

## President's Corner - January 2012

Board of Directors, Scouts, Scouters and friends of Scouting, the state of Allohak Council is GOOD! 2011 ended with small but positive membership growth; a better than balanced budget, and community service hours [over 37,000] that literally go through the roof. The Council dashboard to excellence tells the whole story. At the beginning of 2011, we set the goal of improving membership by working the two bookends of Scouting: Cub Scouts and Venture Scouts. We accomplished the goal with overall increases in both. Every one of you has a right to be proud of what you have accomplished. You are part of a great team that worked together to accomplish our mission: To provide the opportunity for a quality Scouting experience to all eligible youth in Allohak Council. Thank each and every one of you for another great year. But, we still have work to do.

A few months ago, I sat in a meeting of Little Kanawha District Scouters and heard one Scouter express concern that all the Council level volunteers and Scout Executive cared about was "the numbers." Although only one Scouter raised the concern, it is one commonly voiced.

At the unit and district levels you, as volunteers, are hands on, directly working with youth - the Scouts - on their activities and advancements. It is hard and demanding work. But it is also a labor of love. Those more involved with the business end of Scouting see what you do as the "fun" part of Scouting. You and the youth you are serving are the life blood of Scouting. **Let there be no mistake: if we are out of Scouts, we are out of business - we have no further reason to exist.**

Council level volunteers consisting of the Board, the Corporate Officers, and Council Committee Chairs and their memberships fulfill different roles. For the most part they are not hands on volunteers who work directly with youth. They are involved with the business side of Scouting. In order to keep its corporate charter, Allohak Council must remain a viable corporate entity. That means it must continue to chase and serve more and more eligible youth. It must continue to provide program, activities and advancement to more and more eligible youth. It must keep its financial house in order. We have two camps. Both require money to maintain, improve, and operate. We have a Scout Service Center that requires money to staff and operate. We have employees: a Council Scout Executive, three District Executives, one of which is also the Field Director, who assist you in the field. It is the Council Board's responsibility to make sure funding for all of the Council's work is available and to make sure that we do not spend more than we have.

The Scout Executive, his subordinate District Executives not only work with unit and district level volunteers to insure they have what they need for the Scouts they are serving, but they assist the Council Board and Officers in carrying out the goals set by the Council Board and National BSA.

The numbers - statistics displayed on the Dashboard To Excellence are measures of how well we, as a Council, as Districts and Units are fulfilling our mission. Everything this Council does, whether at the Council Board level or at the District or Unit level, is for the youth all of us serve. So, while some may see the focus on numbers as misplaced, consider that the Board and Corporate leadership, who are answerable to the company stakeholders (the Scouts, their parents, and, the unit and district level volunteers), and BSA National, rely on those numbers to see the health of the units, districts and council. If the numbers show a not so healthy unit, district or Council, then it is the duty and responsibility of the Council Officers and Board and Council Executives to initiate policies to be administered by the professional staff along with the Council,

District and Unit volunteers to correct the situation.

By the time you read this, a new Council President will have taken the helm assisted by a newly elected officer corps and board. You will also have witnessed the addition of a new District Executive, Tim Rupert, who is serving Little Kanawha and Blennerhassett Districts. Many of the Units and Districts have had changes in leadership of their own. That is the natural progression of any living organization. If it were not so, the organization would soon stagnate, wither and die. New leadership brings new and different ideas to the table. It also brings new energy. Success is insured by and will be built on the foundations of those who preceded them. As outgoing Council President, I had the benefit of foundations carefully laid by Past President Bob Ashley and President Emeritus Dr. Bill Kuryla. I have now joined their ranks as a Past President. As I do, I have every reason to believe Allohak Council will continue its successful march forward in its primary mission of serving youth under the capable leadership of our new Council President - Scott Freshwater. As was the case for each of his predecessors, success is dependent on the support you continue to give. Based on my experience over the past two years, I have every confidence you will provide that support and much more.

Thank you for a wonderful Scouting experience. God Bless you and all that you do.

Yours in Scouting,  
John S. Kaul  
2010-2011 Allohak Council Immediate Past President