Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2020

NEW MESS HALL IS A REALITY

After 108 years it was time to replace Camp's aging Mess Hall and Armory...and we are. The old buildings came down in August 2019, just after the season ended, and construction began soon thereafter. Each month since September, the six member Building Committee has gone to Camp to meet with John Gohorel (contractor) and Eric Van Tassel (architect) to assess progress, consider change orders, and make the dozens of decisions needed in a project of this size. Each time we build a new structure, we have to build to code and that adds time and cost but ensures the safety and sturdiness of the structure. The last time we had an outside contractor build at Camp was in 1963 when the Field House was constructed. The new Mess Hall is by far the largest construction project ever embarked on at LDBC. Thank you for helping make this project a reality. Below are photos of the construction in progress.









FINAL MESS HALL FUND RAISING LAP...

We are so thankful to everyone who has supported the Mess Hall project. This was the largest fundraising challenge in LDBC history and we are almost at our goal...we are asking for one final donation from everyone who cares deeply for LDBC...

Our fundraising goal from non-Gerry sources is \$300,000.

As of March 1, 2020 this is where we stand with non-Gerry fundraising:

118 individual donors \$150,000 Non-Gerry Foundations \$49,000 Uncollected Pledges \$38,000 **Total Collected and Pledged:** \$237,000

Need to Raise \$63,000

Now is the time to step up and be counted to ensure the future of LDBC! This is our last major building project and sets up LDBC for the 21st century. If you are not yet a Mess Hall donor, please consider doing your part and making a donation in any amount to help us meet this challenge. If you have already donated, but are able to help us out again, we thank you all the more. Checks should be made out to Lake Delaware Boys' Camp and mailed to camp at P.O. Box 31, Delhi, New York, 13753. Please write "Capital Campaign" in the subject line.





Summer 2019 was the last summer with the Armory and Original Mess Hall.

THE CAMP EMBLEM STAINED GLASS WINDOW

The original Camp Emblem stained glass window that was installed in the mess hall in the 1980's was very carefully removed from the Mess Hall prior to demolition. This window will be installed over the doors in the new Mess Hall.





REMEMBERING FR. D. By SUE ADAMS

Sunday, July 21, 2019

~ Sue Adams

Because Father D meant so much to camp

and so much to so many . . .

I am deeply moved and honored to be able to be the one to remember him at this service today.

The fact is that everyone who knew him has a Father D story Your story with Father D is so important to each and every one of you. Somehow he had the capacity to have hundreds of relationships. Each one was intensely important and meaningful to him.

So, if you think that your relationship with Fr. D was important and that it mattered – it did. He was delighted any time you spoke with him and he always believed the best about you.

My words today will be my story as he affected my life, and how I saw him impact the lives of generations of boys at LDBC.

Literally, 46 years ago today - I came to LDBC to visit my brothers who were campers. A certain Major Jim Adams who was head counsellor that year had already decided that he was going to meet me and was quite friendly to my brothers. I knew nothing about this camp- only that my two younger brothers were there and no one was going to visit them for Parents Weekend, so back in those days I had to find a map and I drove here from New Jersey.

Later that evening – most of the visitors gathered at the Andes Hotel AND Major Adams showed up and sat at my table! We were married 14 months later and have worked and served together at St. Peter's Church and Lake Delaware Boys' Camp for many years.

Meeting Major Adams -- meant that I also met Father D.

Father D took me in – he truly became my dad as well as my spiritual father.... I loved him and valued all that he was.

He sponsored Jim to the priesthood.

He officiated at our wedding

He was the Godfather to our first child.

He was loved by my entire family.

He was our best friend.

He was always there when you called.

And, I loved taking care of him.



REMEMBERING FR. D.

Until the very end of his life He never wanted to miss a thing! When his hearing began to fail – he could no longer sit at the campfire at night with the Colonel and staff because the conversational words were lost to him

So he came on the porch every night and sat with me

I loved his stories of boys he tried to help
Of mountains he climbed
Of governet models he proposed

Of gourmet meals he prepared Of music he listened to

Of the thousands of campers he got to know -50 years!

He had so much to offer and he so willingly did.

In actuality you might say that he was a very simple man.

Simple – meaning that he didn't require much.

No television, no computer Just books and relation-ships. On his bedside table was always a Bible and a Prayer Book. If he received more than he was expecting from his pension – he would say what do we need at camp?

