101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

July 2021 • ISSUE 47

It's Alive!

The Scoutmaster's Corner - Dr. Ken LaPolla

Scouting is alive again! The Parish recently lifted our COVID requirements after the Governor rescinded the State of Emergency. The council has followed suite and Scouting is back to pre-COVID times (with a few minor guidelines – not requirements).

It has been a challenge, but with patience and perseverance we are all on the other side of what has been a very interesting year to say the least. Now, we need to get back to business to continue our program and build our Troop.

I'm proud of our Scouts. They get what we do and know how to do it. A few have it taken upon themselves to speak to the graduating 5th graders in their schools. And I applaud their initiatives. A few have invited friends to stop by and look; and everyone is on the lookout for potential Scouts.

Summer Camp, after many scares and program changes, appears to be back at 95% of the program from previous seasons. Restrictions on merit badge classes and campsite arrangements that seemed imminent in the Spring are now gone. Meals will be served cafeteria style, not family style, as is tradition. Lunches will be sack lunches like those you get at Philmont or during backpacking trips (for those of you who remember). No family night this year (benefits and drawbacks are debatable). But I believe our Scouts are going to have a good experience. Either way, Summer Camp is back, and we're ready!

Summer's high adventure trip is a newer arrangement this year. We'll be staying at Camp Heritage, Pittsburgh's camp, for a long weekend with Whitewater rafting in Ohiopyle on Friday morning and then Spelunking on Saturday at Laurel Caverns, both a 30 minute drive from camp.

I would be amiss if I didn't use this column to thank Ed for all he has done and the time he has sacrificed over the years. THANKS ED! Matt, you have a high standard to follow. I know how you're feeling. But I'm proud of you for "Eagling Up" and filling a void that is needed to keep the alumni together and informed.

Thank you both, as we all can sleep well knowing that this line of communication will continue.

-Ken

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Brian Burkey	Committee Chair
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FEATURE STORY

Ed Byers

An Editor's Farewell

Fly a Kite Day - 2000

After 47 issues and 12 years of Editorship of the Troop 101 Alumni Association Quarterly Newsletter, I am retiring as Editor with this issue.

To be clear, the Alumni Newsletter isn't going anywhere – I am.

Having been associated with this great Troop 101 family since 1996, its high time to move along.

I am proud of what we have accomplished since that very first issue back in 2009. In the years that followed, this Alumni Newsletter paid tribute to scores of Troop 101 Eagle Scouts and former Scout Leaders who served the Troop since its inception in 1975.

In '09 it was Jim Potjunas's wish to resurrect the Alumni Newsletter, which had been dormant for many years. Jim felt it was time to reconnect with you, our Alumni, to keep you up to date on all the great things we are doing, to create a sense of pride, belonging and maintaining the bond which Troop 101 Scouting provides.

I retired from the workforce exactly five years ago and at that time, I offered to step down as editor, but Jim persuaded me to stay on. (Many of us remember the power of 'the Potjunas Persuasion'!) and I'm glad I did. Being able to write so many positive articles through the years brought me much personal satisfaction. Through those feature profile articles, many Scouts were reunited with their old buddies. Fond memories and wonderful recollections were shared in abundance.

Personally, I also have many. Chickagami, Manatoc, Custaloga Town, Seven Ranges, Wright-Patterson and Algonquin. All of those great Eagle Courts of Honor at the Elks and watching so many Tiger Cubs become Eagle Scouts was always a thrill for this old Cubmaster turned Assistant Scoutmaster.

My Woodbadge beads and Silver Beaver medallion are subtle reminders that I never quite mastered the art of saying "no" to any request for volunteering…. and to this day, I still have to chuckle at what they told me when they recruited me to become a Cub Scout Leader in 1992, "It's only an hour a week!"

Well, those hours became weeks, those weeks became months, and those months became years, but I wouldn't trade them for anything. They were the best years!

But now it's time to pass the torch and I'm happy to report that ASM Matt McCracken will be stepping up to the role as Editor. Few people know, that without Matt's keen eye for detail and layout expertise, this Alumni Newsletter would have never seen the light of day. We are in capable hands! Thank you, Matt!

Thanks also to Scoutmaster Ken LaPolla and Board President Tim Ross, for their help and cooperation in service to one of the most well-run organizations I've had the pleasure and honor of being associated with for the past 25 years.

