

101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

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33



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AND MORE!!!



John, Ken, and Baden Powell's Granddaughter

The Scoutmaster's Corner - Dr. Ken LaPolla

Life is unpredictable, to say the least, but here I am, as Scoutmaster, updating you on the happenings of the Troop over the last few months.

How are the Scouts, you ask? Great, they haven't missed a beat.

How am I? Waiting for my heart to start beating again.

But in all honesty, I can't begin to express my feelings of pride in Niko, our past SPL and now Abhishek, our current SPL, their PLC's and all the Scouts in the Troop. They have been my guides. They have taught me more than I ever imagined at this stage of my life, and I can't say enough about the Adult Leadership stepping up to assist and guide the Troop with me.

So to recap:

In September we went to Mosquito Reservoir, a first for us, although it's right in our back door. A few of the Scouts thought about sneaking back to their homes to sleep, and then joining us in the morning, but the weather was great, and the weekend proved that the Troop 101 program was ingrained in our souls and that Jim's legacy was moving forward. We canoed, played games, and even went on a lost Niko search, who was found safely tucked away at the ice cream stand. The bon fire that night not only warmed our hearts but melted our clothes. We made such an impression on the local campers that Pack 50, camping close by, asked to join us in November for our camping trip at Seven Ranges.

In October, we went backpacking at Morrison Run in the Allegheny National Forest in northwest Pennsylvania. The weather was perfect. No one got lost or hurt and we now successfully launched two campouts without any drama. And the Troop returned to their favorite lunch spot, Sheetz, on the way home on Sunday. But backpacking trips are easy. Once you leave, you follow the map and look around as you go. But the real outdoor challenge is making the difficult look easy, beating nature at her game and not giving in to her mood swings.

November proved to be such a challenge. The weather dove below freezing. Veteran's Parades in Warren were cancelled, but our program, as well as our spirit, never lingered. The PLC organized several Scout skill stations, crafts and games. However, the pinnacle of the weekend, was not the "trash can" turkeys, nor the outdoor Thanksgiving Day feast that the Patrols made possible with their Dutch

Alumni Board of Directors

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The Scoutmaster's Corner

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Oven side dishes, but rather that evening's campfire, complete with the usual skits and songs. It doesn't sound impressive, but I can assure you, the Cub Scouts were impressed. Their leaders noted that none of our Scouts gave into the freezing temperatures and their spirits remained high throughout. The Pack Leadership took comfort in the fact that our Scouts made sure that our Cub Scout "guests" were taken care of "warmly."

And finally, our December Christmas party, complete with dinner and Court of Honor, and one of Mr. Matt's slide shows proved that our program, has and will go on. To say our Troop's program is just as good, if not better, is an understatement. Jim left a legacy. One he would be – correction— one he IS proud of.

I feel Jim's presence regularly at Scout meetings and camp outs. I hear his voice during announcements, Scoutmaster conferences and especially during the Scoutmaster's Benediction, which I still stand waiting for him to say but am continually reminded that I am the one who needs to say it after Vespers.

December may be the darkest period of the year, but the variety of holidays that are celebrated during this month are celebrations with light, of the harvest and hope. One would expect the Troop to be clouded in darkness as well during this time of transition, but all the support and encouragement we have received over the last months has surrounded us with light.

This is still surreal to me, wearing the Scoutmaster patch on my sleeve, but I am honored.

-Ken.



Alumni Association Logo Contest Now Underway!

We are looking for a Troop 101 Alumni Association logo and we're inviting you to be part of it.

This logo design contest is open to everyone associated with the Alumni Association in submitting entries.

First, a few requirements.

The logo should reflect the long and rich history of the Troop Alumni Association, the Troop itself along with support of our Scouting affiliates, such as the Cub Pack and Eagle Wings.

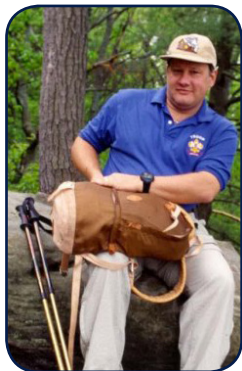
The logo should also be a symbol which reflects Scouting's values, Troop 101 history and the vast network of Alumni that make our programs viable and successful.

Here's how to enter: Submit your (color) PDF rendering's, one per submission by March 31, 2018 for review and judging. Send your logo submission to Newsletter@troop101.net.

Final selection will be made by the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Thank you and good luck!





