

SCOUTS-L

ROUNDTABLES

**From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>
Subject: Re: change in status of roundtable staff**

Let me add a few lines to Professor Beaver's posting about the status of Roundtable Staff Members (not the Roundtable COMMISSIONER, just the other members of the Roundtable Staff. I think this is where the confusion comes up at.)

"Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG> writes:

**>As a fellow Scouter in GW District, I was interested in your posting and
>some of the response generated. This policy change was announced at the
>NCAC Council Commissioner's Meeting based on a communique from National.**

The National Operations staff sent this memo to 114 of the local Councils (those Quality Councils) back in Novemeber for their implementation with the coming program year.

**>You correctly understood that in the future this policy would mean that
>roundtable staffers would no longer qualify for the Arrowhead Honor (those
>that have it can still wear it) or Commissioner Awards; e.g. Distinguished
>Commissioner Knot. They will be able to earn the Scouter Training Award
>and Scouter's Key. If they double as Unit Commissioners they can earn the
>other awards in their UC role.**

The composition of the Roundtable Commissioner's Staff was supposed to be originally Unit, Pack, Troop (and when we had them, Neighborhood) Commissioners. Over the years, it's somehow been bent to include Scoutmasters/Cubmasters of the strongest units in the District, their Assistants, and Committeemembers. There were lots of comments over the years, and moreso over the past two years that "the entire staff of Troop (or Pack) (or Post/Ship) 000 IS the Roundtable Staff, and the Scoutmaster IS also the Roundtable Commissioner!! When will it be OUR unit's turn to "coach other units each and every month" (and which begs the additional question "If they have that much time to plan and conduct a Roundtable meeting each month, how much time are they giving to developing those other adults or youth members in their REGISTERED units")??

All National is trying to do is to get this composition back to COMMISSIONERS, so that the staff of the Roundtable Commissioner (appointed by the District or Council Commissioner) can truly be a staff of Commissioners.

The objective is, folks, to stop "double-slotting" unit Scouters into staff roles too. Commissioners are either with the units, administring the training and support, or working with new units to get them going. (The REAL objective, as many of us Commisioners know, is to BUILD LEGIT WORKING STAFFS and stop trying to rely on that one or two Scoutmaster/Cubmaster team to "bail out" every other unit in the District that has problems!! We've lost too many Scoutmasters

and Cubmasters, not because they tire of being in *that* role, but because we ask them CONSTANTLY to go beyond what their "expectations" are and "positively influence" other Scouters to "get with the program". To appease them when they tire of the effort, we gave them a patch and told them that "you're now a part of the District's Roundtable Staff". That patch (and the Arrowhead Honor) only can take a Scouter *so far*, and they leave.)

ALL Commissioners (and their staffs) will continue to receive training awards (I haven't seen the new requirements for the Roundtable training awards or key, but I take it that they've taken out the performance requirement for the Key which WAS to to earn the Arrowhead Honor Award), but ONLY Unit, District and Council Commissioners and their assistants will be able to qualify for the Commissioner Award of Merit (the five year plaque and square knot).

This makes sense to me. I would rather recognize a Troop or Unit Commissioner with five plus years experience with the Commissioner Award of Merit rather than a Scoutmaster or Advisor, who's been responsible for assisting to plan Roundtables for five years.

>I suspect that one of two things is going to happen - most likely we will
>see an affirmation of this policy in Scouting Magazine or less likely we
>will find that National was firing up a trial balloon to see what reaction
>was generated before formalizing the policy. They have a habit of testing
>ideas in a few Councils before making things a real national policy. You
>should also be aware the each Council operates a little differently (what
>goes in one Council may not go in another - remember National makes a lot
>of policy and not all Councils accept it) and that word will not get out at
>the same speed in each place.

Mike's right, and expect that the "field testing" of this new policy will be over sometime during the summer and an finalized announcement made at the first of the new program year.

>There is bound to be some confusion, because this is a change and it may
>not be communicated the same way or as well everywhere. For now we in
>the National Capital Area Council will operate based on the policy that was
>communicated to you.

That is the same way both Shawnee Trails and Middle Tennessee Councils are handling it as well.

>If Kathie has conflicting guidance from her Council, it may be that her
>Council is hearing a different test version, is not yet sold on the idea
>enough to endorse it, or not communicating it the same way.

