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I have deliberated long and hard on what to say and how to say it with regards to the BSA membership policy change. First, a little history about the change. The National BSA leadership announced in January 2013 that the organization was voting in early February to allow openly avowed gay youth and leaders to participate in Scouting. After a firestorm of concern that a few were making a crucial decision for the masses, the vote was postponed until the National meeting in May. In preparation for this vote, the National Religious Relationships Task Force Chairman, Chip Turner and a national BSA official conducted numerous phone conferences. Steve Leddy, MCCS National Chairman, and I were privileged to be able to voice our concerns. We expressed to the national official that the policy change would be devastating to the membership of the Church of Christ chartered units. During this time, MCCS wrote letters to the National BSA Key Three and others to express our opposition. We sent letters, made phone calls, and attended meetings. After a great deal of debate listening to the BSA to Scouters, parents, youth, and those outside of Scouting, the resolution was amended to allow only openly gay youth to be allowed in Scouting and not the openly gay adults. The May 23rd vote was taken and the result was announced. Openly avowed gay youth will be allowed to participate in Scouting effective January 1, 2014.

Since the vote, I have fielded multiple calls and emails and spent hours in conversation with those concerned about what to do. Some long-time Scouters have resigned from Scouting completely. Others have stated that their chartering Church of Christ will no longer recharter their units, thus ending their association with the BSA. Yet others have vowed to stick it out and use this unfortunate situation to share God’s love with youth who are confused and struggling with same sex attraction issues. I must say that I understand and respect the viewpoints of each. This is a personal, moral choice.

My prayer is that the youth who love Scouting and the opportunities it affords are not the ones to truly suffer. I look back on the wonderful experiences I’ve had in my 45 years of Scouting and I don’t want our youth to miss out on that. Scouts need God men and women to serve as their leaders.

MCCS is stronger than ever. MCCS was organized in 1986 to encourage youth to complete the MCCS Servant Leadership Religious curricula and earn our religious awards. Our mission has been encouraging spiritual growth and developing servant leaders for over 25 years and with your continued support and prayers, we will continue providing this service to youth and families.

We are not a division of the BSA or any other organization, so while we strongly disagree with the decision that was made, we are here for those youth who are involved with the Boy Scouts. We are also here to offer the awards to the girls in Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls. And, we look forward to working with the new boy’s faith-based organization to be launched in January 2014! To learn more about this organization, go to www.TrailLifeUSA.com.

This statement may be downloaded from www.goodservant.org

I first put on a Scouting uniform when I was in the third grade, and it has been a part of my life ever since. Scouting has shaped my life and made me a stronger Christian, son, husband, father and a better person. It has given me friends that I have had for a lifetime who are true and dear to me. My bottom line is that I want young people to have an experience like mine with God’s leaders whether they are in the Boy Scouts of America, Trail Life USA, Girl Scouts or American Heritage Girls. Young people need these experiences!

Scouting for Christ,

Kent Barnett
MCCS National Executive Director
AWARD RECIPIENTS

KENNEDY BOERIO (R) AHG EXPLORER EARNED THE JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD AND REBECCA BOERIO (L) AHG TENDE RHARTHEART EARNED THE LOVING SERVANT AWARD. THE SISTERS ARE FROM PFLUGERVILLE, TX.

KENT BARNETT (L) AND ROGER TATE (R) WITH REAGAN POTEET OF DUNCANVILLE, TX. REAGAN WAS PRESENTED WITH HIS GIVING SERVANT RELIGIOUS AWARD AT THE DUTY TO GOD BREAKFAST DURING THE BSA NATIONAL MEETING IN MAY.

CUB SCOUT NATHAN LEE OF GROVES, TX, PROUDLY DISPLAYS HIS MCCS PATCH. HE WAS AWARDED HIS LOVING SERVANT RELIGIOUS AWARD.

EAGLE SCOUT GARREN WEISS OF LIVERMORE, CA. GARREN HAS EARNED THE LOVING, JOYFUL AND GOOD SERVANT AWARDS.

S COUTMASTER WAYNE HARRELL (R) PRESENTED DAN WILLIAMS (L) WITH HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD DURING SCOUT SUNDAY OBSERVANCES. DAN IS THE MINISTER OF THE COLLEGE AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN EL DORADO, AR, AND HAS SERVED AS A COUNSELOR FOR MANY SCOUTS WHO HAVE EARNED THEIR SERVANT LEADERSHIP RELIGIOUS AWARDS SINCE 1989.

TENTH MCCS PHILMONT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN AUGUST 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE “SCOUTING IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST” CONFERENCE AT THE PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER (PTC), LOCATED IN CIMARRON, NM, WHERE THE PRAIRIES MEET THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. THE DATES ARE AUGUST 3-9, 2014.