From the President - 2017 and Looking Forward

Alumni,

Happy New Year!

2017 has certainly been a bitter sweet year for the organization. It has tested our commitment and resolve of our focus and endeavors supporting BSA Troop 101 and Pack 101 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

The Sweet: With many long hours and hard work from members of the Diocese of Youngstown, Blessed Sacrament Parish, BSA Troop 101 and Troop 101 Alumni Association, Inc., the new Scout Center Building was completed and readied for a new home for Troop 101, along with assisting the Cub Pack. None of this could have happened without the financial support of our vast alumni members and friends of Troop 101.

To put this in perspective, out of the thousands of BSA sponsored organizations in the United States, I am only aware of two other such undertakings for erecting a building for the purpose of supporting a BSA Troop. We should all be very proud of what was accomplished and now stands as the James Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center, a true testament to Jim's Vision and leadership!

It would also be short-sighted not to thank all of the people who worked hands-on during the process including our builder and his crew, Paul Kuszmaul, plus the many sub-contractors who assisted us with special pricing and in-kind donations to help us realize the final goal. And last, but not least, we thank all the many adults, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members who pitched in.

Thank you to everyone. We did it!

The Bitter: In the tragic accident in August on the way to

Algonquin Canada for the anticipated camping trip, we lost our Scoutmaster, Jim Potjunas.

Jim was a mentor to so many over the years. His leadership created core Scouting skills in countless young men and encouraged them on to great things in life. There are so many stories involving Jim that have been told and many more that have yet to be recited, almost like the stars above on a 101 campout. Jim was a great Scoutmaster, leader, visionary and friend. We all miss his presence and will think of him often.

As Jim looks down upon us now, I can only imagine how proud he would be of everyone for picking up the pieces and moving forward in the same tradition he would have done.

Looking forward: The Troop is stable, the building is up, and so what's next?

For 2018, we have several little details to finish in and around the new building, such as, additional storage, extra tables and chairs, the completion of the conference room and Eagle Wall, plus many of smaller details to give the Troop every advantage we can. We are also developing some long-range plans with the possibility of secure areas to store "Big Blue, Blue & Little Blue", the Troop's & Pack's trailers and large gear, as well as small outdoor presentation area with a fire pit.

Long Term: The Alumni Association would like to create a long-term trust that will pay for the annual operating cost associated with the building so that we can ensure that our focus moving forward will be on the Scouts and Scouting.

Sincerely,

Tim Ross
President, Troop 101 Alumni Association

The Troop looks West, for Adventure! By Matt McCracken, ASM



Many of you are familiar with Philmont, the America's Premier High Adventure base located in New Mexico. What some of you probably don't know, is that it can be difficult to put a trip together, sometimes you have to plan a few years in advance.

After a trip out west with his family in 2017, Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop 101's 138th Eagle Scout, Cole Kuszmaul, decided the Troop really needed to visit Philmont.

Cole was successful gaining a coveted spot on the Philmont Calendar, and in June 2019, up to 12 Scouts and Adults from Troop 101 will be joining Cole for a week they're sure to remember. This will mark the first time the Troop has organized a trip, as a Troop, to one of the major High Adventure bases.

What do they plan on doing? Some would like to say "Everything", but there are so many wonderful program opportunities at Philmont. Some of the potential activities include summiting Mt. Baldy, (12,441 feet), Spur Pole Climbing, Rock Climbing, Black Powder Shooting, Mountain Biking, and more.

Another exciting feature of the trip to Philmont will be how the Troop will get there. They won't be driving or flying, but instead traveling by Train!

As the Trip Leader, Cole will be collecting the names of those wishing to go on January 8th, along with a \$300 deposit. Alumni are welcome to go, but with only 12 spots, current members will be given priority. The cost of the trip will be \$1,800. If you are interested, please send us an email at Newsletter@troop101.net, and we will pass the information on to Cole.



Feature profile: Raymond “Corky” Manofsky

Troop 101 Eagle Scout #71 - November 20, 1997



By Corky Manofsky

After completing my Eagle Scout and graduating from John F. Kennedy High School, I attended Youngstown State University and graduated with a BA in Telecommunications and a minor in public relations. Post college, I moved to Atlanta, GA where I worked as a camera man and production assistant for Comcast Sports South and CBS.

Even though this career was fulfilling and I truly enjoyed it, I found myself wanting to be a part of something bigger and more meaningful. I wanted a career where I could give back in some way.

