

# Section W4B



## 2004 Chief's Report & Conclave Review

April 30th - May 2nd, 2004  
Schoepe Scout Reservation  
at Lost Valley



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## **W4B Conclave 2004 Chief's Report**

### **From the Chief**

Section W4B's Conclave at Lost Valley this year was truly spectacular. After a year of planning and hard work, the weekend seemed to pass by without hitch, leaving memories that I know will stay with me the rest of my life. After last year's rained-out Conclave, it was nice to have fun in the sun and really enjoy the outdoors at beautiful Lost Valley.

After the big changes our Conclave made last year, this year we really strived to change the finer details of the event, as well as incorporating just a few new ideas to keep things fun! Conclave registration worked beautifully this year, and just the same our training ran near- flawless. The university style training system has really paid off in its second year, with increased participation from second and third year conclave attendees. It was amazing to see everyone come in, register, and be out of the room so quickly. Everyone's cooperation really paid off, and we plan on using Section master once again next year.

The Shows this year highlighted a lot of the fun during the weekend. Two highlights were the massive audience participation that helped involve everyone in the show, and *over ONE THOUSAND* door prizes including a massive supply of Snickers Minis. The door prizes not only made the shows a little more fun but it got everyone excited and interesting in the show, allowing us to better-involve the group.

Lodges participated in a multitude of events, and indeed one complaint we often heard was that there were so many activities, no one person could do everything at Conclave. Next year we will strive to make it a little more accessible for individuals to reach some specific events more easily, but indeed our goal was to involve participants in so many activities there was no way one person could do everything. Events were interactive, educational, and most of all FUN! Besides the usual competitions in Indian Affairs, Communication, etc we also included fun competitions such as "Fear Factor" which tested the stomachs of some very brave youth, the "Ice Tea Chug," to prove which lodge chief really had the biggest belly, and various camp-style activities to take advantage of the resources we were given by being at a Scout Camp.

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What I will remember most are the outstanding people that helped me pull off this extraordinary event. I owe a big thanks to all of my advisors, the youth on the Council of Chiefs, and every one of the scouts at the Conclave who all chipped in a little to make the event as great as it was. I couldn't have asked for any better people to work with, and am excited to work with everyone once again to plan another great Conclave. Thank you again to everyone that made this event great, and keep the fun in Scouting!

Michael Gollner

Michael Gollner  
03-05 Section W4B Chief

## **W4B Conclave 2004 Chief's Report**

### **Section Chief Year Long Schedule**

Unlike my predecessor, Matt Swan, I was unable to procure quite as many frequent flyer miles as he did. Over the year, I was able to obtain 26,000 frequent flyer miles and two free travel vouchers, but my flying nowhere paralleled his. Below is a small list of some of the highlights of my year. Many of these events, such as recurring Lodge Meetings and such I only included once on this list, but here is a general idea of what I did in scouting over the year period as section chief. All I can say is, I learned a lot and had even more fun!

OA Trail Crew Conclave 2004 BEST CONCALVE EVER!	Sometime before Conclave May 2-4 2003
Wiatava Trade-O-Ree Meeting Jake Iverson was one of the best leaders of an event I have ever known!	July 23, 2003
Cahuilla Lodge Meeting At one of these meetings I was hit in the eye with a pen, but I really enjoyed still being active with my lodge even if I encountered some abuse.	July 24
CIEC Stampeed Staff Meeting Although I was unable to attend this year's Council Camporee because of previous commitments at an NLS, it was great to help input to this years event as my third or fourth year on staff.	August 5
NYC Trip With Philmont Bud's A gathering of people who went to OA Trail crew Together.... What an experience! Everyone should go to Trail Crew and Northern Tier!	August 18 – 22
Tyson Ford's Conclave Awsome Conclave! Most West representation at a N.E. Conclave in a long time... Matt, Myself and Griff showed them that "West is Best!"	August 23 – 25
NLS at Lost Valley NLS Says it all, Matt did an outstanding job.	August 26 – 28
Section COC Great meeting, got a lot done	October 11
Region Gathering It was great getting to know a lot of people from around the West.	October 17 -19
2 Eagle Court of Honors and Troop Ceremony Memorable weekend by the sheer nature of my attending 3 courts of honors in 3 counties in one weekend, and study for midterms.	October 25 – 26
W-4C VEGAS!!! Conclave W4C puts on a great Concalve, Pat and Jorge both rock!	November 7-9
Tiwahe Lodge Fellowship The BEST sports games I ever played at an OA event... their event really was a fellowship.	November 21 – 23
Section Retreat WE got a LOT done and had fun doing it.	December 5-7
Troop Court of Honor	December 15

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I wish I still lived at home to participate at more events with the troop, I enjoyed helping out with the C.O.H. and helping teach some new kids knots at a local campout earlier that month.

