

THE THUNDERBIRD!

Kawida Lodge #480 – Blue Grass Council #204, BSA

Volume 60, Issue 3



www.kawida.org

EXTRA — SPECIAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

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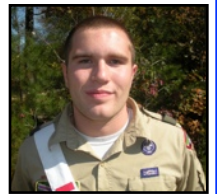
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Chiefly Speaking

by Jake Redenbaugh

Brothers in Scouting,

It would be the deepest folly were I to attempt, through any poor words that I might speak, to add to the excitement of those who have participated in lodge events throughout this year, our 60th Anniversary as a lodge. We've seen both young and old, new and experienced members step into roles where they may not have believed they could have found success, and come out ahead. We've sent some of our future lodge leaders to National Leadership Seminars, NAYLE training at Philmont, and our own Lodge Leadership Developments here in Council. In the last 60 years our lodge has produced Section and Region officers, Southern Region and National Committee members, as



well as outstanding local youth and adult leaders. Our lodge will continue to do so for the next 60 years, and well beyond that, leading the pack in brotherhood and cheerful service on a local, regional, and national level. Rest assured, Kawida is in very capable hands, and our best years are in front of us! Encourage your friends in Scouting to pay their dues if they have not done so already, and make sure to come out to Fall Fellowship to have fun and elect your 2013 officer class... and we promise to keep the party rocking!

Happy 60th anniversary Kawida!

Yours in Service,

Jake Redenbaugh

Lodge Chief

From the Supreme Chief of the Fire

by Matt Roberts

It's hard to believe we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Kawida Lodge #480! Over the years we have seen the lodge develop into one of the premier lodges in the country. The lodge has played an integral part in the development of our future leaders throughout the council. This is evident with the numerous youth, past and present, that currently hold or have held positions not

only on the section but regional level. Kawida members have spent thousands of hours over the years promoting camping and service to others. This fellowship of youth and adults has strengthened our units, impacted camp attendance, and has been directly responsible for countless improvement projects at Camp McKee.

The last 60 years of Kawida Lodge #480 have been truly

remarkable. From ceremonies to service projects, we have seen a continued standard of excellence, and I look forward to another great year in 2012. Thank you for your continued dedication to the Scouting movement!

Yours in Scouting,

Matt Roberts

Supreme Chief of the Fire



How to Join the 60th Anniversary Fun!

by Nathan Vick

Since its beginning 60 years ago, Kawida Lodge has had an exceptional legacy of Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. As we look forward into the next 60 years, that trend shows no signs of stopping. From the Cheerful Service found in Ordeals to the Brotherhood experienced at Fellowships, Kawida Lodge is going strong and will continue to do so for the next 60 years.

If you aren't currently active in the lodge, there is no better time to become active than during the 60th anniversary year. The plans for this year, and the

years to come, are so big and awesome that you won't want to miss out!

How do you become active? It's simple: just pay your 2012 Kawida Lodge Dues! The form can be downloaded from the lodge website, <http://kawida.org/download/dues-form>. You can even fill it out and pay on your computer!

Once you've paid your dues, a whole world of possibilities opens up for you. You can come and participate at any lodge event, because even though the year's half over, we have so many amazing events

planned for the rest of the year that you won't want to miss them! Events such as Ordeals, Fall Fellowship, Lodge Leadership Development, and Winter Banquet are filled with Kawida spirit and pride, so come and join the fun!

Happy 60th Anniversary Kawida!! We can't wait to see what the next 60 years will bring!

Yours in Service,

Nathan Vick

Lodge Secretary



The History of Kawida Lodge

Prior to the existence of the Order of the Arrow, many councils across the country had secret organizations, fraternities, orders, and societies whose purpose was very similar to that of the Order of the Arrow. One such organization was known as the Ku-Ni-Eh Order. Arthur E. Roberts founded the Ku-Ni-Eh Order in 1922 at Camp Edgar Friedlander, which was located on the Little Miami River near Cincinnati, Ohio. Camp Edgar Friedlander was the summer camp of the Cincinnati Area Council, and Arthur E. Roberts was the Camp Director for many of its early years of operation. Mr. Roberts also served the Cincinnati Area Council as its Scout Executive for many years. During those early years at summer camp, Mr. Roberts saw a need for the development of a brotherhood to honor a select number of Scouts who best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law. After many months of searching, Mr. Roberts found what he considered to be the best ceremony for the induction of candidates into this brotherhood. This ceremony was based on a ritual used by the Kankau, a tribe of the Maidu Indians of Northern California. The Kankau used this ceremony to test their boys in the virtues necessary to become a brave. The word Ku-Ni-Eh means "Order of Manhood" in the Maidu tongue, and thus was chosen as the name for this new brotherhood. The symbol that was selected to represent the Ku-Ni-Eh Order was the "We-hin-ay-pay," which means Rising Sun. This symbol was taken from a design in the base of a ritual basket of the Maidu Indians.

