

Occoneechee Council

Commissioner News

A publication for and about Scouters involved in Commissioner Service

June 2008 Issue

<http://www.ocscouts.org/commissioner/newsletters/2008/06.pdf>

Keep Them In Your Thoughts and Prayers

Wednesday night., a tornado hit the Little Sioux Scout Ranch near Little Sioux, Iowa. 4 Scouters were killed and 48 Scouts and Scouters were injured (at least a dozen remained hospitalized Thursday with a variety of injuries). All Scouters are asked to keep these Scouting families in your thoughts and prayers.

To view the National Council's statement...

<http://www.scouting.org/Media/PressReleases/2008/20080612.aspx>

Making FOS Goals

Congratulations to the following districts for making their FOS goals:

- Crosswinds
- Great Northern
- Hemlock
- Kia Kima
- Moore
- Orange
- Three Rivers

Doctor of Commissioner Science Knot

A new square knot was announced at the National Council's Annual meeting. This award is to recognize completion of a standardized program leading to the completion of a thesis and the award of the Doctorate of Commissioner Science from a College of Commissioner Science. In our council, this will include anyone who completed a doctoral project and turned in the required paperwork (which is equivalent to a thesis). The full details are on-line...

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=42776>

NESA Life Membership Square Knot Approved

Life members of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) can set themselves apart from other Eagle Scouts with a special Eagle Scout square knot. This knot has a silver border signifying support of Eagle Scouts through NESA Life Membership.

NOTE: Only one Eagle Scout Award square knot may be worn.

The new NESA Life member/Eagle Scout square knot will be available June 1, 2008. It allows Eagle Scouts to show their dedication to the mission of the Boy Scouts of America through monetary commitment.

If interested, a colorful flyer is also available (Bin Item No. 58-420)

New Centennial Uniform

In last month's newsletter, we announced the availability of a tri-fold pamphlet (Bin Item No. 70-134) that shows the changes in the new BSA uniform. Basically, the socks no longer have a red band, the pants are a different design, the shirt is a different color, and so are the unit number insignia.

At our June 12th Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, several Scouters have asked what our policy will be and here it is... Wear what you have until you are ready to replace it. An official BSA uniform is considered an official uniform when it is first made and from that time on. So, do not feel obligated to run out and replace everything. It is optional and entirely up to the individual.

New HR & Training Web Site

As part of the Council's on-going effort to make our web site more attractive and useful, the HR & Training Committee is pleased to announce the URL for their new site...

<http://www.training.ocscouts.org/index.html>

American Red Cross Training Discount

Scouters can attend ARC courses for \$5 plus a \$25 materials fee. This is less than half the regular ARC course price of \$65. However, you may not receive these discounts if you enroll with the local ARC chapter.

New CSLST Syllabus

BSA has just published a new Cub Scout Leader Specific Training (CSLST) syllabus (BSA Pub No. 34875). This is available from our council Scout Store.

Kodiak Course

Kodiak is a Venturing level course that teaches useable, relevant leadership skills that every teen can use. Part 1 of our council's first Kodiak course was held June 6-8 and it went very well. Part 2 of the course will be held June 13-15. We will report back on this phase next month.

Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guides

Several years ago, the BSA Supply Division stopped offering Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guides as a stocked item. Since then, it is available on-line to professionals only. We make this available to Commissioners during our annual Commissioners' College. Since we are not having a college in 2008, we are going to make the PDFs available on-line.

The 2008-2009 guide (61-pages/ 556 KBs)...

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=42780>

The 2009-2010 guide (72-pages/ 665 KBs)...

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=42781>

National Summertime Awards

If you are a Cub Scout unit or parent, it is time to be planning and recording summertime activities. The application form (BSA Pub. No. 33748A) is on-line...
<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33748.pdf>

Also note that this year, the Scout pins have a color-coded rim that indicates what level of the Cub Scout program the participant is working at.

Commissioner Recruiting Tips

At our June 12th Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting, we discussed how two-thirds of our units are Cub Scout Packs and given the diversity of program elements during the Cub Scout years, it is common for the parent who started the program to step down and let the other parent participate in the WEBELOS program elements. When this happens, the council is alerted via the Separated Leaders Report. This report can be used by district commissioners to identify possible candidates for unit commissioner positions that will work with Packs.

Another idea we discussed was identifying over 21 separated youth (who might be in a Scouting fraternity) and recruiting them as short term unit commissioners.

