



WAGION LODGE #6

THE T-BIRD TIMES



Volume 63, Issue 1 | "A National Honor Newsletter" | February 2026

250 years for America, 105 for Wagion!

Upcoming Lodge Events

- Lodge Banquet - February 28
- April Weekend - April 24-26
- Spring Nature Walk - May 2
- Camporee 250 - May 15-17

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A Message from the Chief

Greetings Arrowmen,

My name is Carl Schaefer, and I am excited to serve as your 2026 Lodge Chief. I was tapped out during 2021 summer camp and inducted into the lodge at the 100th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. I received my Eagle Scout rank and Vigil Honor in 2024, having first joined Scouting as a Cub in Pack 311 before bridging into Troop 304 in Latrobe. In the lodge, I've been a member of the Lodge Executive Committee for the past three years, first serving as the Brotherhood Chair in 2023 before being elected to serve as Lodge Secretary in 2024 and 2025.

I would like to recognize the success of our 2025 lodge year. As a result of the hard work of our 2025 LEC, we were able to be recognized as a high performing lodge for our sixth consecutive year. We inducted 90 Ordeals and 53 Brotherhoods across our service and fellowship weekends, and recognized seven deserving members with the Vigil Honor in August. Furthermore, we successfully rolled out a new registration system that will allow for event and dues payments to be made ahead of weekends.

This year, the officers and I are looking forward to continuing the success of last years' leadership and initiatives while also implementing new initiatives that we believe will help engage and retain our members. Our 2026 theme, "Firm Bound in Brotherhood," has been fittingly chosen as we work to navigate organizational changes while preserving the shared ideals that join us as members of Wagion Lodge #6.

Soon, we will have our first gathering at the Annual Winter Banquet at Mt. Pleasant Area High School on February 28th. Dust off your sashes, throw on your uniforms, and come join us in a day of fellowship. If you are a new member, the banquet is an excellent opportunity to see the lodge outside of your induction weekend, to have fun, and to get involved. If you have been around longer, the banquet is a chance for you to meet new members and reconnect with old friends.

I am excited to see what this year will bring with our banquet, our weekends, Camporee 250, summer camp, and everything else in which the lodge will have a part to play. That said, I challenge everyone, youth and adult, to join our steadfast resolve to uphold the Obligation, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law as we serve camp and one another.

In Service,
Carl Schaefer
2026 Lodge Chief





Officer Chat



Program Vice Chief - Alan Methven



Hello Wagion,

I am Alan Methven, your 2026 Program Vice Chief. I'm very excited to have a great 2026 lodge year. We have lots of fun activities in the works, so stay tuned. At the banquet we have lots of trainings and activities I know you'll all enjoy. We are excited to bring back a designing and merchandising training to bring some creativity to Wagion. The pool will be open so bring your trunks and prepare to race for a grand prize. We will also be taping an officer to the wall for a NOAC fundraiser. The banquet is a great day for fun activities and an opportunity for fellowship. I hope to see you all there!

In service,
Alan

Administrative Vice Chief - Owen Briggs

Greetings Wagion,

My name is Owen Briggs, and I am the new Administration Vice Chief for the 2026 lodge year. I am from Troop 239 in Claridge, PA and have been in the lodge for three years now. As an officer, my goal is to enable all chairmen in the Administration Division to accomplish their own, individual goals and realize their full potential. Another one of my goals for the year is to help the Unit Elections team succeed by completing all required elections in swift and fast order. My fellow officers and I have also discussed changes to how cheerful service is organized with the inclusion of an optional signup sheet to provide the opportunity for choosing what service project you would like to help with. I can't wait for this year and all of the excitement that will come with it. Have a great banquet, and Carry on Wagion.

In Service,
Owen Briggs





Officer Chat



Secretary - Andrew Pierce



Hello Wagion!

I am extremely excited to see all of you at the lodge banquet that is coming up! Get ready for great food, fun, and fellowship at our first event of the year! I would like to thank all of those who chose me to lead our lodge in the Communications, Web-tech, and Promotions committees. I hope to bring this lodge a great year and set up for Brotherhood and cheerful service in years to come! Lastly, **REGISTER NOW FOR THE BANQUET!**

Carry on, Wagion!
Andrew Pierce

Treasurer - Landyn Queer

Hello Wagion,

I'm excited for the upcoming year, especially the banquet that will help kick it off. It will be a great way to come together, celebrate our Brotherhood, and start the year on a positive note. Please also remember to pay your dues for the year so we can continue to have a successful program.

