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# *The Valookie*

**Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.** **Spring 2023**

## **2022 Plaque Scores:**

**Aco 49.5**

**Bco 50.5**

## **Save the Dates:**

**May 19-20: Work Weekend**

**July 22-23: Parents/Grads Weekend**

**August 5-6: Closing Weekend**

# The Valookie

Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2023

## *A letter from your Valookie Editor*

I've had the same lockscreen image on my phone since my mom handed it back to me on August 7, 2016, my last day as a camper and first as an alumni.

Unabashedly, the photo is beautiful. The backs of tents three through eight are visible, the old whiffle ball stadium flags droop in front of the old mess hall, the clouds were regular Sunday afternoon clouds – the kind you stare into during the parade to stay sharp (maybe that was just me, but it worked).

The photo has remained on the lockscreen of my phone for seven years now, I've never thought of changing it.

Camp is the type of place that grounds you and replenishes whatever you're missing. Every year – except 2020 – you can count on it to be there. Every year when the weather gets warm and the calendar flips to June, we all feel the same buzz. The feeling that you should be loading your own valookie, stuffing green shirts and green shorts into a box, doesn't fade – or at least for me, not yet.

This is the first Valookie I've packed on my computer.

I had a short bio in last year's edition, but for those unfamiliar, here is a quick rundown. I grew up at LDBC (quite literally) and was Captain of A Company when I graduated in 2016 – we won the plaque that year, not to brag – and I came back to be a Tac in 2019. I thought 2020 would be my second, and final, year as a counselor but that obviously didn't happen, so I had to come back and finish the job in 2021 – what a wacky year that was. Last year, when I returned to volunteer/visit leisurely for a few days,

I sat in the new mess hall when I accepted a full-time position as a UConn men's basketball beat writer just months after graduating from college – it's crazy how everything comes full circle.

If you follow college basketball, you might understand why you are reading this now, with camp just around the corner. Long story short, UConn won the national championship and I really haven't had any time off – now, with one edition under my belt, next year's will come in a more timely manner.

Thank you to Kevin Lamberson for passing this responsibility on to me and giving me an avenue to stay involved, Geoff Dunham, Joe Scalero and the rest of the alumni board for your help and, of course, Sue and Jim Adams for facilitating the life-changing experience for everyone.

Alumni and friends, please feel free to stay in touch with me, share the photo or whatever it is that brings you back to your time on Company Street, and keep me updated so I can include your stories in future editions of The Valookie.

**Cheers to yet another great camp season,**

**Joe Arruda '16**

**Email: [joe.arruda.joe@gmail.com](mailto:joe.arruda.joe@gmail.com)**



# *Director's Report*

Dear Friends of Lake Delaware Boys' Camp,

It gives us great pleasure to send our best wishes to the LDBC family and to share with you our excitement about another life-changing camp season about to begin.

Due to the covid pandemic, camp was forced to close in 2020, and to operate with a reduced number of campers in 2021. Last year, LDBC came back at full strength, and we anticipate that 2023 will be a truly outstanding year at LDBC.

Our tactical staff is particularly strong, with many superb returners. We will have more LDBC grads than ever on the staff this year.

The mission of Lake Delaware Boys' Camp is to build the physical, intellectual, and spiritual values of our campers. This personal growth happens on our athletic fields where the boys receive daily physical conditioning, and are taught true sportsmanship. It occurs in a pristine forest setting where our boys experience the joy and wonder of God's creation. Spiritual growth happens in St. Joseph's Chapel, as well as the outdoor chapel, where our campers find the beauty of holiness and the joy that comes from experiencing the unity of being one family in Christ.

We are deeply grateful for the noble vision of Robert and Cornelia Gerry in founding Lake Delaware Boys' Camp, and for each successive generation of the Gerry family whose generosity has allowed this grace filled mission to continue. We are grateful for the support of loyal and generous LDBC alumni, and for so many others whose support is key to the great things that happen in

## ***LDA Board of Directors***

**President: Joseph Scalero '84**

JRS2002@optonline.net

**Vice President: Ronald Frigenti '79**

rfrigenti@outlook.com

**Secretary: Geoffrey Dunham '79**

gedunham4@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Frank Enders**

fenders25@verizon.net

**Chris Burdett**

**Michael Cole**

**Nicholas Frigenti**

**Thomas Gardella**

**Richard Hilbert**

**James McQuade**

**Robert Mondello**

**David Roberts**

**Eric Schubert**

the lives of boys at LDBC.

