Alex Gomez-

History was made for O-Shot-Caw Lodge on December 27, 2006, when Alex Gomez was elected as our very first national officer. Alex was elected at the National Planning Meeting in Dallas, Texas, to serve as the Southern Region Chief for the year 2007. As such he will sit on the National Committee of the Order of the Arrow, as well as the Region Committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

Alex began his career in the OA by being called out in the old Allohawk Chapter in 2000. He sealed his ties in the Brotherhood in 2001 with Paldani Chapter. That same year he was elected Chapter Vice-Chief and finished the year as Chief. He was then elected to two full terms as Paldani Chief where he laid the groundwork for Paldani’s Best All Round Chapter efforts earned last year.

At NOAC in the summer of 2002, Lodge Chief Josh Levinson appointed Alex to the LEC as the Haunted Forest Chairman, a position he held for two years. Josh had this to say about Alex: “Few people are born with the innate ability to lead. There is no denying that Alex Gomez is a part of this rare breed. He brings a sense of charisma, wisdom, and positive energy, not only to O-Shot-Caw, but to every organization where he maintains membership. Alex’s future has many open doors, but all of the nameplates on these doors say ‘success.’”

Continued on pg. 6..............
"Chiefly Speaking"

O-Shot-Caw Brothers,

Wow, what a change of events. About 3 months ago, if you had told me that I was to become Lodge Chief in 3 months I would have laughed. But these changes in events have been great changes. I am very excited and motivated to continue this year and to end with a bang as you Lodge Chief. I wish luck to both Geoff Landau as our new section chief, and Alex Gomez our new region chief.

The winter ordeal was a huge success. The amount of cheerful service that went into the work projects was tremendous. These work projects such as: painting the front sign, pavilion, and picnic table made a big improvement. For all that attended, I am sure they had a great time, with the great food, and great brotherhood bashes. On behalf of Geoff, I would like to give a special thank you to my now fellow lodge officers, chapter chiefs, and the rest of the Lodge Executive Committee for a great weekend. And of course, congratulations to all new ordeal members. My advice to you is to take advantage of the opportunities the Order of the Arrow provides and your journey in the OA will be life changing.

We have two more exciting events coming up. They are: the Lodge Banquet and the Section Conference in which I am sure that both will be a lot of fun. The lodge banquet will be held on March 2-4, 2007 at Silver Palm United Methodist Church. The Lodge Banquet is the highlight of O-Shot-Caw's year and is my favorite event to attend. With your help the Lodge Banquet will be the biggest and best that our lodge has ever hosted. Not only do we have chapter competitions, training seminars and great food, but also Saturday night your family and friends are invited to our banquet style dinner to hear what our lodge has accomplished over the past year. The Section Conference will be held the weekend of April 13, at Camp Shands in Northern Florida. At the Section Conference we can show other lodges from across the state of Florida the spirit of our lodge while we compete in athletics and the Best All Around Lodge Competition. Both events will be a great time and I encourage all to attend.

I am excited for what our Lodge will accomplish in the 2007 year and cannot wait for events like the Lodge Banquet, and Section Conference.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Chaz Pinna
O-Shot-Caw Lodge Chief
“Geoff Landau- Our NEW Section Chief!”

This past winter, when Section Chief Alex Gomez was elected Southern Region Chief, there was an opening to be filled for Section Chief. The lodge chiefs of Section S-4S in a special election by the Council Of Chiefs, elected our very own Geoff Landau as the new Section Chief.

Geoff’s scouting career began in Pack 73. Near the end of Cub Scouting he earned the Arrow of Light, which is the highest rank in Cub Scouts. Upon entering Boy Scouts in 2000, he quickly rose through the ranks and became an influential leader within his district. Geoff had decided to utilize his leadership skills as a trainer for our council’s Eagle Claw JLT program. Above all, his leadership came to fruition when he earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of the Lighthouse District.