"Years from now it will not make much difference, nor matter what kind of car I drove, how big a house I lived in, nor how much money I made. What will matter most is that I helped make a difference in the life of a boy". – Anonymous

-Ed

Ed and David Palcich September '98

From the President

By Tim Ross, Alumni Association President

What Makes an Alumni Association?

Looking around, we find very few Troops with an Alumni Association such as ours. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, our organization has inspired other Troops to follow suit.

I will let you in on something that is not widely known. I've had calls from Boy Scout Troops all over the United States with questions about our Alumni Association, wanting to know how we did it, how we do it, how it is managed, how the Alumni Association is structured?

Quite frankly, they appear to be in complete awe of everything we do, but among the most common questions asked of me is, 'what is the relationship between the Alumni Association and the Troop?"

That's an easy one.

The Alumni Association maintains ties with you, the Troop 101 Alumni, and continue as the Troop's Historian, preserving the rich tradition of a top-quality Scouting program for the youth through education as we continue the legacy of teaching and instilling Scouting skills. This includes the areas of Leadership Skills, Family Values, Commitment, Self Confidence, Career Experiences, Friendships, and other opportunities.

Then there is the aspect of financial support. Not only did the Association generate more than $250,000 to build the Jim Potjunas Scout Center on the grounds of Blessed Sacrament Church, but also helped the Troop in acquiring the necessary equipment to operate our Scouting program at its highest level and in a safe manner.

All of this takes the efforts of hard-working and dedicated people who serve on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and I am pleased to announce we have a couple of new faces on the Board. Brian Burkey has replaced Kris Kuszmaul and as of July 1, Troop 101 Eagle Scout Alex Stirling will replace Stacey Hoover. Stacey has agreed to stay on through the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition.

As we welcome aboard Brian and Alex, we thank Stacey and Kris for their years of service to the Alumni Association and wish them the very best for continued success in the future.

It is people like these folks who make us the envy of other Scouting organizations, successful in everything we do, which in turn, we do for the youth of community.

Thanks for your support! You are helping to make a difference.

I would also like to thank Ed for his efforts in putting together our quarterly newsletter. Well done, Ed. Thanks for all the years.

-Tim

An Alumni Connection

What does it mean to be an Alumni member of Troop 101… what does it get you? Let's start with the Troop Website!

Aside from the awesome Photo Gallery, that spans back to the beginning of the Troop, you can find event history and menus, rosters, and programs. All you have to do is log in.

While logged in, you also can look up fellow members of the Alumni to stay in contact. But be sure to log in and update your profile so we have the right information.

We'll show you more ways to stay connected with the Troop Alumni Association in the next issue. So stay tuned for more!

Communication Merit Badge

Scout Makes the News

Communication Merit badge is one of those Eagle required badges every aspiring Eagle aims to earn. Among the requirements is an option to write to the editor of a local magazine or local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject.

Recently, First Class Scout Marc DelliQuadri sent a letter to both the Tribune and The Vindicator. The Vindicator published his letter and the Tribune featured quotes in an article about Scouts preparing to bolster numbers.

Congratulations, Marc, and well-done writing to the Editor.

The letter has been reproduced below, and links to the news articles have also been provided.

DEAR EDITOR:

I am a Boy Scout in Troop 101 in Warren. I am working on the Communications Merit Badge, and one of the requirements is to write to an editor of a local newspaper.

I would like to bring to light the national shortage of kids in the Boy Scouts of America. Since my troop is fairly large, we are not experiencing any issues with this, but I know many others in different troops that are down to about 10 kids. Without kids in the BSA, it will have to shut down.

Personally, the BSA has given me multiple once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, and I know it can give other kids the same sense of adventure.

The BSA has been in our area of Ohio, and the country, for decades. It would be a shame to see camps and troops slowly close down across the country.

I am writing to you today to bring this subject to the attention of others in our areas so the BSA can thrive again.

MARC DELLIQUADRI

First Class Scout,

Troop 101 of Warren

Vindicator Article

Tribune Article

Marc, cooking for First Class Camp

Stambaugh District's Annual Scouting Breakfast Celebrates goals and accomplishments

From the Youngstown Vindicator
Jun 16, 2021 • By J.T. Whitehouse

POLAND - More than 200 Scouts and friends of Scouting gathered Tuesday, June 15 at the Lake Club fin Poland for the 16th annual District Celebration of Scouting Breakfast.

