



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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SUMMER 2017

President's Report on Duty to God Breakfast (5/25/2017)

One of the most anticipated and well attended events of the National Annual Meeting is the Duty to God Breakfast.

Joe Theismann, former star quarterback of the Washington Redskins who led Washington to victory in Super Bowl XVII, gave an inspirational address at the Duty to God Breakfast. He spoke of how his outwardly successful life felt empty to him during his convalescence from a career-ending broken leg injury during a nationally televised game against the New York Giants and how he subsequently came to rely on God for values and motivation. "Without Duty to God, we are rudderless ships..." - Joe Theismann.

Then the second annual National Duty to God Awards were presented. The National Duty to God Award was created in 2016 to recognize adult individuals who have demonstrated a history of exemplary service and leadership to faith accompanied by a steadfast commitment to promoting religious duty in Scouting as essential elements for guiding the moral, spiritual, and social development of youth.

This year's Duty to God recipients are: Ronald L. Adolphi, PhD, of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting (see companion article), member of the National Religious Relationships Committee, the Northeast Region Executive Board, and Chairman of the Northeast Region Religious Relationships Committee; Rev Robert J. Thornton, Director of Scout Ministries for



Joe Theismann



The photo shows, from left to right, Syed Naqvi, Rev Thornton, Fr Hummel, special guest Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Dr Adolphi, and Imam Hamad Ahmad Chebli. Imam Chebli received the Allaho Akber adult religious award from the National Islamic Committee on Scouting.

the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for nearly three decades; Syed E. Naqvi, who established the National Islamic Committee on Scouting and developed the Islamic youth and adult religious awards; and Father

Donald K. Hummel, servant of God and Scouting in the Northern New Jersey Council for nearly 60 years and long term chaplain at Philmont Scout Ranch and National and World Jamborees.

2017 NLAS Annual Meeting
July 14 at 1:30 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
1600 Kanawha Blvd.
Charleston, WV



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER IS ON HIATUS THIS ISSUE.
LIKE ALL GOOD SCOUTERS, THE CHAPLAIN
IS ENJOYING THE WONDERS OF
SUMMER AND CAMPING.
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER WILL RETURN IN THE FALL ISSUE.**

Celebrating our past...

Shown in this image are from left to right: C. E. Sjostrand, President of Minnesota Conference Brotherhood; George W. Anderson of St. Peter (First Lutheran); Kenneth Cox of St Paul (Gustavus Adolphus Church) and A.M. Endersbe of Wilmar (Bethel Church). Mr. Sjostrand was congratulating the men on becoming three of the first seven men to win the Lamb Award for outstanding service to Boy Scouting. The event occurred at the annual meeting of the Augustana Lutheran Brotherhood at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas 1956.

Courtesy of the College and Lutheran Church Archives, Gustavus Adolphus College. Thanks to Ron Adolphi for sharing this piece.



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Life Member Receives Volunteer Service Award

The NLAS congratulates Life Member Chaplain Louis H. G. Bier for being granted the G. William Dando Volunteer Service Award in the fall of 2016.



The G. William Dando Volunteer Service Award is named for Captain Dando and celebrates

the leadership and example of his service.

Chaplain Louis Bier, Lt Col, CAP, a contract chaplain at a VA Medical Center, joined Military Chaplains Association in 1973. He is endorsed by LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM) and lives in Walpole, Mass. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Bier served as the Massachusetts Wing and Northeast Region Chaplain for over 40 years.

As a Boy Scout, he earned the rank

of Eagle and has received the 50-year pin for his Silver Eagle Award. Bier has been a delegate to the Massachusetts State Convention of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and served on the Finance Committee of the Association of Professional Chaplains.

Thank you, Louis, for your service and membership in NLAS. Best wishes for your future successes!

New Jersey Scouter News

Charles A. Spitz, of Wall Township, NJ shared that on April 18, 2017, he received the "Scouter of the Year Award" from the New Jersey Grand Masonic Lodge F&AM.

His busy schedule continued as served as the Vice Chair of the NJ State Police Camporee May 19-21 where over 7500 scouts and scouters camped including the Chief Scout Executive. He serves on the executive board of Monmouth Council and a member of the NE Region Area 5 Committee.

He will be a member of the registration staff at the National Jamboree. Charlie is a 2010 Monmouth Council Silver Antelope recipient.

He is also proud to share news of his accomplished Scouting family. Grandson, Donovan Fisher, of Washington Crossing Council, although not a Lutheran, is a



recipient of four religious awards from the Methodist Church as well as recipient of the "2017 Scout of the Year Award". His ECOH was October, 2016 and Venturing Summit COH was on May, 2017. For a look at Donovan's many accomplishments and awards, google thepopcornscout.com. This proud grandfather also stated that his grandson sold over \$107,000 in popcorn during his Scouting career of which \$25k was donated to the men and women of the NJ National Guard that were deployed in war zones.

