

## President's Corner – Vol. 5

June 2010

Exciting events are going on in our Council as I write to you. Stonewall Jackson District just completed its one week Cub Scout day camp. Highland District just started its week long Cub Scout day camp at Camp Mahonegon with approximately 120 kids. They fed 200 for lunch on Monday. Hock Hocking District just started its four day Cub Scout day camp at Camp Red Arrow and the Washington District Cub Scout day camp will start on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Broughton Farms. Boy Scout Camp Kootaga opened this past Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Construction is continuing on the new health lodge/trading post and offices at Camp Kootaga. Hopefully your unit is ready to march or ride on a float in your community's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

As I travel or receive reports of these events, I am struck by the leadership and dedication of the adult volunteers that make for great Scout memories for our youth. Case in point: Last Wednesday, I arrived at the Veterans Park in Clarksburg at 8:15 am to observe Cub day camp. I saw 120 Cubs doing what boys of that age do before they get organized. At 8:30 I saw a teenage Boy Scout go to the microphone. He called the Cubs together and led them in songs and cheers for a few minutes. Following this "roar session", he led them to the makeshift flag pole where a color guard of Scouts conducted a flag raising. Then the Cubs hand saluted and recited the Pledge to the Flag. The parents looked on with pride. Then the Cubs divided into four groups to begin the day of activities.

I knew at that moment something good was happening in our Council. I could see adult lay leaders mentoring teen aged Boy Scouts who were leading Cub Scouts. My fellow Scouters, that sort of activity and development of leadership is going on all over Allohak Council. As I have said before, the Cubs at that flag pole will be the Boy Scouts and the lay Scout leaders of tomorrow.

I left the day camp with uplifted spirit ready to go to my Court Chambers to deal with the day's hearings. Nothing since has dampened my spirit.

My father was a Cubmaster and later an Assistant Scoutmaster of the units I was in during the 1950's through '60's. Over the years, I often wondered what kept him going back to the pack and troop year after year and even after I had left home for the hills of West Virginia. Surely he tired of taking a week of his vacation to go to camp to help with the cooking and washing of dishes. Did he ever regret the countless hours he spent every year building a three level float (Sea Scouts with ships wheel over the cab; a patrol of Boy Scouts Tent Camping and Cooking on the main bed; and a den of Cub Scouts doing crafts on the rear overhang) on his old pick-up truck, I can imagine that there were evenings when he would have sooner stayed home than get dressed in his uniform and go to the Scout Hall for a meeting. I am sure my mother did not always appreciate being left alone to tend to the dog and house while he and I and later just he went for a weekend of camping in some remote place. I am sure my mother had things she

wanted to do besides help prepare for Blue and Gold dinners and run Den meetings. I could have asked them, but it seemed as if I was never thinking of those questions when we were together. Now that they have passed, I can't ask. So I am left to speculate. Was it because of me and their desire that I have the Scouting experience? Was it because they enjoyed watching me smile and cry, struggle and overcome as I developed as a Scout? Was it because they were of the depression and WWII generation and understood the values of the Scouting program to the youth of America? Was it because they were part of a team who believed those same values? Was it their way of making the world a little better place?

From what I have been privileged to observe, from East to West and North to South, Allohak Council is blessed with a core of very dedicated volunteers.

So when you get tired and wonder whether it is worth all that you do – step back – look and see the smiles, the laughter, the organization out of chaos, the individual development, the team building, the learning and the development of confidence of the Scouts you are mentoring. Then smile. You've earned it. The smile and the sense of being a part of something bigger than yourself is your reward. It is what will bring you back again and again.

If you are a Scout and read this open letter, reflect on what it says. If you want to thank your lay leaders for what they have given you over the years, volunteer to mentor and help a Cub Scout pack or den. By emulating your leaders, you have given them the highest praise possible. At the very least, extend your hand and thank them.

Finally, recognize that little is accomplished by those who act alone. It is through teamwork that Scouting and its programs move forward. Teamwork and teambuilding exist at every level of Scouting. The premise of the Cub Den and Pack and the Boy Scout Patrol and Troop is that boys will naturally gang together and work to achieve common goals when properly led and motivated. Pack and Troops are led by committees of people who believe in Scouting. Districts are led by committees (membership, program, camping, advancement, training, FOS, publicity and product sales to name but a few) who form together around a leader or leaders for the benefit of the youth, units and Council they serve. Our District Executives are presently working with each District Chairperson to identify and recruit volunteers in each district to chair and serve on these committees. It is the goal to have the committee system manned, trained and functioning in every district by the end of the year. If you are not already a committee chair or on a committee, stand up and be counted. Contact you District Chairperson or District Executive and volunteer.

Yours In Scouting,

John S. Kaul