



# The Presbyterian Scouter



A quarterly publication of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters

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## President's Report

### Challenge to You, Our Members How Can We Serve, and, Grow?



This is the start of a new career for me and the time for all of you to get to know who I am. All of the Officers and Directors of NAPS are excited about where we are going and what we can and will accomplish.

As I prepare to take my Cub Scout Grandson to "Partner and Pal" overnight camp and go see my youngest son on staff at another camp the next night, I am reminded just how vast our network has to be to reach all those who are in need of the values that Scouting and the church provide. It is a daunting task to create a network that extends throughout the maze of scouting councils and the overlap of the Presbyteries.

At our Bi-annual meeting at GA we tried to address ways of increasing membership to be better able to serve the needs of the boys. We discussed avenues to reach more boys, to get more of our churches involved into the Scouting program. We need your help and ideas on this.

**A CHALLENGE TO ALL MEMBERS:** What are the actions, programs, other initiatives that we can implement to better serve scouting?

You can e-mail me with any ideas you have at [papa.joe@charter.net](mailto:papa.joe@charter.net). I am looking forward to being flooded with proposals. Please think long and hard on this, as it is one of the challenges ahead. We can do much, but if we can't stand out as be seen, no one knows and we dry up from lack of visibility.

I have had friends drop out because they could not see any results from their financial contribution. We have to become a force in Scouting, creating or sponsoring faith based programs throughout the nation, starting additional units within our churches, and driving the policies and agenda of the BSA.

Yours in Scouting.....**Joe**



**THANK GOODNESS FOR OUR SPOUSES!** Dianne Johanning, left, and Hartman the NAPS booth at GA, while hubbies Wray and Rush, and others, work on NAPS issues.

## Joseph Larrance Elected As New NAPS President

With a record number of ballots returned, the proposed slate of officers for NAPS through 2010, was elected by clear majorities, reported Jack Schrimister, the NAPS secretary.

Elected were:

Joseph Larrance, of Big Rapids, MI, who has been serving as Director for the Covenant Region, as president;

George Taylor, an attorney in Birmingham, AL., vice-president;

Rev. Webster, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, as chaplain.

Jack Schrimsher, Rush Hart, and Corb Sarchet, the secretary, treasurer, and publications secretary, respectively, were reelected;

New directors: Rev. Robert Nicholson, of Seattle, WA, Alaska-Northwest region; David Sutter, Rochester Hills, MI, Covenant region; Warren Kraft, Oshkosh, WI, Lakes & Prairies; Rev. Neal Humphrey, Rocky Mountain, and Ms Liz Shelby, Dallas, TX, Region of the Sun.

Re-elected as directors were Dr. Paul J. Deason, Southwest; Rev. Eugene Foley, Northeast; and Stephen Taylor, Lincoln Trails.

No nominees were received for Southern California & Hawaii, Living Waters, Mid America, Pacific, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, or Trinity, and those serving in those positions did not respond to inquires from the nominating committee. Those positions will remain vacant until filled by appointed by the new president.



John Washburn ( Photo by Chuck Proudfoot , *Presbyterians Today*)

## Scouting Changes Lives, Says Seminary Bound Teen

By Eva Stimson

*Editor, Presbyterians Today*

**(The following two items were published by Presbyterian News Service during General Assembly, and reproduced with its permission)**

**SAN JOSE, June 25, 2008** — Five years ago John Washburn was a teenager in trouble. His father had died the previous year. As Washburn told about 40 people gathered for the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters Luncheon, he expressed his grief by wearing long hair, black clothes, writing on himself with Sharpies and hanging out with the wrong crowd.

Then he and about 10 other equally troubled young people joined Venturing, a program of the Boy Scouts of America designed to help young people ages 14–20 develop character, physical fitness and citizenship.

“One of us was a member of the Bloods gang,” he said. “Another was in a drug recovery program, but still suicidal. One still owed some community service for a shoplifting charge.”

Three of them were children of alcoholic parents, and several had learning disabilities.

Their Venture crew focused on Sea Scouting, which meant they learned all about sailing, seamanship and related skills. They spent summer weeks sailing in Maine and the Chesapeake Bay. They earned certifications in scuba diving, lifeguarding, first aid and storm spotting for the National Weather Service.