I moved back to Warren and entered the Ohio Fire Academy where I completed my training to become a firefighter. I also obtained my EMT and Paramedic certification along the way. The last 9 amazing years I have been employed with Howland Fire Department, Brookfield Fire Department, & Champion Fire Department.

I am one of those blessed individuals who can say he loves getting up and going to work. The fire service gives me the opportunity to help people in the community when they are at their worst. Knowing that maybe I am able to patch them up, listen to them, or rescue them in a time of need, helps me sleep at night. With that said, I know I have found my place in life.

Editor's note: Very few in the Troop ever knew him as Raymond. He was always "Corky", even as a Cub Scout. To most of us today, he still is. Sharing his story with the Alumni Quarterly, Corky says the experience of Scouting provided him with the drive to go on to seek new challenges in life – and succeed! This is his story, in his words, about his life-journey from Cub Scout, to Eagle Scout, to Firefighter/EMT/paramedic.

My Scout career began as a Cub Scout with Pack 110, where I received my Arrow of Light. I was in Troop 101 from 1992-1998 where I become Eagle #71. I met many good friends in Troop 101 and remain close with many of them to this day.

There are some great memories! Some of my favorite Troop memories are camping at Algonquin in Canada, the North Country Trail hike, and summer camp.

Anyone who knows me, especially Mr. P., knows that I am not a big fan of any kind of winter camping. Still despise it. We have homes with heat for a reason and I still laugh at the thought of going camping to sleep in tents in the snow.

One of my fondest memories of Troop 101 and the Great Horned Owl Patrol was being a founding member of the Patrol video, "SKUNKBUSTERS." Some of today's Scouts come up to me and asked about it and wanted to hear more stories about the making of that classic video. Some 17 years later, it's legendary in the Troop. That makes me smile.

With the untimely passing of Mr. Potjunas, better known to the boys as Mr. P, it gave me time to reflect on what an impact he has left in my life and my family. I thought about how my father is my hero in every way. I have always



Corky and Seth Aubuchon

trusted his judgement, and he knew that Troop 101 was a great choice because of its leadership.

Mr. P. ALWAYS put his boys before his own priorities. He made time for the oldest scout and the newest scout without leaving anyone out. Mr. P wanted each boy to push themselves even when they didn't believe in themselves.

I remember the time he had me come to a meeting at his house for one of those famous

"Mr. P talks". I thought it was going to be about my joking around, behavior, and never wanting to camp in the winter. I was wrong.

He wanted me to become Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). I was shocked, because I didn't think he would even consider me to take on that huge responsibility.



Corky and Jim

Looking back, Mr. P was always focused on the bigger picture. He wanted me to take on the highest responsibility of a Scout because he knew that is what I needed to believe in myself and become successful.

"P" and I kept in touch throughout the years and anytime we ran into each other he always had a huge smile when he saw me. He would tell me and the company he was with, that I was always one of his favorites. That made me feel good, that we both had an impact in each other's lives.

The trail to Eagle taught me a lot. My advice to any Scout on the trail is: STICK WITH IT! During my time in high school, Boy Scouts wasn't the most "socially" popular thing to do. But, no matter what I face in life, I don't quit. When I start something, I complete it, which is something I learned in my time with the Scouts. That is what Scouts do. This remains true for my career in the fire service today.

Maybe it was my time in Boy Scouts that paved the way for where I am today.

For that, I am eternally grateful.



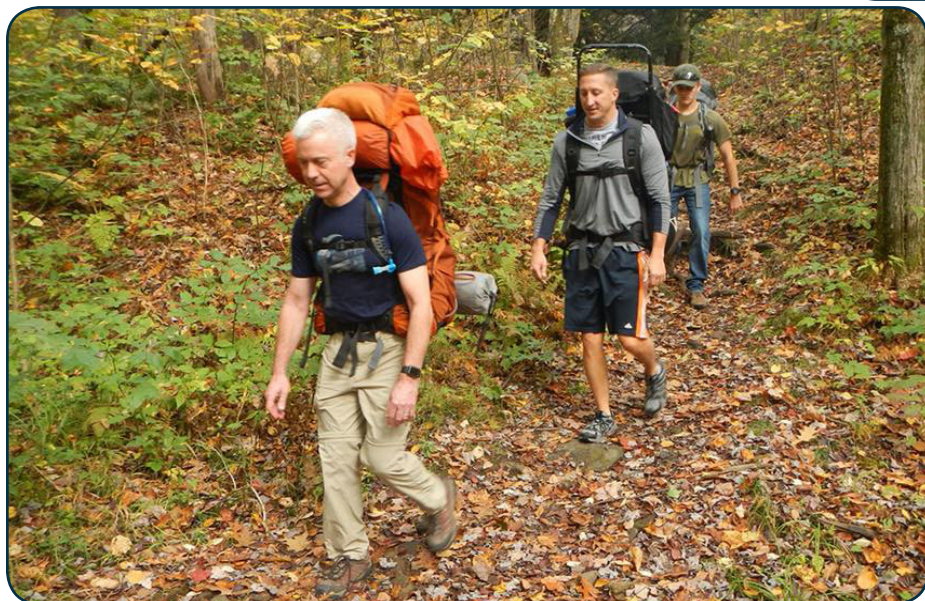
Corky finding his photo on the Eagle Wall