Father D loved the mountains he loved the Catskills Mountains. When he retired from serving Downsville and Margaretville parishes, after 44 years of service – we wanted him to move to Geneva and be near us.

You might not know this bit of trivia – but Father D lived in Geneva way before we ever did. Back in the 1950s he was a student at Hobart College in Geneva and attended St. Peter's Church, where my husband is now Rector.

One of his sisters wanted him to move to Wyoming and be near her --- but there was no way Father D was ever going to leave these mountains.

Did you know that Father D hiked the Catskills' 35 peaks over 3,500 feet,

the Adirondack's 46 peaks that reach over 4,000 feet,

the White Mountains in New Hampshire, the Grand Tetons and Mount Ranier.



REMEMBERING FR. D.

Father D experienced God in these mountains. And I feel that the mountains were blessed by his presence.

All of the people he served as pastor to in these mountains were blessed.

The friends he made hiking these mountains were blessed.

All of the people he preached to at St. Joseph's Chapel at LDBC were blessed.

The campers he took on hikes up INTO those mountains were blessed.

31 years ago when my husband became camp director – he felt chapel should be something that the entire battalion could benefit by and so we went to chapel every single day. And, every day we got to spend time with Father D.

As I said, he would come over to the cottage each night – right up through last summer at the age of 89 ---- he told me his stories.....stories of the people that had come into his life.

In the Chapel we heard his other stories.

Stories to plant a seed in our hearts and minds and lift us to be better human beings and move closer to God.

-The story of the Architect

Always give your best no matter what – you never know how life plays out.

- **-The story** of the dropped puzzle in the train station Be Jesus to someone
- **-The story** about the brother who was willing to give a kidney to his brother .. but actually, thought he was giving his life as well Can we too be like Jesus -- willing to sacrifice for another?
- -The Tolstoy story about Expecting Jesus -- Always be ready See Jesus in and through everyone.
- -Think about the message of his story:

"I taught him how to walk But not where to walk". .. Are you walking in the right direction in your life?

REMEMBERING FR. D.

-Father D's favorite Poem by Edwin Markham, gave us such a strong teaching. He shared it in sermons.

He shared it during the formation of staffs each summer during orientation. A powerful message of inclusion – that he obviously was drawn to and hoped that folks would catch on! Let us always bring his memory honor by living by these words!

Father D's favorite message to us:

"He drew a circle that shut me out-Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.

But love and I had the wit to win:

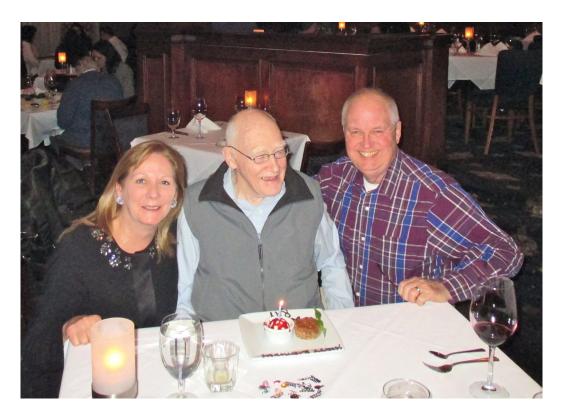
We drew a circle and took him In!"

LDBC is going to have a new Mess Hall next summer and we are going to have a sign prominently displayed with this message of inclusion. I think he would be happy being remembered by the nudge to be the one who draws a circle and brings more in --- because that was Father D.

I will close with a couple of very appropriate verses from Psalm 121: 1-2.

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains --- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth."

Our loss..... but Heaven's gain!



Board of Directors Officers

President Joseph Scalero G83 jrs2002@optonline.net

Vice President Ron Frigenti G79

Treasurer *FRANK R. ENDERS G62*fenders25@verizon.net

Acting Secretary Geoff Dunham G79

Directors

Chris Burdett
Michael Cole
Steve Foster
Anthony Garcia
Tom Gardella
Richard Hilbert
James McQuade
Robert Mondello
Warren Oates
David Roberts
Harold Turner

JOIN THE EMBLEM SOCIETY

As with the generous grads named below, we hope you will reflect on the impact LDBC has had on your life and consider leaving a bequest for Camp in your will. Your generosity will help make the Camp experience possible for future generations. If you have made this commitment and your name does not appear on this list, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at 607-832-4451 or ldbc@delhitel.net so we can recognize your generosity.

