

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER-VOL.1

There has never been a more exciting time to be a Scout or a Scouter in Allohak Council and the great state of West Virginia.

The nation just kicked off the celebration of 100 years of Scouting in America. In November the Boy Scouts of America publicly announced its purchase of 10,600 acres in Nicholas County West Virginia where it will invest a quarter of a billion dollars in developing the fourth of its high adventure base camps, its site for the National Jamboree of 2013 and beyond, and model camps and training center facilities. "The Summit" was made possible by the vision of a few in West Virginia, including our Governor; the work of many at the National Council; and the benevolence of the Stephen Bechtold Jr. Foundation which provided a 50 million dollar gift. Allohak Council is no exception in this exciting time. We just completed our third year of being a Quality Council and we have embraced and are implementing our long range plan that was developed a couple of years ago. Incidentally, you can find that plan now posted on the Council's Web Site.

The Council Board, the professional staff and Scout Service Center Staff are committed to assisting all of the Scouting Volunteers in achieving the mission of Allohak Council: **To provide a quality Scouting experience to all eligible youth in Allohak Council.**

These are not just words on a piece of paper. At the January 2010 Council Board Meeting commitment was made to the following goals for this Centennial Celebration year:

1. We are going to grow our Membership and market share penetration in all phases of Scouting including underserved and unserved areas but, with an emphasis on Cub Scouting.
2. We are committed to better communication with the heart and soul of our council – the unit and district leaders.
3. We are going to be good stewards of the properties we own.
4. We are going to continue to be fiscally sound.
5. We are committed to Advancement.
6. We are committed to being visible in the community.
7. We will promote diversity (ethnic, gender, economic, racial, etc.) at all levels of the Council starting with leadership by example at the Council Level.
8. We are committed to Corporate Restructuring to make the Council more responsive and transparent.

Each of these goals is backed by a plan and, more importantly, a leader who volunteered to get the job done because they believe in Scouting and what it does for our youth and our communities. Each Vice President has agreed to "think outside of the box" in meeting the goals and making Scouting fun. They will not be doing it alone. They will enlist the support of the

volunteer army that already exists in the Districts and they, along with the help of the professional staff, will be recruiting more volunteers from the Districts and the communities they serve.

Very soon the first Council Corporate Structure will be published on the Council Web Site. It will be revised from time to time as is necessary. Contact information for the officers and key committee chairs is being gathered and will be posted on the Web Site. This is part of the plan to have better communications and transparency.

In addition, within a few days you will begin to see the names and perhaps pictures of those Scouts who received their Eagle Scout Pin and Arrow of Light award in the previous month. With permission of the families we want to show case the achievements of these developing young men. We also want to promote and show to the world the activities that the units are engaging in throughout the Council.

Look for these and many more important changes to our Council's web site. In fact, look for the new and improved Council web site that has been in development over a period of months. It will become a key source of promoting events, recognizing Scouts, Scouters and the achievements of Scouting in our Council. To be successful, we will need information from you for the site. If not already there, instructions on how to get your information put on the web site will be made available on the site itself. Of course, you can always get help from our Scout Service Center Staff.

Finally, we are now entering into our Spring Candy Sale. The selling of a product is an important educational tool. Under adult supervision, a Scout going door to door selling candy can build self confidence, develop communication skills, gain some understanding of the role of sales in business, the value of money, and experience a sense of achievement by overcoming the failure of being turned down for a sale. Even in being turned down for a sale, a Scout learns valuable lessons. These valuable lessons should not be lost by a narrow view that this is just another fund raising event. This letter may be read by Scouters who believe their unit should not participate because they have their own event which provides all the money they need. A Scout **is helpful**. By participating in the product sale your unit will be helping raise money that will be used in part to provide scholarships to Scouts who otherwise could not afford to go to camp or participate in the Scouting experience.

So as we embark on another year, let us all re-commit ourselves. The future is in our hands.

Yours in Scouting

John S. Kaul