

# AURORA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CAMPS' ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

Summer, 2002

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the President

Fellow Alumni,

Spring has come and gone. Summer has officially started as camp staff members have gathered and the summer camp season will soon be fast under way. With the start of summer camp, we as an alumni association will be completing our electoral year. Reunion week will be June 30th through July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Association annual meeting will be held July 5<sup>th</sup> shortly after the evening flag ceremony and dinner. All members in good standing that are available should plan to attend. We will have field receipts on hand prior to the meeting if anyone has not paid their dues.

I anticipate an exciting meeting as we have much business to cover. A few of the agenda items are, review and approve by-laws, elect the next Executive Secretary/President Elect, approve committee chairmen, discuss association projects, the membership drive, and of course begin the tradition of transferring the position of President.

As I reflect upon the past year, I can be proud of the steps The Association has made in formalizing itself and manifesting its events and activities. With the completion of the by-laws, I can honestly say that I accomplished all of my goals for the year. I look forward to becoming Past President and watching The Association achieve even higher goals for next year. I know Byron Clark will do an outstanding job as President and I intend to help him in any way that I can.

I would like to extend a special thanks to all the people who have helped with The Association this past year. Whether you wrote an article for Aurora, or helped with a work/play weekend, or sent me an Email with an idea or comment on the By-Laws, you were a tremendous help. Thanks

Yours in Wilderness,

Chris

## **SPRING ALUMNI GATERING NEWS**

This year's Alumni Spring Gathering was held May 31-June 2 at Camp Wilderness. The gathering also coincided with the wedding of Damian Lewis and Sonia Arndt. If you do not know who Damian is, he was one of the head cooks at camp throughout the late 1990's.

Many alumni had the opportunity to help get camp ready for the upcoming summer with Ranger Andy and staffers that came to camp early to get a jump start on projects. Some helped with re-roofing the cabins with steel decking. Others brought picnic tables to their respective campsites, and many of the main camp buildings and common areas were raked and mowed. The new playing field (to be open for use in 2004) was bulldozed and prepared for an irrigation system to be installed and grass seeding to follow. Camp is certainly looking great!

The campfire area was cleaned up for the wedding ceremony and the coming summer. I believe it looks the best that I had ever seen it. The ceremony was spectacular and the Bad Axe shoreline provided a beautiful background for the event.

For those of you that have not been to camp recently, you have missed out on seeing many great things. The newly remodeled dining hall and addition provided a wonderful place for Damian & Sonia's wedding reception. This facility will definitely add comfort and service to the scouts and scouters that come to camp this summer and for years to come. The camp even has a new bell tower. It is a large log structure that is about 2 times as large as the old one. It is a great addition to camp and really adds to the dining hall!

As the Alumni Association grows and becomes more organized, we would like this event to become a fun filled weekend where we can share stories about our years at Wilderness and the other NLC camps and mentor the incoming staff members. If you have any suggestions for this event, please write them down and e-mail them to me or bring them with you to the Annual Alumni Association Meeting on the Friday of Reunion Week. I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Wilderness,

Matt Saari

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's time to work on a membership drive for the Alumni Association. I have spoken with several members and formulated a few plans by which I feel we could make this work. I feel that in order to grow as an effective camp advocating organization we must aggressively recruit new members to swell our ranks and replace us before we die. So I have just brainstormed a few ideas here and am soliciting feedback. I would like to have something in place before our July meeting.

We all belong to the alumni association for several reasons. We also need to target both the current camp staff, and existing 'lost' alumni. I believe that I will start here by offering two proposals for the current staff, since they are our easiest target and one of our largest growth prospects. Primarily, because I feel that they are still so close to the staff experience.

One of the most limiting factors for current staff is that they are either high school students or college students and lack any real source of income. Hitting them up for lifetime memberships in the association at \$150 each is sort of a stretch. I believe that the key, in this case, is to s-t-r-e-t-c-h out the payments and therefore make it more affordable. Perhaps just \$25 year until they are done with college and then the remaining sum is due. Since most of the current college crowd is in for the 5 year plan anyway, it would be less of a shock. High school students would be lifetime members before they are even done with college.

