



COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Member Retention with Boy's Life



Why would a commissioner buy a subscription to *Boys' Life*? Well, one reason is because it supports BSA programs. Another good reason is that, frankly, it is a good magazine— so good that it has been recognized repeatedly.

Boys' Life keeps a boy's interest longer into the program, which equals retention. *Boys' Life* has been around so long that it is easy to overlook the magazine and the role it plays in Scouting. Key components of BSA programs include grabbing the attention of the youth, teaching and practicing skills, and inspiring them to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law. *Boys' Life* does all those things when commissioners promote it to their units.

Boys' Life was founded in 1911 by George S. Barton of Somerville, Mass. Contributors have included a who's who of American literary and artistic history. Notable writers have included Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Alex Haley. Contributing artists have included Ansel Adams, Salvador Dali and, of course, Norman Rockwell. The BSA purchased the magazine from Barton in 1912.

Statistics tell us that boys, generally, are poorer readers than girls. There are lots of reasons for that, but one of them is practice. Practice, pure and simple. Boys are just not as likely as girls to pick up a book and read. And, again, there are many reasons for that, including a lack of interest in the subject matter and the length of the material.

Boys' Life is filled with short articles about high adventure and boys activities in other parts of the country—things a Scout and his buddies could do, too, if only they knew about them. *Boys' Life* opens a window for a Scout into the world of his own age. It turns "someday" into "how about tomorrow." And while he is transported into what "could be," he unknowingly is practicing his reading skills—the key to becoming a good reader and a good leader.

Ellie Morrison, National Commissioner Service Recruitment and Retention Chair wrote this article for the Fall 2011 "The Commissioner Newsletter". The National Council helps to support local Councils.

Boy's Life is 100 Years old this year.

Commissioner Focus

- November
 - Member Retention
- December
 - Journey to Excellence
- January
 - Unit Health Check In

News from the Board

October 19

- **Council** Journey to Excel. Score: Silver
- Kandra shared about the Commissioner's Conference coming up on October 29. Reid Christopherson, Central Region Commissioner is going to be a presenter at the Conference. She also announced that Tom Harbison, Board Member, has agreed to serve as Council Commissioner for 2012.

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- **Unit Visit Tracking System** can be accessed at MyScouting.org. Record all your unit visits at this central location.
- **Commissioner Manuals** <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Commissioners/Manuals.aspx>
- **Commissioner Fast Start** is at www.myscouting.org- This 'fast start' training is designed to be taken by all commissioners within the first few weeks. Sign in Needed.
- **New requirements for Youth Protection!** MyScouting.org takes you to ELearning for on-line training for Youth Protection, Climb On Safety, Safety Afloat, an more!
- **Journey to Excellence Link:** <http://scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/Commissioners/Journey.aspx>

SAVE THE DATE!

Jan 18 Governor's Luncheon
 Jan 18 Council Annual Board Meeting
 Feb 4 Unit Commissioner Basic Training
 Mar 3 College of Commissioner Science

Unit Commissioner Visits

District	No. of Units	No. of Commissioners	Visits Reported on-line Oct 31
Bo Qui	63	20	27
Broken Arrow	50	25	11
Golden Eagle	27	11	1
Hawk Eye	70	22	19
Raccoon River Valley	103	57	57
Tamaha	35	13	1

Oct 2011

Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Nov 2011

Sun-day	Mon-day	Tuesday	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Dec 2011

Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Commissioner Pledge

On my honor, I will do my best by the example of my daily life to make the Scout Oath and Law a more vital force for the good character and citizenship in the lives of the boys and the leaders I serve.

I will do my best to help secure and help to make more effective the finest possible leadership for the units I serve.

I will do my best to help make the program of the units I serve the best that can be given, rich in wholesome fun and adventure.

In all that I do, I will strive to help my units attract into membership every possible boy so that, through his participation, that boy, can help make America a finer, greater nation in a world community.



Bob Scheetz and Larry E. Hart were honored with the Norm Reid Commissioners Lifetime Achievement Award at the Kaleidoscope Commissioner's Conference. Presenting the award was Scott Moline, Assistant Council Commissioner.

"If you make listening and observing your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk."
 —Baden-Powell

"Stay to the Left." Came the voice from the box. "No, go to the right." I said from the front seat. My husband was driving and with conflicting instruction, he didn't know what to do, so he pulled to the side of the road and stopped.

A good Commissioner is like a good navigator. He doesn't give directions and then walk away. He travels alongside his units, supporting and staying with them while they move through the program. Commissioners are assisting their units this month on moving through the Recharter process; obtaining the recharter kit, performing the membership inventory, helping the unit to review the Application for Charter, attending the charter renewal meeting with the Unit Committee, participating in the charter turn-in and helping to organize a charter presentation with the Charter Partner.

Working together in the Scouting tradition, we will succeed.

If you have questions about this Recharter process, to be completed by mid-December, please contact your District Commissioner and let's give our units good directions. We don't want them to pull to the side and stop. Thank you for all the work you are doing at this critical time for your Units.

- Kandra

Komments from Kandra

Welcome to *Commissioner Service!*

Welcome to Commissioner Service! The Unit Commissioner is one of the oldest leadership positions in Scouting. In 1910, Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Organization, appointed adult volunteers as Commissioners to help units maintain scouting standards, recruit members, train new leaders and oversee the growing organization. The Commissioner's role continues today as a friend and advisor where ever they can make a positive difference for units to succeed. Commissioners are also the only volunteer positions that share the wreath of service on their position badge with the professional staff.

The Mid-Iowa Council has a long legacy of a strong Commissioner Corps with their presence in all Scouting events. Every District has a District Commissioner, a key leadership position, who recruits and assigns Unit Commissioners to support Units in the District. A monthly meeting is hosted by the District Commissioner to share District communications and stay current with Commissioners on Unit happenings.

Every Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venture Unit should be assigned a Commissioner. If you do not know who that person is for your Unit, please contact your District Commissioner. We welcome any interested adult to explore if this may be an area where you can make a difference in the success of a Scouting Unit. Please feel free to contact one of the District Commissioners below or me for additional information on how you can get involved.

Kandra

Kandra Dickerson, Mid-Iowa Council Commissioner (JWDickerson1@mchsi.com)

Linda Dedecker, Asst Council Commissioner (LDedecker@AOL.com)

Scott Moline, Asst Council Commissioner (Smoline@kaplan.edu)

District Commissioners:

Bo Qui District Commissioner: Rory Taylor (RoryT@aol.com)

Broken Arrow District Commissioner: TBD

Golden Eagle District Commissioner: TBD

Hawk Eye District Commissioner: Randi Woods (woods.randi@principal.com)

Raccoon River Valley District Commissioner: Pete Bergeland (pbergeland@msn.com)

Tamaha District Commissioner: Greg DeSaulniers (gd.philmont@mchsi.com)

Barb Plew was announced as the winner of our Red Commissioner Jacket at Kaleidoscope!

The National Council is tracking unit visits and encouraging the standard of a Commissioner visiting once per month. This number is driving the "Unit Visit" box on the Journey to Excellence dashboard. To encourage our great Mid-Iowa Council Unit Commissioners to record their visits using the on-line system, the Council Commissioner is sponsoring a contest to reward the #1 Reporting Commissioner. Congratulations Barb!