

NOW & Then

VOL. 49, NO. 4 Winter 2016



Holiday Greetings from the Chief



Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh with his wife, Lisa

To our family of BSA retirees:

The holiday season is a wonderful time to reflect on those things we are most grateful for, both personally and professionally. Since Scouting, for us, is so thoroughly intertwined throughout both worlds, I won't even bother to distinguish between the two. Rather, I'd simply like to share some thoughts about a few of the things I'm thankful for from the past year.

Judging by the recruiting successes we've experienced, the positive press coverage, and the outpouring of support I've personally witnessed as I've traveled to councils both big and small this year, there's an exciting buzz about Scouting across America.

I am grateful for the hard work of our volunteers, staff, and supporters, each of whom has played—and will continue to play—an important role in the improving health and stability of our organization as we wrap up 2016 and head into a new year of service and adventure.

No one knows better than you and I the impact that our Scouting programs can make in the lives of young people to prepare them for the future. That's why we have a tradition of working hard to make sure we make Scouting available to the communities that can benefit from it.

It has now been just over a year since I first shared our "Game Plan" for growing Scouting and Exploring. I am pleased to let you know that the Game Plan we launched is beginning to show promising signs of success. You will be pleased and proud to know that Exploring is growing again—providing direct career-readiness training and fostering relationships between young adults and future employers who can guide them to their chosen careers.

Likewise, I am thankful for the excitement and success that have surrounded our STEM Scouts and Lions pilot programs this year. Not only are these programs full of the activities that families love and have been asking for, they are innovative new entry points into our world of adventure, character, and leadership: the cornerstones of our movement.

The revitalization effort to reintroduce the values of Scouting to America is ongoing and expanding nationwide. We are invigorated and on the upward trail again. Heading into a new year, I vow to continue working on fresh, new ways to introduce families to Scouting.

As we observe the varied and colorful traditions of the holiday season, I want to thank you for supporting our mission and our nation's youth. Your commitment is what makes it possible for millions of young people to find their way in life with positive direction and purpose. And I ask that we take a moment to reflect on all that each of us has contributed to, what we have accomplished, and the many adventures that lie ahead.

My wife, Lisa, and I offer warm holiday greetings to each and every member of our Scouting family. We wish you a wonderful season filled with joy and abundant blessings for you, your family, and those you hold dear.

Yours in Scouting,

Michael B. Surbaugh | Chief Scout Executive



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Retirement Adventure

The Philmont Chaplaincy: A Nearly 50-Year Perspective

By Bill McCleery

This past summer, I was often asked by a friendly young Philmont staff member, “So, Chaplain Bill, is this your first summer on staff?”

“No,” I would reply. “I was here 46 years ago as a seminarian.” I could tell by the stunned look on their face that they thought I must have known Waite Phillips personally!

In those days I was headed for parish ministry, or so I thought, until the field education director at Princeton Theological Seminary asked if any of us had a Scouting background. “A ranch for Scouts in New Mexico is looking for a chaplain,” he said. I had always wanted to attend Philmont as a Scout, but never had the opportunity, so I quickly raised my hand. Two months later, I was on my way to Cimarron, New Mexico, for my summer field education experience.

Joe Davis, the legendary director of program at Philmont, greeted me with his famous handshake and introduced me to the other chaplains. Next it was off to the motor pool to pick up my vehicle, a 1965 International Scout. It had a standard transmission and four-wheel drive that could only be engaged by getting out of the vehicle and manually locking in the hubs (not an easy task). Chaplains didn’t have radios back then and there was no driving instruction or test. We were simply handed a map and told, “Take it easy in the backcountry. Those roads can be kind of rough!” Now there’s an understatement for you!

