

# NOW & Then

VOL. 49, NO. 2 Summer 2016

## *The Summit Circle: Preserving Tradition and Scouting History*

Treasure Island Scout Camp was established by the Philadelphia Council in 1913. The site, which also has deep roots in the Order of the Arrow program, is located on the Delaware River north of Trenton, New Jersey. Centuries ago, it was an early camping ground of the Lenni-Lenape, or Delaware Indians. In 1681 it became part of the original land grant made by King Charles II of England to William Penn.

The Order of the Arrow was created on July 16, 1915, on grounds prepared in the south woods of the island, far removed from camp activities. The ceremony on that historic day was simple but effective, exemplifying the meaning and principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Scout camp and the original ceremonial grounds remained in use until 2008, when the property became no longer usable due to ravaging floods and repair needs over the years. As plans developed for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Order—and its ongoing, extraordinary impact on Scouting and youth leadership development—OA leaders decided to recreate the original ceremonial site at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia. The Summit is now the permanent location for this important piece of history. On April 16, 2016, Arrowmen gathered there to dedicate the spectacular, reconstructed ceremonial site.

It has taken several years for this to happen. OA National Committee Chairman Ray Capp and the national youth officers led a plan to record the original site construction details, disassemble the original stone features, remove them from the island, and transport them to West Virginia. The task required determination and many hours of volunteer commitment and hard work. After the labor-intensive disassembly, 10 tons of the original stone were airlifted from the island by helicopter and loaded on a flatbed truck for transportation to the Summit. Funding for the project became part of the OA Centennial Fundraising Campaign, and hundreds of Arrowmen across the country contributed to make the dream a reality.

Every lodge in the country was asked to send a rock engraved with the lodge name and council headquarters city. All the rocks have been used to form 15 flame-lit columns, reminiscent of the Ordeal ceremony, on the Centennial Reflection Trail, which leads along a mountain creek to the



*The Summit Circle gateway in daylight.*



*Ashes from the original ceremony site at Treasure Island Scout Camp were included in the 100th anniversary fire at the Summit Circle.*



*Flame-lit pillars at dusk along the Centennial Reflection Trail.*

Summit Circle. Approaching the heavily wooded ceremonial ground, one finds the unique Legacy Plaza, containing engraved stones representing lodges that no longer exist.

The impressive Summit Circle will remain available to all participants at the Summit who seek a quiet place to rest and meditate on the importance of life, who they are, and who they will become.

Capp says: “This summer we expect 1,500 Arrowmen from across the country to participate in the special Prism program at the Summit, and with each going through a ceremony at the Summit Circle ... we will see a new life breathed into those 100-year-old rocks from the place of our founding.”

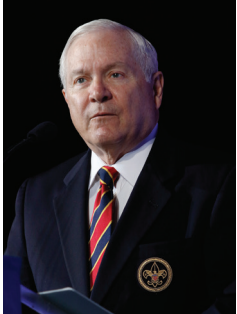
Each candidate being inducted into the OA raises his hand and takes on the Obligation to “observe and preserve the traditions” of the Order of the Arrow. Preserving OA Scout tradition continues!



# Proud Moments

## **We Bid Farewell to One Great BSA Leader—and Welcome Another**

At the National Annual Meeting in May, as Scouting transitions from the leadership of one great BSA national president to another, I believe it's important for us to recognize the accomplishments of both of these men and their distinct, invaluable contributions to our movement.



*Dr. Robert M. Gates*

We will always be grateful to National President Dr. Robert M. Gates. He inspired us to move forward by focusing on what unites us. This includes our belief that the Boy Scouts of America is the finest organization in the world for building character while teaching

boys, young men, and young women to meet and overcome challenges, cheerfully serve others, and live their lives based on the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Displaying the same passion with which he supported our troops as secretary of defense, the focus of Gates was on the needs of unit leaders and the tools, training, and encouragement that enable them to reach and engage young people in dynamic Scouting programs.

Gates also helped parents understand how Scouting offers unique opportunities to make the most of the limited time they have with their children.

He never let us sway from our mission. Gates recognized that we are well positioned to deliver the fun, values-based, character-building, and leadership development experiences that Scouting offers.

