

“It’s A Great Day For Scouting”

I. The Charter Organization

In June 2002, a call came from a DE (District Executive) about paper work that was started in the Spring for a new Cub pack at St. Patrick’s in Elkhorn, Nebraska, a Parish of which I am a longtime member. She wondered if I could find out why the documents hadn’t been turned in. I reached the contact she gave me who told me he didn’t have the time needed to start a new Pack. So, I decided to take it over by preparing for a “School Night for Scouting,” in September, because the DE of five years had already received a commitment from our Pastor and School Principal to be a CO (Charter Organization), or so thought. With their support, we did everything possible in preparing for that event, and I expected a great turnout. That is why I invited our District’s New Unit Team to help with registrations. This was when I learned that the DE, who recently resigned, had our Pastor and principal believing that to be a CO was only to have a place for us to meet. So I met with both gentlemen, letting them know that they were responsible for a meeting place, Leadership, supporting BSA sanctioned Fund Raiser, promoting our Unit, and because of the Patriot Act, a signature on our financial accounts, using their Federal ID number. Once they knew all of the requirements, they had no problem becoming a CO. On the day of the event, we had six boys,, one girl, and seven parents show up. The New Unit team shared so much information, that no one was ready to make a decision that night; so I set two more meetings: one for parents only, and the other a first pack meeting.

At the first meeting, the principal stopped by for a moment to tell us he would support whatever our decision would be. Besides me in uniform as the Cub Master, there was a former confirmation student of mine, a senior in High School who became my CA (Cub Master Assistant), and five parents who represented six boys in first through third grade. Our parent agreed to be our Cub Scout DL, and she volunteered her husband as our Tiger Cub TL. The original contact, an Eagle Scout, agreed to be our Treasurer. We had two checks from a parishioner and our Knights of Columbus Council for \$100.00, each for a new pack. One parent, a transfer, became our Popcorn Chair; one became our Pack Secretary; and we chose the principal as our IH (Institutional Head)/CR (Charter

Rep) as well as our CC (Committee Chair), the only positions one person can hold at the same time, while not recommended, but allowed in the Charter. Since he is also the Principle at our new School, and requested for other Committees, it would be hard for him to be at all of our Leader's, and Pack meetings. However, as the CM, he would have me represent him at those meetings, which he would receive our meeting notes, and we would communicate often, plus he would receive invites each month. The biggest test for our CO was, supporting our events, especially when, the joint Committee Calender, is filled each June, before we became a Unit.

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, thanks to the promotion of this BSA's, National's annual sanctioned fundraiser, and one of the responsibilities shared with our CO, prior to being Chartered. We used some of the funds to purchase Pine Wood Derby Kits for our Scouts at Christmas. Our CO allowed us to hang posters, at the School, and our Church, and we were allowed to put fliers in over 500 bullitins, passed out after each of 4 Masses, prior to the week of our "School Night For Scouting", in September, and "Spring Into Scouting" in April. Our CC also had a copies of our fliers made, to go home with the School's weekly notes, sent home with each boy. Our Pack meetings are listed in the bullitins, the week of each month, and announced, at the beginning of each Mass. Having the support of our CO, in all aspects of our Famili / Faith based program, is essential to having a successful Unit.