

“It’s A Great Day For Scouting”

III. Our First 15 Months

St. Patrick’s Church/Elementary School in Elkhorn, Nebraska chartered our pack on October 2, 2002, which was also our first pack meeting. We picked up two more scouts in two more scout families, our Transportation/Health Chair, and our Advancement Chair, as well as our fees through December 2003. This would be the first 15 months and our first time to re-charter our pack. I made two promises that evening: first to offer a Family/Faith based program, and second, I would be their CM (Club Master) for two years.

Our Popcorn Chair then passed out the popcorn packets, showing all the prizes our scouts could receive according to how much they sold. We started a week late, but our pack still earned \$750.00. We used a portion of the profits to purchase Pine Wood Derby Kits to give our Scouts for Christmas. Our Cub Scout DL had activities for our scouts that evening, and she scheduled two den meetings a month after school. Our scouts were Okayed to wear their uniforms to school on those meeting days. This also helped us get new scout families on a regular basis, and our scouts could earn a recruiter patch when a friend of theirs became a scout.

In February 2003, we had our first “Blue and Gold Banquet”, where our main speaker, my boss, the Council Commissioner, presented me with a plaque for 25 years on the Commissioner Staff. One of my longtime friends, John Gottschalk, who is a BSA national Board Member, only one of four persons in our Council since 1926, who has received the Silver Buffalo, the CEO and publisher of the Omaha World Herald, and whose name is on our Council’s scout shop, showed up to congratulate me. We presented our Cub Scout DL the Den Leader of the year award, and we had an FOS (Friend Of Scouting) presenter, whose over \$500.00 was collected giving us a ribbon for our pack flag.

We had our first Pine Wood Derby with another pack, where several of our scouts won ribbons. Our TL (Tiger Cub Den Leader) arranged everything. It was the same time that our DL and I went to YP (Youth Protection), NLE (New Leaders Essentials), and

CLS (Cub Leaders Specifics), training for our position, thereby earning our Trained patch. In preparing for our “Spring Into Scouting” in April, we put forms for Kindergarten boys’ families on the counter in the school office, and the school staff also sent the same forms home with the boys. Our interim Activities Chair had scheduled three summer activities in time for our April pack meeting, where we picked up five new scouts in four new scout families. At our first graduation in May, we had thirteen scouts cross over to the next level, receiving from our pack their new neckerchiefs and slides. Also in May, we had three parents, who had assisted our DL that year, decide they were ready to be den leaders also. We had one parent, a Deputy Sheriff, whose family was a transfer, become our second WL (Webelos Den Leader), so we then put YP and NLS training on in our CO’s facilities. After our last summer activity, we earned the National Summer Activities award, which our four dens and 13 scouts qualified for. This allowed the dens to receive a ribbon for their totem and the scouts a pin for their uniform.

At the beginning of the summer, St. Patrick’s had a joint committee meeting where we had to provide our mission statement and schedule our monthly committee, pack, and den meetings on their calendar. This also included our fixed activities, which most were in a bigger space than we had before. Three activities, the 2004 “Blue and Gold Banquet”, Pinewood Derby, and Graduation, were scheduled in our Parish Center. Even though our pack wasn’t chartered until October 2002, we still used the “Ideal Year In Scouting,” for our theme, minus a couple of months. We still had our committee, pack, and den meetings on the calendar.

I also had a daily log that I started from the beginning of our pack to use at our first planning meeting in August 2003, showing what worked or what didn’t work for us. With the themes each month, we could then award related achievements to the scouts and share them with the scout families.

Our first TL agreed to be our CA #1 (Cub Master Assistant), who replaced the first one who left for the military. Our new CA #2 would be responsible for behind the scenes needs, like our Organization Charts, the Pinewood Derby, as well as the Scouting for Food drive. Our first Advancement Chair, and his family dropped out of scouting and two parents re-agreed to be TLs, but after the training in May, changed their minds. So, our new leaders and change of position leaders went through CLS training, which we

again brought to our CO's facilities and they earned their Trained Patch.

The best event in August was when our first Activities chair came home from Iraq, and he retired from the Army Reserves as a Master Sergeant. He then agreed to be our CA #2, responsible for pack operation, while his wife agreed to be our new Advancement Chair. The two of them also set up monthly activates each month for our Tiger Cub Scouts/Adult Partners in time for our "School Night for Scouting". On that evening, we recruited the balance of 16 Tiger Cub Scouts/Adult Partners. One of the new parents, the Plant Manager of 3M, became our new Activities Chair. Also out of those new scout families we recruited two couples to be our TLs for our two Tiger Cub dens and the one WL's wife became our PT (Pack Trainer). All those who changed positions and our new leaders went through all the training needed to earn their Trained Patch, except our Advancement Chair and one DL because of their schedule, so they waited until November 1, 2003.