- National Planning Meeting, Dallas December 27 – 30  
Great experience, Excited to work on NOAC and Met so many wonderful people from across the nation.
- Tiwahe, Navajo, Cahuilla, and Wiatava Banquets January, 2004  
All the banquets were a great experience. It was fun to speak at a few of them but most of all seeing hard-working kids being rewarded was very special. I also got to see our past and current region chiefs at the banquets... and Tim, Bobby, and I went to dinner at a great restaurant. A lot of Conclave promotion was also done at the banquets, and some people really seemed to enjoy meeting my girlfriend who, against all rumors, actually enjoyed meeting all of my Scouting friends, even the ones that play the "Region Game."
- Kyle Bradley's Eagle Court of Honor February 7-8  
He grew up! And we sang American Pie like we used to at Lost Valley...
- NLS – Phoenix March 13  
This was Tim's first NLS, and he did a great job. I had a lot of fun teaching my classes, which wound up getting very exciting.
- Section W4A Conclave March 19 – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sean sadly stepped down as chief as we welcomed our new friend Evan, who has a cool Infiniti. I got a lot of ideas from their conclave for my own, and thought the civil war reenactment was very unique.
- Section Meeting hosted by Cahuilla April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Our last meeting before Conclave, we discussed final details and held a train the trainer. This was the first meeting the actual meeting finished EARLY. Unfortunately the pizza was late so we had to stay later for the Train the trainer anyways, but I was proud to cover more than was on the agenda more effectively in less time, we really have grown into a group that can effectively work together.
- Section W-3A Conclave, Casper's April 23 – 35  
Brian and his section put on an awesome conclave. Some highlights were driving through Santa Cruz at 3am and being yelled at by a psycho woman, the awesome drum team, hanging' out with Rob Wong, making jokes late at night while a newspaper was published in the parking lot, and falling out of my chair at the awesome show in such a way as to shock the region chief... he has a picture.
- Section W4B Conclave – A new #1 Conclave Record! April 30 – May 2  
After a year of hard work, it call came together beautifully.

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### **Review of Goals**

- Conclave
  - Increase Conclave attendance – The COC put a concerted effort into increasing the attendance at this year's conclave, but due to uncontrollable circumstances with the site promotion was slowed and we were unable to. On the brighter side, through the work we have done this year, next year's conclave will hopefully have a much larger contingent.
  - Continue the new Machquigen University System – The training was outstanding, and continuing the program really helped improve participation and the quality of training.
  - Improve the organization of the food service at Conclave – Food service this year was top-notch, and we will continue to keep up the improvements we have made to dining.
  - Create a contingency plan, if necessary, for foul weather – This year, luckily we did not have to test our contingency plan, although there was one just in case.
- Lodge Training
  - Improve lodge LLD courses through the use of a trainer-exchange program, if approved, where lodges can work together to use qualified trainers to train their lodges. – Lodge's did not feel the need for this program as much as anticipated when we began the year, and rather the most effective form of help was having forums with the lodges, which we have implemented this year.
- National Programs
  - Send the largest contingent in the history of our Section to NOAC 2004 in Iowa. – Completed.
  - Increase attendance to our national high-adventure programs such as the Northern Tier Wilderness Voyage and OA Trail Crew. – We are still working on this, so far we have about the same number but we still have time for more signups and will keep promoting.
- Quality Section
  - Once again Obtain Quality Section – Looks like this has been completed.
- Quality Lodge
  - Assist Lodges in Becoming Quality Lodges, through lodge visitations and whatever other assistance can be provided through the Section. – All lodges eligible obtained quality lodge this year.