The Ku-Ni-Eh Order had its own requirements for membership, rules and regulations, and even its own handbook. Its popularity spread throughout the Cincinnati Area Council, and the knowledge of the Ku-Ni-Eh Order's success spread to many other Councils. Soon, over forty councils had the Ku-Ni-Eh Order as an integral part of their summer camp program. However, the Ku-Ni-Eh Order was never recognized by the Boy Scouts of America as an official organization. The local sponsor of the Ku-Ni-Eh Order was O.C. Rankin of Cynthiana, Kentucky, and he presided over the organization's activities, as well as the selection of candidates. Candidates for induction into the Ku-Ni-Eh Order were selected by the current Ku-Ni-Eh Order members, unlike the Order of the Arrow where non-members elect candidates.

By the early 1950's, the Ku-Ni-Eh Order was flourishing in the Blue Grass Council. There were many Ku-Ni-Eh members, and the organization was very active. The center for these activities was located at Camp Offutt, which was the Blue Grass Council's official Scout camp. Camp Offutt was located on the Kentucky River near Fintville, Kentucky. However, by the early 1950's most of Kentucky's non-Order of the Arrow organizations had been replaced by the Order of the Arrow, which was a chartered organization of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and which functioned as an official part of the National Camping Committee. Thus, it was inevitable that the Ku-Ni-Eh Order would also soon be replaced by the Order of the Arrow. A Blue Grass Council District Executive named Guy Walton "Walt" Ferrell began to actively support the idea of chartering an Order of the Arrow Lodge in the Blue Grass Council. This idea of charter-

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ing an Order of the Arrow Lodge created friction between those who wanted the Order of the Arrow, and those who wished to remain members of the Ku-Ni-Eh Order. After many debates, the Order of the Arrow replaced the Ku-Ni-Eh Order, and the wheels were set in motion to charter an Order of the Arrow Lodge in the Blue Grass Council with the submission of an application to the National Office.

In April of 1952, five individuals were selected to attend an Order of the Arrow induction weekend being held at Covered Bridge Reservation near Prospect, Kentucky. These five individuals included Guy Walton "Walt" Ferrell, Henry T. "Hank" Ravencraft, John Rue "Chunk" Beard, William D. "Bill" Hepburn, and Frank D. Lewis. This Order of the Arrow induction weekend was hosted and conducted by the Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 of Louisville, Kentucky. Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 had held similar induction weekends for other newly formed lodges in the surrounding areas. The purpose of this weekend was three-fold:

1. To educate these five individuals on the history of the Order of the Arrow, its structure, and its rules and regulations.
2. To officially induct these five individuals into the Order of the Arrow.
3. To train these five individuals to conduct an Order of the Arrow induction weekend back in their own Council.

Due to the enormous efforts of countless individuals, the Order of the Arrow was officially chartered in the Blue Grass Council on July 28, 1952, as the Kawida Lodge #480. Even the selection of the Lodge name has a colorful history. In trying to hold on to the past, the Blue Grass Council respectfully submitted the name of the Kawida Lodge #480 Blue Grass Council, Lexington KY "Ku-Ni-Eh" Lodge to the national office. To the Council's surprise, they were informed that the name "Ku-Ni-Eh" had already been issued to Lodge #462 of Cincinnati, Ohio. The old Ku Ni-Eh Order members looked to their Ku-Ni-Eh handbook for guidance. In the back of the handbook there is a list of the five "Chief Braves" of the tribe of the Ku-Ni-Eh, and one of those braves was named "Kawida", also known as the "wise" brave. Thus, the name Kawida was selected by the Blue Grass Council to be the name of the new Lodge, and it was approved by the national office. The Lodge chose the mythical thunderbird as their new totem, and they selected the call of their Lodge to be that of the owl. Kawida Lodge #480 conducted its first Ordeal induction weekend on June 7, 1952 at Camp Offutt near Fintville, Kentucky. One adult and one or two youth members (depending on Troop size) from each Troop in the Council were selected to be charter members, and to undergo the test of the Ordeal. The five members of the original induction team presided over the weekend with the help and support from members of the Zit-Kala-Sha Lodge #123 of Louisville, Kentucky. Many camp projects were completed during that first Ordeal weekend, and some of the more notable projects included the building of a new health lodge, improvements on

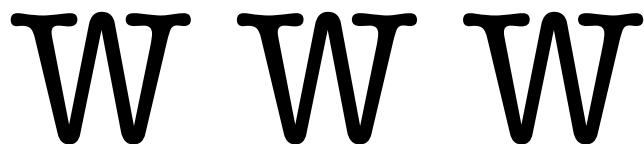
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the trading post and handicraft area, the raising of a new flag pole, and the building of a swimming crib to be used on the Kentucky River. The first Ordeal weekend concluded with the repeating of the Obligation, and the presentation of the Ordeal sashes. This tradition, which had its beginnings that June weekend in 1952, has continued uninterrupted for nearly six decades, with the induction of literally thousands of Kawida Lodge members.

