



Section E5 Council of Chiefs (COC)

Saturday, November 15th, 2025, 10pm ET

Camp Shands

Attendance:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Chief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oseeola |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Vice Chief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O-Shot-Caw |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semialachee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aal-Pa-Tah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tipisa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Echockotee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee |

1. Welcome Address & Roll Call

2. Lodge Reports

a. Aal-Pa-Tah

- i. Lodge Chiefs Ethan Stabile and Sebastian Woody expressed appreciation to Echockotee Lodge for hosting SLS and reported a strong turnout, with 27 members in attendance, surpassing their goal of 20.
- ii. They invited everyone to attend their Winter Fellowship at Tanah Keeta 12/5-12/7.
- iii. Unit elections are progressing well, with 40 youth candidates elected so far.
- iv. For NLS/DYLC, three youth and adults are currently registered.
- v. Vigil induction is scheduled for January.

b. Echockotee

- i. Lodge Chief Holden Mendez thanked everyone for attending SLS, noting it was the largest since COVID with over 300 registered attendees, and expressed appreciation for the efforts to activate members to participate. A guest satisfaction survey has been created and will be sent to Echockotee members tomorrow, followed with broader distribution to all those who attended. The feedback from this survey will help guide planning for the 2027 Section Conference, which will be hosted by Echockotee.
- ii. Holden also introduced Katie McConnell as the incoming lodge chief, with transition scheduled to take place during the lodge's Winter Fellowship 1/9-1/11.

**c. Osceola**

- i. Lodge Chief Lola Saad thanked Echockotee for hosting SLS, and noted pride in having the second-highest attendance with 30 members, surpassing their goal of 15.
- ii. 24 candidates have been elected for the lodge's upcoming Ordeal.
- iii. Planning for Winter Fellowship, which will take place 12/12-12/14, has been completed, and preparations are underway for the Winter Camp Banquet Powwow.

d. O-Shot-Caw

- i. Lodge Chief Andrew Beckman also expressed thanks to Echockotee, and reported hosting the Haunted Forest, the lodge's largest fundraiser of the year.
- ii. Planning is underway for the 53rd Annual Vigil Breakfast on December 20th, as well as their Winter Ordeal scheduled for the second weekend in January.

e. Semialachee

- i. Lodge Chief Darla Farmer reported that 19 members were signed up for SLS, nearly doubling their goal of 10. She also introduced Marc Cabansag as the incoming lodge chief, with transition scheduled to take place during the lodge's banquet on January 10th.

f. Tipisa

- i. Lodge Chief Benton Forrester reported that 27 members in attendance for SLS, surpassing their goal of 15.

g. Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee

- i. Lodge Chief Drew Kelly reported 26 members in attendance for SLS, and shared plans for two upcoming chapter conclaves and a banquet.
- ii. Drew introduced JJ Werner as the incoming lodge chief, with transition scheduled to take place on January 1st.

3. Section Officer Reports**a. Section Secretary - Brady Kondek**

- i. Brady introduced Amelia Flores from Echockotee as the new Communications Chair, replacing Kaylee DeLory. He highlighted the revival of *Sounds of the Section*, the section's quarterly newsletter, noting that the fall issue was released on 11/3. Brady also reported significant social media growth on the section Instagram since June, with 128,749 views, 2,317 interactions, and reaching 1,000 followers (an increase of 150).
- ii. The section website has also gone through an overhaul as well, including a new volunteer board for all available section positions, dedicated subsites for section events such as SLS and Section Conference, posting meeting minutes after each meeting, and the use of banners on the homepage for key initiatives.
- iii. Brady introduced Megan Ewing as the Trading Post Chair, who will work under the Section Secretary to establish a section merch drop. Megan



presented design ideas for t-shirts, polos, jackets, neckerchiefs, hats, and keychains. The tentative timeline includes introducing merch ideas at SLS in November, finalizing designs and releasing pre-orders between December and January, closing pre-orders in late February, and distributing items at Section Conference in April. The goal of the merch drop is to promote section pride without interfering with items sold by the host lodge during Section Conference.

