



# ON THE WINGS OF THE HAWK

Hawk Mountain Council's  
Scouting Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Spring 2022

## Where do leaders come from?

For many of us, Scouting's step by step approach to leadership development laid the groundwork for future success in our careers.

My own leadership journey began as a patrol leader in a neighborhood troop in Berks County's Spring Township. Within a year or two I was a counselor at the old Shikellamy Scout Reservation near Bethel, followed by three incredible summers on staff at Philmont.

But my most important experience came as I climbed the leadership ladder in the Order of Arrow, culminating in an enormously challenging and satisfying year as Lodge Chief just over 50 years ago. My tenure coincided with the merger of the Scout Councils in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, which led to the merger of the Council's two well-established OA lodges, each with its own rich history and culture.

My Lodge--Minsi #5--with its iconic wolf head totem, was the older of the Lodges, dating back to 1921, (the wolf head totem and #5, are still in use today.) Minsi also was considerably larger than Memeu Lodge—with over 1,000 members at the time—and had just completed construction of a large Lodge Headquarters cabin, complete with a massive stone fireplace and chimney, and a large ceremonial circle amphitheater at Shikellamy. Around the same time it was decided that the combined Council office would be in Berks County. So there was a sense among our Memeu brothers that Minsi had an upper hand as the merger process unfolded. Over the period of at least two years, Lodge representatives worked to resolve a number of issues related to the merger while respecting each lodge's own concerns.

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## 2022 Silver Beavers to be Recognized



The Silver Beaver Award is the Council level distinguished service award. It is awarded to volunteers who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication and many years of service. The Hawk Mountain Council is pleased to recognize the 2022 Silver Beaver Award recipients.

**Chuck Faust – Black Rock District**

**Kurt Freer – Frontier District & Council**

**Anne Girard – Black Rock District**

**Dennis Harman – Cacoosing District & Council**

The award ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 3:00 pm at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation. This will be held in at our Gathering of Eagles and Council Recognition Event. To register follow this link: <https://bit.ly/3ilxL7V>



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Early on, we reached consensus that a merged lodge would retain #5, locking in its status of one of oldest lodges in the nation. Minsi's wolf head totem was well known nationally, especially because for many years Lodge members wore distinctive red wool jackets with a huge and distinctive wolf head totem sewn on the back. These jackets were familiar sights at regional conclaves, national meetings and jamborees and a high adventure bases such as Philmont. It was then decided that a new name would be appropriate and we ultimately decided on Kittatinny. At the time, all of these decisions were highly sensitive. Minsi Lodge had many older adult members whose involvement with the Lodge went back to World War II. And Memeu's membership had an understandable concern that its own history and culture would be lost if it were "absorbed" by a larger organization,

To be part of this complex process taught me and others important lessons in negotiations, organizational politics, empathy and human relations. Although I didn't realize it at the time, all these lessons came into play as I became a U.S. Navy officer and a healthcare executive leading nonprofit organizations and developing collaborative enterprises between hospitals and other entities. Before retiring in 2015, I led the development of a statewide leadership academy for healthcare leaders in the state of Maine. Some of the curriculum, which was based on the importance of collaborative leadership, was based on lessons learned as a young leader a half century before in southeastern Pennsylvania.

So where do leaders come from? A half century ago they came from the Scouting experience. And I have no doubt that many of tomorrow's leaders will come from today's patrols, troops, camps and OA lodges.

James Harnar grew up in Berks County and enjoyed a long career as a leader. In addition to serving as the last Lodge Chief of Minsi #5, he was a camp director at Philmont and an active duty and reserve Navy officer, retiring in 2003 at the rank of Captain (O6). Moving to Maine in the early 1980's he went on to be a Vice President of the Maine Hospital Association, the President of the Maine Health Information Center (now Onpoint Health Data) and Executive Director of the Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership. He now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico and is a volunteer docent at the National Scouting Museum, located at Philmont in Cimarron, New Mexico. James returned to Pennsylvania last December to speak at the 100th Anniversary celebration of Lodge #5. This was a special honor, as he was master of ceremonies at the lodge's 50th anniversary event in 1971.



James Harnar (left), the last Chief of Minsi Lodge #5 (1970-1971) delivered remarks at the Lodge's 100th anniversary dinner in December, 2021, where he was joined by lifelong friend and fellow Scout, Jim Schlegel.

## Upcoming Council Events

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| April 22 <sup>nd</sup> | BSA Sporting Clays Classic               |
| May 22 <sup>nd</sup>   | Gathering of Eagles/Council Recognition  |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup>  | Service to Youth and Community Breakfast |
| June 20 <sup>th</sup>  | BSA Golf Classic                         |
| June 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Summer Camp Begins at HMSR.              |

For information on these activities & events please contact us at (610) 926-3406

## Sending Scouts to Philmont

Jim Harnar has donated his beaded Vigil Honor sash to the Hawk Mountain Council to be auctioned off to help raise funds for the James Schlegel Scholarship Fund, which was established to make it possible for Hawk Mountain Scouts to go to Philmont Scout Reservation. Harnar and Schlegel worked together at Philmont in the early 1970's.

## Have an article you would like to submit to our Alumni Newsletter

Send it to Duane at [duane.crouse@scouting.org](mailto:duane.crouse@scouting.org)

## HMC Scouting Alumni and Friends

The Hawk Mountain Council Scouting Friends and Alumni Association is a way to keep our Scouting Alumni and friends connected to the Council and the impact it is having on the lives of youth in Berks and Schuylkill County, along with the Panther Valley School District.

It is our hope to have alumni activities and events throughout the year. To join the Scouting Friends and Alumni please visit: <https://247scouting.com/forms/528-HMCAlumni>



Hawk Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America

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