

## **Echockotee Lodge 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The 2016 Winter Fellowship was celebrated at Camp Shands with induction of the new Vigil honors, opening of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule, creation of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule and election of the new lodge officers.

The 2016 S-4 Section Conference was hosted by O-Shot-Caw Lodge at Camp Elmore in Davie, Florida. Echockotee Lodge arrived with a contingent of over 100 Arrowmen to participate in the various competitions and games with the other seven lodges of the Section S-4. The last time the lodge travelled to Camp Elmore had been in 2005 prior to Hurricane Wilma, which devastated the South Florida camp. The noticeable difference this year was the absence of dense tree growth and vegetation previously throughout the camp and campsites. Echockotee placed 1<sup>st</sup> for the website competition and both the Pre-Ordeal and Vigil ceremony teams were recognized as Honor Teams. The Pre-Ordeal ceremonialist were Cole Gabriel, Daniel Fisher, Matthew Waltz, and Kyle Kipple. The AIA Group completed in group dance, singing team as well as individual dance competitions with may recognized for their skills. Echockotee was recognized with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Best-All-Around Competition, ultimate frisbee, lodge ball, Kings Cup Competition.

In 2016 Echockotee Lodge was granted a National Service Grant which allowed the development of a blacksmith shop at Camp Shands. Echockotee Lodge received the Journey to Excellence Gold Lodge Standard for 2016 with the highest score to date.

The Innovation Award was established in 2012 to recognize lodges for developing creative and innovative solutions to challenges faced during the implementation of their annual plans. Two awards in each Region are presented annually. In 2017 Echockotee Lodge was recognized in the Southern Region for the third time with the Innovation Award. The 2014 Innovation Award was for the Lodge-wide Diverse Communication plan and Extended Elangomat/Nimat Program. The 2015 Innovation Award was for the new OA Recharter Resource Program and the 2016 Innovation Award was for their OA Troop Representative Program based on youth & adult leaders having varying needs, wants and expertise.

The 2017 Winter Fellowship marked the largest Vigil class yet with fifteen new Vigils. The weekend was impacted by severe weather that required these candidates to return at the Spring Fellowship to undergo the trails of their Vigil Honor. That Spring Fellowship was the first time Pre-ordeal, Ordeal, Brotherhood and Vigil ceremonies were performed during a fellowship; another record for the history book.