello My Brothers,

I hope everyone is enjoying summer, filled with summer camp and cheerful service and is ready for some great OA events. If you are going to NOAC I will see you there. If not, I hope to see you at the two ordeals that are coming up. There will be lots of ways to serve at each of them. They are August 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you come and encourage any scouts in your unit that got called out this year to come to one of the Ordeals to start there Journey in the Order.

We also have the annual banquet coming up in November. You will find more information in the article in this edition and ***mark your calendars***. Make sure you check out what is happening locally with your chapter - that is where the fun begins.

We have awesome new Portage/OA gear in salable goods that is only available at Lodge events. Make sure you get signed up for the events and check out all that cool stuff.

Yours in cheerful service,  
Lodge Chief- Randy Thomas

## LODGE CEREMONY TEAM

This year's ceremony teams have worked wonderfully - including our Ordeal team, premiering Kyle Lenox and Anthony Philips, and the constantly changing Brotherhood team, introducing Adam Beckwith. Special thanks to all the current team members, including those who were involved with summer camp ceremonies, and to those who continually give their time to help set up and tear down the ring. Unfortunately, the ceremony team has suffered in the past year due to the decreasing number of age-eligible members able to help. Each year a few ceremony members go off to college and it becomes more difficult to find dedicated arrowmen to help. We are constantly at a shortage of willing and available team members. Being involved in ceremonies allows for a full understanding of the interaction of the ceremony principles with the candidates. We always need helpers to learn how our council ring is properly prepared and correctly stored. Please extend your ears to anyone else who may be available to commit to just one more cheerful service. If you or someone you know is interested contact Portage Lodge Ceremony Chair Dominic Alessio at [eaglescout08@yahoo.com](mailto:eaglescout08@yahoo.com) or Acting Ceremony Advisor Stephanie Carey at [slushiediva@gmail.com](mailto:slushiediva@gmail.com).

## ANNUAL LODGE BANQUET

Lodge Members, It's time to save the date for the lodge's most interesting and food-filled event of the year! This year's lodge banquet, hosted by Amangi Bischuwi Chapter, will be held at VFW Post 1079 in Elyria on Saturday, November 14. More details regarding the exact cost and menu items will follow in a future edition of the Portage Times but this is an event you do not want to miss. This jam-packed evening will include the elections for new lodge officers, the presentation of numerous special awards, and a recap of the year that was in Portage Lodge. So mark your calendars for November 14! You won't want to miss it!



## NOAC IS COMING

One of the big events of the OA is happening this year. When August 1<sup>st</sup> comes around there will be thousands of arrowmen gathering from across the country at Indiana University for the National Order of the Arrow Conference. This event takes place Aug. 1st-6<sup>th</sup>. Portage Lodge has 22 members participating in the conference and 4 members on staff.

What are some of the things that will be going on at NOAC? There will be training sessions, patch trading, service projects, and shows!

The American Indian Activities will be presenting "Craft Zone" where arrowmen will be able to stop by and make a craft to take home.

For history buffs an OA Museum will be on the campus where six time periods will be showcased. Exhibits will include many artifacts from OA sashes to Baden-Powell and Goodman memorabilia.

The Activities & Recreation Committee has planned a massive inter-regional dodge ball game, a golf tournament, a food drive, and a dunk tank to soak a national officer!

As you can tell there will be many things to do and see!



## NEW LODGE T-SHIRTS

The LEC voted that a new lodge T-shirt should be made. The new shirt will be red with a new design printed on the back (shown on the left). The front will include the OA symbol and the Portage Lodge 619 name. The shirts will be available at the August ordeal and will cost around \$10. Come to the August ordeal and be one of the first to show off the new shirt!



