



The Commissioner Service Newsletter



GGAC, Council # 023 – March 2021 – Issue #3

The COUNCIL COMMISSIONER CORNER

March 10, 2021

Greetings GGAC Commissioners,

March is upon us and I am eager with anticipation for what Scouting has in store for all of us. We are finally getting through the winter COVID spike and the state has approved in-person youth cohort activities.



While we still have a way to go before we resume full-scale indoor events, scouting is ready to burst into bloom. I know everyone is excited to resume scouting, but it is important that everyone continues to follow the basic steps to prevent the spread of COVID: mask, socially distant & wash hands regularly. Leading by example, we as the scouting community can help be a positive influence to sustain the downward trend of COVID cases.

March is also special as it is **Women's History Month**. GGAC has over 70 registered female Commissioners, five District Commissioners (Suzanne Martin - Alameda; Janet McDonald – Herms; Sue Oki - Meridian; Wendy LaBerge - Silverado; and Rose Godfrey - Tres Ranchos), and Flory Dekovic is our Assistant Council Commissioner for Girls in BSA. It is also worth noting that Ellie Morrison just concluded her term as BSA's National Commissioner.

We have our next **All-Hands Zoom meeting at 7P on Wednesday, March 10**

(<https://zoom.us/j/93525733723?pwd=UXphaGo0S2JPcDNlbnNlOEJ2S25Kdz09>). Agenda includes several new resources that have been published this month:

- **COVID-guidance** (<https://ggacbsa.org/covid/>);
- **Membership Recruiting Tools** (<https://ggacbsa.org/recruiting-resources/>).
- Social Media Forum ([Register](#))

Please become familiar with these resources, then share them with your unit. Use them to start a dialog about the unit, and record your visit. If you have not performed a Detailed Assessment yet, now would be a great time to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the Assistant Council Commissioners.

Yours in Commissioner Service,
Paul Shimotake
GGAC Council Commissioner



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Council Commissioner Service Team

Paul	Shimotake	Council Commissioner	scoutoathlaw@gmail.com
Calvin	Masuda	Deputy Council Commissioner	cal2ski@gmail.com
Lew	Sisson	Director of Field Services	lew.sisson@scouting.org
Michael	Allison	ACC Commissioner Resources	mjallison42@gmail.com
Steve	Conn	ACC Commissioner Tools	sfconn@gmail.com
Flory	Dekovic	ACC Girls in BSA	florinna.dekovic@gmail.com
Stuart	Mahler	ACC Program - Exploring	mdc.stuart@gmail.com
Steven	Welch	ACC Program - Sea Scouting	stevenwelch22@gmail.com
Patrick	Jaime	ACC Program - Venturing	patrickj0208@yahoo.com
Michael	Wrenn	ACC Roundtable	mikewrenn1@aol.com
Anthony	Mei	ACC Special Needs	tonymeimei.novato@gmail.com
Ron	Fedeles	ACC Scoutbook	ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com
William	Smith	ACC Commissioner College	smithwmw@gmail.com

District Commissioners

Suzanne	Martin	Alameda District Commissioner	zanne7@hotmail.com
Mark	Weyland	Briones District Commissioner	jadesigns@sbcglobal.net
James	Jensen	Chief Solano District Commissioner	jmjensenbsa@gmail.com
Terry	Odneal	Chief Solano District Commissioner	terryodneal@yahoo.com
Roy	Thomas	Diablo Sunrise District Commissioner	roythomas2347@sbcglobal.net
Nicholas	Powell	Golden Gate District Commissioner	nfpowell@gmail.com
Janet	McDonald	Herms District Commissioner	janetmcdonald5000@sbcglobal.net
Ron	Fedeles	Lake District Commissioner	ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com
Susan	Oki	Meridian District Commissioner	meridian.commish@gmail.com
Steve	Conn	Mission Peak Dist. Commissioner	sfconn@gmail.com
Steve	Loyd	Muir District Commissioner	steve@loydzone.com
Harold	Lowes	Peralta District Commissioner	holowe@aol.com
Wendy	Laberge	Silverado District Commissioner	dnwlaberge@comcast.net
Rose	Godfrey	Tres Ranchos Dist. Commissioner	rosegodfrey@comcast.net
Michael	Allison	Twin Valley District Commissioner	mjallison42@gmail.com



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GET to KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONER

With each monthly newsletter, we'll introduce you to either one of our very own District Commissioners or Assistant Council Commissioners that serve in the Golden Gate Area Council.