Corky with Parents



Corky at the wheel of Engine 4



Backpacking with the Troop in October



Rocking the Troop Hoodie!

Troop 101's Ginny Bond

Appointed Arrowhead District Chair



As a multimillion dollar producer and top sales agent for 360 Real Living Realty in Warren, Ginny Bond is a trusted advisor, skilled negotiator, expert facilitator, professional property stager and decorator in her profession.

A mother of three, Ginny is a Troop 101 Committee Member, trained in Archery. She is a trustee for the

Howland Football High School Team and member of the Warren Rotary Club.

Most recently, she readily accepted the position as Chairperson of the Great Trail Council's Arrowhead District.

The Alumni Newsletter caught up with Ginny to discuss her new position and the challenges it presents.

AQ: First off, congrats on the new position. Can you give our readers a glimpse of your Troop involvement? Why did you get involved with the Troop and take on added responsibilities over the years?

Ginny: I believe in kids being Scouts! Both of my sons, Patrick and Trevor were in Cub Scouts, Patrick earned his Eagle Award with Troop 101 and my daughter Olivia earned her Gold Award with Girl Scout Troop 598.

I think every child should learn and understand the Scout Law. Through the encouragement of our beloved Scoutmaster, Jim Potjunas, I became more involved with Troop 101, obtaining my Archery Range Officer Certification, attending campouts and becoming a Troop 101 Committee Member.

AQ: Obviously, when Ken was appointed Scoutmaster, it opened-up the District Chair position. How much "persuasion" did it take for you to accept this new challenge?

Ginny: Being a part of the Scouting family, when Ken asked for my assistance on the BSA's new marketing plan, it was a quick 'yes', and after the loss of our dear friend and Scoutmaster Jim Potjunas, I was asked to have lunch with The Great Trail Council's

John Brkic and David Michalec to discuss the recent Scout awareness success at the Canfield Fair, which I played a key role, and the planning for the new year. They presented me with a folder asking me to assume the position of District Chair. I looked at John and David and quickly said 'yes'!

AQ: As new Chair of the Arrowhead District, what's your mission? What do you envision for the District, going forward?

Ginny: My mission and vision as Chair of the Arrowhead District is to help increase the financial stability of the District so we can move forward with new programs, not only for the Scouts, but for training programs for Scoutmasters and volunteers. This will help our future vision while retaining the successful programs already in existence across the previous Council. More on this will be coming forward in the future.

AQ: Overall, what with the recent Council merger, if you were to say a few words about "the State of the District" what would you offer?

Ginny: Mergers are a time of growth. As the success of America was built on diversity and the strengths of the citizens joining together for a better and stronger America, I believe the merger will have the same benefit to all our Council participants.



Ginny with Son, Patrick (Eagle #130) - Summer Camp 2015

BSA Policy Shift

Girls to be welcomed into BSA program

Beginning this year, the Boy Scouts of America will officially invite girls into Cub Scouting. A program for girls ages 11 to 17 will be announced for projected introduction in 2019 and will enable young women to eventually work toward the Eagle Scout rank.

According to Scouting Magazine (source of much of the information contained throughout this article), once word got out that the BSA was discussing opening Scouting to the entire family — and welcoming girls and young women at all levels — Chief Scout Mike Surbaugh's phone started "blowing up" with texts and calls and emails.

Volunteer leaders confessed that they've had girls coming to their Pack Meetings for years.

