

# Occoneechee Council



## Commissioner News

A publication for and about Scouters involved in Commissioner Service

January 2006 Issue

[www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/news/2006/01.pdf](http://www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/news/2006/01.pdf)

### Last Call To Renew Your Membership

If you are a commissioner and you are affiliated with a unit, then your membership is renewed each time your unit recharter. However, if you are not affiliated with a unit, then December 16 was the deadline to renew your registered leader membership with the council. The same is true for merit badge counselors.



Anyone not affiliated with a unit should have received a letter in December from the council, which doubles as a membership renewal form. If you did not receive such a letter, then you need to do two things:

1. Contact [Connie Bowes](#) and let him know that you did not receive a letter.
2. Access the appropriate letter, print a copy of the letter, complete the renewal information section of the letter, and either mail or drop-off the form (with your renewal fee check).

To access the letters, [\[ Click Here \]](#)

### Spring Commissioner's Basic Training (CBT)

Last year, we agreed to offer a council-wide CBT course twice a year (in the spring and the fall). The time has come to plan the spring event and we need to determine how many new commissioners might potentially come to such training. This will be a topic of discussion at the February Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting. We are asking all district commissioners to come to this meeting with a tentative head count.

### Council's University of Scouting

The 2006 Occoneechee Council University of Scouting event is planned for Saturday, November 11. Although this event is 10 months away, it is time to start holding commissioners' college staff meetings to make preparations for the 2006 event.



If you would like to serve on our college's staff or faculty, please contact our college dean, [Charles Good](#)

### Don't Procrastinate!

If you attended the first year courses for the Doctor of Commissioner Science (DCS) program, then 2.5 months have passed since Commissioners' College and you should be well on your way to writing a doctoral thesis, research paper, or work project. This also means that you only have 24 more weeks before the July 1 submission deadline (which will pass before you know it). If you have not started, please do. A special web page has been posted that lists requirements and provides sample outlines and templates... [\[ Click Here \]](#)

### Dust Off Your Uniforms

I cannot say for certain, but there is an excellent possibility that a uniform inspection is being planned for an upcoming Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting. So, dust off your Insignia Guide (or better yet, get a new one), check spacing with a ruler, and remove any unauthorized or out-of-position items (i.e., **BE PREPARED**).



## College Rockers and Certificates

During our January Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, 60 commissioners' college certificates, as well as patches and rockers, were distributed to any recipient who was present. The remainder of these items was either given to the applicable district commissioner (if present) or will be given to the applicable district executive. It is up to the district leadership to either present these items at the next Roundtable or mail them to the recipients. If you have not received your items by mid February, then please contact your district commissioner.

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## HR & Training Committee Updates

This column is used to keep commissioners informed of recent committee decisions and discussion topic, such as the following:

- The HR & Training Committee has decided to use the Council Consolidate Committee meetings as a time to meet with district training chairs and district Roundtable commissioners. During these sessions, they can work out 18-month training calendar details and the council can provide information on new programs for which districts will need to inform/train their Scouters.

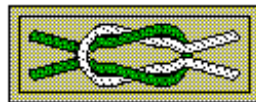
Starting this month, the monthly HR & Training Committee meeting date will change to the fourth Monday of the month. To cut down on meetings, the district training chairs no longer need to attend this meeting since the agenda is being changed to focus more on subcommittee plans and HR matters (no longer just a training meeting).

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## Commissioner Awards

Bonne Williamson, our ACC for Records, wants to encourage all commissioners to take the time to fill out the advancement cards and send them to her.

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*Several Scouters have requested that we discontinue listing the long URLs and simply provide a "click here" hot link. We will try this and see how everyone likes it.*



## Council Consolidate Committee Meetings

During the January Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, Jack Nichols led a discussion about the initial Council Consolidate Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday night. Most of the commissioners, who attended committee meetings, felt the time was well spent and the content was different than a usual committee meeting. The Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioners were pleased with the information presented in their meeting. However, the Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioners felt that this added a meeting that some could not attend and there was not enough information specific to their interests to justify it. Some of the commissioners reported that Tuesdays are a conflict night for them. Others said Wake Tech was difficult to reach (from where they live) and carpooling is not practical.