In addition, to making it affordable, we need to make their membership valuable. I feel that perhaps we lose out here because most of the staff wonders why they should join anyway. In fact, I would bet that most of the staff does not even know we exist and what we do for camp and the program. In order to let them see what we do, perhaps it would be a good idea to offer an introduction to the association. For a simple riskless sum of just \$5 per year, they could get our mailings and get a trial membership in the association. If they decide to join, they can join on the \$25 payment plan, or just pay the full \$150. If not, at least we tried to create value by giving them an inside look at the association and why we are a valuable opportunity to keep in contact with each other.

Now for the alumni: for this we need to count on each and every one of you to call old what's his / her name and find out where they are. Make an effort to find them, call them and bring them to camp alumni functions. I think all of us know someone who should belong and is not a member. Well, now I want to give you and incentive to get someone to join and I am proposing a contest. The results of which will be printed in this very newsletter.

Here's the deal..... Over the next few years the camp is going to be replacing all of the signs in the camp - on the road, for the campsites, and the program areas. Brad has agreed to offer the signs to those who recruit members into the association. Each year, the person who signs up the most members, gets the first pick at the sign of his choice.

## **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONT.**

The key is that in order to get a shot at a sign, you have to recruit at least 5 members to qualify. That's just 1 new member every 73 days. Not an impossible goal. Perhaps even too easy - that's why it's just a proposal now. In order to activate these proposals, I NEED FEEDBACK. So here is what you have to do.

Write me - call me - or just send me hate mail. But GET ACTIVE and here is my information.

Byron Clark  
504 31st Ave. N #22  
Fargo ND 58102  
701-476-1855 - home  
701-306-6609 - cell  
701-476-0936 - work  
701-232-8831 - fax  
Bclark@state.nd.us  
Byron.e.clark@wellsfargo.com

### Alumni Chapters

I would also like to see camp staff alumni chapters opened all over the country. Where ever there is a place where people who know and worked at Camp Wilderness, I want us to gather and have fun. What I am proposing is that we have just one person in each metro area who is responsible to set up at least one social event a year. That's it - the entire obligation could be met in just one backyard barbecue. A great time to be had by all, and to just gather in the name of Wilderness and the Association. If you want to take it farther than that then go ahead. I just want someone to volunteer from each metro area - and register with the association as a Chapter Chief. The potential of this function is that it would complement our yearly gathering at Wilderness over the 4th of July Week. It is my vision that it could also eventually be used to raise dollars for camp, recruit new members, and just cement relationships between the different generations of camp staff. Ideally, my goal is to have these social events foster a greater brotherhood of Scouts, for the greater good of Wilderness and hopefully the Association.

If anyone is interested in forming a chapter in their area, Please call me and let me know. I'd be happy to try and arrange something. We will also list your name, potential dates, and contact info in the newsletter. We can also try to use our resources to put you in contact with camp staffers and alumni in your area. Just let us know and we'll make it happen.

## **HERE'S MY TAKE ON IT**

The new dining hall addition is complete and the campaign to tile the courtyard is officially underway. Here is where we come in. Purchasing a tile is a great way to honor that scouter who influenced your life. Whether it was your scoutmaster, or a staff member, or someone from the Order of the Arrow, here is your chance to make a lasting imprint on Wilderness. Several people have already started pooling their money to buy a stone for Jim Koehler. I would love to see one with Clair and Joan Beach. I will strive, personally, to achieve the Life or Eagle level. I just need to decide if it will be one stone or several smaller ones.

-Chris Soper

## **ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Just a reminder... The selection of this years Alumni Achievement Award is coming soon. Don't miss an opportunity to nominate a deserving Scouter. Use the form printed in this edition of the Aurora. Mail or e-mail the completed applications to:

Chris Soper  
15406 West 88th Terr  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
[sopercj@bv.com](mailto:sopercj@bv.com)

or mail to:

Phil Schorn  
27561 Witter Ave.  
Park Rapids, Mn 56470

## **IT'S OFFICIAL – ASSOCIATION BY LAWS**

By: Chris Soper

Enclosed is the draft copy of The Association By-Laws. This is the governing document for the establishment of our association. Please review them in detail and bring questions and comments to the annual meeting to be held on July 5<sup>th</sup>. You can also send comments to be via Email or paper mail. Remember that this is our association and we want to consider everyone's comments.