"The little sisters of Cub Scouts, they come to meetings and they want to do things, they want to do the same things as boys and sometimes that's been confusing for families," Surbaugh says. "They come out to us on school night to sign up, and we've said, 'family program, family program, family program.' And when the family comes out, we say, 'We just want that one,'" pointing at the boy.

"But what about my daughter?" some parents have asked.

"We know that families are looking for a place that they can bring the whole family," Surbaugh says.

Following a nationwide survey of 11,000 volunteers and a series of meetings at BSA headquarters in Irving, Texas, the decision was made overwhelmingly in favor of allowing young ladies into the program.

If some of this sounds familiar, veteran Scouters may recall The BSA's previous attempt at an all-female program, Campfire Girls, lost ground to The Girl Scouts, then attempted to salvage itself as a coed program, Campfire Boys and Girls, now known as Camp Fire. In 1969, Camp Fire Girls were then permitted to participate in BSA Explorer Posts (originally established for boys 14 and older). This arrangement ended in 1971, when the BSA made Explorers a co-ed program.

The Impact on the Troop 101 Family of Programs?

Cub Pack 101 will be the first to feel the effects of the new policy. "It will not affect the Troop at this time as units at the Troop level are to remain single gender," said Scoutmaster Dr. Ken

LaPolla. "The Cub Pack will be discussing how, or if, to implement any changes before Fall of 2018 when the program policy is due to begin."

When girls join Cub Scouting this year, beginning at age 5, Packs across the country may welcome them right away.

According to the National BSA office, Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls. Cub Scout packs, meanwhile, can include any combination of all-boy or all-girl dens. The choice is left to individual pack leaders in consultation with their chartered organization.

Some Big Things Won't Change

The Scout Oath and Scout Law, activities and rank advancement requirements remain the same. Uniforms will remain the same, too, though the fit and styling may change.

Youth Protection: the policies will match existing rules in place for the Venturing program for young men and young women. When a Scouting activity includes both boys and girls, there must be both female and male leaders present. At least one of those leaders must be registered as an adult member of the BSA.

According to BSA national, existing program content and activities are appropriate for boys and girls alike, so there's no need to change anything there. Education experts have evaluated program content and confirmed the relevancy of the program for young women.

Preliminary plans call for requirements to be the same for young men and young women. National BSA, young women shouldn't get — and don't want — watered-down requirements.

At the Boy Scout Troop level, a program for girls ages 11 to 17 is due to be introduced in 2019. The program will allow young women to work toward — and earn — the Eagle Scout Award.



Mike Surbaugh



Continued next page

Troop 101 “Little Sisters” Speak Out

Marianne Gold-Hoover, daughter of Troop 101 alumnus and Troop 101 Eagle father Ned Gold, is one of those girls who tagged along and grew up with Troop 101 through her Eagle brother Greg (Troop 101 Eagle Scout #31, 1987).

The Eagle rank was always a long-lost dream through no fault of her own, said Marianne. “I wish I would have had the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout, but I do feel that I helped pave the way for girls to be allowed now to become Eagle Scouts and I hope girls will respect the opportunity to become an Eagle Scout.”

Marianne also laments that the recent BSA policy shift was too late for her inclusion, but has fond memories and deep respect for what the program instilled in her.

“I will quote the greatest Scout Leader I have ever known, Jim Potjunas,” she said. ‘Marianne is a better Scout than her brother Greg!’” - a direct quote from Jim, said Marianne.

She said she honed her Scout skills through Troop 101 because she was always the little sister tagging along on all the Troop trips. “Algonquin, Chickagami, and of course, Philmont, were trips that left a lasting impact. “I have always felt in my element when I am at a Scouting event, but I always seemed to stand out because I was usually the only girl.”

Another Troop 101 sister sibling is Becky Rosenblum, sister of Eagle Scout #89, Joe Rosenblum. A Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, Becky served on Girl Scout camp staff as a director for several years. She also helped run some of Troop 101’s successful camping-theme programs, such as the Hunger Games weekend, archery weekends and was a member of Venture Crew 101.

“I am excited for girls to get a chance to join the Troop and work side by side with the boys, a choice I was never able to have,” said Becky. “I was lucky enough to have a Girl Scout program, which was designed to mimic the Boy Scout program, led by my mother Barb.”

Becky said, as a Girl Scout, earning her Gold Award was a huge accomplishment, but, as for her, the Eagle Award is much more universally recognized.