They also did service projects: building wildlife habitats, visiting hospitals and collecting toys for children of military personnel.

“We learned to care about one another,” Washburn said. “And we changed. Oh, how we changed.”

Washburn, now 18, is headed for college and then seminary. He is an assistant scout master and an elder

at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA. Standing in uniform before the lunchtime group gathered at San Jose’s Westminster Presbyterian Church, he expressed his gratitude for the scouting program.

“Thank you for being leaders for us. Thank you for praying for us. You’re not only teaching leadership skills, you’re saving lives — lives like mine.”

The National Association of Presbyterian Scouters was formed in 1986 and has maintained links with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) since 1988.

Opening and closing ceremonies for the group’s General Assembly lunch were conducted by the color guard of Troop 116, sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Jose. Outgoing president Wray Johanning, from Ballwin, MO, presented service awards to several adult leaders. He also introduced the group’s new president, Joe Larrance, of Traverse City, MI.

### *The following was taken from the June 24 edition of the Presbyterian News Service*

Donald York touts the 2,500-member group he serves, the (the Presbyterian Churches sponsoring Scouting units) (and their representative on the National BSA Council,) the National Association of



Presbyterian Scouters, because 60 percent of the scouts—Cub, Boy and Venturing--come to their program unchurched.

It’s a good idea, he said, to “expose young people to good Christian role models” and to give them some of the life skills they’ll need, from building a fire and cooking a meal to tying a necktie to dress up for a job interview. “Their success,” he said, “will depend on how many assets youth will develop through the Scouting program.”

(Editor’s Note: York along with NAPS volunteers manned the GA Display. He also sat in on NAPS meetings.)

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York



Richardson

***Report from National***

**Reorganization May Impact NAPS**

*by Wray Johannig, Past President*

As you may be aware, BSA National Office has reorganized and I can assure you the dust has not come down. Folks are still trying to find their offices.

One of the major impacts is the elimination of 62 to 64 professional positions in Irving. The reorganization is along task oriented lines similar to what has happened in Louisville at the General Assembly offices. And two years later, the kinks still have not been worked out.

As you may know, Don York, Director of Relationships, has retired and you may not know, our champion at BSA, Dave Richardson, the director of chaplaincy, has taken a position as Scout Executive in the Theodore Roosevelt Council, in Massapequa, NY, as of September 15 . With both gone. I believe the only one left is George Sparks.

The major impact to NAPS will be the level of support we receive from BSA. What is n limbo is, BSA paid for our booth at GA and provided support in the way of providing the booth backdrop, materials and personnel. In addition they provided the booth for APCE. We need to consider this in our planning and budgeting. The what if is "if BSA stops or curtails this support," what are our options?

As far as the "Conference" is concerned, due to declining enrollment and the new management structure, Religious Relationship Week **may** be cancelled or at least significantly downsized



**NAPS Member's Great Legacy  
135 of His Scouts Make Eagle**  
Two of his new Eagles, number 134 and 135, stand with Dennis Malcolm, center. On the left is Kyle Hysack and Mike

Talk about touching someone's lives. NAPS member Dennis R. Malcolm, a 40-year Scouter veteran, recently awarded his 135 Eagle Scout rank to youth he has served during those years.

He began scouting in 1957 as a wolf scout in Pack 36 in Indiana, Pa. Headvanced through the scouting ranks until he became an Eagle scout in June 1965 in Troop 36 in Indiana, Pa...

Malcolm started his leadership in Troop36, serving for two years in the early 1970's before going back to college. He then returned to Troop 29 in 1975 as an assistant scout master held until 1986.

He then left Troop 29 and went next door to the other Presbyterian church and restarted Troop 133. I stayed as scoutmaster for 13 years until he was forced to move to New York when his career position was eliminated. Three months later, he hooked up with Troop 47 in Springfield,NY as an assistant scoutmaster/life to Eagle coordinator

"Many times I have been asked what I get out of Scouting?," he reports. " My answer is always the same. When I see a young man finish and mature into an Eagle Scout is my payment in full!" "I have received much recognition in my career, but my best comes at the Christmas season when I still receive cards from many of the scouts I have helped reach the rank of Eagle Scout'.

