



The Presbyterian Scouter



GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT,



PHILIP E. MELBERG

First and foremost: let me express from the newly elected board our collective thanks and appreciation to the retiring officers. Their exceptional service and devotion has made for a smooth and efficient transition.

Next, to all our members, the incoming board has already met and plans for 2015 are being formulated. Please, a reminder to all members, if you have not shared your vision and goals with the newly elected board, please do so. A complete board roster is on the new web site www.presbyterianscouter.org.

It is a humbling opportunity to be your new president. I have often met with NAPS representatives at jamborees, but never anticipated being an officer. One of our goals in 2015 is new members. If you have a friend, acquaintance, pastor, unit leader, scouting coordinator, (etc.) who is not a member, please facilitate their membership registration or renewal form. If you need one, please print it from the web site.

As we look to Scout Sunday 2015 is there someone you know who should be recognized or the unit or the church. It is a brief application and will provide you dividends for years to come.

When you share your experiences--photos or text--with our editor, you can see yourself in print. Tell us what you are doing or who you have honored it will inspire others to do likewise.

Your board will be creating a strategic planning committee in 2015. If you desire to serve or be contacted for input, please let me know.

If you are making a list and checking it twice, please include NAPS in your year-end charitable donations.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

Phil Melberg CNP

YEAR IN REVIEW:

Looking Back - Surging Forward

Usually one envisions fall as a time of reflection, of preparation for the cold harshness that often comes with winter. One thinks of winter as a time of slowing down, going to ground and hibernating. Somehow, NAPS didn't get the message! The ending of summer and russet days of fall seemed exploding with more activities and colorful exuberance than even my neighbor's sugar maple. NAPS members have been busy and the results are accumulating rapidly. It is impressive what our members can do!

As you know, NAPS has no paid staff. Volunteers serve all positions. No money is given to persons for travel or lodging to cover the many presbytery, synod, and national meetings. Part of that has been due to lack of an endowment for such expenses. For whatever reason, like all other NAPS members, NAPS representatives pay all their own costs to Jamboree, APCE, BSA and denominational meetings; even as they spend hours hosting NAPS booths or present programs. Membership dues go to program materials and the newsletter.

While we hope someday to have an endowment to help offset costs of travel, equipment, and some subsidies for individuals representing NAPS at major events; for now, every penny given to NAPS goes to help unify our membership and to serve God, the Church, and Scouting. You will see those words often in the newsletter because those focus all of us on what we believe and why we serve.

During this last election period, two persons especially volunteered incredible amounts of time: Liz Shelby, NAPS Secretary, and Eliot Kerlin, Former President of NAPS. David Green came aboard to help re-vision and revise the By Laws, allowing for an organization prepared to meet changing systems and the modern electronic era.

Anyone going to the-presbyterianscouters.org website will see that David McMann is a genius as capturing our new wave of creativity and service in the totally reconstructed website. How he managed this, as well as establishing and maintaining international sites for a major company, shows he is a scouter who will not admit defeat. Blessings, David!

Thus, with all these revitalizations, it is easy to see results now that your NAPS Board is in place and the pace increasing. All NAPS lacks now is more investment of your self, information, and support. Let us know what your strengths and interests are and do send in information on local scouting activities to the newsletter.



NAPS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, September 4 2014-Annual BSA Meeting, 2016 - Current Officers

PRESIDENT - **Philip E. Melberg**, CNP. 7121 Copperwood Court ,Rockville, MD 20855-2540, 301-948-7121 melbergpe@aol.com (Birthday: Oct 16)

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM - **Robert E. (Gene) Eplee, Jr.** 407 Carroll Av., Laurel, MD 20707, 301.604.0343 replee@comcast.net (Birthday: Nov 20)

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP-**Bob Kreider**, 243 Swinver Rd, Vermontville, NY 12989, 518.891.5241 kreiderscout@yahoo.com

SECRETARY- **Liz Shelby**, 5604 Shoaledge Ct., Austin, TX 78756, 512-458-9889, scubarun@austin.rr.com, (Birthday: March 15)

TREASURER – **Steve Baker**, 5620 Charlott St, Ft Worth, TX 76112, 817-312-2855 napstreasurer1@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR– **Amanda Ballenger**, PO Box 2097, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070 803-920-4061, napseditor@gmail.com., (Birthday: March 15)

WEBMASTER: **David McMann**, 2209 Hunter Drive, Anderson, SC 29625 864-933-7267, davidmcmann88@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN – Currently unfilled.