As Mike indicated, and as I've preached several times here, just because National sends out a memo to all local Councils, it doesn't necessarily mean that that's the way things will be. In many local Councils, your Council Executive may, after reviewing the information, decide that the best course is the present one (especially if he or she's having severe problems getting and retaining Commissioners!). Others may decide to "go with the flow". Still others may want to

test things out, see what we volunteers think of it and then decide.

Only when policy changes in an official BSA publication should ALL local Councils adhere to the new "law", supplemented by a visit from the Area Director with a copy of the new "law" and instructions on how he or she sees it being carried out: according to the way that National wrote (the safest); according to the way he or she sees it (next safest); or according to the way the local Council Scout Executive sees it (least safest...he or she could be wrong, in which their career's over; or they could be right, and a "gold star" is added to their professional record).

Kathie was correct in what she stated. In ALL of the Councils in that area of the Central Region, the status quo is being maintained until the start of the new program year, in which National will decide which way will it be. It is going also to be the "status quo way" in both the Lincoln Heritage and Buffalo Trace Councils, too.

So, "Kathie" (Kathie Cerveny serves as Council Commissioner in the Northeast Suburban Council, BSA) isn't "wrong". She's just applying what her Council Executive, herself and the Council President decided to do in this case.

Again, **your local Council** will implement the policy based on what **it sees** as the best path to travel. Right now, the policy is being field-tested. In August, if not earlier, we'll see if it's policy or not.

One final note: just because a program doesn't say it's being "field tested" don't mean that it's not. Our National Office has this silly way of just "announcing" to selected local Councils (those that have performed well above average in the past three years) "new changes in program" and expect them to at least review them (which they will) without a word about "well...we're just thinking about this for right now...see if your volunteers will "buy off" on this (the operative phrase is "see if it will play in Peoria"). So don't get wrapped up about whether or not it's a test or permanent. If it's permanent, Pro_Speak (the professional magazine), Scouting and cut sheets for your local Council's newsletter will all announce the new policy. If not, everything will return to normal and almost everyone will be happy once more.

Settummanque!

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Settummanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (_____)_
co-Owner, Blackeagle Services

Date: Sun, 14 May 1995 08:29:19 -0600
To: mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG
From: MHolmes@mail.coretech.com (Michael Holmes)
Subject: RT staff
Message-ID: <1411682693-44273137@mail.coretech.com>
Status: RO
X-Status:

Michael,

I read your comment of May 13. Obviously I don't know what you were told, but I checked in the Administration of Commissioner Service, and it has no provision for any awards to be earned by RT staff. If your council has been awarding arrowheads to RT staff, it may have been contrary to National Policy (for whatever that's worth). My understanding is that the staff wears a badge of office with gold, rather than silver, borders precisely because they are not actually commissioners.

YiS

Michael

Michael Holmes

MHolmes@mail.coretech.com

HolmesWCW@aol.com

Date: Thu, 7 Sep 1995 11:14:22 EDT
From: Michael Derleth <75112.1671@COMPUSERVE.COM>
Subject: District Roundtable

<< Steven Hoar says: "I came home last night after dedicating two hours
<< to roundtable and felt like I had wasted my time.. .What do you folks
<< do at roundtable, what is your agenda. . ."

Dear Steve:

I am a new Roundtable Commissioner who has had some of the same comments you voice. Having seen RTs done well and poorly, my idea is to do the best I can to pass along new info to the leaders. In our council, the newsletter is bi-monthly and always arrives just AFTER some deadline. IF I can get the info from the pros, I hope to be the source for late-breaking info.

I also think I can build attendance by offering new program ideas gleaned from sources like Scouts-L. What works for one council can work in another. I hope to avoid re-hashing the same old stuff. ie: if it's November it must be popcorn. Yes, we will have some info, but it won't be the focus of the whole program.

Now a question: What did you expect from RTs, and if you were at MINE, what topics/things would keep you coming back?

I am also interested in ideas from all you lurkers out there. What can I do to make RT interesting for the veteran SM who has all the program ideas he needs? (the perception here)

Mike Derleth

ASM T32, Monroe, LA

(Among the many hats I wear)

Date: Thu, 7 Sep 1995 10:39:29 -0500
From: Marc Solomon <msolomon@TEK1.TEKNIQ.COM>
Subject: Re: District Roundtable

>Rather than go on, my question to you is;"What do you folks do at
>roundtable, what is your agenda, what subjects do you cover?"