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- Communication
  - Increase communication within the Section COC using email, our website, and timely postings of the COC Agendas and Minutes. – we have begun to do this, the timeliness needs some assistance but so far we have been utilizing all forms of communication.
  - Increase advertisements of Conclave through the use of the section website and other Section and lodge publications. – due to events beyond our control, Conclave was moved and really slowed down our advertising because we had to create new materials and wait to confirm our new site. We have already worked with Tiwaha lodge to make sure everything will be completed ahead of schedule this year.



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### **Review of Conclave Program**

#### **Administration**

Check in; check out, online registration was all near perfect. Matt and his team helped tremendously and we ran such a smooth program it could rival NOAC. I suggest next year we try to incorporate accepting credit cards online to make sure those who sign up early pay for their spots, and we also need to make sure everyone at conclave PAYS!

We need more announcements during the event, particularly for moved or closed program areas. Health and Safety was wonderful, Dale kept us Health and Safe! She is working on a plan for health and safety at conclave next year so we can work with scouts on keeping safe at events.

The schedule had a few discrepancies with locations and times, partly because some things needed to be changed and the forms were already printed. We may want to work more on announcing changes. Also, we need to run through very carefully the schedule that's printed to make sure events don't overlap, and also since we changed locations the time to walk between areas was not taken into consideration and needs to be.

The budget for each area needs to be improved in advance. For next year, each CVC will request the amount of funds he needs to run the program area unlike past years, this way we don't give areas more money than they need for extra items, or not enough to run an effective program.

Maps of the facility that were made were lost, so they definitely need to be placed early on at the site to ensure everyone's not getting lost. May be easier in the future if we have a smaller site.

Parking was great, we just need to make sure to print more signs in advance. The food was really good and improved tremendously from previous years. Hopefully in the future we will be able to work with the service lodge more to lower the costs.

Check out should incorporate some incentive or means to keeping people at conclave on Sunday, and also to clean up. Maybe we should have people pick up their degrees after their lodge signs them out that their clean... something needs to be done differently, but everything did get done.

#### **Merchandise**

This year's patch auction was one of the best we have ever had. We brought in a lot of money to help with lodges and the Campership fund, and hope to do so in the future as well. We would like to have one just for youth in the future during the afternoon, so youth can have a chance to buy items they couldn't compete with adults for. The Chenille worked great and we should think about how we want to promote the auction next year. We also need to keep tabs on the service lodge to make sure they order EXACTLY what we asked for.

This year's promotions of merchandise were a little poor. We need to improve the way we promote the merchandise, and most importantly make sure we have flyers available at the lodge banquets. We also need to make sure all items on the form are ordered by the host lodge and not neglected. We also need a definitive cut off date for pre orders both on the flyers and on the website.

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We also need more merchandise to sell, we finally have such a demand for merchandise we need to order what we say we will, and that is slightly more than what is pre-ordered.

### **Event Promotions**

There was nothing we could do this year with the site change, but next year we have to advertise earlier or else we lose a lot of numbers. We need to have a video finished early enough to promote at the banquets and enough copies for chapters, as well as distributing flyers, emails, and what was most effective – Phone trees. Encouraging chapters for higher attendance definitely helped boost promotion. I was very happy how we were able to near triple our numbers the last week by some very dedicated arrowmen who helped me call almost all members of our section to remind them to register on time.

### **Activities and Recreation**

Greg Lewis' religious service was once again outstanding. Having it early in the day helped give us more time during the day and provided a nice cool setting for the event. The fun activities really were great, Ice Tea Chug, etc and we should continue to do them

The VIA luncheon was nice because it brought in new scouts and let them meet some of the officers from around the section and our guests. We need to work on locations next year so that it is more accessible for scouts to reach it, and have a special treat like a cake.

### **Competitions**

Sports were a lot of fun this year, and next year we need to have just a little more time for these fun events. A lot went on in the afternoon, and we need to find a way to avoid as much overlapping of the sports competitions, maybe setting a definitive start and end time for each competition. Water also needs to be brought to the area of each sport. \

Camping Promotion was great! I enjoyed looking at everyone's booth. We need to work on locations more next year to make sure more people pass through that area at the times it's open.

### **Indian Affairs**

We need to try to get a location that is central for Indian Affairs, like an Indian village where we have the pow wow and such. It was great the way they did a show for Webelos, and it would be nice to have a place everyone could go to participate in the afternoon as well as the evening pow wow. Having the pow wow before the show in a central location brought a lot more people than usual, we need to keep that up!