Parliamentarian /Legal Advisor – **Chris M. Marston**, 110 Shooters Ct, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-627-4679 chris.marston@gmail.com

BSA RELIGIOUS RELATIONS TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE for NAPS, Current President Philip E. Melberg and **Liz Shelby** (see Secretary listing)

BSA REPRESENTATIVE- **Camille Travis** , 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079 Off: 972.580.2423 Cell: 214.674.7249
camille.travis@scouting.org.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ALASKA-NORTHWEST – In process of confirmation

COVENANT –

LAKES AND PRAIRIES – **Warren P. Kraft**, 1625 Villa Park Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54904, 920-420-2019, warrenkraft@yahoo.com

LIVING WATERS – vacant

MID-AMERICA – **Paul Ke**, 1210 Beaver Creek Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017 636.530.1986, paulke1039@yahoo.com

MID-ATLANTIC – **Chip Reinhardt**, 17 Sanderling Ct., Durham, NC, 27713, 919-489-6858, rmlaw@nc.rr.com

NORTHEAST – **Robert F. Schlegel, Jr.**, 4053 SE 39th Circle, Ocala, Florida, 34480-4954, 516-815-2816, rfschlegel45@cox.net

PACIFIC – ROCKY MOUNTAINS –**Neal Humphery**, 3104 N 2400 E, Layton, Utah 84040. 801-510-3881 wpcrevneal@icloud.com

SOUTH ATLANTIC – **Ronald Kuebler**, 6601 Eastbrook Rd., Columbia, SC 29206, 803-787-6889, lingualperfection@usa.net
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, **John W. McKnight**, 621 White Chapel Circle, Charleston, SC 29412 843-408-5951, jmcitadel79@gmail.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND HAWAII – **Courtney and Craig Mizutani**, 4850 Spaniel Ct., Concord, CA 94521 925-671-0767, cmizutani@sbcglobal.net

SOUTHWEST –**Paul J. Deason**, 4815 Agave Dr., Los Cruces, NM 88001, 505-524-9881, deasonp@zianet.com.

SUN – **Tom McClure**, 2907 White Rock Drive, Austin, TX 78757-4448, mcluretom@aol.com

TRINITY – **Rodney Keitt**, 1611 Haworth St, Philadelphia, PA 19124, 215-264-7164, cazy4944@aim.com or rdnern2@gmail.com.

PAST PRESIDENTS

– **Eliot Kerlin**, 1817 Ems Re. E., Fort Worth, TX 76116, 817-737-0730. efkerlin@flash.net (Birthday: September 15)

– **Wray Johanning**, 309 High Meadows Dr., Ballwin, MO 63011, 636-391-0734, wray-diana@mindspring.com

– **Joseph A. Larrance**, 3790 Maid Marion Lane, Traverse City, MI, 49686 231-349-4044, Papajoe46@ymail.com

– **Gene Foley**, 301 SW Lincoln St., Apt. 906, Portland, OR 97201 609-214.162 efoley@cpbsa.org

NON-VOTING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECRETARY EMERITUS – **Jack H. Schrimsher**, 2401 NW 88th St., Kansas City, MO 64154, 8160-436-2409, jackschrim@aol.com

TREASURER EMERITUS – **John "Rush" Hart**, 2416 Ryan Place, Fort Worth, TX 76110, 817-924-0800, rushart@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR EMERITUS – **Corb Sarchet**, 107 Lake Darby Place, Gotha, FL 34734 407-.297-.8798 corbms3@bell.south.net

NAPS WELCOMES NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS LISTED AS VACANT. If you are willing to help in one of the areas above assisting the current officers and directors, please send information to: Amanda Ballenger, napseditor@gmail.com

National Association of Presbyterian Scouters

Proposed Program Initiative with Nation Presbyterian Men's Ministry



By NAPS VP of Program, Gene Eplee, Jr.

In 2007 the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS) entered into a covenant relationship with the National Presbyterian Men's Ministry (NPMM) with the goal of bringing men and youth into a more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. This program initiative will put the covenant relationship into practice: NAPS will work with Presbyterian Men's groups to actively promote Scouting in local congregations.

The goals of this program initiative are:

1. Encouragement of local congregations to charter Scouting units as a part of their youth ministry program.
2. Encouragement of youth (both young men and young women) and adults in local congregations to become active in Scouting, either in units sponsored by the congregation or in other strong units in the neighborhood.
3. Promotion of the religious emblems program in local congregations.
4. Recognition of adults in local congregations for their volunteer activities in Scouting.

The audiences for this program initiative are:

1. Scouting-aged youth and their parents in local congregations.
2. Parents in local congregations whose children have aged out of Scouting.
3. Eagle Scouts and other Scout Alumni who are members of local congregations.

Members of NAPS will bring our experience in Scouting and our contacts with local Boy Scout councils to this initiative. Local Presbyterian Men's groups would provide or help recruit leadership and other support for Scouting units chartered by the congregation. There are many local congregations where this relationship between the Presbyterian Men's group and Scouting units is already at work. Our goal is to spread these successes to interested congregations that currently do not charter Scouting units.

The NAPS President, Phil Melberg, and the Vice-President for Program, Gene Eplee, will discuss the

initiative and provide information on Scout Sunday the religious emblems program during the information session prior to the January 2015 meeting of National Capital Presbytery (NCP). Our near-term goal for this effort is to develop a written proposal for field-testing the program initiative in NCP and in the National Capital Area Council during the spring of 2015.

