

To the brothers of the Shenandoah Area Council,

It is our honor to announce that after many months of discussion between both lodges, we can officially emerge as one. We are no longer Guneukitschik #317 and Shenshawpotoo #276. From this day forward we will be known as Onerahtokha #297 (Honor-Ah-Toe-Kah). The name means April in the Mohawk language. This symbolizes the spring of our new lodge, our beginning. The totems will no longer be a deer and rattlesnake, but a fisher. A fisher is not a cat, or a fox, but a black weasel of sorts. These animals play heroic roles in Native American folklore and should inspire us to be the hero in the story of others. The number, 297, is the result of both numbers being combined, divided in half, and rounded. This also keeps the legacy of 2 for Shenshawpotoo, a 7 for Guneukitschik, and a 9 symbolizing our combination.

In keeping with legacy, both lodges brought one legacy event to the new lodge. Guneukitschik kept Pow Wow, which is a weekend in late August dedicated to fellowship and Lodge and Chapter Elections. Shenshawpotoo's legacy event is Hijinx. An evening in late December where we look back on the year with our brothers over good food and fond memories. This is also where awards are given, and the lodge leadership will be installed officially. When an officer is elected at Pow Wow, they will not assume their position right away. There will be a several month training and planning period for the new lodge leadership. Their term will start at Hijinx. Some new features of the lodge include four induction weekends that utilize both Camp Rock Enon and Sinoquipe Scout Reservation along with seasonal fellowship events to encourage lodge engagement.

The LEC will consist of the Lodge Chief, The Vice-Chief of Membership, The Vice-Chief of Program, The Vice-Chief of Finance, The Vice -Chief of

Communications, and the Vice-Chief of Ceremonies along with the four Chapter Chiefs. Under each officer is a plethora of chairmanships leaving plenty of opportunity for leadership within the lodge.

This year's Pow Wow on August 23-25 will mark the first event of the new lodge and the first election of lodge leadership. We are hosting a flap design contest starting July 15th and ending July 20th. We know this is a quick turnaround. The designs will be discussed between the lodges and one will be officially chosen by the two Lodge Chiefs, Rebecca and Chloe. The official flap design will be revealed on Sunday morning of Pow Wow (August 25th), so don't miss it. Please send all flap designs to Staff Adviser, Jon Elliott, at Jon.Elliott@scouting.org.

Do not mourn the loss of the old, but instead rejoice in the new and treasure the fond memories. For we are united under the same goals...Brotherhood, Cheerfulness, and Service. We are all brothers in the Order of the Arrow, scouting's national honor society. We were chosen by our peers to lead, so let us lead this new lodge into tomorrow with open minds and hearts and put the "honor" in Onerahtokha.

Rebecca Bergeron
Guneukitschik Lodge Chief

Chloe Langston
Shenshawpotoo Lodge Chief

John Collins
Shenshawpotoo Lodge Adviser

Bryan Davis
Guneukitschik Lodge Adviser