Our roundtable meetings go from 7:15 to 9:00. The first 15 minutes are spent with both the Cub and Boy Scout Leaders hearing announcements from District personnel of interest to both groups. Then the two groups separate. Since I am a member of the Boy Scout Roundtable Staff, I can only talk about what happens on that side.

We start at 7:30 with an opening flag ceremony and a welcome to the meeting. Announcements are then made that are specific to the Troops. After a brief discussion about what is going to be discussed this night, we separate into breakout groups. Each breakout group discusses a specific topic according to this month's roundtable theme (which is actually next month's Boy's Life and Scouting theme) and the roundtable handbook. The breakouts are divided by the handbook into the following areas: New Scouts, Experienced Scouts, Older Scouts. We have added two more this year. These are Committee Member and Second Year Webelos. The Webelos is only for some of the Roundtables and is designed to assist Webelos Leaders in having their Scouts attain Arrow of Light and bridge into Scouting as well as having the Webelos Leaders get acquainted with the Boy Scout Leaders in their area.

After 45 minutes of breakout, we reform in the main room and have a discussion about a specific topic. These topics are frequently about major changes in and review of National or Council policy. Examples of topics include: Youth Protection, Insurance and Liability, Tour Permits, . . . This discussion lasts about 20 to 30 minutes. We then hand out any adult awards and/or recognitions, have the Roundtable Commissioners Minute, and a closing flag ceremony.

We do not vary much from the format given in the roundtable staff handbook. We try very hard to make the topics relevant and up to date. To tell you the truth though, things in Scouting do not change much from year to year. There aren't that many new announcements to make. On the other hand, the leaders DO change from year to year. Many of the topics we discussed three years ago are new to the leaders in the audience today. The skills we teach each month are old hat to the Scouters who have been around the block a few times but are new to a good portion of the Scouters.

The reason we separate into as many breakouts as we do, is to try to give a little variety to what the Scouters see each year. The Boy's Life themes our roundtable staff uses as a guide repeat every 36 months. This means that once a Scouter has attended our meetings for three years, he has seen all of our themes. By varying which breakout session he attends, we can show him something new (somewhat, the topic of knot tying occurs in some format for the new Scout breakout three times this year) for nine years. This is much longer than the average Scouter lasts at the Troop level.

I was wondering what you meant by agenda? If you mean what are our goals, then I would have to say our goals are Training, Disbursement of Information about district and council events as well as policy and procedure, and Recognition of Scouters in that order. If you look at the breakdown of our meetings, you will see that the time spent in each activity supports our priorities.

Yours in Scouting,

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+-----+
| Marc W. Solomon      | Unit Commissioner  |
| msolomon@tek1.tekniq.com | Sycamore District  |
| marcsol@aol.com     | Blackhawk Council, IL |
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I use to be a wise old owl . . . Now I am just old

Date: Thu, 7 Sep 1995 21:01:28 -0400
From: Jack Weinmann <aa855@cleveland.Freenet.Edu>
Subject: Re: District Roundtable

Reply to message from hoar@AGDIS01.NEWARK.AF.MIL of Wed, 06 Sep

>Rather than go on, my question to you is;"What do you folks do at
>roundtable, what is your agenda, what subjects do you cover?"

Steve,

In the 7 years that I was involved in Cub Scout Roundtable (2 on staff, and 5 as the Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner) I can say that for MOST of the Roundtables that I worked or attended (in the 4 years previous to serving) I generally left the meetings feeling very "high on Scouting."

I pulled out one of my archives from Roundtable and will give just the program information from the front page of the 26 page handout that we USED to give to the attendees.

**CUB SCOUT ROUNDTABLE
WINDING RIVERS DISTRICT**

September 18, 1989 Jack Weinmann, Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner

**THEMES FOR OCTOBER
CUB: VIKING DISCOVERIES
WEBELOS: SHOWMAN & SCIENTINS**

PROGRAM

**GATHERING ACTIVITY: Cub Bingo - JenniferPage 1
OPENING: The Six Ships of Scouting - JerryPage 2
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: -Jack**

(Note: This is when I would introduce all of the staff and welcome everyone who attended.)

