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THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

PRESENTED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORDER SINCE 1940

Budding filmmaker inspired by adventure

By **MARTY TSCHETTER**

CLASS OF 1996

Kieran Thompson grew up in Tempe, Arizona, working five years on the Camp Geronimo staff, which provided his first exposure to the Order. At that time, his troop did not have any Arrowmen, but he arranged for a unit election and took pride when selected as a candidate.

Inducted in 2000, Kieran distinctly remembered Meteu's part in the Pre-Ordeal ceremony, "Hours spent in thoughtful silence help us make the right decisions more than days and days of talking." Once a member, he immediately joined the ceremony team and eventually learned all of Meteu's parts. OA ceremonies afforded in-depth character work, the opportunity to help fellow ceremonialists explore the parts, and an opportunity to learn to become the principals, which later served as an important foundation for his career work.

Kieran made his first short film during his third grade birthday party and fell in love with telling stories through cinema. In middle school, a teacher encouraged Kieran to make short films and showcase them during the morning video announcements. This is when he learned people made movies for a living, which is when Kieran knew his calling. Surprisingly he did not take drama classes in school; rather OA ceremonies filled the void. The skill set needed to produce quality ceremonies involves the same competencies required to effectively make films. This consists of pre-production planning (including wardrobe, props and rehearsal), set direction, developing chemistry between characters, effective story-telling, and leadership.

As a young Arrowman at a conclave only a month after his induction, Kieran met National Chief Carey Mignerey (Class of 2002) and Western Region Chief Cameron Mulder (Class of 2002) who intrigued him with the idea that the Order was a youth-led organization. At that time, he hoped that, at the least, he might have



2007 OA Wilderness Voyage staffers Kieran Thompson, Eric Svingen and Ken Bostwick made a quick road trip to Philmont on days off between rotations.

the opportunity to serve as a chapter chief. The following year, he met National Chief Donald Cunningham (Class of 2002) who unexpectedly ate lunch with his chapter at a conclave. A few months later when attending NLS just days after 9/11, their paths crossed again and they developed a friendship, with Donald becoming an important mentor. Donald shared, "When I met Kieran, I still found it intimidating to walk up to strange groups of people and introduce myself. What most people don't know is that Kieran helped me to better understand (and fall into) my own role as chief that year. Kieran's fervor for the OA program (still new to him) was ripe, his enthusiasm beaming, and his earnestness as evident as it is today, some 15 years later. What one could have easily mistaken for naiveté is actually a true and genuine character in Kieran who knows (and has seen) the world, but still views it with the sort of optimism, hope, and integrity to which

we should all aspire." They remain tight friends and in 2009, Donald presented Kieran with the DSA.

In addition to ceremonies, Kieran did serve as chapter chief, followed by lodge vice chief, and then 2003-04 Wipala Wiki Lodge Chief. All the while he remained active in his troop, earning Eagle Scout in 2003 and the Vigil Honor in 2005. Kieran's Vigil name is One Who Inspires Others.

He went through OA Trail Crew (OATC) in 2003, which had a major impact. Kieran shared, "Camping is the heart of our Order. The outdoors is the best place to learn and test all of the things we're taught as Arrowmen. Our high adventure programs are living proof. I developed a fascination about how boys from all around the country who didn't know each other days before, quickly become a family. We worked hard building trails in the day and

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Vice Chairman, Class of 2006
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The Silver Arrowhead is distributed two times each year via electronic communication to recipients of the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award. Articles, photographs, and updates may be sent to stephanie.jordan@scouting.org

The OA induction of the first Chief Scout Executive

By **BILL TOPKIS**
CLASS OF 2012

In 1922 at the biennial national meeting of Scout executives, the Order of the Arrow was threatened with extinction. At one of the sessions there was discussion regarding concerns that camp fraternities did not follow the Scout Oath and Law. Both co-founders E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson rose to defend the Order. The Order was saved that day, part of the credit given to Chief Scout Executive James E. West.

Following the session, Goodman, Edson and other Grand Lodge officers (they were all professionals is those days) met with West. Goodman reported, "that (he) would be glad to see the work proceed under careful supervision and would be interested to mark its progress and to review the literature of the Order." That day the Order gained a powerful ally. In 1931 Goodman was appointed by West to serve in the national office as the first Director of Program. However, it was not until 1938 that West joined our Brotherhood.

West's induction into Chappagat Lodge took place at his local council's Scout camp, Camp Siwanoy, Siwanoy Council (New Rochelle, NY) near Wingdale, New York. It was a major event with much pomp and circumstance.

