



TURNING POINT DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES

Volume 3, Issue 3

Summer 2019

CAMP WAKPOMINEE NEWS

2019 marks the 99th year of operation for Camp Wakpominee. Our new Camp Director, Frank Mihalek, is working hard along with all the staff members to make this a very successful year. Units who have attended camp thus far report having a great time. Thanks to a generous donation of ATVs from Polaris a new ATV program is available for older campers. This year also marks another first -- the attendance of female troops at camp.

The Wakpominee Alumni Association, consisting of youth and adults who have attended camp, is working on the Camp's 100th celebration in 2020. Anyone who has attended Camp Wakpominee is invited to help with the planning. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 30th, at the Frost Training Center. Do you have ideas for new merit badges or programs that might be offered at camp? Are there old programs that should be restored? Contact Frank Mihalek with your ideas.

Have you heard of the Camp Master program? You can check out the details at TRCScouting.org under Wakpominee. Camp Director, Frank Mihalek has reserved several weekends for Turning Point District to cover Camp Master duties. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Frank know. Camp Masters assist with checking in units on Friday evening and are on hand for the weekend to help units have the best off-season camp experience.



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TROOP 4 CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

Boy Scout Troop 4 of Glens Falls is celebrating 100 years of being an active troop in Upstate New York. Theodore (Ted) Dolan, long-time Assistant Scoutmaster, recalls many happy memories of the troop's nature hikes and campouts, and is proud to support the current youth in Troop 4. To celebrate their 100th year as a troop, a Jubilee Weekend for both youth and adults will be held. Friday, October 4th there will be a bonfire at Silver Bay. Saturday, October 5th a celebration gala and dinner will be held at Fort William Henry Resort in Lake George. On Sunday, October 6th a nature walk and weenie roast will be held at Camp Wakpominee. All past and present Troop 4 scouts and scouters are strongly encouraged to participate in these events. Family and friends are also welcome. Check the Eventbrite link for more details and contact information at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/glens-falls-troop-4-100-year-jubilee-committee-19888319483>. Also, see the article on Troop 4 in this issue.

IMPORTANT TRAINING INFO

All scouts deserve to have a trained Leader. Turning Point District is looking to have 90% of their leaders trained. If your unit needs any help with training, please contact Betty Fitzgerald at lizfitz25@yahoo.com or 518 583-0918. We will have one of our many trainers to come and help.

The **2019-20 Trainings** are on the Council calendar. Check the calendar for dates. Here are some of the trainings scheduled for 2019-20:

Den Chief - Nov. 2, 2019
BALOO – May 20, 2020
Scoutmaster Specifics –
Apr 18, 2020
IOLS – April 18-19, 2020
OKPIK – Jan 11-12, 2020

Adult Recognition Awards: All award applications must be submitted to Betty Fitzgerald, District Training Chair. Betty will forward the applications to Council after all requirements have been checked and verified. Adult Recognition Awards (knots) are given at the Annual District Business/Adult Recognition Dinner held in December.

NYLT: There are still openings for scouts to participate in the 2019 NYLT course at Camp Wakpominee. For information or to register, contact Bob Lumpkins at smlumpy246@gmail.com or 518 461-4717 or contact Betty Fitzgerald at lizfitz25@yahoo.com or 518 583-0918.

OA INDUCTION DATES - 2019

The following are tentatively scheduled Ordeal and Brotherhood Induction opportunities throughout the Council. Each Ordeal or Brotherhood candidate may choose the date and location at which to complete their induction process.

Ordeal/Brotherhood:

9/13-15 – Camp Bedford
9/20-22 – Camp Wakpominee

An additional Brotherhood Induction is anticipated in December at Rotary Scout Reservation.