Over the course of its evolution, the Blue Grass Council has absorbed several other Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Kentucky councils. This evolution has also given rise to two Order of the Arrow Lodge mergers from these absorbed councils. The Mischa Mokwa Lodge #435 merged with Kawida Lodge #480 in 1963 when the Blue Grass Council absorbed its supporting Council, the Cumberland Council of Middlesboro, Kentucky. To permanently signify this merger, the seven stars of Ursa Minor (the little dipper), which was a part of Mischa Mokwa's lodge totem, was added to the chest of Kawida Lodge's totem, the thunderbird. A similar event occurred in 1979 when the Blue Grass Council absorbed the Lonesome Pine Council of Pikeville, Kentucky. During this same year, the Tomahaken Lodge #241 merged with Kawida Lodge #480, and thus to permanently signify this merger, the tomahawk, which was a part of Tomahaken's lodge totem, was also added to the chest of the thunderbird.

In 2009, Bracken, Mason, Robertson, Lewis, and Fleming counties from the Simon Kenton Council of Columbus, OH, joined the Blue Grass Council and our Lodge. This was not a Lodge merger, but the LEC voted that all future patches with the thunderbird shall have the tail feathers a different color than the wing feathers. Today, the Blue Grass Council and Kawida Lodge proudly serve the fifty-five county area of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Kentucky.

Kawida Lodge #480 is currently in its 60th year of existence. The Lodge has evolved greatly from its early humble beginnings as a pre-Order of the Arrow society, to the great and honored Lodge that it is today. Kawida Lodge has never wavered from its original purpose and intent since being granted its official charter back in 1952. The Lodge has always promoted the ideals of Scouting, worked hard to strengthen the camping spirit, and given service cheerfully in the spirit of brotherhood. Kawida Lodge #480 has proudly and diligently perpetuated the message that was set forth by the founding fathers of our great and honored order, and the Lodge stands committed to continuing on this same path of success for coming decades.



Lodge Adviser's Minute

by Doug Vick



On July 28, 1952 the Order of the Arrow Kawida Lodge was officially chartered in the Blue Grass Council, replacing the non-BSA Ku-Ni-Eh Order, which for many years had been honoring Scouts who best exemplified the Scout Oath and Law. Ku-Ni-Eh meant "Order of Manhood" and had five "Chief Braves"; the "Wise" Brave was called Kawida. Thus began Kawida Lodge 60 years ago.

Kawida Arrowmen are a proud group, and rightly so. Our lodge, with its chapters, is

very youth-led, providing youth opportunities to develop leadership as they have fun and serve our council.

Throughout the decades, Kawida has been a leader in our section – regardless of how the section boundaries were drawn – and today Kawida Arrowmen serve at the local, sectional, regional, and national levels in a variety of positions of leadership. Kawida is strong and getting stronger.

As we look back through the years-that-have-been and forward to the years-to-come, the

fire of Kawida burns bright. Our youth leadership is wise beyond their years and is setting into motion plans which will promote that special Kawida brotherhood enjoyed by those who have found the joy that true service brings. You won't want to miss it!

Join me in congratulating Kawida for 60 years of cheerful service!

Doug Vick

Lodge Adviser

Officers

Advisers

Jake Redenbaugh chief@kawida.org
Lodge Chief

Nick Oliver viceofservice@kawida.org
Vice Chief of Service

Barry Johnson viceofbrotherhood@kawida.org
Vice Chief of Brotherhood

Nathan Vick secretary@kawida.org
Secretary

Christian Pena treasurer@kawida.org
Treasurer

Morgan South quartermaster@kawida.org
Quartermaster

Robert McGillivray digitalmedia.coordinator@kawida.org
Digital Media Coordinator

Shannon Elam staffadviser@kawida.org
Staff Adviser

Doug Vick adviser@kawida.org
Lodge Adviser

Larry Lowe serviceadviser@kawida.org
Vice Chief of Service Associate Adviser

Mike Warman brotherhoodadviser@kawida.org
Vice Chief of Brotherhood Associate Adviser

Claudette Watts secretaryadviser@kawida.org
Secretary Associate Adviser

Robert Palmer treasureradviser@kawida.org
Treasurer Associate Adviser

Tony South quartermasteradviser@kawida.org
Quartermaster Associate Adviser

Todd Haydon digitalmedia.adviser@kawida.org
Digital Media Coordinator Associate Adviser

Ken Green staffadviser@kawida.org
Staff Adviser

2012 CALENDAR / UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Summer (Third Overall) Ordeal.....August 17-19, 2012
Fall Ordeal.....September 7-9, 2012
Fall Fellowship.....October 5-7, 2012
Lodge Leadership Development.....November 11-12, 2012
Winter Banquet.....December 1, 2012

For updates and other events, visit www.kawida.org/calendar

Kawida Lodge #480
Blue Grass Council #204, BSA
3445 Richmond Road
Lexington, KY 40509