Emblem Society Members: Robert Aguilar'35 Doug Amzler'76 Alfred Anderson, '38 Richard Clarke '60 Guy DeFeis '70 **Geoffrey Dunham'79** George Deecken'38 Clint Graffam'50 Fred Holzkamp, '55 William '55 and Barbara Holzkamp Hank Huestis '42 **Kevin Lamberson '86** Vinnie and Nancy Licata '87 JoAnn Martin Craig McGovern '87 Warren '62 and Corethia Oates John Sage '41 William Stenger,'39 Frank Strup, Jr. '39

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all who contribute to the Valookie. Special thanks to Geoff Dunham and Frank Enders . If anyone has articles, old pictures, old editions of the Valookie, stories of camp Old and New, please mail or e-mail them to me at the above contact information. I welcome any and all contributions.

Valookie Editor

Kevin Lamberson G86

Please direct all submissions, questions, suggestions, etc. by email or mail to: kevinlamberson 0826@gmail.com

31 Hayes Lane North Yarmouth, ME 04097

MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT



Joseph R. Scalero '83 is the Village Clerk for the Incorporated Village of Mineola, one of the largest villages in New York State. In this capacity, Joe serves as the chief administrative officer where he has been recognized for his work in promoting open government and fair administration of elections, and is at the forefront of "smartgrowth" development. Prior to this he served as the Director of his county's first bi-partisan legislative re-districting commission, Chief-of-Staff to the New York State Assembly Health Committee's vice-chair, and directed constituent services for the chief executive of the nation's largest suburban county. He has held positions as a telecommunications firm General Manager & CFO, aide to three congressmen, and special assistant to a NYC Borough President. Joe was recently elected President of the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks, and is a past President of the Long Island regional Clerk's association.

Joe attended Hobart College and did his graduate work at Cornell University. He resides on Long Island, NY with his wife Colleen. He has served on the LDAA Board and was its Vice President for eighteen years. He is an avid golfer, flyfisher, and car enthusiast.

QUARTERLY NYC LDBC GATHERING

Lizzy Adams, Nick Frigenti and Harold Turner are organizing an informal LDAA get together in NYC, please contact Lizzy at 315-521-2989 or Nick at 631-455-3505 if you are interested in getting together.



HELP RECRUIT NEW CAMPERS

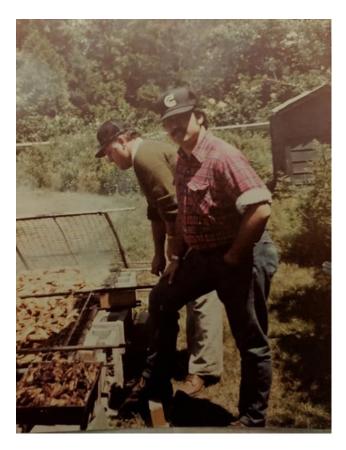
Help keep LDBC strong by recruiting campers...we especially welcome ALL grad kids or grand-kids to attend LDBC...and their friends! Refer any potential camper family to the new camp website where they can find the camper application www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com. For new camp brochures to hand out to potential camper families, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at ldbc@delhitel.net or (607) 832-4451.

CAMP PHOTOS FROM THE 1970's and 1980's











CAMP PHOTOS FROM THE 1970's and 1980's













AVE DELAWARE

Delaware's the Camp, there's none above!

None above!

It helps us in our life to love!

Life to love!

With deeper sense of

Friendship's beauty rare

That's why we're gathered here tonight.

Of Camps we think it is the best,
Is the best!
We'll strive to leave behind the rest.
All the rest!
Our hearts will never, never beat
More true, than in the
Bonds of Delaware.

Now gather close and drink a toast.

Drink a toast!

Never let it be an idle boast

Idle Boast!

Here's where we pledge to

God and Country fair!

Long life to Delaware'

(J.L.W. '26)

("The Pope")

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB ARNOLD







GRADS WEEKEND 2019









Alumni Drill down winner

GRADS WEEKEND 2019





Carrying on the GOAS family tradition





CAMPING WITH THE STARS 2020

Lake Delaware Alumni Association members have supported LDBC through donations

of time, treasure, and talents, especially through the Work Weekends. Most of the Work Weekend projects occur when the camp is still 'packed up'. The tents are down, the Field House, Armory and Chapel are filled with storage. Even the Mess Hall has Picnic Tables and other items stored for the off season. These Work Weekends are important in order to get the BIG building projects accomplished.

