

# LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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[www.nlas.org](http://www.nlas.org)

WINTER 2015

## Memories from Philmont Training Center

The plans were laid and the invitation read, "JOIN US AT PHILMONT". In response, Lutherans from across the country did just that as we came together for the *Scouting in the Ministry of the Lutheran Church* conference at the Philmont Training Center in August. Hosted by the NLAS, this week-long training course was designed as an opportunity for Lutheran adults to learn more about using the Scouting program as a tool for ministry in their home congregations.

Attending this year's course were: Clarence Browder and Carol Scalf of the Lincoln Heritage Council, Louisville, KY; Ken Capps of the Circle Ten Council, Dallas, TX; Rev. Albert Colver of the Greater St. Louis Area Council, MO; Rev. Cindy Cone of the Grand Canyon Council, Phoenix, AZ; Rev. Richard Egtvedt of the New Birth of Freedom Council, Gettysburg, PA; Rev. Jim Hoke of the Cornhusker Council, Lincoln, NB; Kristin and Matt Rogahn of the Mid-Iowa Council,



Des Moines, IA; Wayne Stuckey of the Baltimore Area Council; MD.

The conference faculty was drawn from the association's officers: Mary Wangerin,

President; Cole Petersen, Secretary; Rev. Sherman Martell, ELCA Representative;

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## 2017 National Scout Jamboree Update

The theme for the 2017 National Scout Jamboree – "Live Scouting's Adventure" – and the 2017 Jamboree logo have been revealed on the Scouting Magazine blog "Bryan on Scouting" <http://blog.scouting-magazine.org/2014/11/06/2017-national-scout-jamboree-theme-logo-unveiled/>. The 2017 National Scout Jamboree will be held 19 – 28 July 2017 at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia. Registration for participants will begin in May 2015. Staff registration will begin in April 2015. (NLAS staff will register in a special group, not in general staff registration.)

As at previous jamborees, NLAS will have an exhibit in the Faith and Beliefs area. The NLAS exhibit is a witnessing exhibit that will allow us to:



- Encourage youth participation in the religious emblems program.
- Encourage the use of adult religious recognitions and Lutheran Recognition of Excellence unit awards.

- Explain and celebrate the relationship between the BSA, the Lutheran Church and NLAS.
- Celebrate and share the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation with fellow Scouts and Scouters.
- Provide an affirming presence for Lutheran youth visiting the exhibit, and a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ for those who ask what Lutherans believe or who have no church affiliation.

If you would like to join us in staffing the NLAS exhibit, we would like to hear from you. All we're asking for now is your

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# Philmont Memories

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Jim Whitehead, Past-president. In addition, we were joined by our national BSA staff adviser, Gene Butler.

The conference syllabus was spread over a five-day period, each day starting with a worship service. We kicked off on Monday with presentations on the national and local church/BSA relationships and the role Scouting plays as a tool for ministry; the NLAS, its history, relationships with various Lutheran church bodies, relationships with other youth-serving agencies, chaplaincies for various BSA events. The Association's annual meeting was held that evening. Tuesday saw sessions on conducting worship services; the Religious Emblems programs, God and Me, God and Family; Disabilities Awareness and the Venturing program for congregations. Then it was "time out!" to enjoy a buffalo BBQ on the lawn of the Villa Philmonte and into town for ICE CREAM at the Cimarron Art Gallery.

Wednesday morning was devoted to an examination of other denominations and various religions that also work with the

BSA on a national basis, with the afternoon and evening free to explore the ranch and its environs. Thursday's sessions included the God and Church and God and Life award programs; Lamb and Servant of Youth adult awards; Lutheran Recognition of Excellence unit award; Organizing a local Lutheran association or Protestant committee in your council; a BSA national office update on Journey to Excellence program and the New Unit Growth and Retention Guide and Foundations for Growth publications; Troop Chaplains and Chaplain Aides. Friday's sessions featured making Scout Sunday meaningful and exploring sources of helpful



resources – Lutheran, Scouting and general use. After a wrap-up, "What Will You Do With All This Stuff When You Get Home?" we held our closing and graduation on the front porch of the Villa Philmonte. Then it was time for the closing campfire.

As we said our "Good-Byes" on Saturday morning we promised to stay in touch and to spread the word so, "JOIN US AT PHILMONT IN 2016!"

— James Whitehead  
Former NLAS President

## Some basics on establishing a Chaplains' Committee for NLAS

**Mission**--The spiritual formation of Lutheran youth and youth in Lutheran units through promotion and support of chaplaincy in Scouting programs.

### Long Term Objectives:

The Chaplaincy Committee promotes and supports the concept of Chaplaincy in the programs of Boy Scouting. The Scout chaplain fulfills an important role by planning and scheduling religious services, providing spiritual direction and counseling to Scouts and Scouters and offering guidance and assistance in the Religious Emblems and Religious Activities programs and wherever assistance is deemed necessary on the part of the committee.

### The Chaplain's Committee:

1) Develops and promotes literature, materials, resources and programs suitable

for use by Scout Chaplains (and Chaplain Aides).

2) Promotes, organizes and coordinates worship services at NLAS conference and annual meetings.

3) Gives direction to the expanding definition of who may serve as a Lutheran Chaplain in the Scouting Programs

### The Chaplain's Committee shall:

1) Prepare worship services and devotions for NLAS annual meetings and other national functions

2) Identify potential chaplains for the BSA National Jamboree, World Jamboree, High Adventure Bases and other BSA national events (final approval is the responsibility of the National Chaplain in consultation with the Lutheran Church bodies or his/her delegate.)

