



## The Commissioner Service Newsletter

GGAC, Council # 023 – May 2021 – Issue #4



### *The COUNCIL COMMISSIONER CORNER*

May 1, 2021

Greetings Commissioners:

Scouts can smell summer in the air, and we need to help units prepare to deliver summer program. One way is to encourage all scouters to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Getting the vaccine early will allow time for the second dose, if needed. With the eligibility in most counties being lowered to 16, units should encourage all eligible to get vaccinated. I received my second shot

last week, and am planning to take two crews to Northern Tier in June. How will you help deliver the promise of Scouting?

Several Districts face the same shortages of volunteers. I sincerely hope that by getting vaccinated, we can turn this shortage into a surplus. I cannot think of any better way to chase away COVID cabin fever than to raise your hand and volunteer at Cub Scout Day Camp, taking scouts to Scout Camp, or just taking scouts out for a day hike. As Commissioners, let's help restore the "outing" in Scouting!

I want to also extend my sincere appreciation to John Fenoglio, for his many years of service as the Scout Executive of the Mount Diablo Silverado Council, and as the first Scout Executive of the Golden Gate Area Council. It was a challenging launch – made even more challenging by COVID and the BSA bankruptcy. His warm and caring personality has grounded the Council in the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Yours in Commissioner Service,

Paul Shimotake

Council Commissioner

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### **GET to KNOW YOUR COMMISSIONER**

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



### **Meet Wendy LaBerge!**

Wendy is the District Commissioner for the Silverado District, and Silver Beaver recipient. She first got involved in scouting when she signed her two oldest kids in Cub Scouts. She tried to stay behind the scenes helping out the Pack where needed, and running the Cub Scout Tot Lot for Day Camp. When her youngest child joined Cub Scout, she became an adult leader attending Wood Badge. Before she knew it, she was the Cubmaster, Pack Trainer, and then Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner. After her oldest was in Boy Scouts, she served as the Troop Committee Chair and as a Merit Badge Counselor.

At the Silverado District level, aside from the Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Wendy served as Unit Commissioner, District Training Chair and now as District Commissioner. At the Council-level, Wendy has served on multiple LEAD staffs, and was the LEAD Course Director last year. She has also served on multiple Wood Badge staffs, and is the Course Director of the Fall Wood Badge Course. The course will be held at *Camp Herms (El Cerrito hills)* on Friday, Sept 17 – Sunday, Sept 19, 2021 AND Saturday, October 9 – Sunday, October 10, 2021. If you have not attended Wood Badge yet, now is the time to do so. Registration link is: <https://www.scoutingevent.com/023-44039-118662>

Wendy has service coursing through her veins, so it was not surprising that she was very active in the Order of the Arrow. She has served as the Swegediegea Village Co-Adviser for several years, as a NOAC adult leader, as well as the medic for countless Induction weekends. She was recognized with the Vigil honor for her years of selfless service. Nationally, Wendy has service on three jamboree medical staffs – two National Jamborees, and most recently as the Chief Nursing Officer for the World Jamboree. She deeply appreciates not only what scouting has done for kids, but also for herself – opportunities to grow. She credits scouting for pushing her out of her comfort zone, and discovering her previously untapped abilities as a leader.

Outside of scouting, Wendy serves as a Nurse Manager at the Queen of the Valley Medical Center. She enjoys gardening, and spending time with her family – husband Dean, their three children and their families – especially their grandson. She enjoys watching movies – except horror movies. Her favorite band is Rush and favorite food is pizza! The Silverado District and the Golden Gate Area Council is grateful for all that Wendy has given and continues to give to the scouting community.