His daughter, Carla Fisher, of Washington Crossing Council, a Scoutmaster and member of a Venturing Crew 4385 Committee received the District Award of Merit on 4/25.

Congratulations to the Spitz extended family for their accomplishments and dedication to Scouting!

We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblems program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, 4H and Camp Fire USA.



NLAS Mission

To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies.

NLAS Vision

That all young people and their families are exposed to Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to know him as Lord and Savior

The mission and visions statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12th, 2002

Ronald L. Adolphi, PhD, of NLAS receives the National Duty to God Award

One of our own, Ronald L. Adolphi, PhD, received the National Duty to God Award during the Duty to God Breakfast at the 2017 National Annual Meeting on May 25.

Dr. Ronald L. Adolphi was a founding member of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting in 1980, and served as NLAS President during 1980 – 82. Ron has been a member of the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee since 1990, Chairman of the Religious Literature Review Team since 2000, and a member of the National Youth Development Team since 2011. Ron has served on the Northeast Region Executive Board since 2013, on the Finance Impact Support Committee since 2009, and as Chair of the Northeast Region Religious Relationships Committee since 2006. Recently Ron was appointed by the Rev Dr. Matthew C.

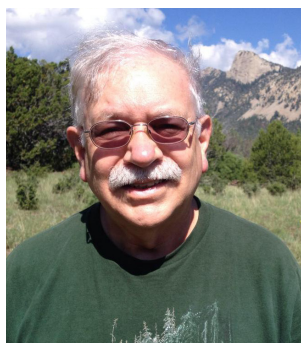
Harrison of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) to serve on the President's Task Force on Scouting. Dr. Adolphi has received countless recognitions for his dedicated service and leadership to his country and the Boy Scouts of America, including Distinguished Eagle Scout, Silver Beaver, and Silver Antelope awards. Ron has received the God & Country and Lutheran Lamb religious awards. He earned the Exploring Silver Award and received the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow.

From his alma mater, Ron received the Syracuse University Leonard F. Keenan Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to Young People, and he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, the highest DOD civilian honor. Ron served for thirty years in the US Army, retiring with the rank of Colonel.



Dr. Ron Adolphi,
accompanied by his wife Cecie (Celia)





Wayne Stuckey
President, NLAS

Unique in the relationship of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting with the Boy Scouts of America is that NLAS has a seat on a sub-committee of the BSA National Committee – the Religious Relationships Committee – where we provide voice on behalf of our national Lutheran Church partners, similar to other religious relationship organizations. I was pleased to attend the BSA National Annual Meeting on 24-26 May in Orlando, FL. We are also fortunate to have several other NLAS members serving on the Religious Relationships Committee. Joining me on the Duty to God working group is Cole Petersen, and on the Literature Development and Review team is Dr. Ronald L. Adolphi. Both are former presidents of the NLAS.

Religious Relationships Committee reports (5/24/2017)

From the Protestant Working Group (Greg Godwin): Jamboree Protestant Worship - In 2013, there was no budget for the Protestant worship service; the 2017 service is funded through the 2013 offering.

From the National Training, Meetings and Events Working Group (Donna Copeland) - Chaplain Training Project: The Chaplain (position specific) training module is now live on Scouting U: BSA Learn Center. Access by logging into your my.scouting.org account. Click on Boy Scout under the BSA Learn Center sidebar. You should be redirected to a page that has Boy Scout Leader position specific training, including the Chaplain module. Chaplain Training includes three items [1] Chaplain Roles and Responsibilities, [2] Religious Emblems and Awards, [3] Interfaith Considerations.

President's Perspective

BSA National Annual Meeting

Youth Membership Trends (Dr. Robert Edmonds and Dr. Ron Adolphi): This is a preliminary analysis of youth membership data over the period 2010-2016. BSA lost about 518,000 youth members over this 6 yr period. About 258,000 youth members have been lost since 2015. Religious charter partners gained about 6% of total (at expense of loss of membership overall); religious charter partners now stand at about 66% of total charter organizations. Cub Scouting youth membership loss trends reversed to small gains since year end 2015 in one-third of total religious chartered partners, while the Boy Scouts and Venturing average annual decline rates remained somewhat stable for religious organizations. National landscape trends indicate the necessity for innovation and change to remain relevant and positioned for growth.

From the Membership Growth Working Group (Clarence Crayton): BSA needs to rebuild trust in the millennial generation of parents; try to explain the value of the Duty to God message in Scouting.