After considerable discussion, the commissioners present agreed on the following:

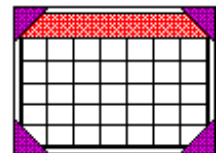
- Given our long history (since 1979) of having a Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting each month in the same place and time, we will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month.
  - Participation in the Council Consolidate Committee meetings will be up to the individual districts to decide which, if any, commissioners need to attend.
  - ACCs are encouraged to attend their assigned committee meetings and report back on any news at the monthly Council Commissioners' Cabinet meetings.
  - Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioners will only meet at the monthly Council Commissioners' Cabinet meetings.
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## Around the Council (News Bites)

- Our good friend, Chris Cardozo has returned as the Baden-Powell district executive. Welcome back!
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## Mark Your Calendar!

Lots of council events in February and March...  
(click the calendar graphic)



## District Committee Training Workshop

Don't miss this annual event, which will be held on Saturday, January 28 at Benson Memorial United Methodist Church at 4706 Creedmoor Road in Raleigh. All district key 3 members, district training chairs, and charter organization reps should attend.



The training workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (includes lunch). At 1:00 p.m., the 2006-2010 Long-Range Plan will be unveiled and afterwards, the districts will breakout into discussion and planning sessions.

Since lunch and refreshments are provided, the council is asking for RSVPs from anyone who plans to attend... [\[ Click Here \]](#)

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## DoubleKnot Update

As reported in our [November 2005 edition](#), DoubleKnot is the name of a company that provides web site solutions for BSA councils. We are moving our internal web site to DoubleKnot to take advantage of some functions we currently do not have (such as online registration and online payment for events, including summer camp).

Selected members of the Council Service Center's office staff have taken the basic training and all of our active web pages have been migrated over to the new site. The events for the 2006 program and training calendars have been imported into the DoubleKnot calendaring system. We are currently in the process of learning how to integrate DoubleKnot functionality into these web pages.

Our goal is to have the DoubleKnot site online by February 1. To the average user, this will be transparent since the domain name will not change (just the host). However, some pages will change in appearance and the way they function (e.g., the calendars).

The Council's Internal Marketing Communications (MarCom) committee is working on having our first council newsletter ready for distribution (via the new DoubleKnot mass mailing e-mail system) by February 15. There is also a team working on a totally new look for the web site, but that will not be available until the second quarter of 2006.

## District Registrar Program Update

Back in 2005, we had several Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting discussions about district registrars. The basic concept was to recruit a registrar for each district and use a Windows-based PC software product called Automated District Management System (ADMS).

ADMS is made by the same company that makes Packmaster and Troopmaster. In fact, you can import data from a variety of sources, including ScoutNET, TroopMaster, PackMaster, TroopLedger, PackLedger, MBCounselors, ASCII delimited, etc. This should significantly reduce the amount of information that must be manually entered by the registrar.

A copy of each district's ADMS source file will be FTP'ed to a centralized location using an ADMS add-on product called DotNet. This will enable a council-level registrar to access and integrate all the districts into a combined database where we can get reports on membership, training awards and many other things that we currently are unable to do with ScoutNet alone.

The next step is to plan and run a pilot study to test out the ADMS and DotNet software, prove the concept, and define what we want to accomplish with these tools. The Falls district has volunteered to help with this pilot study.

In addition, Keith Cooke and Jack Nichols will convene a council-level committee with representatives from all the districts to advise on the creation and implementation of a District Registrar system throughout the Council. This committee will make a recommendations report to the November 2006 Council Executive Board and prepare training for registrars at the District Training Workshop in January 2007.

Thus, our goal for 2006 is to run the pilot study, have the committee evaluate the results and make recommendations, and identify/recruit a registrar in each district.