Dr. Gates, we thank you for helping Scouting to seize control of its future and set its own course. We are grateful for your service and look forward to your continued involvement as our immediate past president.

Our new national president is a longtime friend of Scouting. AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson has been a member of our board and the National Executive Committee and chaired our 100th anniversary celebration.



*Randall Stephenson*

Stephenson has been a valuable counselor to me since I assumed duties as Chief Scout Executive, and I know his commitment to Scouting will keep us moving forward. Since taking the helm of AT&T in 2007, he has transformed the company into a global leader in providing integrated communications services to businesses and consumers. He also has been a strong supporter of Scouting's commitment to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for our young people.

Stephenson shares our passion for growth and service to America's youth, as demonstrated by his efforts at AT&T to improve college readiness for at-risk high school students, and to make AT&T a leading employer when it comes to diversity and inclusion.

Our future continues to be strong with the support of such inspiring leaders as Dr. Gates and Randall Stephenson to strengthen our capacity as a movement and build terrific momentum for Scouting's future adventures. Please join me in saluting and thanking these two great men for their service to millions of America's youth.

I salute each of you as well. BSA accomplishments of today are possible only because of the trail each retired member of our BSA family has had a hand in blazing. On behalf of myself, the board, and our National Council, thank you for your honorable service!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Surbaugh".

Michael B. Surbaugh  
Chief Scout Executive

# Retirement Adventure

## **BSA Retirees Help Construct Rose Bowl Floats**

**By Bob Rydell**

NEI 0368

No doubt, *Now & Then* readers were among the millions of people who watched the Rose Bowl parade from Pasadena, California, on New Year's Day. For many of us, it's become an annual tradition along with spending time with family and friends, enjoying good food, and watching countless football games on television.

Well, the 127th version of the Rose Bowl parade was a little different for eight BSA retirees and spouses—Keith and Lois Jean Gallaway, Dave and Lynn Loosen, Ray and Barbara Morrell, and Bob and Sheryl Rydell. They actually traveled to Pasadena, not to watch a football game, but to help construct Rose Bowl floats.

Each couple arrived there by a different route, but the end result was the same: They all showed that familiar “volunteer spirit” as they paid their own way to get some hands-on experience in float building and fulfill the 2016 Rose Bowl theme of “Finding Your Adventure.” (It almost sounds like an ad for the BSA.)



The Gallaways and the Rydells signed up for the project through the Elderhostel/Road Scholar program, which handled all the arrangements including hotel accommodations, meals, transportation, float assignments, and side tours. The float they worked on was called “Marco Polo: East Meets West,” sponsored by the Singpoli Group. It featured a fire-breathing dragon

covered with more than 150,000 flowers as well as oranges and tangerines, and a minimal amount of dry organic materials. The best news: The float went on to win the top prize from judges on parade day.

The Loosens and the Morrells were assigned to work on the Dole Food Company float, which used the theme of “Soaring Over Paradise” and included a zip line rising high above lush tropical gardens and waterfalls. The float was composed of more than 50,000 fresh flowers, as well as bananas, pineapples, mangoes, and strawberries. It also featured 12 costumed dancers performing traditional native dances.

One of the highlights for participants in the Road Scholar program was meeting the 1988 Rose Bowl queen, Julie King, who talked about being selected as queen and meeting Gregory Peck, who was grand marshal of the parade that year. Julie has great memories of that time, but she is equally proud to let people know she currently serves as an assistant Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop that includes her three sons. Two of her sons are Eagle Scouts, and a third is well on his way to attaining Eagle.

The four couples loved the experience of serving as Rose Bowl float volunteers and getting a behind-the-scenes look at one of America's premier events. For more information on how you can get involved, check out the Road Scholar website at [www.roadscholar.org](http://www.roadscholar.org).