“I always have to explain to people that (the Gold Award) is like the Eagle award. Ranks are not earned in Girl Scouts, they are done by age group, so I can

only guess if the work I did was the same as Eagle, or not,” said Becky. “When I was younger, if I had a chance to be a part of Troop 101, I would have. I am excited for the changes to come.”

Girl Scouts of America React

The BSA’s policy change was met with a storm of protest at the national office of the Girl Scouts of America. Jane Christyson, CEO of the GSA’s Northeast Ohio Lake to River Council in suburban Cleveland referred the Troop 101 Alumni Quarterly to a statement, released by Sylvia Acevedo, Girl Scouts of America CEO.

This is Acevedo’s statement:

“I think it is fair to say we are disappointed that Boy Scouts of America has chosen to open its program to girls rather than focusing on the 90% of American boys not being served by Boy Scouts. We believe strongly in the importance of the safe, all-girl, girl-led and girl-friendly environment that Girl Scouts provides.

At Girl Scouts, girls aren’t the ancillary tag-along or supporting player — they are the central character. For more than a century, Girl Scouts has delivered unparalleled experiences that allow girls to discover their passions, develop leadership and people skills, explore their worlds, and embark on new adventures. Adult mentors and strong female role models show them they can be anything they want to be.

Girl Scouts has been filling the leadership and entrepreneurial pipeline since our very beginnings. It’s no coincidence that in America, the majority of female astronauts and female tech leaders, 76% of current senators, 52% of women in business, and all female secretaries of State are Girl Scout alumnae. So are the more than half of the 89 women in the House of Representatives and four of the six women serving as governors.

At Girl Scouts, we are in our second century of preparing girls for a lifetime of leadership. We are proud of our role in our country’s history and are embracing and amplifying our role in its future. We are the organization building the G.I.R.L.s — the go-getters, innovators,



Sylvia Acevedo



Becky Rosenblum



Marianne Gold-Hoover and Family

risk-takers and leaders — of tomorrow.” (End of statement.)

Troop 101 Committee Member and newly appointed Arrowhead District Chair, Ginny Bond, is the mother of a Troop 101 Eagle Scout and a Girl Scout Gold Award daughter. She feels this BSA policy shift crosses many socio-economic boundaries.

“Given the changes in society from when Scouting was first created till now, the changes are reflective of our society with multiple income families, single parents and mothers already participating as Pack and Den leaders,” said Ginny. “At the Cub Scout level, many girls have already been informally participating in the program and allowing them to join the Scout family and earn badges will not only be beneficial to the growth of scouting, but it will allow families to spend more time together.”



Ginny, Becky, and Sandy at Camp McKinley - Hunger Games Theme 2013

“It’s About Time”

Looking back, Marianne Gold-Hoover feels it is unfortunate that it took the Boy Scouts of America so long to accept girls into Boy Scouts.

“I am sure there will be learning curve for all involved trying to merge girls into Boy Scouts,” said Marianne. “Now ALL families will be able to enjoy the core values of Boy Scouts. I am eager to see my female leadership in Boy Scouts.”

Born into a Scouting family, Marianne said the Boy Scout program is “born into her.”

“I worked at multiple Boy Scout camps and the 1993 Jamboree. During my college years in Toledo, I was a COPE instructor at Camp Miakonda. I worked 2 summers at Philmont Scout Ranch, spent a summer teaching International Scouts at Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland. I was the Assistant Director of the High Adventure camp at Camp Gorsuch in Alaska and helped build their first COPE course.”

Marianne proudly points out that the BSA experiences paved the way for her work with the National Park Service. “Each of these Boy Scout camps gave me the inspiration to apply to become a Park Ranger. In 1998, I became a Park Ranger at Denali National Park and in 1999, I was a Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park.”



Ned Gold

Marianne and her husband Corbet are the owners of Gold Media and publish two consumer magazines. Their son Bridger is a Cub Scout. “I now seize the opportunity to pass down Scouting to my son,” said Marianne. “He absolutely loves it! He enjoys the Pinewood Derby the most right now, but I see the friendships, the values and lifelong experiences he is making.”

Meanwhile, Marianne’s father, Ned, a key player at both the District, Council and National Scouting levels, enthusiastically supports the policy change. “The BSA has had females in Scouting at the older level for nearly 40 years,” said Ned. “The extension to younger girls is overdue and a natural extension - and it’s about time!”

<http://Troopphoto.Troop101.net>

The Troop 101 gallery now contains over **78,000** photos and videos from 1975 to the present.



