



Commissioner Comments

Membership Inventory

The latter part of the year is a critical time for Commissioners to assess their units. Scoutmasters come to us with a variety of strengths and all have a desire to guide boys in the ways of Scouting. A key step in the Scouting program is keeping inventory of members in a unit. We inventory units in many ways, advancement records, Re-charter paperwork, Centennial Quality paperwork, Unit rosters, etc.

Continuous inventories are necessary to keep unit committees aware of the membership situation. The number of members who are active, inactive and who needs follow-up is important to know. Using this information, a quick follow-up to ask about the member and show that someone cares, can be made which will often save a member.

An inventory might also point out a program or administrative function as the cause for absenteeism. Analyzing the data can point out trends or an area in the program that can be modified for improvement.

Commissioners are in a perfect situation to assist Unit Leadership to analyze inventory findings. The Commissioner is an interested third party, a friend of the unit that is there to help units solve their problems. Giving feedback and working with the Unit Leadership while using the inventory data is an important role of the Unit Commissioner.



Ted Olson, Cortney Webber,
Marv Wilson at Camp Mitigwa

Commissioner Focus

- September
 - Membership Inventory
- October
 - Re-charter Process
- November
 - Member Retention

News from the Board Executive Committee August 17

- Council VP of Operations Joel Waymire shared the status of District Operations
- Council VP of Program, Mark Hanson shared District upcoming Programming events
- Council VP of Fund Raising, Mike Canney shared that Sporting Clays is scheduled for October 7 & 8 and Popcorn Sales kickoffs are scheduled for the next few weeks.

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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/scoutsource/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](http://www.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!

Sept 17 Recharter Planning

Oct 7/8 Sporting Clays

Oct 29 Kaleidoscope

Unit Commissioner Visits

District	No. of Units	No. of Commissioners	Visits Reported on-line August 31
Bo Qui	63	14	4
Broken Arrow	50	25	4
Golden Eagle	27	11	0
Hawk Eye	70	16	7
Raccoon River Valley	103	44	6
Tamaha	35	11	0

August 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	31			

Sept 2011						
Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
					1	2
					3	4
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	

Oct 2011						
Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
						1
						2
	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.



Bicycling the High Trestle Bridge, an activity offered at Camp Mitigwa during the summer 2011.



Excerpt from a letter to then Scout Executive Secretary, James E West from Theodore Roosevelt, Feb 10, 1911

“...I believe heartily in the work your Association is doing. You insist on the doing of a good turn daily to somebody without reward, and thus furnish the elements of a national, widespread American courtesy. You try to teach boys to do things for themselves and so make them resourceful. You stand for true patriotism, true citizenship, true Americanism. I wish all success to a movement fraught with such good purposes.” - Faithfully Yours, Theodore Roosevelt

I'm a lucky girl! My husband John has built me two new homes during our marriage and while a new house is great, it takes a few months to change a house into a home. Our Mid-Iowa Council has that comfortable home feeling. We are a family and we are welcoming a new member, Charles Vonderheid. If you have not met Charles yet, you are in for a nice surprise.

Charles is a 15 year professional veteran, most recently serving as a Field Director for the Heart of America Council in Kansas City. He graduated from Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio with a BA in Business Administration and is married to Karen. They have two children, Maggie and Michael. Now let me share with you the Charles I have met and begun to know over the past 5 weeks. He officially began working for the Mid-Iowa Council on August 1. Charles is living in the Director's cabin at camp, while his family is in the process of relocating. He understands and is on board with the "new" BSA, meaning, it's NOT business as usual. He's met with me twice and we talked a long time about his and my vision. He's been out-and-about to most district events, working to ensure every school has a school night for scouting and he even attended our Commissioner Training last weekend. Charles has lots of energy and thus far has been keeping up with me and quite often a step or two ahead.

When we interviewed Charles, I wondered how he would handle moving into a smaller, close knit Scouting family. I think he's going to work out just fine. - *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: Ed Kuhl (e_kuhl@msn.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)

Contest!! WIN A Red Commissioner Jacket!

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. The winner will be announced at Kaleidoscope, October 29, 2011. See your District Commissioner for details.