Meet Florinna "Flory" Dekovic Asst. Council Commissioner for Girl Troops and Scouts BSA

Flory joined scouts first as a teen in the Philippines and became a volunteer when her son wanted to join scouts and found herself reviving Pack 88 in Noe Valley. They started with just 5 Cubs, but fueled by her enthusiasm and leadership as Cubmaster, the Pack grew to 35 Cubs. She attended Wood Badge (Eagle), which served as her entrée to service at the District level.

Flory served as the Golden Gate District Training Chair and organized several exciting BALOO and IOLS trainings, including a memorable BALOO course held in one of the UCSF parking lots at the Mission Center Building. One of her IOLS courses, held at Camp Tamarancho in Marin, had over 30 participants from several Bay Area councils including Redwood Empire, Pacific Skyline, Marin Council, as well as from some Districts within the legacy San Francisco Bay Area Council.

When her son Pablo bridged to Troop 88 – which meets in the historic clubhouse designed by Architect Bernard Maybeck - she accompanied 11 of her Webelos IIs in bridging to the troop. As scouting families do, along with husband, Barry, both became Asst. Scoutmasters. The impact that Flory had on these scouts was evident when she was given an Eagle mentor pin by one of them. Of all the scouting awards that she has received, including the Silver Beaver, Flory treasures that Eagle Mentor Pin more than all the others.

Flory has been a ground breaking female leader, becoming the first female District Commissioner for the Golden Gate District after being a Unit Commissioner for 3 years. During her tenure as District Commissioner, she helped guide the District to two Gold Journey to Excellence awards. She enjoyed helping to lead three District Camporees, served as a University of Scouting staff, and was on panel for an all-girl forum at the 2014 Stem Encampment at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. In her professional life she's is an immunohematology Clinical Lab Scientist with the UCSF Islet Transplant Program as a cell product Quality Assurance Manager.

Since the formation of the Golden Gate Area Council, Flory has served the new Council as the Assistant Council Commissioner for girls in the GGAC. Recently, at the Commissioner's College, Flory taught *Best Practices and Unique Insights of Female Troops* along with ADC Linda Ransom. She has been working hard with the GGAC NESAC Committee to organize the upcoming recognition event for the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts which will take place on March 24, 2021. Thank you, Flory for your continued service to the Golden Gate Area Council.





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The SEA SCOUTING PROGRAM. Let's hear from Steve Welch, Commodore and ACC for Sea Scouting about their recruitment efforts.

SEA SCOUTING

Spring recruiting rollout and challenge

Hello Commissioners!

ESCAPE THE GREAT INDOORS is GGAC's advertising campaign that is about to be launched! For inquiries you may get regarding Sea Scouting, there are many sea scouting units that are part of the recruiting campaign. Families can check out the GGACBSA website that has great information and who to contact.

Likewise, Sea Scouting units across the GGAC are preparing for, and will schedule soon, an activity called an "underweigh day." What is an "underweigh" you ask? It's a guided activity to get potential scouts and visitors on water and an opportunity to let parents know loads of things Sea Scouts to do and learn while having fun.

Direct them to the council website at <https://ggacbsa.org/> then **CAMPING & ACTIVITIES -> then PROGRAMS -> Sea Scouts**. Or you can share this information with them:

*Sea Scouting is Scouting for Girls and Boys using the waterways for our trails and boats instead of tents. Sea Scouts learn safe operation of vessels, both sail and power propelled, how to maintain their boats and put their skills in use every weekend. Instead of calling a unit a Troop we call it a Ship. Instead of Patrols we have Crews. Because everything we do is High Adventure, you must be an 8th grade graduate to be eligible for Sea Scouting. If you aren't old enough yet, we have a **Maritime Explorer club** to introduce you to Sea Scouting activities. GGAC has 11 Ships in the Bay Area, so there is one near you! Sea Scouts meet year-round from Alameda to San Francisco to Kelseyville and cities in between. We have large powerboat Ships in Napa, Richmond and Martinez. Typically, these are surplus Navy or Coast Guard Vessels. We have sailboat units in San Francisco, Alameda and San Ramon.*

Lastly, the **Sea Scout Leadership Awards** event is coming up. It's similar to the District Awards that recognize both adult and youth volunteer leaders. It will be a ZOOM event. If you are interested in saying hello and seeing our leaders in real-time, please contact me for the ZOOM link.