The Protestant Chapel at CHQ was an A-frame structure that looked directly at the Tooth of Time. (Today it serves as the Ranger lounge and standup meeting room.) There was not much coordination among the chaplains since it was a fairly new concept. We each did whatever we thought was needed or requested. We spent a lot of time in the backcountry conducting services. Most of the camps had chapels where we would conduct Sunday services. During the week, upon request, we would conduct trail services for crews. There were no *Eagles Soaring High* trail devotional booklets or chaplain aides. We did it all.

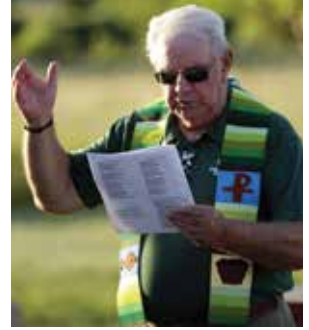
One incident that I will never forget involved a most unusual request. A Scouter from Florida,

who had been a crew advisor at Philmont some years earlier, passed away and his will directed that he be cremated and his ashes scattered on the Tooth of Time (which, today, would be illegal).

Being the youngest chaplain, I was selected to go up in a plane borrowed from a nearby ranch and do the scattering while the rest of the chaplains conducted a memorial service for the family in the Protestant Chapel. I was a bit nervous since I had never been up in a small plane, nor had I ever scattered ashes! But it all went well, and the family was pleased.

After spending two summers as a Philmont chaplain, I changed my career plans. I finished seminary but did not go into parish ministry. Instead I went to work for the Boy Scouts of America. Over the next 31 years I served in four local councils, one as Scout executive, and four different positions on the national staff, including director of the Relationships Division. After retirement from the BSA, I started a second career as a development director at my alma mater, The Ohio State University. I have just retired from my third career, doing what I trained to do 50 years ago: part-time parish ministry as an Episcopal priest. I have gone full circle.

A lot has changed at Philmont over the last 50 years—new buildings, more staff, interpretive programs—to name just a few. But one thing that has not changed is the mission of Philmont to provide a memorable wilderness experience to youth and their adult advisors. The role of the Philmont chaplain is still the same: to help campers, staff, and training center participants fulfill their Duty to God and to see Philmont as a spiritual place ... God’s country ... Scouting paradise.



Bill McCleery

Scouting Update

Our New BSA President and National Scout Commissioner

Without question, Scouting is a movement that relies on the strength of our more than 1 million adult volunteers to provide the values-focused, character development programs that define us.

Last spring, we were fortunate to welcome two new members of our Key 3 in the same year—an event that is exceedingly rare in our 106-year history.



Randall Stephenson

Randall Stephenson, the chairman and CEO of AT&T, is now serving as the 36th national president of the Boy Scouts of America following Dr. Robert M. Gates. A longtime friend of Scouting, Randall is a recipient of the Silver Buffalo Award and has served

as a member of the BSA's National Executive Board since 2005, as well as a member of the Executive Committee. He also chaired our 100th anniversary celebration and the 2013 National Scout Jamboree.

In the business world, Randall has helped transform AT&T into one of the world's largest communications companies, with more than \$147 billion in 2015 revenues and 32 consecutive years of dividend growth. He also has led AT&T's breakthrough "It Can Wait" campaign—an education and awareness program encouraging drivers to keep their eyes on the

road, not on their phones. The program has amassed more than seven million pledges of support, thousands of which are from the Boy Scouts of America.



Charles W. Dahlquist II

The second new face on our national Key 3 is Charles W. Dahlquist II, who was introduced as our 10th national commissioner in May following Tico Perez's successful eight years in the role. A member of our National Executive Board, Charles is an attorney and leader in

civic and community organizations. He served as chairman of the National Venturing Task Force and chairman of the BSA National Court of Honor.

Charles is a powerful voice for Scouting's values and is also *very active* in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Scouting's first charter partner, having served as Young Men General President, Chair of the General Church Scouting Committee, and Mission President in Hamburg, Germany. He is a recipient of the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo, and the National Venturing Award.

With these two staunch Scouters joining Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh at the helm of our organization, we are in good hands and our path forward is as bright as ever.



