



the COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS AND SCOUT EXECUTIVES FALL 2001

A PERSONAL LETTER To My Fellow Commissioners

May marked the second anniversary of my term as national commissioner. In that time I have visited and spoken to numerous commissioner colleges and council heritage club gatherings across the country. I have enjoyed hundreds of conversations with you as you have “grabbed me by the sleeve” and shared with me ways we might be more effective in our role of serving the Scouting movement. I also enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the two council commissioner leadership electives at the National Annual Meeting in Boston.

Nurtured by this exposure to Scouting and commissioner service across the country, it is crystal clear to me how we can optimize our contribution to the mission of the Boy Scouts of America, and that is to assure that there are **NO LOST UNITS!**

The chronology of LOST UNITS is simple and well known to all commissioners:

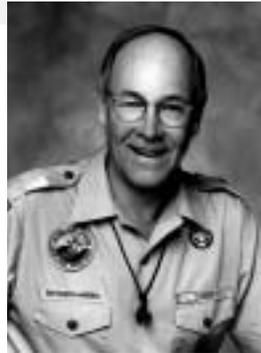
- Poor unit leadership leads to uninspired program.
- Uninspired program leads to Scouts “voting with their feet” and walking out of their last Scouting activity.
- Scouts walking out of Scouting leads to troops, packs, crews, and teams closing their doors.
- Units closing their doors – LOST UNITS – leads to our inability to empower kids with the self-confidence and self-esteem that comes from understanding and living by the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

So, if you and I understand our role in Scouting, if we pride ourselves in bringing value to commissioner service, then a fundamental measurement of our success is striving for NO LOST UNITS!

I quote from page 10 of the *Commissioner Fieldbook for Unit Service*:

“The only reason for having commissioners is to help units succeed.”

“Unless Scouting units are strong and efficient, the program won’t reach the boy. No matter how well organized



the council and district, the program delivery system stalls or fails with weak units.”

As you well know, there is an enormous library of material available to assist volunteers in becoming effective commissioners, but it all boils down to monitoring and coaching unit leaders in their efforts to provide stimulating, challenging, fun, rewarding program to Scouts.

- It’s wonderful that we enjoy, as “perpetual red coats,” the camaraderie of our friends in Scouting.
- It’s wonderful that we are called upon by council and district committees to assist with a wide variety of activities.
- It’s wonderful that we are asked to staff camporees, jamborees, leadership, and Wood Badge training.
- It’s always fun to open and close our favorite unit’s courts of honor.
- It’s convenient for the commissioner staff to be looked upon as a reservoir of experienced volunteer talent.
- But if we are not attending unit meetings; if we are not providing the quality control focused on stimulating, effective unit program; if we are allowing weak units to evaporate, then we are not doing our job.
- I challenge your council’s commissioners to respond to the challenge of NO LOST UNITS.
- More units → more Scouts → enjoying a longer Scouting experience → the character and values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law → a stronger America → a job well done by commissioners.
- Let’s band together and sing the praises of NO LOST UNITS!
- Thank you for all you do for Scouting.

W. F. Cronk
National Commissioner

William F. “Rick” Cronk serves as national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. Rick is president of Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream, Inc. He is a Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope and Silver Buffalo recipient who has served in a variety of local and national responsibilities, including troop committee member, council president, area president, and Western Region president.

UNIT-MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

For several years, leaders in BSA units have been using a variety of computer software applications to manage the various aspects of unit operations. This software has evolved over the years to provide leaders with accurate tracking of their youth members, adult leaders, and parents. It is used to track active members, attendance, advancements, camping trips, other outings, and in some cases, unit financial information. The ScoutNET system works hand in hand with **BSA-approved** unit-management software. ScoutNET accepts information from unit-management software, uploads it, and verifies it against what is already in the system.

This system has big advantages for both the unit and for the council. However, commissioners should be careful not to intimidate units which are not comfortable in using computer processing.

These four software vendors provide BSA-approved unit-management software and have an agreement with the BSA to keep their software compatible with ScoutNET.

- Troopmaster providing **Troopmaster 2000** and **Packmaster 2000**
Phone: 804-589-6788
Web site: www.troopmaster.com
- Hart C. Enterprises providing **Rank N File** (Cub Scout and Boy Scout versions)
Phone: 800-218-4966
Web site: www.ranknfile.com
- Scoutmate providing **Scoutmate**
Phone: 567-740-9507
Web site: www.scoutsoftware.com
- SBF Publication Company, Inc. providing **Scoutsoft**
Phone: 801-599-5271
Web site: www.scoutsoft.net

COMMISSIONER *Shorts*

• OVERHEARD AT THE NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

“The council commissioner cabinet shouldn’t be a rest home for commissioners!”

