



The Beagle Barks

JACK KOHLER-SUANHACKY

CAMPERSHIP ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018

"HELPING MAKE EVERY SCOUT A CAMPER" Since 1986

A BSA WHITNEY M. YOUNG Jr. SERVICE AWARD Recognized Organization

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CAMPERSHIPS FOR 2018 SUMMER SEASON AWARDED

We are proud to announce that the Scouts who will be receiving camperships from our association to attend camp this summer, have all been notified, along with their unit leaders. We awarded over \$5,000 in camperships for this summer for Scouts to go to Ten

Mile River and for Cubs to attend Cub World at Alpine. The cost of camp has gone up this season, so the assistance we offer is as important and needed as ever. We hope that the Scouts who receive our camperships will enjoy camp as much as many of us have and

go on to be contributing citizens to their communities.



WE HAVE 100% RE-REGISTRATION!!!

We are extremely pleased to announce that we had 100% of our members, who were up for re-registration, renew their dues for 2018. Not too many organizations can make such a claim. Guess we're doing something right, or you folks enjoy giving back to help the scouts of Queens.

DUES PAID



"A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room."
- Robert Baden Powell

HOW'S YOUR APPETITE?

We hope you're hungry, or will be. That's because we are in the early stages of planning our next luncheon, for the fall of 2019. Yes, a year and a half out, but early planning helps assure success as we have found from our past experiences. The date, theme and honorees are yet to be decided upon, but be confident that as soon as we know, we'll let all of you know as well.

ANNUAL CAMPING EXPO HELD AT ALPINE

The council holds an annual camping expo at Camp Alpine for the past number of years and we attend to lend our support and also to do some fund raising, selling our memorabilia. This year the Camping Expo was held on Saturday March 24 in the Alpine dining hall. It seemed to have a smaller turnout than previous years and that's a shame. The expo allows unit leaders and scouts, the opportunity to learn about what to expect at summer camp, how to prepare, what to bring, the merit badges they can go for and to get ready for and more. For some of us, it is another excuse to get together and see old friends from our own camping days.



Though overall attendance appeared to be down, our Association was very well represented with many of our members there.

WE HONOR THE NEW ASSOCIATION HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

We will be honoring 7 new inductees to the Associations' Heritage Society. The induction ceremony will be held on Saturday May 19 at Camp Keowa, Ten Mile River. The time will be prior to the Order of the Arrow dinner on their Honors weekend. It will be held in the vicinity of the Keowa Dining Hall.



The 7 new inductees are:

- JOSEPH TOTARO**
- MICHAEL FOGARTY**
- RICHARD P. & LINA W. KONIG**
- PETER M. KONIG**
- RICHARD T. KONIG**
- AUNT ERIKA KATHEDER**
- CRAIG GOODMAN**

If you would like to join the Heritage Society, or honor someone with membership to this honor roll, it is a very simple process. Just send a minimum donation of \$150 along with the name you would like added to our honor roll and a short comment (Scoutmaster, Friends of Scouts, Mother, Great Teacher...). You can do it for your troop, your old school, your favorite teacher, whomever.

RUN CARMEN RUN!

We are very proud of Carmen Cruz, wife of member Reiden Cruz who completed a charity run for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This was not just any run. Her task had her running a complete marathon,



**Carmen Cruz,
'Keep on Truckin'**

26.2 miles, in each and every state of the union. All 50 of them, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Not only did she complete her 50-state marathon run, but she also was the single biggest individual fund

raiser for her charity event. It took her a couple of years, but she kept at it. Her training, dieting and zest to help others didn't get in the way of her family obligations.

Her other motivation to complete the 50-state goal was to see the country. "Although I love running, this quest was more about the thrill of visiting new places," she says. "I'm an avid traveler." She traveled solo for some marathons; other times, her husband or friends went along. She's run in extreme cold, sweltering heat and high altitudes; in cities large and small. Carmen estimates that each weekend trip to run a marathon cost between \$800 and \$1,000, including airfare and hotel. Carmen is one of only 1200 folks who have ever completed such a goal of running a marathon in every state. She was averaging one marathon every 5 to 10 weeks. You don't have to be a scout to do a good turn and help other people, you just have to have that scout spirit which Carmen certainly has. It must have rubbed off on her from Reiden. We surely hope that our friend Reiden gave Carmen a nice foot massage when she completed her quest.



MEMBERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH OUR WEBSITE



We very much need to update our website. We have no one who is able to modernize it and keep it current, so we're asking for your help. If you

or a friend, child, scout in your unit, neighbor can help us update the site and teach us how to keep it current, that would be such a major plus for the organization. Once we get it current, we hope to learn how to update it, we'll be on easy street. Please email us if you or someone you know may be able to help us out.



GONE HOME: AL KOBE



Our member and friend, **Al Kobe** passed away on Christmas Day 2017, just a few short weeks after our November luncheon, at which he was honored with the Outstanding Scouter award of Excellence.

