



For God and Country

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DATE: January 23, 2018  
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MEMORANDUM TO: Department Scouting Chairpersons  
Conference Attendees

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> DEPARTMENT SCOUTING  
CHAIRPERSONS CONFERENCE

Attached is the report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual American Legion Department Scouting Chairpersons Conference and the teleconference transcript that was held on October 28-29, 2017 in Westlake, Texas.

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

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding the Scouting and The American Legion. With our best wishes for success in 2018, I remain,

Sincerely,

Shayne Abrahams Sr.  
Assistant Director  
Americanism Division

Attachments

cc: Richard W. Anderson, Chairman, Americanism Commission  
Department Adjutants  
Jill Druskis, Director, Americanism Division

The American Legion  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Teleconference  
October 28-29, 2017  
Westlake, Texas

Digest of Proceedings

Saturday, October 28, 2017

**Call to Order**

- Shayne Abrahams Sr. (IN), Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion, called the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Conference to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Attendance**

- Department chairpersons, alternates, and guests introduced themselves to the group. Eleven departments were represented by their chairperson or designated alternate with a total of twenty-five in attendance. Attendees included: Alabama - Kenneth Nichols, Colorado - Jerry W. Lollar, Florida - Rick Hewett, France - Thomas Buckner, South Carolina - Andrew “Rick” Uhrich, Maryland - Dana Edwards, Michigan - Clyde Sinclair, Nevada - Jim Stewart, Arkansas - Lessley Carroll, Oregon - Larry Wittmayer, Pennsylvania - William D. Douglass Sr., Americanism Chairman, Richard Anderson, as well as subject matter experts and other guests, Elwin Spray, Marcos Nava, Tim Anderson, Barbara Powers, De Tan Nguyen, Keynote Speaker, Juliette Turner, Executive Director, Constituting America, Janine Turner, Founder and Co-Chair, Constituting America, Safwan Chowdhury, Tanner Sanderson, Steven Sanders and Lee Shaw of BSA Troop 1978, TX

**Salute to Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and the Boy Scout Oath**

- Safwan Chowdhury and Tanner Sanderson of Boy Scout Troop 1978, Duck Creek District Circle Ten Council, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Garland, TX conducted the Salute to Colors.

**Invocation and POW-MIA Empty Chair Recognition**

- Jim Stewart (NV) gave the invocation and conducted the ceremony in respect to and honor of POWs and MIAs.

**Youth Spotlight**

- Barbara Powers introduces Safwan Chowdhury, a Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 1978, Duck Creek District Circle Ten Council, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Garland, TX.
- Safwan Chowdhury is a current high school senior, Vice President of the International Thespian Society Troupe 3072, Vice President of nationally ranked Speech and Debate Team and a National Merit Semifinalist. He attended The American Legion Texas Boys State in the summer of 2017. At the Texas Boys State, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he held the position of Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Chowdhury has been a troop instructor, an assistant senior patrol leader and a patrol leader. He is a member of American Legion Post 53. Mr. Chowdhury provided an oral presentation.

- Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson presents Scouts Safwan Chowdhury and Tanner Sanderson of Boy Scout Troop 1978, Duck Creek District Circle Ten Council, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Garland, TX, with American Legion Certificates of Appreciation.

### **Welcome & Greetings**

- Marcos Nava, National Office, Boy Scouts of America, introduces Elwin Spray and Richard Anderson.
- By conference call Elwin Spray, Chairman, Community Relations Task Force, Boy Scouts of America provides his welcome and greetings to the conference members.
- Shayne Abrahams introduces and reads a brief biographical sketch of Americanism Commission Chairman, Richard Anderson.
- Chairman Anderson provides welcome and greetings and extends an invitation to the group for dinner with him by a sign-up sheet provided leaving at 5:00 pm in the hotel lobby.
- Nettie Williams, Program Assistant to Shayne Abrahams, introduces herself and conducts The American Legion Scouting Chairpersons' Roll Call for the Conference, provides information regarding hotel logistics, details for the group lunch later and requests any corrections to the Chairpersons' contact information.