Carry on, Wagion!
Landyn Queer





Chairman Chat



Cub Relations - Nate Collamer

Hello Wagion! I am excited to inform all of you about our lodge's annual Spring Nature Walk on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026. For those of you who are not aware, our lodge hosts this event for Cub Scouts and their families. It is very important that we promote this event as a lodge to our troops and district. Please make sure that your packs regularly check the Smoke Signals for updates and registration information. We are always looking for volunteers from the lodge to assist during this event. Please come talk to me at the banquet or send me a message if you are interested.

Carry on, Wagion!
Nate Collamer

Activities Committee - Dylan Daugherty

Hello Wagion,

I am Dylan Daugherty, and I will be your Activities Chairman again this year. I am looking forward to an exciting year with Wagion and making the weekends great. Don't forget to come to our annual banquet as we will have many fun activities there, including a pool, gym, and a game room. I hope to see you all there

Carry on,
Dylan Daugherty

Unit Elections - Nathan FitzGerald

Hi Wagion! I'm Nathan FitzGerald, the Unit Elections Sub-Chairman for Old Trail District. As members of the Unit Elections Committee, we want to get all eligible and worthy Scouts inducted into our lodge. We members on the Unit Elections committee want to get all eligible scouts inducted into our lodge. Another goal of mine is to have more members on the Unit Election committee. Thank you.

Carry on, Wagion!
Nathan FitzGerald

Unit Elections - Eli Rittenhouse

The 2026 Order of the Arrow Unit Elections season is here. I would like to see all troops/crews with eligible Scouts participate. It is very important to get all of the elections completed in a timely and efficient manner. Our goal is to have all elections finished by the end of May 2026. If you have not yet scheduled your troop/crew for a unit election, please let Kyle Collamer and myself know. Also, please contact us if your troop has no one eligible.

I would also like to mention that we are having a Unit Elections training at this year's OA Lodge Banquet on February 28th. So, if your troop/crew's OA Representative is present at the event, we would like them and an adult to come to our training. Thank you!

Carry on, Wagion,
Eli Rittenhouse





Chairman Chat



Service Committee - Emmaleigh Rutz

Hello Wagion,

My name is Emmaleigh Rutz, and I am honored to serve as your 2026 Service Chairman. I've been in Scouting for two years, joined our lodge this past August, and I'm currently a Life Scout in Troop 1416 working toward the rank of Eagle. Looking ahead, my goal is to revitalize the Service Committee. We are currently developing a way for members to volunteer as project leads during our weekends. These leaders will be responsible for overseeing tools, project progress, and guiding their teams. We have a few more exciting changes in the works to make our committee more impactful than ever!

Emmaleigh Rutz

First Aid Committee - Nick Eremic

My name is Nick Eremic, and I am proud to serve as the First Aid Chairman for Wagion. I am from Troop 239 in Harrison City. I am a Life Scout working toward my Eagle Scout rank, and stepping into this leadership role means a lot.

One of my main goals is to get more people involved in learning first aid. When more Scouts understand basic first aid skills, everyone is better prepared to handle injuries or dehydration. Another goal is to keep everyone safe around camp, no matter the conditions. Whether it is bad weather, rough terrain, or unexpected situations, being prepared helps prevent accidents and keeps all scouts safe. I plan to recruit people at the banquet.

As First Aid Chairman, I plan to lead by example and make safety a number one priority. By encouraging participation and preparedness, I hope to help create a safer environment here at Wagion.

In Service,
Nick Eremic

Communications Committee - Max Snyder

Hello Wagion,

As 2026 starts, I just want to take a second and thank everyone who helped with the T-Bird last year. Whether it was through submitting articles or helping with editing and printing, I really appreciate it a lot. Looking to the future, the next T-Bird submission date will be March 29th. Please consider sending in something even if you are not a committee Chair. The T-Bird is always looking for old stories and interesting things you may have done in the past.

