



Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.

REFLECTIONS



Supporting the mission and programs of Northern Tier National High Adventure.

SUMMER 2020 EDITION



Photo by Sean Kauder. 2019 photo contest "Award of Merit".

A message from our President

By Eric Peterson

Hol-Ry! 2020. What more can one say? First, the bankruptcy filing by the Boy Scouts of America. Followed with the COVID-19 virus reaching pandemic stages. Then the tragic murder of George Floyd sending shockwaves through our society as many of us came to a realization of the systemic social racism and injustice that has remained pervasive in our society.

As an organization, the SAA does not condone racism in any form and welcomes diversity and inclusion in our membership. However, our members can ultimately only be as diverse and inclusive as that of the Northern Tier staff and participants.

What can we do as an association to help Northern Tier achieve its strategic plan objective in hiring a more diverse staff? What can we do to help ensure a return in subsequent seasons, and eventually join our association? I have discussed with Northern Tier leadership the desire of the SAA to partner on this objective. If any members are passionate about this and have ideas they would like to work on, let me know.

Recently the first crew of the summer departed from Felton's Landing at Northern Tier High Adventure's Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base for their wilderness canoe adventure. With that departure, our 98th season is officially on the books.

Due to the pandemic, it was quite uncertain if we would even have a season. Border closures have forced closure of the Canadian bases for the entire summer. Thanks to the efforts of the Northern Tier staff for developing an effective COVID management plan to working with the State of Minnesota, scouts yet again are embarking from the Ely base on an experience that will last a lifetime.

I was up at the base just a few weeks ago before the crew arrivals and was able to see firsthand the plan in action. From getting a health screen on arrival, seeing all the staff wearing their masks, and implementation of social distancing. The measures will help assure the safety of both staff and participants.

Finally, while the BSA bankruptcy proceedings continue to loom over us like a brewing storm on Basswood Lake, we paddle forward. Our association is an entirely independent entity from the BSA, and our financial assets are secure. Time will tell what the outcome will be. The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. remains strong. We are committed to supporting the mission and programs of Northern Tier High Adventure as we approach the 100th season of wilderness canoeing, the 100th anniversary, and beyond.

“Save the Date” – Northern Tier / Sommers alumni reunion

By Alex Nepple

We want you to save the date for next year! Our next reunion will be **August 20th to 22nd in 2021** at Northern Tier's Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base.

This will be the last “two-digit” year of the program, as the Northern Tier program will just have completed its 99th year of wilderness canoeing and high adventure.

The next reunion brings a few changes. The first is an earlier reunion date to help accommodate families with school years approaching. The other is that those planning to attend only the banquet will need to register in advance, as we'll be discontinuing “walk-ins” to the event.

We're optimistic circumstances will make this possible. However, we'll be waiting until next year to open registration.



Photo by Jared Stephens.
2019 photo contest “Award of Excellence”.

Order your member polo shirt

Did you know the association has a member clothing store? From the store, you can order the traditional green polo embroidered with the alumni association's logo.

In addition to polo shirts, you can order fleece jackets, fleece pullovers, button-down dress shirts, full-zip hoodie sweatshirts, camp shirts, and duck bib overalls. All the items are embroidered with the alumni association's logo at a location you select.

Lands' End Business manages both the online store and the fulfillment of your order. Your order is processed as it is received. Members in good standing can access the clothing store by logging in to the website at holry.org.



In memorandum.

Each year during staff training and our work week, we head to the landing to remember the staff and supporters from before us who've taken their final portage.

Below is a list of past staff and supporters we've learned in the last two years have passed away.

- **Bentson, Nels** (Tulsa, OK) – Staff 1968
 - **England, John** (Saginaw, MI) – Advisor 1975, 76, 97, 98 (Life member)
 - **Foster, Andre** (Phoenix, AZ) – Staff 2004
 - **Garlitz, Roderick** (Sault Sainte Marie, MI) – Advisor in 1968-79 (Life member)
 - **Hann, Charles** (Jordan, MN) – Northern Tier Committee (Charter Life member)
 - **Hill, Loren** (Wilbraham, MA) – Staff 1956-60
 - **Ingebrigtsen, Kay** (Anoka, MN) – Staff 1948-49, 67-69 (Charter Life member)
 - **Leach, Veryl** (McPherson, KS) – Staff 2000-02
 - **Littrell, Robert** (Cary, NC) – Staff 1987
 - **Olsen, Neal** (Minneapolis, MN) – Staff 1969-1973
 - **Pagels, Dennis** (Iowa City, IA) – Staff 1962
 - **Pederson, Jon** (Spicer, MN) – Advisor 1993-00 (Life member)
 - **Pelikka, Bob** (Ely, MN) – Staff 1975
 - **Robbins, Leslie** (Mount Vernon, IL)
 - **Rogert, Don** (Waterloo, NE) – Supporter (Donor of Atikokan Canoe Base)
 - **Woolverton, Ed** (Cook, MN) – Staff 1938-1941
 - **Ziegenhagen, David** (Cloverdale, CA) – Staff 1954-61 (Charter Life member)
-