### **Remarks; Introductions & Conference Objectives**

- Shayne Abrahams, Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion, welcomes everyone and introduces himself. Mr. Abrahams explains his role for The American Legion Scouting program.
- Mr. Abrahams reviews the Conference Agenda and objectives, requests that conference attendees complete the lunch menu selection form in their packets and give those forms to Nettie Williams for the group lunch coordination.
- Mr. Abrahams explains that the group lunch is being hosted by Constituting America, compliments of the keynote speaker, Juliette Turner, Executive Director. Please extend thank you for the gracious invitation.

- Mr. Abrahams also explains that dinner is Chairman's choice. Dinner will be wherever Chairman Anderson would like to attend. Transportation will be provided in front of the hotel to leave at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is provided at attendee's own expense.
- Marcos Nava, National Office, Boy Scouts of America, extends a welcome to the conference attendees and introduces Lee Shaw, the Director of National Alliances, Boy Scouts of America.
- Lee Shaw, the Director of National Alliances, Boy Scouts of America, provides a welcome and brief remarks.
- Mr. Nava provides final remarks and objectives regarding this great opportunity for the volunteers and experts to learn together and from each other.
- Mr. Abrahams provides a brief explanation of the training to occur in the afternoon session and provides information regarding the login information for the video conference link.

#### **Review of the 2016 American Legion Scouting Conference**

- Mr. Nava provides an overview of the 2016 American Legion Scouting Conference. The overview includes information regarding the process of minutes and transcripts of the meetings as well as a survey for completion after the meetings. Mr. Nava reiterates taking the information to the Departments in order to filter to the BSA Units.
- Mr. Abrahams gives some background information regarding the Scouting Chairperson Conference meetings currently in its 5<sup>th</sup> year explaining why the conferences were started, interest levels, and financial status of staff call-ins. Staff call-ins are not yet approved or budgeted. Mr. Abrahams extended appreciation to the Chairpersons who have committed to the Scouting program and their own expense. After a couple of online conference meetings and because of the increase in interest, it was determined that face-to-face conference meetings would be effective.
- Mr. Abrahams announces that next year, the 6th Annual Department Scouting Chairpersons Conference will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Preliminary discussions have already started with BSA. Potentially, the Conference will kick-off on Thursday with dinner and then a keynote speaker and in-house training on Friday. That Saturday, there could be some outdoor activity centered around Train-the-Trainer. This information is being shared now on order to allow the Departments ample time to budget for this Conference. The goal is for the Chairpersons to bring young Legionnaires with a passion for Scouting for training. On Sunday, there would be a post-memorial service and adjournment. This will occur the last week in October 2018 at the Summit.

### **2017 BSA Jamboree Review**

- Mr. Abrahams provided an overview of the 2017 BSA Jamboree.
- The nine (9) volunteers that attended the 2017 BSA Jamboree were:
  - Elmer Palmer, Montana
  - William Sloane, Alabama
  - Peter McMurtie, North Carolina
  - Ray Untiet Jr., Alaska
  - Rick MacDonald, South Dakota
  - William Rich, Montana
  - Gerald Brannon, North Carolina
  - Cary McMasters, North Carolina
  - Adam Cejka, Nebraska
- The volunteers manned a booth, answering any questions, distributing patches and other informational materials.
- Mr. Abrahams expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Nava and the BSA Staff for their support during the Jamboree. Mr. Abrahams extended a special thanks to Larry Chase, Recruitment and Retention Chair, Boy Scouts of America, who, along with Mr. Nava, served as the point person to assist and ensure the National Commander arrived timely at appointed designations.
- The American Legion Past National Commander (PNC) Charles Schmidt was in attendance for two (2) days at the National Jamboree and had an opportunity to touch base with the Chief Scout of the National Jamboree. PNC Schmidt participated in a tour, met with youth scouts and participated in all aspects of the National Jamboree. PNC Schmidt expressed strong positive feedback.
- Mr. Nava explained his volunteer role at the National Jamboree as the Dining Hall Staff Advisor Busboy and his experience at the National Jamboree.
- Mr. Nava shared that 30,000 youth and 5000 volunteers enjoyed themselves at the National Jamboree. The American Legion booth was located near all the Community Organizations. The booth was always busy with a lot of interaction and the volunteers did a great job. Mr. Nava encouraged the conference attendees to attend the National Jamboree and/or volunteer for the booth to experience all there is to offer. Mr. Nava states there will be another National Jamboree in four (4) years.
- Mr. Nava explained that once it was known that PNC Schmidt would be in attendance, the goal was to ensure PNC Schmidt had a great experience and that mission was accomplished. PNC Schmidt could not stop expressing how impressed and enjoyable the National Jamboree was for him.