As luck would have it, the council

kept a splendid scrapbook at the camp and a photographer was on hand to take pictures of the festivities. Recently, the scrapbook surfaced. It is relatively rare to see photographs from any Arrowman's induction. Rarer still are images of a future DSA recipient (West was one of the eleven inaugural DSA recipients in 1940), and in this case the first Chief Scout's induction.

The photographs in the scrapbook are of remarkably high quality for any era, but especially from the 1930s. This is because Harry S. Sintzenich took them. Photography was a much more challenging art form back in the 1930s. Sintzenich was more than an exceptional professional photographer; he was D.W. Griffith's director of cinematography on 19 films! Griffith (his estate became Griffith Park in Los Angeles) was the top American filmmaker of that time and he would only have worked with the best cinematographers.

Jennifer Landry, Curator of the National Scouting Museum (NSM) commented, "I like the more candid shots of West; so many of the ones we have (at NSM) are posed." The images in the scrapbook are mostly candid shots of the Chief Scout, often among the boys.

Photographer Harry Sintzenich also has a DSA connection. He is the father of Cedric H. "Cedie" Sintzenich, who was a very early



James E. West

Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member (1940) from Pelham, NY, in Chappagat Lodge (Camp Siwanoy), and a DSA recipient (1961). Cedie retired in Charleston, South Carolina, was active in Un A Li'yi Lodge and served as their lodge adviser in the 1980s.



ON THE COVER: Chief Scout Executive James E. West joins Chappagat Lodge at Camp Siwanoy, summer 1938. Photo courtesy of Bill Topkis.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My Brothers,

As I write this column, it is just past Thanksgiving and we are headed towards the winter holiday season. I have much to be thankful for, including a wonderful family, a growing business, and the opportunity to serve as the tenth National Chairman of the Order of the Arrow in our history. I am the first chairman not to have known Dr. Goodman while he was still participating in our program. Fortunately, I have been mentored during my time in the Order by some of the most outstanding advisers; many of them have been Distinguished Service Award recipients. I had known, even as a young lodge vice chief after attending the 1981 NOAC at the University of Texas in Austin, the incredible sacrifice and commitment to service that denoted recipients of the DSA. The red and white square knot on someone's uniform was a big deal!

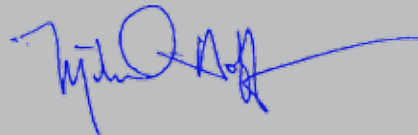
In Phoenix, in the early 1980s, I met the first two DSA recipients who I would get to know well. Both were transplants to Phoenix, and had been recognized with the DSA for their service elsewhere. I met John Forrest and Roger Billica at a lodge executive committee meeting. Both men were unassuming and willing to help our lodge. Both wore the DSA square knot – something I had never seen worn by any of our other advisers.

The early 80s was the beginning of my leadership involvement in our Order. Roger Billica actually became my lodge adviser when I was elected lodge chief. He stayed involved as I was elected section

chief and then national vice chief. During the last 30 years, I have been mentored by many additional distinguished leaders of our Order including Tom McBride, Carl Marchetti, Ed Pease, Brad Haddock, and Ray Capp. These men and many others have influenced and mentored all of us who now share in the national leadership of the Order of the Arrow. So, as I start my tenure as your chairman, I would tell you to never underestimate the awesome influence you have on the young leaders you mentor and advise each day. Wear the DSA knot proudly and know the Order has recognized you for your outstanding service and dedication to others; and more importantly, know that others recognize that as well.

For now, I have a simple ask of you – help me serve a higher purpose – the development of the next generation of young men who will follow each of us. I am sure Dr. Goodman would tell all of us that there is no higher honor than to mentor the next leaders of our Order - the next great role models - the next great leaders of our communities and our country!

My best to all of you during this Holiday season,



Mike Hoffman
Class of 1986



Looking back at NEXT: A new century

By **CLAYTON CARTEZ**
SR-9 SECRETARY

Lodge leaders from across the country gathered in August to take part in NEXT: A New Century. Over the course of five days at Indiana University, NEXT delegates learned how to improve their local programs through innovation, membership and program. With each lodge only allotted five Arrowmen to attend, the goal of the event was to foster networking and idea-sharing within small group settings. This was accomplished through the use of crews, where every participant was separated from their home lodge and grouped with fifteen other participants from various parts of the country. At the center of this were the crew guides, experienced Arrowmen including past national and section officers, who led their crews through all

trainings, discussions and activities.

