



Dear Scouters:

There has never been a better time to serve with us in the Texas Trails Council if you want to be a part of the renaissance of scouting in our area. Some of you have heard or read some of these words from me before. For others, this will be the first contact from me in what I plan to be a series of letters to you to keep you abreast about what is happening in our council every 4 to 6 weeks for a while. I am asking that these letters also be posted on our council website at www.texas trailsbsa.org

We are at a pivotal time and we are in the midst of some major changes as we make the necessary decisions to improve the way we deliver the promise of the Boy Scouts of America to the youth of our 17 1/2 county region. If we want to continue to manage our own independent council, we must no longer do things the same old way. We are working closely with Ponce Duran, the Southern Region Director of the Boy Scouts of America who wants us to succeed. He and his team are helping us in every way possible, but ultimately it will be up to us. I believe we can and we will not just survive, but thrive.

A new direction has been required and more changes are likely to occur as we move forward with a plan. Our challenges are formidable; but the resolve of our volunteers, professionals, and supporters is strong as well. What happens in the next 6 months will tell the tale.

We have made a necessary change in our Scout Executive. The Executive Board recently voted unanimously to terminate David Angle because of lack of confidence in his ability to effectively lead this council. Rob Hofmann, our Area Director, will serve as our Acting Scout Executive until further notice.

We have sold our scout office in downtown Abilene to the City of Abilene and paid off the majority of our council indebtedness. We have the right to continue to office there until the end of 2012 as we explore our options as to how and where to relocate our service center to better serve the scouts and their families. We have a transition team in place, chaired by our Vice President of Properties, John Dearing, to address these exciting possibilities.

Our council still operates 2 camps. We own Camp Tonkawa near Buffalo Gap outright. It is free and clear (not mortgaged in any way). In fact, in the past year, we were given an additional 114 tract of adjoining property by the State of Texas and granted the right to access other near-by acreage by the State Park. The council has a perpetual lease at

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Camp Billy Gibbons on approximately 100 acres of wilderness on the spring-fed Brady Creek near Richland Springs in San Saba County as long as we continue to utilize it for our scouting program as required in the deed.

Our programs by and large remain strong and well attended. We served over 2,400 young people through our traditional scouting and Learning for Life programs. These include hundreds of scouts and their families who have participated in year round events for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and others. Of course, we continue to produce exemplary Eagle Scouts from Troops all across our part of Texas. Last year we had 60 young men earn their Eagle badge.

The Annual Council Business Meeting with Elections and Banquet will be on February 28, 2012 at 6:30p.m. , Bullion Suites, 2nd floor, Mabee Center, Howard Payne University in Brownwood. All Chartered Organization Representatives, Executive Board Members-at-Large, and others will be there. You are invited. That night we will announce and honor the newest recipients of the Silver Beaver Awards for this past year. The names of these honorees will be kept secret until then. **RSVP if attending by calling or emailing Laura Moore at 325-665-1866 or laurawmoore@yahoo.com by 5p.m. Friday, February 24, 2012. The cost for the meal is \$15.00 each, payable at the door.**

Notices regarding the Council Nominating Committee have already gone out. If you have anyone you wish to nominate to the Executive Board for consideration by this committee you must send your nomination in writing to Susan King, Chair at: susanlewisking@blackberry.net or susanlewisking@suddenlink.net, or in care of the council office before January 29, 2012.

According to our by-laws, Scouters have until February 9, 2012 to make any suggestions in writing to their district nominating committee for consideration for inclusion on their slate of nominees. The nominating committees present their slates for voting at each of the three Annual District Meetings on Thursday, February 23. See the accompanying attachments for information on your district nominating committee and your district elections. Remember, nominations from the floor are not allowed.

For more than 100 years there has been no better program in America in developing strong young leaders than the Boy Scouts. We want you to be a part of working with us to improve and expand the way we prepare our scouting youth for life.

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TEXAS TRAILS COUNCIL

We are at a crossroads and in many ways it is a new beginning for us. It is very exciting. Come join us. If you have additional questions, you may call me at: (cell) 325-642-0131, (home) 325-646-7119, (work) 325-646-1987 or email me at: selliss@verizon.net.

Yours in Scouting,

Steve Ellis

Council President

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The Pecan Valley District Meeting for District Elections will be held on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 PM at Early First Baptist Church. The members of the 2011 Nominating Committee are:

Stanley Walker—Chairman

PO Box 1445, Brownwood, TX 76804

swatpa@gmail.com, (325)784-5656 Home, (325)643-3848 Work

Lauren Pulley

3501 Third St., Brownwood, TX 76801

lcapulley@gmail.com, (325) 203-1631

Jim Childress

200 E Wallace, San Saba, Texas 76877

lawyers@centex.net, (325) 205-0880 Cell, (325) 372-5791 Office

Ruby Sturmer

1116 W Long Street, Stephenville, Texas 76401

rsturmer@shc.com, 254-965-2602 Home, 254-592-1730 Cell

Laurie Henderson

3 Perkins, Lampasas, Texas 76550

glhend@sbcglobal.net, (512) 556-3392 Work, (512) 734-1774 Cell

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Buffalo Mountain District will have its annual meeting and district elections at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Office, 1208 North 5th, Abilene, Thursday, February 23, 2012. The Buffalo Mountain Nominating Committee for 2012 is listed below:

Brad Dempsey - Chairman

2950 Rex Allen Dr. Abilene, TX 79606-4342	H:(325)695- 6098	wearywarrior71@aol.com
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Teresa Beard

3165 County Road 275 Clyde, TX 79510-5247	H:(325) 893- 4379	untrainable_bsa@yahoo.com
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Carl Kieke

1417 N 7th St Apt 2 Abilene, TX 79601-4948	H:(325) 673- 3552	kiekec@suddenlink.net
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Doug Allmand

218 County Road 291 Abilene, TX 79606-6036	H:(325) 691- 5316 W:(325) 695- 3369	dougallmand@sbcglobal.net
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John Walke

750 Rosewood Dr. Abilene, TX 79603-5505	H:(325) 675- 8851	jwalke73@gmail.com
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John Dearing

692 Bell Plains Rd. Tuscola, TX 79562	H:(325) 692- 9397 Cell: 325-660- 6805	sharkydoc@aol.com
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Brazos Forks District will have its annual meeting and district elections at ?

p. m. at ???, Thursday, February 23, 2012. The Brazos Forks Nominating Committee for 2012 is listed below:

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