Our pack was very busy with events including our councils First Jubilee, which we hadn't had since 1985, the BSA 75th Anniversary when I was the Camporal Chief for the Frontier District, because I was also the district's DC (District Commissioner) at the time. Also in October, we had our Popcorn fundraiser and would get 50% over what we sold the past year of \$2,800.00, earning the pack \$750.00 with only eight scouts. We ended up with 33 scouts that sold \$9, 800.00, earning our pack a little over \$4,000.00 dollars again, some of the money we used for Pine Wood Derby Kits to give to our Scouts for Christmas. Our scouts also received Scout Bucks for the next summer's camp. Our committee recommended we put some of the money away for camp and some to loan a troop that we might start in 2005. Our one WL is being groomed to be the troop's first Scout Master and his wife, our PT, as well as the other WL, to be leaders also of that troop. During the month of December, one of the family's that was a transfer, which the Parents were not Leaders, in the other Unit, I asked the Father, to be our 1st Activity's Chair. He agreed, but after he turned in his registration, his Army reserve Unit was activated, which he was the Senior Master Sergeant of, which they would be trained, for POW Camps, in Iraq. Their Unit was the ones involved in creating fliers, to be dropped over communities, and involved in interrogating POWs.

I then asked his wife, what should I do with his registration, knowing that his family

would still be involved in our Pack, and she suggested that I still, turn in his registration, and she would do his responsibilities, until he returned. Looking back now, I would have had her register for the position, because she would then get the Training for that position, as well as the benefits she would earn, while handling the responsibilities of that job. It was because of her, that by the time of our “Spring Into Scouting”, recruiting event, which our target market was Kindergarten Boys, she had several summer activities, to keep them interested in Scouting, prior to the new Scouting year. I will share some other concerns, as well as some ideas picked up from during this period, but I¹ wish to back track to our 1st “Blue & Gold Banquet

Our DL, and Advancement Chair went to the CLS Training on November first, but the trainer did not show. So we had a training class at our CO’s facilities in December of 2003, with three other units represented. December 2003 was our first re-chartering month, our 15-month minimum period to be eligible for different awards, and the time when we collected our annual fees. However, our committee recommended that we change when we collect fees, moving this to August to help families with costs associated with December. We then needed to figure what it would cost per scout to run our pack. With a full year of moneys spent to have scouting at St. Patrick’s, including what was spent at the Scout Shop, beads, belt loops, advancements, registrations, BL (Boy’s Life), den activities, leader registrations, and training, etc., it came to \$72.00 per scout. We collected what it would cost until August of 2004. We re-chartered 38 scouts, in 34 families, and 23 trained leaders.

After 15 months, we earned the National Summer Activities Award, the Quality Unit Status with 100% BL, the only unit in our district to receive the DC’s 100% trained leaders, and our CO was chosen Charter Partner of the Year. One error was the first Treasurer did not choose to follow the recommendation by the BSA to have two signatures on a check. He threatened to resign when I confronted him about this issue; I left it alone when the Council said it wasn’t worth losing a leader. He continued to make decisions on his own like buying three CDs with \$3,000.00 without first presenting it to the committee for approval.

In early 2004, we created a finance committee that would then make recommendations at our Committee/Unit Leader meetings, giving all our leaders a vote.

Then, when St. Patrick's required our accounts be in the same bank as theirs so our pastor would have a signature on our account, to use their Federal ID Number because of the Patriot Act, he resigned. One of our TLs, a Sr. VP for investment bank, became our new Treasurer, giving our committee, and St. Patrick's a monthly statement and report.

At the end of two years, we are in line to do the same as after our first 15 months. We also have two Tiger Cub Dens, two Wolf Dens, a Bear Den, and First and Second Year Webelos Den, with 48 scouts in 42 scout families, and 23 trained leaders. I also, finally after 40 years with the BSA, have earned my Cub Master's Key, and our CA #2 will replace me in January 2005. With much anticipation our Second ear Webelos, which are seven, will be going to an established troop, where advancement is ongoing. It is best for our Scouts, who come first. At our first pack meeting, we picked up two more Scouts plus two Leaders. We chartered our Unit on October 2, 2002, with eight scouts in seven families and seven leaders in nine positions. We also locked in a Committee meeting each month as well as our Pack and Den meetings that we added to our Parish's calendar. We also decided to use the budget system for our fees, with the help of those from other Units, and those of us with previous Scouting experience. We started the Popcorn Fundraiser a week late with eight Scouts, who sold enough to earn our pack \$750.00. We used some of the funds to purchase Pine Wood Derby Kits for our Scouts at Christmas. During the month of December, one of the family's that was a transfer, which the Parents were not Leaders, in the other Unit, I asked the Father, to be our 1st Activity's Chair. He agreed, but after he turned in his registration, his Army reserve Unit was activated, which he was the Senior Master Sergeant of, which they would be trained, for POW Camps, in Iraq. Their Unit was the ones involved in creating fliers, to be dropped over communities, and involved in interrogating POWs.

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