



Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



Communicator



April 28th, 2020

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

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"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."

Council Commissioner Corner

- The latest Commissioner Technology Focus Group Status Report #47, April 2020, has been released. A copy is at the end of the newsletter. It has lots of info on updates to Commissioner Tools, and other commissioner resources that are now available.
- Given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the operation of the Scout Office, there's been no progress on recharter processing since the March newsletter. As a result, there's been no change in any of the data reviewed in this newsletter. Hence its abbreviated length.
- The information for units on the ***Headlines*** page is being sent directly to Unit Commissioners this month. District Commissioners will be 'cc'-d on the email.

Yours in Scouting,

Dale

Dale Balmer

Council Commissioner

A Message from Brian Tolson, Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs

Greetings fellow Commissioners and Leaders! I hope all are staying safe and healthy during the COVID-19 adventure we're all on. As we long to return to normal Crew/Ship/Post meetings I encourage you to take this break in action and complete some overview Venturing/Sea Scouting related training on the my.scouting.org website. There are some outstanding courses that will assist you in knowing the program and empower you to reach out to your Troop Scoutmasters and promote Venturing for their older youth (14-20 years of age). I suggest "What is Venturing" (Course code SCO_1007) and "What is Sea Scouts" (Course code SCO_607). They provide an outstanding overview of the program and totally dispel the notion that the Young Adult programs "steal" Scouts from a Troop. Finally, we're still waiting on the new Venturing Handbook. Can't wait to see you on the trail again!

Brian Tolson

Asst Council Commissioner for Young Adult Programs

PH 505-967-6139

HEADLINES!!!!

These are key points that should be communicated by Unit Commissioners to their units

- **For this month, due to the unique circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the following information is being sent directly to the Unit Commissioners by the Council Commissioner:**

Dear Great Southwest Council Unit Commissioners – given the challenging times we’re living in, I wanted to take the somewhat unusual step of reaching out directly to each of you to provide some key information for you to pass along to your units. As background, I recently participated in a Zoom meeting with BSA’s National Commissioner, Ellie Morrison, on the topic of Virtual Scouting. During the meeting one of the participants made what to me was a profound statement about Scouting’s role in combating the impacts of the pandemic:

“Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us.”

With that background, I wanted to reach out to each of you directly and ask that you provide the information below to your units. Thinking back to my time in the military, you are what we’d call “the tip of the spear.” As unit commissioners, you are the ones that make ‘unit service’ a reality and not just some nice words on a slide. I think this information is critical to helping our unit leaders connect with our Scouts, and keep Scouting going until we can resume our normal patterns of in-person activities. Please forward this information onto your units... and of course, log a contact in Commissioner Tools after doing so!

- General BSA guidelines on dealing with the coronavirus: <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/>
- Ideas for Scouting from home: <https://www.scouting.org/scoutingathome/>
- Additional creative ways to do Scouting at Home, including links to ideas from other councils: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2020-03-23/Merits_of_ScoutingAtHome_3_23_20.pdf
- BSA Social Media Guidelines (information to help us do virtual Scouting safely): <https://scoutingwire.org/social-media-guidelines/>
- COVID-19 FAQs (with topics including In-Person Unit Activities, Camping this Summer, and Advancement, including sub-sections for Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Venturing and Sea Scouts): <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>
- Great Southwest Council (updates on local impact will be posted on the Council’s home page): <http://www.gswcbsa.org/>
- And there’s always “Bryan on Scouting”; here’s just a couple of the great articles he’s posted on this topic:
 - https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer3252020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=
 - <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/25/advancement-during-covid-19-official-details-about-eagle-extensions-and-more/?fbclid=IwAR006pTJLopufAmY2AVJfXfGJsYHLrt55qNI5ecksuUCEpL6xVF53hXRo2l>

After reaching out to your units, if you find out they’ve being doing great things already, please pass those back up the chain so we can share those with other units in our Council, and with other councils as well.

If you’re no longer able to serve as a UC, aren’t sure which units you serve, or have questions about how to serve, particularly at this time, don’t hesitate to reach out to myself or your district commissioners. The commissioner corps is a key link in ensuring Scouting can connect us in these challenging times.

