



Chiefly Speaking...

Brothers of the Great SR-4N,

I hope everybody is eating as much as they possibly can, I know I am! With the January COC approaching, we are gearing up for conclave which is ONLY 4 months away. I look forward to seeing all of the lodge chiefs at the upcoming COC meeting as we make decisions that will shape this year's conclave. I also look forward to seeing everybody attending the day-long train the trainer that is being held in conjunction with this COC meeting. Lodge chiefs, I encourage you to bring your three most promising youth!

It is also my pleasure to let you know about a new program that we are starting in January 2009. I am beginning what is known throughout the southern region as a "Section Seminar." At this seminar we will be holding our regular COC meeting and also be holding a weekend long train the trainer event. Come to conclave 2008 to hear the full details! I hope each of you and your families have blessed holidays and don't forget to check out the section website at sr4n.org for important updates.

Mark Norris

Mark Norris
SR-4N Chief



Conclave Training

When each and every one of us went through our ordeal we were faced with many challenges which we were forced to overcome. We came together with our fellow brothers to complete the task in front of us. At the end of our ordeal, we took an oath of service to our fellow brothers. I want to encourage each and every one of you to remember this oath of service throughout your daily week and see what you can do for those around you.

Now I want to give everyone a brief update on training. Currently we have twenty-one sessions to be taught ranging from camping, cooking, ceremonies, to dance and drum activities. These sections will be taught by some of the section's best trainers. Training is one of the main reasons we attend conclaves, and I plan on making the 2008 conclave training awesome!!!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2008 SR-4N conclave hosted by Alapaha!!

Joshua P. T. Smith

Joshua P. T. Smith
SR-4N Vice Chief

The Saint Among Us

On Wednesday, November 14, 2007, our beloved friend and mentor John Joseph Dowe was called home. John was renowned across the country for his service to Scouting. A lifelong resident of Montgomery, Alabama and a member of the Tukabatchee Area Council, John served as the Section Adviser for the state of Alabama and the Panhandle of Florida from 1952 until 1975 and served as a member of the National Order of the Arrow Committee from 1959 to 1995. In his role as a Scoutmaster and a trusted adviser, he impacted the lives of literally thousands of Scouts and Scouters across the nation. A true Christian gentleman, John lived his life by the ideals expressed in the scout oath and law, and was the embodiment of a true servant leader.

There are two types of people who knew John; those who John had known from birth, and those who met John somewhere along the line. I happen to fall into the latter group, whose members share a common thread; we can all remember exactly when and where we met John. And the remarkable thing is that John remembered when and where he met you! John was an extraordinary person who had the uncanny ability to make you feel like you were the most important person in the room, whether he was talking to a member of the National Committee, or visiting with a brand new Ordeal member. John wanted to make everyone he met feel special, and he did this by engaging you in conversations about yourself, always captivated by what you had to say, and always interested in what was happening in your life. He would always ask those around you about your well-being, and always seemed to know what was happening in your life long before you could tell him yourself! It was like he was watching you.

Of course, we all remember the hugs! John bear-hugged everyone, without exception, whether it was the parish priest or the smallest child, and while there were probably people out there that thought this was odd, those of us that knew him knew that he did this because he wanted everyone he met to feel loved.



John was not only a friend but a mentor, who positively impacted the lives of literally thousands of Arrowmen across the nation. This is evidenced by the endless stream of visitors who came to visit with him on a regular basis, especially when he fell ill in August. What a wonderful testimonial about one's life, to be 96 years old and not to be alone!

He was a wonderful adviser, who was never heavy-handed, yet always deliberate in his efforts to make you a better leader. John had a way of making you want to be a better person. In the Order, we teach our advisers to be good mentors, and to plant a tree that we will never sit under; John is one of those rare individuals who actually got to sit under the tree that he planted and cultivated during his 96 years on this earth.

Those of us that knew him were truly blessed. John was my dear friend for over 23 years, and while I will miss him deeply, I cannot weep, for I know that John is with Christ, and that he will always be with us. I am truly a better person for having known him, and I am fortunate to have walked with a real saint on this earth, even if only for a short while. I look forward to the day when I will hug him again. Of course, the bad news is that now I know he really is watching, so I suppose I will have to make a bigger effort to be on my best behavior all of the time.

Jim Alexander
SR-4N Section Adviser

Treasure Island Visit

Mark Norris, Thad Hendrix, and Jim Alexander were invited to attend a Fellowship/Ordeal weekend at Treasure Island Scout Camp in Philadelphia, PA on Oct 19-21, 2007. Treasure Island is not only the birthplace of the Order of the Arrow, but is also the oldest continuously-run summer camp operation in the US, beginning in 1913.



The camp is located in the middle of the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey, just a few miles north of the site where General George Washington made his famous crossing of the Delaware River to defeat the Hessians in Trenton. It is interesting to note that while the camp has a Pennsylvania address, it is actually located in New Jersey.