*At left, Ray Morrell and Dave Loosen work on the Dole Food float; Bob and Sheryl Rydell take a break for a photo with Lois Jean and Keith Gallaway (at far right).*

# Your Questions and Comments

## Question

*My name is not listed in the “Proud Moments” section of the Spring 2016 Now & Then.*

*I received my 50-year recognition in 2015 (letter dated April 9, 2015). I received this after writing the national office informing them I never received the 45-year recognition either. I thought this was automatic every five years.*

*Once again (as I did last year) I had to call the national office this morning to inquire why I did not receive any information regarding renewing my registration for 2016. I thought this should be automatic also.*

Robert G. Steele



## Dependent Life Beneficiary

*Recently, upon the sudden and unexpected death of one of our retirees, his widow called to report his passing. She was surprised to learn that she could not change the beneficiary on the dependent life insurance benefit. Mark Parsons, benefits and retirement director*

*for the BSA, was contacted for clarification, comment, and sharing with other retirees:*

Sometimes it's easy to forget that there are benefits other than medical insurance that we have to think about. One benefit that all retirees need to consider is life insurance. Do you know how much life insurance you have on your own life and on your spouse? Do you have current beneficiary information for each of your life insurance policies and the Scout Executives' Alliance?

Remember ...

- Optional Life is a policy on the life of the retiree. The value of the policy decreases as the retiree ages.
- Basic Life is also a policy on the life of the retiree. The value of this policy is not reduced as the retiree ages.
- Dependent Life is a policy on the life of the spouse of the retiree. The retiree is always the beneficiary. Note: This policy will not continue following the death of the retiree.
- All of these policies are group term life, which means they have no cash value.

To find out if you have one or more of these policies and their values, call the BSA Benefits Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central time at 800-444-4416. Ask about your beneficiary designations as well. Always review and update this information on a regular basis.

## Answer

Thank you for your questions, Bob. I talked with Lynn Adcock, who provides the veteran recognition information for publication. The non-receipt of the 45-year recognition was due to a change in your address on record. Correction has been made and the issue resolved.

Your 50-year veteran recognition did not appear in the spring issue because your primary registration through your local council was submitted for a volunteer capacity and not as a “retired professional Scouter.” This recorded you in the incorrect database for recognition in *Now & Then*. Be sure to always register your primary position as a retired professional Scouter to prevent this difficulty at your next veteran recognition cycle in 2020, and be sure to register each year.

In January a special letter from the Member Care Department was mailed to all BSA retirees with an enclosed 2016 Retiree Registration Form and instructions for completing the form. The letter additionally offered retirees an opportunity to register online at [www.bsa.kintera.org/retiree](http://www.bsa.kintera.org/retiree). Thanks for continuing your registered membership!

Have a question? Have a concern? Want information?  
**Send your comments to ASK ALLEN**

c/o HR Compensation and Benefits, Boy Scouts of America  
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane  
P.O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
Email: [bsanowandthen@gmail.com](mailto:bsanowandthen@gmail.com)



Allen Mossman is a retired BSA professional with more than 75 years of Scouting in his background. He retired with 30 years of active service on the national executive staff and serves as the editor of *Now & Then*.

# Scouting Update

## Jamborees: The Past and Future of Scouting's Flagship Event



The first Boy Scouts of America national jamboree was scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., in 1935 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Scouting in America.

Unfortunately, the jamboree was canceled because of a polio outbreak in Washington.

When the first jamboree was finally held in 1937, Dan Beard lit the opening campfire using flint and steel. Scouts from all 48 states brought the wood that was used in the campfire. There were some 27,232 Scouts camped on the National Mall under the Washington Monument. Since that time, 17 national jamborees have been held, the last in 2013.

In 2009, the BSA purchased 10,600 acres of property adjacent to West Virginia's New River Gorge National River area in order to create the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve, a new permanent home for BSA jamborees.

The first national jamboree at the Summit was held in the summer of 2013, providing Scouts a whole new experience featuring world-class facilities focused on outdoor action sports. This jamboree, more than any that preceded it, was developed according to Scout program needs rather than adapting the program to the limitations of available facilities. The 2013 National Scout Jamboree was an outstanding success.

Participants thrilled to new and challenging outdoor programs that ranged from zip lines, canopy tours, kayaking, and mountain and BMX biking to skateboarding, rock climbing, rappelling, and expanded shooting sports including sporting arrows. And, of course, there were the exciting shows that had always been a hallmark of Scout jamborees. Each Scout gained firsthand experience at serving others by participating in a day of community service in one of nine West Virginia counties surrounding the Summit; this wonderful program event had a major personal and community impact.

### What Lies Ahead

The next national Scout jamboree will take place July 19–28, 2017, at the Summit. And in 2019 the Boy Scouts of America will host the 24th World Scout Jamboree—also at the Summit!