Al was very well deserving of that award and many others for his devotion and service to scouts and scouters, as well as the community. Al served our country as a combat infantryman in Vietnam.

Al did not get involved in scouting, till his son Al Jr. joined scouting. Once he got in, he got very involved. Taking training, becoming a Scoutmaster and taking his troop to TMR each summer. When his Troop disbanded, he moved to Troop 106 and then along with **Gordon Bennett** and others, ran a District troop at TMR every summer for more than 20 years. This District troop allowed those boys from units that did not have adult leaders, who could go to camp, the opportunity to still go to TMR and get everything out of camp that it had to offer. Some may have called it 'provisional', but not Al. He was very proud of the Trailblazer, and then what later became the Pathfinder District Troop. There was nothing provisional about them.

When Suanhacky Lodge needed someone, after the passing of **Cliff Follenius**, to step forward and lead the Memorial Day cooking crew on the annual induction weekend, it was Al who stepped forward. Not only did he pick up the torch, he built a much bigger and brighter flame. The menus he created, the style and fashion of which the meals were served were the like none anyone had ever experienced on a scouting event before.

With all of he did, he did it all with a smile and the time to stop and say hello and talk with everyone. He truly lived the points of the Scout Law and Oath. Al took great pride in serving delicious, wholesome entertaining meals to scouts and scouters. The NO-NAMES Cooking



Anthony Zalak (L), and Henry Zalak (R) present Al Kobe (C) with the "Outstanding Scouter Award of Excellence" just a few weeks before Al's passing.



Bill Keirnen, Henry Zalak and Al Kobe at our November luncheon.

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50 YEARS BEING A BROTHER

By Denis Sackett



This Memorial Day marks the 50th anniversary of my being inducted into Suanhacky Lodge, Order of the Arrow. I can't remember last week, but that I remember it as if it was yesterday. May, 1968, what a time, Martin Luther King

had recently been assassinated, Bobby Kennedy was running for President and America was divided over Vietnam. Because my troop never went to camp as a unit, we scouts were left to our own devices to go as Provisionals. Because of that, very few from my home troop ever were selected, so I didn't know much about the OA, except from seeing these guys with sashes direct cars on camp-o-rees and do tap-outs and then up at camp they'd be around.

One guy from my troop, **Bob Klein**, was in the Lodge. He was active with the chapter and would perform on his guitar at many of the Lodge functions. At the time, he was the only one from the Troop in the OA, so he wouldn't talk much about it.

Basically, I was a blank slate when it came to the OA. The week of my ordeal, it had rained for 5 days straight. When I got up to Keowa for my induction weekend (which back then was not a 3-day holiday, like it is now), the ground was saturated and quite muddy. As I looked at the other guys coming in for the weekend, I saw some familiar faces from Camp, saw Bob from my Troop, saw friends from school that were in other troops, like **Donald Pretto**, **Steven Singer** and a few other guys from PS 164.

Turned out that this was the Lodge's largest induction weekend ever, with more than 300 candidates and 500 total brothers attending.

Soon it started getting dark and they gathered us together and marched us out to the Keowa Ball field. There I saw one of the most impressive ceremonies I had ever witnessed. IT was the annual Vigil tap-out. Little did I know, but some of the guys getting tapped for vigil, which at the time I had no idea what it was, would eventually become lifelong friends and mentors to me. The ceremony began with a 'wild indian' running around. Turned out this was Danny O'Neill who was a great artist and Native American expert. Some of the guys he tapped were Les Merker, who was the current Suanhacky Chief, Ed Pino, the Chief Elect and Roy Kramer, Lodge Secretary. All would become good friends to me.

That night, sleeping under the stars, was quite uncomfortable, because it was so darn wet. Next morning after a delicious hardboiled egg, they had us start carving our arrows to wear around our necks and get notched if we spoke. With that, they sent us off to work. My crew was sent to Ranachqua and then Kernochan to move tent platforms and do some drainage pit digging. Not very exciting. They brought us

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GOOD AND WELFARE

- Mazel Tov to member **Mark Kleinberg** on the birth of Grandson Dylan.
- Good to see member **Denis Sackett** on the mend.
- Wow! Member **Lance DePlante** celebrates his 70th year in Scouting! Way to go Colonel.
- Our heartfelt condolences to member **Paul Romain** on the loss of his mother.
- Our sympathy and thoughts go to member **Elizabeth Brace** and her family on the loss of brother Michael Brace's wife.
- Congrats to member **Jason Scheib** on the birth of his nephew, Max William to his sister Stephanie. This is the first grandchild for one of our founding members, **Bill Schieb**, who's watching his grandson from heaven.



If you have something to share with our members, please let us know so we can spread the word.



50 Years...continued from previous column

back to Keowa at the end of the work day to wash up and get ready for the induction ceremony. Now I was excited. I saw the rows and rows of sashes on the cross beams, hundreds of guys, just like me ready to learn the secrets of the OA. It was a long ceremony (sashing over 300 guys).