Steven Welch, GGAC Commodore

stevenwelch22@gmail.com

415.269-0790



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From Patrick Jaime, ACC for VENTURING. Timely and insightful information about the Venturing program, how Commissioners serve the Crews, plus recruitment tips.

Older Youth and Venturing Commissioner Service

The vision of the Commissioner Corps of the Boy Scouts of America is that “every member of the BSA has a great Scouting experience.” Out of each of the BSA programs, Venturing is unique as there is no primary focus compared to Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA Troops where their focus is on rank advancement. The youth in Venturing can participate in any activity so long as it’s legal, consistent with BSA values, and in line with the Guide to Safe Scouting. Venturing is also more youth-led and driven with adults in more of an advisory capacity. To help Unit Commissioners provide better unit service to their assigned Venturing Crews, the assistance of **older young adults** who were or still are involved in Venturing is necessary.

To clarify, older youth aged 19-25 who have prior experience as a *Venturing Officers’ Association (VOA) officer* in any level and/or has served as a *Venturing Crew President* are highly recommended to assist a District’s Venturing Crews. These older youth have the opportunity to do one or more of the following:

1. Serve as a Unit Commissioner for a Venturing Crew (as long as they are registered with the BSA and are 21 years of age).
2. Serve as a special advisor for a District’s Commissioner Service Team that directly provide service to Venturing Crews.
 - This includes Unit Commissioners, Assistant District Commissioners, and District Commissioners.

Commissioners, please forward this through the appropriate channels (District Key 3s, District Newsletters websites, social media posts, emails, etc.) so that it gets to your local Venturing Crews. In addition, please contact any prospective older youth, forward them this message, and provide them the necessary contact information so that they can become involved. These opportunities for older youth can strongly help with Venturing membership retention/growth, keep the older youth active in Scouting, and ensure Venturing Crews have the resources they need to provide a quality program.

Yours in Commissioner Service,
Patrick A. Jaime
Assistant Council Commissioner – Venturing



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Ron Fedele, ACC for Scoutbook shares the following tip on how to assign Functional Roles to registered Scouters of their choice.

My.scouting.org and Functional Roles

As you may be aware the key 3 in a unit can designate functional roles in My Scouting. You can go to the menu choose your unit and go to Organization Security and assign a functional role to any registered leader in the unit.

Functional Positions	
COR Delegate	
Key 3 Delegate	[Redacted]
Registration Inquiry	
Unit Advancement Chair	[Redacted]
Unit Training Chair	[Redacted]
Youth Protection Champion	

This will give them access to enhanced tools to do their Job better, the advancement chair gets to use IA2, the training chair gets access to training reports and can enter training as needed and so on.

Three Important Caveats

- People assigned have a greater access to data and should be “end-dated” if they leave the position
- These positions will expire at re-chartering time and need to be re-entered
- When you enter a position, it will not take effect till the next day

Did you know there is the same functionality at the District (and Council) level? The district Key 3 can create access for people (they must be registered as district committee members) to get access to needed tools as shown below:



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District Advancement Committee Chair
District Membership Committee Chair
District Membership Committee Member
District Registration Support
District Training Committee Chair
District Training Committee Member
JTE Camping
JTE Data
JTE Finish Line Report
JTE TAY
Key 3 Delegate
Registration Inquiry
Youth Protection Champion

Each of these positions gives access as needed to valuable data.

You also have the ability to help your units who may have technical difficulty amongst their key 3. If they advise you who is going in a position you can select the unit from this screen and enter their functional positions (hint get them to appoint a tech savvy key 3 delegate and they can do the rest).

Let me know if you have any questions!

Ron Fedele – ACC for Scoutbook

ronfedele@jassyjelly.com



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Need Help conducting a BRAIN STORMING SESSION (i.e. for a District or Unit Annual Calendar Planning) over ZOOM? Steve Conn, ACC for Commissioner Tools and Mission Peak District Commissioner as the virtual whiteboard for you!