# Busy Summer Head for NAPS Members Making A Difference

*Editor's Note: In May, I asked NAPS members by e-mail to share with me what they are doing in Scouting and this summer. There response shows the width and depth of service of NAPS members Scouting. Our thanks to all for making a difference!. Corb*

**EUGENE FOLEY:** NAPS Northeast Region Director, again serves the Boy Scouts of America as the sole chaplain to the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys. "It's a tough job,, but somebody has to do it," Gene remarks with a grin when asked about his work. "You can't beat being in paradise for a hundred five days each summer!"

The Boy Scouts of America designates up to eleven national high adventure base chaplains each year. Eight slots are set aside for the 22,000 annual participants at Philmont and two places are available for chaplains at the Northern Tier Base for their 5,500 participants. The ratio of participants to Chaplains is about 2,750 participants per chaplain if all the positions are filled. The exception is at the Florida Sea Base where, due to limited housing, one chaplain is assigned to provide care for their 11,000 annual participants.

Sea Base is not a single location. The two major sites are located exactly fifty miles apart along Highway 1, also known as the Overseas Highway, on Lower Matecumbe and Summerland Keys. These bases, each slightly more than 5 acres, are staging facilities for diving, sailing, fishing and camping activities. A third, seasonal base is located in the Bahamas for ocean sailing. A remote uninhabited island of more than 100 acres of natural mangrove swamp and hammock is dedicated solely to camping and exploration.

While Gene doesn't get to visit the Bahamas facility, he travels between the Keys sites to provide chapel services, and frequently visits boats along the island chain to offer prayers and worship programs. In addition to the more than 100 interfaith chapel services he performs each summer, he hosts more than sixty "Meet the Chaplain" sessions for those interested in earning the Duty to God Award that he has modified for Sea Base purposes.

"The most difficult task I perform as a High Adventure Chaplain is the delivery of bad news to participants," reports Gene when describing his various duties. When news of a death or other sensitive news reaches Sea Base, Gene will personally deliver the information to the individual wherever they may be found, even when out at sea. He will escort the participant back to one of the resident bases, feed and house him or her, and then transport the participant through airport security if necessary.

Counseling is also a part of the work Gene performs. When asked how his work at Sea Base compares to the council Scout camps he has served, he notes that "There isn't much homesickness at a High Adventure Base. The participants and staff are older and have issues that can be far more serious. I spend more time with staff members because of the close quarters and the tension that often results. And, the season is longer than what is typical of a council camp. The hours are long and there is only one off-day a week for program staff. Even on an off-day, staff members are still on base with the same meal cycle and roommates. The base has new arrivals and departures every day without interruption throughout the entire season. It's relentless."

Gene also explains, "Our staff is co-ed, and many of the issues result from the relationships that form and then fall apart during the



summer." Gene is also called upon when participants or staff exhibit depression or behavior problems. "There is a specific protocol that kicks in when a person threatens suicide or is caught in a criminal act. While this is rare, it is important that all our chaplains be prepared to identify advanced psychological issues and recognize the need to refer to other professionals promptly when problems are identified."

"As a Scout Chaplain, I have done pretty much everything I have done as church pastor. I've done weddings and funerals, communion services and bible classes. The one thing I haven't done is a baptism. I'm sure if I do this long enough even that is a possibility."

**Paul Deason, regional director:** I will once again this Summer be the Chaplain for Yucca Council (El Paso, TX and Southern NM) and Camp Dale Ressler (Cloudcroft, NM), a position that I have had for the last seven or eight years, if memory serves me. I have been the chaplain for Troop 66 in Mesilla Park, NM since 1996, and was the Woodbadge chaplain in 2001.

On March 30th, my son Michael won the Bataan Memorial Death March marathon, my younger son Iain came in 12th, and I finished in mid-field. My uncle 1Lt Paul W. Deason, was a Bataan survivor, prison camp survivor, but died when the prison ship he was aboard was torpedoed. Both boys are Eagle Scouts from Troop 66, Mesilla Park, NM 2. May 17th, Michael graduated with honors from the University of New Mexico with a dual major of Biological Anthropology and German. He intends to pursue his graduate studies at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. 3.

In the annual magazine for the Campaign for America's Wilderness entitled "Wild ... for how long", I was one of 10 honored for work in wilderness preservation (pp 21-23).