Also remember to attend parents night at your district's Cub Scout Day Camp and have plenty of information on unit commissioners and business cards (so they know who to contact, if interested).

New Training Sequence for Busy Parents

In the past, we have always offered New Leader Essentials (NLE) first, then Leader Specific Training afterwards. Nationwide studies have revealed that many parents cannot stay for both sessions and BSA feels it is more important to provide the Leader Specific Training so parents know how to conduct a quality program. As a result, BSA is recommending that Leader Specific Training will be offered first and NLE be offered afterwards. The thinking is that NLE is mostly a video presentation and can be obtained by borrowing the DVD from the council office.

Rechartering Update

We have averaged 85% rechartering each month this year and October 2007 was our last low month. We are 6-7 units ahead of the projected curve, but we have the potential of dropping 30 Wake County units in June.

Socialize the Scout Parent Coordinator

This fall, our Council will request that all units recruit a registered adult volunteer to serve as the Scout Parent Coordinator. We are currently looking for a local sponsor to fund the materials for this exciting program.



ScoutParents is an element of the National Parent Initiative of the Boy Scouts of America. The vision of lifelong Scouter Gerald I. Lawhorn. The program's intent is to provide parents with information and tools to help them understand the importance of becoming more involved with their Scouts. In turn, we hope that Scouts will stay with the program longer, working their way to Eagle Scout.

Your ScoutParents Unit Coordinator proactively promotes, educates and inspires youth, parents and mentors about ScoutParents, Scouting FamilyTeams and The GREAT Family FUN of Scouting!

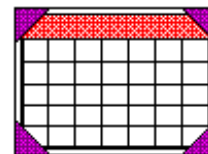
They also coordinate and assist in parent-mentor recruitment, retention and passionate participation in a Scouting FamilyTeam and as ScoutParents or other Dedicated Scouting volunteers.

They provide ProScouting sponsored material year-round to your unit's Scouting participants and Chartered Partner.

For a complete list of responsibilities or more information about the ScoutParents program, visit the official site... <http://www.scoutparents.org/>

Plan Ahead

- **Broken Arrow Ceremony** – The Broken Arrow Ceremony is a solemn and respectful way of commemorating the lives of Scouts or Scouters who have passed away. The Order of the Arrow Lodge #104 will be presenting a Broken Arrow ceremony for the young men that were tragically killed at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch. The ceremony will be held at Camp Durant (near Carthage, NC) on June 25th at 8:30 PM. The general public is invited.
- **No July Council Commissioners' Cabinet meeting** so commissioners can visit summer camp and day camps.
- **July 4th Independence Day** – An opportunity to fly your American flag.
- **August Commissioners' Cabinet Meeting** will be held at the Council Service Center in Raleigh on August 14th (the second Thursday).
- **Trainer Development Conference (TDC)** will be held on August 23. For more information, contact the course director, [Katherine Gillespie](#)
- **Council Cub-O-Ree** – Saturday, October 11th
- **2008 Council Commissioners' Conference** – Our annual half day planning conference will be held 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** –Saturday, November 1st (moved to avoid conflicts with Veteran's Day weekend).



Commissioners At Summer Camp

District commissioners should 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. However, any day you can go with by fine and any amount of time you can stay will at least let people know you cared enough to stop by. We want to make a real Commissioner Service presence known this year.



District Commissioner Reports



- **Baden-Powell District** – No report.
- **Cape Fear District** – Nothing new to report this month.
- **Crosswinds District** – We are in the middle of our normal Quality Unit Measurements and Unit Inventories, which is normally finished by this time, but due to some unexpected problems with some of our unit leaders getting corrected information to the Commissioner Staff, we hope to be finished within the next few weeks.

We have successfully contacted three registered leaders to become Unit Commissioners right after we start back up in August. All three have commitments that will not allow them to enter into the Commissioner Service until after July.

The District Director and District Commissioner have begun setting up a schedule to visit all Charter Heads between now and the middle of August to discuss the Charter Renewal Agreement process and to ascertain if any of the Charter Organizations have any issues they would like to discuss with representatives of BSA.

We are also in the process of encouraging more leaders to get trained. We have had two very successful training sessions in the last weekend of May and 1st weekend in June. SM & ASM Specific Training one weekend and a Merit Badge Counselor Orientation the following weekend.

