

NATIONAL COUNCIL BSA

**Moderator: Marcos Nava
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11:52 am CT**

Marcos Nava: Hello?

Kathy Nees: Good afternoon, this is Kathy in Iowa and Don Rasmussen, Scout Chairman from Iowa.

Marcos Nava: Hi Kathy, this is Marcos saying we will begin shortly.

Kathy Nees: Hi Marco.

Marcos Nava: Anyone else joining us so far?

Steve Mataraza: Steve Mataraza from New York is on.

Marcos Nava: Good, thank you so much. We will begin shortly. Thank you so much.

Jim Stewart: This is Jim Stewart signing in.

Marcos Nava: Hey Jim, this is Marcos. Welcome.

Jim Stewart: Hey, how's it going Marcos? Long time no see.

Marcos Nava: Hey.

Bill Douglass: This is Bill Douglass from the Department of Pennsylvania singing in.

Jim Stewart: How are you doing?

Bill Douglass: I'm doing well, sir. How are you?

Jim Stewart: Doing fine. How's Pennsylvania doing? You guys got a fantastic program there.

Bill Douglass: Thank you. Yes, we're doing well. Right now it's cold and we've got some real, real chilly rain and snow going through here.

Jim Stewart: Well, we can use it out here in the west.

Bill Douglass: Yes, you can.

Kathy Nees: We're going to have 80s in Iowa tomorrow.

Jim Stewart: Wow.

Kathy Nees: I can live with that for October.

Bill Douglass: Yes, we went through that last week and the week before, it was really nice. But the last two days it has dropped almost 40 degrees.

Kathy Nees: It's going to help our farmers get any stuff with corn and stuff this weekend.

Bill Douglass: Yes, our corn is done.

Kathy Nees: I think I heard on the news the other night only 52% of our crops in Iowa are out right now.

Bill Douglass: Really?

Kathy Nees: Yes. So, we need to - and there's a lot of corn out there.

(Rick McDonald): This is (Rick McDonald) South Dakota - Department of South Dakota checking in.

Woman: Yes.

Kathy Nees: Is that (Michelle)'s voice I hear?

Man: Hello?

Kathy Nees: Hello.

Man: Yes, I just wanted to see if I was connected.

Marcos Nava: Hi, we're taking a couple of minutes before we decide to start. So, hang on there - four minutes.

Ray Untiet: Hello?

Kathy Nees: H it there.

Ray Untiet: Hello?

Kathy Nees: Hello.

Ray Untiet: This is Ray Untiet Department of Alaska.

Don McChesney: Don McChesney, Boy Scouts of America.

Bill Benson: Bill Benson, Department of Maine.

Ray Untiet: Just woke up. It's 9:00 in the morning here.

Kathy Nees: By 9 o'clock I've got half a day's work done.

Don McChesney: Uh-oh, I knew someone would come in with something there.

Ray Untiet: Well, I'm in Alaska so it's four hours difference.

Don McChesney: Yes, and it's cold there. So, stay in bed.

Ray Untiet: Well, actually I'm sitting and I'm all ready to go.

Don McChesney: There you go.

Bill Benson: Where in Alaska are you?

Ray Untiet: Anchorage.

Bill Benson: I was stationed in Elmendorf for a couple of years.

Ray Untiet: Well, I can look out my window and see the aircraft land and take off.

Kathy Nees: That's kind of handy.

Ray Untiet: A little noisy once in a while.

Bill Benson: Beautiful country up there.

Ray Untiet: Oh, yes.

Kathy Nees: Well, we need face-to-face conference so we can all talk.

Ray Untiet: Yes.

Kathy Nees: I'm the social bunny in Iowa, so that's the way it is.

Ray Untiet: Iowa, that's in the middle area - what we call a Law of 48.

Kathy Nees: Yes, we're backward-y.

Ray Untiet: In some cases, a lesser 48. I really love talking to people from Texas.

Don McChesney: Well, here's a Texan that needs a question answered then. Can you really see Russia from where you are?

Ray Untiet: No. If you're on Little Diomedé and look across you, you see Big Diomedé; you're looking (unintelligible).

Don McChesney: Okay.

Kathy Nees: I think that's a little close comfort right now.

Ray Untiet: Well, we call Texas our little sister state.

Kathy Nees: Okay, let the games begin.

Richard Anderson: Hello?

Kathy Nees: Hello.

Richard Anderson: Hi, Shayne? Hello?

Don McChesney: No, Shayne's not on the line. We're kind of waiting for someone to pick us all up here.

Richard Anderson: Oh, this is (Richie Anderson) with the American Legion. How are you?

Kathy Nees: Well, hello Mr. Anderson. Kathy from Iowa.

Richard Anderson: Hi, how are you?

Kathy Nees: I'm wonderful, sir.

Richard Anderson: Well, I would say - I guess I'd have to say good morning then, right?

Kathy Nees: Well, it's noon here, so...

Richard Anderson: Okay. Well, we're 1 o'clock and it's snowing, and I can't think of anything better than to be out in San Diego with you people at a conference.

Kathy Nees: It's snowing?

Richard Anderson: I'm sorry?

Kathy Nees: It's snowing?

Richard Anderson: Yes, we've got snow. Yes, right now it's snowing pretty hard.

Kathy Nees: Oh, my gosh.

Ray Untiet: We had ours a couple days ago.

Richard Anderson: Is this Marcos on there?

Man: No, this is (unintelligible).

Marcos Nava: Hi, this is Marcos. We're just waiting a couple of minutes or so more so that we can have other people join us -- people join us before right at 1 o'clock.

Richard Anderson: Okay.

Marcos Nava: We thank you for being prompt. Just give us another minute or so, let other people log on. Thank you so much.

Richard Anderson: Thank you so much.

Kathy Nees: How about those cubbies, huh?

Bill Benson: Good game last night.

Richard Anderson: It was awesome, it really was. I thought we had a no-hitter -- I really did.

Kathy Nees: Hey, Mr. Anderson, you might be able to answer this question. Didn't the American Legion World Series champions get to be - aren't they invited out there to the World Series.

Richard Anderson: Yes, they were at - they were in Cleveland the first game and last night also.

Kathy Nees: Awesome, very good.

Richard Anderson: Now the Cavaliers were opening night too. Wasn't that on - let's see, this is Thursday. Tuesday night I think the Cavs opened on the same night.

Kathy Nees: Oh, okay.

Richard Anderson: So, they got to see a little excitement from both sides.

Kathy Nees: I'm so glad for those boys.

Richard Anderson: Yes, it was a great experience for them.

Kathy Nees: You bet it is.

Bill Benson: Cleveland got their World Series rings - or their World Champion rings.

Richard Anderson: Oh, is that right?

Bill Benson: It was on our telecast here on the east coast.

Kathy Nees: So, how could they get the World Series ring because the games aren't over yet.

Bill Benson: No, I've corrected myself. It was their...

Kathy Nees: Their division?

Bill Benson: The World Basketball championship rings.

Kathy Nees: Okay, basketball.

Shayne Abrahams: Good afternoon everyone, this is Shayne National Headquarters. Can you hear me?

Kathy Nees: Hi Shayne.

Bill Benson: Hi Shayne.

Shayne Abrahams: Hey, how are you?

Kathy Nees: Good.

Richard Anderson: Hi Shayne, (Richie Anderson), Connecticut. Can you hear me Shayne?

Shayne Abrahams: I can hear you now. How are you?

Richard Anderson: Good, sir. How are you?

Shayne Abrahams: I'm great. Well, I'm going to welcome everyone to our Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Legion - Department Scouting Chairperson officially call this conference session to order. I'm going to ask Mr. Elwin Spray who's the Chairman of the Community Relationship Subcommittee Boy Scouts of America to lead us in invocation and pledge of allegiance. If you have an American flag, would you please stand and face one please.

Elwin Spray: Let me ask everybody to be standing and face the flag. I pledge allegiance to the flag.

Kathy Nees: To the flag of the United States of America...

Richard Anderson: ...and to the Republic for which it stands...

Bill Benson: ...one, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Elwin Spray: Now for the invocation. Dear Heavenly Father, let your light which shines on all people reveal those who need our help, that your light warm the hearts of those in the community who are service work. Let your light illuminate the lives of the children whom we help.

Shayne Abrahams: Thank you. What I'd like to do now again is welcome everybody to the Fourth Annual teleconference. So, I'm Scouting Chairman, American Legion. We're going to have a couple welcome and greetings with some two very important people. I'd like to introduce the first gentleman, Mr. Richard Anderson of Cromwell, Connecticut who was the Appointed Chairman of the Americanism Commission in 2013 as coastguard - Chairman Anderson served during Vietnam War.

As a member of the Carson -- always get this mixed up. (Composed 105), how's that - where he has served as Commander. He has also served as Commander for the Department of Connecticut and as Department Americanism Chairman. Nationally he served as Connecticut National Executive Committee man for over 26 years. Anderson is an active member of his community, including 20 years on the local selective service board, and he's also President of the Lion's Club.

A longtime Legionnaire, Chairman Anderson finds inspiration from (unintelligible) preamble - organization's preamble for 100% Americanism for his long-term vision of the commission. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Chairman Anderson.

Richard Anderson: Thank you Shayne so much. I wish my mother-in-law was here to hear that introduction. Now on behalf of the commission and national commander and the certainly entire delegation of The American Legion, it's an honor for me to be on the phone with you people in this conference. And I thank Shayne for setting this up and inviting me to be a short part of it. I unfortunately can't stay for the duration. I have a doctor's appointment at 1:30.

I just want to congratulate all of you on what you do, and the relationship and the bonding that The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America has seemed to have grown in the last year or two. And I thank Shayne for his outreach to you people on both sides of the fence and for you coming to The American Legion. And hopefully this brotherhood will grow.

I just have one thing that I want to bring up. I was wondering if there's any thought that could be given to perhaps creating a merit badge. I've done a little homework and I know there's a 137 merit badges. And I read that that young man in Oregon received all of them. And he was an Eagle Scout at 13 years

old. But that being said, is there any possibility that The American Legion could create a merit badge whereas reflecting 100% Americanism and using that as a tool to counsel boy scouts throughout the country at our legion post?

I would assume that if this was constructed in the right way they would have to come to an American Legion post to get the answers that they would need to fulfill the requirements. And quite possibly, if it could be put on the Eagle Scout - Eagle Scout I think there's 21 of them that are employed on that. If we could put on that it would certainly be a great asset to not only your organization but to ours to get our local post involved more with the Boy Scouts. Whether they have a scouting program in place or not, I think this could open the door for us.

Elwin Spray: Chairman Anderson?

Richard Anderson: Yes.

Elwin Spray: This is Elwin Spray, we met in San Diego -- where it was nice and warm, and no snow. One of the - I'm the Chairman for the Community Relationships Subcommittee. And why don't we discuss it in our committee. Thank you for your suggestion. I think that that would be one of things that - I think the examples you used are to a large extent kind of varied in other portions of - excuse me, in portions of existing merit badges.

So, why don't we - let me take that under advisement and let me see if we can get a better answer for you back.

Richard Anderson: Okay Elwin, I appreciate that. So, that being said, I wish you all well. Have an enjoyable conference this afternoon. I kind of hope that I don't have to go out and shovel snow, but it's coming down pretty good now. God bless

you people for what you do. And to you Shayne, thank you so much for this invitation. And have a profitable and very well rewarding conference this afternoon.

Shayne Abrahams: We appreciate your attendance Chairman Anderson. Thank you so much for being here.

Richard Anderson: Yes, sir.

Marcos Nava: Hello, this is Marcos Nava. I have the pleasure of introducing our Assistant Chief Scout Executive, National Director of Field Services for the Boy Scouts of America. Don McChesney began his scouting career in 1975 in Kent, Ohio where he held the position of District Executive and Program Director. In 1982 he accepted a position in Chicago, Illinois where he served as Exploring Director, Finance Director and Development Director. From 1987 to 1997, Don served as Scout Executive in both Janesville, Wisconsin and Charleston, West Virginia where he had great record of service and success.

In 1997 Don was appointed to the National Office Staff as a National Director of Exploring, shortly thereafter appointed National Director of the Boy Scouts Division where he led a staff that was just all for research and development in camping innovation. In 2010 Don was chosen as Scout Executive of the San Francisco Bay Area Council. During his tenure there the council achieved many accomplishments including three consecutive years of quality council (unintelligible).

Don's success continued in 2005 where he was chosen as Scout Executive of the Atlanta Area Council and began serving in that role on September 2005. As of January 2016, Don has stepped into the position of Assistant Chief Scout Executive, National Director of Field Services. In this position Don is

leading the four legions and their support operations as well as the new membership growth group which will encompass programs, development and council program report and learning for life.

Don is a graduate of Ohio State University in Athens, Ohio. Don and his family are members of the Presbyterian Church. Don and his wife (Bonnie) live in Keller, Texas, have two Eagle Scout sons -- Rob and Matt -- and two grandsons. Don and (Bonnie) enjoy golf, tennis, travel and family activities. My pleasure to introduce, Don McChesney.