But, 9 years ago -- "Camping with the Stars" was born!

An extra Work Weekend with Benefits!

A totally different event happening at Lake Delaware Boys Camp.

Those who have attended continue to rave about it.

Hard to believe that this will be its seventh year!

The first year, we had 10 folks join us and last year - we had 50 guests!

We hope that you join us this year.

CAMPING WITH THE STARS 2019!

~ YOU are the STARS.

Festivities formally begin with Dinner on Friday, June 26th, Saturday, June 27th and end after lunch Sunday, June 28th.

The concept for this weekend is to bring Alumni and their families together to participate in some last minute Camp Craft Projects and also enjoy some of the LDBC experience!

Our staff will have emptied and set up the buildings for the camp season.

The boys tents will be set up. Some of you might choose to sleep in the boys tents 1 - 8....Aco or Bco and some of you might pitch a tent up in the Parking Lot. We will have a schedule which includes waking up to the Canon, Meals served in the Mess Hall, (Friday-Dinner, Saturday-Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner and Sunday-Breakfast & Lunch) Camp Grace said at all meals, Announcements with the Day's schedule, Camp Craft Projects, Open Swim, Hikes, Evening Games, Sunday morning Chapel with Fr. D, an evening campfire. The evening will become quiet with the playing of Taps.

Suggested donation for the six meals = \$30 per single adult or \$50 per family.

RESERVATIONS must be made in advance and no later than June 15, 2019! Email me (Sue Adams) at immandsueadams@gmail.com

No one under the age of 18 will be allowed without a parent.

(Alcohol will be restricted to designated times and places throughout the weekend.

Absolutely no underage drinking. Please do not bring pets.)



MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR GRADS WEEKEND

12th Annual Golf Outing
Grads-Parents Weekend

July 17

July 18-19

Don't wait to the last minute to make reservations....The Catskills have been discovered! Though the towns look the same as they always have, Bovina boasts an excellent restaurant and Andes has two and a hard cider distillery & brewery. Organic farms and heritage breed beef cattle farms have replaced many old dairy farms. With the Catskills now a destination for summer weddings, the few B&B's, inns and hotels fill up quickly. Don't forget if every place is booked, you are always welcome to camp out in the parking lot!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Work Weekend June 6-7

Camping with the Stars June 26-28

11th Annual Gold Outing July 17

Grads/Parents weekend July 19-20

Final Weekend August 8-9

FOR RECENT LDBC GRADUATES

Remember, for three years following graduation from Camp, LDAA annual dues are waived and the picnic is free! This past year, we saw more young alumni attend the Grad's Picnic than ever before. We hope to see more of you in the coming years at the picnic and at Grads weekend.

GRADS WEEKEND ALUMNI BASKET RAFFLE

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to report we had donations of 58 baskets this year. Huge thanks to Ann Lamberson who brought 18 of them. I did 15. We also had 10 things for our Silent Auction. That always brings in a lot of money. Thanks to those who also brought things to sell separately. There were puzzles, books, sand pails ,afghans, jewelry, LDBC memorabilia, new children's clothing. and lovely notepaper from Kitty Gerry. What was leftover went to the Parent's Sale or to Sue Adams for use at her home church. Rich Burdett worked the crowd and got lots of \$1.sales for the LDBC magnets.

In addition to thanks to the people who brought things we had such great help putting on tablecloths, arranging the items, attaching ticket bags, selling raffle tickets, pulling winner tickets (Eden), packing up and delivering extras to camp.

We took in \$1,748 for LDAA which exceeds what we have ever raised before. After doing this for more than a dozen years Ann Lamberson and i are pleased that Carol Dunham and Kathy Fedan have agreed to take over from us. Please continue to support them.

Many, many thanks for your help over the years.

Barbara Holzkamp

WORK WEEKEND

Work weekend is scheduled for June 6th and June 7th, 2020. Please come join us for a weekend of storytelling, bonding and camp beautification with your fellow alumni. No carpentry skill or craftsmanship abilities necessary. Please contact Rick Hilbert if you are interested in learning more.