b. Section Vice Chief - Walter Mentz

- i. Walter reported having a wonderful time at SLS, and as well finding trainers to put on the training sessions throughout the weekend. He tracked attendance for all training sessions, totaling 271 youth and 87 adults. Walter noted that the location of the training sessions had a greater impact on participation than the name of the individual training. Review sheets were distributed to gather feedback on what participants liked and how they preferred the sessions.
- ii. For competitions, Kings Cup will remain the same, while small wording changes will be made to the Inductions competition.

c. Section Chief - Nick Switzer

- i. Nick thanked all current and incoming officers for stepping into their roles, and for the great work they continue to do; acknowledging that the responsibilities can sometimes be challenging. He reminded everyone that the section officers are always available for support whenever needed.
- ii. Nick also shared that lodge visits are still ongoing and expressed excitement to continue visiting each lodge in months to come

4. Host Lodge Announcements

- a. Kamm Eckels, SLS Host Chair from Echowottee, noted that chapel will be held at the council ring and instructed that attendees have their gear out by their campsite number for trailer pickup after chapel concludes.

5. New Business

a. 2025 Section Conference Closeout Report (Osceola Lodge)

- i. Osceola Lodge Chief Lola Saad reviewed the closeout report from the 2025 Section Conference, and no issues or concerns were raised during the review. The event was initially planned with a budget of \$42,000 but concluded at a budget of \$40,000, resulting in a profit of \$6,100. The allocation of the profit will be discussed with the host lodge and Section Key 3; historically, any profit has been directed to the section fund (used for things like section scholarships or other initiatives that give back to the lodges). This report did not require an approval, so no vote was taken on this item.

**b. 2026 Section Conference Planbook Approval (Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge)**

- i. 2026 Section Conference Host Chair Stephanie Cargill from Aal-Pa-Tah Lodge presented the planbook for approval. This plan includes eliminating the Friday night show to allow attendees more time to arrive and get acquainted, replacing it with a Brotherhood Bash Friday night. Hammocks will not be permitted due to safety concerns.
- ii. On-time registration will cost \$55 per person, which will close on March 17th, after which the cost of registration will increase to \$65 per person. Late registration will close March 31st. As always, no walk-ins will be accepted.
- iii. Questions were addressed regarding the absence of a Friday night show, the use of four golf carts, and including both the VIA patch and 5K path under two categories within the budget. No separate budget was created for if the attendee count is fewer than the projected 550 attendees; the host lodge was asked to prepare this for discussion during the December Chiefs Call.
 1. As stated before, the Friday night show is being changed to a Brotherhood bash to allow attendees more time to arrive at camp and get settled in.
 2. Regarding the golf carts, while previous conferences have sometimes used more than four, only four will be used this year due to higher costs associated with the carts available to the host lodge. When asked if golf carts could be brought in from other lodges to help alleviate that cost, it was stated that the camp ranger would not allow this for liability and safety reasons.
 3. Regarding the 5K and VIA patches under two different budget categories, the reasoning for this is those under the “General” expense category are being given out to those who participate in the events, while those under the “Trading Post” expense category are being sold. The ones listed as income sources are only those from the “Trading Post” expense category.
- iv. Per-person costs were also communicated, totaling \$47 per person. For the 237 surprise event in the afternoon, it was asked how many people they anticipate attending that, as a lot of events are happening simultaneously around the same time. Stephanie stated she anticipates 200-250 participants, she as well encouraged that people spend time as they wish before moving on, not needing to dedicate the entire time to it (as 237 surprises during Aal-Pa-Tah’s lodge events don’t require a lot of time to do). Event registration will be \$55 per person instead of \$50 to cover a \$2 advance council charge and increases in section and national fees.
- v. Holden asked if a spirit theme will be included within the event, as this had been brought up in the past, with Stephanie stating that one is not. An idea she had in the moment was to include animal wildlife, with each lodge picking and representing an animal. Brady mentioned that his



communications team will reach out after SLS and figure out how to best include a spirit theme into what currently exists, and determine what that spirit theme would be.