## **ALUMNI SPONSORED CAMP OPEN HOUSE**

Parents, Alumni, and Friends of Camp Wilderness:

I would like to invite you, your family, and others interested in visiting Camp Wilderness to attend our Open House on July 5th.

The Tenth Annual Open House will be Friday, July 5th with registration starting at 1:00 PM. Activities will include tours of the camp, a complementary picnic style meal at 5:10, and a closing campfire. The campfire will start at 9:00 PM and finish around 9:45 PM and will contain a combination of skits, songs, and awards for the troops.

The Open House is a special day that the Camp Staff Alumni Association and Camp Wilderness set aside to show off the camp program in action. The 2002 season is an overwhelming success with a projected attendance of 2,000 Boy Scouts and 400 adult leaders coming from over 180 troops from 10 states and a couple of different countries -- another record breaking year. Another impressive fact is that our camp has the talents of 60 staff members and 30 Counselors-in-Training. Many programs are offered at camp including: archery, rifle shooting, black powder, skeet shooting, canoeing, sailing, rowing, sailboarding, kayaking, swimming, fishing, crafts, first aid, camping, cooking, climbing, Project C.O.P.E., biking, and learning about nature. Check out the new "Aqua Jump" down at the waterfront and our new kitchen..

**If you're interested in coming. All you need to do is call the camp at 218-732-4674; leave a message for Brad Olson of who and how many are coming. It is important that we know how many are coming as food needs to be prepared and guides need to be recruited for the tours.**

If you need a place to put your tent or park your RV? Please, reserve a spot with Brad Olson, Camp Director, before the 6th. The camp's phone number is 218-732-4674.

Neil Litton  
Northern Lights Camp Staff Alumni Association

## **AURORA DEADLINES**

November 1 – Articles Due  
November 15 – Aurora Mailed

August 1 – Articles Due  
August 15 – Aurora Mailed

If possible, e-mail your articles to Jon and Sara as a Word attachment, otherwise send us a hard copy. You, the alumni, are what make this newsletter interesting. Send us your favorite camp memory, story, or tradition.

[sahendrickson@yahoo.com](mailto:sahendrickson@yahoo.com)

or

Jon & Sara Hendrickson  
1731 E 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Duluth, MN 55812

218-734-2529 (Home Phone) A Special Thanks!

**PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND!**  
**Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association**  
**Membership Application**

The purpose of the Association is: to preserve and promote the camping opportunities at our council camps, to inform the membership of the camps current progress, to provide support for the current operations with our time, talents and assets, and to organize gatherings of the association. Membership is open to all past camp staff members, campers or anyone with an interest in the camps. The Aurora is the official publication of the Northern Lights Camps Alumni Association, 301 South 7th Street, Fargo, ND 58103. It is published three times per year.

Association dues are \$ 15.00 per year for annual membership, \$ 25.00 or more annually for Sustaining memberships or \$ 150.00 (one time) Life Memberships. The Association's dues year begins June 1. Send any comments, article ideas or questions to Ron Schneider, 1608 South 17th Street, Moorhead, MN 56560 or e-mail them to Schneids@att.net. Please complete the information requested below and mail to:

Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association  
301 South 7th Street  
Fargo, ND 58103  
PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Year(s) at camp:    Camper \_\_\_\_\_  
                          Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
                          Staff position(s) and year(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
                          \_\_\_\_\_

Count on me to help with the association.  
I'll help with membership \_\_\_\_\_ steering committee \_\_\_\_\_  
newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ whatever \_\_\_\_\_  
Tell us something about yourself (this may get printed in a future issue of the newsletter.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are my membership dues and/or contribution:    \$15\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ other\_\_\_  
Lifetime Membership \$150\_\_\_ Lifetime paid in full \_\_\_ or 3 annual payments of \$50\_\_\_  
Make checks payable to the Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association



# NOMINATION FOR ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NOTE: The nomination is confidential. To avoid possible disappointment, please do not advise nominee in any way of your action in his or her behalf.