From the Duty to God Working Group (Dr. Robert Edmonds): In addition to presenting the Youth Membership Trends report, Duty to God announced that four nominees will be added as recipients of the National Duty to God Award, to be announced at the Duty to God Breakfast. Discussion centered around reaching out to the millennial market, and understanding the spirituality of millennial parents.

Literature Development and Review (Jim Weiskircher): Please review charter organization Duty to God literature – including the BSA Duty to God brochure and faith group brochures to continue to improve the spiritual side of program. 74,900 religious awards were presented to BSA participants in 2016. BSA will be supporting a spiritual experience at the 2017 National Jamboree, including Chaplain presence, faith group worship, and exhibits in the Duty to God and Country area.

Chaplaincy Working Group (Dr. Peter Hyman): The working group is attempting to establish more chaplain presence at the Summit, Sea Base, and Northern Tier high adventure bases.

Social Media Working Group (Amanda Vogt): The Social Media Working Group has established a

- Newsletter,
- Duty to God YouTube presence (See for example https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQG_kjyEYTg, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frwABzoec60>),
- and a Duty to God Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/dutytogodbsa/?hc_ref=SEARCH#DutytoGod)

National Business Meeting (5/25/2017)

As you may have surmised from the Religious Relationships Committee reports, the unofficial theme of the 2017 BSA National Annual Meeting was “change.” The theme continued during the National Business Meeting.

Randall Stephenson (National President): The old way of doing business is not adequate for today's environment. We have met some challenges, but there are more to come. We are changing the very fabric of how we are organized and manage this organization by introducing a new upper level structure. A new organizational model will be presented in the October meeting.

Charles Dahlquist (National Commissioner) – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) church will no longer utilize the Venturing and Varsity programs for the LDS older boys' (14-18) program come Jan 1. The

National Meeting

continued from page 5

LDS Church will be refocusing its programming for young men around local Church activities that promote spiritual and personal growth and development. The LDS Church will continue to use the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs. It is the prerogative of the chartered organization to utilize those parts of the BSA program of benefit to them. <http://scoutingwire.org/charles-dahlquist-bsa-lds-relationship/>

Online registration is now live for 78 councils. It allows Scouts to be registered and pay fees online. 4100 registrations have been processed in the last 3 months. Online registration is accessed from Be-A-Scout.org.

Mike Surbaugh (Chief Scout Executive) – What is this in the news about girls? There has been a persistent pull within the organization to do something for young women, allowing them to have adventures and bond within a safe environment. Many studies say that young men and young women perform better in a same gender environment (but the studies are validated only for above age 11).

There are threats and concerns to long term growth of the BSA. The structure of families has changed. 60% of families have both parents working; 27% are single parent households. These percentages are much higher in some underserved populations. Over 1/3 of parents feel they spend too little time with their families.

The BSA program has what parents want for their children, but it is a challenge for them to access the organization. In using their limited time, they are looking for a one-stop service for serving the whole family. Many legacy organizations are following similar declining membership trends (referring to chart of membership trends for PTO/PTA, Girl Scouts, Kiwanis, Rotary). Other youth serving organizations and service clubs are reflecting this stress on time. It's all about access. It's not about the quality of the program. We have a great program, but we cannot fight the structural changes of the family. Most innovative programs deal with overcoming limitations of structure.

60% of parents of non-scouting, Cub Scout-aged children say they would enroll immediately if the program were accessible to their family. It appears there would be advantages to opening the Cub Scout program to girls. There are also a number of unknowns. Should dens be mixed, or should there be dens for boys and dens for girls? The best answer could be different for different charter partners. What happens at bridging to Boy Scouts? Given its national reach, similar values, nationally recognized top rank, the Boy Scout program is very appealing to girls and parents of girls. Again, there are unknowns to be addressed. Given the development studies, should BSA form its own program for girls? How similar would it be to Boy Scouts? Would it include the Eagle rank and joining the Order of the Arrow?

Mr. Surbaugh emphasized that this not a decided policy change. No resolution was proposed for action by the National Committee. BSA is soliciting opinion of where to go next. Much needs to be considered before making such a major program change, but it must be addressed because the changes driving the membership trends will not go away. It was promised that there will be opportunities to comment and provide feedback.

Mr. Surbaugh introduced the National Venturing President (Michelle Meritt) and National Chief of the Order of the Arrow (Forrest Gertin) for a youth perspective. Not speaking for their organizations, but giving their own perspective, both spoke in favor of full participation of girls in the Boy Scout program, especially from the perspective of girls wanting to do the things their brothers and fathers do together, but also including earning the Eagle rank and joining the OA. The National Chief's perspective is that another person earning the Eagle rank, including a young woman, does not diminish his own accomplishment.