FIRST TIMERS: - Jack (We asked all of the people who were there for the first time to come forward. I would welcome them, shake their hands and ask them to give their name, pack, and their position in the pack. Then I presented them with their Concho necklace - made with a leather Tandy concho with the Cub Scout emblem stamped and stained and a long plastic lacing to make the necklace

which they would get beads each week to string on the lacing.)

FIRST TIMERS' SONG: We're Glad To See You Here!(BELOW)
(Note: WE would sing this to the first timers)

ICEBREAKER: The Viking Voyage (Aud. Participation) - JudyPage 3

BOOK & PATCH OF THE MONTH: Cub Leader How-To / Bobcat - Norm

SONG TIME: - DonnaPage 4

(Songs were: We Are Vikings, The Viking Song, Halloween Song,
Twelve Days of Halloween, and Pumpkin Bells)

EXAMPLE CEREMONY: Parents' Promise . also see EulogyPage 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (All announcements were done at this time)

SEPARATE SESSIONS:

TIGER PARENTS: - JudyUN-NUMBERED

CUB LEADERS: - DonnaPages 6-11

WEBELOS LEADERS: - JerryPages 12-17

PACK ADMINISTRATION: - NormPages 18-21

**ROUNDTABLE ATTENDANCE AWARDS: - Sue (Cubbies for most number, and
highest %)**

**ROUNDTABLE RECRUITER AWARDS: - Jennifer (Computer generated award for
bringing**

another Scouter to roundtable)

PRIZE DRAWING: Fun stuff

SURPRISE - SURPRISE: Silly items - selected by surprise methods

(Sometimes a slip of paper under the chair, or a mark on a program page)
(You'd be amazed at how many people tried to figure out how I would do it!)

CLOSING: Law of the Pack & Taps - SuePage 2

REFRESHMENTS: Donated by the Roundtable Staff (that was for this month)

(Other months we would have units bring cookies or bakery)

FIRST TIMERS' SONG: (TO BE SUNG WITH GUSTO!) Tune: Farmer in the Dell

We're glad to see you here.

It gives us joy and cheer.

Sure, it's true, we say to you

We're glad to see you here.

EULOGY

I am sorry to announce that our Pack and Troop have lost a valuable family.
Mr. & Mrs. Someone Else have transferred to another unit.

The vacancy left will be difficult to fill. The Elses have been with us
for many years, and they have always done far more than their share.
Whenever there was a job to be done, a committee to chair, or a meeting to
attend, their name was on everyone's lips. "LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT!"

When there was a fundraiser, Mr. & Mrs. Else were thought to be the biggest
contributors "Let Someone Else make up the difference," was often heard.
And they were looked to for inspiration, as well as results. When
recruiting was underway, "Someone Else will bring in new members" was the
common reply.

Whenever there was a campout, and drivers or attending adults were sought, Someone Else was always persuaded to go.

The Elses are wonderful people, but of course they are only human, and they could only spread themselves so far and so thin. Many a night I sat on the phone and talked to Someone and heard him wish aloud for more help. He and his wife did the best they could, but they knew it was impossible to accomplish all that was expected of them.

We have to face the fact that there were not enough Someone Elses to go around. And now the Elses have transferred to a different Unit. What are we going to do? They have left us a wonderful example to follow, but who will follow it? Who is going to do the things that Someone Else did???

(I do not know the origin of this Eulogy, but I found it in my churches newsletter many years ago and adapted it a bit for Scouting.)

This is a random choice of one of my collections of past Roundtable programs but I think it illustrates there should be more than just the Fundraising, etc..... announcements.

The separate sessions were individual groups that we had the people split into for individualized discussions. Each session leader supplied some printed literature for the handout covering their topic for the evening and many times the discussions were on topics that were not related to the suggested topic for the month. That is why we included the printed pages for our handout, so that we could concentrate on what the LEADERS wanted to talk about at the sessions.

I hope this helps Steve.

YIS,

Jack W. Weinmann aa855@cleveland.freenet.edu

Date: Fri, 8 Sep 1995 10:49:42 CDT
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle" <waltoml@WKUVX1.WKU.EDU>
Subject: Roundtable Meetings

The questions were "How does the information flow works from National to the units through the Roundtable meetings" and "What do you do at your Roundtable meetings to get/keep those "experienced Scouters" coming since they are "experienced" and not "new"?