The Central Region Retiree Reunion this fall was also a special reunion for four former general managers of Philmont Scout Ranch. Pictured (l to r) are current manager Kevin Dowling (2015–2016), John Clark (2009–2015), Keith Galloway (2000–2009), and Bill Spice (1993–2000).

Your Questions and Comments

Question

My father, Dr. Robert Gibbs, received his Eagle badge in 1935 and was a dedicated, proud, lifelong BSA member. I notified the Eagles' Call in March on the website regarding his passing and received confirmation anticipating his name being listed in the "Once an Eagle" feature of the Fall 2016 issue. It still has not been published. The recognition means a great deal to me. Can you follow up further, to see what the difficulty is?

Allan Gibbs



In Fond Remembrance is being mailed to you. If you or any other retirees experience this problem again, please contact Mark Parsons at mark.parsons@scouting.org or by calling 972-580-2221. We appreciate you taking the initiative to

write and let us know about the issue so that it can be addressed. Our apology for any inconvenience.

Answer

Thanks, Allan. I have personally met with Gretchen Sparling, an associate editor of the *Eagles' Call* publication, on your behalf. It appears to have been a regrettable oversight which should now be corrected. I have been told that your father will be listed and recognized in the "Once an Eagle" feature of the Winter 2016 issue of *Eagles' Call*.

Question

What's going on?! I received my October BSA retirement annuity advisory in the mail informing me that the direct deposit to my bank account had been made. To my surprise, I also received an enclosed multipage folded insert in the envelope, which seemingly was intended for American Red Cross retirees regarding their health insurance. I did not receive the BSA In Fond Remembrance sheet. I wondered if we are now tied in with the Red Cross. Let me know what you find out.

T.J. Van Houten

Answer

Thanks, T.J. I have been in contact with Mark Parsons, who is the HR team leader for Benefits and Retirement at the National Service Center. It appears that there was a mix-up in the third party handling of the mailing process. Mark has taken action to investigate the cause of the situation as well as take steps to prevent recurrence. In the meantime, the October issue of *New Horizon/*

2017 BSA Registration Available Online to Retirees

A new and innovative online registration payment process for retirees was launched in 2016, and those retirees using the online registration process found it fast, efficient, and easy to use. Plus, it saved time and postage too—no checks to write and no trips to the post office to mail your registration form! The link is <http://bsa.kintera.org/retiree>.

Try this simple online retiree registration method to register your 2017 BSA membership. You will pay your registration with your credit card through a secured online transaction. However, if you prefer, you can continue to fill in the special retiree application form and mail it to the address listed at the bottom of the form.

If you are a re-registering retiree or widow/widower of a retiree, you can submit your application and pay your registration fee online by going to <http://bsa.kintera.org/retiree> or by completing this paper application and mailing it. If you are registering for the first time as a retiree or widow/widower of a retiree, you must complete the paper form and return it along with your registration fee.

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



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*.

Retiree Happenings

Looking Ahead to 2017 Retiree Reunions

Two BSA retiree reunions will be held in April and May, and three will happen next September and October. Here is a chance to get together with old friends and make some new ones along the way.

Atlanta, Georgia will be the site of the Southern Region Southeast gathering in April, offering plenty of chances to savor Southern hospitality. One special feature will be the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, the largest aquarium in the western hemisphere. Attendees can also visit the World of Coca-Cola and the inspirational Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

In May, the Southern Region Southwest gang will rendezvous again at Philmont Scout Ranch. New opportunities include visiting Philmont's most recently added high-adventure experience at Metcalf Station, where you can help build an old mountain railroad. Another highlight will be a day trip near Santa Fe and a tour of the world renowned El Santuario de Chimayo.

The Central Region reunion kicks off in September in Indianapolis, Indiana, the crossroads of America. Retirees will visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum featuring the six-cylinder "Marmon Wasp" (pictured below) that won the first Indianapolis 500 in 1911. Also, make sure not to miss a visit to Conner Prairie where you can step back into the 1800s and experience life in a small prairie town.



