

THE HURACAN HERALD

EDITION #1

SEP-OCT 2020

TOP STORY

Fall Fellowship brought together Tipisa Lodge members in person for the first time in months

In September, OA members from across Central Florida gathered for Fall Fellowship, Tipisa Lodge's annual get-together weekend where members can learn and play games with their fellow members. The weekend in September saw 121 total members from eight different chapters attend the event at Camp La-No-Che. The Huracan chapter was represented very well, with its members constituting over 17% of all members in attendance.

Fall Fellowship has been held for many years, yet this year's event was a first of its kind in multiple ways. For one, this was the first major in-person event the lodge has



Brotherhood Callout at Fall Fellowship. Image provided by Dawn Heavey Gross.

held since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early March. In order to facilitate this event with such a large number of people while ensuring the

safety of the members and staff in attendance, strict protocols were

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Huracan Chapter website refreshed with new look and up-to-date content

In today's world, where information is primarily communicated via digital means, it is more important than ever that Huracan Chapter meets the needs of our members who expect the capability to access information about our chapter, its events and meetings throughout the year, and more through digital means. In recognition and support of this growing need, our Webmaster, Skyler Swiderski, is proud to announce an upcoming updated and redesigned Huracan Chapter website.

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Letter from the Chapter Chief

Hello everyone!

It's good to speak to you (virtually, at least). I know it's been a while since we've been able to see each other in person, but, despite what you may think, our chapter has continually been active during this time. During these last few months, your new chapter officers and I have been able to update our archaean website, start our first chapter newsletter (this is it!), and have a successful first reunion with Fall Fellowship.

Our new chapter officers, as of June 2020, are: Ralph Clark (Ceremonies Co-chair), Joseph Snook (Ceremonies Co-chair), Jonathan Higley (Historian), Ryan Gross (Treasurer, Editor-in-Chief, Assistant Webmaster), Skyler Swiderski (Secretary, Webmaster), Ruperto Esteban (2nd Vice Chief), Marc Homburger-Jacobs (1st Vice Chief, Lodge Inductions Chair), and Peter Fox (Chapter Chief). Our chapter advisors are Paul Simkins (Website Advisor), Nicholas Menand (Ceremonies Advisor), Eddie McBride (Associate Advisor), Matt Rowe (Associate Advisor), and Amy Jankay (Chapter Advisor).

Editions of this newsletter, written by our very own Editor-in-Chief Ryan Gross, will be available bimonthly for free. Starting in October, you will receive each newsletter in an email at the beginning of each month. Plus, you can check out past editions at the bottom of our website's Newsletter tab.

Now I know it has been a while since our chapter has had a website, but do not be frightened! I am sure that Skyler and Ryan, under the guidance of Mr. Simkins, have done a fantastic job. This is a major accomplishment for our chapter because for the past five years our website has lay dormant. During the coronavirus pandemic, however, we wanted to have an updated and ready to go the website for the 2020 – 2021 event year and for many years to come.

Our first in-person meeting since the start of the coronavirus pandemic was at Fall Fellowship. Our chapter was able to clench a victory in Jeopardy, and Mrs. Amy and I were able to win the Sinkathon. We are proud of our members that went through Brotherhood training and sealed their membership in our order. Our next major Lodge event is Induction Weekend. More information about this event will come soon, but I wanted to let you know that this is the first weekend of this sort that our lodge has held, and we need strong attendance to welcome our incoming brothers.

We would like you to volunteer for elections, if possible. In past years, we have not had the support

Upcoming Events

October 15, 7:00 PM

General Chapter Meeting
New Covenant Assembly Church

November 6-8

Induction Weekend
Camp La-No-Che

November 19, 7:00 PM

General Chapter Meeting
New Covenant Assembly Church

November 20-22

Section S-4 Conference
Virtual Event

To learn more about any of these events, visit our website at huracan.tipisa.org

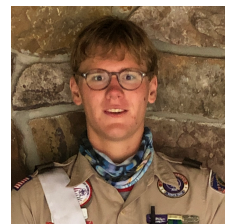
staff turnout that we needed, and the burden has often fallen on just a few of our members. This year, however, we are able to hold virtual elections (in some troops), which means that it is easier for you to participate in holding these elections with us. Please contact huracan@tipisa.org for more information.

Lastly, I wanted to ask all of you to help us with our chapter's Bring a Brother Back initiative (not to be confused with the lodge initiative with the same name that occurred in recent years). In this initiative, we are looking for all brothers who are active to find a brother from your chapter who you know has not been active in recent months, and to "bring them back" by getting them to participate in a chapter event or a lodge event, from as little as a virtual chapter meeting to an in-person event (when those fully resume).