**The American Legion  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting  
Chairperson Conference  
October 28-29, 2017, Westlake, Texas**

- Mr. Abrahams provides a brief explanation and overview regarding the decision to invite the participation of PNC Charles Schmidt. This was an intentional decision that involved discussions between Mr. Abrahams and Mr. Nava approximately 4 years ago.
- Mr. Abrahams and Mr. Nava created a strategic plan that was approved by The American Legion National Headquarters and the BSA National Headquarters. The goal was to first and foremost connect the top leadership from both organizations. This was accomplished about two (2) years ago with Lee Shaw and Marcos Nava visiting The American Legion National Headquarters allowing them an opportunity to meet and be introduced to the top leadership.
- Initially, these efforts were met with disbelief and dismissal. Fortunately, an opportunity spearheaded by Lee Shaw of BSA National Headquarters, presented itself two (2) years in San Diego. A symposium was created, and Jim Stewart was in attendance, to identify charter partners to share information and be a part of this Symposium. Chairman Anderson joined Jim Stewart and Mr. Abrahams at the Symposium and had the opportunity to provide some input.
- Thereafter, the BSA Chief Scout Executive was invited to The American Legion National Convention to speak on the opening day to address The American Legion National Convention attendees. This year in Reno, Nevada, at The American Legion National Convention, we were joined by Charles W. Dahlquist II, National Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, who addressed The American Legion convention attendees.
- The connecting level to work towards will put together strategies to provide consistent and continuous engagement between both organizations. It is recognized there must be buy-in at the top where support will be provided. Mr. Abrahams believes as the organizations work towards this goal the next 2-5 years will be exciting.
- Mr. Abrahams recognizes Chairman Richard Anderson's commitment to this cross-organization engagement. Chairman Anderson gave up his purchased tickets to the Baseball World Series in Houston to attend this conference. The committee attendees applauded Chairman Anderson.
- Various Committee members discussed and provided their comments regarding the 2017 BSA Jamboree.
- Jim Stewart (NV) provided details regarding the 2019 BSA Jamboree which will be held at The Summit on July 22 – August 2, 2019. Jim Stewart advises that he will be staff at this Jamboree and is currently and actively working on The American Legion presence at this Jamboree.

Mr. Abrahams called for a 15-minute break to allow guests to leave.

### **The American Legion National Headquarters Scouting Initiatives**

- Mr. Abrahams and Mr. Marco Nava, with the help of The American Legion National Headquarters IT department, worked together and created a unique patch for the 2017 BSA Jamboree. The patch was worn by all the volunteers at the 2017 BSA Jamboree. The patch can be earned.
- A couple of more opportunities will be available for committee members to get together and serve. Potentially, the next opportunity will be at the 2018 BSA Jamboree. If you are chosen as Call-in Staff, you will receive the applicable t-shirts with the patches. For special orders of t-shirts, please contact The American Legion National Headquarters Emblem Sales Department of the Americanism Youth Activities Secretary, Nettie Williams.

