

# Occoneechee Council



## Commissioner News

A publication for and about Scouters involved in Commissioner Service

November 2007 Issue

<http://www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/news/2007/11.pdf>

### Council Commissioner's Message

As we close this Council program year, I thought that we should focus on our accomplishments in the Occoneechee Commissioner Service over this year and the past several years in several areas.

First, we have nearly reached our goal of meeting the national average of one commissioner for each three units. In 2005, we had 40 unit commissioners and a 17:1 ratio. At present, we have 161 unit commissioners and an average 3.7:1 ratio. If we recruit 31 more unit commissioners, we will finally achieve our goal of a 3:1 ratio. Hemlock and Three Rivers already have a 2:1 ratio!

Second, in our first year of transition from Quality Units to Centennial Units, *350 of 495 or 71%* of units have now submitted a Centennial Quality District Form. During the recent Commissioner Conference, Staff and commissioners have been informed of the ability to use *MyBSA* to enter unit data directly into the system to update actual performance versus commitments. Eight districts are at 70% or better; Cape Fear, Kia Kima and Three Rivers have turned in 100% of their Centennial Unit forms. For those districts who have not obtained their Centennial Forms, it is not too late. In fact, you could collect 2007 forms and distribute 2008 forms. Please bring them to the annual meeting in November or the Holiday party in December!

Third, our unit rechartering ratio is above the national average. In 2005, we re-chartered 79% of the units; in 2006, we re-chartered 86% of our units; in 2007, we have eclipsed that number by re-chartering 92% of our units.

Fourth, the clear trend for effective Commissioner Service is to utilize computers and ScoutNet. The future is to submit unit visits and advancements by computer. Information is communicated more and more by e-mail and in e-mail newsletters like this one. Online training in certain areas such as Youth

Protection and Basic Training is expanding. Related to this trend, we started Internet rechartering three years ago. We have increased our Internet renewals from 34% in 2005 to 64% in 2007.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have reported on the goals for 2008. Please review them in light of these accomplishments, but also to encourage those few districts to make our accomplishments Council-wide.

On behalf of the youth and adult leaders in our 600 units, we thank you for your efforts and commitment to Scouting. You have made Scouting better in our Council.

Jack Nichols  
Council Commissioner

Susan Long  
Council Commissioner-Elect

### Spring Commissioners' College Proposal

At our November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, we discussed dwindling enrollment at our college and should we hold the college every two years instead of annually. The group voted unanimously to keep it an annual event.

Next, we revisited the timing of when commissioners take office (January) and when would be the most logical time for our college (Spring). Likewise, the best time to re-evaluate how the year has gone and make plans is in the late Fall (October or November). The group voted unanimously to try offering the college in the Spring.

This begged the question of whether to have our next college in the Spring of 2008 (only 4-5 months after the 2007 college) or wait until the Spring of 2009 (which would be approximately 18 months after the 2007 college). We agreed to defer this topic and revisit it at upcoming meetings. All commissioners should think about this and be prepared to discuss and vote on it.

## Plan Ahead

- **American Indian Heritage Celebration** – Saturday, Nov. 17 from 11AM to 4PM at the NC Museum of History in downtown Raleigh. [www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org)
- **Council Annual Business Meeting** – Nov. 29. Contact [Dona Johnston](#) for details.
- **Annual December Potluck Special** – Our December Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting will be our annual social. No agenda, but we will have some business to discuss. No sign-up menu this year... Bring what you like to eat and share. Hopefully, we will not end up with just chips and chocolate.
- **District Commissioners Recharter** – By now, your district should have its district roster. This is how ADCs, unit commissioners, and roundtable commissioners get rechartered. Don't procrastinate. This must be in before the end of December.
- **Council Commissioners Recharter** – Connie Bowes has the council roster. If you are an ACC who is not affiliated with and rechartering with a unit, then contact Connie about renewing your membership for 2008. Don't procrastinate. This must be in before the end of December.

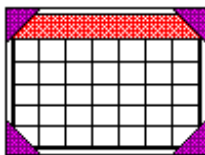
**NOTE:** *District level commissioners must be invited to continue in their role by their district commissioner. Likewise, ACCs must be invited to continue in their role by their council commissioner.*

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## 2008 Commissioner Service Goals

At our November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, Susan Long presented a list of proposed 2008 goals for Commissioner Service. This list will become part of the Council's Operations Plan document, which will be distributed later this year. Until then, the list can be found at the following URL...

[www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/objectives\\_2008.pdf](http://www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/objectives_2008.pdf)



## Roundtable Programs

Thirteen Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioners and Staff participated in our November CCRTC that featured the December RT and January troop program, Winter Wilderness Survival.



