

Two Lakes District

District Executive

District Chairman

District Commissioner

Wayne Schuver Jr.

Gail Sandy

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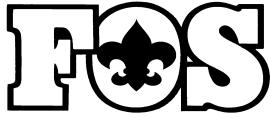
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Our 2012 Friends of Scouting campaign is kicking off on January 4th. Last year we meet our goal with everyone's help, **Thank You!**

Our goal is slightly larger this year but I know your generosity will again help us to meet our goal. We would again like to have a district volunteer come to your unit to make a presentation and tell the Scouting story to your families. We have new "night scene" of our council shoulder patches for gifts over \$60. NEW this year we have progress council shoulder patches and an Achiever golf shirt for those scouter's that help us raise levels up to \$2500. Last year we had 16 president club members. Help us so we can better serve your youth. By sharing with your families, and offering them the opportunity in making a gift, they are investing in the future of scouting. Thank you for your support of our district and our council.

Cub Winter Fun Day

Cub Winter Fun Day will be held at Camp Merz on February 11th, hosted by Eric Johnson & Pack 173 from Falconer. This is a great opportunity for all the cubs to come out and have a great time at camp. The cubs get to take part in fun winter activities and have lunch on us. All cubs are welcome, bring a parent and check out our camp. For more details contact Eric or check out the next Beacon. See you at camp!



Welcome New Units

It's always exciting to see scouting grow and our district would like to welcome our newest units:

Troop 201 chartered by Moose club of Westfield. Annette MacDonald has come back to lead the unit to great things. Many of you may know Annette from camp Merz trading post or from her many years running a very successful cub pack in Westfield. Welcome back Annette!

Pack 159 chartered by Clymer VFD. Tina Applebee and great group of new Tiger parents have come together to make cub scouts happen again in Clymer. It's been a couple of years but scouting can nothing but flourish in this community with all the positives that make Clymer great. Chris Deering will be their unit commissioner to help them in their many questions, as they get under way.

District Chairman

As we finish our Scouting year, it is time to stop and give thanks to all of the volunteers who have given countless hours of their precious time to make sure the program has grown. We have had a very good year. Our activities have been great and shown an increase in participation, we have met the District financial goals; the District committee as grown in size, and the Commissioner staff has grown and become more involved in communicating with our units. As unit leaders have stepped down, they were able to find new adults to step up and take over to keep the momentum going. We have several new units this year joining our ranks and even ideas where we can work on even more units for next year. We are a District on the move!

A very special thanks goes out to Sally Lawson. She has been the District Training Chairperson for many years and this year will be handing the leadership over to Judy Parker from Mayville. Sally has done a great job over the years training all those new leaders as to how a program is developed and how a unit should operate successfully. Even though she is passing the reins over to Judy, she will still be involved with the training program. Thanks again Sally!

We would also like to welcome Richard Peebles aboard on our District committee as Vice Chairman as head of the Membership Committee. He will be helping our District fill in some of the gaps we have, so if anyone knows of someone who would like to serve on the District Committee or as a Commissioner please let him know.

As we look to the new-year and make those New Year's Resolutions there are a few we should all make. The first, being a way to find new ways to promote advancement in our units. It's hard to believe, but less than 50% of our Cubs and Boy Scouts advanced in 2011. We are loosing over **400** Cubs every year from our Packs for various reasons. Just think what would happen to the Scouting movement if we could keep 300 of them from dropping out every year. In 4 years we could double the number of youth we have in the program. With modern technology, we also need to increase our ability to communicate with one another more effectively to keep abreast of what is happening within our units, our District and our Council. It's not modern but what about roundtable, not to just receive information but also to share with what your unit is doing.

Let's all have a FANTASTIC 2012, and I hope to see you around the campfire spreading that Scouting Spirit!

Yours in Scouting,

Gail Sandy,
District Chairman

HOORAY FOR TRAINING - I want to give a big "Thank You" to all of those dedicated leaders/committee members who made the effort to attend one of the training sessions that was hosted this fall in November at the JSB Ice Arena. Again, there were 12 participants. For our Boy Scouts there were 10 in attendance for Scoutmaster Specific training. A very Special Thank You to David Gray from our training committee for stepping up and bring his Wood badge & Powder horn training to the table. I have been the Two Lakes Training Chairman off and on for about 25 years and these were GREAT numbers!!!! But it's time to hand off the baton Judy Parker from Mayville will taking the Chairman position and she has lots of experience and is highly organized. I know she will be a great asset to our district. I will be back in the area in March but remember networking is one of the greatest resources that we have available to us and if you attend Roundtable monthly you will gather lots of great information. Thanks again and I look forward to seeing many of you at the University of Scouting in March. Please car pool with your unit and with others around you to attend this very special training opportunity.