Geoff was inducted to the Order of the Arrow in the winter of 2002. He then sealed his ties in the brotherhood the following year. In his inaugural year as an Arrowmen, Geoff earned our lodge’s “Exceptional First Year Arrowman Award.” His experiences have included working at Camp Lone Oak, attending the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 2004 and 2006, and the Philmont Scout ranch where he attended OA Trail Crew. At the National Jamboree, Geoff served on the OA service corp. And Geoff is an member of the O-Shot-Caw Dance Team. His display of leadership on the lodge level began in the summer of 2003 when he was elected to serve as the Elgixin Chapter Chief. In his first year as Chapter Chief, he led the Elgixin Chapter to become the lodge’s Best All Around Chapter, a feat that was nothing short of spectacular. He was then re-elected as chapter chief to serve a second term. In his second term as chapter chief, Geoff defended his chapter’s title by winning Best All Around for the second year in a row. In 2005 Geoff was elected to the post of lodge chief of the great O-Shot-Caw Lodge. Then, the following year he was re-elected as lodge chief for the 2006-2007 Lodge year. As most of you know, Geoff was unable to finish his second term of lodge chief because he was recently elected Section Chief of our section S-4S.

Congratulations Geoff!

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“Chaz Pinna Our New Lodge Chief”

This past January, the Lodge Executive Committee had to fill the position of Lodge Chief due to Geoff Landau being elected to the position of Section Chief. The LEC elected Chaz Pinna as Lodge Chief.

Chaz started as a cub scout in pack 484, beginning as a wolf, he achieved his arrow of light. He then joined troop 529. He quickly became a patrol leader, and then a senior patrol leader. He held the position of Senior Patrol Leader for almost three years.

As a life scout, Chaz was tapped out for the Order of the Arrow and went through his Ordeal at Camp Lone Oak, in the summer of 2003. He was an active member in the Pooca Tooka Chapter and sealed his ties in the brotherhood a year latter. He has been the Unit Elections Chairman on the Lodge Executive Committee and the Chapter Chief of the Pooca-Tooka chapter for two years.

Chaz has attended, competed, and taught at Section Events. At the 2004 Section Conference Chaz led the Parking and Security. He attended NOAC in 2004, and 2006. At the 2006 NOAC, Chaz was an active member of the group Dance Team, and also placed in the top 10, in fancy dancing. Chaz also attended the National Leadership Seminars, in Atlanta, Georgia. In the summer of 2006, Chaz attended the Wilderness Voyage program at the Northern Tier high adventurer base in Minnesota. Chaz has been a truly active member as he has risen to the top of the O-Shot-Caw Lodge. This summer Chaz will be attending both the Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure and Philmont Trail Crew. Now an Eagle Scout, Chaz is very active in his school. He has a 4.3-weighted GPA; he is President of his class, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Congratulations Chazwick!
“Thanks, Ron”

If you haven’t heard, Ron Bell is no longer O-Shot-Caw’s Lodge Advisor. During Ron’s twenty-three years of tenure as Lodge Advisor, O-Shot-Caw Lodge has seen twelve different Lodge Chiefs, four Section Chiefs, fifteen years as best Lodge in the nation, five-time National Service Award recipient, and twice been a National Service Grant recipient, and many more accomplishments.

We thank Ron Bell for his passionate commitment to the O-Shot-Caw Lodge and the youth of the South Florida Council, and wish him great success on his future endeavor as the Lead Advisor for the ArrowCorp5 Washington and Jefferson National Park project in the summer of 2008. We’ll see you there!! Ron will also continue to serve as a member of the Executive Board.

Stay tuned for an upcoming special edition commemorative Patchwork in honor of Ron Bell’s legacy.

From left to right: Brian, Jim, Ron, and Josh.

Ron and Geoff
Our New Lodge Advisor

Rich Levinson has been appointed as our new Lodge Advisor. He has received the James E. West Award, the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver, and is also a Vigil Honor Member.

He is a C.P.A. and a member of both the Florida and American Institutes of C.P.A.’s. He serves the South Florida Council as the assistant Treasurer, a Trustee, and serves on both the Finance and Investments committees.

Rich is married to Wendy, his wife of thirty-seven years. He has three sons, Jonathan (32), Joel (26), and our former three-time Lodge Chief Josh (24), all of which are Eagle Scouts.

Good Luck, Rich!

"Our First National Officer, Continued"

Alex continued the position of Haunted Forest Chairman under new Chief and close friend Brian Polino. Brian also appointed Alex with the demanding responsibility of Host Conference Chairman in 2005.

Alex never ran for Lodge Chief due to his friendship with his Summer Staff roommate and close friend, Brian Polino, holding the position. Alex chose instead to run for a Section office. When asked about Alex, Brian said: "I was very excited to hear that Alex had been elected to the position of Region Chief. It’s quite neat to know that a personal friend and a member of our lodge is setting the stage for the OA on a national level. Alex is a first-rate leader and a role model that every young scout can aspire to be. I know he will do an exceptional job in his new duties."