We have also managed to locate a new District Chairman, Jonathan Taylor, an Eagle Scout and Managing Partner of Everest Group, LLC in Cary. Jonathan has been a part of the Crosswinds District F.O.S. Campaign for the past few years and has agreed to take over the position, replacing Robbie Spivey, who had to resign due to the growth of his business.

- **Falls District** – No report.
- **Great Northern District** – No report.
- **Hemlock District** – All of the packs in Hemlock had a successful year and look forward to another great year of scouting coming up. Most of our Boy Scout troops are attending exciting weeks at summer camp.

The commissioner staff will meet this August for

a planning session for the coming scout year.

There will be 2 town hall meetings this August for Institutional Heads, Charter Organizational Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Unit Commissioners to meet each other, discuss their formal roles at their unit level and expand the association between each other as well as get trained at the position.

Alex Lambert and Gene Lambert are leaving for Philmont with the council contingent this month for an 11-day trek and visits to Denver Colorado to the USAF Academy, Pikes Peak, local ranch, Garden of the Gods, and much more. They are also going the Florida Seabase in June of 2009.

- **Kia Kima District** – No report.
- **Mawat District** – No report.
- **Moore District** – No report.
- **Neuse River District** – No report.
- **Orange District** – District Roundtable on June 2nd. Boy Scouts will focus on Pioneering, Knots, and lashing. Cubs will focus on Safe Scouting. We will also have a presentation on 2010 National Jamboree Staff Recruitment. Commissioners will focus on Quality Unit Commitment follow-up procedures.

Our district Cub Scout Day Camp is scheduled for June 16 – 20, 2008. It will be held at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland, NC

- **Three Rivers District** – No report.
- **Tuocs District** – We had a “Breakfast Hike” at Clark Park, Fayetteville, 31 May. 77 Scouts participated. Qualifies as a Summertime activity for Cubs. Another planned Summertime activity will be our “Night with the Fayetteville Swampdogs” on June 13. Game, movie, and camping.

Crew 767 rechartered on 31 May - rechartered until Jan 09 to bring in line with rest of district. Crew 752 is in the process of creation - new unit for Tuocs!

If you have district news to report, please e-mail it to [Charles Good](mailto:Charles.Good).

The BSA National Annual Meeting

The BSA National Annual Meeting is an opportunity for volunteer Scouters and Scout professionals from the entire country to get together to share knowledge and best practices with each other and to get “revved up” for the Scouting year. An exhibit hall is set up with all the latest from every division of Scouting and a National Scout Shop. Typically, new initiatives are rolled out at this meeting and this year the new uniform was revealed by National Supply Division. For the past three years, the National Annual Meeting has focused on the 2006–2010 National Strategic Plan—“2010: When Tradition Meets Tomorrow” and how councils, districts and units can achieve its aims.

The Strategic Plan was unveiled in 2005 and is a culmination of several factors. BSA’s 100-year history, changing social dynamics, and the direct input of Scouting volunteers and professionals from around the country all provided the necessary insight to create a blueprint that will serve as the foundation for how we face our tomorrow. The Strategic Plan is based on five pillars supported by specific measurable goals:

- Every eligible youth has an opportunity to be involved in a quality Scouting experience
- The number of engaged, accountable volunteers is dramatically increased at all levels of Scouting.
- Every local council is fiscally sound.
- Local, regional, and national chartered organizations and strategic alliances are identified and engaged.
- Enough of the right professionals are identified, developed, and retained in the right positions at all levels, with a focus on diversity.

The emphasis for each year’s National Annual Meeting has been and will be:

- 2006 – Research to help adult leaders better understand how to reach young people and their parents and how to deliver a quality Scouting experience to them. The research serves as the basis of many of the initiatives to be implemented over the next five years.
- 2007 – Focus on helping every local council become fiscally sound.
- **2008 – A salute to all Scout volunteers and a coordinated effort to engage 1 million new volunteers.**

- 2009 – A salute to BSA’s chartered organizations and other strategic alliances and highlight of our tradition of service.
- 2010 – Celebrate BSA’s 100th anniversary.