3) Provide pastoral counsel to the National Chaplain and NLAS lay leader-

ship.

### Committee Structure:

Associate National Chaplain (3 year position who then becomes National Chaplain)

National Chaplain (3 year position who then becomes Past National Chaplain) and Committee Chairperson

Past National Chaplain (3 year position)

Training (for Philmont Conference and any other opportunities that lend themselves to train chaplains)

Literature Development (to develop resources for chaplains, chaplain aides)

Membership

Marketing and Public Relations

Regional/Area Representatives (figure out how to develop manageable representation of all areas of the country)

# Religious Emblems Coordinator

This still relatively new committee position needs more attention and promotion. I feel it's the simplest job on the unit and district committee. It's also one of the most important and rewarding. The job descriptions are easily found by visiting the P.R.A.Y website ( www.praypub.org ) or by Googling 'praypub' or 'religious emblems coordinator.' It's an easy site to navigate, and has more information than one would ever need.

The Unit REC is the 'go-to' person whenever a Scout or family has a question regarding emblems. Being an emblems counselor is not a requirement for the job, but having that experience certainly helps. The job is rather one of knowing and sharing information. The REC should know contact information for counselors, and should also know when and where classes are scheduled. If the Unit REC isn't able to answer questions, they should be able to turn to the District REC as the resource for the necessary information.

The District RECs should be gathering, maintaining, and sharing information for all of the units and counselors within their districts. Promoting religious emblems is important for both the district and the unit RECs. Every unit should have an REC, and that won't happen without information, understanding, and support from the District REC. A district or unit

committee chair would be foolish not to accept an offer from a capable volunteer wishing to take on an REC position. If that knowledgeable person happens to be you, I would encourage you to volunteer for an REC position.

I found the Council REC to be a different story. In that position, I didn't have trouble when speaking one-on-one with district or unit level Scouters, but I couldn't depend on the district key-3s to do it for me. Until it becomes a line-item entry on the Journey to Excellence paperwork, the key-3 have more important fish to fry. I got no response from addressing district chairs and executives, nor did I have any luck posting in the council's newsletter. I felt that the most important thing I could do at the council level was to identify District RECs and accumulate counselor lists and information across the entire council.

Nice idea, but not easy for me to do. The council position is far more administrative than the other roles, and further away from the classroom and the Scouts. If you're well connected at the council, the position might work out better for you than for me.

Do yourself and your Scouts a favor, and get the information you need to become a Religious Emblems Coordinator. It's an important position, and there's no reason it shouldn't be held by a Lutheran. Perhaps that Lutheran Scouter is you. As Duty to God takes on a higher profile in 2015, ask yourself two questions regarding Religious Emblems Coordinator. Why not me? Why not now?

— Cole Petersen  
NLAS Secretary



## 2017 National Jamboree

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probable desire to participate in 2017. We'll have our final staff selection and invitation later, and training for participation in 2016. For now please send your name and address, phone and e-mail address, a brief description of your background and position in Scouting, and an explanation of why you desire to participate to NLAS President

Mary Wangerin at mwang@integra.net. Of course, you will have to be a BSA and NLAS member, be current in Youth Protection Training, and meet the physical requirements established by the BSA for Jamboree participation – but all that comes later. We'd like to hear from you now.

### NLAS Editor Needed

Our association is seeking a volunteer to take the position of editor for the publication, *Lutheran Scouting*. The newsletter is published quarterly. The editor gathers, writes, and edits material and articles, and forwards them to Terri Christian, NLAS's graphic artist. Once Terri has laid out the issue, she forwards it to the editor for final proofing.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact tchristian93@gmail.com.



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# Just for naught and why bother?

Over the past 32 years that I have been involved with NLAS, and our Church's Religious Emblem Program, I have signed off on many, many emblems for our young boys, girls and adults.

We've used it in our Sunday School and Confirmation Programs and in our Church's Scout Troop and Explorer Post and sometimes as I sit back now, retired and more contemplative, I often wonder if the effort we put into our various religious emblem programs really has any discernible effect on our youth.

I take at face value what the Scripture says about the Word never going out but that it doesn't accomplish what the Holy Spirit has intended for it to accomplish. But often we as clergy, and laymen involved in various aspects of the Church's ministry, don't immediately if ever see the fruit. Then Satan comes in and whispers in our ears that all this effort we are putting forth for our youth is just for naught and

why bother. Too often our sinful flesh agrees.

It was just such an instance that initially sucked the life from me but then gave it back to me in a great gulp of life giving air.

I had been counseling with a family over a period of time concerning several family issues that had effected the parents relationship with their teenage child. My counseling skills were finally at an end and my next move was to refer them to Lutheran Family & Social Services when I was called and asked to again come to their home as their teenager was particularly distraught and it frightened them.

As I entered the home the parents pointed me to their teenager's room where the child had been entrenched for several hours. I knocked on the door and was allowed to enter solely on my authority as their pastor. I immediately noticed, mounted and hanging on the child's wall, their "Lutheran Living Faith" medal and

certificate.

I guess it just struck me that if the young person went to all the trouble to have it framed it must have been important to them. I mentioned to the person how nice that was to see the medal framed so beautifully and they said their father had done it.

It eventually came to pass that the father's pride in his child receiving the medal enough to make the frame and the child's love for the parent that made the frame, which they lovingly displayed, was the catalyst that got them talking and eventually brought them back into the loving relationship of parent and child bathed in the forgiveness that God's mercy shows us all.

Funny how such simple things can have such great importance.

*Chaplain (COL) James Hoke  
 USA (Ret)*