### **Square Knot Award, Eagle Scout, Sea Scout Quartermasters & Summit Award Certificates of Recognition, 2017 Eagle Scout of the Year and 2017 Frank N. Belgrano Award**

- Mr. Abrahams reviewed the “American Legion & Scouting” report available in the committee members’ conference packets. The report outlined the winners of the various American Legion Scouting scholarship awards.
- Mr. Abrahams spoke with Mr. Scott Moore Jr., winner of the 2017 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year award, and his family over the phone. Unfortunately, Mr. Moore was unable to attend The American Legion National Convention as part of the Youth Champions delegation. Mr. Moore is a West Point Cadet.
- Mr. Abrahams proudly announced that over the last two winters, the Eagle Scout of the Year award winners have attended West Point. This speaks to the quality and talent of the scouts coming through the program.
- BSA has started to recognize the winners in their publications. This was not happening before. Plans are in the works to allow a speaking opportunity for Mr. Moore at the BSA National meeting.
- The “American Legion & Scouting” report also provided how many departments submitted applications, how many Scouting units were chartered at the end of 2016, how many Square Knot awards were presented, and how many Eagle Scout and Sea Scout Quartermaster certificates were downloaded from The American Legion website. As of September 2017, Summit certificates of recognition are also available for download.
- The “American Legion & Scouting” report announced that the Department of Missouri was awarded The American Legion 2017 Frank N. Belgrano award for the most Scouting activity.

- Mr. Abrahams encouraged the Committee members present to return to their Departments and create some momentum regarding the Scouting awards. Mr. Abrahams stated there should be 55 applications submitted for the various scholarship award opportunities. The process has been streamlined and is available for online submission. Applications are due to Mr. Abraham's office by April 1. All submissions are reviewed and ranked by an impartial local committee of Scouters at The American Legion National Headquarters. The scoring system has been developed in partnership with our Scouting staff at the Department of Indiana. The top ten are given to the Youth Activities Subcommittee for final winner determination.
- There was discussion amongst committee attendees regarding:
  - Potential restrictive requirements for eligibility of the Scouting awards;
    - Affiliation with The American Legion
    - Religious requirement
  - Statistical Data (numbers) / Reports – Retrieval and Reporting (available online)
    - Currently developing an online Report Wizard is in consideration
    - Contact information available online
- Nettie Williams, Program Assistant to Shayne Abrahams, provided a brief overview of the Square Knot Award application process.
- Committee members discussed Square Knot Award requirements and other potential knot awards to be earned.

### **CONFERENCE KEYNOTE**

- Mr. Marcos Nava reads the biography and provides an introduction to the Committee of the Keynote Speaker, Juliette Turner, Executive Director, Constituting America.
- Ms. Turner delivers her keynote speech highlighting the work of her organization, "Constituting America." The core mission of Constituting America is "to utilize the culture and multi-media outreach such as television, music, film, internet, and social media to reach, educate and inform America's adults and students about the importance of the U.S. Constitution and the foundation it sets forth regarding our freedoms and rights." Their multi-tiered approach features a contest for kids, a school speaking program, academic forums with Constitutional Scholars, and Patriot Clubs. Executive Director Juliette Turner reaches youth across America with her bestselling book, *Our Constitution Rocks*, and motivational speeches, videos and media interviews.
- Q&A discussion ensued with Committee members.

- Mr. Marcos Nava, National Office, Boy Scouts of America, presents the Keynote Speaker, Ms. Juliette Turner, with BSA 2010 One Hundred Years of Scouting Pen, for attending and speaking at the conference.
- Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman, National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, presents the Keynote Speaker, Juliette Turner, Executive Director, Constituting America, with an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation.

### **Team Building Exercises**

- Mr. Marcos Nava reads biography and introduces Mr. De Tan Nguyen, Director/Team Leader for Learning Delivery, Scouting U, Boy Scouts of America.
- Mr. Nguyen explained and moderated the interactive getting to know you game of “Who Me?” The game consisted of a deck of cards with questions on them. Each Committee member in attendance chose a card from the deck, read it aloud and answered the question on the card pulled from the deck.
- Mr. Nguyen and Tim Rogers, Boy Scouts of America, also coordinated another interactive teambuilding game activity called “Magic Carpet”.

**Meeting adjourned for lunch.**

### **Hosted Lunch**

- **Compliments of Keynote Speaker, Constituting America**

### **BSA COR Training**

- Mr. Marcos Nava reads biographies and introduces Ms. Barbara Powers and Mr. Tim Rogers, Boy Scouts of America.
- Mr. Rogers explains his expertise and current involvement in the development of online training courses for Chartered Organization Representative “COR” Training. Although face-to-face training is still available, it has been proven more convenient to provide online training that allows time flexibility to representatives. Mr. Rogers provides step-by-step information on how to access the training. Via online presentation, Mr. Rogers launches some of the online training modules and the Committee members have an opportunity to answer the questions posed. These modules are very extensive and provide exhaustive information regarding the responsibilities and requirements for the COR.
- Q&A discussion is conducted during the presentation.

- Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman, National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, presents Mr. Tim Rogers, Boy Scouts of America with The American Legion Certificate of Appreciation.

### **BSA Recruitment**

- Mr. Marcos Nava provides a presentation regarding BSA Recruitment.
- Mr. Nava reviews and reads packet handout providing some statistical data regarding participation in Scouting and The American Legion. Of all civic organizations, BSA is number one.
- The purpose of recruitment is to enroll youth in Scouting (membership), enlist parent participation and to strengthen organized units to provide quality Scouting programs.
- Although Scouting is a year-round process and program, twice a year, in the Spring and Fall, there is a focus on Recruitment. In the Spring, we build new units, new opportunities for young people to join and in the Fall, we fill those new units to ensure there are enough members and parents participation. This is an imperative and important responsibility of the COR. The numbers are critical; the more recruits in the program, the more parent participation and the more resources for all to have more fun activities.
- Sources of membership:
  - New Boy Scout units to provide continuity of membership:
    - Tiger Cubs (1st grade),
    - Wolf Cubs (2nd grade),
    - Bear Cubs (3rd grade), and
    - Webelos (4th and 5th grade)
    - Boy Scout Troop (2<sup>nd</sup> half of 5th grade)
    - Venture Crew (at least 14 yrs. old or 13 yrs. old and completed 8th grade, through age 21) – There is a real need for recruitment on this level.
  - Program Transition – Mr. Nava states in his experience starting with a Pack has been most successful when organizing a new unit in a chartered organization.
- Five (5) sources of support:
  1. BSA National Headquarters
  2. Regional Headquarters
  3. District Executives
  4. Commissioners / Councils
  5. Chartered Organization Representative (COR)

- The contact information for a local council can be found on the BSA website at <https://beascout.scouting.org>. After searching a specific zip code, the local council contact information will be located at the bottom of that webpage search.
- The BSA professional can find American Legion posts on the American Legion website at <http://www.legion.org/posts>.
- Once a year, Mr. Nava produces and distributes a detailed report that lists the American Legion posts with Scouting units.
- Per question of the Committee, Mr. Nava states that the data of the names of the CORs and the Executive Officers of each one of the units sponsored by the American Legion can be provided. Mr. Nava would be glad to provide that information individually per request to him personally.
- Mr. Nava states that for the Committee members who registered and are present for the Conference he will conduct a research of their specific states and provide them with a printout of their local BSA council and the District that represents them.
- Additional brochure handouts regarding Recruitment will be available on Day 2 of the Conference per Mr. Nava.
- Mr. Nava volunteers his time and expertise to visit American Legion Departments to assist Scouting Chairmen with their Scouting programs in any way he can be useful. His availability must be scheduled through the American Legion National Headquarters.
- Mr. Nava reads the BSA statement letter from the BSA top leadership regarding the addition of Girls to the BSA Family of Scouting and allowing them to earn the Eagle Scout rank as well as benefit from other components of this membership effective in 2018. Mr. Nava also reads the BSA mission statement in relation to this new change in the BSA membership. Mr. Nava will provide written copies of these documents for the Committee members.
- Mr. Nava presents the following 6 things to know about inviting girls to the BSA and provides answers.
  - Is this change a departure from BSA's core mission and identity?
  - Does this mean Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be co-ed?
  - Can a Pack decide to remain Boys-only?
  - Can there be Girls-only Packs?
  - What will this mean for Girls after Cub Scouts?
  - What does this mean for youth protection? How will this affect your Pack?
- The answers to these questions are available in written documentation and online.

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- Discussion ensued among the Committee members regarding the statement regarding Girls being add to the BSA Family and all the possible implications.

