

Spring 2017

# THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS



[www.scouting.org/commissioners](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners)

## National Commissioner's Minute

### The Changing of the Guard

If you have ever been to Arlington National Cemetery, you have probably witnessed the exciting—and precise—Changing of the Guard. Every hour on the hour from October 1 to March 31 and every 30 minutes, on the hour and the half-hour, during the summer months, a relief sentinel replaces a posted sentinel during the stunning ceremony. The ritual is an important ceremony performed by the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, traditionally known as “The Old Guard,” which has served our country since 1794. The purpose is to ensure that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is protected and kept safe.

Several years ago, I was sitting in the right seat of Wayne Perry's private jet headed back to Salt Lake City after some BSA national meetings. As we flew over Denver and then farther west, we were first intercepted by the Denver flight control team, which followed us until we were somewhere between Salt Lake City and Denver, at which time the Denver flight control office informed us with words somewhat like the following: “You are now passing into the area controlled by Salt Lake City air traffic control. We will now transfer control to Salt Lake City. Safe travels.” The purpose of the transfer was to help keep us safe on our journey.

While not as formal as either the Arlington National Cemetery Changing of the Guard or the handoff of the air traffic control offices in Denver and Salt Lake City, each organization that I know of has a system of changing leadership—for the benefit of the organization, to welcome a new leader, and to recognize the sterling performance of the outgoing leader. This year at the National Annual Meeting, we experience the passing of the baton/ changing of the guard as we express our thanks and appreciation to Scott Sorrels and welcome Ellie Morrison as the chair of the national commissioner service team.

Little need be said about Scott's marvelous and dedicated service. For more than nine years he has served valiantly, assisting, for most of that time, National Commissioner Tico Perez in making many giant steps in building traditions of strength in BSA commissioner service. He has served as the chair of the national commissioner service team during that entire time. During Scott's service, he, along with his team, was instrumental in the following:

- Creation of assistant area and region commissioners
- Development of the Commissioner Award of Excellence in Unit Service
- Creation of the *Unit Performance Guide*
- Development of Commissioner Tools



*Charles W. Dahlquist II*  
National Commissioner

- Simple and unified approach to commissioner service
- Redefinition of the Unit Service Plan
- Development of the collaborative unit assessment concept
- Enhancements to commissioner training
- Standardization of commissioner college course curriculum
- Revision of awards and recognition
- Implementation of a communications plan that includes social media
- Redesign of *The Commissioner* newsletter and the Commissioners website
- Change of roundtable staff to assistant roundtable commissioner and adding the roundtable support staff to the commissioner staff, thus allowing them to be recognized and trained as commissioners
- Creation of the concept of Big Rock Topics for the roundtable guides
- Commissioner support for Exploring units
- Creation of the Dean's Retreat at the Westlake Training Center
- Creation of the Commissioner Training – What You Need to Know! course at Westlake Training Center



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Prepared. For Life.®

- Creation of the commissioner history for the 100th anniversary
- LDS Unit Commissioner Training
- Second Century commissioner patches
- New Commissioner College of Science patches
- Creation of position-specific Basic Training to replace the old six-hour course

And what is most unbelievable is that in 2010 he was named the chair of the 24th World Scout Jamboree, to be held at the Summit in 2019—and retained his role as chair of the national commissioner service team. In his new role, he went to Sweden for the world Scout jamboree in 2011; to the Summit for the BSA national jamboree in 2013; and to Yamaguchi, Japan, for the world Scout jamboree in 2015. He will be all around the 2017 National Scout Jamboree this summer, as he and his team prepare for the world Scout jamboree in 2019, which will be co-sponsored by the BSA, Scouts Canada, and the Scout Association of Mexico. As national commissioner and on behalf of the national commissioner service team and commissioners throughout the BSA, I express my heartfelt thanks to Scott and to his wonderful wife, Tina, for their devotion to Scouting and to building commissioner service. Well done, Scott. Well done!

In the same breath, we welcome Ellie Morrison as our new chair of the national commissioner service team. Ellie, who describes herself as “a little housewife from Waco, Texas,” has quietly touched the lives of Scouts and Scouters across America through the Cub Scouting program, for which she’s served as national editor of the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*, chaired the Cub Scout Themes Task Force, and co-chaired Cub Scouting’s 75th Anniversary. Ellie was a key member of the committee that designed Wood Badge for the 21st Century and served on the pilot course staff. In her previous role with the national commissioner support staff, she helped set a record for commissioner recruitment as the national commissioner service recruitment and retention chair. More recently, she was instrumental in the development of the *Unit Performance Guide* to help develop best practices for organizing new units throughout the BSA and in working with the Membership Team of the BSA to build and strengthen membership throughout Scouting. Additionally, she and her Scouter husband, Eddie, have served the First United Methodist Church in Waco in many roles, including Ellie’s service as director of Christian education and children’s ministries and Eddie’s service as Scoutmaster of Troop 308. Ellie brings an unbelievable amount of talent and energy to her new position as chair of the national commissioner service team. Welcome, Ellie! We’re glad you’re back on the team!


