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THE SILVER ARROWHEAD

PRESENTED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ORDER SINCE 1940



Sam Stocker: Torch Bearer

By **JAY S. BOTTORFF**
NOQUET LODGE HISTORIAN

Sam Stocker started Scouting in Royal Oak, Michigan, as Webelos and only a year later earned Arrow of Light. Over the next few years he developed a keen interest in Scouting, but in 1996 when he became a member of Migisi Opawgan Lodge is when Sam started emerging as a self-motivated leader. He had the unique ability to make any idea seem like the best one ever, and totally possible to pull-off.

He volunteered for his first position as chapter chief, never missing planning meetings for events, and completed a major update to the lodge scrapbook. In 1999, Sam became a key leader for the lodge's 60th Anniversary dinner that included greeting people as they arrived. By this time Sam's passion for the Order was evident and he had his hands into several lodge initiatives. Later that night he was elected

lodge chief for 2000 and his legacy and long-term impact started taking shape.

Stocker's tireless love for D-Bar-A Scout Ranch afforded him the opportunity to serve on camp staff from 1998 to 2005. You could often find him at the waterfront teaching merit badges or working on maintenance projects. Ethan Rein, a former Migisi Opawgan Lodge Chief remembers, "Sam was a natural leader. He always commanded a group. The waterfront staff in 2000 and 2001 was a very tight knit group and he was big part of that spirit."

Sam possessed a strong belief in conservation; many of the major updates to D-Bar-A Scout Ranch's Pedro Trail were fostered by Sam's ability to sell the vision, establish a plan, recruit his friends and execute it. During his term, the once six-mile trail system added an additional four miles and several bridges to make the experience better for the Scouts walking the property. His efforts helped him

earn the William T. Hornaday Bronze Medal.

In 2001 Sam served his second year as lodge chief and also as the C-2A section vice chief. He became section chief the following year. As lodge chief he expanded youth committees, added two more Dan Ling Service Awards (a lodge award named after the DSA recipient from the Class of 1961) to recognize more youth and adult leaders, and established the Indian Affairs committee, which introduced American Indian culture through special weekend training courses. For both years as lodge chief Migisi Opawgan earned Quality Lodge and in 2000 the national E. Urner Goodman Camping Award presented for increased effectiveness in promoting and increasing Scout camping at councils.

After a major wildfire in the summer of 2002 at Philmont Scout Ranch that burned 92,000 acres between the ranch and neighboring properties, Ed Pease (Class of 1971), then president of the Philmont Staff Association, suggested to Program Director Mark Anderson (Class of 1983) that the OA might help support a "spring break" type event at the ranch to help with conservation projects to aid re-vegetating designated areas. The program became known as Philbreak and lasted through 2006.

In 2002-2003, the year Sam served as section chief he concurrently served as the national Venturing president when he attended the OA planning meeting in December 2002. The original plan was to have one section chief to serve as the "program vice chief" for each of the three weeks for Philbreak. Due to the fact that Sam previously went through the OA Wilderness Voyage program and possessed a keen interest in conservation work, the opportunity to play an integral role in developing Philbreak happened to be a



Four former Migisi Opawgan Lodge Chiefs Dennis Schlemmer 1994-95; Sam Stocker 2000-2001; Ethan Rein 2003; and Jay Bottorff 1990-91 after Sam received the Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

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Sam had a strong belief in conservation

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good fit for his strengths. He also happened to be the only section chief interested in the project and therefore became the first program vice chief for Philbreak. Longtime national OA committee member Ken Davis (Class of 1977) who served as the project adviser and shared, "Sam did the typical thing and volunteered to be the first program vice chief. I drove a van to Albuquerque each week to pick up each group....we had 77 over three weeks. Sam arrived early so we had over three hours on the way back to the ranch to get to know each other. He was likeable from the minute you met him, smiling, full of interest in you and what was going on in your life. We hit it off right away and he jumped right into Philbreak and did a great job when no other youth would make the time."