Don McChesney: Thank you Marcos. And I think what you guys really heard was the last part was the best part. And that's I've got without grandchildren -- both boys -- and they need to put that Eagle badge beside their name. What do you think? Can we all buy into that?

Marcos Nava: That's good.

Shayne Abrahams: Yes, absolutely.

Don McChesney: Thank you guys for giving me time today to come in on the call. My thoughts on the relationship between The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America go way back to the beginning of my career where I was fortunate enough to have a relationship through a Boy Scout troop with The American Legion in Kent, Ohio. And it seemed that I got that opportunity throughout my career to continue to work with The American Legion.

I noticed on some notes that I was reviewing before today's call that our relationship goes way back; 1919 is the time I noticed that The American Legion and Boy Scouts of America began working together. It seems to me that there could not be two more compatible groups than The American

Legion and the Boy Scouts of America. Both organizations put an emphasize on service to God and service to country.

I have enjoyed the relationship. I know that you are all still engaged in scouting because obviously you have enjoyed the relationship. The American Legion is also doing some things with the Boy Scouts that I take just all kinds of pride in, and I'm sure you do. I know that you're aware that there are some awards already available from The American Legion to the young people that you're serving -- the Square Knot Award, the Quarter Master Award and your Eagle Scout of the Year Award.

I think looking at the merit badge - and I hear that conversation is something that we certainly would enjoy doing and looking at and seeing how we can blend that into our current scouting program. And I think that as merit badges have grown, the number of merit badges that with current have today certainly are not the bottom line of what will be available. But we'll certainly give it a very close look and our volunteer committees to also look at it.

I would say to you though that it would be important when it's submitted that we have some kind of idea of the requirements that a boy would have to go through, that we not just say that a merit badge would be available but we actually -- if you could -- look at the requirements that a boy would have to go through in order to achieve that merit badge. So there's a little work to do whenever you put a merit badge like that together.

The other thing that I noticed in some notes that I was looking at, The American Legion awards \$10,000 scholarship to your Eagle of the Year. I know as I look at awards and recognitions like that it's very difficult when you get down to the final 10 or so, trying to select the one. I noticed that you also have three runner-ups at \$2,500. So, that helps a bit. But there's just some

awful sharp children that you always end up putting the papers aside feeling bad, but yet feeling good that you're able to extend some kind of scholarship to some kids. So, thank you for that.

I also don't know if everyone on the call is aware, but after 98 years of working together we currently are sitting with 2,448 Boy Scout troops, C-Scout Units and so on around the country - 2,448 of your operations are involved with the Boy Scouts. And we are serving 61,273 young people -- that's huge. And you should be aware that that make The American Legion the largest civic group to be involved as charter organization with the Boy Scouts of America.

Other thing I wanted to make sure that you were aware of -- I think that you probably are -- and Mike Surbaugh -- my boss and the chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts -- was with you in Cincinnati at your 98 Annual National Convention and really enjoyed the time with you. He wanted to make sure that I said hello to all of you today and to extend his thanks for your service to one -- and most important -- our country and also your service to the young people in America.

I'll be on the line for a while if anyone's got any questions that you'd like to direct to me. I'd be happy to respond. But again, thank you for 98 years of a blessed relationship with The American Legion and the Boy Scouts.

Kathy Nees: Thank you Don for what you do.

Don McChesney: You're welcome.

Marcos Nava: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you Don.

Shayne Abrahams: Thanks again Don, we appreciate you being here. What I'd like to do now is kind of transition into introductions. I think it's important that all the departments are recognized today. So, what we're going to do a little differently this year is that I'm going -- for lack of a better word -- to shout out the department. And if you could just chime in who's attending or who's on the line from those departments, we could recognize you.

I also would like to remind everyone to mute your phones when you're not speaking to kill any background noise. From Alaska, anybody on the line.

Ray Untiet: Yes, I am, Ray Untiet

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. And what's your position out there, Ray?

Ray Untiet: I'm Boy Scout Chair.

Shayne Abrahams: Awesome. Arkansas? Arizona? California? Colorado?

(Steve Hayes): Hey, this is (Steve Hayes). I'm on the Boy Scout Committee for Department of Colorado and also Council Commission for Council in Colorado.

Shayne Abrahams: Anyone from Florida? Department of France? Iowa?

Don Rasmussen: Don Rasmussen, Scout Chairman.

Kathy Nees: Kathy Nees, Department Programs Director.

Shayne Abrahams: Welcome to you both. Illinois? Maine? Minnesota? Missouri?

Jerome Goolsby: Jerome L. Goolsby be present. I'm the Department Chairman, I'm also on the relationships committee for the Pony Express Council.

Shayne Abrahams: Montana?

Man: (Unintelligible), Department Chair.

Shayne Abrahams: Nebraska?

Brent Hagel-Pitt: Brent Hagel-Pitt, the Assistant Adjutant for the Department. I'm filling in for Bill Wiseman who is our Scouting Chair.

Shayne Abrahams: Nevada?

Jim Stewart: Jim Stewart, Scouting Chair.

Shayne Abrahams: Welcome Jim. New York?

Steve Mataraza: Steve Mataraza, Scouting Chair.

Jean Williams: And Jean Williams, Assistant Scouting Chair.

Shayne Abrahams: Welcome to you both. Ohio? Oregon?

Dave Bone: Scouting Chair in the area (unintelligible) assessment.

Shayne Abrahams: Pennsylvania?

Bill Douglass: Bill Douglass, Department of Pennsylvania and also member of Cradle of Liberty Council.

Shayne Abrahams: Puerto Rico? South Dakota?

(Rick MacDonald): (Rick MacDonald), Department Chair and part of the Black Hills Area Council.

Shayne Abrahams: Virginia? Vermont? Washington?

(Jim Davidson): Jim Davidson, Department Chairman, also a member for the Grand Columbia Council.

Shayne Abrahams: West Virginia? And I think we just had a caller join us. Can you introduce yourself and what department you're representing? Nope, I guess not.

Bill Benson: I didn't just join, but you skipped over the MS from the Department of Maine, Bill Benson.

Shayne Abrahams: Oh, I'm sorry. That's the most important department, I'm sorry.

Bill Benson: Bill Benson, Scouting Chairman and a proud (unintelligible).

Shayne Abrahams: Is there anyone else out there that wasn't recognized?

Yes, Department of California. I missed you.

Shayne Abrahams: And who are we speaking with?

(Michael Feast): This is (Michael Feast), I'm Department of California Area Chair - commissioner.

Shayne Abrahams: How are you doing (Michael)?

(Michael Feast): Very good, thank you.

Shayne Abrahams: Great. I want to thank you all again. I want to remind you to mute your phones when you're not talking. And then I'm going to turn it over to Marcos, he's going to introduce a very important guest that's joined us today.

Marcos Nava: Hello again. It's my pleasure to introduce a great executive with Kiwanis International Margie Worrell. Margie joined Kiwanis recently and immediately she reached out to me -- the Boy Scouts -- and she wanted to make Kiwanis and Boy Scouts work better. I got to tell you, she's doing that. I'm very proud and very happy to have her as an advocate for both organizations. And I thought it would be good for you to hear from her and hear what she's doing and what she does for Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts.

Please help welcome Margie Worrell.

Margie Worrell: Thank you Marcos. It's a pleasure to be with all of you today all over our great country. And thank you for all the work that you're doing all across the US. I would like to start with telling you a little bit about Kiwanis International. We are a family of global service organizations with club membership opportunities for all age levels. We have clubs that go from (unintelligible) all the way up to senior citizens. And we have an organization that even is available for adulthood disabilities. So, we give people all over the world a chance to serve others through our organization.

Globally we have about 600,000 adult members in 80 countries around the world. But I want to focus on the US today because that's where are focus is with Boy Scouts. With have 140,000 adult members in the United States and

we have almost 7,000 clubs. So, we are very entrenched all around the United States in local communities.

We partnered with Boy Scouts for several reasons. One of them is we obviously have mission alignment. Our Kiwanis club our motto is “serving the children of the world.” And obviously, Boy Scouts do that very well. They help to raise our future leaders. And so, we see a real alignment between our two missions. We also enjoy the Boy Scouts because they are very energetic and passionate and they bring a lot of energy to our clubs and to our members.

They also are a very tried and true organization and they're a great way for us to have public outreach in our communities. And we are working together through our partnership to raise the future leaders in our local communities. We also like to involve the Boy Scouts in our service projects and provide community financial support for them. And we would like to see those Boy Scouts grow up and become Kiwanians as well, which is always nice to see that they continue to lead and serve as adults.

Some of the things that we're currently doing with the Boy Scouts, we do a lot of media promotions for the Boy Scouts to try to get our clubs to sponsor units within their local communities. So, we do public media. We also have a wonderful magazine that's available at Kiwanis.org if you go online. It's got all kinds of opportunities for us to talk about scouting and the wonderful things that scouts are doing in their communities.

And probably the most useful piece of media that we've put together is the Boy Scouts' toolkit that's going to be coming in January. It's a very detailed piece that will tell our members exactly how they can interact with Boy Scouts units in their communities -- give them ideas, give them ways to

connect. So, it's a very nice piece of information that makes it easy for our members to interact with their local scout troops.

We also like to keep Boy Scouts connected to our members at the local level. So, we developed a brand-new position within our district. The way that our group is set up, we have districts. And the districts tend to follow state lines, although they're not always exact. And then in our districts we have a brand-new leadership position called the district partnership coordinator, and they're going to be able to help us communicate with our members about opportunities to partner with the Boy Scouts.

And another thing that we wanted to do was looking at the American Legion's piece, they had developed a recognition piece for scout leaders. We are now developing a recognition piece called the Community Organization Award. It's going to be available to Kiwanians that also serve as scout leaders. And we're very excited about that. That's coming up in the future too.

So, as we continue to work together -- Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts -- we see this really strengthening both of our organizations and the impact that they can have in the lives of children. And so I'm very, very fortunate to be able to work with Marcos and work Boy Scouts, and I look forward to continuing that. Thank you for allowing me to be with you today on this call.

Marcos Nava: Thank you Margie. And now it's back to Shayne.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. All right, thanks again Margie. We really appreciate it. Now we're just going - just a couple of minutes and kind of recap the 2015 American Legion - well, actually let's back up a little bit. We're going to give you just in terms of the overview for today just the objectives. For the American Legion side, I'll handle that and Marcos will take care of the BSA side.

We basically provide all of our departments an opportunity to connect with one another, gather some information. If you have specific questions for BSA, we got them on the line. We can address those issues at that time. From the BSA side of it...

Marcos Nava: Thank you Shayne. I want to again thank you all for joining us at our Fourth Annual Teleconference Training. As you can see from the agenda we have very important topics to cover. Please rest assure that the Boy Scouts of America Nation Council is committed to support you by hosting this type of training facilitating access to all of our 6,000 (field staff) in the million-plus volunteers across the country.

I've said it before, if you have any questions about scouting and no one can help you in your local area please contact me directly. My cell phone 214-794-9374. I'll repeat it one more it because I really mean it, I welcome your phone calls, any questions that no one was able to help you at the local level. My number is 214-794-9374 or you could email me at marcos.nava@scouting.org. When you do email me, please copy Shayne so I could keep him in the loop of things that we're doing. Scout's honor, I will return your phone call and your email.

Let's have a great conference call training, let's do it. Thank you Shayne.

Shayne Abrahams: All right, I'm excited. Last year we had our third conference -- it was a teleconference. We had about 25 departments that were represented and 33 attendees at the call. Those action items identified from the conference have been implemented. For those of you who would like a copy of last year's transcripts and/or the meeting minutes, give me an email and I can get that information out to you.

At this time, I'm going to turn you back over to Marcos and he's going to talk about the upcoming 2017 VSA Jamboree. Marcos?

Marcos Nava: Thank you. Just like the Olympic and the World Cup Soccer, it happens every four years. Jamboree is fun, it's adventure. Many times this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for scouts to go to a National Jamboree. Next year's Jamboree is going to be July 19 through 28, 2017. Earlier we emailed you a link to the National Jamboree. If you haven't seen, please take a look at this short video of the Jamboree. But yet, you can see thousands of young boys having fun, enjoying themselves, doing all kinds of scouting activities. You can also join and come and visit, you are welcome to do sort of

Just let me give you a quick overview of the Jamboree. Ten action-packed days of extreme adventure, 40,000 participants, visitors and staff. Scouts nationwide and internationally will pack their bags and come together as a Summit Bechtel Reserve for the Boy Scouts of America event. It's a big, fun event. It is the biggest event in scouting. And again, you are invited to attend.

Just a little bit of background of the National Jamboree. In 1937, one of the first original national scout commissioners Dan Beard lit the opening campfire that would kick off the very first Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree. It was held in Washington, DC, nearly 30,000 scouts attended. Again, this happens every four years. You're invited to come. If you are interested in having more information on the Jamboree, email me or give me a call and I would be happy to give you more information.

Are there any questions on the National Jamboree? If not, Shayne this concludes my presentation on the National Jamboree.