**Recap & Dismissal**

- Mr. Abrahams encourages the Committee members to reach out and network with each other for valuable information, experience and expertise.
- Mr. Abrahams suggests that for next year's conference, there may be a need to incorporate a day of the conference dedicated to new Scouting Chairmen to address their concerns and information.
- Mr. Nava provided his contact information to the Committee and a personal Scouting story.
- Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman, National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, presents The American Legion Certificates of Appreciation to Ms. Barbara Powers, Mr. Jim Stewart (NV) and Mr. Marcos Nava, Boy Scouts of America.
- Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman, National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, extended thanks to Mr. Shayne Abrahams and Ms. Nettie Williams of the American Legion National Headquarters staff, for their work coordinating the conference and to Mr. Marcos Nava, Boy Scouts of America, for his tirelessly commitment to the success of the BSA programs.
- Mr. Nava presents Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman, National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his support and attendance at the conference.
- Mr. Abrahams expressed that this is the only Youth Program without a Conference Chairman. Next year, Mr. Abrahams is looking forward to one of the Committee Chairpersons becoming the Conference Chairman. There will be discussions with Chairman Anderson regarding that appointment.
- Mr. Abrahams provides closing remarks and information for dinner with Chairman Anderson.

**After the Salute of Colors, the Conference is adjourned until the following morning, Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Re-convened on Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

The American Legion  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Teleconference  
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Digest of Proceedings

Sunday, October 29, 2017

**Salute of Colors and Call to Order**

- Mr. Shayne Abrahams Sr. (IN), Assistant Director, Americanism Division, The American Legion, called the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting Chairperson Conference to order at 9:00 a.m.

**“Best Practices, let’s hear from you”**

- Mr. Abrahams explains that today will be about the Chairpersons briefly sharing what is going on in their Departments and any information that may be helpful to the Committee.
- This will also be the opportunity to open the floor for any additional topics of discussion.
- Mr. Nava circulates a Thank you card to the Chairpersons for their signature to give to the Keynote Speaker, Juliette Turner, Executive Director, Constituting America for hosting the lunch on Saturday.
- Jim Stewart (NV) shares how the Scoutreach program is being implemented in the Department of Nevada. Scoutreach is the BSA's commitment to making sure that all young people have an opportunity to join Scouting, regardless of their circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background.
- Jim Stewart explains that currently in the Department of Nevada, Scoutreach is more an urban program centered around cities. It is operated as an after-school program for scouts in economically depressed areas providing an opportunity to reach boys who can become Scouts and teach them the scouting program.
- Scoutreach is predominately a Cub Scout program. Usually, Scoutreach is a free program for the boys that is paid for by the Council. The Council provides the leadership with a Scoutreach Coordinator at the school where meetings are usually held through coordination with the school. There is no sponsorship because funding is coming from the Council. Although, sometimes the schools have been the sponsors for the Scoutreach program.
- Mr. Stewart’s Legion Post currently sponsors 9 different Scoutreach programs through the Reno, Nevada area. This is a great opportunity for Legion Posts because the full involvement required in Scouting is not necessary in a Scoutreach program.

- Mr. Stewart shares an encounter with Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Don Ballard at the American Legion National Convention. Colonel Ballard relays to Mr. Stewart that the Congressional Medal of Honor Society is interested in becoming the next sponsor of a new Boy Scouts award called “Service Before Self.” The award would be presented to both a Boy Scout and an Adult Leader.
- The award will be somewhat restrictive. The recipient would be selected nationally. The presentation of the award would be held at one of the national events of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.
- This information has been shared at the BSA National office and interest has been established after the resolution of Knots process.
- The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is requesting the involvement of The American Legion and involving a third party might create some challenges. Currently, sharing the information with Legion Posts in order to have a broad selection of potential award recipients is most important.
- Andrew “Rick” Uhrich (SC) shared a program in the Department of South Carolina called “Teach for America”, that involves first year graduate teaching students getting a subsidy and being placed in teaching jobs in rural and underserved schools. This may provide a pool of Scoutreach Coordinators at the schools in your area.
- Rick Hewitt (FL) shared his excitement about the great activities happening in the Department of Florida. Specifically, the explosive season in Chartered Scouting Units, which has also caused explosive growth in American Legion membership.
- Mr. Hewitt briefly shared how the changes in the U.S. tax laws have changed the relationship of the American Legion with BSA once a Scouting unit is chartered.
- The Charter Organization (American Legion Post) owns and operates the BSA unit. This means that the Charter Organization will use their employer ID number. Their tax-exempt number becomes the BSA number, similar to the Sons of the American Legion or the American Legion Riders, not like the Auxiliary who have their own separate 501C.
- Mr. Hewitt shared the website information regarding the tax information on the Florida Department website at <https://www.floridalegion.org/programs-services/scouting/resources>.
- Mr. Hewitt explains to the Committee the different methods the Florida Department has utilized to increase growth both in Scouting and Legion membership. One method utilized involves encouraging Legion Posts to “Charter” multiple Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts units

