



Council of Chiefs

February 22, 2025

Camp Horne

- I. Pledge and Obligation: The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Obligation of the Order of the Arrow at 11:12 AM CT.
- II. Roll Call:
 - a. Section Chief: Present
 - b. Section Vice Chief: Present
 - c. Section Secretary: Present
 - d. Conclave Service Chair: Present
 - e. Indian Winter Service Chair: Present
 - f. Alibamu: Present
 - g. Aracoma: Present
 - h. Chattahoochee: Present
 - i. Coosa: Present
 - j. Echeconnee: Present
 - k. Egwa Tawa Dee: Present
 - l. Ini-To: Present
 - m. I-Tsu-La: Present
 - n. Mowogo: Present
 - o. Waguli: Present
 - p. Withlacoochee: Present
 - q. Admin Events: Present
 - r. American Indian Events: Present
 - s. Ceremony Events: Present
 - t. Fellowship Events: Present
 - u. Quest Events: Present
 - v. Shows Events: Present
 - w. Special Events: Present (adviser)
 - x. Tailypo Events: Present
 - y. Training Events: Present
- III. Introduction & Approval of [2024 August COC Minutes](#)
 - a. Motion to approve by Egwa Tawa Dee, Seconded by Ini-To. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Introduction & Approval of [2025 Virtual COC Minutes](#)
 - a. Motion to approve by Egwa Tawa Dee, Seconded by Echeconnee. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. Officer Reports
 - a. Secretary: Stephen is excited to be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology starting in June. Over the past few months, Stephen has been working on promoting our various section events and is looking forward to continuing this process for Conclave.



- b. Vice Chief: While at college, Lindsey has become actively involved in a Scouting America Unit in Knoxville as well as the local lodge while maintaining active membership with her home lodge, Egwa Tawa Dee. She has been working hard to plan Indian Winter and has been happy with how the event has been going. Lindsey expressed gratitude to the members of the Section for their flexibility with the weather related rescheduling of Indian Winter.
 - c. Chief: All Section Officers attended the Section Officer Seminar (SOS) in Atlanta in the fall. Section E6 was the host section for the event. Emma had the honor of serving on staff for the National Leadership Seminar (NLS) held in Nashville, TN as well as the NLS held in Mobile, AL. Following the National Planning Meeting, Emma was elected as the Event Vice Chief of Communication for the National Council of Chiefs being held at Philmont Scout Ranch in July of 2025. She is looking forward to Conclave and has been actively coordinating with the Conclave Vice Chiefs to plan an effective, engaging, and fun program.
- VI. Lodge Reports
- a. Alibamu: Since August, Alibamu has held a day of service and sent 4 youth and 2 adults to NLS and DYLC in Mobile, AL. Alibamu contributed heavily to their local council's winter camp with representation of 30 members on staff. Further, they have held 2 skills day fellowship events and are looking forward to their upcoming ordeal weekend in March.
 - b. Aracoma: Aracoma has taken on a heavy role as the service lodge for the 2025 Indian Winter and is proud to have upwards of 60 members on staff for the weekend.
 - c. Chattahoochee: Since August, Chattahoochee has held their Fall Fellowship where new lodge officers were elected and a lodge banquet where the new officers were installed. The lodge is working hard on planning for their spring pow wow event.
 - d. Coosa: Since August, Coosa has held their fall fellowship and a successful winter banquet for the lodge. Coosa was proud to send 21 members to NLS and DYLC in Mobile, AL. This weekend, they are holding their winter ordeal weekend where they look forward to welcoming new members into the lodge and the Order of the Arrow. Coosa will be hosting their carnival themed spring fellowship in March.
 - e. Echeconnee: Since August, Echeconnee has held a fall fellowship in November where new lodge officers were elected. The new officers were installed at their winter banquet in January. They are looking forward to their upcoming spring ordeal weekend.
 - f. Egwa Tawa Dee: Since August, Egwa Tawa Dee has hosted their council's trailblazer weekend where over 1000 cub scouts and others attended. They held elections for new lodge officers during fall fellowship and these officers were installed at their lodge banquet. Egwas is excited to announce they have 102 members registered for Conclave. Egwa Tawa



Dee presented the Founders Award to Lindsey Mercer, Section Vice Chief, at their lodge banquet. Lodge leadership voted and announced they would be discontinuing AIA after the 2025 conclave.