Shayne Abrahams: Thank you, sir. I just want to add to that a little bit in that March 2017 - with Americanism 2017 budget, we successfully secured funds to allow for eight American Legion scouts to attend the Jamboree -- we're going to pick up the tab. And additionally, we're going to get a booth -- and I believe it's a 20 x 20 booth. We tentatively identified an individual who's going to be on the ground, a volunteer to give leadership to that. Again, that's tentative at this point.

I guess what I need from u folks, if anyone is interested in filling one of those eight slots, please send me an email with a brief history -- your scouting history -- and then we'll take that into consideration. Again, those funds won't be spent until January 1, 2017. But I've been talking to the BSA Jamboree folks and they're going to make sure that they have - they're going to save those slots and some space for us to exhibit.

We're also in the process of designing a patch like we did at the last Jamboree. We'll hand that out. And we have lots of goodies and handouts as well. So again, if you are interested send me an email with your brief history - - scouting background -- and we'll take that into consideration.

Ironically, on the way up to my office after lunch I ran into National Commander, and he's very excited. As a matter of fact, that was the first thing out of his mouth when I (unintelligible) scouting folks is that he's going to be on the ground there for a believe two or three days. So again, this is going to be a great opportunity, we're really looking to step it up from the Legion's aspect this year. He will be there and we're going to give him visibility and recognition that he deserves.

So again, if you're interested reach out to me and we'll take your information and your request in consideration.

Marcos Nava: Shayne, let me just add about the (unintelligible). It's 10,600 acres. It's in Mount Hope West Virginia in the next - adjacent to the New River Gorge National River. I thought you just might want to know that information in case they didn't know exactly where it was held. If you need more information on the Jamboree you can gather information at www.summitbsa.org. Again, www.summitbsa.org. Thank you.

Shayne Abrahams: Thank u. And lastly, again if you want to be part of their leadership that's on the ground, reach out me and we'll start that organization process. Any questions for me before I turn it back over to Marcos for introduction?

Bill Douglass: Yes. Shayne, this is Bill Douglass from Department of Pennsylvania. I'd like to add that I've been to the summit twice this year so far working with (unintelligible). And I think we need to advertise the beauty of the summit, the Bechtel Summit Reserve that we've given.

Shayne Abrahams: You still there?

Bill Douglass: Yes, sir.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay, go ahead. Repeat that last part please.

Bill Douglass: This is Bill Douglass from Department of Pennsylvania, Scouting Chairman. I've been to the Bechtel Reserve twice this year, ones when we - (unintelligible) lodge took our original OA site down there. We spent a week there reassembling it from Treasure Island. And I've been there -- like I said -- twice. And I think we need to do a little better job promoting that facility. It's really great. It's beautiful. We should be so thankful for the (Eckel) family for

what they did for scouting and for the legion down there. It's absolutely perfect.

Shayne Abrahams: Thank you. We totally agree. So, spread the word. And obviously we're going to - once we get a little closer we're going to do some national level in terms of the website and maybe a special publication to make sure that American Legion is well represented this year.

Marcos Nava: Very good. Thank you Shayne. Is Larry Chase on?

Larry Chase: Yes, I am.

Marcos Nava: Okay, good. Thank you Larry, I just wanted to make sure. Continuing with the agenda, it's my pleasure to introduce Larry Chase. He's going to be talking to us about the role of the Council Commissioner. Just to share with you that I've been the profession Boy Scouts for 25 years and I can remember back on my first day being hired, trained and directed by a local commissioner. I soon learned that being a local commissioner or a district commissioner -- council commissioner -- it is a very important position. And we're very fortunate to hear today from Larry Chase.

Let me just give you a little bit of background of him. Larry's adult scouting career began like many others, with an impact organizational meeting. It's amazing where a simple yes in response to a request to serve an impact committee can lead. Many of you that have been in scouting have heard this, it's only an hour a week. Since then the trail has included service (unintelligible) leader, troop committee member, scout master, venturing crew committee chair and associate advisor, district finance chair and district chair, council chair and council commissioner.

Along the way opportunities arose to service a unit leader and two World Jamborees in Chile and England, and as a unit leader or staff member and six National Jamborees. In addition, Larry has served as Wood Badge and Power Horn staff member -- Wood Badge Director and Advisor -- and has served and chaired Southern Region Wood Badge Course Director of Conferences. He currently serves as Council Commissioner for the Atlanta Council in Recruitment and Retention Chair on the National Commissioner Support Staff.

He led the team and developed the Council Commissioners Conference at Philmont Training Center and also the team charged with revising commissioners awards and recognitions. He will serving on staff at both the 2017 National Jamboree and the 2019 World Jamboree. Larry lives in Atlanta where he and his wife Mae have raised three Eagle Scout sons and are enjoying the arrival of a grandchildren. What free time is available is spent on the road bike or on a workshop where three remnants occasionally are converted into something useful. My pleasure to introduce Larry Chase.

Larry Chase: Thank you Marcos. It's great to be with all of you this afternoon. It was pleasing to hear that several of you have got a background in scouting, so some of what I have to say to you at the onset probably is going to sound a little bit familiar.

Marcos asked me to try to give you all some sense as to how we can best support your efforts at the same level in your local efforts to support scouting. And we do really appreciate all that you have done to help us build the program. A little bit of background, the scouting organization doesn't not line up perfectly with your organizational structure, and that's usually the case with all of our charter organizations.

Basically, we have a national council headquartered in Dallas and then we divide into regions in the areas. And then we have our local councils which charter our units. Councils are divided into districts, and then we have the packs and the troops and the crews and the teams -- the units that actually serve the kids.

In any one of those areas of scouting -- from the National Council all the way to the units -- we tend to breakup everything we do scouting into four functions: finance, membership, the program that will be delivered to local units, and what we call unit service. And at each one of those as we go down through the organization, we have what we refer to as the Key 3 that provides leadership. And that Key 3 is comprised of volunteers who serves as -- depending upon the level -- either a president or a chair, and then a commissioner. And then the third member of that Key 3 is a professional who provided guidance to the volunteers and coordination and administrative support.

So, we can find the Key 3 everywhere we go in scouting in each one of those levels. But let's focus on unit service which has responsibility for one of those four functions, and it may make sense to think of unit service as our customer service capability. And we think that unit service in all of our commissioners - - and they're something over 23,000 of them in the United States today -- we think that they're all there simply to help our local units better serve more youth through scouting.

And we ask them to focus on just four things as they work with our units in our charter organizations. We want them to help the units grow -- support the reference to be able to serve more kids. We want them to work collaboratively with the unit leadership unit leadership and the charter organizations to assess the strengths and the needs of each unit, and help develop a customized

service plan for the unit that will address their needs and help them continually improve the quality of the program they deliver so they can attract and retain more kids.

We don't expect every one of our commissioners to be an expert on every aspect of scouting. But within our districts where our units are located we have district operating committees sort of comprised of subject matter experts in program and advancement and finance and camping and activities, and so on and so forth. And our commissioners when they identify a need with the units work to link to those subject matters experts so that we're sure that we can provide the best possible support to the unit leaders.

And then the last thing they do is work with the units in the charter organizations to renew their charters on an annual basis.

It probably makes sense to think of our unit commissioners as our coaches and our counselors and our resource link. Ideally we want to have a unit commissioner assigned to every unit in scouting. And that should be the person that our unit leaders can reach out to, get answers to their questions, find out where there are opportunities to force scouting in their district -- in their council -- find out what are the resources that are available to them that could be for training or opportunities that we have at our council camps -- high adventure basis, things like the National Jamboree at the Summit -- and so on and so forth.

So, those commissioners should be our direct contact with the unit leadership and helping them strip away some of the mystery of scouting and get answers to the questions that they need.

There are basically three types of commissioners. There are administrative commissioners -- and Marcos made reference to our council commissioner. There's a council commissioner, there's a district commissioner. They have assistant councilor or assistant district commissioners. And those administrative commissioners are basically functional managers. They make sure we have the resources in place we need - unit service that we've got our commissioners trained, that we've got an adequate number of commissioners. So, they're involved in recruiting new commissioners to build our bench strength. And then they coordinate those resources to make sure that we're providing support to the units.

The unit commissioners -- as I mentioned -- are our coaches, our counsellors, they're our collaborators with the unit leaders. And they're our resources link to make sure that we can connect unit leaders with the resources they need to be successful. As I said, they're our primary point of contact with those unit leaders and with our charter organization representatives. And part of what they do after they've worked with unit leaders to identify the needs of the unit -- particular needs that they may have -- is to develop a customized unit plan or unit service plan that they oversee so we can help the unit improve.

Some of you may be familiar with what we call a roundtable which is operated by our commissioners as well. That's another type of commissioner - a roundtable commissioner. And typically districts have a roundtable meeting once a month. And that's an opportunity for unit leaders to come together locally and have access to communications about current topics and to continuous training and networking so that they can plug into additional resources that can help them be successful.

So, if we look more specifically at the support that our commissioners can supply, one major thing they do as unit commissioners is to work with

sustaining and growing our existing units so that they're delivering the best possible program to attract and retain not only the youth that we serve but also other volunteers that can help with operation of the unit. They're involved in starting new units. And we have a process in place where we will build a team that works with a charter organization -- with a new unit organizer, a new unit commissioner -- so we bring unit service on as early as possible in a district professional.

And the objective of that team is to provide scouting expertise. They have familiarity with that unit startup process and they ensure that all the elements of success are in place before we actually open up the unit and begin to deliver the program. We found if we got inadequate number of youth we got inadequate number of volunteers. If we got some other key elements of a successful unit in place before we start, then we do a much better job in serving the kids and the unit tends to be more successful in growing and sustaining itself.

That starting of new units is a joined effort between unit service and the membership function in scouting. And one of the things that our commissioners can do is to help you or help our - help your local representatives plug into that membership function and members of that team so then we can bring that resource to bear if there's a new unit that you want to start up as opposed to serving an existing unit that's already in place.

One of the key things that we want to try to accomplish is finding an effective way to help you and help your local folks plug into the resources that are available. One way to do that is through a website -- that's BeAScout.org. And you can go to that website and put in a zip code. And one of the things it does is provide information about units within the local area. So, it's a good

tool for parents who are trying to find a pack or troop for their son, or crew for their son or for their daughter.

But at the end of that listing, for each zip code listing it will identify what the local council is and where it is and contact information from the local council, which might be one way to plug into our council commissioner.

The other opportunity -- as Marcos indicated earlier -- is if you need to plug into our support resources at the council level, you can contact him directly. And I believe you have a handout that has his office and cell phone number and his email. And he would be happy to get you in contact to - get the support that you need.

I suspect at the local level when you get down do your local organizations, they may have more familiarity with who's who in scouting in that particular city or area -- and this may be a less of a challenge. But for those of you who may not know the local people, either BeAScout.org or Marcos can make sure that we can plug you in. And that may be to the council commissioner who knows where all the district resources are and where all the council resources are, and can make sure that we get you in touch with the right people.

So, the commitment that we have for you from unit service is we will get you the support you need, whether it's to grow and improve the program in our existing units, answer questions about scouting in activities and resources that may be available to you, or get you the resources you need if you want to start a new unit and make sure that we get it off on the strongest possible foot.

That's a quick overview of what we can do for you to support you, and we look forward to the opportunity to do that. And if there are any questions that

you might have on any on that I'd be happy to try to field some of those for you.

Kathy Nees: This is Kathy from the Department of Iowa. How do we get the individual Legion post to be more involved with inviting your people to the individual post and county meetings so that the Boy Scouts of America can explain to our Legion members why their support is needed so badly?

We have a terrible problem here in Iowa. We've got scholarships to give out, we've got money to give these Eagle Scouts, and no applicants.

Larry Chase: Well, we certainly want to help you with that.

Seriously, there could be multiple ways to approach this. Hopefully your local unit has a unit commissioner. And if they have a unit commissioner that's one of the things that they're there for. And either that local unit commissioner or some other person from the district through that unit commissioner - we could get somebody that could come out and speak to your local folks and establish that link.

If we have a situation where your local folks are not aware of who their unit commissioner is -- and sometimes that does occur -- that's where we want to find a way to plug you in, and probably we can do that - again, we can do it through BeAScout or you could call the local council, or go directly to Marcos and we'll get you plugged into a council commissioner who can work on down through the local chain and get you somebody who can provide you that kind of information.

When you get to the leadership of the other local units in the area -- and I've served in that role -- they're always interested in the kinds of resources that

you're talking about. And it's just a matter of how we get that link in place so that we can make other unit leaders available where you may have resources available or we can get you people who can support your needs such as explaining what scouting does or what you can do to more effectively help your units. Does that help answer your question?

Kathy Nees: Yes, I think sort of. I just - I'm trying to figure out a way to get our post -- our Legion post -- to make that contact. I mean we know who to send them to, but convincing them how important it is to actually hook up face-to-face. And a single email back and forth is not cutting it.

Larry Chase: And we can go the other way. Again, if you become aware of local post where that's a need and you'd like to make sure that occurs, then let's come the other direction through Marcos and get you in contact locally with someone who can make contact with that post if we don't have a unit commissioner who's already doing it.