MCCS HAS PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCES EVERY EVEN YEAR SINCE 1994, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE YEAR 2010, WHEN THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN 2011 TO CELEBRATE OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY. THE WEEK PROVIDES A MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE FOR CONFER-ENCE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. ALWAYS AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE, MANY PARTICIPANTS RETURN FOR MORE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP. PTC PROVIDES A QUALIFIED, STAFFED PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES AND PARTICIPANTS OF ALL AGES. IT’S A GREAT VACATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AS WELL AS THE INDIVIDUAL SCOUTER. FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES FILL THE EVENINGS FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE. IT IS AN EXCITING ENVIRONMENT FOR MEMORIES AND FOR NEW FRIENDSHIPS TO BE MADE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER WEBSITE WWW.PHILMONTTRAININGCENTER.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR WEEK AT PTC. ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE EMAIL KENT BARNETT AT KENT.BARNETT@GOODSERVANT.ORG OR CALL KENT AT 325-370-1679.

F RANKIE WALLACE OF HUNTSVILLE, AL, IS THE FIRST YOUNG WOMAN FROM THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST TO EARN BOTH THE AMERICAN HERI-TAGE GIRL’S STARS AND STRIPES AWARD AND THE GOOD SERVANT RELIGIOUS AWARD FROM MCCS. THE STARS AND STRIPES AWARD FROM AHG IS THEIR HIGHEST AWARD AND IS EQUIVALENT TO THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD. THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE YOUNG WOMAN MUST EARN HER RELIGIOUS AWARD.

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2013 NATIONAL JAMBOREEE

“Go Wild For God!”
Mark your calendars and plan to attend the “Scouting in the Church of Christ” conference at the Philmont Training Center (PTC), located in Cimarron, NM, where the prairies meet the Rocky Mountains. The dates are August 3-9, 2014. MCCS has participated in conferences every even year since 1994, with the exception of the year 2010, when the conference was held in 2011 to celebrate our 25th anniversary. The week provides a mountaintop experience for conference participants and their families. Always an awesome experience, many participants return for more FUN and FELLOWSHIP! PTC provides a qualified, staffed program for families and participants of all ages. It's a great vacation for the whole family as well as the individual Scout. Family friendly activities fill the evenings for those who desire to participate. It is an exciting environment for memories and for new friendships to be made!

For more information, please refer to the Philmont Training Center website www.philmonttrainingcenter.org to learn more about your week at PTC. Online registration is now open. If you are interested in attending, please email Kent Barnett at kent.barnett@goodservant.org or call Kent at 325-370-1679.

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Matt Brown Leads Order of Arrow as National Chief

Frankie Wallace, of Huntsville, AL, is the first young woman from the Churches of Christ to earn both the American Heritage Girl’s Stars and Stripes Award and the Good Servant Award. Frankie is a native Alabamian, and is equivalent to the Eagle Scout and includes a requirement that the young woman must earn her Religious Award.

Matt Barnett and Frankie Wallace

First AHG Stars and Stripes and Good Servant Awardee

Matt Brown in front of the Capitol as a part of the BSA’s Delegation “Reporting to the Nation”

Kent Barnett and Frankie Wallace

Matt Brown is currently a Junior at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. He is also the ranking arrowman in the nation for the Order of the Arrow when he was elected to be National Chief. Matt earned his Good Servant Religious Award and served as song leader at the Church of Christ worship service at Jamboree. Matt is a great ambassador for Scouting, the Order of the Arrow and Churches of Christ.

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Frankie is the oldest of 9 siblings and attends Mayfair Church of Christ. This fall, Frankie enrolled as a freshman at Freed-Hardeman University, in Henderson, TN. She is pursuing a degree in nursing and is continuing her foreign language studies with the intention to work in medical missions. MCCS is proud of Frankie and all of her accomplishments.
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MCCS is a division of the BSA and not the BSA. MCCS believe the BSA leadership should not change the values our youth have been exposed to for 100 years. This vote fails to uphold the values and standards of the Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America. We are not a division of the BSA or any other organization. We are a member of the Better Business Bureau. MCCS is not a donor driven, non-profit organization.

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Please prayerfully consider how you can support MCCS. Use the coupon on this page to continue or start your support for the MCCS ministry.

MCCS is a donor driven, non-profit organization, we need to increase our donation base so we can expand our services and reach more youth. Will you become one of the faithful contributors to keep this ministry thriving? By sharing your monies, you know that your donation is being used to train and develop future leaders in our communities and churches. What a great reward for a simple gift.

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Please accept my gift of $ _________ to help Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting to continue to serve youth.

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