



The Arrow of Light

January, 2026

Ring in the New Year at Lodge Banquet!

Thank you to the 216 Arrowmen who attended our banquet on Sunday, January 4th! The lodge officer team would also like to thank Sparrows Point Country Club for hosting us!

During the banquet, several awards were presented. These awards include the Ceremonialist award which recognizes Arrowmen who dedicate their time to the ceremonial and induction experience, the Elangomat award which recognizes Arrowmen who serve the candidates during their Ordeal, the James A. Mitchell award that recognizes new youth Arrowmen who have made an effort to participate in the lodge and chapter, and the Nentico Camping award which recognizes units that make year-round camping as well as supporting the lodge a priority.

Each year, Nentico Lodge presents a few distinguished awards. The first of these is the Vigil Honor, which recognizes distinguished contributions to the lodge, OA, the Baltimore Area Council, and/or Broad Creek. This year, 16 Arrowmen from Nentico Lodge were recognized with the Vigil Honor. Next, the George Naylor Award honors the youth and adults who give exemplary service over an extended period of time and is named after George Naylor, a Vigil Member of Nentico Lodge for over 60 years who is most well-known for starting the tradition of Lodge Service Beads. This year, Jim Brooks, James Carico, and Dean Groth were recognized with this award. Last but not least, the Founder's Award is meant to recognize Arrowmen who demonstrate in their everyday life, the spirit of achievement as described by founder E. Urner Goodman and co-founder Carrol A. Edson. This year, Nathan Buckingham, Devin Flagler, and Tara Qualey were recognized with this award.

We were honored to welcome National Order of the Arrow Director, Cortland Bolles to speak at our banquet. During his speech, Cortland focused on youth

empowerment, encouraging all the youth to continue growing throughout their leadership and participation.



The 2025 Founder's Award recipients. From Left to Right: Nathan Buckingham, Tara Qualey, and Devin Flagler

To conclude the evening's program, the 2026 lodge leadership was sworn into office. In the final speech of his term, Ryan Fischer spoke on the lodge's accomplishments during 2025, ranging from scouting outreach to member engagement.

Prior to Tara being sworn in, Ryan commended her for her incredible efforts to help improve lodge functions. Tara Qualey was then sworn in as the 95th Lodge Chief of Nentico Lodge, becoming the first female lodge chief in Nentico's history. Following Tara, Nathan Buckingham, Joe Carloni, Tim Clingenpeel, Cori LeRoy, and Austin Snell were sworn in as Lodge Vice Chiefs and Will Charlton, Owen Crum, Dean Groth, Emma Gutberlet, Sophie Restelli, and Evan Welch were sworn in as Chapter Chiefs.



OA National Director Cortland Bolles during the banquet opening

We are so thankful for each person who came out and would especially like to thank all of our out of lodge and out of section guests for making the trip! We are so excited to see what 2026 brings for the lodge!

Make History at Colonial-Clave!

By Wyatt Snyder

So, what is Conclave? For those who haven't attended, it is the biggest yearly event for Section E10 – a weekend packed with fun, training, activities, and competitions. You will have the chance to meet fellow OA members from across Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and DC. Conclave is designed for everyone; whether you are a first-year Arrowman or a seasoned Adviser, there is something here for you.



We have planned several unique activities, including colonial-themed photo shoots, cardboard boat building and racing, Dutch oven cooking competitions, DJ dance parties and so much more! In addition, many of Camp Rodney's activities will be open, including climbing, shooting, and axe-throwing. To top it all off, the Nentego Lodge Cook Crew has promised an incredible menu, including Saturday night's BBQ chicken and pulled pork!



Tyler Romaine leads a training at Conclave 2025

We're thrilled to share that our event fee is the lowest it's been in years! If you register by March 31st, you can attend for only \$30, and youth Arrowmen who have completed their Ordeal since the last Conclave can attend for just \$15!

And finally, to sweeten the deal, if we exceed 400 Arrowmen in attendance, the section officers will dye our hair a color of your choice during the Friday night

opening show! Do your part and register today! I can't wait to see you at ColonialClave!