“A Diamond in the North” is back in print and now available as an eBook

By Alex Nepple

The book “A Diamond in The North” was first published by the alumni association in 1998 to tell the story of the first 75 years of Northern Tier High Adventure. It covers the rich tradition of Scouting and wilderness canoeing at Northern Tier’s Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base. However, the supplies of the book became exhausted after over 20-years of selling it in the trading post and providing copies to staff.

We’re now making the book available for purchase on Amazon. The book is printed on-demand when ordered and is eligible for “Prime” shipping. In addition to print, we’re making the book available

digitally for the first time as a Kindle eBook. You can read the book on a Kindle device, computer, or tablet device such as an iPad. To buy the book in print or eBook, visit holry.org/history/book.

As the Boy Scouts of America’s oldest national high adventure program, it soon approaches its 100th season in 2022. We’ll gather together in 2023 to celebrate for the 100th anniversary. Until then, the process has already started to write the next book. It will tell the story of the following 25 years since “A Diamond in the North” was published. The association will be sharing more information on the book in the future.

Continuing the tradition of the scholarship program

By Andrew Nine

The Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc. (SAA) continues its annual tradition of providing academic scholarships to the seasonal staff of Northern Tier. This program has been ongoing for more than twenty years, and it provides \$1,000 scholarships that may be received up to three times.

Applicants must be on their second year of staff or later and must be in good academic standing. Applicants for the scholarship submit a scholarship application, short essay, and unofficial academic transcript. Northern Tier leadership also provides recommendations. Those recipients who best exemplify the ideals of the scholarship program are selected by the SAA’s Board of Directors.

In 2019 we were able to provide a total of 31 scholarships to the following well-deserving staff members: Brayden Boyles (Clifford J. Hanson Memorial Scholarship), Ethan Brooks, John Butkevicius, Haakon Colwell, Robert Corbin, Philip Daly, Mark Davie, Brian Dvorak, Ryan Elson, Blake Ferree (Erickson Memorial Scholarship), Madison Fleming, Jonathan Gardner, Heath Geil-Haggerty (Christopher D. Breen Memorial Scholarship), Andrew Holcomb, Mercedes Horn, William Hortsmann, Skyler Jacob (Robert T. Marquardt Scholarship), Jordan Klustner, Joshua Lambert, Hagan McHenry, Colin Murphy (Butch Diesslin Scholarship), Isaac Peterson (Jack and Mary Osborn Scholarship), Perry Powell, Gunnar Raasch, Quentin Rench (Friends of Tinnerman/Tinnerman Guide Association Scholarship), Daniel Rogan, Frederick Sanford (Marshall Hollis Scholarship), Andrew Smiarowski (Terry J. Wall Charles Sommers Scholarship), Jared Stephens, Christine Turk, and Gregory Windeler (David Hyink Scholarship).

Congratulations to the 2019 scholarship recipients, and thank you to our alumni members for your generous support of Northern Tier’s seasonal staff members!



Photo by Noah Kolodji.
2019 photo contest “Award of Merit”.



Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, Inc.
PO Box 428
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Calendar of events

Annual Meeting of Voting Members

November 1, 2020

Alumni Work Week

June 2021

Northern Tier High Adventure, Ely, MN

Norhtern Tier / Sommers Alumni Reunion

August 20 – 22, 2021

Northern Tier High Adventure, Ely, MN

For further information visit holry.org

Officers

President:

Eric Peterson, [REDACTED]

Vice President:

Dan Miller, [REDACTED]

Corporate Secretary:

Brian Lux, [REDACTED]

Treasurer:

Adam Long, [REDACTED]

Reflections Newsletter Editors

[REDACTED]
Alex Nepple, [REDACTED]

Photo by Chrissy Turk. 2019 photo contest entry.

