



HEADQUARTERS GAZETTE

Volume 1 – Edition 1

October 2002

Elections & Appointments:

The following people have been elected, at the Annual General Meeting, into the following appointments for a period of thirty-six months:

- 1) Bill Nangle – Elected Chief Commissioner.
- 2) Tara Maclachlan – Elected Provincial Secretary.
- 3) Mike Bafia – Elected Provincial Treasurer. (for 12 months)
- 4) Strider Headworth – Elected DC Vancouver Island.
- 5) Ron Long – Elected DC Okanagan.

The Chief Commissioner, pending approval of the Provincial Executive Council, has appointed the following people to the following positions:

- 1) Mike Krochter – Appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner.
- 2) Paul Capka – Appointed DC Greater Victoria.
- 3) Ron Long – Appointed HQ Commissioner for Seafarers.

Membership of the Provincial Executive Committee consists of the following Appointments:

- 1) Chief Commissioner.
- 2) Deputy Chief Commissioner.
- 3) Provincial Treasurer.
- 4) Provincial Secretary.
- 5) HQ Commissioners, as appointed by the Chief Commissioner.

Insurance – 2002/2003:

This Scouting Years insurance package will cost each member \$41.00. The increase is due to the global increase in insurance rates in the aftermath of September 11th.

The Provincial Council has voted to remove the \$5.00 Provincial Assessment for this year, and possibly next year. This is due to the fact that the “Boogie Bash” held at 8 Mile Ranch over the May long weekend, yielded \$400 in beer and pop bottle recycling monies to the Provincial coffers. We hope to have some more volunteers at the Ranch this year to help with the recycling of bottles for our provincial funds.

Registration Packages:

Groups and Districts are requested to have their Registration Packages and cheques in the hands of the Provincial Council, no later than 31 October. If this will cause problems for anyone, please contact the Chief Commissioner who will only be too pleased to help.

Cheques should be made payable to “BPSA – BC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL”
The address for the Provincial Council is:

BPSA-BC Provincial Council
423A Gamble Place
Victoria, BC
V9B 2R2

Handbooks:

The Handbooks for each Section have now been finished, and approved by our UK Council for Canadian use. It must be stated that under no circumstances are any amendments, changes, or additions to be made to any BPSA-BC Handbook without the express permission of the Provincial Executive Council.

Groups that require updated handbooks please contact the Provincial Badge Secretary who will be looking after them. (bp_badges@lycos.com)

Badges & Badge Request Forms:

Enclosed with the Gazette are the latest copies of the associations badge order forms.

Please keep in mind when ordering badges that we do not stock all of them, all the time. In some case it may take 25 days to order and receive them from the UK. Please keep this in mind when ordering badges for special ceremonies, give yourself plenty of lead-time.

A proper supplier of Patrol Shoulder Knots has now been found in the UK; we no longer have to do the “home-grown” “dye-it-yourself” variety.

Our current Provincial Badge Secretary, Mary, will be away for the next 6½ months aboard HMCS Winnipeg in the Arabian Gulf taking part in Operation Apollo. Her better half will be filling in for her while she’s away.

Uniforms and Provincial QM:

Our Provincial QM person tells me that all the currently available uniforms are listed on the Provincial Website: www.geocities.com/bp_sac “Q” also tells me that ladies shirts are now also available, but have not been listed on the QM site.....yet!

Please remember that when ordering shirts, you will need to supply the required arm length for each shirt, even the short sleeve pattern. I know it’s confusing, so please contact the QM at: bpsa_qm@canada.com and he will put you straight on it.

Whose Job is it Anyway?

You may be a novice Scouter or a complete amateur, regardless, it is every ones position to help promote Traditional Scouting values and to build membership. What are your plans build your Traditional Scouting image in your local or area community? Do you feel that it is someone else's job? Many will say that "I run the program and that takes enough of my time" or "I am in charge of fundraising and not membership recruitment." Well, if we all analyzed each job that we uphold in Traditional Scouting, in one way or another, we can 'bend' it around involving other non-members (with proper permissions) into the programs. In a sense, it is like asking for help while recruiting. How much more smart/positive can you get?

On a section level, it is even easier to do your part without really trying. Take your group out amongst the community while doing your activities. Let people see that Traditional Scouting does indeed exist. Try to make your activity eye appealing or an attention getter in order to attract others. Be sure that whatever activity you are doing is rehearsed if need be to ensure the ideal turn out. Do ramblings like this several times through out the year. Be sure to carry some extra Brochures to hand out when the times are appropriate. Challenge others to challenge themselves.