Carry on,
Max Snyder





Chairman Chat



2027 Conclave - Jacob Harris

Greetings Wagion,

My name is Jacob Harris, and I will be your 2027 Conclave Chairman. Conclaves have been a staple of our organization since 1921. As a lodge, we have been given the privilege of hosting the 2027 Conclave for our section E21. As such, the work to host the rest of our section begins with this year's Conclave. It will be hosted by Gyantwachia Lodge 255 at Camp Olmsted in Russel, PA I encourage everyone to attend Conclave this year on May 29th – 31st and begin building connections with those that we will see at our own Camp Conestoga in 2027. Conclave gives us the opportunity to come together as lodges in fellowship. Our theme as a lodge for the year is “Firm Bound in Brotherhood” and I therefore remind us all as a lodge that our binding in Brotherhood extends to the other lodges in our section and it is our duty as Arrowmen to extend that hand. If anyone is interested in joining the 2027 Conclave Committee to prepare for this event, feel free to contact me via the email and phone number listed within the 2026 LEC contact info.

Carry On,
Jacob Harris

LEADERSHIP ISN'T A TITLE. IT'S A SHOVEL.

I was at the lodge service weekend this past October, standing knee-deep in a pile of gravel. As an **adult advisor**, I spend my Monday-Friday "shoveling" data and "pivoting" strategies. But today? I was pivoting a 15-pound steel spade.

Let that sink in.

While my peers were elsewhere, I was teaching 13-year-old "rock stars" that **Gravel is just unorganized potential**. Here is what the **Order of the Arrow** taught me about the 2026 Q1 marketplace:

1. **FRICION IS NECESSARY.** Just like gravel provides traction for the new camp road, "friction" in your team creates the grip needed for #Growth. No traction? No progress.
2. **SILENCE IS DISRUPTION.** During the Ordeal, we don't speak. In a world of "noise," the silent leader is the most disruptive force in the room. I didn't say a word for 6 hours. I just *executed*.
3. **THE SASH IS A CONTRACT.** When I put on the sash, I'm signing a Service Level Agreement (SLA). My "KPI" then? 40 wheelbarrows. 106% completion rate.

I didn't see pain. I saw **Return on Effort**. In the corporate world, we call it "Labor." In the OA, we call it **Wimachtendienk**. I chose the shovel.

#Brotherhood #CheerfulService #ThoughtLeader #WWW #ExecutiveExcellence





State Championship



Lodge Member Wins State Championship: Sal Colangelo Leads Franklin Regional Wrestling to Glory

In a season that will be remembered across Westmoreland County, **Franklin Regional High School Wrestling** completed an undefeated **22–0 run** and captured the **2026 PIAA Class 3A State Team Championship** with a hard-fought **29-24 victory over Norwin** in the finals. The Panthers demonstrated depth, discipline, and resilience all season long, overcoming tough opponents and high-pressure moments to reach the top of Pennsylvania high school wrestling.

Throughout section competition, WPIAL duals, and the state tournament, Franklin Regional proved itself as one of the premier programs in the state. Close matches, clutch bonus points, and key individual performances carried the Panthers through every challenge. By the time they reached the PIAA team finals, the Panthers had built the confidence and momentum needed to finish the job.

At the center of this championship run is **Wagion Lodge 6 member Salvatore “Sal” Colangelo**. Wrestling at 107 pounds, Sal played a critical role in pivotal matches throughout the postseason. In the state final, his strong performance provided valuable points that helped shift momentum in Franklin Regional’s favor and contributed directly to securing the team title.

Sal’s success reflects the same qualities valued in the Order of the Arrow — commitment, perseverance, and leadership. Balancing the demands of high-level athletics with his dedication as a Scout and lodge member, he exemplifies what it means to pursue excellence both on and off the mat.

Franklin Regional’s 2026 state championship season will be remembered not only for the perfect record and the trophy, but for the teamwork and character displayed along the way. Wagion Lodge 6 proudly congratulates Sal and the entire Panther wrestling team on an outstanding achievement.







LLD Pictures



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Medical Forms Reminder:
Remember to bring a copy of your Medical Form (Parts A and B) to ALL Lodge Events!

The T-Bird Times is the official newsletter of Wagon Lodge 6 of the Westmoreland-Fayette Council. The publication of the T-Bird Times has been a tradition in the lodge since 1964. This newsletter is made by Arrowmen, for Arrowmen. Thank you for your underlying and unconditional support of this publication, our great lodge, and our proud heritage and tradition.



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