

2020

Lodge Chief:	Parker Stewart	Vice Chief – Indian Affairs:	Robert Rogers
Vice Chief – Program:	Kenan Boswell	Vice Chief – Communications:	Tanner Maerz
Vice Chief – Service:	Anthony Mills	Lodge Adviser:	Sue Hampton / Drew Maerz
Vice Chief – Administration:	Calvin Meyers	Staff Adviser:	Ann Jones / Bud Harrelson

Officers served from June 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020

Tsoitsi Tsogalii Lodge started 2020 with its Lodge Leadership Development course at the Council Office in Greensboro on January 11. About 60 Arrowmen attended this training to prepare for a busy year of service. Training sessions during LLD ranged from topics on creating a quality program to communication and servant leadership. Lunch was provided and following the training sessions, participants had the opportunity to stay for a Lodge Executive Committee meeting and contribute to the decision making process of the Lodge.



The lodge's next event was the Spring Fellowship scheduled for March 13 – 15 at Cherokee Scout Reservation. Unfortunately, the event was canceled only hours before Arrowmen were planning to depart for camp. (A patch was produced and later sold to lodge members at camp during the Fall Induction and Fall Fellowship.)

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19 – The Pandemic of 2020

Early in 2020 the world learned that a coronavirus known as COVID-19 was discovered in Wuhan, China. This unknown sickness was feared to become the cause of millions of deaths worldwide. On March 13 President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency and issued a travel ban for non-Americans entering the US from 26 foreign nations. The NBA stopped play and all NCAA conference basketball tournaments were canceled. This illness was causing pneumonia-type symptoms in older people so due to a limited number of Intensive Care Units in hospitals and a shortage of ventilators the country went into a lockdown. Most businesses closed their offices and restaurants served only take-out food. Many employees were laid off and others began working remotely from their homes. Business began to be conducted via online "Zoom" meetings or through conference calls. Churches and schools closed and citizens were encouraged to wear mask when they went out in public to reduce the spread of the disease. For the next several months everyone's daily life was affected by this illness. In time, people did things "virtually" meaning online. Most events and activities were first postponed then canceled. By fall the world had learned a lot about COVID-19. We learned that young people were not seriously affected with many youth being "asymptomatic", meaning they showed no symptoms. On a state-by-state basis restrictions were lessened, but life was not expected to return to normal until a vaccine was available and "herd immunity" could be achieved hopefully in mid-2021.

The 2020 SR-7B Section Conclave was scheduled to be held at Camp Bowers on April 16 – 18. When the pandemic started, the hope was that it would last a short period of time. The conclave was postponed and rescheduled to be held on August 28 – 30th. Tsoitsi Tsogalii Lodge chose a spirit theme of "CRAYONS". A two-piece patch set was produced for the event. As the pandemic continued through the summer, the 2020 conclave was eventually cancelled. (The patches were made available to lodge members at the Fall Induction and Fall Fellowship.)

On May 4 Tsoitsi Tsogalii Lodge announced that **Sue Hampton** will end her service as Lodge Adviser after a successful five year term. Effective June 1st **Drew Maerz** took over the role of Lodge Adviser.



Due to the pandemic and Boy Scout troops not meeting in person, unit elections were held via Zoom meetings. The lodge attempted to complete all elections by June 1st. The National Director of the Order of the Arrow announced that candidates elected between February 1st and July 1, 2020 would have 24 months to complete their ordeal.

On June 27 the council held a workday at Cherokee Scout Reservation. A total of 40 lodge members registered for this event. Several important projects were completed around camp in preparation for summer activities.



The Old North State Council had every intention of operating its summer camp program at Cherokee Scout Reservation. Unfortunately, many troops and Scouts decided at the last minute to not attend camp so in early June, only two weeks before camp would open, the Council announced that summer camp was canceled. An alternate program was announced where the camp would hold “Summer Encampments” on four weekends during July. Scouts were invited to arrive at camp on Friday evening, sleep in Adirondacks, and take a merit badge class on Saturday. On Saturday evening the staff had a campfire where campers “socially distanced” themselves sitting at least six feet apart. Following a few skits and songs, Tsoitsi Tsogalii Lodge held a tap-out ceremony. A total of over 300 Scouts attended the four weekends.

Normally a highlight of the Spring Fellowship is the call out of the Vigil Honor candidates. With the cancellation of that event the chosen Arrowmen were not announced until July 16. The following individuals were recognized: **Kenan Boswell, Nicky Carter, Bill Goebel, Ron King, Shelli Luna, Drew Maerz, Anthony Mills, Michael Rogers, Robert Rogers, William Rogers, Rich Stewart, and Mark Waisner.** These Brothers kept the vigil at Cherokee Scout Reservation on August 1 – 2.



Tsoitsi Tsogalii Lodge had 28 members signed up to attend the 2020 National Order of the Arrow Conference to be held at Michigan State University on August 3 – 8. Unfortunately, the NOAC was canceled due to the pandemic. The lodge issued a flap which was made available to all members. Prior to the NOAC we learned that three lodge members were being honored with the OA's **Distinguished Service Award** (DSA). **Sean Alewine, Sue Hampton, and Rob Kennerly** were selected.