Registration is now open for the 2017 jamboree, which will offer added facilities and more exciting and challenging Scout adventure experiences. So why not take the opportunity to help a Scout in your family go to the jamboree? Or call your council office and make a contribution to the jamboree scholarship fund to help a good Scout who may not be able to attend otherwise. Retirees may even want to attend as staff members, or simply as visitors for a great summer trip!

There are many side trips that Scouts and their families can take on their way to and from the jamboree. Washington, D.C., is only a few hours' drive away, and the entire region surrounding the Summit is filled with some of the most beautiful mountains in the country. The Blue Ridge is just to the south, and the Shenandoah Valley is a short drive to the east. That's not to mention all of the incredibly scenic areas in West Virginia itself.

Want to find out more? Get all kinds of details at <http://bsajamboree.org> and <http://2019wsj.org>.



# Your BSA Benefits

## ***An Important, Unique Benefit***

**By Billy Gamble, retired Scout executive**



Allen Mossman, my friend, former colleague, and editor of *Now & Then*, asked me to share some thoughts and experiences about a wonderful and sometimes forgotten benefit that has touched the lives of countless fellow professionals and their families for more than 90 years: the Scout Executives' Alliance.

This unique fellowship began when the tragic death of two young BSA executives placed their families in serious financial straits. An appeal was made to the young men's fellow professionals to contribute money for funeral expenses. This was done, but afterward those involved agreed that an alternative way should be found to assist families in similar circumstances while also preserving their dignity.

As a result, a committee of Scout executives was organized, and by the fall of 1920 a plan was presented to the first National Training Conference at Bear Mountain, New York. The plan was adopted, and the Scout Executives' Alliance (SEA) was created to establish provision for mutual aid and comfort to families.

The SEA is not an insurance policy. Rather, it is an informal fellowship program that serves as a far-reaching vehicle of goodwill within our movement. It provides the opportunity to show a caring

spirit and to be helpful to the family of a departed fellow member during a time of need.

A board of trustees, with one local council Scout executive representing each region, serves as the governing body. During my career, I had the honor and privilege to serve as a Scout executive on the SEA board, helping provide oversight for this deeply meaningful benefit.

It would be impossible to list everything that the SEA has meant to our Scouting families over the years. Letters received from beneficiaries continue to reflect the wonderful impact the alliance has for so many families of fellow professionals and dear friends during times of loss and stressful life adjustment.

Those of us who have been able to deliver the \$10,000 check to a deceased colleague's spouse or family immediately see the true value of this benefit. Unlike many groups, the SEA makes prompt, personal delivery of the check a distinct priority. Our visits also provide an opportunity to reminisce about the loved ones' careers, how important they were to the movement, and the difference they made in many lives.

We in the BSA place high importance on expressing that we truly care about associates who have helped make our movement great. We want to ensure that they will never be forgotten.

There are many reasons to belong to and remain in this special alliance. Please be aware that if your SEA coverage is dropped, it cannot be reinstated.

Just remember how and why the alliance started, what it has meant to so many, and what it will mean to others in the future. Over the years, we as professionals have established a legacy of caring for each other that must and will continue.

The Scout Executives' Alliance has and will always have a profound effect upon our members. It embodies and continues the deep sense of caring and the bond of fellowship unique to the Boy Scouts of America.

Because of a strong and long tradition, the Scout Executives' Alliance does embody **THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SCOUTING!**

# Financial Well-Being

## **Be Alert to Social Security Email Scams**



*Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, ©zimmytus*

If you receive Social Security benefits, you're going to want to be aware of this scam that is floating around.

Be on the alert for emails that pretend to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) with the subject line "Get Protected" or something similar. This kind of email phishing is being circulated on the Internet and targeted at retirees, according to the Federal Trade Commission. These emails may imply that the federal government is offering an ID security service that would protect your personal information and prevent various sources from stealing your identity.

Often the text in the email will mention the "SAFE Act of 2015," which gives an impression of legitimacy. Not so! The email will also invariably provide a link for you to click on to get protection from the Social Security Administration. Don't be fooled and take the chance, because the link usually will take you to a "keylogger" virus that is then downloaded into your computer. The virus allows criminals to obtain your personal information whenever you type it into your computer.

