

Alumni Quarterly

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From the President

An Exciting Year

Well, we've come to the end of another milestone with the Troop. This is the last of the regular Troop Alumni Association Newsletters. If you want us to continue, let us know. If not, we'll keep you up to date as needed in the years ahead.

I'm Looking forward, the Alumni Association is beginning the planning stages for our holiday get together this November. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We'll again feature all of your Warren favorite foods. So, a "one stop shop" culinary experience for your short holiday visit.

Beyond that, 2026 more scouting excitement. We are wrapping up the heating project for the building. Thank you to all who have given their support. If you are still inclined, please consider a donation before the year's end.

Thank you for your support over the years. We hope to continue to see everyone periodically in the future. Until then, enjoy your final days of warm weather and thank you for helping us keep the spirit of Scouting alive!

-Ken



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Hello Scouts!

I am excited of the program that will be happening as well of the things we have done this past summer. I have got to fulfil one of my dreams this summer with the Troop in June. I have been waiting thirty-seven years to go to Philmont Scout Reservation and finally got to go. We as a Troop took two contingents this time and completed seventy miles of backpacking and an additional sixty-four miles of hiking in the twelve-day trip. One of the highlights of the trip was climbing Mount Baldy on Father's Day with my son Colin. I'll never forget it.

I say this a lot. "If it wasn't for scouting, some of these boys would never make it out of Warren." I think that is quite true. Just like our trip to Canada a couple of years ago, they are learning that travelling outside of their comfort zone is quite achievable. I learned that a long time ago

Scoutmaster Corner

Staying Course

with Jim Potjunas taking us to Algonquin Provincial Park and hiking the North Country trail for eight days. Managing to take care of yourself as well as leading and taking care of the younger scouts.

Times are changing as most of us know. Some good and some difficult. We do have The William E Brown Campership fund. We as Troop 101 do utilize it quite often but only when necessary. In the spirit of helping, this Holiday season, I ask if any of you would donate to its cause, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Now for more exciting stuff. We recently went to Philmont, as I said earlier. Summer camp in July and a newer trip for the August Trip. We spent a four-day weekend attending the Conneaut World War 2 Reenactment. We did stay at one of our past Eagle Scout family's properties in Conneaut. Thank you, Austin Watson and his family, for graciously hosting our troop at their private camp. What a nice time. Thank you.

After spending a couple of nights there, we packed up and traveled west to East Harbor State Park near Cedar Point here in Ohio. We spent the first day splashing around the Beach

and playing Ultimate frisbee in the knee-high water and some swimming a little farther out. After getting into camp the real challenge attacked and I mean, ATTACKED. I have never been around so many mosquitos in my life. I have used this phrase in previous newsletters before but it fits, IT WAS BIBLICAL. It's too bad because the place was really nice but unbearable. As motivating as it was to get in your tent, it was the same to get out of camp and get in the trucks to go to Cedar Point for the Day. We enjoyed a full day of thrill riding and camaraderie. I know I had a great time and my wife Vickie and I rode as many rides as possible. We were accompanied by two of the thrill-seeking scouts all day, Ben and Josh. Real dare devils. We had fun all day and I think Josh was still on his feet out of sheer Will.

The Troop returned to Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania for September and followed that in October with another base style camp in West Virginia at Tomlinson Run State Park. We had great weather and some excellent food that weekend.

Coming up is our staple at Seven Ranges Scout Reservations for a Thanksgiving themed weekend. Next year we have winter event and possibly pancakes in Parkman in March.

We are now preparing for an excellent Bike Trip in August of next year, from Cumberland Maryland to Washington DC. This will need several prep trips and we are excited get going.

Well, we'll keep going to get the Scouts out of Warren, keep striving to make great leaders and keep the adventure going.

Thank you,
Jason Paisley
Scoutmaster



ALUMNI HOLIDAY GATHERING



We're back for another Alumni Holiday Gathering! Nov. 29, 2025 • 4 PM-8 PM

We know the Reunion was just a couple months ago, but come join us again at the Troop 101 Jim Potjunas Scout Center for a night of food and fellowship.

The adult gathering is open to all Troop Alumni, present and past leaders, and committee members. Stop by to see old friends and reminisce about scouting adventures past or hear about upcoming adventures in 2026. There will be food and drink from local restaurants like Sunrise, Cockeye BBQ, and the Hot Dog Shoppe.

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We look forward to seeing you all there!

50TH REUNION RECAP

Troop 101 Celebrates 50 Years



Scouting America Troop 101 of Warren marked its 50th anniversary on August 31, 2025, with a reunion that drew more than 140 alumni, leaders, and current Scouts back to celebrate five decades of outdoor adventure, service, and fellowship.

The Troop traces its roots to 1975, when a group of boys pedaled their bikes downtown to convince World War II veteran William E. Brown to return to Scouting. With the sponsorship of the Elks Lodge on Route 422 - who provided an initial \$1,000 towards starting the unit - the Troop 101 program was founded, and has now shaped generations of young men.