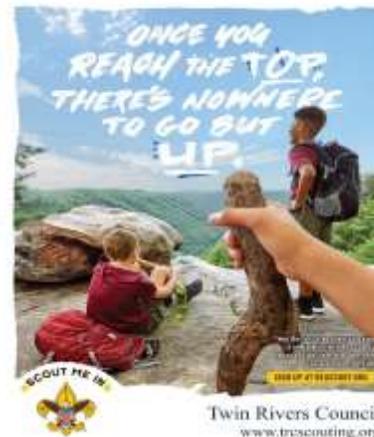
MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

"The only problem with the Boy Scouts is there aren't enough of them." – Will Rogers

"Scout Me In" . . . means Count Me In! The *Scout Me In* campaign is our slogan for welcoming new youth into our program. Family Scouting is entering its second year with the ability to register girls into our Packs. We currently have 26 girls in our Packs and are looking for that number to grow significantly this fall. Our Wilton Girls Troop 4024 already has 10 members and experienced Wakpominee as a Troop this summer.

Sustaining strong membership in a unit depends not only on having new members join the unit, but also on engaging youth and their families in the unit experiences so that they feel *Welcomed* and want to stay. The role of the *New Member Coordinator* is to ensure that both *keys to success* take place. Learn more about this vital unit function at: <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/councils/new-member-coordinator>. Think about an adult in your unit who would be great in this role.

This fall the Council will utilize "geofencing" to advertise unit recruiting nights. To make this successful, we need to have information about your recruiting night to District Executive Erica Marion at least two weeks before the event. In addition to the new member information handouts and lawn signs, which will be distributed at the August 20th



Kickoff, a tabletop display and 3' x 4' banners are available for your recruiting use. Contact John Koch to arrange pickup and return.

Thank you for all that you do as volunteer Scouters!

*John Koch, Membership Chair
518 644-4438
saratogascouter@kochny.com*



DISTRICT YEAR-ROUND CAMPER AWARD

Attention District Scout BSA

Troops: Turning Point District is happy to announce the continuation of the District Year-Round Camper Award Program. Any district Scout or Scouter who camps for 12 consecutive months under the camping guidelines for his or her troop is eligible to earn a Year-Round Camper Award Patch!

Two patches are available --- the legacy version (from Saratoga District) OR the new Turning Point District version of the patch.

To receive the award patch for Scouts in a troop, the Scoutmaster of the troop should contact District

Program Vice-Chair Mike Shaver at mtshaver99@aol.com or 518-321-5301. This program is ongoing and will be available for the foreseeable future!



HEALTH & SAFETY

During the summer months, sunscreen is one of the key items that go in the beach bag and back pack. It's important that we protect ourselves from the harmful UV rays of the sun, which are more intense in the summer months. A tan may look great but it comes at a risk to our health. UV radiation can cause skin cancer, so let's take a closer look.

There are many sunscreens on the market. Selecting a sunscreen that's best for our health can be confusing. Remember that skin absorbs most of what is placed on it and ultimately can enter the bloodstream. Some sunscreens do not have healthy ingredients and some may contain troubling chemical ingredients. This puts us in a Catch-22: we need sunscreen for UV protection but we also need

to avoid harmful ingredients. Harmlessly effective ingredients are zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, according to a February 2019 proposed regulation from the Food and Drug Administration. Ingredients that can cause harm are oxybenzone, octinoxate, homosalate, octisalate, octocrylene. All these chemical ingredients should be avoided until more data is available on their safety to humans. The problem is most sunscreens contain some of these ingredients. I suggest you research online and determine which sunscreen uses the least of these ingredients. In the case of sunscreen, the good outweighs the bad --- we need the sunscreen but we need to be aware. Sunscreen should be the 3rd line of defense. The best thing to do is avoid exposure to the sun.

Your shadow is shorter than you, which is usually 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wear protective clothing, long sleeves and long pants. Many summer weight clothes have UV protection in the fabric. Sunglasses and a brimmed hat can also reduce exposure to harmful rays. Getting enough sleep can help regulate the hormone melatonin that the body produces, which helps protect skin from UV radiation. If you have fair skin and blue eyes, you are more at risk from the damaging effects of the sun.

A combination of shade, clothing, sunscreen and common sense is your best bet. Enjoy the summer and remember, "If you can't do it safely, don't do it at all!"

Tom Sears
District Health/Safety Officer

PUBLICITY REMINDER ----

With the new program year starting up, don't forget publicity for your unit's activities. If you want to help you Unit attract members then publicize your community activities in your local newspapers, ie: most communities have a Penny Saver or Money Saver type paper. When submitting information be sure to include pictures. If you clean a park or road or cemetery or hold a food drive let your community know.