For further information contact Gene Eplee at replee@comcast.net or 301-604-0343.

Meet Courtney and Chris Mizutani



Anyone who has been around NAPS for even a short time knows that when one has the "honored title," both spend many hours supporting the office. However, Courtney and Chris have the unique status of being NAP's first couple to officially share a title, that of Regional Director on the west coast.

Both Courtney and Chris have been around scouting since the 1970's. Craig started as a cub scout but moved on to complete his Eagle. Courtney had a disadvantage since women were not as prominent back then but learned much as both her brothers progressed to Eagle scouts as well.

Craig and Courtney are ordained deacons of St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill, CA, although neither is on active duty now. Both have served as God and Country counselors, with Craig acting as Scoutmaster for Troop 444 in Concord, CA.

Craig also has served as ASM and SM for Mt Diablo Silverado Council's contingent to National Jamborees in 2010 and 2013. Courtney serves as Associate Advisor for Crew 444.

Both Courtney and Craig are Wood Badge trained and both have served on Wood Badge staff. Their two children are distinguishing themselves in scouting also. James earned his Eagle Scout rank this year and Claire serves as Secretary for Crew 444.



2014 Scout Sunday, St Andrews Presbyterian, Pleasant Hill, CA

WHO'D A THUNK IT?



Tired of the same ole same-o? Need a wakeup call for faith and sharing more with others? Check out what your National Association of Presbyterian Scouters has accomplished already this year:

NAPS has:

- elected a new slate of officers, adding some new positions at all levels of operation, with highly qualified volunteers
- enlisted an amazing professional who is volunteering service to re-vision the By-Laws
- developed a NEW!!! presbyterianscouters.org website that will be unveiled between Thanksgiving and Christmas
- surgically uplifted the NAPS FACEBOOK page, and--
- NAPS now is revving up for a strong membership drive and creation of a development campaign.

NAPS accomplished this through your support. Opportunities remain open for you to participate in upcoming projects.



Come join the fun! How can you help NAPS serve God, the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition and Scouting?

Let us know what you envision!

NAPS Salutes

APCE Award Winners:

2014 Educator of the Year

Debbie Hough



***DCE,
Derry Presbyterian Church
Hershey, PA,***

2014 Life Achievement Award Sharon Franklin



***Columbia Presbyterian
Vancouver, WA***

Come Meet Your new NAPS President Phil Melberg and other NAPS members at the NAPS Booth, APCE Convention, Waterside Marriott in Baltimore, Md, Feb 3-7.



For more information on the convention, directions, registration and other matters, please go to:

<http://www.apcenet.org/#!2015-annual-event/c23lr>

GRUBBY, ENERGETIC, OUTDOORS YOUTH CULMINATE ANNIVERSARY AS SCOUTING SWEETHEARTS

or

How Scout Sunday Culminates with Valentine's Day This Year with Hints to Help Energize Your Program

Yep, This year's Scouting Anniversary Day, Feb 8 2015, falls on a Saturday. On February 9, Scout Sunday begins Scouting Anniversary Week with Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, as culmination of a week focusing on Scouting heritage, activities and recognitions. It is the local sponsoring organizations primary chance to see all the results of their scouts' activities throughout the year. (Perhaps this would be a good year for the scouts to present a scouting luncheon or to give each person attending service a carnation or rose with a handwritten thank you note attached.)

When members of your NAPS Executive Board were asked for contributions to support Scout Sunday, NAPS Secretary Liz Shelby, one of the creators of an exemplary program for sharing chaplaincy and reverence in scouting, responded with materials she and others in the Capital Area Council developed. Some are from BSA sources as well. Liz pointed out that it is time we recognized **all** of our Scouts. We need to honor those in scouting, scouters, those who have been in scouting, and those who have supported scouting.

Scout Sunday started a hundred years ago on December 31, 1914 in celebration of the birthday of scouting in the USA. Back then, many Protestant churches organized Scout troops. Of the 7,375 registered troops at the close of 1915, more than 4,000 were chartered to Protestant Churches and 1,645 Scoutmasters were ministers. The Presbyterian Church in the USA in 1918 was one of the earliest endorsers.



For Presbyterians, it is traditional on Scout Sunday for scout groups to be greeters and ushers, to present the colors, to make short presentations and collect the offering, or to read scripture or lead a prayer. Some sing solos, have a chorale, or give instrumental support to the service.. A few groups even have historic scout bands and can lead the entire service musically. Some

churches let the youth supervise the audio/visual systems or write a program for the event.

Most groups use this time to award religious emblems [What a great opportunity to award a SM, Pastor, CE, a longtime supporter of scouting, with a Celtic Cross or God and Service!]Whatever is done, a scout group should remember to give advance blurb or insert for the bulletin. Always, it is valuable to worship together as a group. Remember; this is one of the occasions where full scout uniform in top condition is mandatory. Look crisp, neat, efficient—and this includes a real smile for those who support your group.