Finally, after the ceremony and they all sang that song out of the 1812 Overture, we went into the dining hall to finally have a decent meal. What a meal it was! Roast beef, potatoes, string beans, gop, and cake. Camp food never tasted so good.

Next, they had a ceremony, recognizing the new Vigil brothers and announcing their new 'indian' names. This garnered a lot of laughs, being some of these names were quite unique. That night I slept better than I ever had at TMR. The next day they broke us up for chapter meetings. Here I met my new brothers and Bob Klein from my troop, volunteered me to be the chapter publication chairman and membership secretary. Those were my first duties and responsibilities in the OA, but surely not my last.

I have often said, if not for the OA, I would have left scouting before high school. I would never have gone for Eagle, worked at camp or helped the Kohler Association send hundreds and hundreds of scouts to camp. Over the past 50 years I have seen many brothers come and many brothers go. Some are still here, still my friends, still my brothers. 50 years has flown by.

MEMBER RICK NEWMAN, GONE HOME



We were sorry to just recently learn of member **Rick Newman's** passing in December of 2016. Rick, a long time scout from **Troop 159 Queens**, when **Jerry Reimer** was Scoutmaster. He would often go

with Jerry and the troop to Camp Kunatah for weeks 1&2. Rick was one of the most generous and giving people you could ever meet.

Ricky donated to Ten Mile River, Alpine and many other Scout camps and schools across the country, Science Centers, fully stocked with



Rick at the 1999 dedication of the TMR Science Center at TMR (Kunatah)

equipment and supplies. Ricky loved science and sharing his love of it.

He had the largest privately held collection of robots in the world, which included two of the most famous robots ever. His show business connections made it possible for him to acquire popular robotic celebrities such as **R2D2**, of Star Wars', and **Robby the Robot** from the 1956 movie "Forbidden Planet."

In addition to the science centers, he donated motor boats to TMR for scouts to take Water Skiing Merit Badge and donated funds to fix up many of the old leantos at TMR. Rick was also at one time a member of the National Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Rick was a longtime, lifetime member of our association. He was only 60 years old at his passing.

Al Kobe....Continued from page: 2

Crew worked very hard, under Al's direction, not only because they knew the scouts were depending on it, but because it meant so much to Al and no one wanted to disappoint him.

On Friday April 20, a 'Celebration of Life' was held for Al Kobe at Trinity Lutheran Church in Middle Village. Board Member and Scoutmaster of Al's troop, 106, Anthony Zalak lead the ceremony. A number of speakers shared memories of AL, including Association members Pat Streffacio, Jim McKay and Steve Benini. A special part of the ceremonies was, an alumnus of the troop, Mark Valli, currently stationed in Iraq, spoke to us via a recorded video about his fond memories of Al at TMR.

Through his service as a unit leader, Suanhacky cook, camp leader and proud veteran, Al touched thousands of lives for the better. Many he helped, may not have even known him, but that didn't matter to Al. He wanted to help others and he did. Rest in peace friend.



GONE HOME, MEMBER FRED GERVAT



It was very upsetting to hear of the passing of member **Fred Gervat**.

Fred passed away on Saturday, April 21. He was a Boy Scout leader where he served in many roles with training along with other activities and programs. Fred was an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member. He served where ever he could, including Queens Council, Bronx Council and Westchester Putnam Council. He was also an active brother in Suanhacky Lodge, Ranachqua Lodge and Ktemaque Lodge, as well as Kinteycoying Lodge. Fred was a member of the TMR Museum Board and acted as the Editor for the museum newsletter.



Fred Gervat, Scouter & Teacher.

As a teacher and librarian at Parson Junior High School in Queens, he would often come across Scouts who had taken merit badges with him, or training courses he instructed. Fred was very generous with his time and money. He would very often buy one of our association's personalized T-shirts for any new Eagle Scout or Vigil Honor brother he knew.

Fred Gervat was inducted into the **Jack Kohler-Suanhacky's Heritage Society** in 2011. The inscription on the plaque reads: **Scouter & Teacher of Queens Scouts**. Fred was a good man, good friend and a good Scout. May he rest in peace.



GOT PATCHES? WE DO!

One of the ways we have been able to raise much of our campership funds, is by way of selling scout memorabilia. We have **TMR patches, OA flaps, CSP's rank badges, position patches, Vigil ware, sashes** and so much more. Once we finalize doing our inventory, we'll let all our members know what we currently have. In the meantime, if your anxious and can't sleep without having that special patch, let us know.

We can send you the current inventory (as much as we've completed counting) or let us know specifically what you may want and we'll let you know if we have it. Right now we will sell any items we have to our dues paid members at **50% off** our usally low price. Free our entire list.



Jack Kohler-Suanhacky Campership Association

Is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, charitable organization.

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Established in 1986, as a benevolent organization that among other activities provide financial assistance for Queens, N.Y. Scouts to attend a week of summer camp at the Greater New York Councils facility at Ten Mile River or Alpine Cub World. **The Beagle Barks** is the organizations newsletter. Editor, Publisher, Copy Boy, Distribution: **..Denis Sackett**