We ask that you consider the effect on the lives of our campers at Lake Delaware Boys' Camp by making a donation at this time. (LDBC, P. O. Box 31, Delhi, NY 13753).

We ask that you hold our campers and staff members in your prayers this summer, that they may return safely to their families after a summer of friendship, joy and peace at LDBC.

**With our thanks for your support,  
Jim and Sue Adams  
Camp Directors**



## ***From your LDAA President:***

### **Dear Friends:**

With the 2023 Camp season rapidly approaching, I wanted to take time to share a few thoughts before the season is underway.

I am happy to report that, after much planning and preparation, we will be returning to our pre-COVID standards. Our Camp Directors, Jim and Sue Adams, have been diligently working throughout the year to ensure that we will be ready to return at full Battalion strength. Almost all of our campers will be returning, Rookies have been selected, the Tactical staff have been hired, and all are eager to start.

As we have said in the past, our new Mess Hall was expected to be transformative and it certainly was. After a full season of use, the Mess Hall performed as intended, and had an indescribably positive effect on Camp. For anyone who has not yet seen the new Mess Hall, I urge you to visit Camp so you can see it firsthand.

I noted in the last issue of *The Valookie* that it would be Kevin Lamberson's last as editor. As any of us who have done it can attest, being the *Valookie* editor is no easy task. Editing is a year-round job that takes many hours of dedication and attention to detail, and often

with little or no help. Publishing every issue is a thankless task that often falls on only one person's shoulders. Kevin volunteered to do this job for over a dozen years and joins the ranks of other great, long-time *Valookie* editors like Bill Cole. Again, our thanks and deepest gratitude to Kevin.

This issue marks the first by our newest *Valookie* editor, Joe Aruda. Joe is a Grad, served as a TAC for several years, and is now a professional journalist. He had great guidance from Kevin Lamberson, but has now stepped into his own with this issue. Thank you, Joe, for taking on this responsibility and congratulations on a great first edition.

Finally, for anyone in our ranks who has not visited Camp in recent years, or many years for that matter, I urge you to try to make some time to visit Camp this year. I know you will be impressed how little has really changed with LDDB while we continue to serve the next generation of boys. I look forward to seeing you all there.

**Joe Scalero '83  
President**





Frankie Caravita

## *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 camp website ([www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com](http://www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com)) where they can find the camper application.

For new camp brochures that you can hand out to potential camper families, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at [ldbc@dehitel.net](mailto:ldbc@dehitel.net) or (607) 832-4451.

## *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 email [ldbc@delhitel.net](mailto: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  
James Smith

# Work Weekend 2022

Submitted by Eric Schubert





## Remembering Warren Oates and Steve Foster

This past year we lost two giants of LDBC and LDAA: Steve Foster '60 and Warren Oates Jr. '62. They each measured their active time with LDAA in decades, not years. Hidden in the archives is a 1958 Communion Breakfast pamphlet (held at Church of the Mediator, Kingsbridge, the Bronx), listing Warren as chorister and Steve as crucifer.

Warren and Steve each joined the LDAA board in the 1970s and continued to serve, off and on, until a few years ago. They each enjoyed planning key celebrations for Camp. For the 75th Anniversary Gala in 1984, Steve was Master of Ceremonies and Warren was on the welcoming committee. Twenty-five years later, in 2009, Steve and Warren together chaired the 100th Anniversary Committee. Steve helped compile the impressive 100th Anniversary Journal and Warren organized the wonderful dinner-dance to celebrate Camp's centennial (truth be told, Warren's wife Corethia played more than a little role!).