## LODGE OFFICERS AND ADVISORS:

Lodge Chief	Randy Thomas		<a href="mailto:LodgeChief@Portage619.org">LodgeChief@Portage619.org</a>
Vice Chief of Administration	Cory Gibson		<a href="mailto:LodgeVCAdmin@Portage619.org">LodgeVCAdmin@Portage619.org</a>
Vice Chief of Program	Justin Caithaml		<a href="mailto:LodgeVCProg@Portage619.org">LodgeVCProg@Portage619.org</a>
Secretary	Greg Hutcheson		<a href="mailto:LodgeSecretary@Portage619.org">LodgeSecretary@Portage619.org</a>
Treasurer	John Cyphert		<a href="mailto:LodgeTreasurer@Portage619.org">LodgeTreasurer@Portage619.org</a>
Lodge Adviser	Mary Wirth	(440) 365-7027	<a href="mailto:LodgeAdviser@Portage619.org">LodgeAdviser@Portage619.org</a>
Lodge Associate Adviser	Greg Coghlan	(440) 427-0007	<a href="mailto:LodgeAssocAdv@Portage619.org">LodgeAssocAdv@Portage619.org</a>
Lodge Factual Adviser	Diane Jones	(440) 452-9251	<a href="mailto:LodgeFactAdv@Portage619.org">LodgeFactAdv@Portage619.org</a>
Lodge Financial Adviser	Megan Stanforth		<a href="mailto:LodgeFinanceAdv@Portage619.org">LodgeFinanceAdv@Portage619.org</a>
Professional Adviser	Jay Lockard	(800) 334-5910	<a href="mailto:LodgeProAdviser@Portage619.org">LodgeProAdviser@Portage619.org</a>



## PORTAGE LODGE REGISTRATION/PAYMENT FORM

*This form should accompany all money sent to the Heart of Ohio Service Center*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle One: YOUTH ADULT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Chapter (circle one): Amangi Bischuwi Chief Tarhe Lou-Ott Mawat

**2009 Ordeal Fees:** \$35.00 for Candidates; \$12.00 for Members; Additional \$14.00 for Brotherhood Candidates; \$6.00 for Members attending Saturday Dinner only

August 21-23 September 18-20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2009 Lodge Dues** – \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to "Portage Lodge 619" Mail this form and payment to: Heart of Ohio Service Center

PO Box 368  
Ashland, OH 44805-0368

*For Office Use Only: 1-2371-001-0*

## OA SECTION REALIGNMENTS

### AMANGI BISCHUWI >>> GREAT FRONTIER DISTRICT

Chapter Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month September through May at Northwood Jr. High in Elyria at 7:00pm (same place as Roundtable). All Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to come.

Chief	Caleb Cleland		<a href="mailto:ABChChief@Portage619.org">ABChChief@Portage619.org</a>
Vice Chief	Scott Crofoot		<a href="mailto:ABChViceChief@Portage619.org">ABChViceChief@Portage619.org</a>
Secretary	Drew Bihary		<a href="mailto:ABChSecretary@Portage619.org">ABChSecretary@Portage619.org</a>
Chapter Adviser	Jay Cleland	(440) 465-2710	<a href="mailto:ABChAdviser@Portage619.org">ABChAdviser@Portage619.org</a>
Assoc. Adviser	Steve Warnock	(440) 282-1455	<a href="mailto:ABChAssocAdv@Portage619.org">ABChAssocAdv@Portage619.org</a>

### CHIEF TARHE >>> HARDING AREA DISTRICT

Hey! Chief Tarhe Chapter Members! Come to the Chapter Meetings. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church in Marion.

Chief	Andrew Ault		
Vice Chief	Jeremy Gilpin		
Secretary	Ethan Matthews		<a href="mailto:CTChSecretary@Portage619.org">CTChSecretary@Portage619.org</a>
Chapter Adviser	Charles Buck	(740) 494-2257	<a href="mailto:CTChAdviser@Portage619.org">CTChAdviser@Portage619.org</a>

### LOU OTT >>> JOHNNY APPLESEED TRAIL DISTRICT

The Lou-Ott Chapter meetings are held at Richland Engineering on the north side of the square in downtown Mansfield on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month, beginning at 2:00pm. Plan to attend and become active in your Chapter and Lodge. Together we can accomplish much.

