



The Presbyterian Scouter



<http://www.presbyterianscouters.org>
Bill Case (wcase03@comcast.net) Editor

From the President

My hope for each and every one is that your holiday season was joyous and your new year - happy! You have worked hard this year to bring the promise of Scouting to countless youth and their families. Scouting lives by people like you. Thanks to all for your gifts to the Scouting program that helped make 2003 a good year for NAPS. I expect 2004 to be even a better year, as the National and Regional Officers have many plans, some of which are already in progress.



The national plans begin with supporting the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Conference to be held in Norfolk, VA, January 28-31, 2004. NAPS will have an information booth staffed by Steven Smith, Mid-Atlantic Director. Encourage your church educators to stop by the booth.

General Assembly Week: June 26 to July 3

The activities during the General Assembly (GA) Week at the Richmond, VA, Convention Center will start with the BSA/NAPS booth in the Exhibit Hall of the Center, staffed by Scout Professional David Richardson and NAPS volunteers.

Next will be the National Board of Directors' meeting to be held Monday, June 28, during the GA. My hope is to see **all** of the Regional Directors, as they now constitute the National Board of Directors. We need to have a quorum in order to conduct business and to approve many plans and ideas for the future of the organization.

The annual "Scouting in the Church Ministry" Luncheon during GA will be held at 12:30 PM on June 29 at or near the Convention center. You don't have to be registered for the GA to be able to attend the luncheon. NAPS treasurer will be selling tickets in addition to the GA Office. Complete information on all of the arrangements will be in the Spring Newsletter. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

For the membership, the Biennial General Meeting of NAPS membership will be held at 2:00 PM on June 29, following the Luncheon. The agenda will include a summary of business, future plans, and the installation of officers for the next two years.

Two training sessions at Philmont:

The first, July 11-17, as part of the Relationship week Conference, will be two afternoon special Presbyterian sessions. The sessions will be lead by Wray Johanning, Secretary, Mid-America Region. This is a great week to meet the National Scout Professionals, BSA National Committee Volunteers, and active scouters and to learn about Relationships and NAPS plans, objectives and goals.

The second, October 4-8, “*Using Scouting in Church Outreach*”, will be a course taught by Rev. Rusty Cowden, NAPS National Chaplain. The course is designed especially for Presbyterians Youth Leaders, Educators, and Ministers. Hear how to use the Boy Scouts of America as an outreach and mission tool and how to provide your senior high groups with national high adventure facilities. The faculty will include Don Campbell, Director of Congregational Ministries Division, PC (USA), plus pastors and youth workers who are presently succeeding with BSA sponsored programs. Being in the fall, the leaves should be changing color and Philmont’s gorgeous scenery should be even more spectacular than usual. A Suburban trip to the backcountry is planned to show the beauty of the possible camping sites. This is a relaxed, retreat-type outing that does **not** require scouting uniforms for the attire. Try to talk your youth leaders into coming to the program.



Southwest Region

John Forrest, Regional Director (WSITJACH@aol.com)



New Mexico Scout Pack and Troop are Chartered by the local Presbytery

From January 2004 BSA Today

It is very hard to explain what a tiny fraction of our annual expenditures was designated for a Boy Scout troop in Sunland, New Mexico. We were not even certain that a troop would be formed this year. It had been dreamed of and hoped for, for some time, but the organizational details involved are neither simple nor quick to come about. Now, however, they have – both a Boy Scout troop and a Cub Scout pack have been chartered.

The budgeted funds augmented by another \$100 donation by Northminster Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico, have been sent to open an account for the new troop members. The boys will be outfitted with starter uniforms, handbooks, subscriptions to Boys’ Life magazine, and their registration fees paid. Sierra Blanca’s representatives to the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters, Paul Deason, is currently deployed to

the East Coast, temporarily assigned to the Homeland Security department. Stepping in to serve as the liaison in this venture is Frank Morales, a member of the Santa Teresa Presbyterian Church.

Carol Chacon, Polaris District Executive, Yucca Council spoke about the newest addition to the Scouting program in the region. "It's very unusual to see a governing body sponsor a troop," she said, noting that's in most cases an individual church takes on that responsibility. She also recalled the council's concern as they surveyed the conditions they found in the Sunland Park/Anapra neighborhood, from which the new troops will draw their members – its poverty, crime, and the evidence of the hold that gangs have on many of the young people there. The difference Boy Scouts can make in such a place is almost impossible to measure – hope created, lives changed, and futures transformed. "Do your people know," Carol asked. "Do they really know what a wonderful thing you have done?"

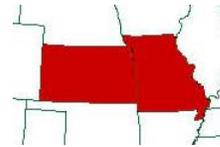
In other Regional News...