**Rev Robert {Gene} Horne (retired):** I am VP for District Operations of Alamo Area Council. I am also chairing the committee to redistrict the council because of our growth in the San Antonio area. This is to come about after the first of the year 2009. So I am active in working to see that this takes place with as little upset as possible. I will teach a class in August to unit committee chairs. I may work some at summer camp at Bear Creek waiting to see how my schedule stands up with other commitments at the church where my wife is a member. I am also working on a book with another minister.

**Liz Shelby, Regional Director:** For the third year in a row, I am camp chaplain at our Amarillo district cub scout day camp in Austin, TX, part of the Capitol Area Council. "God's Country" is an activity area. All of the scouts rotate through the area and I work with them to complete their faith requirements for ranks. Also, each den writes and delivers a prayer at the flagpole to start the day or close a day. All scouts earn the Duty to God patch during the camp. Finally, the Webelos write and deliver an interfaith worship program on the last day. Great fun – talking faith with cub scouts!

If anyone is interested in the "God's Country" they can email me at [scubarun@austin.rr.com](mailto:scubarun@austin.rr.com).



**TRAVELING DISPLAY** used by Elwin Hebner, religious emblems coordinator for the Colorado Longs Peak Council is impressive, effective.

**Elwin "Heeb" Hebner:** In answer to your question, I am American Baptist, a BSA certified Chaplain (1977 three beader Antelope) serving the Longs Peak Council as the Religious Emblems Coordinator for 20+ yrs. This will be my ninth year serving as the resident Chaplain for eight weeks having services each day in two camps at the BenDelatour Scout Ranch in Colorado.

I have the Good Shepherd, Bronze Pelican, Silver Beaver (have served on and chaired the committee), have O/A Vigil Honor, and James E. West awards. I have been a Scouter for 37 years, gone to Philmont training (4 times), was COR of Troop 273 and now 67, Council Executive Board, Volunteer Camp Ranger, etc.

Incidentally, I joined the NAPS in hopes of getting your information for my Religious Emblems display, but as of yet have received NONE. **(Editors Note: I have responded to see what information he needs. If any of you have information or materials he could use, please email him at elhebnerbldr@earthlink.com.**

**Rev. Neal Humphrey, Regional Director.** I completed the Woodbadge training a couple of weeks after Easter and I'm working on my ticket. One item on the ticket is at the request of the Trapper Trails Council. While my council is the fourth largest in the nation, there is no Protestant Religious Relations Committee. I've been asked to include on my ticket the establishment of a Protestant Religious Relations Committee (and chair the thing) in order to promote Scouting among Protestant churches.

**New Knots:** This spring I received both the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. I'm told I'm up for a James E. West Fellowship award. During General Assembly I'll be buried in our annual Vacation Bible School. Pre-registrations are already approaching 100 kids. On my calendar as Moderator of the Presbytery of Utah is the installation of at least one pastor. I'm also in the middle of calling a new Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the presbytery, which has to be filled by June 1. In late July I'll be climbing in the Tetons. I have companions for South and Middle Teton and I'm still looking for a flat-bellied young fella to accompany me up the technical rock climbs on the Grand Teton. And my Session at Westminster Church, Fruit Heights, Utah, has just passed a resolution demanding that I delay my retirement until I'm 70.

**Rev. Jim Splitt, co-pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, IN:** I am a member of the Lenni Lanape District Committee of the Hoosier Trail Council, and a member of the Troop 571 troop committee for training; a NESA Life Member and Brotherhood member, OA. This summer I am starting a new troop in Greensburg, IN, chartered by the First Presbyterian Church, as Troop 571, in honor of the old Troop 71 that used to meet there. My wife, Kathleen and I will participate in the Habitat 500, a 500-mile mike ride to benefit Habitat For Humanity. The ride is July 13-19th in Minnesota, my 11<sup>th</sup> and Kathleen's 9<sup>th</sup> 500-ride for HFH. My son Paul Splitt, PhysEd. teacher in Amelia, OH, will be spending two weeks in Uganda spending time at orphanages loving / caring for children.