President Melberg focused in on several ideas that included the above and went further to propose using the NAPS or BSA logo on the worship bulletin cover, to include the NAPS brochure (which can be downloaded from the NAPS website) with the morning worship bulletin, and including NAPS QR code in the morning worship bulletin. Service and sharing are a vital part of Christian scouting and Melberg suggested presenting BSA books to the church library. (Possibilities might include: BSA Handbook, BSA "Centennial History," Eagle Scouts "Centennial History,," Spirit of Adventure "Eagle Scouts and the Making of America's Future," Legacy of Honor, "The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts," a subscription through membership of a church donor, of the [Presbyterian Scouter](#) newsletter, or others BSA materials.)

Other suggestions he offered were to:

- Invite the choir, men's quartet or Scouts to sing "On My Honor"
- Present Strength For Service--"to God and Country" to pastor
- Recognize the tenure of the Scouting units sponsored by the church
- Do a "Minute for Mission" about unit "Good Turn" or Eagle projects

- Put up a display in the narthex, or around the coffee & cookies
- Show or speak about new merit badges in 2014-2015 [Or the new P.R.A.Y. Bible program and patches]
- Present a lapel pin to former Scouts, now congregation members
- Present a "Scout Sunday" embroidered patch to youth participants

EXTENDING SCOUT SUNDAY WITHIN -AND BEYOND- THE LOCAL CHURCH:

MAKING AN IMPACT AT HOME, COMMUNITY AND PRESBYTERY

If the previous pages do not offer enough suggestions for "changing up" Scout Sunday, we offer yet more.

Recognize ALL church members who have received Eagle. Use Scout Sunday as a focus for beginning an Eagle Association within the church to be composed of all members who have achieved Eagle. What a great resource group for the community and mission outreach for the church that could be!

Scout Sunday could reaffirm the missionary outreach and giving of the Scouts and building of the sponsoring/scout ties. It would be a good time for the Scouts to make a gift to the church too- maybe a coupon book for hedge trimming, weeding, scrubbing nursery, hauling out trash and other like chores. (Talking with the pastor and session in advance and during the year would be good linkage of sponsor and scout group.) Perhaps the scouts could create a booklet where one project can be done each month (For example: scouts setting up and manning the "fishing pond" for small children at an October event, or helping hide the Easter Eggs in the Spring). There should be someone making sure photos are made for each project.

Does the church need some beautification? Perhaps a gift of a new shrub or flower for the churchyard? Or, perhaps the scouts could bake cookies or host a pizza party for the WOC or church administrators, pastor, staff and Session with the scouts cooking.

Each of these projects, when accomplished, should get written up in the church bulletin, put on the church website, with the whole list presented to the church the next Scout Sunday. Place a poster board or video of the projects in a church area where all can see what the church's scouts have done.

At that point, all the events with pictures can be condensed into an illustrated article and sent to presbytery and local TV, radio, and newspapers for inclusion with their media. [Why not send the finished article and pictures to *Scouting* too?]

For the next Presbytery meeting, perhaps the scouts can get advanced permission and present their "Year of Thankful Service" idea and explain the completed projects. Keep it short and positive..

Scouts could help promote NAPS at a presbytery table in the display room or outside the luncheon area with a sign, brochures (downloadable soon from the web), application forms (downloadable from the web), Presbyterian/BSA materials as listed in the last

newsletter (on the new website). Have a picture display or Scout-made calendar - with a picture at the top showing what the scouts did each month.

[Extra Marketing Your Troop ideas: If your presbytery does not have the Scouts presenting the flags, arranged it. A great way to help scouts understand church structure and operations. Your Chaplain's Aide can write before the meeting and ask if the scout or scout group could present the invocation. Or help set up for the meal. Or direct traffic. Or help with handouts, cleanup, etc. Options are extensive for what we scouts and scouters can offer to do to help church and presbytery.]

An early morning car wash might be a good mission fundraiser too. If scouts are willing to work for disaster missions, they could advertise in advance that they will clean cars during early morning hour Presbytery session with the money going to Presbyterian Disaster Relief. That too should have advance press, pictures, perhaps media on site, and with follow-up press.

Why not shoot for getting some material on the P.R.A.Y. and BSA media? And, PLEASE, send NAPS photos of what you did for any or all of these for our newsletter and our website. Write via napseditor@gmail.com. We exist for you and the scouts and want to hear from you and to honor all good turns that honor God and the Scout Code.