Chief	Jacob Robinson		<a href="mailto:LOChChief@Portage619.org">LOChChief@Portage619.org</a>
Vice Chief	David Gossler		<a href="mailto:LOChViceChief@Portage619.org">LOChViceChief@Portage619.org</a>
Secretary	John Cyphert		<a href="mailto:LOChSecretary@Portage619.org">LOChSecretary@Portage619.org</a>
Chapter Adviser	Bob Sliney	(419) 526-5154	<a href="mailto:LOChAdviser@Portage619.org">LOChAdviser@Portage619.org</a>

### MAWAT >>> THE FIRELANDS DISTRICT

The Chapter meetings held during the Firelands District Roundtable (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month) at EHOVE Building "A" beginning at 7:00 PM, October through May.

Chief	Trent Vartorella		<a href="mailto:MChChief@Portage619.org">MChChief@Portage619.org</a>
Vice Chief	<i>Vacant</i>		Contact Tim Schultz if
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>		you want to help.
Chapter Adviser	Tim Schultz	(419) 625-0199	<a href="mailto:MChAdviser@Portage619.org">MChAdviser@Portage619.org</a>

All the OA sections throughout the country have gone through realignment. The new sections have been finalized and approved, but they will not begin functioning until the last 2009 section conclave occurs or October 5, whichever comes first.

Portage Lodge is now a member of Central Section 4A along with five other lodges. Our lodge will join Marnoc Lodge of Great Trail Council in Akron, Sipp-O Lodge of Buckeye Council in Canton, Cuyahoga Lodge of Cuyahoga Council in Cleveland, Wapashuwi Lodge of Greater Western Reserve Council in Warren and Onandaga Lodge of Ohio River Valley Council in Wheeling WV. Gary Gole will be the section adviser.

Although we will miss all the friends we made while with C4B, we are looking forward to working with and getting to know new arrowmen.



## 2008 OA MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

**2008 OA Membership Summary Statistics:** Here are some OA membership statistics from the 2008 national re-chartering applications:

- Nationwide there are currently 305 lodges, including 80 in Central Region
- 39,646 candidates were inducted as Ordeal members; 17,018 members completed their Brotherhood ceremony, 2,401 members received the Vigil Honor and 510 members received the Founders Awards.
- 14 of the 50 sections in the nation are in the Central Region
- Central Region registered 54,024 OA members – about 31.7% of the total national OA membership of 170,539. Of our members in the Central Region, 30,724 are youth and 23,921 are Ordeal members
- OA lodges in the Central Region provided \$115,709 to Friends of Scouting campaigns, \$201,006 in material support and 349,703 hours of service to the councils we serve and support
- 53 lodges in the Central Region received National Quality Lodge Recognition
- Central Region achieved a Brotherhood conversion rate of 32.2%. 75% of the lodges achieved a 30% or more Brotherhood conversion rate.
- The average lodge dues in the Central Region in 2008 was \$10.14 a year, slightly less than the national average of \$10.51.
- Total financial support provided to councils in the Central Region by the Order of the Arrow in 2008, including Friends of Scouting, material support and hours of service expressed in dollars, based on the minimum wage, was estimated to be \$2,152,656.

## UPCOMING ORDEALS

The summer and fall ordeals are fast approaching. The dates are August 21-23 and September 18-20. They are both being held on the Camp Wyandot side of Firelands Scout Reservation and registration will take place at the Lion's Shelter. The cost is \$12 for members, plus an additional \$14 if you are going for brotherhood.