Also in 2003, he served as a staff member of the Central Region's *Compass* newsletter, served as a trainer for several National Leadership Seminars, and worked on the OA website team. In May he gave the invocation at the BSA National Annual Meeting as the national Venturing president. Jeff Gerald, Sam's former chapter and Venturing adviser shared, "Sam was never content doing satisfactory work. His personal satisfaction is only achieved when he exceeds the expectations of the task. He established personal standards for

academic, athletic and Scouting activities, and he sets those standards very high."

As a Scout, Sam explored the world; he attended the 19th World Jamboree in Chile, visited the White House in 2002, and in 2003 he traveled to Egypt with National Chief Nick Digirolamo (Class of 2004) and National Vice Chief Rich Moore (Class of 2004) to attend the International Youth Gathering for Cultural Exchange. Nick shared about the trip, "We spent one week based out of the Arab Scout Region divisional office of the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, headquartered in Cairo, Egypt, and another week in Al Minway on the Nile. Scouting organizations from all over the world sent representatives, most of them were Middle Eastern and west Asian. We toured a bunch of different places including the Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, and spent a lot of time exchanging ideas and cultural education."

Ken Davis shared a story that illustrates Stocker's mindfulness, "At the time Sam went to the event in Egypt, he noticed they had Wood Badge beads for sale. He went to the trouble to buy me a four-bead set, as he knew I was really into Baden Powell's original training course. To this day I have those beads made from some unknown distinctive wood from that region of the world. I have them tagged with a piece of tape with Sam's name. I recently

wore those beads to speak to a Wood Badge luncheon. Sam was a unique human being who we lost way too soon."

At the 2004 NOAC held at Ames, Iowa, Sam was acknowledged for his untiring service and contributions to the Order with the Distinguished Service Award. The nomination stated that, "Sam absolutely embodies all of the leadership traits that the OA stands for."

Sam Stocker was the type of individual who smiled through a problem, developed relationships and most of all, had the ability to build bridges between competing opinions. In addition to Scouting, Sam managed to graduate from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Spanish and planned to attend Michigan State University. Tragically in 2005, Sam Stocker passed away at the age of 22. Incredibly in his short life he managed a lengthy list of accomplishments that made our lodge better, engaged his peers with an infectious spirit, and embodied the human spirit that was fun to be around.

Camp staff colleague and close friend Ethan Rein is in the preliminary stages of planning a tribute to Sam before formally launching a campaign to raise funds. The tribute will be a set of three flag poles for the Pines Training Area at D-Bar-A Scout Ranch, a place Sam loved and where his spirit soared.

2018 NOAC GEO: Goodman Edson Observatory

By KYLE BRENDEL
2018 NOAC GEO STAFF

The staff of the 2018 NOAC Goodman Edson Observatory (GEO) is hard at work preparing spectacular exhibits and formulating memorable experiences for museum guests. This year the GEO will be housed in the Willkie Building, which is located on the eastern side of campus, and will open Monday, July 30 at 1pm and close on Thursday, August 2 in the evening.

The GEO was rated the best aspect of the centennial conference, and the plans for 2018 promise an even better experience. Whether you visited the GEO last

conference or this will be your first year stopping by, there will be much for you to enjoy at the GEO. The GEO will boast a large exhibit space, totaling over 12,000 square feet. Favorite features from the 2015 GEO will return and new exhibits and activities (including a scavenger hunt!) will be added to ensure the best experience possible.

One area returning in 2018 is the Oral History Project (OHP), which was introduced alongside the 2015 NOAC GEO. The project's goal remains the same: interview Arrowmen to gain insights into our history and the Order's impact on its members. The OHP team is looking

to add names to its interview list and would like to capture your story, as it is an important part of the Order's history. If you are attending the conference, please reach out to oralhistory@oa-bsa.org to schedule an interview.

The OA's archive team will operate throughout the conference to preserve the history of the Order. Stop by to gift or loan your nationally and/or regionally-focused OA photos, documents, and other objects for digitization. Your gift or loan will help the Order to better share its history with Arrowmen, Scouts and Scouters, and the public.