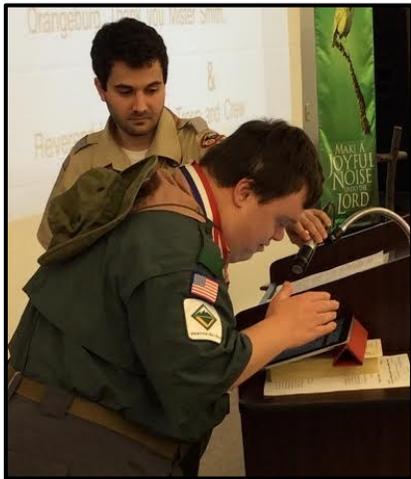
These are a few ideas your Executive Council has generated- some off the cuff and some from long time experience. Use what you wish. Send your ideas and tips. We still need a multi-media program for Scout Sunday for one church. If you have such, send us script and video and we will see if we can upload it to our website or reprint in next year's Scout Sunday newsletter.

VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

When one signs up on the NAPS Facebook, one may read and post notices for NAPS there, but one is NOT becoming a member of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS). Around Christmas, one may sign up for NAPS on the website and pay membership dues through PayPal, a new addition we have been awaiting eagerly. Some sections of the website will be "members only."

To vote and have access to the NAPS newsletter and the entire new NAPS website, one must be a full member. To become a member of NAPS by post, send registration fees to: Steve Baker, NAPS Treasurer, 5620 Charlott Street, Ft Worth, TX 76112.

Kuebler Demonstrates Alternative Communication Technique at TASH in Washington, D.C.



Scott Kuebler responds in thanks after receiving the Celtic Cross Award, Feb. 9, 2014, at Spring Valley Presbyterian's, Scout Sunday

Scott Kuebler, 2014 recipient of the NAP's Celtic Cross Award, presented a demonstration on how he runs a BSA Venture Crew (C202) meeting at The Association for the Severely Handicapped (**TASH**)'s annual conference at the Renaissance Downtown in Washington, DC. December 3-5.

This was an important task for Scott and for BSA as TASH is an international advocacy association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and people who work in the disability field.

The mission of TASH is to promote the full inclusion and participation of children and adults with significant disabilities in every aspect of their community, and to eliminate the social injustices that diminish human rights. Having Scott demonstrate his own skill -and publicize BSA and NAP's work with special needs- was a large step forward for all of us.

Scott has not let anything stand in his way of achievement and has showed to all present at the conference what BSA can mean to each individual. Personally, not only has Scott earned Eagle rank, but he completed God and Country pins for all four levels and has been made a member of Order of the Arrow. We are very proud of Scott's achievements and his promotion of work with BSA.

While in D.C., Scott, with his father, Ron Kuebler, NAPS' Regional Director for the South East, went to their Senators' offices to promote less restraint use

and more Augmentative/Alternative Communication devices.

For those who wish more information on TASH and opportunities for special needs individuals in Scouting, one may contact your editor or either of the organizations. Contact BSA through your local council or Irving headquarters. TASH's office is located on Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 235, Washington, D.C. 20036. It has over 30 chapters and members in 34 countries and territories.

Again, thank you, Scott, for representing us at this important conference and showing BSA's importance!

INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN



Why an "Individualized Scouting Advancement Plan"? (ISAP)

Each Scout is different, and brings their individual gifts and challenges to the unit. Each will follow a different path in life. Regardless of their personal physical, mental, or emotional attributes, each will give to and take something from Scouting. We can only hope to affect those contributions positively.

An ISAP can be a natural follow up to the all-important entry meeting with the youth and family where the leader has an opportunity to meet and learn about the future Scout and explain how Scouting can be part of the youth's life.

The Scouting handbooks and policies cannot address each individual. They merely set guidelines. So, it is often useful to reach an understanding as to how certain goals can be met. The ISAP forms a "contract" or roadmap, which the Scout, his parents and mentors, or other leaders can reference or, if necessary, update.

Particularly in the case of a Scout with disAbilities, an ISAP helps form the support for District and Council staff who do not know the particular Scout except by the record of accomplishments.

For more information and the forms, go to the Working With Scouts with disAbilities site: <http://wwswd.org>.

How I Got to Be a Professional Scouter & What Scouting Means to Me

By Mike Langer, District Director for the Nevada Area Council in Reno

Editor's note: *After traveling over the last few months with Mike's web photo-journal of life changes, it seemed right that we ask him to share what this journey meant to him. We have many professional scouters in NAPS and many of them will identify with Mike and his scouting life. I hope this encourages young scouts and scouters to enter BSA professionally and to trust us all to "have their back," just as we ask the scouts to trust us.*



As Scout leaders, we know that the youths we work with will see many changes in their lives. We understand that they will, with our help, earn many scouting patches, ranks, and learn new hobbies, finish school, find a career, visit great places. They will, most likely, move and live in a different town than that in which they grew up. Through our scouting program, we encourage our youth to achieve their best and to accept the challenges and opportunities that come their way. I have also found that sometimes the person who has the chance to accept new challenges is an adult.