Kathy Nees: Great, thank you.

Man: Larry, this is (unintelligible). Let me - for Kathy, let me see if can get you both some information and try to make sure that you've got some contact people there. One of the easy ways to do it or one of easy ways that we can pass out is to make sure that you have a copy of da map of the councils superimposed over the -- this would be the Boy Scout Map -- over the State of Iowa. And then from that you can get the list of names of people who are the councils, and we can include all there the council commissioners.

Kathy Nees: (Unintelligible).

Man: And the way to do it then I think with what Larry's suggesting is that the council commissioner is frequently are interested in knowing further information. And if you could - I'll pass the information to them. Maybe they would be able to then get help with the promotion. You know, there's \$10,000 laying on the ground that somebody's going to pick up, and it's got to be an Eagle Scout. So, maybe that will help.

Kathy Nees: Okay. I got the district map of all the districts for the town councils in the State of Iowa and I've got the list of the individuals. It just doesn't seem to be getting very far with our Legionnaires themselves. And I don't know how to get them as excited about them as they need to be.

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim Davidson) with the Department of Washington. There are several issues that play here. One is your department chairman needs to make sure that they have a Legion district chairman that are getting the word out to their post. So, be a Legion district or a county -- depending on how your operation goes -- you need scouting chairman in those positions to communicate with your post.

Now, having said that, we run into the problem like our department does where we don't necessarily have a - our department requires that any scouting chairman has to be a current registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. That should be a no-brainer, but for some people they don't think they have to be a registered member of the Boy Scouts to do the job. And frankly, I'll call BS on that rule.

Anyway, that's their responsibility to communicate with the post. Now the problem that we have with many posts is many posts simply are not interested in doing programs. Many of our posts don't even do the other basic Legion programs, let alone asking them to bite off a scouting commitment, nor are

there posts set up to be able to handle troops or packs meeting in their facilities as they may be primarily be a bar.

So, one of the things that we need to emphasize is if a post is interested in perhaps sponsoring or hosting or supporting a troop or a pack or a team, that they work with another organization that can provide the meeting spot and become the chartering partner of that troop or pack so that those boys are eligible for the scholarships that we provide.

We have several posts at our department that have teamed with someone else where the post is the chartered partner but they meet elsewhere, and then all those boys are automatically eligible to be able to apply for the Eagle Scout of the Year, that sort of thing. That's a win-win situation, especially in the smaller communities where resources are kind of thin to begin with.

I think we just need to be more creative in how we think and not just to assume that every post out there is going to do this because the reality is they won't. I think we just need to push more to get active Legion involvement in their community in supporting the various packs and troops that are out there. I know for some of you, you will disagree heartily. But for those of us who live in rural areas that's how it works.

Larry Chase: You raised some great points. And the issue with regard to facility is one that can exist with any one of our charter partners. And I know of some situations locally where we have charters that are really great charter partners and very supportive, but for one reason or the other they may not be able to provide the physical space for meetings. But very often they do have relationships in the community where they can help that unit plug into another resource that is willing to provide the meeting space.

(Jim Davidson): It works vice versa too. We have posts that don't have facilities that can team with another organization. One that comes to mind in our area is a post that took over the administration of a troop that was at a Lutheran Church. And they did that because the Lutheran Church said, "Yes, you can meet here. We're just not really interested in dealing with all the paperwork and stuff." So, the troop meets at the Lutheran Church but they're chartered to the Legion post.

Larry Chase: And that's a win-win.

(Jim Davidson): That's a win-win. We have another one that sponsors the pack and a troop in two women's prisons, and the post is 60 miles away from those prisons. But they provide the support for it and they actually have Legionnaires there every week to help those kids attain the scouting program even though their mothers are incarcerated. I mean it's another win-win situation.

Larry Chase: Okay.

Wayne Chatfield: Larry, this is Wayne Chatfield, Department of Arizona. I was just a little late getting in, I had something come up. But I'm here.

Larry Chase: Good to have you with us.

Wayne Chatfield: Thank you.

Paul Gish: Hi, this is Paul Gish from Department of Tennessee. I'm a little late getting in as well. Sorry about that.

Larry Chase: That's okay. Glad to have you with us.

Man: This is (unintelligible), Department of Colorado.

Shayne Abrahams: Gentlemen, some great - and ladies, I'm sorry Kathy.

Kathy Nees: Oh, no problem.

Shayne Abrahams: Some great conversation. So, the reason we asked Larry to join us -- and thank you so much Larry for taking time out of your day to be with us today -- is that we were really looking to provide some real-time information, some information that would be beneficial to you chairman who are out there doing a great job. So, we looked across the landscape say in terms of who might be a close match.

And we felt that the council commissioner may be kind of close to what she does do. And so, we wanted to provide you with some assistance and some structure. That's a tough job when you're overseeing the scouting activities for your whole state. And that's why Larry joined us and presented. And again, that some really helpful information. And we plan on in the future to continue to provide you that information to help you run your departments.

Any other feedback, comments for Larry?

Kathy Nees: Thank you Larry.

Larry Chase: Glad to be with you all.

(Jim Davidson): (Jim Davidson) of the Department Washington again. I would just point out that the way some of our states are laid out that dealing solely with a council commissioner may not do you as much good as you think because you may have two or more councils overlying your jurisdiction. So, you need to be able

to get it down to the Boy Scouts Council district level and looking at district commissioners that may more closely approximate what are county or district areas are in the Legion, and talk to those people. Because they're closer to the ground so to speak in what's going on than the council commissioner may be.

And if you're having to deal with more than two council commissioners to handle an area of even your department -- I have seven council in my state that I would have to deal with -- so we have to push it down to the - more the district commissioner level to get coverage.

Larry Chase: That's great.

Shayne Abrahams: Let me ask you this real quick, if you were to lay job descriptions down -- department scouting chairman American Legion -- on the BSA side who's job description would you lay next to that? And that's to anybody.

(Jim Davidson): Well, this is (Jim Davidson) of the Department of Washington again. That's difficult to say because I think it would vary so much from department to the department based on the coverage of the BSA councils. Again, for the Department of Washington it would be difficult to lay that position down next to an equivalent BSA position. I'm sure there's a way to do it, I just personally can't think of a way to do it when I'm dealing with seven councils and three states.

Larry Chase: Shayne I think that's the thing that Marcos is trying to address with what we proposed because there's not a one-to-one relationship between your organization and ours. There'll be some states -- I think -- where they might be one council for the state. But more frequently, there would be two or three or seven or some other number. So, what we want to do is get you as close as we can and simply as we can which might be a council commissioner. But the

best service is going to come as close to your unit or your need as we can get. And that may well be a district commissioner or ultimately a unit commissioner.

And that's what we're trying to get to you as easily as we can and provide you with an avenue to get to that rather than having you try to sort through our organizational structure.

(Steve Hayes): This is (Steve Hayes) from Colorado. I'm kind of - I work both roles because I'm a council commissioner for a council as well as being on the scouting committee for the department. And I think a lot of it is circumstantial. But also, remember it's a two-way street. Ideally, you want somebody that are engaged in these positions and active in building a relationship to be active in both sides of the organization.

On the council commissioner, our council is actively trying to build relationships with our primary charter partners, you know, whether that's Legion, BSA, a large church organizations, et cetera. And as far as The American Legion goes, you know, we have representation -- a core for one of our posts that has the most units in the district -- is also on the council board. I'm the representative from the council to the scouting committee for the department, that department chair happens to be the alumni chair for our council.

And we kind of build that from the council side actively so that we have people that are, you know, active in both organizations. I think looking, you know, from the department side, if we can build our scouting committees with active scouters in different roles that you have representation from each of the councils that you support that is also active on the council side, you can probably have a better communication and a more productive relationship.

We're also kind of a unique - because we've got six councils that serve the area of Colorado, but there's only five that are headquartered in Colorado. Now one of them is headquartered out of state, so that kind of creates a unique relationship where the council actually belongs in another department but they're serving youth within your - you know, within one or more of your districts.

So, those are, you know, issues that you got to address. But I think, you know, the key point is what is going to build the best well working relationship across both organizations, not just approaching it from the Legion side.

(Michael Feast): This is (Michael Feast), Department of California.

Bill Douglass: Larry?

Larry Chase: Yes?

Bill Douglass: This is Bill Douglass from Department of Pennsylvania. One of the successes that we've had in the State of Pennsylvania is we have used our district commissioners. Now I'm talking - I mean our, yes, district commissioners from the Legion side. We have invited our scout district commissioners to our district meetings. And we've had a lot of success opening those lines of communication using that direction.

Larry Chase: That would be another good way to go at it and to do point that we just talked through -- building those relationships is the key thing.

Bill Douglass: Yes, absolutely.

Larry Chase: And again, part of what we're trying to give you is in situations where those relationships don't exist today, how can we give you a pathway to resources that can help work with you to build those relationships? And that's going to be by far -- if we can build the local relationships -- I think that's going to make life considerably easier for both of our organizations in trying to preserve our kids through scouting.

(Michael Feast): This is (Michael Feast), Department of California.

Larry Chase: Yes, sir.

(Michael Feast): I have a related issue. Like you were saying, it's hard to relate department scouting to area of region scouting. I nominated a 35-year-old past department chairman at the scouting for the Silver Antelope Award and nothing ever happened to it. Then I asked about it at region later on, and evidently our kind of organization really isn't considered for Silver Antelope. And I thought maybe that might change to recognize how much contributions some of the veterans have made through scouting.

Shayne Abrahams: That's a great comment and we're going to note that with Marcos. Could you follow-up with us maybe on offline and we can speak directly to that?

(Michael Feast): Absolutely.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay, perfect. Thank you.

Well again, I want to thank Larry. And if there aren't any other questions for Larry - great presentation. It sounds like it was very helpful. I'm going to turn it over to Marcos and he's going to talk about the BSA membership plan.

Marcos Nava: Thank you, Shayne, and one more time, thank you, Larry for taking the time to talk to us about the role of the Commissioner. I really appreciate the efforts and the knowledge that you shared with us today. We all know about Scouting and the outcomes of the Boy Scouts. You, have seen it, every year you select an Eagle Scout of the year and then, you even go and you go first, second, third place, and you've seen Scouting at its best.

The difficulty is, the challenge is that we cannot have those types of young men if they're not in Scouting.

So, that is why I want to talk to you today about membership, the importance of membership. Our National Board and Chief Scout Executive, (Michael Surbaugh), has committed the National Service and staff resources to support membership growth in an unprecedented way. We have a plan that it is to provide quality sustainable growth to ensure Scouting's increased impact on the next generation of our nations' leaders. You have 2,448 units, with 61,000 youth, but do we really have all the youth, all the families that we could have in Scouting?

Can we go with more youth in Scouting? Do you have a full family of Scouting? You have a pack, you have a troop, you have a venture crew. Those are needed to be able to sustain Scouting throughout the youth childhood and adulthood - into adulthood.

Let me tell you about what we want to do and how we want to grow Scouting. New units. We need to grow our unit base utilizing our strong charter organization's volunteers and professionals to develop and equitably work a prospect list that will focus on underserved areas.

Chartering organizations are encouraged to have a full family of Scouting -- I've talked about them -- and also later on, we're going to hear about exploring posts. This, perhaps, is an area of good growth within our - your communities. The plan includes the organization of exceptional new units and retention of existing ones. We have new pilot programs that we're doing. This is how we're also growing Scouting.

We have stem Scouts, currently there are 12 Councils that are currently having good success in the first year of the pilot. Future expenses is under consideration. If you're involved with Scouting, if you get some kind of Scouting information, you're aware that we also started a Lyon pilot. This is for kindergarten-aged boys, must be five years by September 1. This program is growing and it's been well accepted across the country.

We're also looking at additional types of pilot programs to grow Scouting. The program, however, must have a character and leadership base. This types of pilot program include Scout Reach, middle school programs, and Webelos retention.

Building adventure. Have an event experience soon after they join Scouting with Rocket into Scouting, pinewood derby, Hooked on Scouting camp events. This is also a great opportunity for a local post to be involved in a buildup adventure by being there in uniform and letting kids know who you are and what the American Legion is all about.

Let me tell you what it takes to - for the collaboration, how it will work. American Legion headquarters, with my friend Shayne and I, they agreed to publicize our membership growth plan at the Legion's Web site. Assign staff to work on the campaign with National Council staff. Help identify area

where growth plan will be more likely to succeed. Help identify and recruit local jut Legionnaires to assist with the membership growth plan.

Now, what we are going to do and how we're going to support you? We will assist local Councils with membership campaign, support local Boy Scout Councils in reaching new unit goal, promote unit concept - a full family of Scouting. The American Legion commits to -- when they sponsor a charter unit -- they agree to pay a \$40.00 charter fee, assign a charter organization representative, assist in the formation of the new unit, and then sign a new unit - a unit charter agreement. And most of you are familiar with that agreement because you need to do that at the beginning and then on the continuous years.