On Wednesday, August 1,

the GEO will host a 40+ Years of Service Summit, which will offer participants a unique program, reception, and NOAC GEO "Behind the Scenes Tour." If you were inducted prior to 1979, consider taking advantage of this special opportunity.

In the last issue of *The Silver Arrowhead*, the story and personal effects of the presumed first African American Vigil Honor member, Emerson James, were highlighted. Stop by the GEO to experience his story and items in person.

Overall, the 2018 NOAC GEO will be a place for all Arrowmen to gather, observe, and partake in the Order's rich and significant history.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My Brothers,

I often think about what it must have been like to be the camp director of Treasure Island in 1915. I suspect as Urner Goodman contemplated how to motivate young men in camp that summer, he set his sights on what was not yet a grand plan that would someday affect the lives of millions of Scouts. I think he knew the ideas and principles that he and Carroll Edson talked about had the potential to take some of the best kids in camp that summer and give them a new perspective on their lives. To give them a new inspiration about serving their fellow man, cheerfully and most importantly developing a brotherhood of likeminded Scouts.

As the 2018 summer season starts to kick into gear, the Order will welcome thousands of new Scouts to our Brotherhood. We'll inspire many and teach them that it is OK to call one another Brothers, its OK to work tirelessly in the service of others and it is OK to be proud to be a member of the Order of the Arrow. But most importantly I hope that these newest members will return to their units with a newly inspired self-motivation. These are the kids and leaders we hope will work harder and longer than others. They will become Scouts who take the next leadership challenge, that develop the next skill and go above and beyond what their next job description says.

As we lead the Order, members of the national committee often think about the early days and can tell you that we believe that many of the early principles of the Order live in much of what we do today. The men and women that serve you on our leadership teams at the section, regional and national levels have deep commitments to supporting the youth that we induct into our organization and to supporting Scouting as a movement. You no doubt have kept up to speed on the changing eligibility requirements for Cub Scouting and what is soon to be the older youth programs of the Boy Scouts of America. The Order

of the Arrow will be affected by these changes too. In the next few years we will start to see young women join our organization, they will be elected by members of their units, just like most of us were. These young women will join an organization that is just as vibrant and relevant today as it was in 1915. They will join an organization that is the National Honor Society of Scouting, a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service. They will be inspired by our traditions just as all of us were as new members, and most importantly they will return to their units with a newly inspired self-motivation.

I have said many times before, wearing the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award is one of the most precious and significant honors of my life. The men and women I share the honor with are some of the most respected leaders I have known during my life. With this honor comes a duty to guide the next classes of DSA recipients, to always set the example and to be stalwart in commitment to our Brotherhood.

It will take a corps of men and women who know the Scouting movement and our Order to guide our lodges, sections, regions and our national organizations through these changing demographics. But if we never lose sight of the first principles that Urner and Carroll thoughtfully developed 103 years ago, if we stay true to molding the youth leadership of today for service tomorrow and beyond and if we ourselves are inspired and self-motivated to make the Order of the Arrow a Brotherhood of Cheerful Service we will be meeting and exceeding everything I hope for our organization.

My best to each of you!



Mike Hoffman
Class of 1986



ON THE COVER: The last crew of the summer in 1999 for the OA Wilderness Voyage program, the inaugural season. Second from left is foreman Brian Seeton (Class of 2004), 5th from the left sitting is foreman Tim Beecher, standing wearing the white t-shirt is the 1999 Central Region Chief Aaron Kreager (Class of 2000), and on the far right is Sam Stocker (Class of 2004).

ARROWMEN SERVING SCOUTING AND THEIR COMMUNITY

In February, **SAM GIACALONE** (Class of 2015) received the Silver Beaver Award from the Great Alaska Council. Under his leadership as the Nanuk Lodge Adviser, they earned three Gold Awards for the Journey to Excellence, and one Silver Award. An Eagle Scout, Sam served three terms as lodge chief before serving as section chief. He is also active in Cub Scouting for his daughter and son. Sam is currently the only DSA recipient from Alaska.