Two new units in Presbyterian churches were established in Conquistador Council, eastern New Mexico. The Third Annual Ten Commandments Hike was held in Las Cruces on 29 November, but due to cold weather the walkers adjourned to a large pancake breakfast after visiting the local temple. Another hike is planned for a spring weekend.

Five members of the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Las Cruces were presented with the Celtic Cross on December 14th in recognition of their long-time service to youth.

Mid-America Region

Mike Cheesman, Regional Director (trbleagle@yahoo.com)



First God and Country Spiritual Growth Certificate awarded to Michael Grogan

The attached picture shows the first God and Country Spiritual Growth Certificate being presented. The recipient is Michael Grogan, member of Troop 597 and Varsity Team 840.

This certificate is being presented by Dr. Barry Gaeddert, Associate Minister of Christian Education at Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, Chesterfield, MO, where Michael has completed three of the God and Country Programs and has almost completed the requirements for the fourth.



The God and Country Spiritual Growth Certificate is made available by NAPS and can be presented to any Boy or Girl that is a member of a Presbyterian Church (or a member of a unit sponsored by a Presbyterian Church) and has completed 3 of the 4 God and Country Programs.

Synod of the Sun

Oren Peters, Regional Director (Opeters@cox.net)



Report of Visit to Bulgaria

By Rev Weston Gray

In May 2003, I received an invitation to join with the Vratsa scouts in attending the Sixth Bulgarian National Scout Jamboree on the Black Sea, 20 km. south of Varna in the Romantika area. This is a few hundred meters from the mouth of the Ramchia River, which flows out of the National Reserve by that name.

By e-mail I spoke with Tom Turba of St. Paul, MN. He has made several trips to Bulgaria, in particular to Varna, and has been in contact with the scouts in that area. Tom gave me a lot of help and was sorry he was unable to attend. Several scouts had planned on going with him.

I contacted Ron Garland, Chief Scout Executive of the Cascades Pacific Council, Portland. He said it was proper for me to represent the Council in my attendance. He sent greetings to the Jamboree by the Sea through me. I shared his greetings and message to all there. It was very well received.

I also asked the Mayor of Dallas, Jim Fairfield to send a message to the Jamboree Scouts, which he did. This letter was read and interpreted by Maya Trifonova. Mr. Fairchild also wrote a letter to the Mayor of Vratsa and sent a “Key to the City of Dallas.”

Scout Alexander Hatri, who served at Camp Pioneer in the summer of 2001, met me at the airport in Sofia. After spending the night in Sofia we took the 6:40 AM train to Varna. Along the way we were joined by five members of the Vratsa Club (Troop). The group consisted of three girls, one boy and the leader, Maya Trifonova. She served as my interpreter and hostess during my 3-½ weeks in Bulgaria. Maya is the mother of scout Alexander.

A word about Bulgarian scouting. Boys and girls are in the same unit, beginning at the age of five or six, and are called children scouts through age 21 or in some cases 22. They are Cubs up to age eleven and Scouts and Venture Scouts at the same ages as American scouts. So far they have no “ranks” for scouts to obtain. The Oath is almost exactly the same as ours. They have problems with boy-girl relationships with which they are trying to deal.

I was at the Jamboree by the Sea August 3 – 11. As this was at a resort area most scouts stayed in bungalows – two room cabins with toilet and shower (four to a cabin). I, and the scout Slavi were given better quarters, probably because I was a “guest”. It was two stories, with kitchen. Some units prepared their own food and other contracted with a restaurant for meals. The Vratsa Club ate at the restaurant. The meals were sparse by American standards, but adequate, and I had no trouble with taste, etc. I did lose weight, which was good.

There seemed to be a few program areas. I believe they were Orienteering, Hiking, Climbing, Arts-Crafts, and Rowing. These took place in the morning. Afternoons were for swimming and visiting. They had volleyball and mini-football (Soccer). There were a few evening programs – campfires, inter-club activities, visiting with a Russian Cultural Group at another resort. Much of my time was spent with the clubs, explaining scouting in America. I met with all 22 clubs. Smaller clubs joined together so I didn't meet 22 times. We exchanged "gifts." I had a lot of scout items plus pins and cards from Dallas. They like pins and neckerchiefs. I didn't have enough of either. I gave out JFK half-dollars and the Sacagawea dollar. The children liked these items. I have many e-mail addresses, most of which I cannot place with faces.

I was very well received by everyone. As I had an interpreter with me at all times I could communicate with all. Most wanted to practice their English. Children learn several languages before they get out of school;. Spanish is popular. I had no fear of the people at any time. I of course stuck out like a sore thumb. I was taller than most, fair skinned and in Scout uniform.