One of the highlights of this exciting pilgrimage was that Mark, Thad, and Jim were able to witness an actual Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremony in the original ceremony ring where the very first induction was held on July 16, 1915. Another highlight occurred on Sunday, when our pilgrims were taken to the New Jersey side of the river to climb the Devil's Tea Table, which is the actual location where Dr. E. Urner Goodman kept the very first Vigil in 1915.

**Jim Alexander
SR-4N Section Adviser**



Key SR-4N Dates

**Council of Chiefs
January 5, 2008**

**Conclave at Camp Patten
April 18-20, 2008**

What's New With Alibamu?

Alibamu Lodge held its fall fellowship at camp on December 2-4. We had 64 in attendance that weekend with a lot of fun and fellowship. The lodge worked for about an hour on stacking up cots to them organized them, and cleaning up our ranger's compound. After the work was over the youth played Ultimate Frisbee, so the other lodges better watch out because we look pretty good. There were also some training sessions on unit elections, the drum and dance team, responsibilities of lodge officers, and the training of Elangomats. Of course the weekend wouldn't be fall fellowship without a patch auction, and we raised \$2773. Finally on Sunday we elected our new lodge officers. Chief- Matt Chandler, Vice Chief- David Ehrlich, Secretary- Justin Watson, and Treasurer- Dan Hatcher.



We are honored to announce that during our fall fellowship in December, Alibamu Lodge 179 inducted five new Vigil Honor members into its brotherhood.

WWW,
Josh Smith - 2007 Alibamu Lodge Chief
Matthew Chandler - Upcoming Lodge Chief

Our banquet will be held on January 5. We will be serving fried chicken, with various sides and deserts. We should have the second part of the movie "Oh Candidate Where Art Thou" if our director can find the time to finish it. We will give many awards including the new award, the Hugh Mauldin award. Then the new officers will be inducted, and I will give a brief speech about the next year.



We are also proud to announce that Alibamu Lodge 179 will be a National Quality Lodge for 2007. Alibamu is already looking ahead to the future and planning for the fun filled year ahead. With conclave in April and ArrowCorps5 shortly after, Alibamu is planning on being at both of these great functions. We will have 15 participants and 2 staff in attendance to AC5. We looking forward to seeing everyone, real soon.

Alapaha Lodge Annual Ordeal and Banquet

Alapaha Lodge held their winter ordeal on the weekend of December 7-9, and combined the feast following the Ordeal ceremony with their annual winter banquet and business meeting. On Friday evening 24 Ordeal candidates started their experience in the Order and two members of the lodge later completed their Vigil experience. One was our new lodge chief Drew Kuhlmann and the other Ms. Cindy Bookout. Some members of the section know her from her serving many years as a ceremony judge at conclaves, and as Jonathon Bookout's mother. Congratulations to both.



The third group was made up of thirteen individuals who completed their Brotherhood. This group actually has a very interesting statistic. Last December 19 new Members were inducted through the Ordeal process and 15 are still active. Of the fifteen, two were unable to attend, but the other thirteen completed their Brotherhood. Note: All members completing the Brotherhood took their Ordeal last year together. Thus 68% of last year's inductees

have completed their Brotherhood. The percentage of all eligible Ordeal members completing the Brotherhood in Alapaha this year is 50%.

Alapaha Lodge also was pleased to welcome the section chief and section adviser, at least until they killed the lodge adviser's golf cart. Actually, they were the unfortunate occupants when an electrical flaw reared its head and the golf cart died. A few minutes at the repair shop, one new battery and it's as good as new. The section chief also honored us by serving as one of the principles in the Brotherhood ceremony, and earned the praises of the other members of the team.

Saturday evening over 75 were present for the banquet and Lodge elections. Not a bad turnout for a Lodge that will re-charter 98 members for 2008. We will now look forward to hosting the 2008 conclave. Our camp looks good, the committees are in place, now comes the implementation.

Are You a Webmaster?

Do you have what it takes to build a webpage? Are you a willing youth capable of regularly maintaining.. oh say the section website? Are you a nerd like me? Well if you answered YES to any of these questions and you would like to put your webpage building talents to the test, then I would love to talk with you. We are currently looking for a youth arrowman interested in becoming webmaster of sr4n.org next year. If you have any questions please contact me at treyster179@yahoo.com!

Communication is an important tool in the efficiency of any section. Whether it is in the form of a phone call, a web page, an e-mail or an instant message, communication between officers, CVCs and lodges will dramatically improve the efficiency of the section. This newsletter is another tool that helps to do just that. Help us to better share information and share ideas with other lodges by sending us an article to include in *The Arrow*, the section newsletter to secretary@sr4n.org.

**Trey Musgrave
SR-4N Secretary & Webmaster**