In February, **NATHAN FINNIN** (Class of 2004) and **BUD HARRELSON** (Class of 1998) received the Silver Beaver from the Old North State Council based in Greensboro, North Carolina. Nathan served



Nathan Finnin (left) and Bud Harrelson (right)

as the 2002 Southern Region Chief, and for the past five years, served as the council vice president for development. For the last three years he specifically focused on the annual Friends of Scouting campaigns and smaller fundraisers. A current member of the national OA committee, Bud has been heavily involved with council events for a number of years, including serving as camp director the last couple of summers.

In March, **BILL TOPKIS** (Class of 2012) received the Silver Beaver from the Great Salt Lake Council in Utah. A member of the national OA committee, Topkis continues to play an integral role in developing and implementing the SURGE initiative. Though created by Section W-2W that includes lodges in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming, Supporting Units through Really Great Elections are resources to help chapter and lodges throughout the nation to develop stronger relationships with units from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).



Spencer Long

In March, **SPENCER LONG** (Class of 2012) received the Silver Beaver from the Pathway to Adventure Council that serves parts of Illinois and Indiana. An Eagle Scout, Spencer currently serves as the council vice president for program and also as the Central Region OA vice chairman of training and leadership development. Professionally he is the associate director for Student Development Services at the University of Illinois at Chicago

In March, **KEVIN MOSHIER** (Class of 2002) took his "final vows" with the Friars of the Sick Poor of Los Angeles.

In March, the **HONORABLE JAY H. CORPENING II** (Class of 2009), chief judge in the 5th Judicial District, based in Wilmington, North Carolina, was recognized with the Honorable David W. Soukup Judge



Judge David W. Soukup (left) and Judge Jay Corpening II (right)

of the Year Award at the annual conference of The National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association. Together with its state and local member programs, National CASA supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect in the United States can be safe and thrive in a permanent home. He is currently working to establish school justice partnerships with several counties throughout North Carolina.



Anthony Peluso (left) and Michael Kipp (right)

NOAC 2018 Update

The examples listed below are just the tip of the iceberg of programs we will offer our participants in order to make their NOAC experience as amazing and memorable as possible. As we continue to make great strides in our conference planning, keep in mind that young Arrowman whose view of our Order and Scouting will be changed forever because of their experiences.

- From a thematic standpoint, our Messaging Team has been working to incorporate the theme into as many program areas as possible, ranging from shows and conference activities all the way to training.

- We will be rolling out our first ever NOAC App, placing the entirety of the conference at the fingertips of our delegates.

- Our Wayfinder Festival will feature, among many other things, an augmented reality tent where participants can experience all the sights and sounds of OA High Adventure as if they were there.

- New Special Events include a reception for all Arrowmen inducted within 12 months of the conference, as well as a memorabilia auction where all bidding will take place via an app, and all proceeds go towards the OA Endowment.

- In the world of training, we will be offering more state-of-the-art, innovative training cells than ever before, focusing in on relevant topics about how we can improve our lodges back home.

- Activities and Receptions committee will be offering new additions such as Escape Rooms, virtual reality stations, and much more.

- Our Sustainability team is working to make us green across the conference, through a completely digital newsletter, and exploring options for local service projects among other things.

- The Trading Post team has created an online survey bringing an increased youth voice to the committee, selling more memorabilia that is compatible with today's trends to appeal more to our younger audience.

- The Region Gatherings will bring a taste of home to each region, and also build region pride as delegates go head-to-head in inter-region competitions.

- And last but not least, the Conference Shows team is hard at work creating a program to inspire our delegates and send them home with a renewed spirit of service

Don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance moving forward, and keep up the great work.

Cheerfully,

Anthony Peluso
2018 National Chief

Michael Kipp
2018 National Vice Chief