



MCCS NEWS

MEMBERS OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST FOR SCOUTING

NEW WEBSITE TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

It has been a longtime goal of MCCS to better communicate with the parents and leaders who utilize our curricula and the partners and friends of this ministry. This fall we launched a new website that we hope will better enable us to meet the needs of parents and leaders. The main change and update is that we now have a new system to distribute our Servant Leadership Award Curricula. Other groups utilize scout service centers and centralized religious organizations to distribute and sell their programs to the public. Our model is a little different. We prefer to distribute our curricula free of charge and then to request a donation from those utilizing it. We also like to have a personal touch and to reach out to those requesting our materials. On our previous website, requestors would send in a form and then MCCS staff would respond personally with an encouraging email and the requested attachments. The new site works a bit differently. Requestors now submit a form for their desired curriculum level and they are immediately and automatically sent an email with the attached curriculum. Then MCCS receives a notice of the incoming request.

Another new feature on the site is our "Unit Locator" tool. We want to register every Church of Christ affiliate unit in the nation on this page so that we can help individuals find church based units in their areas. If you have a local scouting unit (BSA, AHG, TLUSA or GSUSA) that is church chartered, sponsored, or affiliated including church parents' group and Christian schools please register it and put it on the map for others to find. Please add contact information and meeting details in the description



area along with the name of the affiliated congregation.

The site also features links to support MCCS through secure online donations. Please visit the new site and send us any suggestions you may have.

MCCS RECEIVES LARGEST BEQUEST IN ITS HISTORY

MCCS was named a beneficiary of the estate of Geneva Huff of Carlsbad, NM. Geneva, aged 91, passed away February 27th, 2014. Geneva and her late husband Charles had been longtime supporters of MCCS. Mrs. Huff left over sixty thousand dollars from her estate to MCCS. Upon consultation with her family MCCS determined that fifty thousand dollars of her bequest would be dedicated to MCCS Scholarships for deserving scouts with thirty thousand going to the new scholarship endowment. The Huffs had a long history dedicated to education and had developed a scholarship at his alma

mater, New Mexico State University.

Bobbie Wolfe, MCCS Treasurer, stated, "It is our hope and prayer that more people will follow the example that Mrs. Huff set and remember MCCS in their planned giving. Her bequest is a testimony to her belief in this ministry and the work that we do to minister to young people throughout this nation."



GENEVA HUFF AT HER 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

a note
from
Kent

Where did 2014 go? It seems like the year flew by, and now 2015 is upon us!

The good thing is, that while time was flying, a lot was happening with the MCCS ministry.

Here are some of my 2014 MCCS highlights:

- Many youth completed their studies and earned the Servant Leadership religious awards in time for ceremonies during Scout Sunday and other events held in February.
- The MCCS exhibit was on display during the Tulsa Workshop in March, spreading the word about the Servant Leadership Awards.
- In April, seven exhibits were displayed Easter weekend during the Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) events. Trustees manned the exhibits in Nashville, Louisville, Atlanta, Orlando, Houston, and Dallas (two locations). We hope to have the exhibit in more locations during 2015.
- In May, four trustees and Kent attended the Annual BSA National Meeting in Nashville. They attended several sessions and hosted a table at the Duty to God breakfast.
- Trustee, Nathan Williams of Abilene, TX, departed the BSA National Meeting in Nashville for the Philmont Scout Ranch to serve as one of the chaplains. He was blessed to serve thousands during the summer camping period.
- In late May and early June, I spent time in the Nashville area seeing donors and developing new relationships with parents, discussing the Servant Leadership Religious Award curricula and sharing the MCCS story.
- The end of June, my wife, Denise, and I attended the American Heritage Girls National Conference in Centreville, VA, near Washington, D.C. We had a MCCS exhibit and I gave a presentation about MCCS and the Servant Leadership Awards during one of the sessions.
- In August, I attended the Faith Based Initiative conference at Philmont Training Center with another MCCS couple. I was also invited to attend one of the regional Trail Life USA (TLUSA) Trail Leader Training (TLT) conferences in Waco, TX. There were over 350 leaders in attendance. I hosted the MCCS exhibit and presented during three sessions regarding Trailmen earning the MCCS religious awards.
- In September, I exhibited at the TLUSA TLT in Kansas City and presented the Loving Servant Award to a Cub Scout during church services in nearby Olathe, KS. While returning from Kansas, I visited with an American Heritage Girls (AHG) troop coordinator in Oklahoma City and had lunch with a TLUSA Pointman area leader for Oklahoma.
- In October, I drove to the Nashville area and hosted the MCCS exhibit during the Middle Tennessee Council's Jamboree where over 6,500 scouts and leaders were in attendance. Time was spent after the weekend fundraising and developing relationships. To culminate the successful trip, I joined the MCCS Trustees for a weekend planning meeting at the Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ in Arlington, TX. The following Monday, two trustees and I attended the BSA National Religious Relationships Task Force meeting at a DFW airport hotel.
- The fall newsletter was mailed in November. Fundraising appeal letters were also sent out in an effort to encourage end of the year donations to the MCCS ministry. In addition, the redesigned website went live. One of the exciting new functions is that you can go online and receive curricula without having to wait for me to send an email attachment.
- In December, fundraising efforts continued and plans began for 2015 activities!