Alex was elected Section Vice-Chief in 2005 and then became our tenth Section Chief in 2006. That led to this past December’s election in Dallas. He is responsible for thirteen southern states running from Virginia to Texas. His schedule will have him traveling at least twice a month on Scout business from locations as far away as Japan, Puerto Rico, and Alaska, as well as all of his Sections. He is also responsible for running the NLS/ NLATS in the Southern Region and working with all the Section Chiefs.

Alex is an Eagle Scout from Troop 492, where he is an active Assistant Scoutmaster. He received the Meritorious Service Award from O-Shot-Caw in 2003, and was tapped out for Vigil in 2004.

He is a Sophomore at Florida State University carrying fifteen hours (required by National) as a History Major and has a 3.4 GPA. He is also an active officer of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity where he is in charge of community service projects, some of which include Habitat For Humanity and the Humane Society. He also sits on several planning boards including FSU 2010, an oversight committee that includes several Deans and the President of FSU. Their purpose is to make long-term plans for the university in construction as well as academics and student affairs.

Congratulations and best wishes to Alex as he represents O-Shot-Caw around the nation in 2007.
"ArrowCorps⁵"

Next summer, O-Shot-Caw brothers will have an exciting opportunity to get involved in a new National Event for the first time in OA History: ArrowCorps⁵! ArrowCorps⁵ is a weeklong service initiative happening at 5 National Forests around the Nation. O-Shot-Caw in particular will be attending the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests in Virginia. Details are still being finalized, but here’s the plan so far: 5000 OA Brothers from across the Nation will go to 5 separate National Parks for a week of service projects and fun. When your group is not working on service projects, you’ll be going on side trips to go rafting, riding rollercoaster’s or just touring the area! O-Shot-Caw’s project is very close to Washington DC, so our side trips will most likely include a visit to our Nation’s Capital as well. So mark down the date: June 21-28, 2008

It’s going to be a totally new experience, so be sure to be a part of it! More info at the Section Conference and the Summer Ordeal.

“First Annual Paldani Campout”

This past January, Paldani Chapter started the year with an awesome, one of a kind fellowship: the 1st Annual Paldani Chapter Camp Out. It was a great weekend full of fun, fellowship and food at the Sawgrass Recreational area in the Everglades. One of the Highlights of the event was the Saturday Night Camp Fire, where the Chapter discussed many issues concerning the OA and talked about the variety of ways you can get involved on a deeper level. The event was also completely free to all Paldani friends and family. Nothing better than a great time to start off a great year.
“News From the Section”

Section Conference is the highlight of the OA year, here in Florida. Some have gone as far as calling the Section S-4S Conference on par with a “mini NOAC.” Decide for yourself at this year’s Conference on April 20-22 at Camp Shands! This event is extremely important: O-Shot-Caw will be defending their title as the Best All Around Lodge for the 9th year in a row, not to mention a half dozen other events that we conquered last year, and are planning to win again this year! But we need your help! The more members of our Lodge that attend increase our chances of doing well in competitions, not to mention dominating any other lodge in pure spirit! So sign up at your Chapter meeting or at the Lodge Banquet ASAP!!!

“Section Seminars”

Section Seminars this past year was amazing! Just imagine, an entire weekend of training in such areas as Ceremonies, Dance, Drum and Administration. Not to mention a healthy dose of patch trading, food, fellowship and fun. But what exactly is the Section Seminars and who can come? Well the answer is simple: Section Conference in April is focused primarily around competitions, but Section Seminars in the fall centers primarily around hands on training and one on one instruction. It’s a great event and ANYONE can go!!! Just ask your Chapter Chief or Advisor next fall about the dates and sign up for a great event.

“OA High Adventure”

OA High Adventure is one of the most exciting parts of being an OA Member. Unlike BSA High Adventure, the OA creates a fun, challenging and unique event, and turns it into a life changing experience. Three OA High Adventure programs are currently offered:
"High Adventure Continued"

OA Trail Crew:
The Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program is one of the best ways to experience Scouting's premier high adventure base, Philmont Scout Ranch. For two weeks, participants see and experience all that Philmont has to offer and much more.

For the first week, participants have the chance to make a significant difference to Philmont by participating in trail building in the backcountry. Work will include clearing terrain for trail and constructing switchbacks, retention bars, and several other erosion controls. The impact of this service will be felt by scouts for decades.

