



The Commissioner Service Newsletter

GGAC, Council # 023 – June 2021 – Issue #5



The COUNCIL COMMISSIONER CORNER

June 22, 2021

Greetings Commissioners:

School is out and summer vacation has begun. While many scouting units go dark during the summer months, it is also a golden opportunity to reach out and reengage those dropped scouts, or recruit through a fun summer activity a new scout. For Cubs - attending a Cub Scout Day Camp, or organizing a day hike, bike ride, or marching in the local 4th of July Parade. For Scouts BSA – climb one of the Bay summits, attend one of the three GGAC Scout Camps (Wente Scout Reservation, Camp Royaneh, or

the high-sierra Camp Wolfeboro), or go on a short or long backpack trek. Scouts are hungry for the "outing" in Scouting!

We are beginning to see significant organizational changes flowing from the BSA Churchill Study. June 1 welcomes the start of a new national organization structure. The Regions and Areas have been collapsed into Territories. This creates a flatter organizational structure allowing the organization to be more streamlined and nimble. We are in **Territory 3** and our Territory Commissioner is Rick TerBorch (his email is rterborch@earthlink.net). I hope to get Rick to speak to the GGAC Commissioner Corp at one of our future all-hands meetings.

Finally, the three Council Camps (Wente, Royaneh, and Wolfeboro) will soon be welcoming the first group of scouts for a week of Scout Camp. But the camps are in dire need of **maintenance support**. Both Wente Scout Reservation and Camp Wolfeboro are looking for maintenance support. Any able-bodied adult (male or female) is welcome. Help for a week or the entire camp season. Experience fixing things is a plus. Both Wente and Wolfeboro are also looking for **trainers** to run trainings for the untrained adult leaders at camp. Trainings we would like offer include SM/ASM Position Specific, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, and In-person Youth Protection training. If you can help out at either Wente or Wolfeboro, please contact the Council Director of Program, Joe Barton, a joe.barton@scouting.org.

Yours in Commissioner Service,

Paul Shimotake

Council Commissioner

(925) 285-3764 scoutoathlaw@gmail.com





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Council Commissioner Service Team			
Paul	Shimotake	Council Commissioner	scutoathlaw@gmail.com
Calvin	Masuda	Deputy Council Commissioner	cal2ski@gmail.com
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	tonymei.novato@gmail.com
Ron	Fedeles	ACC Scoutbook	ronfedeles@jazzyjelly.com
William	Smith	ACC Commissioner College	smithwmw@gmail.com
District Commissioners			
<i>Open position</i>		Alameda District Commissioner	
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	ronfedeles@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	Lowe	Peralta District Commissioner	holowe@aol.com
Wendy	Laberge	Silverado District Commissioner	dnwlaberge@comcast.net
Rose	Godfrey	Tres Ranchos Dist. Commissioner	rosegodfrey@comcast.net
Jim	Kohnke	Twin Valley District Commissioner	tvcommissioners@gmail.com



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Manual of the Month – by Mike Allison, ACC Commissioner Resources

The Commissioner Library

Have you visited the commissioner library at the national scouting web site? 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.

Manual of the Month: The District Commissioner Staff

<https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-District-Commissioner-Staff-FINAL-08.22.2020.pdf>



The Library of Congress, in Washington DC, contains more than printed books. It has millions of audio and video recordings, as well as modern digital documents.

All District Commissioners (DC) know they need to have plenty of Unit Commissioners (UC). DC and UC jobs are pretty well understood, but what about Assistant District Commissioners (ADC)? Should we have ADCs for sub-districts, right? Sure, but you can create ADC positions for anything that makes sense to your district. How about Roundtable commissioners and staff?

This document covers the basic jobs descriptions for:

- District Commissioner
- Assistant District Commissioner
- Unit Commissioner
- Roundtable Commissioner

How is your monthly Commissioner Meeting organized? This document provides a sample agenda for an ideal Commissioner meeting.

One important though, while your District Executive is not part of the commissioner staff, consider inviting them to the Commissioner meeting. Your DE will appreciate being “in-the-loop” as well as providing valuable insights on council and national events within scouting.

If you haven’t read this document recently, read it soon. You will be better able to staff and guide your district’s commissioners.



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From Stuart Mahler, ACC for Exploring: Attention for new Commissioners needed!

EXPLORING

Currently Exploring has six Clubs and 14 Posts in ten of our fourteen districts. Three of the districts have a **Service Team Member** (same duties and functions as a Commissioner) or Commissioner servicing all or some of their Exploring units. This means the other seven have no one assigned. Exploring units and youth members do count towards district membership.

We are now moving into a critical time with Exploring. As the downward numbers with the covid pandemic continue to decrease along with the increased vaccinations, we are looking at greatly expanding our Exploring membership and units overall within our districts and council. Three more districts will add Exploring units for a total of thirteen districts with ten of them with no Service Team Member or Commissioner.

So, what are we looking at? Most of the suspended units are with public agencies and they have committed to coming back once the public agencies leadership allows, especially as California removed the Covid tiers on June 15.