Also in September, Western Region retirees will head for a beautiful seaside hotel in Ventura, California, at the end of the San

Mateo Mountains. Opportunities will include a visit to the Reagan Presidential Library and Air Force One.

The Northeast Region reunion committee has chosen Cape May, New Jersey for its gathering in October, the beginning of leaf season. The many attractions include restored Victorian homes (see below) and Fire Control Tower No. 23, built during World War II to protect the coast from potential invasion by German submarines.



SOUTHERN REGION SE

When: April 28–30, 2017

Where: Atlanta West Airport Hotel,
Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: John Fitzpatrick, (678) 637-3676,
jcfitzp@msn.com

SOUTHERN REGION SW

When: May 2–5, 2017

Where: Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron,
New Mexico

Contact: Ed Weisshaar, (316) 351-7556,
coloeddie@cox.net

CENTRAL REGION

When: September 12–14, 2017

Where: Wyndham Indianapolis West,
Indianapolis, Indiana

Contact: Scott Clabaugh, (317) 876-7847,
sbclabaugh@gmail.com

WESTERN REGION

When: September 18–20, 2017

Where: Crown Plaza Hotel, Ventura, California

Contact: Bill Belcher, (805) 479-1996,
wdbelcher@earthlink.net

NORTHEAST REGION

When: October 1–4, 2017

Where: Grand Hotel, Cape May, New Jersey

Contacts: Doug Fullman, (609) 275-4965,
dougfullman@prodigy.net; Pat Bain,
(212) 828-2873, patricia.bain@gmail.com

Health and Well-Being

What's the Big Deal About Vaccinations?

Complications from influenza (the flu) and pneumonia are a leading cause of death among older adults. Retirees are also at a higher risk than most of the population when it comes to getting several other illnesses that can be prevented by vaccination.

Getting the recommended vaccines is not only good for your own health; it helps protect your family, friends, and others around you because many infections can be spread from person to person. It makes sense, then, that staying current on our vaccinations is especially important during the holidays when celebrations and observances can bring us into contact with a wider range of people.

Flu symptoms—including fever, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue—are usually less severe for younger adults than for the older generation, and we are a part of that venerable group! Also, the symptoms can vary for different strains of the flu virus. That is why your doctor and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a yearly vaccination shot for everyone six months of age and older to protect against the most common current strains of the flu. The ideal time to be vaccinated is before the flu season starts, which can be as early as October.

The CDC also advises that people aged 65 and older get vaccinated against pneumococcal bacteria. The bacteria may infect the lungs and cause pneumonia. It can also lead to infections of the blood, middle ear, and sinuses, as well as meningitis, an inflammation of the meninges that protects the spinal cord and brain. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that this is dangerous stuff and that all of us should take every available step to prevent it. Even if you have received the shot, if that was more than five years ago or if you were younger than 65 at the time, you may need a booster dose.



Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, ©Monkey Business Images

Newer and more effective vaccines have been developed during the last few years, so it's time to consider bringing your vaccinations up to date. **If you have not had your vaccinations this year, it is not too late to give yourself some needed protection.**

Payment for these vital vaccines is a “no-brainer” because the Medicare health insurance program covers almost all retirees 65 and older. It pays 100 percent of the cost of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. If you are not covered by Medicare, check with your state health department or local drug store to see if they offer free vaccines.

Have a happy holiday. Get vaccinated!

And Speaking of Medicare ...

In case you were not aware, Medicare Part B premiums will increase for 2017, and that is expected to be reflected in additional deduction from the Social Security monthly checks that most retirees receive. Additional information on Medicare Part B premiums can be found on the Part B costs section of the Medicare website.

The federal government recently announced a 0.3 percent 2017 cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA. The COLA is based on a government measure of consumer prices. By law, increases in premiums for most Medicare recipients cannot exceed their Social Security COLA.