The event was for the Stambaugh District of the Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America and opened with the presentation of colors by young members of Poland Pack 9002.

Guest speakers were Scouts from Troops 9002 and 8055. The first was Isabella Scacchetti, from Troop 9002 out of the First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown. She spoke on her Scouting life and how she intends to be Youngstown Troop 8055's first female Eagle Scout.

"I don't have an approved plan yet, but I am looking at a few ideas," she said.

She said Scouting has been a good learning adventure.

"We camped out at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in (Dayton)," she said. "We got to camp on the base and go through the Air Force Museum."

Scacchetti, 17, daughter of Jeff and Rachel Scacchetti of Hubbard, is a Life Scout. She is entering her senior year at Hubbard High School, where she is on the school's bowling team and has played soccer. In Scouting, she serves as a senior patrol leader for her troop and is active as crew president for the troop's Venture Crew.

Also speaking was Noah Dearing, 17, son of Albin and Kathleen Dearing of Poland. He couldn't make the breakfast so he presented a recorded speech.

Dearing said he was 13 when he earned his Arrow of the Light award. Over the next eight years, he learned first aid and many outdoor skills as a member of Poland Troop 9002.

"Most important was learning how to lead people," he said.

He said his most memorable outing was in 2019 when he attended the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. "The Jamboree included over 40,000 Scouts from 152 countries," he said.

He said in spite of the language barriers, his troop members made new friends, including kids from Lebanon. He said these Scouts learned English by playing video games, which helped give them a common passion.

"They also spoke on how tough it was in their country," Dearing said. "It made me grateful for America."

Dearing, a junior at Poland Seminary High School, is a two-year letterman and a Taekwondo black belt. He enjoys riding dirt bikes on a course he built himself. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in September by installing used fishing line receptacles around the fishing areas in Mill Creek MetroParks.

Eric Carlson, president and co-owner of "Joe" Dickey Electric, was the final speaker. The 1993 South Range graduate talked about his rise from a project clean-up person to president of the company, which he said would not have been possible without the lessons learned in Scouting.

In 1990, Carlson earned his Eagle Award as a member of Troop 60 in Boardman.

"I have been a supporter of Scouting ever since," he said.

It was not just about giving to support Scouting, but what a young person gains from it. Carlson said the life lessons have made him a better business person and a better husband, and father.

"The greatest gift I received from Scouting is a love for the outdoors," he said.

Carlson's Eagle project in 1989 was constructing a bridge on one of the trails at Boardman Park that still exists today.

Boy Scouts of America Reaches $850M Agreement with Sex Abuse Victims

DOVER, Del. (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America have reached an $850 million agreement with attorneys representing some 60,000 victims of child sex abuse in what could prove to be a pivotal moment in the organization's bankruptcy case.

The agreement filed in court by BSA attorneys late Thursday would mark one of the largest sums in U.S. history involving cases of sexual abuse. The filing, known as a restructuring support agreement, includes the BSA, abuse victims, local Boy Scouts councils and lawyers appointed to represent victims who might file future claims.

What role the Norman Rockwell collection at the Medici Art Museum in Howland will play in the settlement, if any, is not known at this time.

"After months of intensive negotiations, the debtors have reached resolution with every single official and major creditor constituency," BSA attorneys wrote.

The Boy Scouts of America sought bankruptcy protection in February 2020, moving to halt hundreds of lawsuits by men who were molested as youngsters decades ago by scoutmasters or other leaders. The filing was intended to try to reach a global resolution of abuse claims and create a compensation fund for victims.

But attorneys for the Irving, Texas-based BSA had previously been unable to reach agreement with victims, local Boy Scout councils and insurers on how to compensate victims while allowing the 111-year-old organization to continue operating.

Thursday's agreement signals the BSA's acknowledgment that disagreements remain between attorneys representing abuse victims and those representing the BSA's insurers.

In an earlier court filing Thursday, attorneys for certain insurance companies accused the BSA of allowing attorneys for abuse victims to rewrite the BSA's restructuring plan to favor their clients.

"With only the fox guarding the henhouse, the outcome is utterly at odds with what BSA itself asserted was necessary for a confirmable plan and is permissible under the bankruptcy code," the insurers wrote.

Attorneys for insurers appear to be concerned, among other things, that decisions regarding insurance coverage issues would be made without their input.