- g. Ini-to: New lodge officers were elected at their fall fellowship. Ini-To's annual Klondike event was a huge success.
- h. I-Tsu-La: Since August, I-Tsu-La has held an ordeal, fellowship event, lodge banquet, and a business meeting.
- i. Mowogo: Since August, Mowogo has held their pow wow event. New lodge officers were elected during fall fellowship at Scoutland and were installed at the lodge banquet.
- j. Waguli: Since August, Waguli contributed staff and service to the Camporee where there were over 150 participants. New lodge officers were elected at their fall fellowship and were installed at the lodge banquet.
- k. Withlacoochee: Since August, Withlacoochee has held an ordeal weekend where they welcomed 7 new Ordeal members and had 8 members return to earn their Brotherhood. They had members attend NLS in Mobile, AL. Withlacoochee has been approved by a local Native American tribe to host American Indian Events.

VII. Region/National Updates

- a. [2025-2027 Order of the Arrow Business Plan](#), Emma Wright: During the National Planning Meeting, the Order of the Arrow released their newly updated business plan. The plan outlines new goals and a newly oriented vision for the Order of the Arrow. During the National Council of Chiefs, the business plan will be reviewed, discussed, and expanded upon to give lodge chiefs the tools they need to put the plan into action in their lodge.
- b. AIA Update, Emma Wright and Ken Barton: After January 1, 2026, all AIA must be conducted with approval of a local state or federally recognized tribe. Ken Barton: Any American Indian events must be conducted at the lodge level with approval of a local state or federally recognized tribe. Lodges will continue to put on great programming for their Arrowmen regardless of the presence of American Indian events. Please visit <https://oa-scouting.org/resources/aia-policy> for all policy details and you can email aia@oa-scouting.org if you have any questions not answered on that page.
- c. OAHA Update: Last year, the Section was proud to have been represented in every Order of the Arrow High Adventure program offered at the time. Multiple lodges sent youth to these programs. Arrowmen are encouraged to attend OAHA programs.
- d. [2025 NCOC at Philmont](#), Emma Wright: The National Council of Chiefs will take place at Philmont Scout Ranch the week of July 20, 2025. Each lodge has been extended an invite for one youth and one adult, preferably the lodge chief and lodge adviser. Registration for the event must be completed by March 14, 2025 or the open slots will be made available to



other lodges/sections on a first come, first served basis. The week will consist of fellowship and activities with a focus on experiential learning for lodge leaders. The Eastern Region's dedicated NCOC Contingent & Staff Services (C&SS) support team member is Paul Empie, and he can be reached at peowl2@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

VIII. Old Business

- a. 2025 Best All Around Lodge Rubric: During the [Virtual Council of Chiefs](#) held in January, the Indian Winter attendance section of the Best All Around Lodge rubric was amended to state that data for the category will be pulled from either the original registration number or the onsite count whichever is higher.

IX. New Business

- a. Conclave: April 4-6th @ Bert Adams Scout Camp
 - i. Service Lodge Update – Del Gaines: The planning process for Conclave is running smoothly and no major changes have been made. Lodges and Conclave Vice Chiefs are encouraged to reach out to Del Gaines, Conclave Chair, or Jeff LeCraw, Conclave Adviser, with any needs or questions as soon as possible. Contact information for Del and Jeff is included below.
 1. Del Gaines – 770-294-8533
conclavechairman@aacegwa.org
 2. Jeff LeCraw – 770-778-5516
conclaveadviser@aacegwa.org
 - ii. Lodge Promotion / Registration – Stephen Leach: The Section is proud to announce that 405 people are registered for Conclave. A promotional toolkit will be distributed to lodges soon to aid in promotion of the event. Lodges or Conclave Vice Chiefs with specific promotional needs should reach out to Stephen at Secretary@OASectionE6.org
 - iii. Program: Information & Deadlines
 1. Administrative Events – Leslie Stone: An email was sent approximately 3 weeks ago requesting one youth and one adult judge from each lodge for admin events. Multiple lodges still need to respond with their chosen youth and adult judge. Judges will submit results by the 28th of March.
 2. American Indian Affairs – Logan Leach: The registration form for drum and dance will close on March 22. Judges are needed as well. 2 forms will be sent to lodges: one for judges and one for participants.
 3. Ceremonies – Elliot: Ceremonies is requesting 2 judges from each lodge who are a minimum of 21 years old. The form to sign up for ceremonies competitions is due by the 22nd of March. Judges will participate in training sessions on Zoom prior to Conclave.