I was a Cub Scout in Pittsburgh. I returned to Scouting when my son Alex came home from first grade with a flyer to join Cub Scouts. It was a very low point in our lives as we had only three months earlier lost his mother to breast cancer. He said that in scouts we could go hiking and camping. We could build Pinewood Derby cars and earn awards. He hit the high sale with, "We could have lots of fun. Mom would want us to have fun." So, we joined Cub Scouts in Greensburg, PA.

Since then, he has gone on to earn full ranks in Cub and Boy scouting and joined the rank of Eagle Scouts. He worked on camp staff, attended NYLT, NOAC, and the 2010 Jamboree. He received the Virgil Honor. Currently a sophomore at the United States Air Force Academy, planning to fly fighter jets, Alex understands that – through scouting – he has learned the skills necessary to pursue his dreams.

Because of the positive experiences that scouting gave Alex, I decided to become an active parent in his Cub Scout pack and then as a scouting professional. I joined the staff of the Cradle of Liberty Council in Philadelphia as District Executive. Along the way, I married Emilie and our family grew as son Sam entered our lives. When we moved to Titusville, PA, we joined First Presbyterian Church. I became Senior District Executive in Erie, for the French Creek Council.

In Spring 2014, I was offered promotion to District Director for the Nevada Area Council in Reno. The job offered the challenges I wanted to tackle at this point in my professional career. It also meant that we would have to move across much of the United States. Our family discussed the benefits and difficulties involved if we moved. We knew no one in Reno. We would have to leave our friends and the comfort of the community we knew. After much thought and family sharing, we decided that I would accept the job and move our family to Nevada. As advance scout for the family, I

drove across the United States and stopped in Colorado Springs, CO to visit son Alex and to celebrate his nineteenth birthday.

Despite needing me on site as soon as possible, my new Scout Executive, Keith Ashby, told me I must stop in and spend the day with my son as, "family is important." That made me feel that we had made the right family decision.

I hit the ground running in Reno, with a trip off to become Business Manager at Camp Fleischmann in California for my summer assignment. I found a great staff and wonderful volunteers and scouts there. They made adjustment to west coast living easy. New friends were quickly added to those remaining in PA. The high point of my summer came at the Staff Friday Night Campfire; when I received the NAPS' Celtic Cross from the Titusville Presbyterian Church in recognition of our mutual love for scouting and my service to the church as deacon and scout leader.

That night, surrounded by new scouting friends, I understood that I was there because scouting taught me, as it teaches our youth members, to be prepared and to accept challenges and new opportunities.

Before I left my assignment in the Colonel Drake District in PA, I had the chance to thank the volunteer leaders at my last roundtable. In my letter I said, "you have welcomed my family and myself into your lives and homes. We have enjoyed the great moments of success and shared the burden of grief. You have helped make my sons good Scouts, and me a better father, husband, leader and person. That is a debt I can never repay." Through accepting my new responsibilities this year, I have had time to look back across my life. I realize in a new way, a deeper way, that scouting teaches us to step outside of our comfort zones. Scouting helps us to realize that God, and scouts and scouters, will be there to help us make all transitions and to be our best. I firmly believe it is a gift from the Lord to be in Scouting and to grow there as an adult as well as when I was a youth. I discover that Scouting is my ministry and my community. Truly, this debt can only be celebrated, as it is too vast ever to repay.

Boy Scout Competition Announced Chance to win up to \$1000 plus \$500 for their unit

All currently registered or former Boy Scouts, ages of 14 through 19 can participate.
Deadline is February 10, 2015.

The Bill of Rights Institute is excited to announce its third annual Boy Scout competition, with the chance for Scouts to win up to \$1000 plus \$500 for their BSA units!

The competition is structured around one short essay (800 words or fewer) related to the Constitution and the founding principles:
Abraham Lincoln described the Declaration of Independence as an 'apple of gold' and the Constitution as a 'frame of silver,' which encases it. For Lincoln, the Declaration asserts the moral and philosophical standard, which the Constitution aims to implement.

In your analysis, to what extent does the Declaration of Independence assert a moral or philosophical vision for America? Explain the principles that constitute that vision. In your explanation, root each principle in a specific passage of the Declaration."

For more information: <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/boyscouts>

P.R.A.Y. Announces New Bible Programming

If you are not on PRAY's mailing list, let us be the first to introduce you to a great new addition to possibilities for youth. It seems fitting that P.R. A. Y. celebrate its 35th birthday with introduction of new Bible Basics RP 3 programs, patches, pins and awards.

RP3 stands for the **R**ead the Bible, **P**icture the Story, **P**onder the meaning and **P**ut it into action. Check out **The Good Book** set with Story#1: The Lost Book, Story #2: Getting to Know the Bible, and Story #3: Training for Goodness. Follow this up with **Out of the Water**: Story #1: Baby Moses in the River, Story #2: Naaman Washing in the River, and Story#3: Jesus Baptized in the River. After those, fly with **Birds of the Air** set: Story #1: God Sends Ravens to Care for Elijah, Story #2, God Lifts Us Up on Eagle's Wings, Story #3: God Cares for Sparrows.

