

To the members of Lakota, Michigamea, Owasippe, and Pachsegink Lodges: On Sunday, November 19th, a committee comprised of three youth members from each of our four lodges met to begin the process of becoming one lodge for all Order of the Arrow members of Pathway to Adventure Council. In hopes of keeping all lodge members informed on the process of the merger, updates will be sent through lodge and council communication on a regular basis. Below is a summary of the meeting.

The committee began with a discussion of the hopes and concerns regarding the merger of the four lodges. The committee members shared their own hopes and concerns, as well as those communicated by lodge members to our youth leadership, and even hopes and concerns that our committee expected from various stakeholders in our lodges. It was consensus amongst the group that we must honor our lodges' pasts while moving forward with a positive attitude towards building a new lodge.

The next discussion item focused on identifying the particular tasks and decisions that the merger group needs to resolve over the next year, as we prepare for a new lodge. The committee views some of these tasks as more urgent to discuss, while other decisions will be topics for meetings later in 2018. To begin, the committee identified four areas to begin working on:

- A new lodge Name, Number, and Totem, and a process for engaging our lodges in this topic.
- The development of lodge chapters throughout all of PTAC.
- Understanding the four legacy lodges' financial state and potential contribution to the formation of our new lodge's finances.
- The development of the new lodge's LEC structure, including the structure of the new lodge's officer ranks (such as number of Vice Chiefs, roles and responsibilities)

There are many topics and tasks to be resolved in the upcoming year, yet the merger committee will work to ensure that all decisions and tasks are resolved in time to celebrate the creation of a new lodge on January 1, 2019.

Communication with our lodges' members was another key discussion point. Members can expect updates from the merger committee, as they are available. The merger committee will also develop a process to solicit feedback from lodge members on a variety of topics. More information will be provided soon.

Throughout this coming year, the merger committee, which represents all members, will uphold its promise to engage in positive, productive, and thoughtful work on behalf of our members. Although a new lodge is being formed, our Order will continue to fulfill its purpose of promoting camping, outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Your PTAC Lodge Merger Committee