I was interviewed by several journalists. Maya was promoting scouting in every way possible. My picture and/or articles about me appeared in regional and national papers. I couldn't read them and I don't know if anyone else did. Following the Jamboree I went back to Vratsa for a week. I spoke to the local scouts who were not at the jamboree. I also met with the Deputy Governor of the district and with the Mayor of Vratsa. The conversation dealt around scouting. Those at the meeting seemed interested. I was also part of a radio interview.

Highlights of the visit: (1) Just being able to go and to be so warmly received. (2) Meeting the Veteran Scouts of Varna. These four men were scouts before WWII. They have had a lot to do with promoting scouting in the Varna area. (3) Meeting and talking with the President of Bulgaria, Gregori Parvanov. This was at "Fleet Day" at the passenger terminal of the Port of Varna, celebrating the 124th anniversary of the Military Sea Forces (Navy). He was inspecting part of the fleet, and the scouts were there to greet him. Scouts from his home village sang to him for some time. I was pushed forward, so that when the scouts were finished singing and he turned to go I was there. We shook hands and I told him why I was there and praised scouting in Bulgaria. He replied in English. I don't know what his bodyguards thought! (4) Hopefully, encouraging the scouts of all ages who are trying to find ways to improve scouting in Bulgaria. (5) Swimming in the Black Sea. Induction of scouts was an interesting experience. A scout repeats the Scout Oath to his or her leader with the left hand on the club flag and the right hand in the Scout Sign. Following this the scout is welcomed and a neckerchief is placed over the head. At the Jamboree the Oath was given to the Chief Scout by about 30 new scouts, and I was asked by most of the leaders to place the neckerchief on the scout. This was true with the six new Cub scouts inducted later at Vratsa. I felt this was a great honor.

[Reverend Gray is a retired minister living in the Dallas area and serves as the Chaplain of a Lutheran-sponsored troop. In an accompanying letter he remarked that the Bulgarian scouts seemed amazed that an old (74) scout would come, and suspects that some adopted him as a grandfather.]

South Atlantic Directorate

Neal Stanford, Regional Director



We are happy to announce that Neal Stanford has accepted the position of South Atlantic Director. Neal has a strong position in Scouting and the Presbyterian Church as you can see from the attached resume. He was previously regional secretary for NAPS under Steve Taylor, Regional Director. Steve has transferred from the Council in Spartanburg SC to North West Suburban Council near Chicago. Thanks Steve for all you have done for NAPS and the South Atlantic District and hope that once you get settled in with a home and your family you will consider helping in the Lincoln Trails Region.

Neal became employed by the Scouts in Savannah, GA on June 16th, 1986, as a District Executive subsequently moving to Atlanta Area Council in 1989 and working in Atlanta until June 30th, of 2000. He left Atlanta as a field director. Part of his duties in Atlanta was serving as the professional advisor to the religious relationship committee. It was through this experience that he came to appreciate all the good works of NAPS and the potential to accomplish so many good things with these committees. He has been married for 16 years to Melinda Stanford, and has two children ages 11 and 14. He is a member of the Conyers Presbyterian Church, and was ordained as an elder in 1997.

He currently works within his family company, Southeastern Systems. They chlorinate water for food processing applications.

Neal believes one of the first priorities is to identify and strengthen the religious relationship committees in all of the councils in GA, FLA., and South Carolina. Once these are in place, the religious awards program can be promoted and potential Presbyterian scouting units can be identified. It is his hope that NAPS can be a catalyst to begin this process.

Neal lives at 1270 Shadowlawn Drive, Conyers, Georgia 30012. His phone number is 770-860-1080

Scout Sunday Service 2004

By Rev. Rusty Cowden, National Chaplain

Prelude

Call to Worship

L: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

P: *He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*

L: He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

P: *Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted.*

L: but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

P: they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hymn Presbyterian Hymnal # 487 “*When Morning Gilds the Skies*”

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we have been about the daily business of our lives, and have failed to notice the many ways in which you bless us. We have taken credit for the gifts you give us, as if they were by our own efforts. We have ignored the miracles in our midst. Help us, dear Lord, to be a people with eyes to see and ears to hear you at work, in our own hearts, and in your world. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Our hope is in the name of the Lord. Thanks be for the love of our savior, Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we find forgiveness.

Scripture (lectionary for 2-8-04)

Isaiah 6:1-8 Vision of God, Who shall I send?