During Roundtable meetings, time should be set aside for your District professional/professional team to share with those in attendance new National policies and how your local Council will be interpreting those policies. They should be prepared not only to explain the new policy or rule, but also to share with you how the Council views the policy in light of existing programming, what it means to "Joe or Jane Scouter" and what it means to the youth members in your District. In this light, your District professional/professional team is "speaking for the Council Scout Executive" and therefore for the Boy Scouts of America. View this

time as not a time for him or her to "wax poetic" on how well his boss sees the District nor how we need to do more to raise money or to get kids. View this time (and it should be **SHORT** and **TO THE POINT**) as his or her time to express what "National's thinking" with all of you.

If this time is **NOT** being used in that kind of framework, and is instead being used to either berate volunteers into "doing more", or spent presenting awards, a talk between the Roundtable Commissioner (whom should be presenting those awards -- it is **HIS OR HER's MEETING!**), the District Commissioner or ADC in charge of Roundtables (this is the alternate person to present those awards during the meeting) and the District Executive or Executive team in order to get this resolved. This is **NOT** the "DE's Roundtable"...it is the District Roundtable, hosted by the District Roundtable Commissioner(s) and their staffs.

Likewise, your District Commissioner should be emphasizing that the Roundtable, like this forum, is a period set aside for **EXCHANGING** as well as **GETTING AND GIVING INFORMATION**. This is what brings folks back to Roundtables, like which what brings you back to Scouts-L each and every day (besides the fact that if you don't read the stuff here, you'll really miss something **GREAT!**). I've found that if you set aside some period of time in which Scouters can just **SIT AND TALK** with each other, during the meeting, this helps a **LOT** more than even the best of programs. Scouters, like people everywhere, want to spend time in just comparing program, in talking about great places to camp or hike or fish...or the reverse, places to avoid, places that charge above a "normal amount". If you listen carefully to what happens "as the participants gather", not only are they gathering paper products (handouts), but they are talking about upcoming programs, problems that they have and how others have worked with them.

If you look at your Roundtable meeting as a "monthly conference on Scouting", this will give you a clue as to how the topic areas should be handled and how much time should be allocated to the various areas of the meeting.

I keep "harping" on this, but everyone in the USA should go on any given month to one of the four (yeah, four) monthly Roundtable meetings in the George Washington District in the National Capitol Area Council. The Roundtable meeting is held at a middle school, and starts promptly at 7pm. There's an agenda with all of the handouts provided to as many people as the "handout person" made copies for (and attendance is high, about 500 Cub and Boy Scouters **COMBINED**, along with "straphangers" like myself and others). The meeting starts with a bang, "announcements" are short, sweet and emphasize information that Scouters **NEED** to take back with them. Longer things that needed to be explained are explained on paper, and contained within the Agenda "book" that each person received when they signed-in. Other matters, like SME/FOS, charter renewals, summer/day camp registration and fee payments, and the like are **ALL** handled **OUTSIDE** the main room (the cafeteria), as well as the coffee and donut area (this allows those that want to exchange information to do so **WITHOUT** conflicting with the main meeting). The program for the

evening is challenging and varied, are topics of ADULT interest (even though there's a lot of youth members in attendance), and are NOT always "Boy Scouting related" (for instance, one month's Roundtable included a frank discussion on the topic of sexual harrasment and how it related to the-then newness of having women serve as Scoutmasters. They brought in two personnel professionals that facilitated the discussion and while they had to be coached as to "Boy Scouting terminology", the discussion was great and different than "let's tie three new knots this month".

There are separate breakouts for Cub, Scout, and Varsity Scouters and for those Exploring leaders that want to attend instead of attending the Leader's Exchange meetings done on a quarterly basis by the Division's Exploring team.

The District Executive has the last ten minutes of the meeting, and if his ten is not used, then the meeting closes that much earlier. Each month, they have to literally "throw the Scouters out" of the building because while there's a HOUR left over for Scouters to talk with each other after the meeting, you can STILL find Scouters standing or leaning in the hallways or near the doorways, talking and sharing information with each other.

I came back from every meeting with so much information about what the BSA is doing, how the NCAC is handling it and how I can make my unit the best units in the District, that I literally had to sit and reflect when I got in the door!!

That's* a Roundtable meeting!!! *hehehehee

The keys are to keep it focused, keep the distractions to a minimum, and vary the program so that those attending each month are surprised. Kinda like here, gang. By keeping it focused, keeping distractions to a minimum, and varying the "content" so that people will continue to come back and say "HEY! That's neat!! Let me turn on my printer!", people come back to this list, the "Roundtable meeting that NEVER ends!"

