

DATE: October 27, 2015
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MEMORANDUM TO: Department Scouting Chairpersons
Conference Attendees

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE 3rd DEPARTMENT SCOUTING
CHAIRPERSONS TELECONFERENCE**

Attached is the report of the 3rd Annual American Legion Department Scouting Chairpersons Teleconference and the teleconference transcript that was held on October 27, 2015.

On behalf of the Americanism Commission Chairman Richard W. Anderson, we wish to thank all who attended the teleconference.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding the Scouting and The American Legion. With our best wishes for success in 2016, I remain,

Sincerely,



Shayne Abrahams Sr.
Assistant Director
Americanism Division

Attachment

Cc: Richard W. Anderson, Chairman, Americanism Commission
Department Adjutants
Jill Druskis, Director, Americanism Division
Michael Buss, Deputy Director, Americanism Division

**The American Legion
3rd Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Teleconference
October 27, 2015
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Digest of Proceedings

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Shayne Abrahams Sr. (IN), Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion, called the 3rd Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Teleconference to order at 1:00 p.m.

Elwin Spray, Chairman, Community Relations Task Force, Boy Scouts of America, gave an invocation and led the group in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Department chairpersons, alternates, and guests introduced themselves to the group. Twenty-one departments were represented by their chairperson or designated alternate with a total of thirty-five in attendance. Attendees included: Alaska – Raymond Untiet; Arkansas - Lee Johnson; Arizona – Wayne Chatfield; Colorado – Jerry Lollar; Florida - Wayne Newland; Illinois - Leon Kraut; Iowa – Tim McLaughlin, Scott Moline, Kathy Nees, and Donald Rasmussen; Maine - William Benson; Michigan – Carl Atkinson; Montana – Dick Ellwein and Elmer Palmer; Nebraska – Bill Wiseman; Nevada – Jim Stewart; New Hampshire – Richard Pond; New York - Carl Hale, Scott Hayden and Steve Mataraza; Ohio – Joe Combs; Oregon - David Bone and Larry Whittmayer; Pennsylvania – William Douglass; South Carolina – Andrew Uhrich; South Dakota – Richard MacDonald; Tennessee – Paul Gish; Washington – James Davidson; and West Virginia – C. Bill Harris as well as six subject matter experts John Duncan, Marcos Nava, Barbara Powers, Lee Shaw, Elwin Spray, and John Surbaugh.

Introduction – Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion

A brief introduction, welcome, review of ground rules and review of teleconference objectives was given by Mr. Abrahams.

Introduction – Marcos Nava, National Office, Boy Scouts of America

Mr. Nava welcomed teleconference attendees and read the bio of John Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive, National Office, Boys Scouts of America, who would join the teleconference later to give welcome and greetings.

Charter Organization Representative Training – Barbara Powers, Community Task Force, Boy Scouts of America

Mrs. Powers gave a brief background of her affiliation with Boys Scouts of America and highlighted the 2015 Chartered Organization Representative Guidebook.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

Introduction and Greetings – Michael Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America

Mr. Surbaugh gave welcome and greetings from Washington, DC, where he was participating in the Boy Scouts of America's Sustainability Summit. Mr. Surbaugh expressed his gratitude for the partnership with The American Legion, and explained that the very first troop that he organized was chartered by an American Legion Post. He also explained that in 2019 The American Legion and the Boys Scouts of America will celebrate 100 years of working together. He closed by thanking all the attendees for what they do in Scouting.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

BSA Merit Badge Training – John Duncan, Chairman, National Boy Scouts Experience Committee

Mr. Duncan thanked all attendees for their service to our country. He gave a brief introduction of himself, mentioning that he was the son of a Vietnam veteran who is a life member of The American Legion. Mr. Duncan provided information on the 136 unique merit badges available through BSA, and how they help young boys identify and develop a particular area of interest. Mr. Duncan also discussed different training available to become a merit badge counselor.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

BSA Adult Membership Standards – Elwin Spray, Chairman, Community Relationships Task Force, Boy Scouts of America

Mr. Spray's emphasized the importance of youth protection training, he also emphasized that scouting has never been an appropriate place to discuss sexual conduct, and that no scout should be denied membership in Boy Scouts on the basis of sexual orientation.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

Comments – Lee Shaw, Director of National Alliances, Boy Scouts of America

Mr. Shaw thanked everyone for allowing him to participate in the call. Mr. Shaw encouraged all national charter organizations to communicate with their local chapters.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

The American Legion Scouting Report – Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion

Mr. Abrahams provided the following report on The American Legion and Scouting:

- 15 square knots awarded to date for 2015
- Eagle Scout of the Year – Ethan Copple (NE)
- Runners up – Michael Parker (NY), Jacob Kelley (WI) and Braeden Benedict (CA)
- Frank Belgrano Trophy – Department of California
 - Only received two narratives this year from the departments for the award. So again, I'm trying to light a fire under you - under the departments - I'm trying to get your attention and increase the participation with that particular award.
- Eagle Scout and Sea Scout Quartermasters Certificates can be downloaded at www.legion.org/scouting
- For 59 days this summer three teenage Boy Scouts and a Vietnam Veteran rode their bikes across the entire country on a mission to provide comfort for a select and important few.
 - On August 15, that mission came to a successful end as the crew of Bike Trip America arrived at 1 World Trade Center in New York City after starting June 18 in Oregon and pedaling 3600 miles along the Canadian border to raise nearly \$20,000 for the Legion's Operation Comfort Warrior program. If you're not aware of it a video and a great story can be found on our Scouting Web page as well.
- Resolution No. 22 2015 (TX) revised eligibility requirements for the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year consolidated with Resolution No. 46 (WA). We consolidated them both since they both were similar.
 - The resolution calls for the American Legion to support the eligibility options for National Eagle Scout of the Year Award and scholarships to be modified to include being a son or a grandson of a Sons of the American Legion member. This resolution has been held for further study for the Youth Activities Subcommittee's 2016 Spring Meeting.
- Scouting brochures will be available soon.

Lets Hear from You - Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion

Mr. Abrahams facilitated a discussion regarding best practices, and emerging American Legion Scouting issues.

(Please see attached transcript for details)

Closing Remarks – Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion

Mr. Abrahams thanked everyone for participating. He also offered to assist in any way possible to help further the scouting programs.

Elwin Spray offered the Benediction. With no other business to come before the group, the Teleconference adjourned at 4:00 p.m.