Patrick Mapp, who served as Experience CVC at the event, said the use of crews formed the foundation for NEXT. "The crew guides were there to develop a supportive group in which everyone could pitch-in new ideas and share constructive feedback," Mapp said.

NEXT was designed to create an environment where local programs and ideas could be shared with others. This was best exemplified through the Innovation Center and NEXT Factor. The Innovation Center was a brainstorming workshop with staff on hand to assist participants in developing their ideas. If a crew guide heard about a great program or idea during the conference, the guide referred it to the Innovation Center. Some of these ideas were selected for the NEXT Factor, a live-show hosted by the region chiefs.



Contestants would present their ideas in front of a live audience who selected their favorites. Each winner from the three shows was given a \$500 grant to further develop their idea back home.

At the conclusion of the five days, each lodge came out with a new vision as a result of the event and were given the NEXT Challenge. Participants returned home ready

to create positive results within their local chapters and lodges. NEXT was meant as a way to ignite our Order as we enter the second century and to allow the national OA committee to discover how they can best assist lodges and prepare our youth leaders for the challenges they will face in the upcoming years.



Archives in action: Saving damaged documents

By **MARTY TSCHETTER**
LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARIAN
CLASS OF 1996

In early October Hurricane Matthew ravaged the East Coast with heavy rain and strong winds. The Tuscarora Council service center, based in Goldsboro, North Carolina, took a devastating hit and as a result of major flooding, the office was a total loss. As the council staff diligently worked to clean-up and salvage documents, they came across a large stockpile of historical records and photographs with major water damage. District Executive and Arrowman Sarah Fernandez contacted the Wayne County Public Library to request assistance.

All the items were immediately brought to the public library for drying before mold started growing. Fortunately, the paper survived, though it showed varying signs of damage. Water-logged documents included newspaper clippings back to the 1930s, planning notes for council pilgrimages in the 1960s, a 1923 charter application for one of the first troops in the council, and letters written by Bob Wolff (Class of 1946). Bob Wolff founded Nayawin Rar Lodge in 1945 and played an active role establishing other lodges throughout the South (featured in the Spring 2009 issue). Unfortunately, the most damaged paper items were the Wolff letters because the felt ink nearly completely wiped away.

Over 700 photographs that documented council events were submerged in the flooding with different levels of damage. A group photo of professional Scouters from the early 1930s with E. Urner Goodman (Class of 1940) and Thomas Keane (Class of 1942) had major damage on the edges. Almost all of the color photographs from the 1970s were completely lost because the ink literally wiped off like finger paint. Bundles of photographs from the 1980s-2000s were stuck together and were immediately placed in a freezer, which is a conservation technique. When ready for recovery the defrosting moisture allows the

photographs to be taken apart, which worked remarkably well.