People can't join your Group if they don't know you exist! There are multitudes of people waiting to join Traditional Scouting who "just haven't gotten around to it." Undoubtedly, there are people who are ready to join your group. They just need a little push in the form of a reminder. The following are some other ways that you and your committees can help build the image of true Traditional Scouting. Do it now, do it today recruit and share your experiences of Scouting with others.

- Many newspapers and company newsletters have calendar sections. In most cases you can submit your meeting time and location and be listed for free. If you live in a large metropolitan area, skip the big papers and target small weekly or semi-weekly papers. You'll likely have more success.

- Many editors are starved for content. At your next meeting, take a photograph of someone in an adventurous or someone receiving an award. Then send the photo (with the negative if available or high resolution computer file) along with 300 - 500 words describing what's happening in the photo, the benefits of Traditional Scouting, your group meeting time and location, and an open invitation for guests.
- Your Scouting Groups can increase its visibility by sending out press releases on a variety of events ranging from rambles to weekend challenges to other community supports.
- Hand out a flyer/brochure to each house that you visit during your door to door advertising
- Bring a buddy meeting or outing (many do this) Bring the parents too.
- When you are going to make a presentation to a large group, take several volunteers with you both to talk about their own experiences and to help you deal with interested applicants.
- Get lists of other organizations in your area to see if they can help your recruitment effort by advertising your program, offering you time on their meeting agendas, distributing written information to their membership, posting notices on bulletin boards, etc. Churches are especially good at this.
- When trying to involve minorities as volunteers, find leaders in that community and recruit them to recruit their peers.
- Leader Recruitment: Every youth member that joins your group should also mean another adult volunteer to help. The quickest way to get more adult support is to get more youth members and the more adults you have the easier your job will become. Get your parents involved with all of your activities, don't give them the opportunity to be bystanders, remember this is a family program. It is usually a good idea to develop a list of positions that need to be filled by parents prior to your sign up night. This way you can constantly try to match every parent up with each of your needs.
- Make Recruitment a Year-Round Effort: Set goals for how many Otters, Timber Wolves, Explorers and Leaders you would like in your Group. Assign a membership coordinator within your group committee who will work to carry out a year-round roundup plan. And keep trying new ideas. Just because something doesn't work for you the first time, doesn't mean it's a bad idea, keep trying! Persistence always pays off in the end.

One of the most important steps that most people groups seems to innocently skip or miss is to let everyone know that they are running a membership recruitment campaign. Let everyone know what you are doing, and that your in town!

WFIS NEWS:

WFIS-North America is pleased to announce that we now have 7 BPSA Branches operating in the USA. We have Associations operating in:

Tennessee; New York; Arizona; West Virginia; Texas; Florida; and Washington State.

Hopefully we will see some of our American friends at some of the larger WFIS gatherings.

Setting up Patrols:

A Troop is composed of Patrols, which seems to suggest that the Patrols are what count and the Troop is nothing without them. Thus it is reasonable that a Troop with only eight Explorers should be composed of two Patrols – even though they are small.

Let these principles guide your setting up of Patrols:

Friendship. If Explorers were allowed total freedom to organize Patrols, they would naturally choose to belong to groups of Explorers they already know. Each member wants to be accepted, and they are more likely to be accepted by acquaintances than by strangers. In most situations, Explorers will function best if they choose to be together in a Patrol.

Growth. The size that Patrols should be when formed depends on your plans for growth.

The point is, you have to plan for at least some additional Explorers when you set up Patrols. The membership of the Troop is constantly shifting, and you need some flexibility.

Twenty-four Explorers are probably better formed into Patrols of six or even five. A Patrol should be between four and eight members.

Note: Patrols do not have to be the same size.

Allow for Leadership. Explorer's choices should be observed, but each Patrol should have at least one potential leader.

Ignore Age. Patrols should generally not be organized by age: All 12-year olds, for example. They can be whatever mixture is dictated by their members. Chances are, it will not come out on an age basis.

Maintaining Patrols:

Once formed, a Patrol should live as long as it can function. Some Patrols live for years, often after the original members have grown up and moved on to Rovers.

A Patrol should exist as a Patrol for as long as possible. But we are looking for more than just existence; we seek a lively, loyal, functioning Patrol.

It should be clear that members should not be placed in positions of conflicting loyalties. Once a member of a Patrol, an Explorer should not be expected to temporarily "fill out" another Patrol.