FROM OUR KEY-3

District Executive - Erica Marion

As we all know, Scouting is a year-round program, and summer activities are in full swing! While you're out enjoying the warm weather, also keep in mind the activities listed below are coming up quickly!

Registration for all events are open. Check the council calendar at www.trcscouting.org and sign up today. Some events have limited capacity so do not wait to register.

Wakpominee Golf Classic/Kiwanis Annual Golf for Youth – 8/16/19 – This annual combined golf tournament will be held at the Queensbury Country Club. This is a 4-person scramble. Event capacity is limited to 120 golfers. All proceeds benefit Twin Rivers Council, BSA and Glens Falls Kiwanis Club. Check the Twin Rivers website for more info.

Saratoga Good Scout Award Dinner – 10/3/19 – The 2019 honoree is Saratoga County Sheriff Michael Zurlo. Also being presented is the inaugural Larry Gordon Community Leadership Award to Scouter Keith Koster. Reception begins at 6 p.m., with program and dinner at 7 p.m.

Popcorn Sale - Show N' Sell orders are due by August 21st. Visit <http://www.trcscouting.org/Events/popcorn> for more information and to sign up for store front shifts at your local WalMart. These sign-up should be done by the unit Popcorn Kernel. Questions about the sale should go to Erica Marion, erica.marion@scouting.org or Steven Dunn, steven.dunn@scouting.org.

District Commissioner - Frank Mihalek

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! I realize this can be one of the most hectic times of the year, other than re-charter season. We have had a few Unit Commissioners come to Camp Wakpominee to visit with their units. Any Unit Commissioners who are available, please stop by camp to visit your units. Don't forget the units who camp at Rotary Scout Reservation.

Re-charter time will be the end of December this year, instead of February. Commissioners should pay attention to the number of leaders who may be crossing over from Cubs to Scouts BSA with their child or who may be dropping out of the scouting program completely. The biggest complaint being heard this year is the need for new leaders. Hopefully we can brainstorm ways to solve this problem at a future Commissioners' meeting. If we lose our packs we lose future Scouts BSA and leaders for the troops. Hopefully fall Scout Talks will convince parents to take an active role in scouting.

When you are at Camp Wakpominee stop by for a visit with me (Camp Director) or our RoundTable Commissioner, Dale Dickinson, who is in the WAK kitchen making magic with the food here!

Don't forget Kick-Off Dinner August 20th!

District Chair - Joe Lehet

Plan for the Ideal Scouting Year

Proper planning is a cornerstone to all successful unit programs. Now is the time to have your committee meet to plan 2019-20 program year calendar for your unit. There are many tools available to you to help with this process. I will be referencing the annual Unit Program & Information Guide in this article. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a first time planner, there are always things to learn to help you plan the ideal program. Although planning your program will be the focus of this article, your committee will also need to discuss and plan for funding your program, growing your program and training your leaders.

Before you place any unit events on your calendar there are many things to consider, such as religious holidays, school vacations, community events as well as Council and District activities. Knowing these dates in advance will eliminate conflicts which often lead to poor attendance at your event.

It is very important that you start with a list of activities generated by the scouts that reflect what they are excited and interested in doing. The Cub Scouts might need a little help with their list. The adults on the unit committee will then evaluate each suggested activity to see if it is feasible to do. The next step is actually placing them on the calendar. My experience has shown that there are not as many options as you would think. An outdoor activity should be planned for at least once a month and at least one service project for your charter organization or community should be planned for during the year.

Once completed, share it with your scouts. It is important that they see their input was listened to and considered. They develop a sense of ownership with their program. Unit leaders should also be familiar with the Journey to Excellence Recognition Program (JTE) and let their goals and standards be a guide for them. Unit leaders can feel confident that they are developing a quality program for their scouts if they stay on the JTE path.

Be sure to publish your unit calendar and distribute to all scouts and their families as well as charter organization leaders. Be prepared to make the calendar available to all new families interested in joining on school recruitment nights.

KICK-OFF DINNER IS COMING SOON!

It may still be summer, but now is the time to plan the upcoming program year. To help with your planning the District provides a late summer meeting for all unit leaders to obtain important information about the year ahead. Be sure at least one representative from your unit attends this important meeting. It would be beneficial to have both your Cubmaster/Scoutmaster and your Committee Chair attend along with any other interested leaders.