The lodge's Summer Induction usually held at Woodfield Scout Preservation was canceled due to local regulations. On September 12 the lodge did conduct a workday at Woodfield and 27 members registered to help on several projects.

With the pandemic coming under control the lodge made special plans to hold its Fall Inductions at Cherokee Scout Reservation. On October 2 - 3 a total of 177 Scouts and Scouters participated in this 24-hour event. Arriving participants were required to provide a two-week record of their temperature, plus it was taken before they left the parking lot. Anyone running a fever would be immediately sent home. Candidates were divided into three "pods" to limit interaction between groups in camp. Pre-packaged food was dispensed to both candidates and staff for meals. On Saturday work projects were kept in three separate areas of camp. Three separate sets of ceremonies were held during the weekend, one for each pod. By Saturday evening 107 participants had completed their Ordeal including 12 female youth members, the lodge's first. An additional nine Arrowmen sealed their membership in the OA by becoming Brotherhood.



Another special activity occurred in the fall - a "virtual induction". This experimental Ordeal included Scouts participating in online ceremonies and communicating with their Elangomat. On Saturday each candidate consumed scant food and worked silently on a service project of their choosing. A total of nine new Brothers completed this virtual induction.

On November 14 the lodge held a one-day Fall Fellowship at Cherokee Scout Reservation. In addition to having over 150 Arrowmen in camp, an Ordeal was held for 35 candidates. It was one of the busiest single days for Tsoiotsi Tsogalii Lodge in its 26 year history. About 60 participants arrived on Friday evening to take part in the Ordeal. Another 150 arrived on Saturday morning. Of course everyone was screened for their temperature to ensure no one with a fever interacted with the group. The morning was filled with fun activities for Scouts. Lunch was available in five camp sites requiring everyone to join their fellow Chapter members. Elections were held for new chapter officers.



In the afternoon everyone was requested to go to the Council Ring to take care of important lodge business. The lodge's officers that were elected in the Spring of 2019 had continued to serve for the full year of 2020. New officer elections were conducted with various presentations being made while votes were being counted. The officers elected to serve during 2021 are **Anthony Mills** – Lodge Chief; **Nic "Texas" Fillippa** - Vice-Chief of Program; **Camdon Rohrer** - Vice-Chief of Communications; **Calvin Meyers** - Vice-Chief of Administration; **Josh Hanflink** - Vice Chief of Indian Affairs; **Aiden Treier** – Vice-Chief of Service. Lodge Adviser Drew Maerz swore in the new officers. Parker Stewart passed the bonnet to the new chief and then Parker shared a few comments as he completed his two- and-a-half years as lodge chief.



The Founders Award was presented to three deserving Brothers. **Parker Stewart, Craig Hendrix, and Jacob Perkins** were recognized for their outstanding service to the lodge and to Scouting in the Old North State Council.

The Red Feather Award was presented to **Kristina Edmondson, Sherron Whitesell, and Jarod Fogleman**. This award is given to non-Order of the Arrow members that have provided exceptional service to the lodge.

A James E. West Fellowship was presented to **Jeff Triplett, Smith Hardy, and Lyndal Butler**. A James E. West – Legacy Fellowship was presented to **Steve Allred**.

A total of eight new Brothers were recognized with the First Year Arrowman Award.

The highlight of the afternoon assembly was the presentation to former Lodge Adviser, **Sue Hampton**, of the Order of the Arrow's Distinguished Service Award. This award is the highest honor that the OA presents to its members. Only about twenty Arrowmen from around the country are recognized with this award each year. It is usually presented during a special show at the National Order of the Arrow Conference.



On December 4 – 5 Tsoiotsi Tsogalii Lodge held one last induction for 2020 at Cherokee Scout Reservation. There were 40 participants working with nine Ordeal candidates. Friday evening was a rainy night but Saturday was drier and cool.

Lodge history was made when the first female ceremonialists participated in the weekend's ceremonies.

2020 was a year like no other with cancelled events, masks required and a hope for a brighter future.



Thank You, Marvin!

Marvin Preslar, a Vigil honor member of Tsoiotsi Tsogalii Lodge, has served as Cherokee Scout Reservation Camp Ranger for 33 years. He became Ranger in April 1988 when he joined the Cherokee Council staff. Marvin is well known to Arrowmen and Cherokee Scout Reservation staff members for his dedicated service. He is retiring in early 2021.

Campers and visitors will remember Marvin's friendly nature, welcoming smile, and quality customer service. We are all indebted to Marvin for his commitment to CSR ensuring that camp is always in good repair and ready to host Scouts. His lifetime of work has assured that camp is prepared for all future campers, visitors, and families.

We look forward to seeing Marvin as a volunteer at future lodge fellowships. Thank you for your *Cheerful Service!*