The Good Book is the "anchor" patch and should be earned first. Patches focus on simple objects and include here Bible stories that feature that object. Patches are separate from the P.R.A.Y. awards and do not require application/review process. Each appropriate patch and pin for the units were released by Nov. 15. Requirements are available free on the P.R.A.Y. website: www.praypub.org/biblebasics.

Leaders are encouraged to sign up for the two free January P.R.A.Y. webinars: "Growing You Faith Through Scouting," by Greater Alabama Council, BSA and "Scouting Professionals," a primer for Council Planning Conferences, Considerations for approaching and treating Chartered Organizations in order to maximize your potential and grow your council membership" with Mark Hazelwood, CEO of P.R.A.Y.

Religious Awards for Adults: Think Scout Sunday

Every year, nearly 20,000 youth are recognized for completing a P.R.A.Y. award. Every year, over 7,000 adult counselors and pastors work with these youth as part of their ministry and outreach. These adults are sharing their love of Christ with young people and their families, and they invest a lot of time and personal resources to deliver successful programs. **Last year less than 2,000 counselors were recognized.** It's time to remedy this and recognize and encourage these adults in their ministry! The P.R.A.Y. Series incorporates sequential recognitions for adult participants:



Adult Mentors

Parents who participate in the P.R.A.Y. Program alongside their children are showing by their example how important it is to always grow in faith. "Mentors" are challenged to share their faith with their children and be intentional about growing in faith together. Mentors may receive a pin or patch for non-uniform wear.

Adult Counselors

"Counselors" are teachers and are responsible for schedules, curriculum goals, lesson plans, award ceremonies, and young people! At each level of the P.R.A.Y. program, counselors may receive a pin or patch for non-uniform wear.

Adult Counselors who teach 3 years or more

The "Building Faith in Youth" award recognizes adult counselors who have taught 3 years or more. Their extended tenure indicates a commitment to disciple young people and support the Christian Education program of their local congregation. This is a recognition granted from the church (nominations must come from a protestant congregation; the only signature required is the pastor's).

Adults with at least 5 years of service to both their church and a Scouting organization

The "God and Service" award (and other denomination-specific awards) recognize adults who engage in long-term Scouting ministries. Nominations come from both the local congregation and the Scouting office to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in service to young people. This is a most prestigious award!

Especially Consider the NAPS' Presbyterian Adult Award- the esteemed Celtic Cross!



For award requirements and information go to www.praypub.org/awards

Letter to the Editor on Church Sponsorship of Scouts

By Ernest A. Knipp (October 10, 1929 – July 26, 2014)

I want to discuss some of the things people should think about in starting and continuing a Boy Scout program. I should make clear that my perspective is that of someone in Texas, considering Scouting units in Presbyterian churches. In my area, most BSA programs are connected to churches, although other organizations can also be "chartered organizations." Even so, many of the things I say here do apply to other states and other chartered partners, but you should check out your own situation carefully.

Many churches have a variety of activities going on with a variety of relationships to the church. At one extreme, there are those which are part of the church itself (like a Sunday School class) ranging to the other extreme, those not part of the church (a person who rents space from the church to present book reviews). As it turns out, a Boy Scout unit (Cub Pack, Boy Scout Troop, etc., is part of the church itself. Suppose we use the example of a troop. The church itself owns the money in the troop's bank account, all the "troop property" (as the members think of it), and the church itself is ultimately responsible for settling any disputes that may arise.

I would like to dispose of one topic in the beginning: Girl Scouts. Currently, most adults will take the position that boys and girls must be treated equally. However, the Girl Scouts are organized very differently. A Boy Scout troop in a church is part of the church; a Girl Scout troop in the same church is an outside organization that meets there. This can lead to some practical problems: for example, if someone is moved to contribute a canoe to "the Scouts" (boys and girls), the Boy Scout part would go to the church, while the Girl Scout part would go to the local Girl Scout council. In this particular discussion, I would like to confine myself to Boy Scouts only.

Suppose that a church has decided to begin a Boy Scout program; the church must agree to the U Annual Agreement" with the local Boy Scout council. These agreements are forms in which the details vary from one council to another to accommodate local conditions, but the most important provisions are universal. Each side (the church on one hand and the council on the other) agrees to perform certain acts; the fact that there are promises on both sides means that the form is a "bilateral contract." The agreement runs for one year and must be renewed annually. The local council is incorporated, and the church is (in general) incorporated, so that what is going on is that two corporations are entering into a contract.