Check out JAMBOARD

Each year our District Operating Committee holds an annual calendar planning meeting. In the past we would all gather in a room together. We would hang paper calendars for each month on the wall. We would use sticky notes to represent all the events we wanted to hold. Each DOC member would place the event sticky notes they were responsible for on the wall calendars. Next, we would all walk around and comment on how each proposed month looked; were proposed events on top of council events or holidays or school vacations. Were there too many events in one month, etc. We would adjust the sticky notes based on this walking around feedback. Well with COVID, all this face-to-face stuff was **NOT** going to work 😞

This year we are trying out a virtual whiteboard tool called Jamboard. It is a free tool from Google. Think of it as a specialized version of Google Documents or Google Slides; up to 50 people can be working in the tool simultaneously & it can have up to 20 pages or sheets or frames. Before the planning session, we prepopulated the Jamboard with the next 19 monthly calendars. We also created sticky notes for all the events we normally host each year. As we place a copy of each sticky note on the various months, we go back to page 1 and rotate the original sticky note by 90 degrees so everyone knows what has and has not been placed, as well as we retain a complete list of all the events for the year on page 1. We are trying this for the first time on Tuesday 3/9, so at the writing of this article, it is only a planned suggestion not a tried-and-true suggestion.

Take a look at an example Jamboard

here. [https://jamboard.google.com/d/1yUHhQIDLb2w0nzaF6rDuWAOCWZrau6PI5ccsGTyrGAY/ed
it?usp=sharing](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1yUHhQIDLb2w0nzaF6rDuWAOCWZrau6PI5ccsGTyrGAY/edit?usp=sharing) If you like it, make a copy, store the copy on your G-Drive, and get started with your annual calendar planning.

We briefly considered Miro, but quickly chose Jamboard without any extensive

testing. <https://www.softwareadvice.com/ca/whiteboard/jamboard-profile/vs/miro/> Also a 3rd choice could be Mural https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/file/3951/download?token=YlkgTP_A



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Jamboard with all event sticky notes and instructions:

Key:
 Pink = recurring
 Yellow = school
 Blue = traditional events
 Orange = new events
 Note: rotated have been placed

Instructions:
 1. Copy = Ctrl C
 2. Change page
 3. Paste = Ctrl V
 4. Rotate when placed

Jamboard example of one month with some sticky notes:

March 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Key 5	4	5	6
7	8	9 DOC	10	11 Comm Mtg & RoundTable	12	13
14	15	16	17 Indoor Rally Dry run	18 OA Mtgs	19 Indoor Rally	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Key 5			

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Final notes of importance from Flory Dekovic, ACC for Girls in Scouts BSA

If you missed the **2021 Northern California Virtual Commissioner College of Science** held on Saturday Feb 27, many of the slides are posted at this link: <https://www.norcalcommissioner.org/2021-college-slides/>
MCS-414 was a course for Commissioners and Unit Leaders that noted:

- Observations from 32 groundbreaking **BSA Female Troops**
- Troops' best practices that helped to deliver the AIMS and Mission
- Unique insights from pioneering Female Troop leaders
- Scouting resilience during the pandemic

SAVE the DATE

*Join us on **Weds March 24, 2021 at 7:00pm** in celebrating the service, leadership and the groundbreaking accomplishments of Golden Gate Area Council's Inaugural Class of 23 Female Eagle Scouts.*

<https://eagles.ggacbsa.org/inaugural-event/>

Before the event, check out the pre-looped presentation featuring pictures of the pioneering female troops of the GGAC.

***Commissioners, please let your female troops know!** And during the event, there will be a slide show honoring the GGAC Women in Scouting that everyone will want to see!*

EAGLE SCOUT SPOTLIGHTS

This is a new section of our ever expanding GGAC website. In the lower middle section of the main page are names of featured male and female Eagle Scouts. These are the young women of the inaugural class of females Eagles that have been featured thus far:

***Lauren Swenson-Lennox** – T2998 in Pleasanton*

***Melody Fewx** - Crew 176, Fremont*

***Vanessa Chen** – T2062, American Canyon*