Local Councils assign a full-time Scout professional and their volunteers, provide training for new charter organization's representatives, and -- of course -- sign the new unit charter agreement. That's what the new unit plan is called for both - for all of the Scouting program.

Today, we're going to hear about Exploring Program and for that I'm going to call on a co-worker of mine, out of the national office, (Tim Anderson) But, let's just -- let me read a short bio of him -- and then, also, his presentation that he's going to share with us was emailed to you earlier. So, during this time you might want to look for it and follow (Tim) as he prepares and shares with us the growth and - of exploring.

(Tim) began his career as a pre-professional in the DeSota Area Council in El Dorado, Arkansas, while serving as a full-time student in Southern Arkansas University. One year later, he was promoted to District Executive and served there for a total of four years. (Tim) is an Eagle Scout and a vigil honor member of the Order of the Arrow. He is a former Explorer Post President and Order of the Arrow Chapter Chief.

He received his Bachelor of Business Administration and Management and Marketing from Southern Arkansas University. Effective August 16, 2013, (Tim) was promoted to the position of Team Leader, Senior Director of Exploring for the National Office of Learning for Life. (Tim) enjoys time with his wife, (Sybil), and daughter, (Hannah), as well as attending church, golfing, traveling, watching movies, and -- of course -- watching the Arkansas Razorback football team. Without any further ado, my good friend, (Tim Anderson)

(Tim Anderson): Thanks so much, Marcos, and I'll try today -- obviously -- you saw there was a lot of Arkansas in there, so I'll try to limit my accent to make sure you guys can understand. What I do want to do is take a second and make sure that everybody -- those that have my presentation -- it'll be a lot more meaningful if you're able to pull that up on your computer. If you're not, that's okay, too. I'll present it in a way that if you don't have the presentation in front of you, that will be fine as well. It's actually a PowerPoint that you can follow along and I'll try to announce when we're moving to the next piece.

Marcos -- and I appreciate you guys -- American Legion, for having me on today because we've got an outstanding program many people may not be aware of and it's called Exploring. And, I'm going to kind of start from the beginning -- and what I'd like to do today -- Marcos asked me to kind of give a brief overview of what Exploring is, how it impacts the community, what we're doing with Exploring, and also, maybe how you can get involved. I've heard a lot of the conversation on, you know, the possibility of obviously not meeting there, and I've got some ideas on that that I'd like to talk about on how each one of you can possibly get involved at the end. So, we'll get started.

I'm going to start with my first slide and the question I have for you guys today -- and ladies on the phone -- is what is your story when it comes to a career? In other words, how did you get in your career?

Sometimes we don't really stop and think about that, but did some of you just kind of happen into it, did it just kind of land in your lap? Was it very intentional? Did you choose your career because your grandpa, your grandma, or your mom and dad were in a certain career? Or did you just happen to go to college and wander around in the desert for three years before they finally told you that you had to pick something to do? Or did you...

((Crosstalk))

Woman: The Army helped me with that.

(Tim Anderson): What was that?

Woman: The Army helped me with that.

(Tim Anderson): You got to wander around just a little while, huh?

Woman: In the desert.

(Tim Anderson): In the desert, I like that. Well, you know, it's funny because a lot of people say that -- when I'm giving this presentation in person -- I ask everyone to stand and I tell them to take a little bit of road trip back in time to 16 years old when you first found out that you might have to get a job. And, I asked people if you knew what you wanted to do at 16 or 17 years old, to stay standing or to sit down and very few people will sit down. The next thing I ask is, how many of you went to college or a trade school or something to that effect after high

school education and I ask them, after your first year in that, how many of you knew what you wanted to do for the rest of your life.

And, usually, at least three-quarters of the room is still standing. My point is this, a career and a job is way too important for us or our kids or grandkids just to haphazardly fall into it because they saw it on a TV show or they thought just because mom or dad did it, it would be good.

I'm on the next slide you're going to see something called Your Lifespan. You can kind of click through that, I know there's a little bit of animation on there, but if you click through the lifespan you're going to notice -- obviously -- when you're born, and I was very generous to say we're all going to live to 99 years old. If you'll notice on the slide, also, I made a mark that at 65, hopefully, most of us will at least have the ability to retire, maybe we'll see. But, I'm being generous again and saying we're all going to get to retire at 65. So, saying that, most of us, you know, are going to work for at least 47 years of our lives.

Now, I'm not trying to depress anybody on the phone today, I don't want you to think about how long you've worked. I know many people might have started working a lot earlier and some may work later than 65, but I'm just going to use a nice conservative average number, 47 years. And, if that's the case, then we work 47 years of our life -- I tell me daughter this all the time -- I don't care how much money you make, but if you're going to work 47 years doing anything, you'd better go with a smile on your face and like what you do. Because, if not, it's going to be a long life.

I told her it doesn't matter how much money she makes until I get ready to retire and then I want her to have a good job and make lots of money so she can take care of me. But, until then, I want her to have a good job, I want her

to be happy in what she does, and I want her to be very intentional on what career she chooses.

So, on that slide, your lifespan, I want you to think about this, instead of our kids going out and haphazardly just kind of finding out what they want to do, running down the race track kind of landing somewhere, or walking up to somebody in a park and finding out what they do, and deciding that's the path they're going to take, I would like that plane that I have on that slide to kind of land in a place that's on the runway. In other words, that kid said, hey I tried this out and I liked it or I tried this out and I didn't.

On the next slide, you're going to see something called alarming statistics, and it's going to say on there, there's a little joke on there, but on the very next slide, on the US News report. And I want you to really pay attention to this because this is important for all of us. The economy will face a shortage of five million workers in 2020. Researchers say the nation's postsecondary education system can't keep pace with projected job growth.

Well, some of you might be saying, "Well, I don't really care about that. I'm going to be retired in 2020," or, "I'm not really worried about that because I have my own career." But, here's what we to worry about it. Number one, if we have kids or grandkids, it's important to us. Number two, if we do simple things like get our air condition fixed, have a plumber come to our house, or need a carpenter to build something for us, we're going to find out pretty soon that we're not going to be able to afford to do that.

And why is that? The steel trade industry is having a tough time. Auto technicians, something as simple as taking your car in, is becoming a very, very hard position to fill in our economy. And, that's just a few - to mention a few.

On the next slide, you're going to see a picture of a room and in that room right in the -- towards the front row -- with the young man set in this room, and what this young man was watching was a presentation. And people were coming up on the stage, one by one, telling them about different career fields in the medical field. Well this young man wasn't listening because he didn't really care what they had to say because ever since he was knee-high, the young man knew he wanted to be a heart surgeon. His grandpa was a heart surgeon, he always wanted to be like Grandpa.

So, his sight was set very early that he was going to be a heart surgeon. Well, he listened to nurses come up, he listened to pharmacists, he listened to x-ray techs, and all kinds of medical field people talk, and all he heard was "Blah, blah, blah." He didn't want to hear any of it until the surgeon came up and he knew that's what he wanted to do. So, they invited all of these students to come to individual classes -- it was an Exploring event on an open house night -- and they got to come to a hospital and meet who their post advisor - their leader was going to be for the first time.

So, this young man, of course, decided not to go to nursing, not to go to x-ray tech or anything like that, he went to the surgery. Well, the surgeon thought it would be really cool -- he wanted 100% participation -- he thought it would be really cool to make sure that every kid join that night. So, he let them each peak into the window.

And, as they peaked in the window, it was actually a heart surgery going on the other side. They didn't get to go in -- they just got to look in and one by one, the kids walked up to the window -- just like you would see on Scrubs or one of your favorite TV shows, peaked in the window, looked around. "Oh,

that's cool!" "Wow!" "That's awesome!" "Check out what they're doing in there!"

And this young man that was sitting in that auditorium and didn't listen to anyone else -- he knew he wanted to be a heart surgeon -- walked up to that window, peaked in, and fainted and hit the floor. And this is a true story, by the way. He hit the floor because he realized that he cannot stand the sight of blood. I don't know about you guys, but the last thing I want is a heart surgeon that faints at the sight of blood.

Well this young man decided, you know what, heart surgery probably is for Grandpa, not for me. So, after he woke up, he was going to go home, but he remembered that there were other posts meeting there that night. So, he walked down to the x-ray technician and walked in and asked it if had to do anything with blood. Of course, they said, "No, we don't deal with blood."

He walked in, it sparks his interest, he later becomes a very, very successful x-ray technician over the course of his life. So, my point is, I'm trying to get a point across that Exploring is not just about helping kids learn what they want to do for a career, but, most importantly, it helps kids eliminate or decide what they don't want to do for a career before they go, as we said earlier, wandering in the wilderness.

The last thing I want to say about that is, why do you care about that? Well, if you're a parent or a grandparent or you're going to hire somebody to do work, you want somebody qualified. And, you want to be able to get an air condition repair person at your house within a week if you're in Texas and you're AC goes out. Or, if you're in the North and your heater goes out in the winter, or if you want to get your car repaired, all that's important.

For a parent, you might care because you might not want to give your kid an open checkbook in college to roam around for two or three years and to drop classes, to take a book that costs \$300 and that book can't be used next year, they drop the class and you've just spent \$400 on a class that he/she got up and out of.

So, what does Exploring do? Well, before I get into that, I want to kind of talk about what we're doing on the BSA side for Exploring, then I'm going to talk a little bit about exactly what Exploring is. Well, some of you may, if you're involved in Boy Scouts or involved in local boards, you may have heard of something called Exploring Explosion. And, now I'm going to give you the short of it, basically Exploring Explosion is a national campaign to design - it's designed to ensure that Exploring will no longer be the best kept secret of Boy Scouts of America.

Basically, it's to help give every kid that we know an opportunity to get a real world, hands-on career experience. In other words, they get to find out what career they're interested in and it's not a lecture. The last thing we want to do in Exploring posts is do what my daughter is doing right now, and that's have them sit in a room while a professional talks to them about what they do. Exploring (unintelligible).

Instead of a nurse telling a student how to give a shot -- the nurse might use an orange, for example -- and actually let them have a hands-on activity. That's just a very small example, but that's the difference in showing versus telling.

So, Exploring Explosion was designed to get the word of exploring back out in front of everyone. A lot of people know about Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and Varsity Adventure, and Sea Scouts. But Exploring became on the back burner quite a while ago because we stopped counting it, we stopped making

it important. And, finally, we decided that our economy and the world needs Exploring again. So, we've come up with Exploring Explosion.

So, if anybody talks to you about Exploring Explosion, our official statement is, it's a mission driven nationwide growth campaign that's going to engage more volunteers and professionals and advance local program, ultimately, improve Journey to Excellence for local Councils.

But, more importantly, Exploring is to let youth decide about their careers. If you go to the next slide, on the 12 career fields of Exploring. If you think about Exploring in a sense, Exploring is a little different than traditional program. Exploring can be any organization, we're with government organizations, we're with police departments, many of you may have seen our Explorer post.

When you see young people dressed up in police uniforms, that's probably Explorers. When you see fire - young people dressed up in fire uniforms, that's probably Explorers.

Most of you know about police and fire, but you may not know about the other career fields that people can join as well. I'm not going to get too caught up in the 12 career fields, other than the fact that you can have an Explorer post for any particular career that you can think of. Whether that be an auto technician, a plumber, a carpenter, or a doctor, a lawyer. You can start a post, any business or any organization.

So, why Exploring and why is it important to kids? Well, on the next slide, you're going to see Exploring's five areas of emphasis. Number one, it's give them career opportunities, real world, hands-on career experience and that's so important. Kids these days are a lot more less attentive than we are.

In other words, you know, we live in a fast food world, right? If you're in a line at a fast food place and it's three cars long, we go somewhere else. If you're iPhone, if you pick it up and you try to use your iPhone and the Internet doesn't pop up, you're gone.

We just live in a fast food world. So, in the same manner, our kids want to learn a career very quickly to find out if they want to do it or not. So, career opportunities and to experience those opportunities are very important for you. They gain leadership experience.

Can you imagine it -- before you started your career -- what if you just had the opportunity to spend one week -- if you wanted to be a doctor or lawyer or a carpenter -- what if you got to spend one week with that type of person and talk to them about all the downfalls they had?

What education they did? What mistakes and good things they did along the way and what would they do different? Think about how much that would save a kid from all those things that you might make mistakes in in picking your career.

Number three, life skills. They learn conflict resolution, problem solving, relationship skills. They learn how businesses operate. In New York City, for example, if you want to be a police officer or fire fighter you pretty much have to be an Explorer.

And, why is that? Well, they learn the life skills along the way. Who would not rather hire someone who started at 14 years old, and this business watched this kid grow up in their business. The kid knows the ins and outs of the streets, they know the system, they know the name, they know the

terminology, and the business knows the character of this young person and they have invested in them.

They would much rather hire that person than someone from another state on a resume that they don't even know. So, life skills they'll learn along the way are extremely important.

Citizenship. They learn a lot about citizenship and character education. And, we'll talk a little bit about that a little bit later.

But, to move on, I just want to make sure everybody kind of understands, okay, what is Exploring and how does it start? I'm not going to get too much into details, but what I did want to do is just make you dangerous enough so that if somebody asks you, you could explain to them here's how our post operates and here's what it does.

