

Occoneechee Council



Commissioner News

A publication for and about Scouters involved in Commissioner Service

March 2008 Issue

<http://www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/news/2008/03.pdf>

New Youth Protection DVD

Connie Bowes, our Director of Field Service, announced the arrival of a new overview DVD entitled, **Overviews of Cub Scout and Boy Scout Youth Protection** (BSA Catalog No. 46-600). This is basically a Roundtable helps offering with two 11-minute videos that are ideal for parent and Scouter gatherings. Each district executive has received a copy for viewing at Roundtable.



Same Time and Place Next Month

At our March 13th Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting we discussed options on where to meet in future months. We also discussed holding a teleconference and possibly using software that would enable remote participants to see presentations. It was decided that we really need a face-to-face meeting and we would continue to meet at the Council Service Center in Raleigh through June 2008.

The Steel Is Going Up!

Next week, if all goes per schedule, the steel will start going up on the new Grand Lodge Dining Hall at Camp Durant. Once this starts, the exterior of the building will take shape very quickly and the structure will really look like a lodge. Keep checking the weekly progress photo on our ocscouts.org site.

Spring Commissioner Basic Training (CBT)

At our March 8 CBT training, we had excellent participation. Special thanks to Susan Long, Suzie Slopek, and Charles Good for providing the training and to Kristy Montgomery for her many contributions as our course staff advisor. Congratulations to the following Scouters for completing this important training.

- John Farnsworth
 - Emily Gilmer
 - Beth Gurkin
 - William Highsmith
 - Joe Hightower
 - Robin Jewett
 - Mark Palmer
 - Dan Papp
 - Charlotte Jones-Roe
 - Jayce Sudweeks
 - Bruce Winn
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All Expenses Paid Trip

Our council is willing to reimburse a Scouter who will volunteer to attend the 5-day Leave No Trace Master Educator course and become our council's primary trainer on this topic. This course is offered in many places throughout the year, but the closest is Camp Powhatan in Virginia (part of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council near Roanoke) on May 5-8.

To see the BRMC flyer, visit the following URL...
<http://www.bsa-brmc.org/pdfs/lntmaster08.pdf>

For information about course content, visit the...
www.lnt.org/training/trainercourses.php

If you are interested, contact either [Ralph Hinrichs](#) or [Marianne Absher](#)

Cabinet Meeting Format Clarification

At our March 13th Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting, Susan Long, ACC for Administration, reminded the district commissioners that when giving district reports, our primary focus is on unit health and Commissioner Service needs, not a list of activities and events the district is planning.

The things we need to know include:

- Unit rechartering status
- New vs. dropped units including any on the fence
- Units needing attention or CPR.
- Unit commissioner count/ratio and prospects
- Status of your annual service plan
- Are your unit commissioners making visits and submitting visit reports.

If you would like to report on other district news for inclusion in our monthly newsletter, then send an e-mail to either Susan Long or Charles Good. You can also use the on-line monthly report form...

www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/monthly_report.html

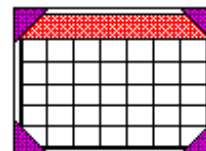
Remember: *If you cannot attend a monthly cabinet meeting and cannot send a knowledgeable delegate to report, then you should send Susan Long an e-mail containing your report or use the aforementioned monthly report form.*

District Charter Renewals Need To be Completed

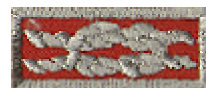
It was reported at our March 13th Commissioners' Cabinet meeting that some districts have not completed their district charter renewals. The renewals were due prior to December 31st. Connie Bowes will be e-mailing information to the District Commissioners of each district to show which districts have completed the process and which volunteers renewed or did not renew their district position.

Plan Ahead

- **April Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting** will be held at the Council Service Center in Raleigh on April 10th (the second Thursday).
- **Council Religious Recognition Banquet** – Saturday, March 29 (no flyer or registration... by invitation only)
- **2008 Progress Energy Scoutreach Golf Tournament** – April 21 at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary.
- **Council Cub-O-Ree** – Saturday, October 11th
- **2008 Council Commissioners' Conference** – Our annual half day planning conference on Saturday, October 25th. This year, we are going to expand the format to include district committee chairpersons, as well as district executives (have the entire key 3). Location and more details to be announced via e-mail.
- **University of Scouting – New date...** Saturday, November 1st (moved to avoid conflicts with Veteran's Day weekend)



Distinguished Commissioner Award



At the March Neuse River District Roundtable meeting, Ronnie Padgett presented Unit Commissioner Jack Hendrix with BSA's distinguished commissioner award.