This year's Kick-Off Dinner will be held on August 20th at Camp Wakpominee from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. To make things a bit more fun (you can never have enough fun in Scouting!) we make this a pot luck dinner event. The District will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, drinks, condiments, and paper products (plates, cups, utensils, etc.). Cub leaders/attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share. Scouts BSA leaders/attendees are asked to bring a salad or side dish to share.

If you have any questions, please contact District Chair, Joe Lehet at jlehet@yahoo.com or 518-793-7464 or District Executive, Erica Marion at erica.marion@scouting.org or 518-281-3889. We hope to see all Turning Point Unit Leaders on the 20th!

A SHORT HISTORY OF TROOP 4, GLENS FALLS, NY

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Troop 4 is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. The troop, began in 1919, is chartered by the Christ Church Methodist in Glens Falls, NY. It is one of the longest operating BSA troops in the Southern Adirondacks. Their first Eagle Scout was Foster Rhodes who attained Eagle on April 21, 1923.

The scouts in Troop 4 are very active and love the outdoors. Some of their favorite outings are: Salmon Pond, a winter camping trip where the scouts do a cross-country ski hike to the pond in February; City Trek – the boys choose a city within driving distance for a weekend stay. They explore the city by foot and public transportation and stay either at a

BSA campsite or in local churches. Cities they have visited more recently include Ottawa, Boston, NYC and Philadelphia. Pioneer Outing – held each November, the troop boats out to an island on Lake George where each scout builds their own shelter for one for the two nights. Typically, they enjoy a pig roast and eat other exotic foods like organs and eyeballs. A favorite part of the weekend is when ice cream is airdropped from a member's airplane. Some years it lands in the water, some years in the woods and some years it is never found! Troop 4 also participates in spring and fall camporees and summer camp at Wakpominee. This year 24 boys attended summer camp.

Troop members also actively volunteer in the community. Some of their volunteer activities include Wreaths Across America, cooking and serving Saturday Suppers (which are open to all at no cost), participating in Scout Sunday at Christ Church Methodist, and helping the Bay Ridge Volunteer Fire Company with highway cleanup.

The troop currently has 34 boys enrolled, who come from a wide area including Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, Queensbury, South Glens Falls, Warrensburg and Whitehall. Their current Scoutmaster is Tony Leerkes.



The truck in the above photo was purchased with money raised by the women of the church, from selling donuts and sausages. The boys rode in the back and they took this vehicle to DC and Toronto. As the truck got older and needed repairs, the troop sold it and with the money build a building at Camp Wakpominee. It is now the Nature Lodge.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR UNITS

Troop 4018 – Placing Flags

Pack 4002 Blue & Gold

Pack 4002 of Ballston Spa celebrated their Blue & Gold Banquet & Cross-Over with a *Dinosaurs* theme. Their banquet included a Pack tradition of having each family bake a cake based on the theme. The cakes are judged at the dinner and then gobbled for dessert! The main “activity” after dinner was a full-scale “dino-dig” where all scouts could excavate dinosaur bones and assemble their own dinosaur skeleton.

The Pack rented a pavilion at SPAC for their event. They are very thankful to Curtis Lumber who donated lumber to build a life-sized replica of the Jurassic Park gates.



Troop 4018 of Greenfield places flags on veterans’ graves in preparation for Memorial Day. Pictured below is this troop’s newest and very enthusiastic scout, JP.



Troop 4011 Participates In Trail Work Day

Troop 4011 of Saratoga recently participated in the Friends of Kayaderosseras trail work day. The group worked at Kelley Park and Driscoll Road Landing. 21 trees were planted at Kelley Park and the Driscoll Road Landing trail was improved by filling in low spots with wood chips. Friends of Kayaderosseras are very grateful for Troop 4011’s assistance.



HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES & PICTURES

What is your unit doing this fall? Do you have a unique recruiting event planned? A fun outing? Take pictures and write a short article about your event. Newsletters are distributed four times a year: February, May, August and November. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month. Submit your information to Mary Dickinson at: tpdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com

Submission Deadline for next issue: October 15, 2019