TO THE NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ALUMNI  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMMITTEE:

It is a pleasure to present for your consideration for the ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The noteworthy service upon which this nomination is based follows:

(Furnish as much information as possible. For example years on paid staff, years of  
volunteer staff, staff positions, volunteer positions, special contributions to camp  
including program development and resources. Use additional pages as needed.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Nomination  
GENERAL INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and phone number of person making nomination

The Alumni Achievement Award is an award presented by the Northern Lights Council Camps Alumni Association.

The award is available to people who render service of an outstanding and considerable nature to the Northern Lights Council camps on all levels over an extended period of time.

The award is made available annually on the basis of 1 award per year. However, the committee can choose to present the award to two or more individuals or a group.

It is not appropriate to nominate an individual who is already received this award.

This award is open to any individual regardless of scouting registration. A nominee is not limited to camp staff alumni.

#### REQUIREMENTS

A nominee must have rendered noteworthy service to all the Northern Lights Council camping properties.

The nominee's attitude toward all camp properties owned by the Northern Lights Council, past and present, shall be taken into consideration.

Consideration must be given to the nominee's service position and the corresponding opportunity to render outstanding service beyond the expectations of that position.

Nominations cannot be considered for posthumous awards.

*By-Laws*  
*The Northern Lights Council Camp's Alumni Association*

*Section I: Name, Affiliation and Purpose*

- (1) The name of the organization shall be Northern Lights Camp's Alumni Association, abbreviated as NLCAA, hereon referred to as the Association.*
- (2) The association shall be affiliated with Northern Lights Council Camps (Past and Present) and the Northern Lights Council.*
- (3) The purpose of the association is to maintain the Memories, Spirit and Traditions of the Northern Lights Council Camps (past and present).*
- (4) The association recognizes the prior existence of the "Friends of Wilderness" association.*
- (5) The association will operate under Roberts Rules of Order.*

*Section II: Requirements and Procedure for Membership:*

- (1) Membership to the Association is open to all past camp staff members, campers, or anyone who has interest in the Northern Lights Council Camps (past and present) but not limited to that group alone.*
- (2) To be a member in good standing, dues must be payable on a yearly basis (annual or sustaining) or a Life Membership payable in three installments.*
- (3) Membership is derived by completing a membership application and providing appropriate funding.*

*Section III: Officers*

- (1) The Officers of the Association shall consist of a Past President, President, Executive Secretary/President Elect, and Northern Lights Council Liaison.*
- (2) Election to an office shall be open to all members in Good Standing on an annual basis. The term of office shall be from the annual meeting to the annual meeting of the following year. Officers shall be installed in during the annual meeting.*
- (3) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Past President and the Past Presidents form the immediate four years, President, Executive Secretary/President Elect, and Northern Lights Council Liaison. The Immediate Past President shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.*
- (4) All elected officers shall change positions in a progression. The Executive Secretary/President Elect shall be elected to his/her position during the annual meeting. After serving his/her term, the Executive Secretary/President Elect will assume the position of President. The President will assume the position of Past President. The Past President will assume his/her position on the board of directors.*
- (5) Term of office for each position shall be one year.*
- (6) Petitions for nominations to the elected office of the Association must be made at the beginning of the annual meeting.*

