

THE FOUR HORSEMAN

Leadership Development and Funding “Brethren-Style”

In the late 1920s a team of roving camp leaders (r-l: Perry Rohrer, Dan West, Chauncey Shamberger, and Alvin Brightbill) jokingly called themselves “The Four Horsemen.” Chauncey Shamberger was the national young people’s director for the Church of the Brethren and the others were secured with funding by the Board of Religious Education.



The four team members traveled together in Shamberger’s old Studebaker, dubbed “Sweet Chariot”. This quartet carried the camping vision across the country to camps each summer during these early formative years. One report called the four the “Traveling Salesman” for Brethren camping. The work these men did for Brethren camping was amazing! These “Four Horsemen” set the stage for Outdoor Ministries in the church. Their leadership set a pattern not only for camping but also a pattern of leadership development for the church.

In honor of these youth leaders and those who followed in their footsteps, the Four Horsemen Fund was set up to provide for leadership development opportunities for camp leaders. These funds help provide scholarships for events and training, for professional growth, and other opportunities to help strengthen leadership. This endowment fund is funded with gifts from camps, churches, and individuals. Other support comes through auctions at OMA gatherings and offering projects. Membership fees at the level of Half Annual and Lifetime Membership also support this fund.

Four Horseman Award

The Four Horseman Award is given to persons who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to the work of outdoor ministry and who exemplify the character of the original Four Horseman by promoting outdoor ministries within the Church of the Brethren. This award is given on an occasional basis as determined by the OMA Steering Committee.

1994 – Chauncey Shamberger

1997 – Walter D. Bowman

2002 – Arden Ball, Bob Tully, and Raymond Peters

2006 – Nancy Knepper