Thank you for being a valued member of Huracan chapter. We look forward to seeing you at future events, and be sure to stay tuned for future newsletters!

Peter Fox

Peter Fox
Huracan Chapter Chief



FELLOWSHIP *continued from Page 1*

implemented throughout the event, mandating members to wear a mask at all times (except while eating and sleeping) as well as to practice social distancing throughout their stay. As Huracan Chapter First Vice Chief Marc Homburger-Jacobs recalled, "While it was unfortunate having to keep masks on all the time and social distance, it was great to see everyone out there staying safe."

Despite the less than ideal circumstances, those in attendance were still able to participate in workshops and other fun activities as they have in years past. Another way that this year's Fall Fellowship was different from previous Fall Fellowships was the introduction of the Polestar Induction Leadership Training workshop, which teaches OA chapter officers how to provide an induction experience for incoming members that aligns with

national standards. Huracan Chapter Secretary Skyler Swiderski recalled "It was nice to learn more about the program and how we can further integrate practices to encourage more participation and more of the ceremonial practices." Some Huracan members were also able to gain some practical experience as ceremonialists for inductions this winter.



The Ceremonies Team practicing at Fall Fellowship while adhering to social distancing guidelines. From left: Joseph Snook, Marc Homburger-Jacobs, Ralph Clark, Peter Fox. Image provided by Amy Jankay.

Other highlights of the fun-filled weekend were the games members from different chapters were able to

play and compete in with each other. According to our own Marc Homburger-Jacobs, "We did win OA Jeopardy and the Sinkathon, and we had the best King's Cup even though we didn't win." Huracan Chapter Chief Peter Fox, who won the Sinkathon with our Chapter Advisor Mrs. Jankay, recalled, "[Sinkathon] was a hard-fought battle over what seemed like an hour."

Although this year's circumstances were not ideal by any means, the members who attended Fall Fellowship were certainly able to make the most out of what they could do. This year's event was certainly enjoyed by our members in attendance, and we all look forward to Fall Fellowship next year, where we hope that COVID-19 and its effects are, for the most part, behind us.

RYAN GROSS, editor-in-chief

OPINION

Staying Motivated during the Pandemic

A year ago, I'm sure none of us could have imagined we would be in the situation that we are in now. Yet here we are, almost seven months into a global pandemic that has disrupted almost every aspect of our lives. This year, unfortunate circumstances brought on due to the pandemic are responsible for a sharp decline in our membership levels compared to last year. Although you might find yourself generally demotivated or stressed out due to these challenging times, I want to remind each and every one of you of the importance of staying involved in Scouts and in the Order of the Arrow.

The Obligation of the Order of the Arrow is something that every Arrowman has said at least once, and something quite a few of us know by heart. In my opinion, the most relevant promise in the Obligation right now is "I... will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities...." The

COVID-19 pandemic has created additional tasks and responsibilities for many of us that we have not had before.

What we must understand is that no matter how irksome the events happening across the country and the world are, no matter how weighty the new responsibilities placed upon us in our responses to COVID-19, our ties in the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow are lasting. We are here to support each other during this time, not only through our friendships with each other, but also in our shared dedication to brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service. Most importantly, although we have faced a minor setback, our Brotherhood, *Wimachtendienk*, will remain strong long after the pandemic has run its course.

RYAN GROSS, editor-in-chief

Meeting Information

Previous CEC Meeting

- September 10, 7:00-8:30
- Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
- Topics covered: website final touches, Fall Fellowship details

Previous CEC Meeting

- October 1, 7:00-8:30
- Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
- Topics covered: Safety Weekend, Inductions, Huracan Herald, website, Roundtable, scheduling upcoming meetings

Upcoming CEC Meeting

- October 28, 7:00-8:00 PM
- Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
- Agenda will be sent out to all CEC members by October 26