Council Commissioner Bob Koch at the commissioner elective session

• BSA WEB SITES

www.bsa.scouting.org

www.scoutstuff.org

(the Supply Division Catalog)

www.learning-for-life.org

• YOUR COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Consider a brief article from the council commissioner in each issue of the council newsletter. Include morale features for unit Scouters, news for commissioners, and reports of outstanding unit service accomplishments of commissioners.

• YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL

The last issue of The Commissioner featured a guide to good volunteer-professional relationships. Consider with your Scout executive and/or staff adviser how the two of you model good working relationships for volunteer-professional teams in your districts.

POSTERS

Below are sayings that inspire when displayed on small posters around your meeting room. Use two or three different ones at each commissioner meeting. Be sure the letters are large enough to be read in the back of the room.

THERE IS NO FAILURE UNTIL YOU FAIL TO KEEP TRYING.

...

LAUGHTER IS THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE.

...

THERE ARE NO SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD IN THE EYES OF A CHILD; THERE ARE SEVEN MILLION.

...

*YOU CAN TELL WHEN YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT ROAD.
IT'S UPGRADE.*

...

THE MARK OF AN EFFECTIVE SCOUTER IS TO SEE SOMETHING IN A MUD PUDDLE BESIDES MUD.

...

*ANYBODY CAN GRAB A TIGER BY THE TAIL.
YOU ONLY SURVIVE BY KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT.*

...

IT ISN'T THE LOAD THAT BREAKS YOU DOWN;
IT'S THE WAY YOU CARRY IT.

...

NO MAN STANDS SO TALL AS WHEN HE STOOPS TO HELP A BOY.

...

CHARACTER IS WHAT YOU DO WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING.

...

PRAISE DOES WONDERS FOR A BOY'S SENSE OF HEARING.

...

I KNOW YOU BELIEVE YOU UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU THINK I SAID, BUT I AM NOT SURE YOU REALIZE THAT
WHAT YOU HEARD WAS NOT WHAT I MEANT.

...

*I SHALL PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE. IF THERE IS ANY GOOD
I CAN DO, LET IT BE NOW, FOR I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.*

...

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS IS NOT IN DOING WHAT ONE LIKES,
BUT IN LIKING WHAT ONE HAS TO DO.

...

*IT TAKES COURAGE TO STAND UP AND SPEAK.
IT TAKES EVEN MORE COURAGE TO SIT DOWN AND LISTEN.*

SERVICE PLAN *Dates*

The annual commissioner service plan gives specific purposes for regular and supportive commissioner contact with units. Prepare your commissioners for upcoming dates.

OCTOBER — Uniform Inspection.

Commissioner helps pack and troop leaders, lends dignity to a high-morale event, encourages uniform for all members and develops pack and troop pride.

NOVEMBER — Youth Protection Visit.

Commissioner explains and promotes latest BSA child abuse training booklets and videos at a fall meeting of adults in the unit. Guide your commissioners to make this a meaningful event in each unit.

DECEMBER — Membership Inventory.

Conducted in December and again a couple of weeks before the unit's charter renewal meeting.

DURING THE UNIT CHARTER RENEWAL MEETING — Quality Unit Measurement.

This is the time to help all unit adults check how they did during the past charter year and commit for the charter year ahead.

30 DAYS AFTER EACH UNIT CHARTER RENEWAL — Charter Presentation.

Commissioner presents charter at an event of the chartered organization (not the unit). Make it special.

Calendar ITEMS

2002 **June 5-7** *National Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA*

2002 **June 23-29,
July 28-August 3
August 4-10** *Commissioner and Key 3 Conferences at Philmont Scout Ranch*

UNIT COMMISSIONER BOX SCORE

JULY 31, 2001

Region	Number of Units*	Unit Commissioners Required	Unit Commissioners Registered	Need to Recruit	Percent of Need Filled Last Year/This Year	Unit/Commissioner Ratio Last Year/This Year
Northeast	19,558	6,521	4,690	2,431	60.4 / 62.7	5.0 / 4.8
Southern	31,556	10,521	5,139	5,382	52.4 / 48.8	5.7 / 6.1
Central	26,266	8,755	5,757	2,998	68.1 / 65.8	4.4 / 4.6
Western	40,660	13,556	6,747	6,809	48.7 / 49.8	6.2 / 6.0
NATIONAL	118,040	39,353	21,733	17,620	56.1 / 55.2	5.4 / 5.4

* Does not include Explorer posts or Learning for Life groups