



## Section E5 Lodge Chiefs Call (LCZC)

Monday, February 2nd, 7pm ET

[Google Meet](#)

### 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"/> Echeekotee         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee |

### 1. Welcome & Roll Call

### 2. Section Officer Reports

#### a. Section Chief - Nick Switzer

- i. Nick reported on his recent trip to the 2026 National Planning Meeting (NPM), which included the election of the 2026 National Officers. He also reiterated and promoted Operation Arrow, the national program of emphasis for this year. He stated that he is seeking an ambassador from within the section to promote it, further stating that he will not be at the National Jamboree.
- ii. He also mentioned being part of the planning of a new lodge trek program at Philmont in which lodges go on a trek together as one single contingent; this will be piloted to nine lodges.
- iii. Nick also requested the contact information for anyone in the section interested in joining a national subcommittee to help with lodge mergers throughout the Eastern Region. As well, he reminded everyone that Section Conference is approaching and that presentations for the Best All-Around Lodge are due the Friday before the event. Nick stated that he would be strict on this deadline.

#### b. Section Vice Chief - Walter Mentz

- i. Walter reported that NLS registration closes this Thursday and noted that 24 spots are still open for NLS and 13 for DYLC. He stated that advisers with Scouts who are undecided are encouraged to share their contact information with him, and he offered to reach out directly to them (with YPT compliance), to encourage attendance.
- ii. He also said he is currently collecting contact information for those who do King's Cup for each lodge and will be distributing information soon, noting that the rubrics for all competitions are available on the [Section Conference website](#).



- iii. He added a reminder that the section's OAHA scholarship is also available on the [section website](#), offering a \$100 scholarship for one Arrowman of each lodge that can be applied to their OAHA trek for the 2026 program year; advisers are encouraged to share that opportunity with anyone who may be interested.

**c. Section Secretary - Brady Kondek**

- i. Brady reported on having visited Aal-Pa-Tah's annual banquet and Vigil night, as well as Tipisa's Nefkete Chapter Ordeal within the last month.
- ii. He also shared that the winter edition of "Sounds of the Section" is almost complete and is expected to be released within the next week.
- iii. Trading Post Chair Megan Ewing presented updates on the section trading post merchandise, including tentative prices for fishing shirts, new and legacy neckerchiefs, patches, and stickers. She explained that the "legacy" items refer to merchandise from SLS, which is aimed to be phased out moving forward.
- iv. Brady acknowledged the daunting price of the Columbia fishing shirts, stating that they are a bit below the average cost when sold with embroidery, but said that they are exploring alternative and more affordable options to reduce the cost of this item.

**3. Lodge Reports**

**a. Aal-Pa-Tah**

- i. Lodge Vice Chief of Program Beckham Sypek, reporting in place of Chief Ethan Stabile, reported on recognizing the 8 members of their 2026 Vigil Class at their recent Vigil reunion breakfast. They are also preparing for their February Ordeal the first weekend of February at Camp Oklawaha (2/6 - 2/8).

**b. Echokotee**

- i. Lodge Chief Katie McConnell announced that they received an official signed letter from the Cherokee Tribe of Georgia, allowing them to continue their powwows and other related AIA activities within their lodge.
- ii. She also outlined the themes for Echokotee's upcoming fellowships: Cartoon Network (Spring), Nickelodeon (Summer), Disney (Fall), and 80s Saturday morning cartoons (Winter).
- iii. Katie stated that she is super excited to see what this year brings, and is excited for the year ahead.

**c. Osceola**

- i. Lodge Chief Lola Saad reported that their upcoming LEC meeting would focus on planning their upcoming March Ordeal at Camp Flying Eagle the weekend of 3/13, with 119 candidates scheduled to attend.

**d. O-Shot-Caw**

- i. Lodge Chief Andrew Beckman reported ongoing efforts to recruit for NLS, despite challenges with the price point.
- ii. O-Shot-Caw is also hosting their annual car show at Camp Elmore on Sunday 2/22, which includes a Pinewood Derby event.

**e. Semialachee**

- i. Lodge Chief Marc Cabansag reported that he and two others from Semialachee will be attending NLS, and they are preparing for their Winter Ordeal, which will take place the first weekend of February (2/6 - 2/8).

**f. Tipisa**

- i. Lodge 1st Vice Chief Mia DeVivo, reporting for Chief Benton Forrester, reported that they have officially rechartered as a high-performing lodge, improving their PMP score from the previous year.
- ii. Tipisa inducted 221 youth and 46 adult members during four Ordeal weekends across January.

**g. Uh-To-Yeh-Hut-Tee**

- i. Lodge Chief JJ Sheridan reported on having a successful table at their council's University of Scouting event at Saint Leo University.
- ii. He also confirmed at least three youth from the lodge will be attending NLS, and that their Spring Conclave in March has 86 people currently registered.
- iii. JJ also announced that their fall fellowship will celebrate the lodge's 10th anniversary following their merger in 2016, potentially with custom lodge flaps.

**4. Upcoming Events****a. NLS/DYLC**

- i. Walter shared that one additional participant registered for NLS in the morning, and reminded all that registration closes this Thursday 2/5, emphasizing that anyone still interested must register this week. He said advisers are encouraged to send him contact information for individuals who are still undecided, noting that he will be making follow-up phone calls, and thanking those who already shared names. He explained that NLS provides participants the opportunity to meet national officers, better understand national OA programming, learn how to effectively run a lodge, and grow as Scouters, and he invited anyone needing assistance with registration to reach out.
- ii. Nick shared that both he and Walter had very positive experiences attending NLS in December, adding that while parts of the program may not always be exciting, it is highly worthwhile and valuable. He strongly encouraged youth to attend NLS and adults to attend DYLC, asking advisers to help spread the word through any means possible. Walter added that individuals over 21 may choose to attend either NLS or DYLC. Nick further stated that the program changes each year and varies by presenter, emphasizing that even past attendees will gain new insights, meet different people from across the region, and benefit from attending again.



**b. 2026 Section Conference**

- i. Section Conference Host Chair Stephanie Cargill reported that 55 attendees are currently registered, with 26 from the host lodge (Aal-Pa-Tah). She inquired about the registration goal per lodge. Nick encouraged the lodge chiefs to set a goal higher than the previous year, which had a collective total of 611 attendees.
- ii. Stephanie also reported on planned work days for the event, as well as program run-throughs during their Spring Ordeal in March.

**5. New Business**

- a. Andrew revisited the topic of the outstanding surplus money from last year's Section Conference, which they intended to use for NLS scholarships. Michael Todd apologized for the delay, explaining that the section leadership team has not yet received the latest ledger statement from Central Florida Council. He assured the group that scholarship information for NLS (as in who would be receiving the single \$80 scholarship per lodge) will be sent out following the meeting, and that he would send out the disbursement numbers to the group as soon as he can do a breakdown.

**6. Adviser's Minute - Michael Todd**

- a. Michael informed all that a reminder had been sent to all lodge advisers for NLS/DYLC registration, with the current roster of members registered for both courses. He also asked advisers to cross-check this list with their local registration and payment records to ensure accuracy and proper housing arrangements. He said that there are just over 20 slots remaining for NLS, but noted that the event may fill soon, and encouraged lodges to continue promoting attendance since Florida will not host another NLS or DYLC until at least 2030. He also added that section NLS scholarship recipients will be notified shortly after the meeting so that payments can be processed. Michael also thanked Nick for representing the section at NPM and re-shared that Nick is helping to lead the lodge trek program at Philmont, which will kick start next summer; encouraging interested lodges to connect with him for more information.