All arrowmen are encouraged to come, help out and have a lot of fun. There are plenty of ways to help out, but one of the best ways to help is by being an Elangomat. It is an important role that we need to fill at every ordeal. Elangomat is a Lenni Lenape, Delaware Indian, word that means "friend." The Order of the Arrow uses the term Elangomat to refer to the person who leads, facilitates, and guides Candidates for Membership through the Ordeal weekend. An Elangomat is a friend to each candidate and also a Big Brother, so to speak. The Elangomat is responsible for ensuring that each candidate undergoes a pleasant and complete Ordeal experience and sees ideals of the Order of the Arrow exemplified in him/her. If you are interested in being an Elangomat contact the lodge chief or adviser.

Ordeals are a great way to meet other OA members and an opportunity to welcome our new Brothers into the Order. Members should arrive around 6 PM, if possible. Candidates check in at 8 PM. You don't want to miss out on a great weekend so send in your registration today. Don't forget to bring a copy of your Class 1 Medical Form – everyone needs to bring one. Cabin space will be limited so please bring a tent.

## GOT BROTHERHOOD?

Have you been in the Order of the Arrow for at least 10 months? Are you wondering what the next step is? Glad you asked. You can become a brotherhood member at either of the next ordeals. The following are the requirements to earn your brotherhood sash:

- Ten months of service as an Ordeal member
- Registered active member in Scouting
- Registered active dues paid OA member
- Memorize the Obligation, the OA Official Song, the Admonition, the sign of Ordeal membership and the arrow clasp
- Write a letter to your lodge secretary explaining what you think the obligation means; describe how you have been fulfilling the obligation in your unit and in daily life; describe specific plans for giving service to the lodge

It is important that you not only meet the above requirements, but that you feel that you are prepared for the brotherhood. By earning your brotherhood you will help the lodge get closer to earning the coveted Quality Lodge award. Check out the Honors section of the Portage Lodge website. A brotherhood study guide can be found there.

*Those Who Chose You – Need You*

## SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

Summer Camp this year was a very event filled time. Over 100 scouts and scouters were called out on Wednesday evenings. Over 25 ordeal members sealed their membership in the order by earning their brotherhood. Many arrowmen helped me and I would like to thank all of them who helped with Call-outs and Brotherhood Ceremonies. THANKS!

Summer Camp is a wonderful time to be in the OA, but do not forget there is more to the OA than summer camp. Even after summer camp we invite those members who have not shown up in to a lodge event to join us for great fun and fellowship.

Cory Gibson, OA Summer Camp Rep

## “FINAL FIRE”

The Section C-4B “Final Fire” conclave was held at Woodlands Trail Reservation May 15-17. Despite the rain on Friday night and part of Saturday, all 29 members of Portage Lodge had a great time. Saturday morning OA members attended a variety of training sessions such as event planning, promotions and Indian beadwork. In the afternoon members had a blast mountain boarding, climbing and rappelling, playing volleyball, and competing in the Iron Arrowman triathlon.

At the Saturday evening brotherhood ceremony three Portage Lodge members earned their brotherhood sash – Matt Bernotas, Ben Roberts and Ray Polson. Congratulations Guys! Our own ceremony team of Justin Fletcher, Justin Jeffery, Andrew Squires and Randy Thomas closed the conclave on Saturday night with an inspiring Rededication ceremony.

Portage Lodge was in charge of producing and distributing the conclave newsletter. Editor Randy Thomas, Advisor Greg Coghlan and their team did a bang up job. You can see the four editions of “Final Fire” that were produced by going to the Portage Lodge website.

When the time comes to sign up for next year's conclave make sure you register. You don't want to miss out on a great weekend.

## LODGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At the August and September Ordeals Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) meetings will be held. They will be held on Saturday mornings, August 22 and September 19, at 10 AM. All LEC members, the Lodge Chief, the Vice Chiefs, the Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the each of the Chapter Chiefs, must attend the meetings. Lodge and Chapter Advisers are asked to attend as well. Be prepared to discuss lodge and chapter business.

Chapter Chiefs – if you are not able to attend the meeting you need to send a representative from your chapter to sit in for you.