After the first Leader, Mr. Brown stepped down - leadership passed to Assistant Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout Mr. Gary Mansell. Then, in 1980, leadership passed to Eagle Scout, and Assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Jim Potjunas, who served as Scoutmaster for 37 years. Under his guidance, the Troop grew into one of the largest in the region. When the Elks Lodge sold their building in 2015, the Troop moved its charter to Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church. Through generous alumni donations, a new facility was built and dedicated in Potjunas' honor in 2017.

After Jim, Dr. Kenneth LaPolla served as Scoutmaster until 2022 when Mr. Jason Paisley was passed the torch.

Today, Troop 101 operates under a charter with the Troop 101 Alumni Association, founded to support the Troop 101 program, and scouting.

A Reunion to Remember

The anniversary celebration featured Dutch oven cooking and cornhole tournaments, with alumni and Scouts competing side by side. Pulled pork from Cockeye BBQ, a restaurant owned by Troop 101 alumni, was served for dinner, fueling laughter, stories, and long-awaited reunions.

Dr. LaPolla, now president of the Alumni Association and the Troop's third Eagle Scout, addressed the crowd:

"I want to thank everyone for being here today. 50 years, it's just unbelievable. It's a lot of memories. Some of us have more memories than others, but they're all great memories."

Speaking about the leadership and how the program has grown, he commented: "It really goes back to a history good leadership that not only understood

the Scouting program, but also understood youth and how to help them develop."

LaPolla also credited Matt McCracken (Troop 101 Eagle Scout #93) and Harley Hoff V—an Eagle Scout from Barberton, and adult leader in Troop 101, for their work in organizing the event. The evening closed with a campfire program, complete with songs and stories that showcased the spirit of Scouting.

In a comment, Matt McCracken said:

"It is largely thanks to the other volunteers and leaders that this program has made such an impact on my life, as well as others. Their involvement has impacted this program over the years, and with the continued engagement of our Alumni, we can keep Troop 101 going strong"

A Legacy of service

With digital records only going back the last 25 years, Troop 101 was able to pull some statistics. Since 2000 we have:

- Awarded 4,084 merit badges
- Logged 27,645 camping nights
- Hiked 12,693 miles
- Completed 11,251 service hours
- Averaged more than 40 members annually

To date, 180 Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle, including current Scoutmaster Jason Paisley (#59). Many of the current members in attendance are aspiring Eagle Scouts, and are looking to complete service projects in the community soon.

For many, the reunion was more than a look back - it was a reminder of how Scouting shaped friendships and character. Alumni who couldn't attend sent messages of congratulations, while those present shared their hopes that the Troop's next 50 years will be as strong as the first.





THE CREW REVIEW

Venture Crew 101 - Finding the Next Adventure



This year marked an exciting milestone for our Scouting family with the launch of Venture Crew 101! Venturing is the high adventure branch of Scouting America designed as a coed program for people between the ages of 14 and 21. .

The Crew began the year off strong with Crew Officers Seminar in January, led by the adult advisors. This training helped the new Crew officers sharpen their leadership skills and laid the groundwork for a year of growth and exploration.

In February the Crew took part in a holiday service project. They wrote and delivered over 200 Valentine's Day cards to a local nursing home spreading joy and building connections with the community.

At the beginning of March the Crew went to Swine Creek Reservation to participate in their Sap's-a-Risin' program. During the event the Venturers learned about maple syrup production and its rich history in Northeast Ohio. They enjoyed a hike, live music, and of course some delicious maple syrup tasting.

April brought the Crew to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for a 14-mile hike on the Cuyahoga OA trail. The hike saw the Venturers navigate the valleys and ridges of the Cuyahoga Valley and through the historic trails of Manatoc Scout Reservation..

The Crew went to Mosquito Lake State Park to help build bird houses with kids in the community. Then they canoed the waters of Mosquito Lake and enjoyed some homemade milkshakes at the Scout Center.



In June many members of the Crew joined Troop 101 on their trek at Philmont Scout Ranch. The trip to New Mexico was a 12 day action packed adventure with rugged hikes, cowboy action shooting, and amazing campfire shows.

In July instead of a regular crew meeting the Crew traveled to Cleveland for putt putt and ice cream.



In early August the Crew went to the Laurel Highlands for white water rafting and camping at Custaloga Town Scout Reservation. They also hosted an extended Crew meeting at TopGolf.

Since the reboot of Venture Crew 101 they have hiked 152 miles, camped 15 nights and traveled to 8 different states in search of high adventure. And they are eager to do more

The Crew will be hosting a Crewsgiving night at the building. They will have some festive food and a variety of games.

Looking to next Summer the Crew is planning a trip to the Summit Bechtel Reserve to participate in one of their high adventure program in the New River Gorge.

If you're ready to join the adventure or hear more about us visit Crew101.net to get more information

-Mason Kyle
Crew Historian



FAREWELL ALUMNI QUARTERLY

Editor's Farewell... by Matt McCracken

After 15 years and 60 issues, I will be stepping back from editing a quarterly newsletter.