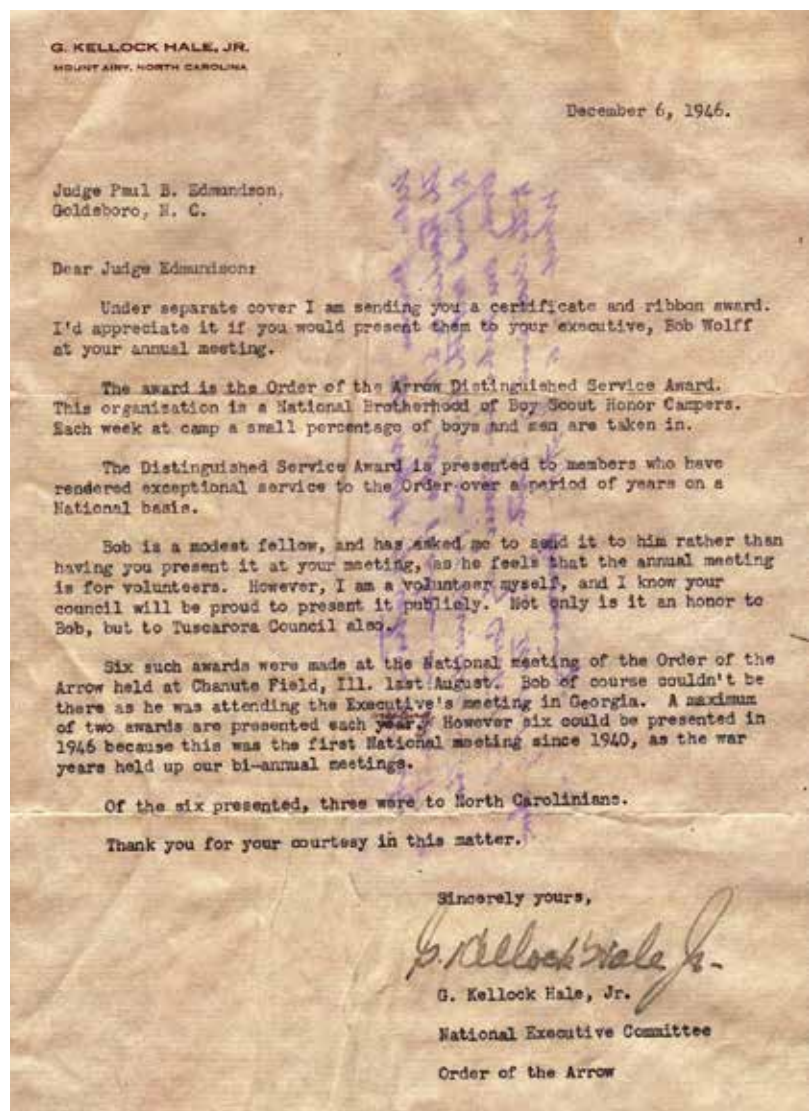
The program for the November meeting of the Allogagan Chapter, serving Wayne County, was used as a teachable moment to demonstrate archives in action. Members learned local Scout history through the documents, the responsibility of archives and public libraries as community stewards, and most importantly taught preservation techniques. The meeting included a special visit by our SR-7B Section Chief Talon Parker, who helped engage youth about his responsibilities and shared his experience as an OA Ocean Adventure staff member in addition to helping save items. There is still work to be completed, which will be handled by the chapter. Special thanks to Scout Executive Jason Smith and Program Director Martin Clemmer for their trust and support.

Obviously national disasters cannot be predicted, but proper storage of rare and irreplaceable items should consciously be considered. The first step is prevention. If not already established, a steward of Scout history should assess where items are located. Often pieces are in the back of a council service center, not accessible to the public, or at a camp museum. In the case of the Tuscarora Council items, they happened to be in the bottom two drawers of a file cabinet. Other items were stored higher and safe.

A secondary theme to consider is access. What is the point of saving old documents and photographs if no one can appreciate them? Scout history is important for our local communities as a positive legacy, which should be embraced. The NOAC museum proves this point. Unfortunately, over the years old Scouting documents have been discarded from council service centers or given to private collectors. However, another option that should be considered is the public library or an archive at an area college. A collection of local Scouting history at a reputable institution will remove the burden from a council service center and provide access to patrons.



Sorting water-logged photographs to dry in the Local History Room at the Wayne County Public Library. Photo by Carolyn Hill.



Water damaged letter acknowledging Bob Wolff as a DSA recipient.



He is extremely talented in the art of storytelling

THOMPSON, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

explored our deepest feelings and emotions in the evening." After OATC, he served as a section vice chief for Patrick Murphy (Class of 2006) and replaced him when Patrick became national chief in 2005. The following year, Kieran's peers elected him the 2006 Western Region Chief.

Reflecting on being a national officer, "As region chief I felt the best way to promote our OA high adventure programs was to participate myself. I went through OATC again and also OA Wilderness Voyage (OAWV). The majestic beauty of the Boundary Waters greatly inspired me. Canoeing long distances was a challenge for an Arizona boy. One of my favorite aspects as an officer was the platform to give a speech and share stories or ideas with an audience at each event I attended. I encourage all new officers to deeply reflect on the message they want to spread as they travel across the country. It's part of the reason I love filmmaking

so much, to have a vehicle to share those ideas with an audience."

The year after serving as region chief, he served as a Wilderness Voyage foreman. Out of all his Scouting experiences, he found serving as a foreman the highlight because he witnessed firsthand the transformation that participants go through over the two weeks on the water. The OAWV staff received countless calls from parents about how "something changed" in their sons after the experience; a hallmark of the high adventure programs.

As a section and region officer, Kieran attended a film program at Scottsdale Community College, and then in 2007 started a one-year intensive program at the Los Angeles Film School. Afterwards, he worked a few years on the production side of the industry that included logistics, scheduling, and budgeting. However, his passion is directing. After a few years in the Los Angeles area, he returned to Phoenix to work as a freelance producer and director on



Kieran directing his actors on a commercial set.

commercials, television series, and his own film projects. A director has the creative vision for the film and the producer helps enact that vision. A major challenge in bringing a film to life is financing. Film requires crew, cast, equipment, sets, and more. All these things are becoming more accessible, but it's not something one can do alone, so collaboration makes sense.