4. Fellowship – Alex Arnsdorff: Nothing to report.
5. Quest Events – Jacob Young: One adult judge is needed from each lodge by March 22. Quest events will include ultimate frisbee, wischixin, tug-o-war, and volleyball.
6. Shows – Aaron Sadowski: Nothing to report.
7. Special Events – Hagan Rudolf (report presented by adviser, Craig Barnwell): Lodge participation is necessary for the patch auction to fulfill its intended role of supporting youth in the Section. Lodges are encouraged to contribute valuable and desirable patches for the patch auction. For the adult cooking contest, 3 adult judges are needed from each lodge. Elijah Aiken, 2025 Eastern Region Chief, will be the special guest at the VIA luncheon held during Conclave. Each lodge should remember to participate in the Conclave food drive as it is a part of the Best All Around Lodge Rubric.
8. Tailypo Festival – Alex Sutter: Names of adults must be given from each lodge to serve as judges during Conclave.
9. Training – Michael Carlin: Encouraged youth to serve as Conclave trainers. The matrix is able to be switched based on the passion of the trainers themselves. Michael encouraged youth to serve as Conclave trainers and that the training matrix is largely flexible and can be changed based on the interests of prospective trainers.
10. OA Museum - Steve Willis / Emma Wright: Lodges will be provided 1 foldout table and 2 chairs to set up their exhibit. Setup will take place Friday afternoon and the museum will be open to attendees starting Friday night. Displays must be fully removed on Saturday before setup for the Tailypo festival begins.

X. Open Forum

- a. Scholarship Opportunities: Over the past years, the Conclave patch auction has been used to create scholarship opportunities for Arrowmen to attend NLS. Because there is not an NLS close to the Section this coming year, where should the funds from the auction be allocated?
 - i. Ini-To suggested that the funds be allocated for scholarships to Operation Arrow, the Order of the Arrow's staffing element at the National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2026.
 - ii. Lindsey suggested that the proceeds fund scholarships to Conclave and Order of the Arrow High Adventure Programs
 - iii. Emma suggested scholarships to the National Council of Chiefs.
- b. Given the new guidance from the National OA Committee regarding AIA activities, how should Indian Winter be modified to fit the new guidelines while still providing an engaging program?



- i. There was a suggestion made blending aspects of the ACT Conference with Indian Winter to create a fluid event that focuses on the challenges and needs of lodges encountered at the time. Comments were made about the need to adjust the rotation of service lodges if the ACT Conference were moved to take the spot of Indian Winter.
 - ii. After further discussion, the general consensus was on keeping the schedule to include three events, but altering programming to fit current needs. Suggestions for programming included leadership training focused on current challenges, service weekends, and more.
 - c. Ini-To made posters with the OA obligation and song. Some of these were distributed to lodges in August at the ACT Conference; however, if a lodge has not received theirs, they will be able to pick them up from Alex Arnsforff following the Council of Chiefs.
 - d. Aracoma asked that lodges leave bagged trash by the road at their campsite and to leave faucets dripping when they depart from camp.
- XI. Closing
- a. Adviser's Minute: Ken Barton congratulated Stephen Leach, Section Secretary, on receiving the Vigil Honor in November. He reflected on Proverbs 27:17 which talks about the importance of unity and one person sharpening another. Ken emphasized that "we are a true brotherhood" in the way that the youth of the Section looked beyond our differences to plan a program and commit to having fun.
 - b. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM CT with the singing of the song of the Order.