Twenty-one program theme ideas were developed for pre-opening exhibits and displays (21 troops to participate) including the "Thwam Thwacker" and six "hands-on" program theme activities (6 more troops to participate). Then more than 13 program theme stations were developed – all for the purpose of making the December BSRT successful in giving troops plenty of program ideas for their four January troop meetings and outing fun and exciting, while learning about Winter Wilderness Survival. All of the skills were built around the Wilderness Survival merit badge requirements.

All participants received a program theme resource book chock full of program ideas – including agendas from successful Roundtables on Winter Wilderness Survival – and lots of posters supporting the program theme.

All districts – EXCEPT Moore and Cape Fear – plus Venture and Sea Scouts now participate in the Boy Scout Roundtable CCRTC! A special welcome to Dick Pickett, BSRTC of Orange, and new BSRTC Rocky Quiller and his staffer, Jim Norris of Falls District!

December's CCRTC program theme will be Communications. Don't miss this gangbusters opportunity to make your January RT and February troop meetings successful for Scouts in your district!

For more information about our programs, contact either [Shawnee Benane](#) (for Cub Scout Roundtables) or [Steve Glass](#) (for Boy Scout and Venturing Roundtables).

## News From Around The Council



- Tuocs District – One possible unit commissioner being recruited.
- Falls District – Two unit commissioners signed; one possible unit commissioner being recruited.
- Crosswinds – Three new unit commissioners signed.
- Mawat District – Hosting merit badge college on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Duke's east campus.

If you have district news to report, use the following web page ...

[www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/monthly\\_report.html](http://www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/monthly_report.html)

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## Training Records

At our November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, our VP of HR and Training, Ralph Hinrichs, discussed the progress that has been made by Dino Radosta to provide this council will a training records database. This system is independent of ScoutNet and it is designed to meet the special needs of our council and our districts.

Ralph discussed various ways to collect information about Scouter training records so it can be easily entered into the new system. Ralph distributed copies of a Microsoft Excel workbook that has record entry fields for pack leaders, troop leaders, crew advisors, and commissioners.

The plan is to include paper copies of these spreadsheets in each unit's recharter packet, then the unit commissioners can sit down with the unit leaders and ensure the forms are completed. The spreadsheets will also be posted on the council web site so leaders can complete the forms with Microsoft Excel, if they have it.

Once the training records are received (either paper or electronic), the information will be entered into the database. Afterwards, a system launch announcement will be made and the training chair for each district will receive training so they can maintain their district's records until each district can recruit and train a registrar.

## Quality Council Progress Report

At our November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, Connie Bowes provided an excellent overview of how we stand on achieving our 2007 goals.



We have met our goals in the following categories:

- New Unit Organization
- Traditional Membership Growth
- Youth Retention
- Unit Retention
- Recruiting Unit Commissioners
- Increase Unit Commissioner Visits
- Improve Unit Commissioner Ratio
- Recruit District Committees
- Add or maintain approved staff size

We are slightly under our goal for the following:

- Involving new adults
- Popcorn Campaign Contributions

It is too early to know about the following categories:

- Percent of Centennial Quality Units
- Balance of operating fund

Connie pointed out that we have been blessed by the surge of new units, but this has a negative effect on our unit commissioner ratio and we need to continue our efforts to recruit and train more unit commissioners to visit and service these new units.

Connie also recognized many of our districts for achieving various category-specific goals. Kudos to Kia Kima district for being the first district to have 100% of their unit forms turned in to the council.

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## November Meeting Handouts

- Membership & Unit Status Report
- Unit Commissioners Status Report
- Centennial Forms Status Report
- Centennial Progress Reports: Summary, NSA & SSA

[www.campdurant.com/comsvc\\_handouts.html](http://www.campdurant.com/comsvc_handouts.html)

**Distinguished Commissioner Award**



At our November 8<sup>th</sup> Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, Susan Long presented Charles Good with the distinguished commissioner award.

This award recognizes tenure of service and the achievement of specific national criteria goals. This is not something one is nominated for. Instead, it is like other training and tenure awards that we earn as Scouters. It is up to the individual Scouter to complete the requirements and submit an application to receive the award. The application form is on our web site at the following URL...

[www.campdurant.com/Forms/distinguished\\_comm\\_app.pdf](http://www.campdurant.com/Forms/distinguished_comm_app.pdf)

For information, refer to the national council flyer at the following link...

[www.scouting.org/commissioners/resources/14-550.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/resources/14-550.pdf)

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**Christmas Cards**

If you send out Christmas cards each year, then please include a card to the following:

A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C., 20307-5001

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**Who Writes This Stuff?**

This publication features articles written by members of Commissioner Service and Scouters like you. If you would like to submit an article or a news bite for consideration, please contact either [Jack Nichols](#) or [Charles Good](#).