How many units are we talking about? ***19 lapsed units say they will return. 5 lapsed units at time of merger want to come back. 2 new units are waiting for the restrictions to be lifted and they will join our ranks. This is an additional total of 26 units in addition to the current 20.***

Currently we have four units whose Memorandum of Understanding (equivalent to Scouts BSA charter renewal) expires on June 30, 2021.

A lot of attention is needed! May we count on your support?

Feel free to contact me with your questions. You may also contact me to discuss further.

Stuart Mahler
Council Exploring Chair
National Exploring Subject Matter Expert
925-519-6957
mdc.stuart@gmail.org
www.exploring.org
HYPERLINK "mailto:mdc.stuart@gmail.com"



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Photos and news from Flory Dekovic, ACC for Girls in Scouts BSA.



Troop 818 Eagle Scout **Isabelle Guerra** pictured with Fairfield Mayor Harry T. Price earlier in May.

As a member of the inaugural group of 2021 Female Eagle Scouts, Isabelle received the first pin from Mayor Price that commemorates the 50th Golden Anniversary of Fairfield's City Hall.

Members of Troop 818 (Chief Solano District) with Eagle Scout Katie O'Donnell

The "818" number of this special troop was chosen in honor of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution for "Women's Right to Vote" that was ratified on August 18, 1920.





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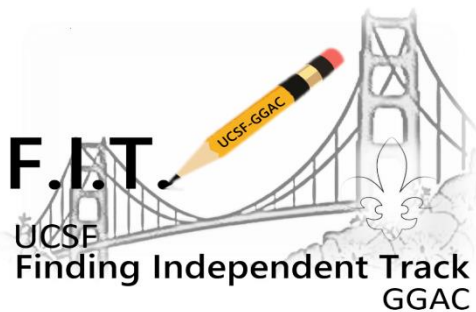


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A perk of being an Assistant Council Commissioner of female units in the GGAC is traveling to other districts to meet Scouters and the youth they serve and learn about their activities. Here's a picture with Chief Solano District Commissioner **Terry Odneal** on the occasion of Isabelle Guerra's Eagle Court of Honor held on May 23, 2021. Thank you, Terry, for your servant- leadership!



In other news:



REGISTRATION IS CLOSING SOON

on June 26, 2021

Contact Information:

FIT Program Director and Instructor

Email: Sunita Ho Phone: (925) 917-0703

F.I.T. 2021 will be held **virtually** from **July 10th – July 31.**

<https://ggacbsa.org/fit-finding-independent-track/>

Finding Independent Track (F.I.T.) is a unique intellectually rigorous program for both female and male students (high school through college) who thrive on curiosity and intellectual challenge. The program is offered by UCSF in partnership with GGAC. F.I.T. is inclusive of all students nationwide and is not limited to Scouts. Major and minor tracks include:

- **Health Sciences** – Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Nutrition, Materials, Imaging, Physical Fitness
- **Data Sciences** – Statistics, Programming, Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Environmental Science
- **Earth Sciences** – Environmental Sciences, Sustainability, Soil and Water Conservation, Nature, Geology, Chemistry
- **Political Sciences** – American Business, American Cultures, American Heritage, American Labor, Law, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World

Merit Badges will be available as an optional program within the chosen tracks



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TV's newest District Commissioner

The Twin Valley district is pleased to announce James Kohnke is their newest District Commissioner. Jim is currently registered as an ASM in Troop 941. He is also one of the founding leaders for Venture Crew 347, with a focus on shooting sports. He has been a Unit Commissioner for the last 4 years. Jim also served as Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner for 3 years. Jim has been awarded the District Award of Merit and Wood Badge beads, attesting to his skill and dedication to the scouting program. When not in uniform Jim volunteers at Rancho Los Mochos, and operating Amateur Radio as W6VAR.

Twin Valley also has a very active Female Troop (998G) with Life Scouts working on Eagle projects. Linda Ransom is their Unit Commissioner.

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**News from Ron Fedele, ACC for ScoutBook and Tech Support.**

### Calling GGAC Commissioners to Find an Internal Resource for Tech Support

Hello all,

With BSA National no longer providing Tech support, dedicated district / unit Tech support is critical; specifically, to serve as first level of support to liaise with appropriate people to fix problems. Only a few of our 14 districts have reached out to me thus far to assist in this manner. *Might there be a person in each district other than the DC's who can serve as the point person or resource for Technology on a regular basis to go over system updates?*

I am very eager to bring up to speed those who wish to come onboard for this and am open to suggestions for training sessions, too.

### Merit Badge Counselors in the GGAC to be De-registered June 30<sup>th</sup>!

May 2021 was our MB renewal time period. However, **around 600 MB** of the 1,800+ Counselors are on the brink of being removed from the system around June 30<sup>th</sup> unless they respond to their emails requesting them to go to a Google form to renew. If they are having a problem with ScoutBook please notify them to send an email to [scoutbook@ggac.raiseaticket.com](mailto:scoutbook@ggac.raiseaticket.com) for attention.

Here's my contact information for any questions:

**Ronald E. Fedele**

ScoutBook Champion/Merit Badge Dean  
Golden Gate Area Council  
P 646.725.0186  
[Ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com](mailto:Ronfedele@jazzyjelly.com)