Scouts at Conclave 2025 on the rifle range

An Update on the Inductions Changes

Over the past several years, the National Order of the Arrow Committee has evaluated the use of American Indian Activities (AIA) as part of our program, including the induction and ceremonies experience. As a result of this review, several policy changes were enacted over time.

Effective in 2026, all lodges must have a written agreement with a state or federally recognized tribe in order to continue AIA programming in any form (e.g., OA ceremonies, powwows). Nentico has opted for ceremonialists to wear their field uniform, with ceremonial medallion, for over three years, so this taking effect poses no operational changes for our lodge.

As you may be aware, a new induction experience will be unveiled in 2026. More details will be released in the months ahead, with various training events scheduled throughout the year to prepare lodges to execute this new induction. When the new induction experience is fully rolled out, all lodges across the country will cease use of American Indian attire in OA ceremonies.

Even though our own induction will differ from the new experience, we must stay laser focused on creating an impactful induction for all of our future Arrowmen. We will continue to share more information as we receive it, and if you have any questions please refer to oa-scouting.org/resources/inductions/new-induction-information or reach out to inductions@nentico.org.

What Do You Know About Nentico History?

By Ken Brown

Since its founding, Nentico Lodge 12 has had a long and storied history that we love to share. But it's more than just patches. Most of you know that Nentico is over 100 years old, celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2022.

Did you know:

- Nentico Lodge is the oldest unmerged lodge in the nation
- Nentico's first members were inducted by the Order of the Arrow's Founder, E. Urner Goodman, at Camp Linstead
- During its first anniversary in 1923, Nentico hosted the Third Meeting of the Grand Lodge, the equivalent of today's National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC)
- Our first Vigil member was our lodge's founder and Scout Executive, W. Perry Bradley, who served as the Order's Grand Scribe
- Nentico has had a National Chief - Robert Heistand - and a Region Chief - Doug O'Connell

The Museum and History Committee is responsible for researching and collecting the lodge's history, maintaining and augmenting the museum collection and curating history displays. You may have seen our museum displays at the Lodge Banquet or Lodge Fellowships. We are working on building new history displays for the museum and making more information available on the web and in publications. Look for more articles in future editions of *The Arrow of Light*. We are always looking for new interesting pieces of lodge history, documents and especially photographs. If you have anything that you would like to share or are interested in learning more about our lodge's history, contact us at history@nentico.org.

We Need YOU for Lodge Service Day!

Calling all Arrowmen! On March 7th, Nentico Lodge will be holding our annual Service Day at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation from 8am-4pm. Make sure

to bring your work boots, work gloves and a water bottle so that you stay hydrated and safe! Each year, Nentico Lodge holds our annual Service Day to support Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation in getting ready for summer camp as well as basic camp upkeep.



Arrowmen at Lodge Service Day 2025

We host just about all of our events at Broad Creek, so service days like these help us give back to camp and keep it beautiful and functional. The projects at Service Day include trail clearing, log splitting, pool cleaning, brush clean up, fence repair, tree tube fixing, and so much more. Register today at nentico.org and we hope to see you there to support our camp!

First Year Arrowmen Activation Event Rescheduled

Over the course of the past couple months, the First Year Arrowmen committee has been working to hold activation events to help our new Arrowmen get involved! Activation events are primarily used for the purpose of retention. It is very important for us to strengthen the ties of brotherhood by being friendly faces for new Arrowmen when they come to our events. On Friday, December 12th, the first of these events was held at the Monster Mini Golf in Towson, MD!

Our second activation event on Friday, January 30th, from 6-8pm at the Monster Mini Golf in Columbia, MD was cancelled. We plan to reschedule the event soon, so make sure to stay posted and check your email for an announcement! We hope to see you there soon for fun and fellowship, as well as to meet our new Arrowmen!

Building LEADers

What better place to learn to lead than at the Section E10 LEAD Conference? On January 10th, Nentico, Nentego, and Amangamek-Wipit came together at Central Presbyterian Church in Towson, MD, for a fantastic day of trainings, fellowship, and growth led by fellow Arrowmen.