As region chief, he made a point to stay in touch with at least one Arrowman from each event. At a conclave in Washington, he met T'kope Kwiskwis Lodge Chief Case Barden (OATC foreman 2007-08) and as they got to know each other, Kieran learned that Case also shared a passion for film. The following year, Case came to study at the Los Angeles Film School.

After Kieran and Case had a few years of work experience in the industry, they mixed their passion for filmmaking with the skills they learned in the Order and found great results. Case came on board to produce Kieran's first feature length movie – *Broken Leg*, which we largely funded through crowd sourcing via Kickstarter, thanks to the contributions of a few hundred people, many of them Arrowmen. They wrote the film to be achievable on a "micro budget." The script had few actors and most of the story took place mostly on a single set – in one house. From concept to the film's release, the project took three years, including

nine months of writing the script and pre-production, four weeks of filming, and almost two years of editing, sound design, and color correction.

The movie is now available to stream, download, and is on DVD/Blu-ray at brokenlegmovie.com. Kieran reciprocated by producing a short film for Case called *You Can't Hear Me*, and now they are currently developing future projects together.

National OA Committeeman Steve Silbiger (Class of 1988) shared, "Kieran is passionate about making a difference, whether it is in his family, his community, in Scouting or in his chosen profession of creating film. He is extremely talented in the art of storytelling as a writer and a director. Kieran possesses the ability of creating works that connect the audience with the actors and action in a way that leaves the viewer with a true appreciation for the story as it unfolds."

Kieran is developing his next feature length script, and has been reflecting on his OA high adventure experiences, greatly inspired by the connections formed in the wilderness. The script for his next feature film is exploring that subject. What is it about the wilderness that removes the barriers men can put up in the "real world?" Those barriers are shattered in the outdoors.



Kieran at the 2006 NOAC Western Region office.



Images from the NEXT Conference



ARROWMEN SERVING SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY

MIKE JOHNSON (Class of 1986) has been selected as the next general manager of the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base. Originally from Oklahoma, Mike is an Eagle Scout and as a youth served as the 1985 South Central Region Chief.

At the 2016 BSA Annual Meeting, National OA Committeemen **RON BELL** (Class of 1988), **STEVE BRADLEY** (Class of 2002), and **CHRIS GROVE, MD** (Class of 2006) received the Silver Buffalo Award.

CRAIG DONAIS (Class of 1992) and **DOUG FULLMAN** (Class of 1994) received the Silver Antelope Award from the Northeast Region.

In January **MARTY TSCHETTER** (Class of 1996) will start serving as the Nayawin Rar lodge adviser.

RICHARD "RICK" MASON (Class of 1986) was bestowed in 2015 with the Order of the Arrow Centurion Award and the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. Rick retired in 2011 after 35 years with the NH Fire Service serving the last 15 years as the State's Fire Academy Director. Upon retirement the state named the Fire

Academy Auditorium as the Richard A. Mason Auditorium. He is now the Training Coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation working to drastically reduce the number of firefighter line of duty fatalities and injuries.

Indy Reads, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promote and improve adult and family literacy in central Indiana, announced **RYAN KING** (Class of 2000) as its new CEO. He served as an OATC foreman in 1997-98, 1998 Central Region Chief, followed by five summers on the Philmont staff, which included service as the director of conversation. He also worked two years at the ranch as the associate director of program.

On December 28, **GARY CHRISTIANSEN** (Class of 1981) will become the new Western Region OA Chairman, former SR-7A adviser **MIKE WHITE** will become the Southern Region OA Chairman, and **JOHN "JT" THOMAS** (Class of 2012) will start as the SR-7A section adviser. **ANDY CHAPMAN** (Class of 2004) recently joined the BSA International Committee.



DSA RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE GONE TO MEET THEIR MAKER

WILLIAM R. GRANT*
Winchester, KY
Eagle Scout
Class of 1963
May 15, 2016

DWAYNE E. WELLING
Connellsville, PA
Silver Beaver
Class of 1963
August 21, 2016

ROBERT E. BURT
Kansas City, MO
Professional Scouter
Class of 1986
October 30, 2016

JAMES J. TERRY JR.
Colleyville, TX
Asst. Chief Scout Executive
Class of 1986
September 9, 2016

* featured in the Winter 2011-12 issue of *The Silver Arrowhead*.