Financial Well-Being

Taking Care of Year-End Money Matters

In the closing days of 2016, your personal financial reminders may need some attention and review. Here are a few things for all retirees to keep in mind.

Take the required minimum distribution from your individual retirement account (IRA). One of the highest penalties imposed by the Internal Revenue Service usually applies to retirees. Retirees who are age 70½ and older and have an IRA must take the required minimum distribution (RMD) by December 31, 2016—if they have not already done so—or face a 50 percent penalty on the shortfall. The penalty also applies to owners of IRC Sec. 403(b) annuities and beneficiaries of qualified plans and Roth IRAs.

If you're planning to donate to charity, do it now. Consider making a few extra donations of money or gifts in kind before December 31.

Your charitable contributions must be made to qualified organizations with 501(c)(3) status. And make sure that you get and keep your receipts, because you'll need them. You might also want to donate used household items or clothes to a not-for-profit organization—and again, get a receipt. To qualify for a tax deduction, the total value of these non-cash donations must be more than \$500 to one or more charities during the year. The following online guides can help you estimate the value of such donations:

- Publication 561, Determining the Value of Donated Property—<https://www.irs.gov/uac/about-publication-561>
- Salvation Army Donation Value Guide—<https://satruck.org/Home/DonationValueGuide>
- Goodwill Valuation Guide—<https://goodwillnne.org/donate/donation-value-guide>

Get the maximum benefit from your tax deductions. Since they can lower your overall taxable income, you should consider any and all deductions for which you may be eligible.



Perhaps you can qualify for a deduction by making an extra mortgage payment or by prepaying your state and real estate taxes before the end of the year.

Also be sure to find out if you can claim any tax credits. These are not the same as deductions but can also reduce the dollar amount of taxes you may owe. For example, if you qualify for \$500 in tax credits and owe \$1,000 in taxes, you will only owe the IRS \$500.

Review any life changes that have happened within the last year. Getting married or divorced, the death of a spouse, buying a house, or a change in the number of your dependents—any of these changes could affect your tax status as well as your eligibility for certain tax deductions or credits.

Take the time to compile and organize all paperwork relevant to your taxes. That way, when tax season comes, you won't be scrambling to find year-old financial records! Start by gathering all those receipts from charitable giving or business expenses. Check your most recent brokerage statement for year-to-date gains or losses on investments. Keep track of all your accounts as well as any medical receipts and reimbursement forms.

By doing all of the above, you'll be better organized and might even be able to file your taxes early. This greatly reduces your risk of being a victim of identity theft by criminals who might get hold of your Social Security number or other personal information and use it to steal your refund. It's an unfortunate sign of the times, but something you must do to keep from being an easy target!

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National Membership Participation Report September 30, 2016

Tigers	102,751
Cub Scouts	510,938
Webelos Scouts	446,171
Cub Scout–age Youth	1,059,860
Boy Scouts	719,664
Varsity Scouts	62,707
Boy Scout–age Youth	782,371
Venturers	116,275
Sea Scouts	3,072
Explorers	80,444
Coed Young Adults	199,791
Lions	16,449
STEM Scouts	2,538
New Market Youth	18,987
Subtotal	2,061,009
Learning for Life	390,971
Grand Total Youth	2,451,980
Total Adults	898,639
Total Units	98,574

The Now & Then Team Is Growing



It is a real pleasure to announce that fellow retiree John Erickson has graciously agreed to join our editor, Allen Mossman, as associate editor of *Now & Then*. John will assist in gathering stories and information relevant to fellow retirees. His involvement will also

expand our ability to keep in touch with the BSA retiree family and up to date on the exciting and important developments happening in Scouting today. John brings a wealth of experience and feeling for the Boy Scouts of America to this new retiree volunteer position. He is well known for his service to the movement, having served as an assistant to the Chief Scout Executive prior to retirement from active professional service in 2007. Welcome aboard, John!

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