vs. “Sponsoring” units. Additional details regarding these methods are available in the meeting transcript.

- Jerry W. Lollar (CO) circulates a 1920 photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and points out his Grandfather in the photo. Mr. Lollar shares that his Grandfather was instrumental in the establishment of The American Legion Scouting Program starting in 1919. Mr. Lollar states that his family has a generational legacy of being involved in the Scouting program.
- Mr. Lollar states that in the Department of Colorado, there is a limit on the number of Scout troops and packs that can be established. Fortunately, the information is being disseminated. Last year, the Department of Colorado, had their first Eagle Scout of the Year attend The American Legion National Convention. Currently, there are nineteen (19) Cub Scout Packs, thirteen (13) Scout Troops and three (3) Venture Crews across the entire state. Mr. Lollar states he is heavily involved with five (5) Councils and meets with the Council Executives regularly.
- Mr. Lollar shares that every year at the National Convention or at the Mid-year Conference, he conducts a class presentation about the Scouting program. What’s involved with Scouting? How can you get involved with the Scouting committee? This started with one individual on the Committee and now involves nine (9) individuals who are asking, what can we do to help you with this program? Scouting has always been easy to sell.
- Mr. Lollar anticipates that sustained and continued growth will continue in the Department of Colorado. Mr. Lollar states that the Conference has been very beneficial with the face-to-face interaction and believes it is the best way to share between Departments. Mr. Lollar expresses gratitude to the National Headquarters for hosting the Conference.
- Mr. Hewitt brought up the topic of “Scout Accounts” and there was discussion among the Committee members regarding this topic and the utilization of funds in Scout Accounts. Mr. Stewart provided very pertinent information regarding the handling of scouting funds. Mr. Hewitt informs there is a Resource Management SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) available on the Florida Scouting website regarding compliance in the handling of Scouting funds.
- Andrew “Rick” Uhrich (SC) reports that in the Department of South Carolina, the media is utilized regularly.
- When there are Eagle Scouts attending Boys State in South Carolina, they are assembled for one (1) evening during the Boys State Conference to take a photo. The photo is utilized in Legion Post media and meetings to reflect that Scouting in the American Legion is involved at the Boys State level. This increases the opportunities to talk about both programs, both Boys State and Scouting, and how the Legion plays an integral part in both of those programs. Mr. Uhrich shared other suggestions for media to be utilized to market both The

American Legion and Scouting working together. This involves many community service activities.