This award recognizes tenure of service and the achievement of specific national criteria goals. This is not something for which one is nominated. 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. However, the form can also be submitted on someone's behalf by the application district or council commissioner. The form is on our web site at the following URL...
www.campdurant.com/Forms/distinguished_comm_app.pdf

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

<http://old.scouting.org/commissioners/resources/14-550.pdf>

Commissioners At Summer Camp

At our March 13th Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, we discussed the 5-week summer camp schedule for Camp Durant and the importance of visiting units in your district during camp. Susan Long, ACC for Administration, asked for a commitment from the district commissioners to visit camp several times during the summer or send a unit commissioner delegate. Two opportune times to make a visit would be Family Night on Wednesdays and Scoutmasters' Night on Thursdays. Considering that we have 13 districts, we should (at a minimum) see two district commissioners visit camp each week.

If you or one of your unit commissioners does visit camp this summer, please let Susan know...
jlong7@nc.rr.com

Unit Visit Tracking System

The system is still off-line while National investigates possible solutions...

<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/unitvisittrackingssystem.aspx>

New Scouting Term

At our March 13th Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, Sue Herring coined a new term... woogee.

It refers to someone or something that is not stable (shaky) or someone or some organization that is undecided (on the fence).

It's A Deal

At our March 13th Council Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting, we discussed recruiting challenges and resources. Suzie Slopek, one of our ACCs for HR & Training, offered to send district commissioners the list of Wood Badge graduates, but only if they would (1) promise to encourage their commissioners to attend Wood Badge training and (2) promote Wood Badge training at upcoming Roundtables. The commissioners who wanted the list agreed.

If you need information on Wood Badge, contact Suzie at SuzieSlopek@nc.rr.com

District Commissioner Reports



- **Baden-Powell District** – Recruited 2 new unit commissioners and talking with one candidate. Possibly one unit dropping and one on the fence. Two rechartering nights planned this month. The first event had 3 units participate. Planning district Camporee for April.
- **Cape Fear District** – Recruited a couple of new unit commissioners. Wrapping up our first year of having commissioners in the field. Problems noted with units being effective at recruiting quality leaders and getting parents to volunteer. Only 6 recharterers still out (one of which will probably drop).
- **Crosswinds District** – Recruited one unit commissioner. Our first rechartering night was below participation expectations (only 10% of the units). Second night coming up. Dropping 3 UMC pilot program crews and possible two packs. Recent IOLS training had 40 participants. We offered a merit badge counselor seminar to explain the often-misunderstood facts and we had 100% unit representation. Most participants remarked that it was well worth their time.
- **Falls District** – Trying to recruit two unit commissioner candidates. Requested the Wood Badge list of Falls district graduates during the past 2 years. 25% of rechartering is in. Using Roundtable night as a recharter turn-in event. Sending out Roundtable reminder postcards has helped increase attendance. FOS campaign below expectations. March 29 is the district Pinewood Derby at Crabtree Valley Mall (a major PR opportunity).
- **Great Northern District** – Since last year's rechartering night was such a success, we are planning another theme-based rechartering event. This year will be a Hawaiian theme. Recruited one new unit commissioner. We will probably lose one crew this April. Couple of units on the fence. Planning district Camporee at Camp Campbell. This will be a Camelot theme (complete with working catapults).
- **Hemlock District** – No DC report. District is preparing for its spring Cub-O-Ree and a Boy Scout Camporee in April.
- **Kia Kima District** – Recruited one new unit commissioner. Our May recharterers have been distributed. Four units on the fence. 22 of 39 units have submitted their 2008 Centennial Quality Unit forms.

- **Mawat District** – Running out of unit commissioner candidates. Requested the Wood Badge list of Mawat district graduates during the past 2 years. Rechartering underway and on target.
- **Moore District** – No report.
- **Neuse River District** – Recruited one unit commissioner, but lost 2. Scheduling recharter turn-in night to coincide with the next district commissioners meeting. Possibly dropping 3 units. Two more in ICU (needing urgent care). Restructuring unit commissioner assignments to make better use of available resources (i.e., assign UCs to units who need help the most). Working with a charter organization with a pack and a troop that wants to form a second troop. Also working with a large pack (125 Scouts) that either wants to split into two packs or spin-off boys to another local pack that needs members. Jack Hendrix made a presentation on Webelos-to-Scout Transition. His handout is excellent and available to anyone who wants one.
- **Orange District** – Recruited one new unit commissioner. Requested the Wood Badge list of Orange district graduates during the past 2 years. Recharterers are all in. Have started a traffic light program for indicating unit health with green, yellow and red colors.
- **Three Rivers District** – 32 units rechartered in February. One unit dropped and one is on the fence. FOS campaign is doing well. District is planning their annual citizen's recognition dinner for members of the local community who have helped Scouting.
- **Tuocs District** – Rechartering is over (a success). Recruited 3 new unit commissioners. FOS campaign not up to expectations (working with DE to resolve). Planning a joint Recognitions Dinner with Kia Kima to achieve better attendance and conserve on resources.

