

President's Letter to the Membership
October 2010



As your newly elected President, I am extremely proud to represent you, and I look forward to the next several years of working with each of you. Our membership represents hundreds of men and women who experienced the opportunity to attend as campers or served on the Staff as young men and women from 1948 through 1963.

We are very privileged to provide an outdoor facility for the youth of today to learn outdoor and leadership skills to challenge them for their adult endeavors. Old Kia Kima is a reality and each of us has the obligation to continue the spirit that has brought us back to this sacred place.

The past four years has been under the capable leadership of Past President Rick Phillips. During his tenure Rick guided the Board of Directors and Association membership to accomplish many of the goals set during his term.

- Land swap with the Cherokee Village Suburban Improvement District
- OKK Hospital renovation
- Construction of the "Poncho's Pit" dining pavilion restroom
- Acquisition of the Kamp Kart, golf cart
- South Fork Riverbank Stabilization Old OKK dining hall demolition
- Purchase of Cherokee Village lots 24 and 26, adjacent to the property
- Thunderbird museum memorabilia display cases

The financial health of OKKPA continues to remain strong due to our dedicated membership and friends. Expenses were held below budget and we were able to set aside another \$35,000 for the 2013/2014 budget year. We are now secure in funding for the next four years.

Association membership continues to grow and we are actively locating former campers and Staff members from Kia Kima, Miramichee and Kiwani.

The Old Kia Kima Endowment Fund continues to grow with the contributions invested in secure financial instruments. The committee is currently organizing efforts to grow this fund through several initiatives that you will hear more about during the coming year.

The highlight of this year, as has been in the past, is the active utilization of Old Kia Kima by youth groups from around the country. Over 1000 camper days were recorded. Boy Scout Troops, Cub Scout Packs, Girl Scout Troops and the Rogers High School Cross Country team utilized OKK for weekend and weeklong outdoor experiences. We continue to remain true to our Mission: Preserve the place, honor the vision of all who have shared in the spirit of the South Fork waters and provide an environment where elders may pass on knowledge and experience, enriching and shaping the lives of young people today.

We cannot forget those who have passed away in the last year that had many years of commitment to Kia Kima: Perry Gaither, Carl Goolsby, Phil Adams, and Tony Dries.

I challenge us all to continue to grow our membership, provide the sweat equity that has brought the Association to this point and remember the financial responsibilities we have to continue to provide this wonderful place we provide for the future leaders of our country.

God bless you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burt Schmitt", written in a cursive style.

President
Old Kia Kima Preservation Association