Rick Hilbert sendhalfrick57@gmail.com (631)553-9093

AMAZON SMILES

Thank you to Richard Burdett for arranging for donations to LDBC under the Amazon Smiles program. Please REMEMBER LDBC when purchasing items on Amazon.com Every donation helps us meet our annual expenses, no matter how small!

DUES-WE NEED YOUR HELP ALUMNI !!!!!!!!!!



REMINDER:

Dues Reminder!!! Please help us reach our goal. Remember, you can also pay your dues online at www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com.

Please take a moment of your time to pay your dues today. As of this publication we only have 84 dues paying members which is down considerably from several hundred 10 years ago. We can certainly do better than that! Every contribution helps with the long term success of LDBC. Please take a few minutes and mail your \$40 dues TODAY! Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you!

Interested in giving more to LDBC? Consider sending in a small donation each month when you pay your bills. \$10 each month will have less impact on your budget than giving \$100 or more all at once. Just address 12 envelopes to LDAA, insert a check into each envelope in the amount you want to give each month and mail with your bills you pay each month. Also check to see if your company does a match to charitable organizations. Sometimes they will match dollar for dollar or more. If you need specific information like the Tax ID number or type of charity LDBC is, please contact the camp office at ldbc@delhitel.net. Thank you all for your continued support of LDBC.

RUN IN WITH LDBC HISTORY

Each year the LDAA board holds its spring meeting at a local church in the metropolitan area. This past year we ended up at Christ Church, Riverdale, built in 1865 as a small country parish, looking as if it were plucked out of the English countryside...but in the Bronx! Touring the church we stepped into the sacristy, glanced at an old photograph and, to our surprise, saw the former chaplain of LDBC looking down at us...the Rev. Pryor McNeil Grant. Fr. Grant was camp chaplain for several years in the early 1930's and went on to become rector of this parish, until the late 1930's when he untimely passed. Fr. Grant was passionate about helping boys and after his service at LDBC led the Association for the Improving the Condition of the Poor, advocating for juvenile delinquents not to be treated as adults in criminal matters. He worked with such youth in the 'Tombs' and had a strong track record working with first offenders to ensure they did not commit further crimes.

As it happens, Fr. Grant was not the only LDBC connection to Christ Church. Following him as rector, was the Rev. Gerald Barry who served as rector until 1965. Like Fr. Grant, Fr. Barry was chaplain at LDBC, in the 1920's, while also serving as rector of St James, Lake Delaware. He helped establish the mission churches in Margaretville and Downsville, where Fr. D served for 45 years. In addition to these Camp associations, Christ Church was known as the parish of both Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Yankees great Lou Gehrig, in whose honor memorials were given by Babe Ruth.