North East Region meeting (5/25/2017)

The change theme continued in the Northeast Region meeting. BSA's goals remain as always: to help our youth develop leadership skills, relationship to God, and character. Methods of doing this may change: inclusion of Down's Syndrome Scouts, disestablish some merit badges (e.g., stalking, tracking), addressing membership criteria. Change happens and we

adapt. How do we incorporate families, and better serve families in our program?

Most of the NE Region meeting was given to status of preparation for the 2017 Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Central Region meeting (5/26/2017)

Mary Wangerin, Past President of NLAS, received the Silver Antelope Award at the 2017 BSA National Annual Meeting on May 26. From Savage, MN in the Northern Star Council, Mary is a very active religious emblems counselor, having awarded more than 500 in a dozen councils. She is also very active in training parents and unit leaders of Scouts with special needs. Mary is active with the American Heart Association, promoting heart health for women, and her photo can be seen on billboards all over the Twin Cities.



The Silver Antelope recognizes volunteer service beyond the council level and is awarded by the region. The good news for all of us is that wherever she goes, Mary is always promoting the NLAS. Thank you, Mary, and congratulations!



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and



Membership Update

Membership renewals are starting to come in for the 2017-2018 term. As of June 1st, 189 members are current in dues and have updated information for our records.

Four members have chosen to upgrade their membership to Life status:

-Longtime member David Hiles, from Pittsburgh, stepped up to Life level. David has received the Lutheran Lamb award and attends St John Evangelical Lutheran Church.

-Clarence Browder, who hails from Louisville. He received his Lamb award in 2009. Clarence and I had a great time together at the Lutheran Philmont

Conference the summer before that.

-Kaylene Trick, another Pennsylvania scouter from the New Berlin area, does her volunteering in Susquehanna Council. She's planning to be at the National Jamboree at the Summit later this summer.

-Finally, we welcome Life member James Heinrich from East Aurora, New York, who's volunteered at the last four National Jamborees. He's also been busy attending the last three World Jamborees. It's a good bet he'll be at the Summit later this summer too.

A few members are taking advantage

of our new "step to Life member" option by paying a portion off the \$350 fee in yearly installments over the next five years.

Earlier this year, we introduced our "wear it proud" Lutheran medallion for all members. All life members should have received those now. We are awaiting another shipment from the vendor. Once received, these will be sent to the remainder of our other members as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to have a "youth" category as a membership offering as well. Thank you to everyone who has renewed thus far! Keep the renewals coming – as always, looking forward to applications from new members too.

Southern California Lutheran Association First to Apply for National Recognition

The Lutheran Association of Scouters Southern California Area are the first local association to renew their liaison with NLAS for the next year. Treasurer and longtime NLAS member, Al Remyn, sent in the request form last month. NLAS has recognized and partnered with local Lutheran Scouting associations and committees to assist in gathering and organizing our widely scattered volunteers across the country for a long while.



If you are active in a local group of Lutheran Scouters in your area and you wish to partner with NLAS, please visit our website at www.nlas.org to download the LAS recognition application which should then be sent to the national mailing address in St Louis. If your local association is doing something in your area to help promote Scouting,

please forward the information in a note to LAS liaison Trent Christian at tmchristiannlas@gmail.com. We'd love to share your news and best practices with everyone.



Send NLAS News Items

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is August 11, 2017. Send Association and other news for the *Lutheran Scouting* newsletter to Pam Ciccarello at eaglesnest0810@att.net, and include NLAS in the subject line. Please spell out acronyms and give state and area or city locations so complete information is included in the publication. For events, be sure to include the date. For photos, either e-mail or send a glossy print.



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Looking towards the future...



**Planning ahead for Summer 2018!
Scouting in the Lutheran Church Conference
at Philmont Training Center**



**Hosted by the
National Lutheran Association on Scouting**

This conference is for Lutheran chartered organization representatives, clergy, and all Lutheran Scouters who want to learn more about using Scouting as an outreach ministry to young people and their families. See how Scouting becomes part of a congregation's youth ministry strategy and contributes to reaching young families while building and sustaining membership. Learn about the religious emblems program and how it builds faith in youth. Share with Lutherans from across the country success stories, best practices for developing and maintaining relationships with Lutheran chartering partners, and how to best serve our youth and our churches. Bring your family to be a part of the fellowship unique to Philmont. Relax as we grow in faith and renewal with like-minded, dedicated and experienced Scouters. Check back for the posting of 2018 conferences at <http://philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx>. Come and share the peace.