In service to youth,

Kent

Kent Barnett
MCCS National Executive Director

SUPPORT MCCS'S MINISTRIES THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND DONATIONS!

MCCS encourages youth to grow spiritually through the use of our Servant Leadership Series Religious Awards. We also actively work to promote all types of scouting as valuable ministries that congregations can utilize to bring youth to Christ and to reach out to unchurched youth in their communities. Your donations and prayerful support allow this ministry to thrive. Please use the coupon below or donate online through the "About Us" link at www.goodservant.org. MCCS is an IRS 501(c)(3) institution. All gifts are deductible as provided by law.

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

DONOR INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Church Home _____

PLEASE CONSIDER MY GIFT TO BE IN ☐ HONOR ☐ MEMORY OF:

PLEASE SEND A GIFT NOTIFICATION TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

TRUSTEE PLANNING MEETING SUMMARY

by J. Houston Costolo
MCCS National Chairman

As reported in the last newsletter, the trustees met in Arlington, Texas on the weekend of October 11-12 for a strategic planning meeting. I would like to briefly summarize the outcomes of the **SWOT** analyses (**Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats**) and the priorities which will be further developed at the Annual Trustee's Meeting in Late February at Lipscomb University.

There were so many great ideas generated that it would be hard to completely detail the interactive process. During the SWOT analyses; 13 strengths, 16 weaknesses, 16 opportunities, and 19 threats were identified in each category. They were grouped and prioritized, yielding the below results.

We determined that our greatest **strength** was our Servant Leadership Curricula (SLC). We deliberated on how to make the SLC available digitally (accomplished since our meeting) and on collecting data to better market the SLC.

Our **weaknesses** are identifying points of contact within Churches of Christ for youth in all scouting programs and promoting scouting as a ministry to all congregations. We discussed developing guides and providing digital video materials online.

Two **opportunities** that rose to the top of the list were using technology to market MCCS and encouraging all the youth organizations we work with to require youth to earn their religious awards to show their Duty to God. I was privileged to address the BSA Religious Relationships committee to introduce this idea in October.

Several **threats** were identified. These included the fear of reaching beyond traditional congregations, MCCS's continuing need for resources including funds and volunteer time, the need for chaplain training, increasing the visibility of MCCS's mission

throughout Churches of Christ, the effect that the external organizations we work with have on our mission, and demographics within scouting and Churches of Christ.

From these deliberations we then adopted three goals.

1. Our first goal is to evaluate MCCS's Branding, Services, and Curricula for their appeal across the broad spectrum of Churches of Christ and other faith groups from a similar New Testament and/or Restoration Heritage.
2. Our second goal is to evaluate which products and services can be provided within 12 months and to concentrate our limited resources on those endeavors.
3. Our longer term goal is to develop a strategy for maintaining and advocating Christian principles for the youth of Churches of Christ as they live and learn in a secular and ungodly world.

One of the most significant questions to arise during the trustee planning meeting was this:

"Are we (MCCS) introducing the scout to Christ or are we introducing the Church of Christ to the scout?"

It was agreed that our mission is to introduce the scout, or other youth, to Christ and to prepare him or her to establish a life-long relationship with their Savior.