I am aware that s good many people are reluctant to think of their church as a corporation, but everyone should understand what is happening. In Texas, the State Bar recommends that an organization like the church have a training session for new directors (in our case, new members of the session) and that each trainee receive a notebook to be used at meetings of the directors; at the beginning of the notebook should be three items: the articles of incorporation or certificate of incorporation, with all amendments; the bylaws; and the policies of the organization. Personally, I think this is a good practice because members of the governing board have the rules under which they operate in writing, spelled out in detail. One policy I would suggest is that certain key positions should be filled by church members. If there is an entry in the session's minutes reflecting that the annual agreement (shown as an exhibit or otherwise recorded) has been approved for another year and that the pastor or other designee is authorized to sign on behalf of the church, that should suffice.

The late Lewis Mattingly, who was a very successful scoutmaster for many years, thought that the best time to choose for unit meetings was Wednesday night, because the church itself has various adult activities on that night; it is possible to arrange things so that the various programs augment rather than conflict with each other. A cub pack can arrange to have programs for all age groups on Wednesday night, although dens who might want another meeting time can arrange to do so. I remember a conversation with a mother who had two boys who were Cub Scouts; for her, the Wednesday night schedule freed up two afternoons a week, and she and her husband could choose how they wanted to handle that night: the whole family could come to dinner at the church, or come later; one or both parents could take part in the activities they wanted. Of course, from time to time, I have had suggestions about various aspects of the re-charter process, supposedly improvements.

One idea is that if we leave out one or two steps, the result will not be binding; then, if something goes wrong and a lawsuit results, we are safe. But, because of "apparent agency" or "apparent authority," the church will be bound just as completely as if the job had been done thoroughly. The directors (session) need to know what goes on, and cannot delegate the responsibility.

This reprint article is from 2011 in gratitude to the late, former NAPS VP Ernest A. Knipp, for his legal aid to NAPS and for a life of service to Scouting.



NAPS ROLL CALL: IN MEMORIAL

NAPS is a national organization of volunteers and professionals in scouting. Some see us as international as well through representation by missionaries, military and others who work outside the United States or who live in territories, such as Puerto Rico. As a result, sometimes it is a long time before we receive notices of a death of a person who has contributed greatly to the Presbyterian/Reformed traditions, NAPS and BSA. Please help us recognize our members in memorials. Recognitions can be sent to napseditor@gmail.com or sending mail to NAPS Editor, PO Box 2097, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070. If you wish to recognize an individual or group, tax-exempt donations are sent to Steve Baker, 5620 Charlott St, Ft Worth, TX 76112, 817-312-2855.

From Stephen Phelps: Alex Innes was Chairman of the Scout Committee at Huntingdon's First Presbyterian Church and was a friend and avid supporter of Scouting. He was an Eagle Scout and truly understood the global aspects of Scouting, having served as a Scoutmaster in Tehran, Iran. He was a recipient of the Celtic Cross Award. His counsel, friendship, and encouragement will be missed.



Alexander Reed Innes
(February 7, 1934 - December 7, 2014)

Mr. Alexander Reed Innes, LCDR USN Ret., 80 of Huntingdon, Tennessee passed away Sunday, December 7, 2014 at the Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Alex was a beloved and devoted father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Alex was born February 7, 1934 in Alcoa, Tennessee to the late Alexander William and Sarah Matilda (Shaw) Innes. He graduated from Maryville High School and was a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Engineering.

HInnes was a retired Lt. Commander for the United States Navy and a Vietnam Veteran; retired safety director from Norandal, USA. He served as an elder of First Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, and served on the Carey Counseling board.

He is survived by two sons, Jeffrey Innes (wife Ellen) of Bolivia, North Carolina and James Innes (wife Laura) of Chesapeake, Virginia; one brother, Tom Innes (wife Grace) of Victoria, Texas; close friend, Keith Breeden. He also leaves three grandchildren, James Innes, Crystal Innes, and Nicole Innes and four great grandchildren.



Charles James Gowing
(April 16, 1937- July 13, 20140)

Charles James Gowing (77) was born on April 16, 1937 in Atlanta, Georgia and a 1955 graduate of North Fulton High School. After graduating from Georgia Tech and serving in the US Army., he became a General Motors' accountant, working more than 30 years at the Lakewood Plant.

Charles was a long-time member of Rock Spring Presbyterian Church. He served for many years on the board of the preschool program, falling in love with each new group of children every year. He recently had been named Elder Emeritus.

His service to young people also included volunteer work with the Boy Scouts. He served as Scout Master and committee member of BSA Troop 175, earning the Wood Badge and being awarded the Silver Beaver for outstanding service.

Survivors include his wife Sandra Lovvorn Gowing of Carrollton; brother-in-law Bob Lovvorn and his wife Elaine of NC; his son Charles Carlisle Gowing and wife Mary of Tucker, GA; his daughter, Amanda Hawkins and her husband, Tim of Dalton, GA; stepsons, Elliott Gordon and wife, Ponda of Russellville, AL and Mark Gordon and wife, Christina, of Apple Valley, CA.

NAPS is currently working to have a space for making honorariums or donations through PayPal on the presbyterianscouters.org website soon. Please note if your gift is designated for a particular cause or for general needs. Check the web site for on-going additions.