If you look on the next slide, it's called the Four Phase Program Startup. And, basically, most of you know the parts of starting a new pack or a troop. Well, this is the part to starting a new club or a pack -- and by the way -- clubs are for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders; it introduces them to careers. And, most of you have heard of Explorer Posts -- which are ages 14 to the twenty-first birthday -- and that's the difference between clubs and post is the age. But, regardless of whether you're starting a club or a post, there's four phases to starting these units.

If you notice on the Four Phase Program Startup slide, there's research which is phase one. Leadership, which is phase two. Program, which is phase three. And, finally, participation, which is phase four.

If you're on the slide, take just a second to kind of glance over that and take in those four phases because we're just going to briefly touch on each one of those four phases so that you'll understand how Exploring operates.

So, in phase one, is research and what do we do in research? Well, if you look at the next slide, we have something called the Career Interest Survey. Now, if you're going to start Exploring Posts, it's important that you go out and start posts that kids are actually interested in. In other words, you don't want to start a post in a community that no kid wants to be involved in.

So, how do you find out what kids are interested in? Well, we have a career interest survey. Now, this is different than an aptitude test that kids take in school. An aptitude test leads them with a bunch of leading questions that ultimately tells them you need to be a doctor, or you need to be a lawyer, need to be a carpenter.

A career interest survey -- quite simply -- asks them this, what are your two top career interests and what are your top two hobby interests and what do you want to do post-high school? Do you want to go to college? What do you want to do?

So, this career interest survey allows us to go to local schools and actually survey the schools. Now, the good news is, we have two options on surveys. If you go to the next slide, you're going to notice what we call a scantron paper survey. The scantron paper survey that green survey is the old school, you guys remember filling in the dots on the little bubble form.

They pick their top two careers, their top two hobbies. The local Council can purchase those through national distribution center, through NBC. They hand those out to the students in a school, they pick them back up, they send them

to us, and we scan them for free, and then we give them a report back that shows what the kids are interested in.

Now, what's really going hot nowadays is we have the new online career interest survey. The online career interest survey -- if you go to the next slide - - actually go two slides down and you'll see a QR code. On the top of the slide, it'll say Online Career Interest Survey. If you want to -- go ahead and pull out your iPhone -- if you have that open on your computer screen, and click on that QR code if you have a QR code reader.

If you don't, just simply open your Internet browser and go to www.exploringyourcareer.com, that's [exploringyourcareer.com](http://www.exploringyourcareer.com), and check out our online survey. You're welcome to fill in any kind of name -- just make up a name -- it doesn't matter. You'll notice it auto populates for you.

I call my daughter -- she's a teenager -- I call her Thunder Thumbs. On the iPhone, it would take my daughter probably two minutes to fill this survey out. If you hover one of the career fields -- it'll even tell you about that career field so that if a student does not know what a particular career field is -- it helps them make that decision. But, that's our online survey.

When you have time, take that survey and check it out. I think you'll find that it'll - how easy it is for us to actually gather the interests of our students.

And, keep in mind, the fun thing about this online survey is that -- when the local professional along with the volunteer institutes the survey in a school -- they can get immediate results. It's not like the paper survey where you have to send them in and get them scanned and wait for the results. You can actually get instant results to find out what the students are interested in.

On the next slide, you're going to see a slide that's titled, Results: Report for the Council. It's, again, Results: Report for the Council. It has a big yellow star in the center. That's an example of one of the many reports you'll get back after doing the career interest survey.

Now, if you notice -- on this particular report -- 1,368 kids want to be a nurse, 1,138 want to be some kind of musician, and 945 want to be an attorney. So, that's the post we would start with. We would go to a local business and say, "Hey, Mr. Hospital Administrator, CEO, Community Outreach Director, did you know that 1,368 students want to be a nurse? Would you consider starting an Explorer Post so that we can give these kids real world career experiences?"

Now, you might be thinking, well why would that hospital do that? That's going to be a lot of work. Well, actually, it's not. What it's going to do is give them a great public image.

It's going to give them great promotion out in the field. It's going to give them a chance to raise moral in their departments by helping youth and helping kids decide and it's going to help them help kids make decisions to go into their field where they might be having a shortage. And, finally, it just might be a conduit for a future employee that they can actually groom right there in their own business. So, it's a win-win for everyone.

That's an example of one of the reports you get back. I don't have time to go into a lot of detail on the career interest survey. So, if you look at the next slide, you'll see what we call a Career Interest Survey Guidebook and we have that on our Web site at exploring.org and it has all kinds of stuff about career interest surveys in that book.

So, the next slide, you're going to notice on the research slide, let's say you can't do career interest surveys for some reason. Maybe the school won't let you do them or maybe you can't get in. New York City does a great job of going classroom to classroom.

They might go talk to the police department. Say, "Hey, will you start a Post?" And, they say, yes.

Then the Police Chief writes a letter to all the students and says, "Hey we want you to join us on a seven o'clock open house night." And, they actually go to the counselor or directly to the student and hand that invitation. Or, they mail it to the parents, as well. And, parents are always interested when they get a letter from an attorney or from the Sheriff, or from the police department inviting their kids to something that the kid showed interest in.

So, that is basically phase one. How to research and find out what students are interested in. The other phases we're going through very quickly, because I want to make sure I leave time to have for questions.

Under phase two, the leadership. If you look at the leadership slide. Once you find out what kids are interested in, you go find the key decision maker at the local organization -- and this is going to tie into the American Legion -- because many of you may have experience in careers and be able to help out a post and/or start a post.

They obviously take training. We have our training, now housed on my.scouting.org, you can go to exploring.org to get there. We train the adults, they have a committee, it sounds very similar to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The only difference is they have a Post Advisor versus a Scout Master or Cub

Master. They do have a Committee of members and they might have an Associate Advisor.

If you go to the next slide, they actually fill out applications. It's still \$24.00 per kid. Now, they can go to as many posts as they want once they pay that \$24.00; however, if they're in Boy Scouts and then Exploring, they have to pay the \$24.00 in each program because it's two different programs and we're actually under a separate 501c3. And that's because we do allow charting to government organizations and others and that's why we have the separation of the 501c3.

But, it's not that much different. The program is very much structured like a traditional program in the way that there's a committee and a leader and things like that.

We do have youth protection on the next slide. We require youth protection. So, when the leaders are selected by the CEO, for example, they will go through the basic leader training and youth protection training.

The next phase is program. Now, this is where the post actually plans the program, and I'm going to use the example of the hospital. The CEO would go to his employees and say, "Hey, I need 10 of you guys to help out with this post and each one of you are going to take a meeting and we're going to plan a program to give these kids real world, hands-on career experiences." And, what you do is you go through a process of what we call the all-in-one program planning meeting and that's where you actually take what the hospital does, such as x-rays, maybe doing a trauma event utilizing the local medivac helicopter, maybe you do casting where they get to make casts, maybe they have a mock surgery using Jell-O and things like that.

But, you plan a whole group of activities, the difference in Exploring, though, is that Exploring, they might meet for eight weeks straight and that might be it. Or, they might meet once a month for every month, they might meet twice a month, or every week, or their program might just be seven or eight weeks of solid good program and then take a break. It's very flexible for the organization. So, they do the all-in-one program planning meeting, they plan the activities they're going to do.

In addition, on the next slide, I hope all of you at some point will go to exploring.org and check out our new Web site. We just got new branding. We have a fresh new look, a fresh new brand, and that's it at www.exploring.org, o r g.

If you go to exploring.org, if you scroll down -- especially if you're on your iPhone -- look for activity library. If you open the activity library, you're going to see all kinds of activities we've started populating to help assist in the program activities. You're also going to see something very important called life skills that we're incorporating life skills into activities, as well.

So -- if you get a chance -- besides visiting the online career interest survey, go to exploring.org and check out our activity library. I think that you'll be excited about it.

On the next slide, you're going to see a sample post calendar. This is an example of what we just talked about at a hospital -- for example -- of what a post might do in nine meetings at a hospital. Now, it's very similar to the traditional program in that we encourage youth leadership. And as time goes on, the youth will actually take the roles of the leader and become the teachers just like our Boy Scout Adventuring programs.

Finally, our last phase in starting a new post is participation. That's where we have something we like - we call the open house. Back in the day -- any of you that were Explorers -- we used the term first nighters. We changed that to make the terminology more friendly to parents.

And, if you notice -- an open house first nighter -- if you go to that phase four participation slide, you'll notice that it's a very simple agenda. You do a welcome, what is Exploring, some kind of fun video on an Explorer that's already in the program, you do hands-on activities, you give them a little taste of what they're going to do in that post. In other words, you'll have activities set up that they actually participate in for five minutes or so and they'll rotate through about four or five of those.

You give them the calendar, you ask them to join, and, of course -- always with teenagers -- you have snacks. That's as simple as it gets on an open house. That's kind of like our Cub Scout recruitment night. You use the career interest surveys to invite them to the police department, the fire department, to the law office, or the hospital, wherever they're having the post.

Finally, I want to leave you guys with a few additional resources. I know I covered a lot in a very short period of time, but I wanted to give you an overview of Exploring and how it's operated so you could really think about how can we fit into this and how can we help local businesses or youth discover their future through Exploring. Some additional resources you'll see on the slide with the help button. It's entitled Additional Resources.

Our public Web site, again, is exploring.org. Please go there and check it out. I think you'll love it -- it's fresh, it's new -- we've designed it to be appealing to our youth. Our national campaign exploringexplosion.org.

Go in there and see if your local Council is listed on there. Every Council that signs up for Exploring Explosion is listed on that Web site. You'll also notice a message from our Chief Scout Executive. He was an Explorer and loves Exploring, as well.

And, finally, our training Web site right now is myparticipation.org. You can use your same user name and password as [my.scouting](http://my.scouting.org). We're moving to having most of our stuff housed on [my.scouting](http://my.scouting.org), but myparticipation.org is important.

Finally, our national contacts. For the different regions we have different Exploring Executives. I'm not going to read every one of their names off, you'll see it on that slide titled Your National Contacts. The point is, we have a team here that's more than willing to help local Councils.

We travel the country, this past year we've trained over 1,000 volunteers and professionals in how to start the Exploring program. And, there's tons of excitement going on out there.

The world is needing us right now. The U.S. -- especially -- is needing us. Kids need to find careers; we've got to help kids get in the skilled trades or train up. We've got to help them make a decision on whether or not they need to go to college.

And, I know this is going to be hard for you to hear if you're a parent, but not every kid needs to go to college nowadays. There's farmers that leave and go into business and make \$100,000.00 a year with zero college debt. I know one personally who did that. Nothing beyond a high school education other than getting his master plumber's license -- and it didn't take him four years -- and, he has zero college debt.

So, finally, my last slide. Something to think about, why should we use our resources for the Boy Scouts to prepare our youth for a career? It's quite simple, because we can. If we can help a youth make a good decision and get in the right career, be happy for the 47 years they're going to be working, man, haven't we done a great job?

We have the resources to deploy in all two hundred and something Councils across America to help our local communities start Explorer Posts. You may have a job shortage in your community -- where maybe a factory or an auto tech or are someone needing jobs -- and this is an answer to help them do that. And, that's what Exploring's about. It's to help young people discover their future.

Or, Marcos, what I'd like to do now is open up for questions. And, if I didn't cover something that they were hoping I would cover. But the last thing I want to leave you all with as you're thinking about any questions that you have, is how could you fit in this? Maybe, it's starting a post as you all discussed earlier. Maybe there's a specific post you could start.

Maybe it's being an advisor or volunteer at a local post to help provide your expertise in your career field. Regardless of how you get involved, Exploring will help young people make good decisions. And we hope that you'll decide to adopt this program much like you have done such a great job in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. So, I wanted to open it up now for questions or any comments that there may be.

Kathy Nees: Mr. Anderson, this is Kathy from the Department of Iowa, just one question. (Unintelligible) The names of these kids that are taking these surveys and exploring their careers, as you may say. Would maybe some of those names

be available to our American Legion posts around the nation, not only just in Iowa? That those names would be made available to us -- we could also offer them opportunities -- like to attend Boys State, that has a maybe a, you know, like a highway patrol program, you know, possibly, our oratorical, or our junior shooting sports program. Is there a way to cross those so that we could have access to those names so that the post can contact them?

(Tim Anderson): So, let me try and give you the short answer to that. It's really not our decision. I'm not going to bore you with all the legal terms. But, we have to follow what they call FERPA and part of FERPA is when we do these surveys in the schools we agree not to share their information with other organizations. We do it simply to invite them to a career.

What could happen though is that if we did get the information -- and the local Council has that information, the kids join a post -- there's no reason why you can't reach through the local Council to those kids that join a post. But FERPA doesn't allow for us to just take that information we're gathering and hand it off to someone. Does that make sense?

Kathy Nees: It does. It's the same thing we run into with lots of different programs. So...

(Tim Anderson): But there's a way around that. Like I said, you know, if there - because Exploring is starting to grow. I don't know if you guys know this or not, but I didn't mention it at the beginning.