Thanks for all that you do!

Yours in Scouting,

Dale

Commissioner-Related Strategic Plan Goals

This page summarizes the commissioner-focus areas outlined in Section 5, *Unit Service*, of the Council’s 2020 Strategic Plan, dated March 26th, 2020. Subsequent pages in the newsletter look at each of these areas. All data is as of **April 27th, 2020**, unless otherwise noted. Results are shown for last month and this month. **Note that tracking of some goals is looking at 2019 goals (ex: Rechartering), while other goals are starting to look at 2020 goals (ex: unit contacts, commissioner ratio, commissioner training, etc)**

2019 Council Strat Plan Area	Goal	JTE Area	Last Month	Current Snapshot	Page				
5.1.1	Not updated from March 2020 data due to office closure due to coronavirus pandemic.				10				
5.1.2					11-13				
5.2.1					14				
5.2.2					% 15				
5.3.1					16				
5.3.2					% 17				
5.3.3					% 18				
5.4.1					early ure	19-20			
5.4.2					propose changes to PFS by 6/30/20		Updated	measure	19-20
5.4.3					Produce a new PFS brochure by 1/31/21	N/A	3 of 4 actions complete	Too early to measure	19-20
N/A	Units without commissioners	N/A	ON HOLD	61.5%	21				

GSWC District and Council Commissioners

as of 4/28/2020

District	Name	Email	Phone
Rio Grande	Felipe Rael	frael@outlook.com	505-980-5922-c
Sandia	Jerry Brenden	jabrend@q.com	505-239-7656-c
Sangre de Cristo	David Jones	dciones59@gmail.com	505-662-5289-h
San Juan Mountains	Matthew Griffis	matthewgriffis@gmail.com	510-427-3843-c
Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs	Brian Tolson	briantolson99@yahoo.com	505-967-6139
Council Commissioner	Dale Balmer	dbalmer8@comcast.net	505-898-9076-h 505-554-8545-c



Commissioner Technology Focus Group (CTFG) Status Report

April 2, 2020

Updated Distribution List

We have updated the distribution list for this periodic status report, verifying and validating all recipients. By position, this report is sent to ALL Council Commissioners, and Council Commissioner Tools Champions (as known). Additionally, this report is sent to those who have asked for it 'by request' plus Area Commissioners, Regional Commissioners, the National Commissioner and the National Commissioner Service Team. It is expected that those at the council level receiving this report will share it widely with all the commissioners they support.

Another Hail

Our CTFG team has grown again with the addition of volunteer Jason Pettis an Assistant Council Commissioner in the Denver Area Council. Jason works in Information Technology systems and support professionally as an Infrastructure Engineer, is an Eagle Scout and has been active in Scouting for 30 years. If you attended the BSA National Annual Meeting last year in Denver you may have seen Jason helping with the technology portion of our Commissioners' booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Commissioner Tools Updates

Notable recent enhancements since last month's issue #46:

- Added "Question Marks" that when hovered over display definitions for the counts of **Active Units** and **Commissioners** at each organization level dashboard.

National Council, BSA 000

National Council, BSA 000 49163 Active Units 15864 Commissioners

7697 / 8167

Commissioners Assigned / Unassigned

Total count of active registered units (packs, troops, crews, ships, posts and clubs only). Includes units with expired charters extended but not separated for 60 days.

National Council, BSA 000 49163 Active Units 15864 Commissioners

7697 / 8167

Commissioners Assigned / Unassigned

29232 / 199

Units Assigned / Unassigned

Total count of active registered commissioners (counted once regardless of multiple registered commissioner positions - including assistant commissioners, roundtable commissioners and assistant roundtable commissioners). Includes commissioners with expired registrations extended for 60 days.



- To add clarity, changed the wording to "Subjectively, Unit Health is..." when creating a contact.

• Date of Contact:

• **Subjectively** Unit Health is:

Unit health unchanged

Unit health improved

Unit health declined

Detailed Assessment

- Added contact Completion date to Simple and Detailed Assessment with Comments Reports.