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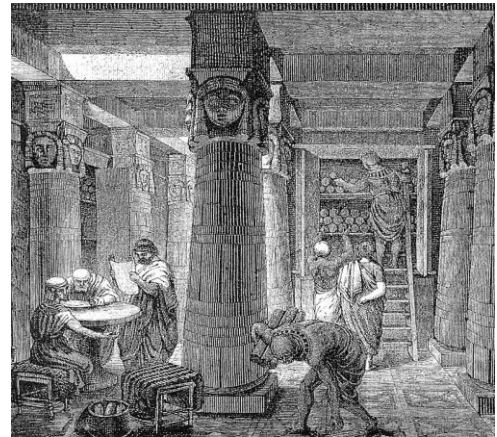
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### *Commissioner Resources – by Mike Allison, Twin Valleys District Commissioner*

#### The Commissioner Library

Commissioners have long relied upon the “Commissioner Field Guide” as the gold standard for a commissioning reference. If you haven’t been paying attention (like me), you may be surprised to find that this venerable manual has been retired. The good news is that we have wonderful collection of new and relevant documents for your use. In your Spare time, you might consider wandering over to: <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/manuals/> and see what manuals are new and interesting. I will be spotlighting manuals over the next couple of months that are critically important.



*The great library of Alexandria reportedly contained every book in the known world.*

#### **Manual of the Month: Introduction to Unit Service**

This manual is the first document a new commissioner should read. It covers basics of council / district / unit structure, and is the basis of the commissioner’s job description. At its core, the manual highlights unit service objects:

- Delivering the Scouting promise and ideals to units
- Assisting the unit in membership growth and on-time recharter
- Linking unit needs to council and district resources
- Supporting the unit leaders so they can deliver the best program to their youth

An important subject in this manual is the section about “Unit Service Methods.” This section details different methods a commissioner can use to accomplish our desired objectives such as:

- Unit Service Plans
- Unit committee assignments
- JTE
- My.scouting tools
- Recruiting

Next month we will highlight another manual, which describes one such method, “The Unit Service Plan.” This is the heart of Commissioner’s job structure.

If you are a new Unit Commissioner, download this manual and give it a read. If you are an experienced Commissioner, you should also read this as it reinforces the vision and mission of the Commissioner Corps of the BSA.



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*From Stuart Mahler, ACC for Exploring. Did you know that Exploring has two components?*

### EXPLORING

The Exploring program has two components: Exploring **Clubs** are for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades and they are referred to as participants. Explorer **Posts** are for 14 year olds thru 20 years old and they are referred to as Explorers.

Clubs and Posts are part of your districts and they need to be serviced just like Packs, Troops, Crews, and Ships. Contacts with Clubs and Posts need to be entered into Commissioner Tools; just as you would with a Pack, Troop, Crew, and Ship.

Commissioners need to service their Clubs and Posts. In Exploring the commissioner role is referred to as Service Team Member (STM). There is a registration code for District Service Team Member. However, it is perfectly fine for a commissioner to service a Club and Post. No need to be an expert in the Club or Post program. Their leadership knows what to do. The commissioner role is to provide information on district and council activities they could participate in. Assist with charter renewals (Exploring refers to this process as “renewals.”) Simply providing information and knowing you are there as a resource will benefit them and your district.

Did you also know that Clubs, Posts and their membership counts towards your district’s totals?

At a recent Council Commissioner’s meeting Council Commissioner Paul Shimotake pointed out there is a number of units in Golden Gate Area Council which have no Commissioners assigned to them.

Currently there are 19 Clubs and Posts in GGAC. Eight of them have a Commissioner or Service Team Member assigned. Eleven of the Exploring units have no one assigned. Could this be addressed? I look forward to it!

Coming attractions: Exploring has commitments from 19 units who have not renewed and will once the pandemic is over. There are two new units coming once the pandemic is over. There are also five lapsed units working on coming back. So, this comes out to thirty-six units that will need commissioners!

To learn more about Exploring go to [www.exploring.org](http://www.exploring.org). You may also contact me to discuss further: Stuart Mahler Council Exploring Chair at [mdc.stuart@gmail.com](mailto:mdc.stuart@gmail.com) or 925-519-6957.