**Dennis R. Malcolm, Ames, NY:** In June, I will be presenting my 134<sup>th</sup> and 135<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scouts. In 39 years of Scouting, this is the best pay days I can ever receive!. As my health does not permit me to do the outdoor items anymore, I am still active as the Life to Eagle advisor for the troop, and I continue to try and sell the product to boys in the two rural upstate school district in which I substitute teach. Scouting is barely hanging on in Upstate New York. Even with the Catskills and the Adirondacks this close, there are many items vying for the boys' time—but big one up here is working on the family farm or just helping Mom and Dad make ends meet!.

**Dr. Robert D. Nicholson, Regional Director.** My most recent adventures include trying to connect a historical note, in this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Scouting, with a Scottish Clan that gave Scouting the key property to Lord Baden Powell. I have been named Chaplain to the Caledonian & St. Andrew Society of Seattle, and would love to be able to document the connection between scouting and the Scouts. If any of you have a bit of information that might help me, please share it with me at [rdn2@comcast.net](mailto:rdn2@comcast.net). In June, our Society did a wonderful musical, Highland dance, and piping program with a traditional Scottish tea. I welcome help in developing a program on our Scottish heritage and Scouting, and the fact that the PCUSA is the Church of Scotland in the USA. I had the privilege of serving three months in the C of S, and the two parishes I served both had Troops.

**Tom Van Griethuysen:** I am currently a District Member-at-large, Council Marketing committee member, Heritage Society member, council Historical Society member, and one of the "Youngtimers" (a senior group of current and past Scouters that meet monthly to help the council with clerical chores). I'd love to help out with another National Camping School this summer, but my walking (following a hip replacement last year) still leaves a bit to be desired, and I don't think my physician would okay my going. I do hope to get in some more walking however.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I will mark 70 years of registration with the BSA. I received my Eagle Scout award in June 1943, served on the camp staffs of six councils (two of them as Camp Director and one as Business Manager/Assistant Reservation Director of the largest), took my Wood Badge course at Schiff Reservation in 1957, and served on the staff of National Camping Schools in 1956, 2000, 2002 and 2003. I have had two experiences at Philmont, heading a 54 person council Explorer delegation in 1954, and (with my wife) at the Marketing & Public Relations conference in 1999. It was while at the latter event that a Presbyterian clergyman got me interested in NAPS, and I joined shortly after. Received a District Award of Merit in 1997, Silver Beaver in 1999, and God and Service Award in 2001.



## **We Want You!** **To Help Round Up New Members for NAPS**

When you network with, play golf with, go Scouting with, bump into, pray with, or otherwise connect with your fellow Presbyterian Scouters, recruit them for our team--

to assist Presbyterian congregations to become chartered partners with BSA

to assist local Councils in establishing units in Presbyterian churches

to foster individual religious growth of Presbyterian youth

to promote the use of unit Chaplains and Chaplain Aides

to support the chaplaincy program in summer camps

**to encourage recognition of and to recognize Presbyterian clergy, laymen, and organizations for their contributions to youth and Scouting**

*and.....*

*to bring unchurched youth and their families in contact with Presbyterian Churches through quality, fun, and exciting Scouting programs*

### ***Welcome New Members***

Randy D. Wilson, 6822 Red Rose Village, Fredericksburg, 22407

Matthew Chapman, 702 Varerly Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312,

Rev. Jonathan Scanlon, 201 Washington St, Atlanta, GA, 30303,

Dr. W. T. Mealor, Jr, 5154 Charlotte Circle, North, Memphis, TN, 38117,

Mark Cronenwett, 204 Santa Clara, Alameda, CA,

David Boxell, 1404 49th Court South, Western Springs, IL 60558,

George Marquis Smith, 102 Hermitage Ave, Lafayette, LA, 70503,

Katherine M. Dunlap, P.O. Box 626, Star, NC, 27356-0626,

Thomas W. Brucia, 607 Clemons St, Bellmore, NY 11710

*A n Address Update:* Rev. Dale Dykstra, 1401 Walnut Ave, Mendota, IL , 61342,

*Five year renewal:* Sharon E.Sliener, 1998 Via Cangrejo, San Diego, CA 92130-2641

**Corb Sarchet**

**(corbms3@bellsouth.net)**

**Publications Secretary, NAPS**

**107 Lake Darby Place**

**Gotha, FL 34734**

***TO:***

***Your Presbyterian Scouter  
for July-September 2008***