Meanwhile, attorneys for the Boy Scouts are also asking for U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein to declare that they have no obligation to seek court approval of a previously announced settlement with The Hartford, one of the BSA's insurers.

The Hartford agreed to pay $650 million into the victims' trust in exchange for being released from any further obligations under policies dating to 1971.

The Hartford settlement was roundly criticized by attorneys for abuse victims, who estimate the insurer's liability exposure at several billion dollars. They made it clear that victims would not support any plan that includes the Hartford settlement.

The Boy Scouts have said that between $2.4 billion and $7.1 billion, including insurance rights, might be available for abuse victims. Attorneys for a committee that acts as a fiduciary representative of all victims in the bankruptcy case have estimated the value of some

82,500 sexual abuse claims at about $103 billion.

Matthew Sturdevant, a spokesperson for The Hartford, said the company's agreement with the Boy Scouts "is a crucial building block to move this bankruptcy case toward a conclusion."

"We are disappointed that the Boy Scouts of America have chosen to flout the organization's tenet of keeping promises by seeking to discard a thoughtfully negotiated and mutually agreed upon deal that appropriately values The Hartford's obligations," Sturdevant said in an email.

In a joint statement, representatives for the victims as well as future claimants representative said the restructuring support agreement will allow the Boy Scouts to emerge from bankruptcy "while providing meaningful compensation to the victims, and holding the Boy Scouts' insurers to the terms of the insurance policies purchased by the Boy Scouts and their affiliates over many decades."

In a revised plan submitted barely two weeks ago, the BSA offered to issue an $80 million promissory note to a trust fund for abuse victims. It also proposed maneuvers to make up to $50 million in additional cash available for abuse survivors. The proposed changes would increase the BSA's proposed contribution to as much as roughly $250 million, more than doubling a prior plan.

Under a new plan expected to be filed, the BSA's 250-odd local councils would contribute $600 million into the fund for abuse victims, doubling an offer from earlier this year. Under the plan, the BSA and local councils would be released from liability in return for their contributions to the victim's fund.

A hearing in the case is schedule for July 20.

Troop BBQ Fundraiser Success

Back in May we tried something new. With some restrictions still ongoing, the Troop decided to postpone our Annual Spaghetti Dinner another year and move forward with a BBQ Dinner Fundraiser.

Overall, we served more than 600 meals, and well over 150 pints of ice cream in our partnership with Cockeye BBQ.

To those that were able to attend, Thanks again for your continued support.

While we missed interacting with our Alumni, the event got our Scouts back out and moving during a strange time.

Hopefully we'll be back to our Annual Spaghetti Dinner next year, but this probably won't be our last BBQ dinner fundraiser. Keep an eye in future newsletters for more on Troop Fundraising opportunities.

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Share Your Story!

We're always on the lookout for the next Alumni story to share with you, our readers. If you, or an Alumni you know is doing something interesting send us a quick email so we can feature that story in the Alumni Quarterly.

Just looking to share a memory, or a funny story? We'll take those too!
Just email us at newsletter@troop101.net

Recent Troop Activities

What has the Troop been up to recently

May 23, 2021

A New Trail at Hickory Creek

The Troop returns from yet another successful Troop 101 Activity.

This weekend we traveled to Hickory Creek. This was a new backpacking spot for us, and we can surely say it was a successful one.

Scouts hiked 11 miles over 2 days. Two routes were taken on the trail to scope it out. Much fun was had, and some learned valuable lessons on how to prepare for future backpacking trips.

June 20, 2021

Stambaugh Camping and Service

This past weekend we camped at Stambaugh. On Saturday we did some conservation work at the lake, and cleaned things up for the camp.

The Scouts got to canoe, play Ga-Ga-Ball, throw frisbee, play kick ball, and several other fun activities in camp.

May 29, 2021

Memorial Day Service Project

The Troop was back out at Oakwood Cemetary for our annual service project. This year we used a new website from Eagle Scout Anthony Steines to find the graves.

June, 2021

New OA Lodge Totem - So, What's the Name?

Our OA Lodge has a new Totem! It's a black squirrel. The votes are in, and the name of our new Totem is Ranger.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

July

11 - 17 - Summer Camp at Manatoc

August

5 - 8 - Currents and Caverns at Ohiopyle

September

17 - 18 - McKinley

October

9 -10 - Kennerdell Backpacking