- vi. A motion to approve the planbook was made by Woody, seconded by Holden, and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Section Conference Communications Competition Approval (Section Secretary)

- i. Brady presented the proposal regarding incorporating social media into a competition at section conference. The goal of this is to take advantage of the rise in use of social media across the OA, and push lodges in the section to invest more into using it. Two options were proposed:
 1. **Option 1:** Add social media to the current publications competition and rename it to be a more generalized communications competition to include both publications and social media.
 2. **Option 2:** Introduce social media as a new, third communications-related competition. In this case, the current publications competition would remain as its own.
- ii. During discussion, questions were asked about combining social media with publications and whether the website competition should be included; it was noted that websites are typically evaluated differently. It was clarified that lodges with multiple chairs can have more than one presenter if competitions are combined. On Instagram, previous stories can be reviewed using the archive feature (as they notably disappear from one's profile after 24 hours), and the social media portion is intended to be platform-agnostic (not tied to any specific individual platform).
- iii. The motion was tabled until the December Chiefs Call to allow lodges more time to review these options with their communications teams.

d. Section and National Program Updates

- i. **Lodge Performance Measurement Program (PMP)**
 1. There were no major changes, except for a 3.2 point adjustment in one section.
 2. For AIA, the recharter form will now have a box for lodges to indicate whether they have an agreement with a federally or state-recognized tribe.
- ii. **Section and National Events Calendar**
 1. **Fruitland Park NLS/DYLC:** February 20th - 22nd, 2026 (Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center)
 2. **2026 Section Conference:** April 10th - 12th, 2026 (Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation)
 3. **Operation Arrow at 2026 National Jamboree:** July 19th - August 1st, 2026 (Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve)
 4. **2026 Section Leadership Summit (SLS):** November 13th - 15th, 2026 (Camp La-No-Che)

**iii. Section Service Project**

1. Nick shared that he is working with Adam Lucier and Ken Knaebel to identify service project locations, including Wekiwa State Park and Ocala National Forest. The goal is to establish a “third” section event dedicated to service, honoring the Four Corps project previously organized by Section S4, the precursor to Section E5. The project will need to take place after hurricane season, and due to time constraints, planning may continue over the next year with execution in 2027.

iv. Future Section Events Rotation

1. SLS
 - a. 2026: Tipisa
 - b. 2027: Semialachee
 - c. 2028: O-Shot-Caw
 - d. 2029: Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee
 - e. 2030: Osceola
2. Section Conference
 - a. 2026: Aal-Pa-Tah
 - b. 2027: Echockotee
 - c. 2028: Tipisa
 - d. 2029: Semialachee
 - e. 2030: O-Shot-Caw

v. Section OAHA Scholarship

1. Section E5’s OAHA scholarship is now live. Awards of up to \$100 will be given, with one youth selected from each lodge based on demonstrated merit and financial need. Scholarship funds may only be used for OA High Adventure programs taking place during the same year the scholarship is granted. Recipients and their lodge advisers will be notified by email following Section Conference in April.
2. Applications must be submitted via email to adviser@e5.oa-scouting.org by April 1st.
3. Paper copies of the application were distributed during the meeting, however they will also be published on the section website, with additional promotion via social media after SLS.

6. Adviser’s Minute - Michael Todd

- a. Michael emphasized the importance of community in people’s lives, noting that having a place to belong is vital. He highlighted how we can provide scouts with opportunities to connect and grow together, creating a supportive environment where they feel valued and included.



7. Staff Adviser's Minute - David Mott

- a. David commended the great work the section and lodges have accomplished so far. He highlighted the participation of section leadership at the Eastern Region Section Officer Seminar in Alpine, NJ in October and encouraged others to get involved. He emphasized that serving at the section level, and as a section officer, is an excellent opportunity to meet scouts from across the country and contribute to meaningful initiatives.