Christ Church Riverdale

Rev. Gerald Barry

Rev. Pryor McNeil Grant

2019 Donors to LDBC* THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

<u>ANGEL- \$10,000 +</u>

The Family of Henry Huestis
The Bodman Foundation
The Hyde and Watson Foundation

FOUNDER- \$5,000-\$9,999

Geoffrey and Carol Dunham Robert Fero Bill and Barbara Holzkamp

BENEFACTOR- \$2,500-\$4,999

Frank Enders
Jeffrey Fedan
Dominic Fosu
Victoria Gilbert

Bruce and Patricia Given

Kevin Lamberson

Craig and Lori McGovern

Anonymous James McQuade

Frank Mondello

Warren and Corethia Oates

Aaron and Sheri Palm

James and Laura Rauscher

Joseph Scalero Nicholas Schubert Thomson Trust

James Van Ness and Katherine Keller

PATRON- \$1,000-\$2,499

Ade Adedeji

Raynor Andersen

Kojo and Bridgette Arthur-Mensah

Richard Burdett

Fawn Cater

Richard Clarke

Mike and Patty Cole

Joseph Collins

Raymond Conley

Richard Coriasco

Robert Coriasco

William Dassler

Anthony and Tracy Distefano

Edward and Gladys Dunham

David and Wendy Fedan

Richard Fischer

Paul and Caroline Geertgens

Insley-McEntee Equipment

Victor Larson

Olajide Lawore

Vincent Licata

William Logan

Allen MacKnight

Darren McGovern

Herb McGrail

Burnadette Murphy

Milton Robinson

Helena Ross Hundley

Gordon Smith

William Snell

Clifford Sporn

Matthew Sporn

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Walter and Anna Burch

SPONSOR- \$500-\$999

Anna Asante

Boys and Girls Club of Geneva

Christine and Brian Bradley

Brian and Maureen Cunningham

Michael Cappiello

Paul Carson

Naomie Dorilas

Mark and Susan Drummond

Frederick and Kathleen Englert

Daniel Erema

Carolyn Freeman

Ron Frigenti

Thomas Gibson

Gold Coast Cruisers

Stephen and Trisha Gravina

Johnny Johnson

Raymond Lou

Ted Luchsinger

Raymond Mongelli

Network for Good

Dave and Molly Roberts

Peter and Carol Saliu

Eric Schubert

Claudia Steinhaus

Charles Stumpf

Rosemarie Stumpf

Jennifer Zhang

SUPPORTER- \$200-\$499

Beth Andrews

Beverley Antwi

Kelvin Audu

Scott and Brandy Avedisian

Gary Beck

Sherry Boyle

Marhu Bucasan

Albanelis Cruz

John DeTeresa

Desiree Edwards

Yewande Efodili

Helen Fincke

Thomas Gardella

Douglas and Chris Geertgens

Hannah Hauser

Charles and Christine Hounsell

Buffie Howe

Jadil Jimenez

Yvon Joseph

Mida Kim

Daniel Korsah

Ray and Ann Lamberson

Roger Leclerc

Jory Luchsinger

Marjorie Adams

Marjorie Adams

Randall Moeller

Andrea Mondello

Sidney Moore

Sara Reyes

Paul Richards

Walter Rowe

Paul and Suzanne Rung

Paulin Tan

Ebenezer VanderPallen

2019 Donors to LDBC

FRIEND - \$1-\$199

William Abeles

Michael Agan E.R. Ahlborn

Alois & Joan Amzler

Glen Amzler

Carl Anderson

Tihira Anthony

Jeffrey Arps

William Baessler

Steven and Jane Bailey

Lori Beard-Daily

Steven Bleuze

Russell Burczak

Virginia Burgess

Coastal Garden Club

Robert Crown

Guy DeFeis

Richard DeJongh

Hector Delgado

Herbert Donner

Thomas Dugan

Robert Duprau

Marie Ellen Dyer

Eric Schubert

Stuart Einstein

Steve Fedorko

Bruce Fueling

Kay Gillis

George Grealis

Francis Grimaldi

Michael Hepburn

Robert Hickson

Marcellin Hill

Larry Hinrichs

Holy Trinity Church

Patrick Hunt

David Ingangi

James H Adams

Leah Jimenez

Angela Johnston

Christopher Kennedy

Carolyn Kircher

John and Dorothy Kleis

James Klosiewski

Ellen Lehrer

Leslie Leviness

Jane Luchsinger

Anthony Mantone

Amaris Martinez

William McCullough

Dan McDonald

Bruce Monaghan

Robert Murphy

I.Paulemond

Kathryn Pepe

Marvin Peters

Angela Pimentel

Plummer-Cambridge

Charles Price

Patricia Reilly Bryan Reopel

Gene and Tony Reopel

Mary Rider

Roger Rowe Jefferson Sargent

Kathy Schiro

Louise Sensenig

Thomas Sgrio

Thomas Shimkus

Jeff Shoemaker

Ralph Sisson

James Smith

Joseph Strup

Robert Stumpf

Edward Sullivan

Johann Taylor

Lawrence Tedesco

Jeffrey Templeton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the Old Testament of the Bible there is a charming story of God's call to the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a young boy when God told him he was needed to do great things for his people.

The Lord God said to me: "Jeremiah, I have great plans for you. I am appointing you a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Lord God," I answered, "look at me, I am only a boy. I will not know how to speak." But the Lord said to me: "Do not say I am only a boy!" Do not be afraid, I will be with you." Jeremiah 1:4-8

This story reminds us of the great work that goes on at Lake Delaware Boys' Camp; of boys discovering inner strength, gaining confidence, listening for the voice of God in their lives, preparing to lead lives of consequence. This work continues to thrive at LDBC. 2019 was another wonderful summer at camp, filled with spirit and joy. A highlight of the summer was the special service of thanksgiving held at Ancrum for campers, alumni, parents and friends of LDBC to honor the memory of Fr. Ray Donahue and Colonel Ron Reopel.