Settummanque!

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Settummanque, the blackeagle... (MAJ) Mike L. Walton (

Date: Fri, 1 Sep 1995 19:38:59 -0400
From: "John R. Carminati" <CLANOF6@AOL.COM>
Subject: August Boy Scout Roundtable Plan

Theme for September: Fishing

- Opening, pg 75 of RT Guide
- Welcome everyone
- Talk about '95-'96 RT Plan
- Feature: SM Update
- Introduce staff

- Closing, pg 77 of RT Guide
- Announcements
 - Popcorn popoff
 - DE minute
- Next Month
 - Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries programs
 - outdoor cooking methods

Here are my notes from the SM Update

- Are you delivering the promise?
- Ethics in Action

* Characteristics of a good troop

- Leadership / organization
 - + youth / adult training (JLT, SMF, coaching at PLC)
 - + communication
 - immaturity
 - too much adult
 - too few adults
 - + planning (PLC & yearly)
- Advancement
 - + goals (BOR for every boy... ask why they are not advancing?)
- Participation
 - sports
 - girls
 - cars
 - parent support (bring to meetings)

ALL of this is really lack of interest!!!

- peer pressure
- Growth
 - + roundup
 - + Webelos to Scout transition plans
 - + Webelos Woods
 - + publicize troop program
- Patrol method
 - + separate meetings from troop
 - + requirement of patrol leader (don't just sign off on Star / Life

leadership

- Activities / Program
 - + variety (plan & follow thru)
 - Outdoor
 - + minimum of one per month
 - + high adventure (prepare, designated ASM, variety, changing membership
- of crew
- + concentrate on scouting skills while camping (camp gadgets)

YiS,
John Carminati
Roundtable Commissioner

Date: Thu, 12 Oct 1995 03:20:10 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>

Subject: Re: Roundtables

Don,

Your District Chairman and District Commissioner would likely freak if they visited our roundtable from the sound of things. We had about 120 at the Cub Scout Roundtable, about 50-70 at Boy Scout Roundtable and another 20 or so milling about in the sign-up/exhibits area (a few more than you thought Paul). We also had about 20 at the unit commissioners meeting held at the same site. And yet we still need to reach out and be more effective with more Scouters! We haven't had youth involvement in these roundtables yet, but maybe its time to reconsider.

I have to agree with Paul that it sounds like the gang of three in your area has gotten used to a social gathering and has forgotten they are there to serve and promote Scouting. Perhaps it is time that your District Committee vote in new talent and take a more active role in making sure the District's Scouters are served.

There is nothing conceptually wrong with having SPLs and JASMs invited to Roundtables to get critical planning information to take back to their PLC meetings. This is what Scouting is about - teaching them how to exercise leadership. For those areas that are adult focus, I can agree with the idea that there may be some areas where adult-only may be appropriate and in such cases would recommend a break-out session to handle it with SPLs and JASMs having a separate program at that point, maybe some training or open discussion on how to better run PLCs, plan, help younger Scouts with advancement, service projects, etc.

If the two old birds don't want to serve Scouts - that's why were here - then maybe they need to be shown the door. On the way out give 'em some discount coupons for the local coffee and donut shop where they can happily relive their adventures, while the rest of the group gets on with making sure that Scouting keeps the promise of adventure and quality program for the youth in your area.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Tue Nov 19 11:35:18 1996

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Received: from server1.capaccess.org (server1.CapAccess.org [207.91.115.5]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with ESMTP id LAA22428; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:35:18 -0500

Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtpc@pucc.Princeton.EDU [128.112.129.99]) by server1.capaccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) with SMTP id LAA37018; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:25:15 -0500

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with BSMTP id 9748; Tue, 19 Nov 96 11:24:15 EST

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by PUCCLPRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 2382; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:24:14 -0500

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Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV release 1.8b) with NJE id 2264 for SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:20:59 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 2263; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:20:58 -0600

Received: from alli.com by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R2) with TCP; Tue, 19 Nov 96 10:20:53 CST

Received: from marc-solomon by alli.com (SMI-8.6/dg001) id KAA28638; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:17:17 -0600

X-Sender: m_solomon@145.1.174.7

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0 Demo (32)