The Occoneechee Council this year saw 13 Scouters , 2 Scout professionals and 2 spouses attend the BSA National Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, May 22-24. These included:

- Council President Rod Frankel
- Council Commissioner Jack Nichols (and wife, Carol Spruill)
- Council Executive John Akerman (and wife, Gayle)
- ACC Susan Long
- Capital Campaign Chair Temple Sloan
- Council Vice-Presidents
 - Marianne Absher (HR/Training)
 - Tom Church (Administration)
 - Doyle Parrish (Finance)
 - Jim Whitlock (District Operations)
- Council Treasurer Nick Long
- Director of Field Service Connie Bowes
- Council Board members:
 - Blair Bost
 - Rick Guirlinger
 - Bill Huters
 - Dino Radosta

Having so many interested and engaged volunteers attending allowed us to glean information on several topics including:

- Executive Board Relationships and Governance
- Fiscal Management
- Scouting in the Digital Age
- Asset Management
- Strategic Membership Initiatives
- Health and Safety Risk Management

On Thursday, Commissioner Service and Leadership Support Services hosted an all-day seminar covering Commissioner Accountability, Recruiting, Training and Centennial Quality Award Programs.

[The Occoneechee Council Commissioner Service was featured prominently in the presentation given by Susan Long entitled "Recruiting a Full Commissioner Staff". Kudos to all of you in our commissioner Service for making that happen!]

On Friday morning, the National Annual Business Meeting was attended by John Akerman, Jack Nichols, Susan Long, Doyle Parrish, Rod Frankel, and Jim Whitlock. This year's highlights were seeing the fruition of a resolution presented last year by the Occoneechee Key 3 (Dan Bryson, Jack Nichols and John Akerman) moving that Commissioner Service be extended to the Regional and Area levels. It was announced that said resolution was now fact and new Regional and Area Commissioners were installed.



From left to right: Rod Frankel, Jack Nichols, Alf Tuggle (Regional Director for the Southern Region), and John Akerman

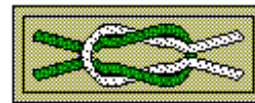
Later that day, Jack Nichols (architect of the resolution) was presented with a plaque containing all the commissioner shoulder patches, including the new Regional and Area Commissioner patches.

The Annual Business Meeting also saw the retirement of Don Belcher as National Commissioner and Rick Cronk as National President. The new National Commissioner, Tico Perez, was installed at the meeting and John Gottschalk was announced as National President later in the day.

Friday afternoon, several seminars were attended including the 100th Anniversary Celebration, Multicultural Marketing, ScoutParents Initiative, and Volunteerism. Materials from many presentations, seminars and exhibits were brought back to share with district and council leaders in Occoneechee.

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).

Program Update



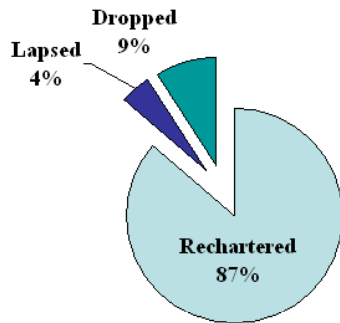
In our council, 48 Cub Scout Packs have decided to take advantage of a new Cub Scout Pilot Program this Fall. This new program focuses on advancement September – February and on belt loops and arrow points from March – May. There are built in summertime activities as well. In a pilot study of dens using this program, the retention rate of Cub Scouts went from 64% to 85%. Equally important, den leaders using the program were very happy with it and felt it made their job as a den leader much easier and more enjoyable.

For more information, check out the PowerPoint presentation at the following URL...

<http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.asp?id=42818>

Membership, Rechartering and Youth Retention

The council completed May with the 5th consecutive month of membership growth in 2008. June is projected to be yet another month for growth giving the Occoneechee Council 18 consecutive months of growth in membership over the previous year's status.



Currently, 87% of our traditional Scouting units have rechartered with 4% lapsed and 9% dropped. We have the potential to retain 91% of our units this year, which is close to our record performance in 2007 of 94%.

The Occoneechee Council closed out its tenure in Area 9 by leading the area in youth retention at 71.5% total youth retained to date (of those units that have rechartered).

All commissioners are reminded to pay special attention to units that recharter with less than 50% of their previously registered youth members. Though not widespread, there are some units in the council who have rechartered with less than 50% of their previously registered youth members.

District Cub Scout Day Camp Schedules

Week Of	District
June 16 th to 20 th	Great Northern Kia Kima Mawat Moore Orange Three Rivers Tuocs
June 23 rd to 27 th	Cape Fear
June 23 rd to 27 th June 30 th to July 4 th July 7 th to 11 th	Baden-Powell Crosswinds Falls Hemlock Neuse River

June Meeting Handouts (password protected)

For a Membership and Rechartering update...
http://www.ocscouts.org/commissioner/recruitment/mr_update_06-12-2008.pdf

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](#)