We welcomed a new chaplain for LDBC in 2019. We are thankful to God for sending us Fr. Andrew VanBuren. We are convinced he is just the right person to represent Christ in camp. His ministry in the chapel and throughout camp was a blessing to our boys and staff. Becca – Mrs. VB as she was called by the campers – was a joyful presence in camp, and her work with the choir and the band elevated the music at LDBC. Fr. And Mrs. VB will be returning to LDBC this summer.

We are looking forward this year to another amazing season at LDBC. We will have a large grad class filled with positive leaders, and a strong staff with many key returners. In 2003, the addition of a new swimming pool transformed the experience of our campers. The new Mess Hall will have a similar transformational effect as well.

We are grateful for support and encouragement we receive as we seek to provide our campers with the lifechanging experience of LDBC, in a completely safe and wholesome environment. We hope to see so many of you at LDBC this summer.

Wishing you all the best, Colonel and General Adams





FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This is my first President's message since my election, made more difficult by the big shoes I am filling.

It is a great testament to the strength of our Association to transition smoothly from one President to the next without disruption, and without losing sight of our core mission: to support Lake Delaware Boys' Camp, ensuring its long-term success for future generations of boys who will benefit from the unique LDBC experience.

While there are a lot of great things happening at Camp, and a lot to report to you, much of which appears in this issue of *The Valookie*, I think it only fitting and appropriate to take this opportunity to write a few words about our outgoing President.

When I first met Geoff Dunham, we were boys at Camp. Geoff was a few years older, but we were in the same company, and Camp's a small place, so we got to know each other well. One memory that stands out most, is Colonel Ron Reopel often remarking that Geoff was one of the best Adjutants he remembered ever having. Even in his teens, Geoff was helping to ensure the smooth daily operation of Camp. The skills that made him an outstanding Adjutant undoubtedly served him well in his future law career, and I know these organizational skills have served us well in the past 20 years as LDAA President.

When I think back so many years ago, perhaps my greatest memory of Geoff is just how unmemorable he should have been. (Sorry, Geoff, but you now I have to take at least one friendly jab at you!)

Geoff was quiet and soft-spoken, much as he is today. He was not a standout athlete, yet always gave his all. Mostly, he embodied that finest principle of leadership through example.

Over the past 20 years this same soft-spoken leadership has taken Camp from the darkest hours of our first 100 years, when Camp was forced to temporarily close for several years, and positioned us for success in our next hundred.

During his tenure, Geoff has led the way in numerous ways that have benefitted Camp beyond measure. Starting with our re-opening, Geoff led the effort to rebuild Camp's infrastructure, including a new well and septic system, a new swimming pool, and the replacement of all of our aging and outgrown buildings such as the Director's and Chaplain's cottages, Perch, showerhouse and, now, our Mess Hall. Amid it all, Geoff personally spearheaded and shepherded the first full restoration of one of our most treasured assets, the Roosevelt organ in St. Joseph's Chapel.

In addition to capital projects, Geoff also renewed Camp's commitment to its Alumni, worked to ensure recruitment and retention for the next generation of campers, and set us on the path to sound financial footing so that Camp can continue to provide the LDAA experience to boys from families who might not otherwise afford camp.

On a personal note, I have had the honor of serving at Geoff's side during most of his tenure. During that time, the greatest honor Geoff has shown to me is the gift of friendship. Like many Camp friendships that start in youth and grow stronger with the passing of time, Geoff and I have shared a friendship that goes beyond our Board service. Through the last two decades as we've shared in Camp's triumphs, faced uncertainties, or weathered rough times, the one thing that always made it easier was our long friendship. Whatever the issues facing Camp, when we shared a laugh or had a long discussion around the campfire, we were transported back to our youth and reminded that, if we all work as a team and stay true to our Camp mission, we could overcome any challenge.

Our association owes tremendous gratitude to Geoff but, perhaps even more so, to his family, Carol, Olivia, and Paul who made so many sacrifices over the years and enabled Geoff to give so much of himself to Camp. Thank you, all.

Going forward, I will surely not be the same President Geoff was, but I do make this promise to our Camp family: that I will give 100% to lead by Geoff's example to ensure LDBC's continuing success. Sincerely,

Joseph R. Scalero '83

President

BEFORE REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS.....