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Message-ID: <3.0.32.19961119101142.006f8fb0@145.1.174.7>

Date: Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:22:23 -0600

Reply-To: "Marc W. Solomon" <m_solomon@ALLI.COM>

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: "Marc W. Solomon" <m_solomon@ALLI.COM>

Subject: Re: Roundtable & Unit Commish meeting

X-To: Gregory Benesh <BENESHG@BAYLOR.EDU>

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

X-Status:

At 09:31 AM 11/19/96 -0500, Gregory Benesh wrote:

>Why not hold your Commissioner meeting BEFORE Roundtable? We hold ours
>at 6:30 p.m., before the 7:30 Roundtables. The UCs are encouraged to
>host their unit leaders at the two Roundtables, which meet in adjacent
>rooms. The UCs are available for fellowship before and after the
>Roundtables.

This might work well if you have a small (in area) district. My district is large and I do not get home most nights until 6:15. The meeting place is 35 minutes away and it takes longer if I try to go during the tail end of rush hour! As it is, on roundtable and commissioner meeting nights, I
From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Tue Nov 19 11:35:18 1996

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Received: from server1.capaccess.org (server1.CapAccess.org [207.91.115.5]) by cap1.CapAccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.10) with ESMTP id LAA22428; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:35:18 -0500

Received: from pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (smtpc@pucc.Princeton.EDU [128.112.129.99]) by server1.capaccess.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) with SMTP id LAA37018; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:25:15 -0500

Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)

with BSMTMP id 9748; Tue, 19 Nov 96 11:24:15 EST

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTMP id 2382; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 11:24:14 -0500

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin LISTSERV@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTMP id 2271; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:21:43 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV release 1.8b)

with NJE id 2264 for SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:20:59 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTMP id 2263; Tue, 19 Nov 1996 10:20:58 -0600

Received: from alli.com by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R2) with TCP; Tue,

19 Nov 96 10:20:53 CST

Received: from marc-solomon by alli.com (SMI-8.6/dg001) id KAA28638; Tue, 19

Nov 1996 10:17:17 -0600

X-Sender: m_solomon@145.1.174.7

X-Mailer: Windows Eudora Pro Version 3.0 Demo (32)

Mime-Version: 1.0

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I realize that many of the district personnel either work within the district, run their own firms, or are full time housewives, but for the rest of us, meetings at such times are very inconvenient.

>Another idea that has worked too well is to hold OA Chapter meetings at
>the same time as Roundtable. We thought our Roundtable attendance would
>grow if unit leaders had another reason to be there (i.e. to bring their
>sons to the OA meeting). However, recently the Chapter meeting has
>outdrawn both Roundtables!

This idea also has many drawbacks. Many of the OA members ARE unit leaders and would not be able to attend both. Secondly, there is the problem of finding a meeting place large enough. Currently both our roundtable commissioners are complaining that our current meeting place has grown too small due to the increase of attendance and the need for extra places for each breakout session (currently the Cub Scout Roundtable does three breakouts [wolf, bear, webelos] and wants to do five [webelos 1 & 2, committee] and the Boy Scout does four [new, experienced, older, committee] and occasionally five [Webelos 2]).

The best advice I can give to anyone who wants to increase their roundtable attendance is follow the program from the book and advertise. If you draw enough staff together to pull off the program, it will be worthwhile to attend. If no one knows your doing all this, don't expect them to come.

Call each unit leader up who did not attend last months meeting and ask why. Let them know what's up for them at this month's meeting. Invite them to come and bring their assistants and committee members. If they are not there in group, they will miss something from one of the breakouts!

Make the breakouts informative and entertaining. AND most important give handouts!!!! The best advertisement is when one Scouter tells another "Look what I got from Roundtable, isn't this helpful!" I get tons of stuff from this list and distribute it at each month at roundtable. I still can't print enough of the Dutch Oven cookbook or the Geezer's Cookbook.

Who am I to be saying all this? I am a member of my district's Roundtable Staff (as if you didn't guess already). My district boasts that over 92% of all units attend each months meetings with over 60% of the units represented by more than one leader. All but one troop and one pack (from different chartering organizations) attend roundtables each year. We're not perfect but we are working at it.

YIS,

Marc Solomon Unit Commissioner
m_solomon@alli.com Sycamore District
mailto:marcsol@aol.com Blackhawk Area Council (IL)