Bike Trip - August 2004



Bike Trip - August 2004



Bike Trip - August 2012

40th Annual Spaghetti Dinner - Sunday, March 25



Come enjoy a great meal at the 40th annual Troop 101 Spaghetti Dinner, Palm Sunday, April 9th at Blessed Sacrament Church's Regan Hall, Noon to 6 p.m.!

Enjoy a delicious spaghetti Dinner with all the trimmings. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children under the age of 12.

You can buy a ticket from a Scout, get one at the door, or even stop in for carry-out! Pre-order 12 or more dinners and get free delivery! That's right, we'll deliver to your door.

But if you show up, you can bid on some really awesome gift baskets! Eagle's Wings holds their Basket Sale at the same time! Don't miss out!

This is one of only two fundraisers the Troop holds each year, and we once again, are counting on you for support!

You can also take a moment to look at the Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center and Eagle Wall. Just ask for a Tour.



Late Scout Leader's Memory Lives On The Warren Tribune Chronicle

Dec 23, 2017 - By Reporter Bob Coupland

(Editor's note: This is one of the top 10 stories of 2017 voted on by employees of the Tribune Chronicle.)

WARREN — The James Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center was dedicated Memorial Day weekend to honor Potjunas for his many years of service and work in Boy Scouts.

Following an Aug. 5 car crash on state Route 11 that killed the Vienna resident, the large building at the Blessed Sacrament Parish site off Reeves Road now honors his legacy and memory.

Potjunas, who was 60 at the time of his death, helped start Boy Scout Troop 101 more than 42 years ago when he was a teenager, and he served as its Scoutmaster since 1980. Many who remember him noted his dedication and impact on scouts' lives.

He was killed in a single-car accident on state Route 11 in Gustavus while leading a caravan of vehicles filled with younger Scouts headed to a camping trip at Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol in Southington reported his vehicle was traveling north on state Route 11 just north of state Route 87 when the right rear tire of his 1999 GMC Suburban blew out. Reports stated he lost control of the vehicle, which slid off the left side of the highway and overturned in the median.

Potjunas died of positional asphyxia, according to the Trumbull County coroner. His wife, Sandra Potjunas, and the five children he had in his vehicle survived.

Ken LaPolla of Howland, who now is serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 101, said he will always remember Potjunas' dedication to the Boy Scout program and the many memories he shared about scouting with everyone.

"He had so many stories he would share with everyone. Everyone has felt his loss in the troop and all he did as they continue and go forward," LaPolla said.

Matt McCracken, formerly of Warren and now of Pittsburgh, served as an assistant Scoutmaster with Potjunas and remembered Troop 101 had around 150 Scouts earn their Eagle Scout awards under Potjunas' guidance.

"He always made each scout feel included. Jim was always there if you needed to have a talk. Jim was a storyteller. I will always remember the stories he

shared," he said.

McCracken said everyone will remember how excited Potjunas was when they dedicated the equipment building and meeting center in his name.

Barbara Rosenblum of Howland, who has served as a Girl Scout leader, said Potjunas "was the greatest Scoutmaster known to mankind."

Rosenblum said her family and Potjunas' family have been getting together around Christmas Eve for many years. She said Potjunas' wife and son will be with her family this weekend.

"This will be the first Christmas Eve he will not be there. It will be difficult for everyone," Rosenblum said.

She said Potjunas was always involved with helping Boy Scouts earn their Eagle Scout awards and worked with her to create a Venture Crew, which combined Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in community activities.

"He was always involved. He was a part of my son (Joe) and so many other scouts' lives. He was very positive and supportive of what they did," Rosenblum said,

Howland resident James LaPolla was in Boy Scouts with Potjunas.

"He was a like a big brother to me in scouting. I did not have an older brother but when we were in scouting he always helped me. He was the one who got me interested in scouting and was a senior patrol," LaPolla said.

Troop 101, which is chartered at Blessed Sacrament, has produced 148 Eagle Scouts in its history. During Potjunas' tenure as Scoutmaster, his Scouts constructed equipment for local hospitals and rehab centers, held blood drives for the American Red Cross and completed large projects at area parks and churches.

Potjunas received his Eagle Scout Award in Troop 11 in 1973, and became an assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 101 on his 18th birthday. He became Scoutmaster of Troop 101 in 1980, a position he would hold for the next 37 years.