Unit Name	Gender Accepted	Charter Org	Visitor Name	MemberID	Position Names	Visit Type	Other Type	Contact Date	Complete Date	Score	Contact Comment
Pack 0010	B	Lavale United Methodist Church	Michael Blaine Diehl	108719667	District Commissioner	Other	Blue and Gold	02/20/2020	02/23/2020		3 Many advancements by Cubs and parents.
Pack 0027	B	Keyser Moose Lodge #662	Charles D Minnich	10708799	Unit Commissioner	Other	Facebook messenger	01/20/2020	02/11/2020		3 Committee Chair and progress of the pack

- Added the ability to download unit charters from the Contacts tab (district level where units display). Any commissioner in the district can print a charter for any unit. (Note this feature intentionally is not available above the district level.) Like most features in the gray task bar of the Contacts tab, the icon to download unit charters does not display until a unit is selected. This feature can only be done one unit at a time.

Organization Navigator SELECT ORG LEVEL

Create New Contact

Search

Charter View History + Add New Contact Show: All Units

Program	Gender	Unit Number	Chartered Organization	Last Contact	Last Contact Score	Change in Score
	B	Pack 0002	Second Baptist Church	2019-12-10	4.1	▲ 0.1
	B	Pack 0010	Lavale United Methodist Church	2020-02-20	3	▼ 1.1
	B	Pack 0024	Farrady Post 24 American Legion	2019-12-05	4.1	▼ 0.9

- Added a new report: Assigned/Unassigned Commissioners that displays list of commissioners with assigned/unassigned units. This report is run real-time, and thus is not date range sensitive.

Reports

Date From: Date To:

ASSIGNED EXPIRED UNITS RUN
 Expired units with last assessments; the "Assigned" report also identifies the assigned commissioner for each unit.

ASSIGNED UNITS RUN
 Units having a commissioner assigned; it shows contact information, last assessment, status as a new unit or not, and assigned commissioner(s).

ASSIGNED/UNASSIGNED COMMISSIONERS RUN
 Displays list of commissioners with assigned/unassigned units.

Council	District	Sub District	Member ID	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Position	Position Expiry	Assignments
Laurel Highlands Council 527	Potomac 02		00000	Terry		Winger	Unit Commissioner	06-30-2020	Unassigned
Laurel Highlands Council 527	Potomac 02		00000	Jerry	James	Wagner	Unit Commissioner	06-30-2020	Rack 0010 (B); Troop 0010 (B)
Laurel Highlands Council 527	Potomac 02		00000	Michael	Ward	Ward	District Commissioner	06-30-2020	Unassigned
Laurel Highlands Council 527	Potomac 02		00000	Elizabeth	Ward	Ward	Unit Commissioner	06-30-2020	Troop 2022 (B)

- Provided the ability to constrain the Priority Needs Report by applying the selected date range.

New Resources

- A [BSA Commissioners](#) group has been formed within the [BSA Forums](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page to find it).

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Scouting Forums

all categories ▾ **Categories** Latest My Posts New (18) Unread (4)

Category	Topics	Latest
BSA Announcements This section is for BSA announcements. For the latest BSA news, go to https://scoutingwire.org/	1 / month 1 new	FAQ for N National St Things to
Cub Scout Program A forum for discussing the Cub Scout Program	11 / month 2 new	Video Conf Unawarded
BSA Commissioners A forum for discussing unit service.		

Anyone can visit this group. If people want to respond to topics or create a topic of their own, they must first JOIN the group. Instructions on how to join the group can be found within the pinned topic within the group entitled "[Welcome – First time users please read.](#)"

- A new page, [News for Commissioners](#) has been added to the [Commissioners](#) home page. It is the first topic listed on the left-hand side.



Save the Date

The Technology Impact Session that will be offered in San Diego Imperial Council in the September/October timeframe is still planned. The exact date has not yet been finalized.

Support (UPDATED)

Member Care Contact Center is available to offer support at 972-580-2489 Monday thru Friday between 7 am - 5PM* Central time, or by sending an email to myscouting@scouting.org. Please provide your name and BSA membership ID number in addition to specific details about your concern so that we can more quickly troubleshoot your issue. * new times for member care during the COVID-19 period of 7:00AM to 5:00PM

The Commissioner Technology Focus Group