- (7) *Elections shall be conducted during the annual meeting.*

*Section IV: Elected Officers Duties:*

- (1) *President*
- A) *President of the Association with the sole purpose of representing the Association and maintaining proper operation function.*
  - B) *Appoints committee chairman with approval of the board of the directors during the annual meeting.*
  - C) *Prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Association.*
- (2) *Executive Secretary/President Elect*
- A) *Assume the duties of the President in his/her absence.*
  - B) *Perform duties of Secretary and Treasure of the Association.*
    - i) *Major duty is to take minutes of all general meetings of the association and the board of directors. Provide to the Board of Directors within 10 days of such meetings a written copy of the Minutes.*
    - ii) *Maintain necessary correspondence between the Association and the general membership.*
    - iii) *Major duty is to maintain all Financial Records of the Association and present a written financial report at all meetings of the board of directors. Collect annual dues and deposit it in the Associations operating account. Provide an itemized ledger balance report to the board of directors prior to the board of directors meetings.*
- (3) *Past President/President of Board of Directors.*
- A) *Act as Parliamentarian.*
  - B) *Act as Chairman of the board of Directors.*
  - C) *Responsible to assign Board of Directors to assist with each Association Committee.*
- (4) *Board of Directors*
- A) *Serve on Association Committee(s) upon the request of the board of directors.*
  - B) *The Board of Directors will have power of impeachment over any officer to the Association.*
  - C) *Serve to provide the Association with continuity, heritage, tradition, and spirit fostered by the Northern Lights Council Camps (Past and present).*

*Section V: Northern Lights Council Liaison*

- (1) *Shall Be the current Northern Lights Council Director of Camping.*
- (2) *Serve as the primary liaison between the Association and the Northern Lights Council*

*Section VI: Committee Positions*

- (1) *Publications Committee*

- A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.*
- B) *Provide avenue of communication for the Association membership.*
- C) *Publish, at a minimum, three newsletters to be mailed to all members in good standing.*
- (2) *Alumni Achievement Award Committee*
  - A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, and at a minimum of five committee members.*
  - B) *The committee shall solicit nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award and present a nominee to the Board of Directors for approval.*
  - C) *Shall follow established guidelines for selection and recognition approved by the Board of Directors.*
- (3) *Fall Fellowship Committee*
  - A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.*
  - B) *The focus of the committee shall be to provide an event for the Association for alumni to re-unite in friendship and to provide service to the facilities of Northern Lights Council Camps.*
- (4) *Staff Week Committee*
  - A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.*
  - B) *The focus of the committee shall be to provide an event for the Association for Alumni to re-unite in friendship and provide mentoring and support to the current year staff in cooperation with the Camp Director and his/her staff.*
- (5) *Open House Committee*
  - A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.*
  - B) *The focus of the committee shall be to provide an event for the Association for Alumni to re-unite in friendship and provide promotion and understanding of camp operations to parents of staff members, the local community, and supporters of the Northern Lights Council camps.*
- (6) *Membership Committee*
  - A) *Shall consist of a committee chair appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.*
  - B) *Recruit and maintain membership.*
  - C) *Maintain a roster of members in good standing*
  - D) *Maintain a history of Association members.*

*Section VII Events of the Association*

- (1) *The Association shall schedule at a minimum the following events within the calendar year:*
  - A) *Annual Open House*
  - B) *Fall Fellowship*
  - C) *Staff week*
- (2) *Additional events can be organized at the approval of the Board of Directors.*

*Section VIII: Meetings of the Association*

- (1) *The Association will conduct an annual meeting to be held during the Annual Open House.*
- (2) *The Board of Directors will meet as needed to review and act on the business of the Association.*
- (3) *Special meeting of the Association may be called by the President, the Past President/Chairman of the Board of Directors or at the request of the majority of the Board of Directors.*

*Section VIII: Dues of the Association/Finance*

- (1) *Dues shall be collected annually before the Annual Meeting.*
- (2) *The annual dues shall be set by vote during the annual meeting.*
- (3) *The annual dues will be used to offset the cost of operating the Association.*
- (4) *In the event the Association is dissolved, all funds will be designated for use in Northern Lights Council Camps.*

*Section X: Amendments:*

- (1) *These By-Laws shall be subject to amendment at any regular or special meeting of the Association provided such amendment has been submitted in Writing to the Board of Directors at least one month prior to such meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to amend these By-Laws.*
- (2) *These By-Laws shall also be subject to amendment at any regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors, as long as a majority of the Board is present. A two-thirds vote of those present shall be required to amend these By-Laws.*

*Date of By-Law Approval: TBD*

Northern Lights Camps' Alumni Association  
Northern Lights Council  
301 South 7th Street  
Fargo, ND 58103

POSTAGE  
PAID  
BY  
FIRST CLASS



Chris Soper  
15406 W 88 Terr.  
Lenexa, KS 66219