



TURNING POINT DISTRICT NEWS & NOTES

Volume 2, Issue 4

Fall 2018

FALL CAMPOREE

Did you get to the Fall Camporee at the Altamont Fair grounds? Although the ground was a bit "damp" all had a great time. Activities included Goosechase Scavenger Hunt, Eddie Eagle Firearm Safety Training, Telegraph & Morse Code Presentation, Train Safety, Operation Lifesaver. The day ended with fireworks!



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UPCOMING EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

Check the District calendar for upcoming event details. Keep your eye on Beaver Day, Klondike Derby, OA Lock-in, and the District Pinewood Derby.



Fall Beaver Day is November 2-3 at Camp Wakpominee. There is no cost for Saturday, lunch will be provided at no charge. If your unit wishes to come up Friday and stay over, there is a \$12 fee to cover food (Friday cracker barrel and Saturday breakfast). Sign up through the District website.

The 2019 Klondike Derby will be January 25-27 at Camp Wakpominee. This event is hosted by our OA Chapter. Details will be available closer to the event date.

OA Lock-In has a change this year. The Queensbury YMCA is no longer doing lock-ins of any type. The Lock-In will be held on January 18-19 (Martin Luther King weekend) at the Clifton Park YMCA.

District Pinewood Derby and Scout Show will be March 2nd at the Aviation Mall. Units are reminded to have their unit derbies early enough so their winners can participate in the District event. Units are also encouraged to set up a booth at the Mall Show showing some type of scout activity.

Details on all upcoming events will be available on the Turning Point District website.

POPCORN PICK-UP!!



Don't forget to pick up your popcorn order! Orders were due 10/29. Show & Sell returns will be accepted on 11/2 from 3 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and on 11/3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All returns will be accepted at Camp Wakpominee on those two dates. Take Order distribution will be 11/15 from 3 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and 11/16 from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the ACE Warehouse in Wilton, off Exit 16. Money is due at the time of pick up.

TRAINING NOTES

As we get underway with our new scout year, you need to think about training. The scouts need trained leaders to help them maneuver the ins and outs of scouting. There are many types of training available for you to take all over the council. If you are unable to make a training and your unit needs training please don't hesitate to contact your Training Chair, Betty Fitzgerald at lizfitz25@yahoo.com or 518 583-0918. The Turning Point Training Team is here to help you get trained.

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable is a form of commissioner service and supplemental training for volunteers at the unit level. It is a great opportunity to learn and share experiences with other leaders. It is also a time of fellowship and fun. Turning Point Roundtables are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilton (Exit 16). November's agenda will include a discussion of Scouting for Scouts with Disabilities led by Rick Robi and information on Online Re-chartering provided by Stan Fifield.

All units should plan on having at least one representative attend Roundtables. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 20th, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

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

We are past the halfway point of our fall recruiting season. Several of our units have surpassed 2017 increases in membership through a real focus on creative recruiting events and super publicity. It's the Scout Field of Dreams – if you plan it, they will come! A big thank you to unit leaders for making that happen.

Of course, we all know a youth (or adult) isn't part of BSA until their registration is submitted with the

proper fee. Submitting the registration is also important as it allows BSA's insurance to cover our new members. So . . . don't hold onto applications! If you need assistance getting your paperwork to the Council office, contact Erica Marion or John Koch.

At the end of September, our membership numbers were ahead of last year by 10 youth, but we were behind in Cubs by 5 youth. Just like

in your units, our District team has *Journey to Excellence* benchmarks. We are looking to reach the Gold level (2% growth and increase in Cubs) by having 1,207 Cubs and 1,875 total youth by year end.

Thank you for all that you do as volunteer Scouters!

*John Koch, Membership Chair
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COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

Welcome to Fall 2018! The weather is colder and wetter so now is a great time for Unit Commissioners to catch up on recording all the visits made over the last 90 days. Remember, you can only go back 90 days. Our end of August District stats just came out and are a little weak. I know there have been many more visits but are not being filed with Commissioner tools. Please take the time to list your visits. If you do not have computer access please let me know so I may enter the information for you.

The Commissioner Corp have been very active in annual recruitment, attending various recruitment events representing our District. I thank everyone for their efforts. Membership is a very important part of Scouting and we, as Commissioners, must continue to support it. District Chair Joe Lehet, District Executive Erica Marion and I have been conducting Scout talks at numerous schools. Joe tirelessly schedules these talks and is our connection to the schools – he knows everyone! If you units are having recruitment events please try to attend. I ask that you advise me of the events as I would like to

attend as many as possible to meet our dedicated leaders. Our DE Erica has been extremely busy scheduling many of the aforementioned recruitment events as well as attending them. The Turning Point District has been very fortunate to have had and have the leadership we do.