The day started off with a welcome from Amangamek-Wipit's Adam Lane, the coordinator of the event. After a brief introduction, we jumped right into a capstone training on design thinking led by Willa Rothenberg. During this training, Arrowmen worked to create magazine collages that reflected their personal visions and develop SMART goals that supported their vision.

Later in the morning and afternoon, we held breakout sessions focused around five tracks: Leadership, Communication, New Arrowmen, Train-the-Trainer, and Advisers. Experienced trainers from around the section designed and led these sessions to help Arrowmen zero in on actionable plans and set them up for success in their leadership positions.

New this year we introduced hot topic table discussions, where section leaders led 10-minute discussions on topics like district/council relations, communications, running chapter meetings, activation, and more. Arrowmen had the chance to rotate through four different table discussions to share ideas and gain new perspectives on challenges they are facing within their own lodge or chapter.



Taylor BoBrow explaining his stepping stones to leadership

We wrapped up the day with each lodge coming together to debrief the lessons learned from the conference and develop plans for the future. Finally, we were

honored to have Eastern Region Committee Member and 2014 National Vice Chief, Taylor BoBrow, join us to deliver a signature session on the Stepping Stones to the Future. We want to thank the LEAD Conference leadership team for their hard work in planning the event and look forward to seeing how our members apply their new knowledge in the year ahead!

Your 2026 National Officers

Each year, section chiefs and national leaders gather for the National Planning Meeting (NPM) to discuss National Order of the Arrow business and elect the National Officers, including the National Chief, National Vice Chief, Eastern Region Chief, and Gateway Region Chief. This year, the National Planning Meeting was held the weekend of January 16th in Dallas, TX.



The 2026 National Order of the Arrow Officers. From Left to Right: Nelson Dugdale, Emma Wright, Joshua Nero, and Max Mihalov

On Friday night, Joshua Nero was elected as the 2026 National Chief of the Order of the Arrow after holding the position of E19 Section Chief. Josh hails from Tantomous Lodge in Plymouth, MA. On top of the Order of the Arrow, Josh is a Senior at Plymouth North High School and intends to pursue a major in civil engineering this fall.

After the National Chief election, Emma Wright was elected as the 2026 National Vice Chief of the Order of the Arrow. Emma hails from Coosa Lodge of Section E6. Outside of the Order of the Arrow, Emma is currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Wallace State Community College.

On Saturday, Max Mihalov was elected as the Eastern Region Chief of the Order of the Arrow. Max was the E20 Section Chief, hailing from Paugasset Lodge in Derby, CT. Outside of Scouting, Max is a Business Administration major at Fordham University.

Chiefly Speaking

E. Urner Goodman once said that “The Order of the Arrow is a thing of the spirit,” and I definitely witnessed that during our lodge banquet and the E10 LEAD Conference earlier this month. Everywhere I looked, I saw Arrowmen sharing their stories with each other and building true connections, sharing the brotherhood we all love and come back time and time again for.

A few weeks ago, I was sworn in as your lodge chief, and I have a vision to perpetuate that same culture where every Arrowman feels like they belong because they have a voice in our future, are given opportunities to leave their own permanent mark on our history and identity, and are mentored and empowered through every step of their journey. For those who strive for leadership, we will see their strengths and potential, and allow their perspectives to begin shaping the lodge in its committees. For our other Arrowmen, we will ensure a camp environment where friends can be around each other, make memories, and take advantage of the many benefits of the Order of the Arrow's youth-led adventurous program.

Such a vision of belonging only works if we build it together. During your next lodge or chapter event, I encourage you to seek out one Arrowman you don't know, learn their story, and show them there is a place for them in our circle. A simple conversation has the ability to uplift someone, a true embodiment of our admonition.

Yours in WWW,



Tara Qualey
2026 Lodge Chief
Nentico Lodge 12



Tara Qualey with the 2026 Lodge Officer Team



Tara Qualey with the 2026 Chapter Chiefs



Tara Qualey with 2025 Lodge Chief Ryan Fischer at Lodge Banquet

Lodge Socials

Make sure to connect with Nentico on all of our socials listed below! To stay updated on lodge events and news, follow us on Instagram and Facebook. To connect with other Arrowmen, join our Facebook Group. For pictures from recent events, take a look at our SmugMug account!