Yes, more than 15 years have passed since I helped Jim Potjunas and Ed Byers put together, and release, the first Alumni Quarterly.

Back in 2009, it wasn't even officially called the AQ, yet. We asked our readers what they wanted to call it. That issue was even mailed out in a Physical print! With purpose and vision, we set forth to release a great Newsletter. Do you remember that first issue? Maybe you've been around long enough to remember the Newsletter from the 90's as well?

The official count is 60 issues. I feel that's a nice strong number, even if the kids today would ask for just 7 more... if you don't get it, don't worry. That's probably for the best.

As Ed wrote in 2021, when he stepped back from being Editor of the Alumni Quarterly, this Newsletter was a wish of Jim Potjunas's. To resurrect an Alumni Newsletter that had been dormant since 1997. The aim? To reconnect, inform, and establish a sense of pride, belonging and a bond that Troop

101 provides. I hope you feel we've succeeded in that wish.

Over the years, I can firmly say it was a pleasure to work on these Newsletters. Working with Ed, Tim, Shelley, Jim, Ken, Jason, and so many more was a privilege and honor.

Over the last couple issues, I've been looking for help. Sadly, nobody has been able to step forward at this time. Perhaps in the coming years another will have time to gather and produce a more consistent Newsletter. I'm willing to help, but my time is more restricted than it used to be. And producing the quality newsletter you love isn't possible for just me.

My hope is that in the near future, another Editor will carry on. So, stay tuned and reach out if you're interested.

So, until we meet again, thank you for all the stories and memories. I look forward to when it can return one day.

-Mr. Matt

DONATING TO 101

As the year comes to a close, are you seriously looking for that charitable tax deduction?

Running a quality organization not only takes a serious dedication of many men and women as leaders and committee members, but also a strong financial support network. Troop 101 has been very fortunate in the many resources that it has been able to assemble in order to run a quality program. It is, however, always a financial challenge to keep up with the ever-increasing costs associated with the program.

Here are different ways you can make a charitable donation in the name of Troop 101:

- Cash Gift
- Giving Appreciated Property
- Giving and retaining income for life
- Giving unneeded life insurance
- Memorial Gifts
- Wise Tax Planning
- And more...

Remember: Unlike many other organizations, 100% of your donation goes directly to Troop 101

To make a tax-deductible donation, The Troop 101 Alumni Association Inc. is a 501C (3) public charity and is registered with the IRS under ID# 34-1880579. Contributions should be made payable to Troop 101 Alumni Association, Inc. and sent to Troop 101 Alumni Association, c/o Dr. Kenneth LaPolla, 3002 Reeves Rd NE, Warren, Ohio 44483. For automatic payroll deductions, electronic transfers or direct deposit arrangements can be made by contacting Ken at 330.716.3838 or e-mail Drkenny@msn.com.

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Ken LaPolla	President
Jason Paisley	Scoutmaster
Charles James	Committee Chair
Brandie Wagner	Finance
	Secretary
	Assistant Secretary
Matt McCracken	Web & IT
Shelly Taylor	Past President
Nickiforos Mastorides	Director at Large
Vijay Shah	Director at Large
Jeff Faulk	Director at Large
Chris Stringham	Director at Large
David Taylor	Director at Large

The Fate of the AQ

Why this is the final issue

Over the past several issues, we've been requesting help collecting stories for the Alumni Quarterly. Since we haven't received anything, it is impossible to continue putting out a quarterly issue.

So... that's it? Not quite! We will still be releasing Newsletters. They will just be much less frequent, and

more targeted. If you're willing to be the editor, the Alumni Quarterly will return. But, until that time... stay tuned for the Alumni Update. An annual, or bi-annual newsletter more focused on the state of the Troop, Alumni, and any stories we get moving forward.

newsletter@troop101.net

THE 101 CLUB



The 101 Club is an all-new way to help. As always, being an Alumni member is free, and entitles you access to awesome things like the Newsletter and the Troop website.

Being part of the 101 Club is a way to become more involved and help with the growing costs of supporting the Troop 101 Scouting program. This includes maintaining and insuring the Troop equipment, helping families in need, and more!

To show you're a member of the 101 Club,

everyone that joins will receive a special patch to commemorate their membership! We will also feature your name in the Alumni Newsletter as a club member, and supporter of what we do.

Scan the QR Code to join today! All donations of at least \$101 qualify.



TROOP/ALUMNI CALENDAR

November

- 14-16 - Seven Ranges
- 29 - Alumni Holiday Gathering

December

- 14 - Troop Holiday Party

2026 - Preliminary Calendar

- January 16-18
- February 6-8 - Winter Klondike
- March 21-21
- April 17-19
- May 1-3
- May 23 - Oakwood Service
- June 12-14
- July 5-11 - Summer Camp
- August 1-9 - Bike Trip
- September 18-20
- October 16-18
- October 26 - Halloween Party
- November 13-15
- November 28 - Alumni Holiday Party
- December 13 - Troop Holiday Party