The Council Fall Camporee is in the books and was extremely successful. Brian, Drew and several others worked tirelessly to set up a terrific program. The Order of the Arrow had several activities and the volunteers worked hard to staff it. The DEs and Council staff manned many Cub Scout activities. If you ever need a popsicle stick catapult just ask Erica! Each District had the duty of setting up their sub-camp. A big thank you to John Koch for all of his work in planning and executing a perfectly orchestrated sub-camp. Dale Dickinson and Connie Turner were also a very important part of our success. Mary Dickinson was there and "volunteered" to take photos. Thank you! Drew had set up a Commissioners Booth with cider and donuts where we got to visit with many of our units and leaders. I believe this is very important and will continue at future events. The

Camporee success was evident when I saw several Cub Scouts trailing down the road behind their parents by about 20 feet. The Scouts were dragging their feet and the parents were saying "hurry up!" The boys were tired but smiling!

We will be adding a few more Commissioners very soon and at our November 13th Commissioners meeting I would like to review unit assignments to make them easier on our Commissioners. Remember the meeting is before our District meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Exit 18 Holiday Inn Express. Please try to attend. I can't thank Dale Dickinson and Wes Rumpf enough for the great job they are doing at our Roundtables. An end note, please check your Training information ASAP. Remember Commissioners must complete at least the Basic Commissioner training and YPT. If we want our unit leaders to be trained we should be also. We can lead by example.

Thank you all for the continued success of our District!

Frank Mihalek
District Commissioner
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518 461-5567

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

It's that time of year again when units collect food for their local food pantries. This isn't the only time that food may be collected. In fact, units may collect at any time throughout the year. When your unit does its collection please be sure to contact Bob Bingham with your total food count. Bob keeps a total of all food collected within our District. He may be reached at alexadam@roadrunner.com.



VETERAN SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

One very interesting exhibit at the Fall Camporee was the Veteran Scouts Association. Below is information about this part of scouting.

The officers and members of the Veteran Scouts Association (VSA) invite all Scouts and Scouters to become a part of this historic program. We are currently low in membership and invite more Scouts and Scouters to join this proud organization.

MISSION: Since its inception in December 1921, the Veteran Scouts Association's total mission has been to serve the scouting program at all levels and to continually emphasize that its main concern is for the youth of our Scout Family and for each other. The VSA is the only such association to have ever formed, although all Scout Councils were notified of such plan the year before.

WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT? Annual dues are \$10. Anyone with a minimum 4 ½ years registration in scouting is eligible to join. Joining can be done by completing an application form and mailing it along with dues payment to Joseph T. Berland, VSA Treasurer, PO Box 809, Schenectady NY 12301. The dues fund the Scouting Youth Community Service Award Program, where medals are presented annually at the Scout Unit Courts-Of-Honor. The medals denote Community Service beyond the hours needed for advancement. Flag ribbons are presented to Scout units who participate in National or community parades and in activities to place flags at the graves of military service veterans. Recognition is also given for Member Years of Service to Scouting. We also provide support to the Council Campership program and have organized a continuing effort to preserve Scouting uniforms and other historic paraphernalia. Members display these items, upon request, at Council and District events.

An annual dinner allows us to network, share experiences, enjoy entertainment, greet guest scouts who have outstanding community service records and recognize scouters for their service.



UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

Troop 4018 - Greenfield

Troop 4018, chartered by the Greenfield Center Fire Department, Company #1, currently has 21 registered Boy Scouts and a very active program with a busy summer season. We replaced American Flags on the graves of our deceased veterans in the Town of Greenfield prior to Memorial Day. In June we camped out on Scout Island. In July, most of the Troop attended summer camp at Rotary Scout Reservation. In August we mounted a mini-trek in the St. Regis Canoe Area so the boys could hone their canoeing and camp cooking skills. In September we conducted troop elections and installed our new NYLT trained Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders. On the same evening we also conducted a flag retirement ceremony to dispose of the old American flags collected in May. The troop also attended the Twin Rivers Council Fall Camporee at the Altamont Fairgrounds. In October we dedicated a meeting to doing a Dutch oven pizza party where the troop hosted the Lake Luzerne Cub Pack 6028.



**Pictures of
Troop 4018's
outdoor
activities**



HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES & PICTURES

Is your unit planning an outstanding event? Are you going to Beaver Day, Klondike Derby or OA Lock-In? Are you hosting a unique recruiting event? What about a community service project? Take pictures and write a short article about your event. Submit your information to Mary Dickinson at: tdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2018