Upcoming General Meeting

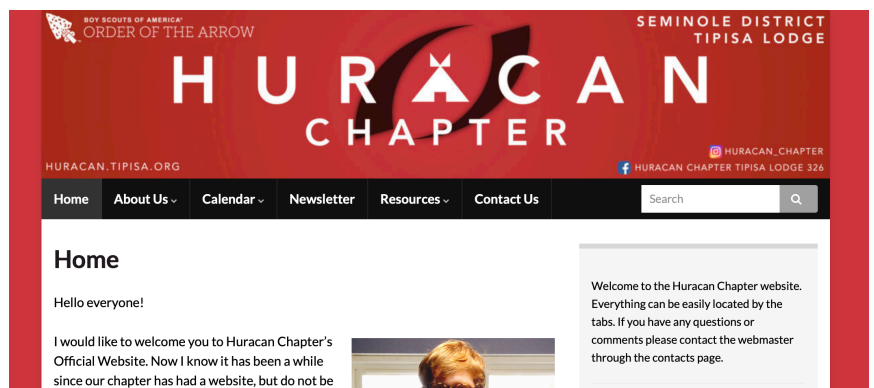
- October 15, 7:00-8:30 PM
- New Covenant Assembly Church
- Agenda & virtual option information will be sent out to all chapter members by October 13

For more information, or to request the minutes or agenda for a past or upcoming meeting, please contact us at huracan@tipisa.org or editor@huracan-herald.rockstarryan.net.

WEBSITE *continued from Page 1*

Our new website has undergone a thorough transformation in every sense of the word, which has resulted in an easy-to-use, easy-to-navigate, all-in-one central hub for any resource you need pertaining to Huracan Chapter and relevant OA information.

Perhaps the biggest change to the site was to its content structure and navigation. Regarding those changes, Swiderski says: "We're simply making the access to information easier and more accessible to all the members in case there's an emergency or they aren't able to attend a meeting." The design of the website has also changed radically. Our Assistant Webmaster in charge of graphic design, Ryan Gross, said: "We thought the old theme was a little too dark, literally. So we took the old design for the site, brightened it up a bit, changed the color



A screenshot of the home page of the new website

scheme, and added some snazzy new graphics."

Thanks to the hard work of Swiderski and Gross, the new website looks better than ever. Some pages on the site are now publicly available, and can be accessed by going to <https://huracan.tipisa.org>. The remaining pages will be released in the coming weeks. We hope the new website makes it easier for you to stay up-to-date with what's going on in the chapter.

RYAN GROSS, editor-in-chief

Letter from the Editor

My name is Ryan Gross, and I am the Huracan Chapter Treasurer and Editor-in-Chief. The process of writing, designing, and editing the first edition of the Huracan Herald has taken up a lot of my time over the past few weeks, so I want to first extend a huge thank-you to everyone who has read this far. To show my appreciation to you for reading this far, please email me at editor@huracan-herald.rockstarryan.net with the subject "Edition #1 Easter Egg" for a special prize.

My plan is for a new edition of the Huracan Herald to be released bimonthly during the first two weeks of every odd month. This September-October edition is an exception, as it took me much longer than expected to write, gather content for, and design this edition. Rest assured, however, that future editions will be released on schedule starting the first week of November.

NOTE: *I would like to take a moment to address the draft version of this edition that began circulating on Wednesday, September 30, two days before this final edition was published. Put simply, it was nothing more than an unfinished draft and should be disregarded. Final editions of this newsletter will always be released on the first Friday of each odd month on our chapter website, huracan.tipisa.org.*

You may have noticed that with the exception of the "Letter from the Chapter Chief," every article in this newsletter was written by myself. While I am happy to write and share information with all of you, I am also interested to hear what you have to say. You may have also noticed the "Opinion" section on page 4; while I wrote this particular edition's Opinion, if you are interested in writing an Opinion piece (on a topic appropriate for Scouts) to be featured in a future edition of the Huracan Herald, please email opinion@huracan-herald.rockstarryan.net.

That's all I have for this month. Keep an eye out for the November-December edition in the first weeks of November. If you have any questions for me concerning the newsletter, you can reach me at editor@huracan-herald.rockstarryan.net.

Ryan Gross

Ryan Gross
Editor-in-Chief, Huracan Herald
Huracan Chapter Treasurer
& Assistant Webmaster



ANNOUNCEMENT

OA Elections Information

If you would like to volunteer to help out with elections this year, please email huracan@tipisa.org for more information. You can volunteer to help out for in person or virtual elections, as some units in the chapter are holding virtual meetings. This year provides a unique opportunity for us to provide elections in a virtual setting. We hope you will accept the opportunity to become a groundbreaker for future election processes in your chapter. We appreciate your willingness to support the chapter!

In addition, if your troop has not already RSVPed for holding an OA Election this year, please ask your unit leader to check their email for a message they received from the lodge or to contact huracan@tipisa.org for more information.

Huracan CEC

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