

ALLOCATING AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Fellow Commissioners & future commissioners...

Thank you for all you do to support units and unit leaders to 'be their best' when it comes to delivering quality program to the youth we serve. Our focus for this edition of our newsletter is all about **"Sustaining Units"**. I dare say, that most have a story or two about an experience with a unit that was good until it wasn't or came very close.

My story is about an experience I had visiting a unit at the request of my District Commissioner (I was not a registered commissioner at the time). It was their school/join night. I arrived and immediately noticed a very robust atmosphere with lots of excitement coming from the kids (Cub Scout Pack). Parents and families were visiting, and all appeared to be having a good time. It was time for the meeting to begin...the Cubmaster stood in front of the group, welcomed everyone and proceeded to announce (perhaps remind) those attending that he would be stepping down. And he wasn't planning on taking any new applications, anticipating that the pack would be short lived. There were at least 11 or 12 new families with children who wanted to be Tigers. My jaw dropped and listened as the conversations around the room were essentially 'now what'? I encouraged families of the Scouts to get together immediately and discuss...and before anyone left they had a plan and new pack leadership!

The sustainability of units is not a given, no matter how strong they are or might have been. Units that dissolve leave a void that can be very difficult to fill! Worst of all, opportunities may be lost for the youth & families that were benefiting from Scouting. I realize that there are other units that may help to fill the void, but that's not a given either. Families may struggle with finding that 'next best fit' and decide to move on with their already very busy lives. An engaged unit commissioner can make a difference. Even a district commissioner corps that has a pulse on the units within the district can make a difference. Know your units! You'll know what to do to help them better serve more youth.

Here is an action item that I'd like you to consider.

#1: Have a sit-down meeting with key district leadership. Hopefully that will start with your Key 3. If you don't have a Key 3, then any part of that trio that would be able to sit around a table and meet. Add others to the group such as your membership, training, advancement chairs, or at-large members to bring the group to a working size that best fits the size of your district. Request a unit roster from your District Executive. Do an inventory of your units. This inventory will help you 'triage' your units, to determine where you may need to allocate resources of your current commissioners. Do your best with the resources you have.

We are at the best time of the year to see where we are and especially as the Scouts BSA units for girls go live. If there was ever a time for doing our best to sustain units...our inaugural year for Scouts BSA is the time.