- Mr. Uhrich also suggested the possibility of increasing participation in the Eagle Scout of the Year award by considering non-legion affiliation applicants.
- Thomas Buckner (FR) asks for advice regarding unique challenges in his Department of France. Mr. Buckner provides some history regarding the Department of France. The Department of France is a bit of a misnomer. The Department of France is Belgium, Denmark, the UK, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Thailand and China Post 1, which was formed in Shanghai in 1919 and has been operating in exile since 1948.
- Geography is one of the challenges of the Department of France. On one hand, geographically, it is one of the largest geographic Councils (the Trans-Atlantic Council which includes Africa, Europe and the Middle East) and on the other hand, numerically it is one of the smallest Councils. Mr. Buckner states that his district runs from Paris to Copenhagen to Düsseldorf and Germany, so, getting units together in a district function is a big challenge. There are many challenges at the Department of France Scouting program that involve logistics, finance and membership. There are only a handful of units chartered by an American Legion Post.
- Mr. Buckner announces that the Department of France is organizing a Centennial Celebration for The American Legion in Paris in March of 2019. Hotel rooms must be booked six (6) months in advance. More information regarding the details of the Centennial Celebration will be available in 2018.
- The Department of France has also discussed the possibility of encouraging nominees for the Eagle Scout of the Year award. There are approximately 150 Eagle Scouts a year in the Transatlantic Council with a large number of those not having an affiliation with The American Legion. After discussion with the Executive Council, a \$500 scholarship award was given to the Eagle Scout in the Department of France and this was implemented to provide some incentive to nominees to submit the applications. The Department of France also wanted to use this a recruitment tool. Mr. Buckner shared other potentials way to recruit Scouts including youth who may not be American. There is a lot of respect for Scouting on the American side.
- The following suggestions were provided by the Committee:
  - A possible way to solicit funds and get financial support, would be to tap into the U.S. citizens working in Europe who have kids in Scouting units.
  - “Jamboree Over The Air” is a possible way to connect your districts and all your Scout units. Largest gathering of Scouts all over the world broadcasting over Ham radio.

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5<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Scouting  
Chairperson Conference  
October 28-29, 2017, Westlake, Texas**

- Clyde Sinclair (MI) states he is a new Scouting Chairman and thanks Jerry Lollar for being a great help over the past months.
- Mr. Sinclair states the Conference has been helpful and valuable, but he wants to know what's available by The American Legion to address the following:
  - How to improve scouting in the American Legion?
  - How can I get American Legion members more involved in Scouting?
  - How do you become mentors or Merit Badge Counselors if there isn't a Scout unit in the Legion Post?
  - How can I motivate people to go out there and become citizenship of the nation and citizenship of the world of Merit Badge Counselors?
  - How can we get into Elementary schools to teach Flag Etiquette and Americanism?
  - How do I communicate with Posts that don't want to communicate with me?
- The Committee members discussed and provided many suggestions to Mr. Sinclair's questions.
- Kenneth Nichols (AL) provided input and suggestions based on the activities of Scouting happening at the Department of Alabama.
- Mr. Sinclair suggested a private group Facebook page to allow Committee members to read anything that goes on and continue the conversation. The Committee members were very receptive to this suggestion. Mr. Hewitt provide further comments regarding this topic.
- Mr. Abrahams tabled this topic for further discussion as an Action Item. A survey will be distributed for further suggestions, agenda items and/or topics.
- Mr. Abrahams takes a poll of the Committee members for the record regarding whether they are in favor of the policy change regarding adding Girls to the Scouting Family that was read by Mr. Marcos Nava:
  - Department of Alabama - **Favor**
  - Department of Arkansas - **Favor**
  - Department of Colorado - **Favor**
  - Department of Florida - **Favor**
  - Department of France - **Favor**
  - Department of Maryland - **Favor**
  - Department of Michigan - **Favor**
  - Department of Nevada - **Favor**
  - Department of Oregon - **Favor**
  - Department of Pennsylvania - **Favor**
  - Department of South Carolina - **Favor**

**Conference Action Items & Staff Follow-Up**

- Mr. Abrahams informs the Committee that in terms of follow-up action items the Chairman will meet with leadership back at National Headquarters and discuss any statements from this Conference and/or a statement from the American Legion and/or statement from the Commission. If there are any additional comments, please submit those to Mr. Abrahams via email.

**Closing Remarks**

- Mr. Marcos Nava, National Office, Boy Scouts of America, provided Closing Remarks and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Mr. Nava is looking forward to the improvements that will occur due to the interaction that happened at the Conference.
- Chairman Anderson, Americanism, The American Legion, provided Closing Remarks and commended everyone for their commitment and passionate work both at the Conference and in their Departments.
- Mr. Abrahams thanked everyone for their enthusiastic and informative participation.

**Benediction & Adjournment**

- Mr. Jim Stewart (NV) provided the Benediction and adjourned the meeting.

**With no other business to come before the group, the Conference was adjourned.**