Jim earned many awards and recognitions, including Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor; the Silver Beaver award; the Scoutmaster Award of Merit; Friends of Scouting Outstanding Service Award; and Tribune Chronicle Community Star award in 2006 for his work with the Boy Scouts.

IN MEMORIAM Troop's New Building Honors Departed Scoutmaster

Jim Potjunas left an indelible mark on Troop 101 and the entire community of Warren, Ohio.

He was just 18 when he helped start the troop 42 years ago. Five years later, he became its Scoutmaster. He led the troop for 37 years, during which time he helped 148 young men become Eagle Scouts. Along the way, he mentored young men as they camped, hiked and performed service projects.

"In all my years in Scouting, I have never known a better Scoutmaster than Jim Potjunas," says Ned Gold, whose son, Gregory, became an Eagle Scout in Troop 101.

"And hence the troop is the best I have ever seen."

Potjunas died on Aug. 5, 2017, in a single-car accident. He was 60.

His legacy survives in the 148 Eagle Scouts and dozens of others progressing down the path toward Eagle. It also lives on in the Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center, which was completed about two months before Potjunas died.

The Scout center was designed, built and dedicated in honor of Potjunas. Now it stands in his memory.

Outgrowing their space

Troop 101's chartered organization, the Blessed Sacrament Church, provides ample meeting space for the guys, but there's nowhere to stow all the gear it takes to support Troop 101's active program.

"Active" is probably understating it. During Potjunas' tenure, the troop went to summer camp 37 straight years. They took eight bike



Jim Potjunas and his wife, Sandy, attended the center's May dedication.

trips along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and 20 trips to Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada, and hosted 39 spaghetti dinners to raise money to pay for it all.

The church agreed to allow the troop and its alumni association to build a troop building on the far corner of the church property. Through the generosity of Troop 101 alumni, the troop raised \$225,000 to build the 2,500-square-foot building.

The building has it all: two floors of storage space. A bay that can hold the troop trailer when it rains or snows. A cable-and-pulley system for hanging wet tents to dry. A meeting room with videoconferencing capabilities. And the Troop 101 Eagle Scout wall, where framed portraits inspire future generations.

More than a building

The building officially opened in May, and parents, alumni, church leaders and members of the community gathered to celebrate the special day.

The keynote speech came from the man himself: Jim Potjunas.

He said fancy trailers, tents, canoes and buildings are great. But those buildings are worthless if empty. The gear superfluous if it never leaves a stuff sack.

"I don't think any of us ever dreamed we would come out of a basement to something as nice as this," he said. "For me personally, to justify all these contributions made by so many, we need to reach out and find more of those youth who could benefit from this Scouting program."

— Bryan Wendell



UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **January**

January 12 - 14 - Winter Event

- **February**

February 9 - 11 - Camp Beaumont

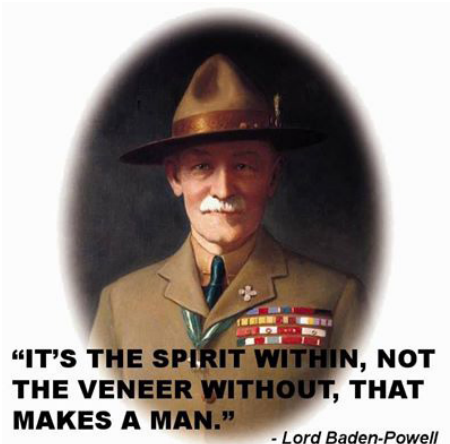
- **March**

March 9 - 11 - Camp Chickagami

March 25 - 40th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

- **April**

April 27 - 29 - Wright Patterson AFB



FOR MORE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE Troop CALENDAR AT <http://Troop101.net/?Page=Calendar>

What the Troop has been up to since our last issue



October 15, 2017

Morrison Run Backpacking

The Troop spent the weekend backpacking the trails at Morrison Run. The Weather was nice, and there was lots of fun along the trail.



November 12, 2017

Seven Ranges Campout

Back from an exciting weekend at Seven Ranges. This was our final camping trip of 2017, but there will be more adventures to come in 2018!

It was a cool weekend, but the events were fun, and the Star Wars theme made it a trip to remember.

December 10, 2017



Troop Christmas Party

The Troop held its annual Christmas party at Blessed Sacrament. This is our second year at the Church. Unlike previous years, there were no video games, just board games, Warhammer, and basketball to occupy the hours.

It was an enjoyable evening followed by dinner and our Christmas Court of Honor. See you again in 2018!