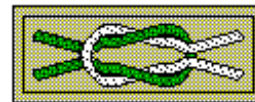
If you have district news to report, use the following web page ...

www.campdurant.com/Commissioner/Service/monthly_report.html

On-Line Payment Disabled

Due a bank IT error, our ability to process on-line payment for events is not working. The bank will fix this. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Commissioner Awards



Mary Hampson, our ACC for Records, wants to encourage all commissioners to take the time to fill out their progress reports and submit them once the requirements are completed (so you earn your Scouter's Key and knot).

If you are a district commissioner, you should routinely sit down with individual commissioners, ask for their progress record sheet (or provide them with one), and review where they are at in satisfying the training and tenure criteria.

The various commissioner progress report sheets can be found in the Leadership Training Committee Guide (BSA Pub No. 34169).

Unit Commissioners Always Welcome



At our March 13th Council Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting, a suggestion was made that we consider adding a Unit Commissioners breakout session to our monthly meeting. While unit commissioners are certainly welcome to attend our monthly cabinet meeting, the meeting is primarily for ACCs, district commissioners and ADCs (such as Roundtable Commissioners) to plan and assess overall program health. It was agreed that we will continue with our current format.

New Web Site



In case you have not already heard, the council is launching a totally new "ocscouts.org" web site in the next week or two. As part of this, we will be deactivating the "campdurant.com" site, which has been our internal web site for Scouts and Scouters. The "ocscouts.org" site has always been our marketing site for visitors, potential sponsors and interested youth and parents. However, the new site will also host the internal content (one site for everything). As part of this, the council will be deleting dated information and pages that are no longer necessary because the information exists either on a national site or in a BSA publication. Commissioner feedback will be appreciated and should be sent to [Veronica Porterfield](#) (copy [Susan Long](#)).

New Unit Media Guide

At our March 13th Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting, Bob Naples, ACC for Marketing, announced that the Council's Marketing Communications (MarCom) Committee will be distributing a new guide on how to do public relations on the unit level. Look for it on the web site in the near future.

Annual Report

At our March 13th Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting, Connie Bowes distributed copies of our council's annual report. The 13-page report is entitled, *Blueprint of Your Council*. This report is an excellent overview of our council's 2007 operations and accomplishments. All commissioners are encouraged to obtain a copy and review it.

The report is formatted just like a set of blueprints (only smaller). Given the page size used for the report, it probably will not be placed on our web site (most home printers do not support 8.5-inch by 14-inch paper). If you would like a copy, contact your District Executive or the Council Service Center.

Eagle Summit Representative

Ralph Hinrichs has volunteered to be our Commissioner Service representative at the April 25-27 Eagle Summit event at Camp Durant. Ralph will provide information about Commissioner Service and hopefully identify some possible recruitment candidates.

Eagle Summit is a 3-day camporee style event for Eagle Scouts. It is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with Eagle Scouts from across the area, as well as enjoy a fun-filled program.

For more information, visit the following URL...
<http://www.oceaglescouts.org/>

To register for this event, visit our council's [program calendar](#).

Good Turn for America Contacts

If you have questions about the "Good Turn for America" program, we have two local contacts that can help... Shirley Olsen and Kevin Rumsey.

Also note that a new "Good Turn for America" booklet has just been finished and will be available soon.

As approved by the council's executive board, a Good Turn for America project has been added as an additional requirement for the District Centennial Quality District Award in 2008. This achievement can be earned when a district has multiple units participating in a district conducted service project or in a council Good Turn for America Service Project.

New Council Process

A new process for purchase orders and approved check requests has been announced. The council has a new form that is a combination purchase order and check request. Instead of having several steps for the DE's to go through to get PO's or check requests, we are allowing them to issue their own PO's, with their supervisor's authorization in certain circumstances.

Supervisor's authorization is required for the following:

- All check requests.
- All purchase orders over \$500.
- All purchase orders for non-budgeted events or budgeted events that are requesting to spend more than budgeted.

We also need all district expenses to be processed through the DE.

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](#)