Every possible aspect of the Troop program should be set up and run so as to encourage Patrols and strengthen them.

Here are the principles involved:

Every Patrol must be given continuing, maximum responsibility. This will include planning all Troop functions and carrying them out. Patrols must clean and prepare the meeting hall, run games, give demonstrations, camp, cook, and hike together. An occasional responsibility as a Patrol is not enough; it must be continuous.

Patrols must compete. They can compete on an informal, short-term basis in games, scoutcraft events etc. They can compete on a more formal, long-term basis in contests that include all sorts of performance – attendance, advancement, wearing of the uniform correctly and neatly, assisting at Troop meetings, etc. Competition, like responsibility, must also be almost continuous; the Patrols must be forever vying with one another.

Patrols must be active. They must do things as Patrols, both as part of the Troop and separately. Group loyalty and enthusiasm arise out of doing things. If a Patrol is to be more than “the group that stands over there”, it must do things as a Patrol. The Patrol that does nothing is nothing.

Where the Troop runs its program on the patrol method, the Patrols thrive, prosper, and last. No special efforts are needed to keep active, busy, constructive Patrols alive. The Troop’s job is to support and not interfere.

Patrol Meetings and Activities:

As noted earlier, Patrols succeed because they do things as Patrols. In the early life of the Patrol, it will do things mostly as part of the Troop. As it becomes experienced and competent, it will be able to function apart from the Troop. It will plan and carry out activities in which the Troop is not involved in at all.

Patrol Meetings:

A Patrol can meet as a Patrol during a troop meeting or separate from it in its own Patrol meeting. Patrol meetings are made necessary by Troop program or other Patrol activity. So a Patrol meets because it has business to attend to.

A Patrol might have to:

- Plan a menu.
- Plan its part in a Troop activity.
- Make or repair some equipment.
- Practice for some competition.
- Practice using some new piece of equipment.

In an active Troop that places emphasis on the importance of Patrol activity, Patrols will have lots of need to meet both at the Troop meeting and at their own separate patrol meeting.

Patrol Hikes and Camps:

These activities are encouraged for those Patrols that have trained, competent leadership. What the Patrol does is determined by what's available, what the Patrol elects to do, and the ability of its PL.

Please keep in mind that regardless of the proficiency of the PL or Patrol, a Scouter must attend all Patrol outings and meetings for insurance purposes only. Scouters who attend a PL camp or hike should be there only as a safety observer, and should not interfere with the PL unless there is a safety matter to discuss.

Patrol Member's Jobs:

Members of the Patrol, even the newest Tenderfoot, should be given a job for which they will be responsible within the Patrol. This will be decided after discussion by the Patrol-in-Council. In this way each Patrol member will feel they are a useful member of the Patrol and occasionally may have the opportunity to take the lead. Here is a list of some suggested jobs:

Scribe: Keeps the Patrol logbook. Keeps up-to-date records.

Treasurer: Collects and keeps Patrol record of Troop dues. Collects Patrol funds for camp food.

Signaller: Keeps Patrol signaling equipment in good order.

First Aider: Keeps Patrol First Aid kit up-to-date, acts as Patrol medic.

Cook: Patrol's Chief Cook. Advises on camp menus. Supervises other Patrol members when it is their turn to cook.

QM: Look's after all the Patrol's equipment not covered by above. Patrol box and camp equipment come under their care.

Patrol-in-Council:

The Patrol-in-Council is an informal gathering of all members of the Patrol for discussion.

Patrol-in-Council is called to get the members ideas and desires for program items, plans for camp, training progress etc. At other times, if a problem which presents no obvious solution arises during an activity the Patrol should gather round for an impromptu Patrol-in-Council. In this way everyone has a chance to express an opinion, and help decide what the best decision is. The PL must keep a firm grip on the discussion, and not let it degenerate into general argument.

Summary:

Baden-Powell said that the Patrol system was not a way to operate a Scout Troop, it was the only way. Unless the Patrol system is in operation you don't really have a Scout Troop.

The Last Word:

The Challenge.....

There should be a stunned look of disbelief on the faces of most youth members when they learn what is expected of them. When you face adolescents with tasks they would not dream of attempting without your encouragement, you are saying marvelous things about your confidence in them (at a time in their lives when they tend to have very little confidence in themselves).

If we present them with tasks much less challenging than they would easily attempt themselves, we insult them and they lose respect for us and usually lose interest in being Explorers.

Lets challenge our kids as far as we can!