The second week of the program is spent experiencing Philmont in its finest. Unlike regular treks, Trail Crews make their own itinerary, instead of selecting from pre-planned routes. You can do and see just about anything, from the Tooth of Time to Baldy Mountain, your crew decides!

Wilderness Voyage:
The Order of the Arrow Wilderness Voyage program is an experience like no other.

For two weeks, you will join together with Arrowmen from around the country and experience all that the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota has to offer.

The first week of the program is spent giving back to the Boundary Waters through portage trail restoration work. Participants have the opportunity to leave their mark on the Boundary Waters that will enable millions of visitors each year to better enjoy their experience. Trail work involves restoring and protecting trails that have existed for centuries or are in dire need of repair. They also build new trails where needed.

The second part of the program is a trek planned by the crew. From the 8-1/2 mile "Grand Portage" leading to Lake Superior, to the Height of Land, even the pictographs on Fishdance Lake, crews have done and seen all in the Boundary Waters.

OA Ocean Adventure:
The Order of the Arrow Ocean Adventure is a unique opportunity to experience the programs at the Florida Sea Base, while providing a new type of service to the Atlantic Ocean. In a two-week period, participants will complete PADI SCUBA certification, as well as interact with undersea wildlife like no other Scouts do.

For one week, participants will undergo intensive SCUBA certification in preparation. Arrowmen will also provide meaningful service to the staff of the Florida Sea Base, and enjoy fun in the Florida sun while brushing up on their volleyball skills.

The second week of OAOA is spent using the SCUBA certification to its fullest extent. Participants will spend their time taking wildlife samples in the Florida Keys, performing island restoration and other meaningful projects to the surrounding area.

OAOA is completely booked, but Trail Crew and Wilderness Voyage still have a few spots left. You can still be a part of it!!! Ask your Chapter Chief or Advisor about applying today!
“Winter Ordeal”

On January 12-14, the winter ordeal was held at Camp Everglades. Winter Ordeal, our first event of the year, was off to a great start. Everything was running smoothly; however, Friday night turned bitter-sweet when associate lodge advisor Chris Miller announced that long time lodge advisor, Ron Bell was not reappointed. But, lets not forget the sweet. In an attempt to reclaim the evening to being a great one, Chris Miller also announced that 2-term Lodge Chief Geoff Landau had been elected as the new Section Chief for Section S-4S.

At this ordeal we had over 80 new brothers inducted, and because of this the ceremonies team performed 3 pre-ordeal ceremonies, and 2 ordeal ceremonies, both of which are truly occasions of rarity. Saturday morning, Arrowmen awoke to a delicious-nutritious breakfast thankfully cooked for us by the To-Hopki-Lagi Chapter. Then came the work projects. While at Camp Everglades, Arrowmen cleaned up the fire rings, painted the main shelter, painted the Owl Shelter, Painted the benches and of course, cleaned up trails.

Saturday night almost 20 new brotherhood members sealed their ties in the brotherhood. Along with them, over 80 new ordeal candidates were inducted. For the Saturday night Brotherhood Bash, Arrowmen were given the opportunity to play an exciting game of volleyball. A game in which our own Section Chief, Geoff Landau, could not resist.

On Sunday, the usual proceedings occurred: breakfast, scout's own, lodge meeting, chapter meetings, and the traditional circle up.

Top Left: Arrowmen Clean up fire rings. Top Right: Candidates clean up a trail. Bottom: New arrowmen
"Editor's Notes"

Dear Brothers,

While the year progresses further and further, I think of all the fun events approaching such as Lodge Banquet, and of course, Section Conference. I think of all the fun fellowships and the new friends we will all make from across the state in different lodges. I hope that you enjoy this issue of The Patchwork. If you or someone you know is interested in writing articles for The Patchwork please send me an email at ischrage@bellsouth.net. If someone you know someone who is not receiving The Patchwork and is a dues-paid member of the lodge, please let them know that they can send me an e-mail to start receiving The Patchwork.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Lenny Schrager

"O-Shot-Caw Patches"

One of the patches made for the 1996 Section Conference

An O-Shot-Caw 50th Anniversary Chenille Patch

Articles to look for in the next edition of The Patchwork:
Lodge Banquet, Coconut Grove Arts Festival, Section Conference, and Much More...
Lodge Banquet
March 2-4, 2007
at Silver Palm United Methodist Church

Section Conference
April 13-15, 2007
at Camp Shands

Summer Ordeal
June 8-10, 2007
TBA