

NAUMS News

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to NAUMS, the National Association of United Methodist Scouters. I am humbled and honored to serve as president.

Our organization has had its difficulties over the years, yet we survive. But survival is not merely enough. We need to thrive! As an organization NAUMS has its strengths and weaknesses, just as each of us as individuals do. Our goal must be built on our both our individual and organizational strengths to further the ministry of scouting within our local church, our district, our conference, and our denomination.

Simply stated our purpose is to use scouting to promote youth education, Duty to God, Country, and Service to Others. We take no position on various issues affecting scouting or the church, rather we recognize that whatever the outcome of these issues our work will continue. These issues should not affect service to youth.

Membership in any organization is a choice. We are glad you have chosen to support us and our mission. But, like any organization we must have new members to continue, please recruit new members.

Finally, NAUMS is a volunteer organization. Our board members are active in other scouting positions, in their home church, have full time jobs, have families, and other responsibilities that occupy their time. Please keep this in mind when you make a request of one or more of the members, give him or her a chance to respond.

In Christ and Scouting,



Hank Voegtle



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Board—2

Call for Service—2

Annual Meeting—2

John Hargrave—2

Scouting as Ministry—3

About NAUMS—4

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Call For Service: Nominations Needed

In 2017 there will be three places on the Board of Directors to fill. We need members who are willing to serve on the board and further the Mission of NAUMS.

The board has embraced technology and conducts most of its meeting on-line or by conference call using software that allows participation by phone or on-line .

The requirements for board membership are two-fold: membership in NAUMS and a desire to further our ministry.

For more information about serving on NAUMS Board of Directors or to make a nomination please contact our office:

NAUMS
C/O PARIS FUMC
P.O. BOX 25
PAIRS, TN 38242

ANNUAL MEETING

All member of NAUMS are invited to attend our annual meeting to be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Location TBA

JOHN HARGRAVE

We are saddened to learn of the death of John Hargrave on January 27, 2017. He was a member, board member and former treasurer of NAUMS, and dedicated Scouter.



SCOUTING AS MINISTRY

ART COLLINS

To many UM churches, their Cub Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, or Girl Scout Troops are simply, “the Scouts who meet in our basement.” They never speak of “our Scouts” or “our Troop.” In many cases, they don’t even know who the leaders of these programs are. They never attend any courts of honor or a Pinewood Derby. The only time they notice the Scouts’ presence is when they are in the way of something placed on the calendar (often without telling them of the change) or somebody has left a mess behind (whether the Scouts made the mess or not). And then they wonder why none of the Scouts and their families attend their church.

To be fair, many Scout leaders are as stand-offish with their charter partner churches as the churches are with them. They don’t see themselves as engaged in ministry, or at least, not as agents of that congregation’s ministry. They’re doing Scouting, not church. And they are as prone to gripe about the church people – whom they see as mere landlords – as the church people are prone to grip about the Scouts – and with as little justification.

This is not how it’s meant to be.

Scouting is a form of ministry to children, youth, and their families, which the church engages in in order to fulfill our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” It is as much a part of our ministry as Sunday School, UMYF, or VBS. Furthermore, the relationship – at least with BSA units – is defined as a partnership, in which we own and supervise those units. We approve all their leaders.

Doing ministry through Scouting means not merely supplying space, but people. People meet people at Scout meetings. Church folk get to know people who don’t go to their church – and get to know people who don’t go to any church. In building a good relationship with those folks, an effective invitation can be issued, from one friend to another, and new people find them-

selves welcomed into Sunday School classes, worship services, men’s groups, missions trips, where they begin to find themselves growing in Christ. Pastors who drop in and get to know the Scout families find youth of confirmation age whom they can invite to be part of those classes (combining the God and Church award with Confirmation Class is a good way to offer something extra to the non-Scout youth in your church, while not having to repeat half the class for the Scouts when they come seeking the medal). Parents and siblings follow the Scouts who become interested in church programs.

Meanwhile, the Scouts are also training the youth in habits of good character and service. They’re being challenged to define what “duty to God” means to them. They’re learning to “help other people at all times.” For many of them, attending a camp chapel service or taking a turn saying grace before an outdoor meal will be the first time they have ever done anything explicitly religious. And coming to your church on Scout Sunday may be the first time they’ve ever seen what goes on there.

There are more children and youth in UM Scouting units than in any other form of ministry pursued by the UMC, except Sunday School. There are more youth in UM Scouting units than in UMYF, and more adults registered as leaders in UM Scouting units than belong to official UM Men units. More kids from UM Scouting units hear the gospel for the first time in Scout camp chapel services than there are UM kids attending church camp. The fact that many of them are not UM – or not anything, religiously speaking – should not be an *obstacle* to our ministry: it is our opportunity to do ministry. These kids and their families are in and out of our buildings every week. They are already favorably disposed toward our church, and familiar with its layout. If you can’t build a relationship with these people, then you might as well admit that you



NAUMS: THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED METHODIST SCOUTERS

SCOUTING AS MINISTRY

Continued from Page 3

aren't interested in building a relationship with anybody.

The church has to stretch to encompass the Scouts they charter, so they will be more than strangers-in-the-basement. But that's our ministry. Those are **our** kids in the basement. We claim them for Christ. And together, we will do great things for him.

About the author:

Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Collins. Art has been a United Methodist pastor for over forty years. He is a past President of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters (NAUMS). Art currently serves as pastor of Ellettsville First United Methodist Church in Ellettsville, Indiana. The scouting ministry of Ellettsville First United Methodist Church includes Cub Scout Pack 129, Boy Scout Troop 119, and Venturing Crew 119. When he has a spare moment he can be found at Wilderstead, his cabin in the woods, which should increase after his retirement this coming summer.

ABOUT NAUMS

Organized in 1983, NAUMS is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Tennessee and has been awarded 501(c)(3) status by the United States Internal Revenue Service. Our purpose is to use scouting to promote youth education, Duty to God, Country, and Service to Others.

Since its founding NAUMS created the Cross and Flame Award, the Torch Award and the Shepherd Church Award, which are currently administered by the GCUMM. More significantly, beginning in the mid 1990s NAUMS undertook fundraising and distribution of New Testaments at Philmont Scout Ranch. This program expanded to the Boy Scouts of America's National Jamborees in 2001, 2005, and 2010. More recently, New Testaments have been distributed at the BSA's Northern Tier Canoe Bases and Florida Sea Base. A notable fundraising activity to further NAUMS' ministry is sale of an annual Scout Sunday patch.

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