Warren and Corethia secured their place in camp history by deciding, on a moment's notice on Grad's Weekend 2013, to get married at LDBC. It was the first time in 70 years that a wedding took place at Camp. Not knowing what Warren was planning (he may not have known either!), Corethia found a wedding dress in Oneonta, the camp cook baked the wedding cake, and, as they emerged from St. Joseph's Chapel, the

officers raised a saber arch for them to walk under, creating a photo for the ages. Wonderful memories for them, the camp staff and every camper who witnessed the event.

Steve's lasting contribution was starting what became *The Valookie* in the early 1970s. This latest issue is proof of Steve's enduring contribution to the life of LDBC and the LDAA.

Steve and Warren were each filled with generosity of spirit, joy and cheer. They brought a positive "can do" attitude to every endeavor. I am especially thankful for the guidance and support they provided in our successful effort to reopen Camp in 1999. Warren and Steve embodied the spirit of the Camp seal: love of God and country and respect for every person. That is how they will be remembered and we at LDBC are much better off for having known them. May they rest in peace.

– Geoff Dunham '79



Warren Oates and wife Corethia after being married at LDBC in 2013.



Steve Foster (in black, second from left)

### *LDBC alumni who passed...*

Warren Oates  
Steve Foster  
Martin Johnsen  
Joseph Strup  
Stephen Guy Fedan  
Walter Rowe



## ***Remembering Martin Johnsen***

Martin Johnsen started his camp career at 8 years old during the summer of 1938, graduating in the summer of 1946. Martin was originally from New York City. He and his older brother, William Johnsen, would spend time at the club house year-round, where the young men could have a hot meal and participate in many other activities.

Martin's love for camp carried on for decades. On August 5, 1969, he married Paula Frigenti and two weeks later took the combined family up to camp to pick up his son, John, the family continued upstate on a camping trip/honeymoon. Paula's love for LDBC was instant and the two never missed a Grad's Weekend and attended many work weekends over the last 50-plus years. Martin passed down his love of the camp experience through his extended family, knowing that the LDBC experience would instill the values and religious knowledge needed in young men's lives.

His nephews William Johnsen and Stephen Hawkins, along with his son John Johnsen, attended camp during the 60s. His stepsons Kenneth and Ron Frigenti started camp in 1971,

followed by his grandson Nick Frigenti, starting camp in 2001. Martin graduated as the Major of the Battalion, which inspired his stepson Ron, and grandson Nick, to ultimately achieve the same feat.

Martin was everything camp could hope for in an alumnus. He was a consistent presence at countless work weekends and grad weekends, continuing to give back to camp for his entire life. Martin was recognized for his dedication by the LDAA, receiving silver founders in the mid-2000s.

Martin's last days were spent with the knowledge that he had two great grandchildren, 4th generation rookies, in camp last summer in 2022. Thomas, 12, and Justin, 8 – his granddaughter Stephanie's (who married Brad Harned) children. Coincidentally Brad, who lived up by camp when he was younger, also went to camp for a few years in the late 90s, never thinking he would re-connect. The boys had a great time and will be campers next summer.

– Ronald Frigenti '79

## ***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 lives, give us the spirit of honor, understanding and  
perserverance; 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 they have given us  
and recompense them with the riches of thine  
everlasting kingdom, for Jesus' sake.**

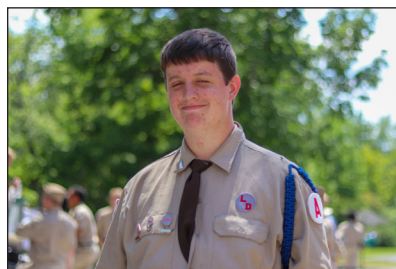
**Amen.**

# Grads of 2022

Photos by Joe Arruda



Giovanni Faulkner



Casimir Maksymowicz



Erik Maldonado



Eluziah Pierre



*Kojo Arthur-Mensah (right)*



*Lewis VanNess (left), Erik Maldonado (center) and Carl Clereveus (right)*



*Zach Peraza*



*Lewis VanNess (left)*



*Zach Peraza (left) and Dylan Gravina (right)*



*Tyler Seyena-Susu*

## *Alumni news*

Arballo Entertainment is doing a documentary on my unit in Vietnam. The documentary is called the Mobile Rivervine Force, the trailer can be seen on YouTube –search for Arballo Entertainment and click on the Mobile Riverine Force documentary. The trailer is about four and a half minutes long.