Sally Lawson

TIME FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION'S

Is there someone in your unit or someone who you know that deserves special recognition? Now is the time to nominate them. To nominate a person please write a description of why you think this person deserves special recognition and a little about their Scouting background. There are three levels of recognition.

Council Level - *Silver Beaver* is awarded for outstanding service on the Council Level.

District Level - *District Award of Merit* is awarded for outstanding service on the District level.

(Applications for the above awards must be in by January 31st.)

Troop Level - *The Spark Plug Award* is presented to that one individual that stands out in your unit that adds that extra 'spark' to your program. This award is limited to one per unit.

The V.I.P Award goes to any volunteer(s) that you feel are doing outstanding service to your unit.

Upon completion of these letters, please forward them on to the Council office. The Silver Beaver and District Award of Merit awards will be selected since there is a limited number given each year. All of these awards will be presented at the Council Recognition Dinner on April 9th.

The Kernel Says!!!



Wow, our fall popcorn fundraiser was a huge success for all our units who participated. Four of our units agreed parents, leaders and scouts for extra help and their success was outstanding.

Two of the units doubled their fundraiser efforts from last fall another was up over 25% from last fall and P267 was 5 times what they did last fall! **WOW!!!** Wouldn't it be nice to do fundraising only once a year?

The top 5 packs in total money raised were - P173, P267, P116, P115 and P177. All raised over 7 thousand dollars. The top 5 Troops in total money raised are; T103, T137, T267, T177 and T141. Fifty-one boys filled a page and where eligible for our first ever drawing. Twelve boys were selected and won some really great prizes. A. J. Ashdown-T103 Randolph at \$1664 was the top scout in our district. The other Top Sellers were: Jacob Sullivan, P267 at \$1634, and Joseph Milhany, P173 at \$1500. These 3 along with 3 other scouts earned the right to join Mr. S's \$1500 Club and participated in cutting one sixth of Mr. S's hair. WOW! Great job to all that participated! If you didn't participate with this fundraiser, remember we'll be having another fundraiser to help your boys go to camp this spring. What a great way to fund your unit's summer program!

ANNOUNCING THE KLONDIKE HIVERNANT CHALLENGE 2012

Term: hivernant (French) Definition: an experienced fur trade employee who had wintered in the wilderness. January 21, 2012 is the date of this years Klondike with 12 different stations being offered with each troop doing at least 8 stations. One of the highlights will be the station with the Snowshoe race. Each troop will be required to make their own snowshoes (NOT STORE BOUGHT) and your troop will be participating in a relay race using the snowshoes, changing from one scout to another. It is suggested to make 2 sets of snowshoes in case one set breaks. To read more on How to make Traditional Snowshoes go to:

http://www.ehow.com/how_5114831_make-traditional-snowshoes.html#izz1dFFF1ayl. Also, talk it over with your scouts; they may surprise you with some ingenious ideas of their own!! We will be having sloppy joe for lunch with our soup. Every scout and leader will need to bring their own mess kit so they can eat.

In addition each troop will need to have on their sled:

Paper and pen	Compass
Wood for making fires	Cravats
Poles at least 6 ft long (at least 2 poles)	
Blanket	Rope 50 ft
Homemade snowshoes	Rope for 10 lashings
Mess kits and eating utensils and cup (each scout)	
First aid kit.	

The cost of this year's Klondike is \$8.00 per scout and leaders along with a can of non-cream soup per scout. Any questions, please call at Scoutmaster Randy Rickerson at 716-483-6041

DONT FORGET MESS KITS FOR EACH SCOUT AND EATING UTENSILS AND A CUP!!

Two Lakes Bowlathon

Strikes, Spares and no misses! Our annual bowlathon is right around the corner. The Two Lakes District Bowlathon Kingpin, Amy Watson will be calling to arrange a time that is convenient to your unit to bowl. Some of the Allies will open on den meeting night to make even easier for you. If your unit is interested please submit the bowlathon sign-up sheet that is enclosed in this issue of the Highlander back to the council service center so we can start the ball rolling or reach out to Amy and let her know what you would like to do! What a great way to have an indoor activity this winter and earn a few bucks for you unit!