You know, we want a problem -- obviously -- in the Boy Scouts with a long period of time, an Eagle Scout in the program was an Explorer. We haven't grown in a long time. We're one of the best kept secrets, Exploring has grown for seven consecutive months so we're on our way to grow for the next month

and we're expecting to have growth this year. The communities are eating up this program. United Way's love it. Companies love it. It's a win-win.

So, my point is even though we can't share that information with (unintelligible) surveys with you guys, as Explorer Coast grow, and we get those kids in there, you would have access to those kids through the local Council.

Kathy Nees: Okay. Thank you.

((Crosstalk))

(Tim Anderson): Good question. Yes, sir.

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim Davidson) at the Department of Washington again. You listed 12 career fields, which pretty well encompasses most things that we would encounter but we've had some interest in an exploring post that would address military careers. Now we say that because, you know, the immediate response would be, "Well, you've got ROTC." The problem is ROTC doesn't fit into smaller schools. You have to maintain at least 100 kids to maintain an ROTC and that's just not feasible in many locations. But, there are many kids of exploring age that are perhaps looking towards the military.

Now, I suppose you could fit them into one of these 12 career fields and then say, "Well, you know, you can get training in the military for this field." But, would there be a possibility of having a military careers type career field in Exploring?

(Tim Anderson): Absolutely. And let me say one thing. I want to give you a couple - that's a great question. I really think it's interesting now days. So, right now, if you

notice on that slide labeled (unintelligible) career fields, you see how old those things look? They're very out of date. We're going through complete new branding right now. You know, our new logos on our Web site exploring.org.

But, we're going through a complete re-branding. Those 12 career fields are nothing more -- and I'm going to answer your question -- but I want to make sure everybody understands this. The 12 career fields are nothing more than a cluster. The US Department of Education calls theirs 16 career clusters. And you said it the best way. Every career in America in our eyes falls under one of those 12 career fields now. It doesn't mean that that name represents it. But when they fill out the credential survey for example, the military careers fall under what we're calling Law and Government. That's going to be the name of the career field that that's going to fall under.

And I actually have one of my team members right now in my Southern Region Director Justin Lewter, if you want to write his name down, I'll have Marcos give you his email. It's justin.lewter@scouting.org. Justin's actually working with the military group right now and they're constructing lesson plans and all kinds of curricula along with a committee to address the military careers. So, we're definitely working on that and it's definitely going to become prominent in our new logo that we're doing for Law and Government Exploring is actually going to have some military stuff on the badge.

(Jim Davidson): Okay. That's good. The other question I had again this is (Jim Davidson), Department of Washington. You mentioned Explorer Clubs and you kind of glanced over that real fast. That's for basically junior high, middle school aged youth. Is that correct?

(Tim Anderson): Yes. We created that for sixth, seventh and eighth graders and the reason why we did is to just the Department of Education started pushing career development at a young age. And anybody that's got kids in school, you know, right now, that once your kid gets about the time they get in junior high, they're picking a career and their first year in high school they've already selected one. The sixth, seventh and eighth grade Explorer Clubs were developed to help introduce kids to careers that are over your age.

And let me give you an example what a club might look like. A quick example versus a post. Let me use our law enforcement. So, law enforcement post the kids might do advanced stuff such as ride alongs, where they ride along with the police officers. Whereas the sixth, seventh and eighth grade wouldn't be ready for that yet. So, they would do less. Technical or advanced plans.

Many times, Explorer Clubs will focus on many different careers where they introduce the kids to say, four or five different careers versus focusing on one because what they're trying to do is allow the kid to use to actually experience careers and make a decision on what path they want to go down. So, the only difference in clubs and posts is that the uniqueness of activity and its age appropriate.

Man: I think they're coming for you.

(Jim Davidson): That's isn't from my end. Okay, well thank you. That helps answer the question I had.

((Crosstalk))

Jim Stewart: This is Jim Stewart from the Department of Nevada. I wanted to chime in about the Explorer post and the relationship with the military. When I was an Explorer -- when I was young -- I was actually a member of a post that was Search and Rescue and it was actually sponsored by the Air Force Base Fire department. And we actually worked together and that connects to the way to stow the military relationship because our bases and our posts could do that through these 12 areas that we have already available to us.

(Tim Anderson): Sure. Absolutely. And you know what? That's what we're needing more than anything out there is when the Council identifies the kids that want to do it, especially if it's a small business. Sometimes they need some extra volunteers and you know some people that has some experience in those careers.

I know several of you have mentioned military. And here's what I love about Exploring. What you just said about your military experience, my wife's a pharmacist and I always joke about this all the time. I don't understand half the word she uses -- I just nod and say yes and smile when she's telling about her job because I don't understand what she's doing -- I don't have to train my wife about anything about being a pharmacist just like I wouldn't have to train you guys about being in the military. All we have to do is help design a program that takes what you know and make it kid friendly and hands on.

That's a big difference in the traditional programs; the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts where you're given books about how to run from A to Z, where in reality, all your doing is taking your real-world skills and applying those to use hands on and a military what you described is perfect - is a perfect example of where you could do that with limited training, by the way.

(Michael Feast): This is (Mike)....

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim) from the Department of Washington. I would just like to again remind people that if we are to grow the legions participation in Scouting, then one of the things that we need to make sure that we do is that we are the chartered organization for this Explorer post using the resources that our community to provide the program. Otherwise, those youths won't qualify for some of our scholarships. The - by lack of being associated with a Legion post.

(Tim Anderson): Absolutely. And you know, we work the same way as traditional (unintelligible) does. We have a little different terminology. It doesn't really matter. We call them participating organizations versus charter organizations but it's still the same process. They fill out a new unit application, the \$40.00 fee, the \$24.00 fee for kids is still, you know, still the same.

But we have all kinds of partners that we deal with. We just signed a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Tom Donahue. And they're in it for the same reasons. All these community partners such as Rotary, you guys.

If everybody bans together and somebody is the charter organization - there's some posts that go place to place and let me give you an example. Maybe the local law firm wouldn't commit to eight or nine weeks of program. But three or four law firms would agree to do one or two meetings. The kids meet in different law firms every other week for eight or nine weeks and they get the point of view from different lawyers, maybe go into court, and things like that.

That's an example of how community partners can come together and maybe in some cases, they don't even need a standard meeting place because their meeting place is going to be the place of employer but what they do need is someone like you said, to be the participating organization to help weed it out.

((Crosstalk))

(Michael Feast): This is (unintelligible) in California.

(Tim Anderson): Yes.

Man: I'm not very familiar with Explorer Clubs. Do they include girls?

(Tim Anderson): Oh, absolutely. I'm sorry I didn't say that. I always assume - I forget people don't always know that. Explorers are actually boys and girls and what's really cool about Exploring is it represents our country. You know right now BSAs trying to be real diverse and we're trying to reach out to our other communities; our non-Caucasian communities. If you go to an Explorer post, the chance that you're going to see a very diverse, it's about 50/50 male/female across the country. We have about 110,000 Explorers in about 4900 posts and clubs and posts of both male and female are open to everyone.

Paul Gish: Paul Gish from Tennessee. Quick question.

(Tim Anderson): Yes, sir.

Paul Gish: When did the Explorer program start?

(Tim Anderson): Actually, the Explorer program is 60 - you asked me off the top of my head, I could have told you. I think it's about 65 years old. Any other time I would have known that off the top of my head.

Paul Gish: The reason I ask is I'm retired law enforcement in Florida and we had Explorers come and ride along with the officers in the Sheriff's office that I work with and I can't tell you how valuable this program is. It's incredible.

These kids they recruited I guess probably 35 or 40 kids that would come out randomly and ride along and they would go through every facet of law enforcement. They would go through traffic investigation, automobile accident investigation, crime scene techniques, detective investigations. All facets of law enforcement. And I got to tell you it was like a moth to flame, these kids really got into it and enjoyed it. This is really a very valuable program. And I support it 100%.

(Tim Anderson): Well, thank you. That's - you know what's great about it. Just like when I was a youth, I never was in Cub Scouts but I started in Boy Scouts. I'm one of the rare people who got recruited as I was older. And I was in Boy Scouts.

The great thing is about Exploring, is everyone's going to choose a career we hope. I know not everyone does but so far we hope everybody in America chooses a career.

So, even if they're in sports, in Boy Scouting or whatever, Exploring still has a value for every single young person because of what you just said. I mean, it teaches every kid some valuable skills and I can't tell you how many police officers and sheriff's - I would challenge you to walk in to any of your police departments, fire departments or sheriff's offices and ask if they're Explorers and I think it would blow you away to find out how deep the Explorer Program runs. So, thanks for that.

Paul Gish: Out of the 25 kids that I personally knew that were in the Explorer Program, 19 of them went into law enforcement. So, that says something about the program.

(Tim Anderson): That's awesome!

Paul Gish: Yes, it is. It really was.

(Jim Davidson): You know, this is (Jim Davidson) again and in Washington. This opens up the door to positive development for youth to get into those careers. And I say that because one of the problems that we face here locally -- for example the Washington State Patrol is forever recruiting for individuals -- but they can't find qualified individuals because of three reasons. One, the kids haven't completed high school. Two, they're not physically fit to meet the standards. And three, they have a history of drug use. Those are eliminating factors just as they would be for the military.

So, I look at this and say, Okay, if you start the club, you're hitting youth that are just now getting into that impressionable age where they make those bad life decisions that subsequently lead to dropping out of high school, being poorly physically fit and perhaps into drug use. If we can interfere with that process through this method, Washington State Patrol and the military isn't going to have problems recruiting.

(Tim Anderson): Oh. Absolutely. And let me give you three examples of that. You can probably Google Harlem Boy Scouts or Harlem Exploring, Ferguson. We make an effort to (unintelligible) start Post. When I say we, the local Council. Chicago, we're starting to get into communities - we're actually putting together a national initiative right now.

We have one of the strongest law enforcement committees. We have the FBI, DEA, Homeland Security, all on our - the Commissioner from D.C. - on our law enforcement committee and we're putting together a national incentive right now to make sure everybody understands what Exploring is and how it can help their community improve relations between the community and the

kids. And what you had said is exactly right. The idea behind Explorer Clubs is no different than a Cub Scout Pack and a Boy Scout Troup relationship.

Think about how a post and what kids can get out of it, if they went through the program and learned from the (unintelligible) officers and then they talk to young people in the club -- not the adults -- the kids always learn better from older kids. What if Explorers taught the clubs, the Explorer Posts taught the Explorer Clubs, you know, the same skills they're learning. It's just a way to pass on and to make the kids feel good about themselves and it works, for sure.

Marcos Nava: Well great. Thank you Tim. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us...

(Tim Anderson): Absolutely.

Marcos Nava: ...about this great program. Our planning committee for this training conference was right. It was - we thought it would be an interest to the Legionnaires and it seems like it by the number of questions that were asked and comments it was of interest. We will now continue with our next program. And I give it back to our - my great friend Shayne Abrahams.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. Thank you. Just quickly just want to provide some information for you guys regarding what's going on here at National Headquarters. Last year in terms of the Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship, we received 33 applicants'. I think we're kind of holding par there. My goal is that we have every department submit an application.

The winner was Jacob Kelley. A great young man out of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. He's a Cadet at West Point. Wonderful young man. He did a great job at national convention. Received a \$10,000.00 scholarship. The Bill Grand

Award, again there we recognize the department with the most Scouting activity and this year's winner was the Department of New York. We - is that the Department of New York I hear?

Bill Douglas: No, it's the Department of Pennsylvania. Go ahead.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. If you don't know, over the last couple of years, we've offered online Eagle Scout and C-Scout Quartermasters Certificates of Recognition. You simply go the Web site, put in the information and you can download a certificate under the National Commander's signature.

To date, we've provided 16,260 Eagle Scout Certificates and 10,351 C Scout Quartermaster Certificates. So, that program's working very well for us. Square Knot Awards, at the end of 2015, we had awarded 588 Square Knot Awards to adult volunteers.

And the great news is for 2017, we're getting out of the teleconference business and we're going to have our first conference on the ground. It's going to be the weekend of October the 27th. We'll get you in there on the Friday, meet all day Saturday, wrap things up on the Sunday. And it's going to be at BSA headquarters. So, stayed tuned for more details.

Kathy Nees: Is that in Texas?

Shayne Abrahams: Dallas, Texas. Correct. Okay. If there aren't any questions about that information, what I'd like to do is provide you guys with a few minutes to kind of give us an update or just kind of share anything that might be on your mind for the good of the American Legion. I'll open the floor at this time.

Brent Hagel-Pitt: Okay, Shayne. This is Brent Hagel-Pitt., Nebraska.

Shayne Abrahams: How are you sir?

Brent Hagel-Pitt: Yes. I vote no on the conference in Texas. As I sit here in my pajamas eating a bowl of cereal, this is very convenient. So, I thought I'd throw my two cents in there on the physical meeting at some location.

Kathy Nees: I'd like to see that personally.

Shayne Abrahams: We appreciate that.