Clicking on the link could also redirect you to a page that appears to be the SSA website, prompting you to provide more information for your protection. Don't do it! It will only give crooks more personal data that they can use to steal from you.

An email like this is designed, in fact, to do the opposite of what it promises: It is definitely not from the SSA, and it will not protect you. It will only steal your identity and put you at serious financial risk.

Retirees who are receiving Social Security are a high-risk group for this scam. Those of us who were brought up in less crime-ridden times may be more trusting and not so instinctively protective of all of our personal information—especially when the scam makes the offer sound so legitimate.

What should you do if you did receive such an email, and you have already clicked on the link? The best advice is to have your computer wiped clean with an antivirus program.

Be careful. Be aware. The government is not sending these emails.

### **Tell-Tale Signs of Identity Theft**

**Unauthorized Charges on Financial Statements.** Some of the earliest signs of identity theft may be unfamiliar charges showing up on your credit card or bank statements. Often these phony charges are small, just a dollar or so. Criminals sometimes use this type of charge to test the validity of your card, then later follow up with larger amounts. It is critical for you to closely and regularly check your accounts, and if you notice any charges you did not authorize, notify your bank or credit card company immediately.

**Unexpected Entries on Your Credit Reports.** Noticing either unusual or unexplained charges to credit and debit cards, or even an unsubstantiated increase in car insurance, means it is time to get a copy of your credit report to see what is going on. Be sure to look closely at all new inquiries on your credit report. Go to [www.creditkarma.com](http://www.creditkarma.com) to get a free copy, even if you do not suspect identity theft.

### **IRS Scam Calls Heating Up**

In fact, your editor received one recently from an IRS impersonator. Be on the alert now that tax-filing season is finished, and remember:

The IRS always contacts people by mail regarding their taxes—never by phone. And the IRS would never ask for payment using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. The agency also would not request a credit card number over the phone.

If you get such a call, hang up and call the U.S. Treasury hotline at 800-366-4484 to report it.

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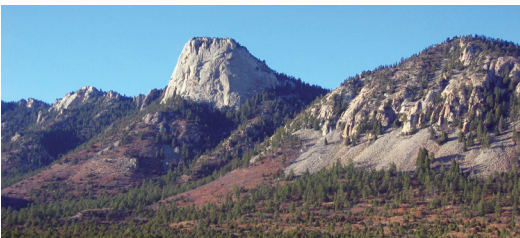
## Origin of the Philmont Grace

*For food, for raiment,  
For life, for opportunity,  
For friendship and fellowship,  
We thank thee, O Lord.*

The original version of the widely used Philmont Grace was the “Worth Ranch Grace.” It was written in 1929 by Jerry Fulkerson, camp director at Worth Ranch Scout Camp in Palo Pinto County, Texas—which is still a Scout summer camp of the Longhorn Council.

James P. Fitch, who served many years as Scout executive of Region 9 (Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico), copied the grace on a small piece of paper during a trip to Worth Ranch in the 1930s. Fitch was later appointed general manager of Philmont Scout Ranch and Phillips Properties of the Boy Scouts of America. At the top of the paper, Fitch wrote the title, “The Worth Ranch Grace.” He kept this filed away in his copy of the small book *Songs Scouts Sing*.

Because of its use at Philmont since the 1940s, the grace has been learned by generations of Scouts from throughout the United States.



*The Tooth of Time, Philmont Scout Ranch  
Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, ©Steve Shoup*

## BSA membership as of March 31, 2016

Cub Scouts	849,115
Boy Scouts	717,336
Venturers	102,766
<b>Total Traditional</b>	<b>1,671,883</b>
Explorers	73,025
<b>All Served</b>	<b>2,133,602</b>
<b>Total Packs</b>	<b>36,794</b>
<b>Total Troops/Teams</b>	<b>41,930</b>
<b>Total Posts</b>	<b>4,154</b>
<b>Total Crews/Ships</b>	<b>12,864</b>
<b>Total Traditional Units</b>	<b>91,591</b>
<b>Total Councils</b>	<b>273</b>

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***Now & Then* is now online!  
You can find it at <http://scoutingwire.org/newsletters/now-then/>**