A picture of me and my squad appears about one and a half minutes into the video.

– Robert Stumpf '79

## *Dues!!!*

Please take a moment of your time to pay your dues today. 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 a small donation each month when you pay your bills. \$10/month be less impactful on your budget than giving \$100+ all at once. Just address 12 envelopes to LDAA, insert a check into each in the amount you want to give per month and mail with your monthly bills.

Also - check to see if your company does a match to charitable organizations. Sometimes they will match each 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](mailto:ldbc@delhitel.net). Thank you all for your continued support of LDBC.

## *15th Annual Golf Outing*

**When:** July 21, 2023

**Where:** The College Golf Course at Delhi

**Who is invited:** All Grads, Parents and Supporters of LDBC

**What is included:** Lunch (12:15 p.m.), Golf (tee times will start at about 1:30 p.m., scramble format), appetizers and a cash bar (after golf, around 6 p.m.)

**Cost:** \$100 --- includes lunch, golf with cart, appetizers following golf and prizes

*If you can't make it for golf but would like to join us at the golf course for lunch before, or appetizers after, let us know. The cost to join for either is \$20. Reach out to Cliff Sporn with any questions: [doccliff.s@gmail.com](mailto:doccliff.s@gmail.com).*



## *Congratulations Reece Fosu on three straight drill down wins!*

*Reece Fosu (Aco '24) won the annual parents/alumni weekend drill down in three straight camp seasons: 2019, 2021 and 2022.*

# Founder's Medal Recipients

## STAFF – *Bronze*

- 🇺🇸 Major Kate Hughes
- 🇺🇸 Capt. Lauren Lamberson
- 🇺🇸 Capt. Kaitlin McQuade
- 🇯🇲 Capt. Amarpheo Taylor
- 🇺🇸 Nurse Nicole Brewer

## STAFF – *Silver*

- 🇬🇧 Major Noah Cheeseman
- 🇬🇧 Major Anthony Dickson
- 🇺🇸 Capt. Ethan Wagner
- 🇺🇸 The Rev. Andrew VanBuren
- 🇺🇸 Rebecca VanBuren



## CAMPERS – *Bronze*

- Major Kojo Arthur-Mensah
- Capt. Aco Dylan Gravina
- Capt. Bco Lewis VanNess
- 1st Lt. Adjutant Zach Peraza
- 1st Lt. Color Guard Giovanni Faulkner

## Monogram

### GRADS

- Carl Clereveus
- Casimir Maksymowicz
- Erik Maldonado
- Eluziah Pierre
- Tyler Seyena-Susu

### SENIOR 5s

- Frank Caravita
- James McGovern

## Charles Dodsley Walker Music Award

Matthew Efodili

## Best Tent: Tent 6



## 100% Pin

- Kweku Arthur-Mensah
- Brian Cunningham
- Jack Cunningham
- Reece Fosu
- Kaiden Palacios
- Malachi Robinson
- Matthew Efodili
- Jack Fedan

# Thank you for your support!

**142 donors gave \$120,334 in 2022**

*\*List of donors from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Does not include members of the Gerry family.*

## **Angel (10,000+)**

John Colgrove (\$25,000)

## **Founder (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

Joseph Collins

## **Benefactor (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Victoria Gilbert

Bruce Given

Bradley Harned

Bill and Barbara Holzkamp

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Regan Silvestri

Shelley Spies

James Van Ness

## **Patron (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

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Claudia Steinhaus

Richard Waring



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- Jessica King
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- Roger Rowe
- Craig Smith
- Scott Smith
- Edward Sullivan
- St. James Church, Lake Delaware
- Ubong Udofio
- Ann Vasko

**Friend (\$1 - \$199)**

- |                         |                      |                     |                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
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| Giovanni Faulkner       | Frederick Miles      | Fred Sargent        |                    |



*Please send all submissions for next year's  
Valookie to Joe Arruda:  
[joe.arruda.joe@gmail.com](mailto:joe.arruda.joe@gmail.com)*