Man: I'll second it.

Shayne Abrahams: And incidentally, I'm not sure if I mentioned that it will not be a call-in. Unfortunately.

Brent Hagel-Pitt: Probably not for me.

((Crosstalk))

Shayne Abrahams: It resonates with me though. So...

Bill Douglas: Shayne. It's Bill Douglas from the Department of Pennsylvania. One of the things I want to let you know that we're doing - we have a rough draft right now made up - we're working on submitting a resolution next year at National Convention. We want to open up a program for Legionnaire Scouter of the Year. We do it here in Department of Pennsylvania and it has worked really well to recognize those Legionnaire Scouters in our organization. I happen to be the recipient of last year's award. It's very rewarding and it creates a lot of

good publicity for the Scouting departments. How do you guys feel about that?

Shayne Abrahams: Well, let me - before we get into that discussion, let me just back things up and just remind folks that in terms of resolutions we receive probably about a million resolutions a day here. Half of them are Scouting. I'm just joking.

But in terms of resolutions, the process is that our various Americanism Commission and the Youth Activities Subcommittee they make the determination in terms of if a resolution flies in form of a recommendation. So, what I would like is ask that we don't use this forum to promote a resolution.

I appreciate the information; however, just it through the normal channels. If it passes your department and it makes it to the Americanism desk, then it definitely will be up for consideration probably in May of 2017. But it sounds like you're doing some great things there.

Bill Douglas: Yes. Thank you. We are...

((Crosstalk))

Bill Douglas: We intend to go the regular resolution route.

Shayne Abrahams: There you go.

(George Lewd): Shayne. Good afternoon. This is (George Lewd). I'm from the Department of Ohio. I formed the post in '94 in Mason, Ohio. Southwest Ohio is in that area. Northern Kentucky, which includes quite a bit of area. And we have been trying to get our four posts in Ohio portion of our Council in one post in the

Kentucky portion of our Council submit the Eagle of the Year and the problem is the two reasons is the boy must have the Scout Religious Award plus he must go onto American Legion post-sponsored unit or have a father or grandmother - someone in the American Legion family. What are other areas in the country doing to promote this? I know we have never had a winner - a top winner in Kentucky or Ohio for the Eagle Scout of the Year.

Elwin Spray: (George), this is Elwin Spray from the Scout side of the table. And I know that we'd be really interested in hearing specifically about the exact churches that might be not participating and know that really doesn't answer the question because part of it has to do with the actual award itself. And it is a requirement of the award but it's something that we'd like to hear about the specific unit. So, maybe if I could ask, could you email that to Shayne and let me hear about it.

(George Lewd): Yes, I will. I have a protestant committee of the (Danberg) Council working on this right now. And we talk about additional units, additional Scouts, additional units and sponsored by American Legion and service organizations. I happen to be the Fillmont Ambassador representing (Danberg) Council and looking over my rapporteur of from our training center offerings in the last 15-20 years, I don't see anything offered at Fillmont for by the American Legion that would present the mechanics of growing in the American Legion realm of the Scouting movement.

Elwin Spray: This is Elwin Spray again. That actually falls in again my belly wick. And so, what's going on is we've been in conversation about doing it primarily as a - this is for those of you who aren't aware of it Fillmont is basically a week-long course.

We've also discussed whether or not we could do it either at C-Base or at the Summit in kind of a shorter version but with the idea that we try to get together multiple organizations that are all pretty much in the same situation. All of our community relationship guys are -- this is the Lyons and the Rotary's and the Sons of the American Revolution, the MOWW -- things like that, all the same. We all elect officers on a yearly basis. We're all non-profits, we're all involved that way and we're all supporting Scouting.

So, what we've talked about is trying to do a joint activity with the idea that maybe it would be one day or so breakout for American Legion so that you can talk specifically about the American Legion or and the Lyons could talk about the Optimists could talk about and we could all do breakout sessions all along that line.

So, that's something that has been on the table. We've been continually discussing and so hopefully it will come to fruition. I don't know what the time table is.

(George Lewd): Okay. Thank you.

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim Davidson).

((Crosstalk))

Jim Stewart: This is Jim Stewart, Department of Nevada. I'd like to bring up go back to the situation with the resolutions. And I know that Americanism has put on - put four PSA resolutions for further study. And I was just wanting to know what the status of those four resolutions held for study.

Shayne Abrahams: That's a great question Jim. And the status is they're being held for resolution. So, we're not even two weeks out of fall meetings. So, I would imagine the staff here including myself at some point in time, will probably take a look at those, gather some information. But those recommendations won't go to the Youth Activity Subcommittee until May. So, at this point, nothing's being done. But probably as we get a little closer to that time, we'll probably move on those.

Jim Stewart: Well, I was just curious on what kind of research is needed to be done. Is it financial? Budget? Is it background?

Shayne Abrahams: Well you know for Jim for the sake of this conference call, why don't you contact me offline and I can answer any specific questions you have.

Jim Stewart: Will do.

Shayne Abrahams: Thank you.

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim Davidson) with the Department of Washington. I'd like to just go back to the comment that was made regarding the requirements for the Eagle Scout of the Year Award. Every year we hear I stated as complaints about the requirement of the religious recognition being earned. I just need to always remind people that the first words out of our mouth as Legionnaires when we recite the preamble to our constitution is, "For God and Country." And that this Eagle Recognition is based, you know, the requirements for it were established as I understand it by the family that initially funded this thing.

So, I don't want to see that eliminated. The fault is with us, with the leaders of our units who don't promote the religious aspect of Scout development. After

all the 12 Scout Law is a Scout is reverent. And I would point out that the new 2016 Boy Scout requirements do have a religious component added into it.

So, if you're not familiar with those requirements, I suggest you go get the book and read up a little bit because that's something we're going to have to promote with our youth. And for those youth that are unchurched, it's still not a difficult problem. There are programs for religious activities for youth out of Saint Luis, the PRAY Program, has materials that are suitable for anyone on a generic basis. It doesn't have to be tied church specific. So, I don't view it as a problem personally.

Shayne Abrahams: (Jim), thank you for those comments. You know, I may connect you with - I have another department whose kind of struggling with that and if you don't mind, I may have that Chairman reach out to you for some assistance and guidance if you're available to speak with them.

(Jim Davidson): Sure, that's fine.

Shayne Abrahams: Thanks.

(Jerry Lowell): Shayne, can I ask one more question?

Shayne Abrahams: Sure.

(Jerry Lowell): This is (Jerry Lowell) up in Colorado. At the beginning of the conference you mentioned that it's not a requirement the Scouting Committee Chairman be involved in Scouting or did I misunderstand that?

(Jim Davidson): This is (Jim Davidson) with the Department of Washington. We have that requirement in our department. That anyone that's working with Scouting has

to be a current registered Scouter. And we did that because we had people floating around years ago who were evaluating Eagle Scout of the Year applications who based their Scouting experience on being a Cub Scout 60 years before. So, they really didn't understand the Boy Scout program. They weren't currently trained. They didn't know how the advancement worked. All kinds of issues. And, we also did it for youth protection. So, personally, I feel that we all should be current registered, trained Scouters.

(Jerry Lowell): It was my understanding, when I came onboard about five years ago, that that was the first requirement they asked me. Am I a current, registered Scout Leader? And I said yes and I sent them a copy of my youth protection program.

Shayne Abrahams: And I think that's - that varies from department to department because I'm aware of departments that don't have current registered Scouters.

(Lee Croutes): Hi. This is (Lee Croutes) from The Department of Illinois. I can attest to what the guy from Washington just said. We had a guy on our committee who had never been a Scout and he had no clue when we got into doing the Scout of the Year and our department scholarship for Eagle Scout of the Year. And, you know, it was an education thing for him. Now, everybody on our committee is a registered Leader.

(Jerry Lowell): Shouldn't that be a national requirement though?

Man: I thought it was.

Shayne Abrahams: That's a - the thing with our row is you know we provide technical support and guidance but we really can't dictate what happens at the department level. And going back to the beginning of the conference, we had talked about

sharing information about the Council Commissioners to kind of give you insight in terms of how to organize your Scouting activities in your department. do we think it's a good idea that your Chairman be involved in Scouting? Yes. But again, that's your call.

((Crosstalk))

(Jerry Lowell): Can we go through our department and recommend this then?

Shayne Abrahams: Can you do that? I think you can by way of resolution.

(Jim Davidson): That's what we did in Washington. We did it by resolution a number of years ago. There was absolutely no pushback on it at all. And its standing procedure now when new district commanders are elected, they are advised that when they select their Scouting Chairman it has to be a current registered Scouter.

It's really posed no problem for us -- though we do have one district where they can't ever seem to find a registered Scouter -- but It's a unique district. It's very rural and it's just difficult. But, it hasn't posed problems for us otherwise. And it's improved our ability to look critically at Eagle Scout of the Year applications because people pretty much understand what they're looking at.

((Crosstalk))

Bill Douglas: We do the same thing in Pennsylvania. We made a - we went through resolution years ago. And made it a requirement that you be a registered Scouter to be on the Scouting Committee and it has worked out very, very well that way.

(Michael Feast): This is Michael Feast, Department of California. Hello?

Shayne Abrahams: Hi.

(Michael Feast): So, I have a different subject. I'm the Chairman of the Sequoia Council Alumni Association and I've been - I would like to encourage the American Legion to become an affiliate member of the Alumni Affinity Group type thing like firefighters are. I'd just like to promote that and we'd like to do that in California too.

Shayne Abrahams: thank you for that.

(Lee Croutes): Shayne. This is (Lee Croutes) again from the Department of Illinois. I was at the Americanism Meeting that they had at the National Convention and they talked about scholarship for Summit Award and - like the Eagle Award. And I got up there that was going to get shot down and I got up and explained the Summit Award is different because girls can earn that where Eagle Scout they cannot. And so, that objection would have been - happened to be in the Department of California, that guy said, yes I forgot about that and he apologized. Well the thing I forgot about was we don't have anything like the Summit Award or Quartermaster Award for C-Scouts.

And that was something I should have mentioned at that meeting but I didn't think of it until like four or five hours later. So, I just wondered if there's a way we can that included?

Shayne Abrahams: You know, you can submit a resolution to speak to that. And you know, all resolutions are welcome. So, yes, I would just encourage you to use that channel.

Wayne Chatfield: This is Wayne Chatfield: with the Department of Arizona. And I submitted a resolution this year to the Department of Arizona to be passed on. So, if there's any other departments interested, your appreciation is most welcome.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. Thank you for that. What we like to do now - we're getting kind of close on time -- so let's - I'd like to thank you for all the comments. We really appreciate them. I'll just kind of talk about the action items out of this office from this conference it sounds like at the request of the Americanism Commissioner for us to take a look into a merit badge for the American Legion. If you have any comments or anything, please put those in the form of an email. Send them over to me or give me a call if you want to submit any information.

Secondly, again, the call for action, the call for assistance, if you want to participate in the 2017 Jamboree, again, send me your background -- a brief background information -- and your availability and we send that through authorization channels.

And lastly, membership growth initiative. Marcos and I have been talking about identifying a couple departments to work with us on the specialized initiative. If you're interested in doing that, please again, just send me an email and me and Marcos will schedule some time with you to talk about if we can kick that off in your backyard.

Sherry? Having said that, what I'd like to do if you haven't been recognized, for the record -- for the minutes -- could you please, if you joined us late, I mean you missed the roll call, at this time, could you just tell us your department and your name and your position? For the record?

(Jerry Lowell): (Jerry Lowell), Department of Colorado, Committee Chairman.

Paul Gish: Paul Gish.

Wayne Chatfield: Wayne Chatfield:, Department of Arizona, Committee Chairman.

Paul Gish: Paul Gish, Department of Tennessee, Boy Scout Committee Chairman.

(Lee Croutes): (Lee Croutes) Department of Illinois, Vice-Chairman for the Scouting Committee.

Shayne Abrahams: Okay. It sounds like we got everyone. Again, I want to thank everyone for participating. If you have any issues, any questions or anything, feel free to give me a call or an email and if there's no other business, I'd like to turn it over to Elwin for closing remarks and a benediction and interment.

Elwin Spray: Well I think Shayne has summarized up pretty much what we were trying to do and I think we're - the whole point of all of our activities here is to try to make sure that we're helping America's youth and I think that's the bottom line is just to always keep that in mind.

One of the things to do if you've got any suggestions on how we can make this conference better, please, please share those and I'd like to just do a summary here. Or not a summary but just as a benediction, I'd like to ask if we could all assume an attitude of prayer and we ask our Heavenly Father help us to do our very best this day, not by worrying about whether we are right but by doing the right thing. May we understand that the roots of happiness grow deepest in the soul of service. Amen.

(Group): Amen.

Elwin Spray: Thank you very much. Shayne?

Shayne Abrahams: Have a great day and Happy Holidays and we'll see you soon. Take care.

Kathy Nees: Thank you Shayne.

(Group): Thank you Shayne.

Woman: Thank you. New York out.

Operator: We're sorry. Your conference is ending now. Please hang up.

END