Psalm 138 A psalm of praise

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 the resurrection of the dead

Luke 6:17-26 Calling of the first disciples

Sermon thoughts

From Isaiah, the idea of sending adult scouts out into the world to work with youth, or sending scouts out into the world as the next generation of leaders could be developed
From Luke, the theme of God’s unexpected bounty (the fish) could be compared to the bountiful possibilities of the youth who are here today

Hymn Presbyterian Hymnal #525 “*Here I Am Lord*”

Presentation of Religious Awards (*available through P.R.A.Y.*)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Dearest Lord, we come before you this morning, in this time of corporate quiet and corporate prayer, to give you thanks. We thank you Lord, for the incomparable way in which you have shown your love to us. You have given us food and raiment (*you can say clothing or even shelter here if you want. I used raiment because I am quoting the Philmont grace*) and life and opportunity. You have led us into green pastures and beside still waters.

Help us Lord, to be a people who are prepared to be your disciples. Help us to be a people who are prepared to hear your voice, to listen to your call, and to follow in your way.

Lord we lift up to you those for whom we should pray this day: The sick, the lonely, the fearful, and the estranged. Be with them Lord. Show your love and your grace to them. Lead us to them, that we might share your love as brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, all of these prayers we lift up to you both humbly and boldly, for we pray them in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, *Our Father...*

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, may that which is given here, and that which remains with us, be used to further your Good News. Amen.

Hymn Presbyterian Hymnal #339 "*Be Thou My Vision*"

Benediction (2 Peter 3:18)

So grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.



National Association of Presbyterian Scouters

Sponsors a Conference for

Presbyterian Youth Leaders, Educators and Ministers

October 4 thru 8, 2004

at

Philmont Scout Training Center, Cimarron, New Mexico

Theme: Using Scouting in Church Outreach

- ◇ Hear how to use the Boy Scouts of America as an outreach and mission tool and how to provide your senior high youth group with national high adventure options.

Scheduled speakers include Donald G. Campbell, Director of Congregational Ministries Division, Presbyterian Church, plus pastors and youth workers who are presently succeeding with BSA sponsored programs.

- ◇ Did you know that the Boy Scouts of America have coed groups?
- ◇ Did you know that not all BSA groups wear uniforms?
- ◇ Did you know BSA has a great travel insurance plan?
- ◇ Did you know if registered with BSA, you have access to National High Adventure Programs and Council camping facilities?

Open to all Presbyterians

Arrive: Monday afternoon for registration and supper

Leave: Friday morning after breakfast

Cost: \$275.00

Spouse: \$245.00

Fee includes 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners, heated cabin, all training Materials and a four wheel drive suburban ride into the backcountry.

Deadline for Registration: September 3, 2004 (Space is limited, apply early)

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Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Spouse Attending _____

Member of _____ Church

Send Application with Check made out to NAPS; mail to:

Rush Hart 2416 Ryan Place Drive Fort Worth, Texas 76110-2503 817-924-0800

NAPS Future Activities

Dates	What	Where	Comments
May 19-21, 2004	National BSA Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency, Chicago	
June 26-July 3, 2004	216th General Assembly Meeting, Presbyterian Church (USA)	Richmond, VA	
June 28 (9:00 – 5:00)	NAPS Directors' meeting	Richmond, Va.	
June 29 (12:30 – 1:45)	NAPS Luncheon Speaker: Carey Keane , National Group Director, Relationships & Publishing Group, BSA	Richmond, Va.	Cost: \$12.00 2nd Presbyterian Church, 5 N Fifth Street
June 29 (2:00 – 4:00)	NAPS Biannual Meeting	Richmond, Va.	
July 11-17, 2004	Scouting in Church Ministry	Philmont Training Center	
October 4 – October 8, 2004	Course for Presbyterian Leaders and Educators	Philmont Training Center	Arrival and registration at 4 PM. Final day will complete in the morning to facilitate travel plans of the attendees. (Rescheduled from October 2003)

Membership and Newsletters

If you have received your newsletter through the United States Postal Service, please check the mailing address. If it says that your membership expires in 2003, immediately take the renewal application from the back of the newsletter and extend your membership for another year. Or save yourself the hassle and extend it for five years. Whatever length you choose to renew for, do it **NOW!**

Speaking of newsletters, have you considered receiving yours electronically? Advantages? Well, it arrives faster, pictures are in color, and it helps hold down our annual dues. If you'd like to be one of the first on your block to receive the NAPS news, drop the editor a note at wcase03@comcast.net, and be sure to include your full name and home town.

Membership Renewal

National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS)

Please use this form to renew your membership in NAPS. Please clearly print all information on the form and after completion, attach your check and mail to: P.R.A.Y, 8520 MacKenzie Road, St. Louis, MO. 63123

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Full Name: _____

Street Address; _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Council Name and Number _____

Church: _____

Church Address: _____

Scout or Youth Agency Affiliation: _____

Check items that apply: Annual Membership (\$20) Five year Membership (\$75)

Ten year Membership (\$150) Life Membership (\$350)

Extra Patch (\$2) Lapel Pin (\$5)