



Order of the Arrow  
Office of the National Chief  
Irving, TX 75038

April 25, 2025

Brothers,

It is with unceasing elation that I write to all of you today. When I write letters, I do not often feel the dual excitement and nervousness that strikes me in this moment, yet I suppose it is for a good reason. A good friend of mine, Sam Aronson, recently told me that “nervousness means you care,” and I find that claim to be exceedingly accurate.

My love, care, and appreciation for this organization and its people are simply indescribable. So, despite my apprehension, I feel it necessary that I should share my thoughts, feelings, and beliefs with all of you in our organization.

The first three months of my term have irreversibly grown my love for this organization. I’ve had the privilege of meeting Arrowmen from across the nation as I heard their stories and witnessed firsthand the passion and dedication that makes this brotherhood so special. Whether at lodge events, section trainings, or National Leadership Seminars, I have been continually inspired by the spirit of cheerful service that each of our members exhibits.

There was one key moment during the first quarter of my term that has served as evidence of the love and cheerfulness that forge the foundation of our organization, a cheerfulness and love that are stronger than ever.

In late January, I attended an event in Pensacola, Florida, hosted by Yustaga Lodge. On that Saturday, I found myself partaking in some axe

throwing, leading to my foreseeable discovery that I am not good at it. Upon my exiting the Axe Yard, a young Arrowman greeted me and introduced himself as Noah. We began talking, and I asked him if he was enjoying the event. He said, "Absolutely!" to which I asked, "What's your favorite part?" He then used his hands to gesture around him at his friends who were with him at the event.

It was such a simple display of his appreciation and love for his friends, but it spoke volumes on what he truly enjoyed, and I would argue most love about the Order of the Arrow: **the people**.

This interaction distinctly honed my focus during that event, as well as beyond. For that, I owe my dear friend Noah McKlinely a profound thank you.

To all those whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, sharing meals with, and had the privilege of watching do what they love throughout these first few months of my term, I am truly in your debt. Thank you for blessing me with your presence, your knowledge, and your experiences

I now have roughly nine months left in my term, and that seems like not enough, but I have made a promise to myself, and I will now make it to you all to continue with our efforts of ensuring the greatness and the love of the Order of the Arrow.

In Service,



Samuel Crowder  
National Chief