The photo below was sent to me by Robert Fero G51. Prior to refrigerators at camp, food was kept cold using giant blocks of ice stored in the ice house behind the mess hall. Pictured are Bill Ludlum, G48 and George Henderson, G47 carrying a block of ice up to the mess hall. The ice house was converted to a storage shed after the need for ice was replaced with larger refrigerators and freezers. Thank you Bob for this great piece of camp history.



REMEMBERING HERB MCGRAIL-G53 by MIKE SCHIMMEL

Today, and for the next couple days I will honor a long time mentor and friend by pay respects to his life, but also celebrating His Life. Herb McGrail was and will also be one of the most important men I will have ever known.

It was an honor to have been one of your scouts, and the lessons learn still are with me. It was also an honor to have continued our relationship beyond scouts and Lake Delaware Boys Camps. You have and will always leave a lasting positive influence on countless people. Thanks for everything my friend.

"Onward Christian Soldier Marching Into War With The Cross of Jesus Going On Before..."

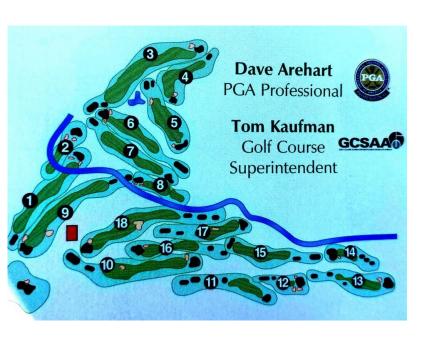


12th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Come and join the Gerry Family, your fellow grads and tacs on the Friday before Grads Weekend, July 17, for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. The \$85 cost includes pre game lunch, 18 holes of golf at the highly rated College Course, SUNY-Delhi, prizes, and post game hors d'oeurves. It is fitting our annual event is held at this course, as Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Sr. was a decorated golfer here decades ago. It is also one of only three college courses to be designated an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Contact **Dr. Cliff Sporn**'71 at doccliff.s@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Cliff does an amazing job organizing the event—all you have to do is register, show up and enjoy the day!









LDBC END OF YEAR AWARDS 2019

Campers Founders Bronze Medal Awards

Major James Reale Captain Ojahnny Johnson 2nd Lieutenant Band Kyle Lamberson

Staff Founders Bronze Medal Award

Harvey Suddick Anthony Dickson Guy Steed Jess Brandham Noah Cheeseman Jacub Knap

Staff Founders Silver Medal Award

Kristie Jones Rachel Megahy Veronica Kentner Nick Bonventre

100% Pin Awards

Sam Brown Kaniel Howe James Langston Zack Peraza Eddie Voorhees Ethan Lou Nolan Maul

MONOGRAMS

Eli Lapalmer Eli Eddington Joel Lawore Nick Mase Leopold Dorilas

WALKER MEDAL

Kyle Lamberson

COMMANDANTS CUP = Major James

Reale

Aco CUP = Elijah Lapalmer

Bco CUP = Ojahny Johnson

Band CUP = Kyle Lamberson and John

Paul Schubert



2019 GRADS

James Reale Elijah Lapalmer Ojahny Johnson Eli Eddington





PASSINGS.....

Timothy McCollum G1964 Joseph Lambert G1944 Herb McGrail G1953 Ken Whatley G1939 Rich Eber G1970

CAMP PRAYER

O God Who hast made and preserved this camp and sent us here to learn Thy Will: accept and sanctify our prayers by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit.

Teach us to live together in comradeship, joy and peace.

In our camp life, give us the spirit of honor, understanding and perseverance; in our prayers, the power to draw nigh to Thee; and in our games true sportsmanship.

Bless the founders and benefactors of our camp, Robert and Cornelia Gerry, for all that they have given us, and recompense them with the riches of Thine everlasting Kingdom, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Mailing Label Goes Here



Address Service Requested Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed

LAKE DELAWARE ALUMNI AS<u>SN., INC.</u> P.O. Box 197 Williston Park, N.Y. 11596-0197 Non-Profit Org., U.S. Postage Paid Williston Park, NY Permit No. 108

The VALOOKIE

Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2020

2019 Plaque Scores: Aco 49 Bco 51

Save the Dates:

Work Weekend-June 6-7 Parents/Grads Weekend- July 19-20