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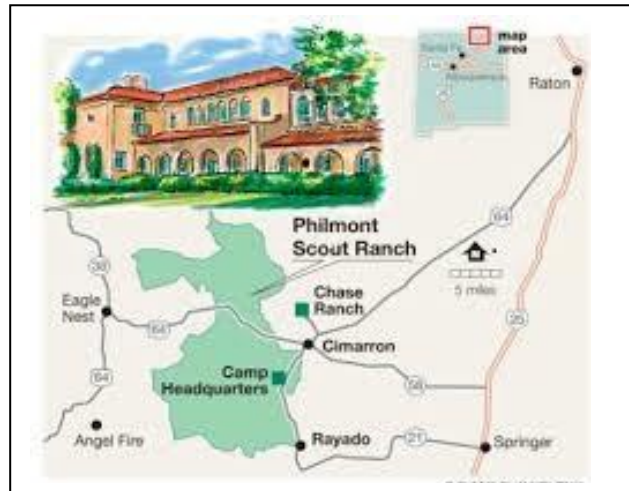
*From Flory Dekovic, ACC for Girls in Scouts BSA. Won't you join me at Philmont this summer? It's the place that hundreds of Scouters will gather for inspiring training - at one of the BSA's premiere training centers!*

### PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER at Philmont Scout Ranch CIMMARON, NEW MEXICO

Two notable sessions, each a week long are:

#### [Second Century Service - Updates on Unit Service](#)

The addition of girls to our packs and troops isn't the only thing that is changing in Scouting's second century. Unit service is different, too. Effective commissioners who remain focused on helping unit leaders better serve more youth through Scouting. But to be effective and have impact today, they must be familiar with new tools, techniques, technology available to them and know how to develop and maintain productive relationships with unit leaders and other Scouting volunteers and professionals. **June 6 - 12, \$550**



#### [How to Engage & Support the New Wave of Female Scouters – June 27 – July 3, \\$550](#)

Diverse teams are the key to high-performing units, districts, councils, areas, regions, and our national council. Scouting is now for the entire family and the role of female youth and adults in the program has changed dramatically in the last decade.

Scouting needs women leaders now more than ever, but are we providing meaningful opportunities for youth and adult females to offer their perspectives and talents across the organization? Can girls and women in Scouting see a path for themselves to growth and rising leadership?

In this thought-provoking session you'll learn how to successfully recruit, train, and support youth and adult female leaders. We'll look at how females learn and problem solve and the ways Scouting can create a welcoming culture that supports them in developing and utilizing their leadership skills.

In addition to educational sessions, group discussions and time for networking, participants will take part in hands-on outdoor skill building including an overnight in the Philmont front country. This conference is open to participants of all genders who want to help engage and inspire current and future female leaders. Led by a highly experienced and largely female staff, this conference will challenge you to establish your own goals as well as a plan for growing female membership in your local council and in BSA as a whole.

**Courses fill up fast!** To learn more about other sessions, how to get there, lodging and to register go to:  
<https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>



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*From Ron Fedele, ACC for Scoutbook and Tech Support. What is an ADCfT you may ask? Please read about much needed assistance for “tech support” for units, Districts & Council.*

### GGAC Commissioner Tech Support

With National no longer providing Tech support to volunteers combined with the increasing use of technology to drive our programs, we need a consistent approach to providing technical support, education and resources.

#### Why ask assistance from Commissioner Service?

While some of these functions can be provided through our other district/council structures it seems to fall better under the Commissioner Services for the following reasons:

- The aid is primarily needed at the unit level.
- The need for this aid comes about in evaluation of units and their needs.
- The Unit Commissioner needs access to resources and tools to share with the unit.
- The District Commissioner needs a local go to resource to share with their staff.
- This can and should grow to reach the regional and national level.

This is separate and distinct from a position of assistant for commissioner tools who provides service to commissioners.

#### How would this be Implemented?

Each District should appoint an ADC for Technology (ADCfT). The ADCfT's shall meet with the ACC for Technology on a regular basis to go over system updates.

The ADCfT's shall regularly update their district commissioners on latest updates and issues. They shall be a resource for their district on tech matters. They shall provide information on technology issues for their district roundtable, newsletters and social media. They will be the first level of support within their district and will liaise as necessary with appropriate people to fix problems.

This position should be filled with someone who is comfortable with technology and has some familiarity with BSA system's. Whatever they don't know we can help them with. Please try to look outside the existing commissioners and find someone who is not doing 37 jobs already.

Please share your designee and their contact information with me at [ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com](mailto:ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com)  
**Our first meeting will be the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 3rd Weds, this month at 7pm. Zoom details to follow.**