Lodges need to be more responsible for their own Brotherhood candidates; it might be good for a lodge to volunteer to bring a lot of their surplus stashes so they can sell them to lodges who forgot.

We also need to have ALL competition and ceremony evaluation forms printed by the section, not each program area, and they need to be collected before the end of

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conclave. Next year we will distribute copies of all forms back to the lodges so they can look to them for ideas for improvement next year.

### **Communications**

We had an awesome newsletter, using LaserJet helped cut costs from a copy machine incredibly. We should post one online within a few days afterwards so people can download and read the review, and keep next year's event in mind. The participant guide was printed in a timely manner, was inexpensive, had great information, and looked great. We need to keep that up!

### **Shows**

Shows added a nice sense of interactivity with participants in the audience that we hadn't seen in past years, and we need to keep that in the future. The direction of the show though needs to be more inspirational, and tie to the theme. This year's show strayed from the script drastically, and proper planning with the key-6 and COC in advance of conclave is definitely necessary to insure the show accomplishes what we want it to. One idea is to make the shows more like a campfire than the overwhelming NOAC-like shows we've been trying to do in the past. Also, we need to plan more effectively on how long the parts of the show will last so we have time for the closing slideshow, which everyone wanted to see.

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### **Conclave Comment Card Review**

Thirty-two comment cards were returned with grades and comments. The summary of those comments and conclave impressions are listed below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adult</u>
Fantastic	7	6	1
Great	15	4	11
Good	8	5	3
OK	2	2	0
Poor	0	0	0
Total	32	17	15

Comments:

Best:

1. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner - Food (3)
2. Auctions - (2)
3. Classes & Card Trading
4. Bonnet Design Classes -( 3 )
5. Beadwork Classes - (2)
6. Games and Competition - (4)
7. Training - (3)
8. Pow Wow - (2)
9. The Shows - (2)
10. Fellowship - (3)
11. Well Organized - (2)
12. Everything

Worst:

1. Dirt & Dust - (4)
2. Off Schedule - (8)
3. Locations / Walking -(2)
4. Warm water for showers - (4)
5. More salad with Dinner - (1)
6. No Special Diets - (1)
7. No out of section Judges - (1)
8. Parking - (1)
9. Beading class - (1)
10. Too much to do - (1)
11. Classes cancelled - (1)

Missing:

1. Water at events or locations - (4)
2. More Dancing - (1)
3. T - Shirts, Hat pins, Section Trading Post - (2)
4. Rifle - (1)
5. Tipi Contests - (2)
6. Advanced Dance Class - (1)
7. Indian weapons class - (1)
8. Trivia Contest - (1)
9. Swimming Pool / Water polo - (3)
10. Nothing - (3)

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### **Closing Thoughts**

Conclave was simply spectacular, more than anything I could have ever asked it to be. I was very pleased to hear so many great comments from everyone. I really feel as if this year we have begun to focus on fixing small details, because big problems that went on at conclave were solved. Our guests from Wipala Wiki were awesome, and after going to their sections conclave which really impressed me I was happy to hear that they had just as much, if not *more* fun away from the glittery lights of Las Vegas.

We're looking at fine details now, and will continue to keep improving, but Conclave has come to a new level in my opinion. For every bad comment came 5 good, and of 40 comment letters I received by email not said they did not enjoy their time at Conclave. The COC did a great job! I feel honored to have been able to work with such an outstanding group of individuals. From the Section Chiefs across the nation, my Secretary and Vice Chief, my advisors, and most of all every scout across the section that has made this possible, I owe everyone a debt of gratitude. Through the entire year we all had our small times of trouble, but everyone has made it so enjoyable to work for you I am delighted I had the opportunity.

Over the next year, I hope to improve Conclave even more than it was this year. As I said we are working on fine details, and I think taking and working a little on every area will continue to improve the quality of Conclave over the years. More than just next year our work will continue to show through the future, as the new ideas and inspiration we have provided is used by many to come in order to grow this section into the future. The biggest piece of advice I can have to anyone working in scouting, is to do it not because you have to, but do it because you enjoy it!

In the Spirit of the Founders,

Michael Gollner

Michael Gollner  
03-05 Section W4B Chief

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