J. HOUSTON COSTOLO
MCCS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

MCCS HIKING STAFF MEDALLIONS

MCCS has hiking staff medallions. These are heavy brass medallions that will last a lifetime and show your proud association with MCCS. They are solid brass with the red, black and white of the MCCS patch emblem overlayed. This is a great gift to accompany an award presentation or to say thank you to a counselor or mentor. They are 1 1/2 inches in height. They will be a great addition to your wooden hiking staves and will shine prominently on a TLUSA Trailman's standard. **We are pleased to be able to offer these for \$10 each, 3 for \$25, or in bulk 10 for \$70. This price is inclusive of shipping and handling. If you would like to order these please contact MCCS.**



MCCS AWARD RECIPIENTS



GIRL SCOUT DAKOTA JOHNSON HAS COMPLETED HER BRONZE AND SILVER AWARDS AND SHE HAS EARNED MCCS' LOVING SERVANT, JOYFUL SERVANT AND GOOD SERVANT AWARDS. SHE IS A MEMBER OF TROOP 9409 IN RICHARDSON TEXAS.



BROTHERS JAMES (LEFT) AND MIKEY (RIGHT) RAMEY HAVE EARNED THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS. JAMES HAS THE JOYFUL SERVANT AND MIKEY HAS THE GIVING SERVANT. THEY ARE MEMBERS OF BSA TROOP 448 IN DEXTER, MICHIGAN.



GIRL SCOUT MADISON WETHINGTON OF MERIDIANVILLE, ALABAMA, PROUDLY WEARS HER LOVING SERVANT MEDAL ON HER VEST.

SISTERS NICHOLE HARRYMAN (LEFT) EARNED THE GIVING SERVANT AND KRISTEN HARRYMAN (RIGHT) EARNED THE JOYFUL SERVANT AWARDS. THEY ARE MEMBERS OF AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP TX1001 IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.



THE MONTGOMERIES ARE A SCOUTING FAMILY. PICTURED IS (LEFT TO RIGHT) AIDEN, AN EAGLE SCOUT WHO HAS EARNED THE LOVING SERVANT AND GOOD SERVANT AWARDS, KIRA, A GIRL SCOUT WHO HAS EARNED THE JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD, THEIR DAD STEVEN, AN EAGLE SCOUT AND LEADER, AND GRANDFATHER LEE MONTGOMERY, AN EAGLE SCOUT WHO WAS RECENTLY PRESENTED WITH MCCS' FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN ADULT LEADER. ALL LIVE IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

2015 MCCS SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2015, MCCS will award its third set of scholarships to deserving young applicants from all over the nation.

In 2013, MCCS was able to prayerfully fulfill one of our longtime goals. The trustees decided that it was time to step out in faith and provide college scholarships to deserving young people involved in the scouting movement who had been active in earning MCCS's High School Level Servant Leadership Awards. That year we dedicated the annual funds that came from our endowment to providing scholarships.

In 2014, we established a separate endowment to help us in this new endeavor to continue to serve youth and we added to that endowment thanks to a significant bequest. The trustees feel that this is one more way that MCCS can serve young people and encourage them to earn the top-level Servant Leadership Awards.

This year MCCS will award several scholarship ranging from \$500 - \$2500 to deserving entering freshmen. Awardees must have earned the top award in their area of scouting (BSA Eagle Scout, Venturing Silver or Summit, AHG Stars and Stripes, GSUSA Gold or TLUSA Freedom) and they must have earned either the MCCS Giving or Good Servant awards. **To date MCCS has awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to eleven students.** We expect great things from these young people and pray that this aspect of our ministry continues to bear fruit for the kingdom of God.



2014 MCCS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES CHRIS MURPHY OF ANKENY, IA, CORA WILSON OF RICKMAN, TN, AND NATHANIEL GLAZE OF WAYNESVILLE, OH

You can obtain application information from the scholarship link on the MCCS website, www.goodservant.org.

All application materials must be submitted by March 15th, 2015. Parents and leaders please encourage your scouts to apply for this award.

The MCCS Board of Trustees is thankful that it has the opportunity to serve young people in their educational pursuits and prays that we will continue to be able to provide young people with scholarships that will enhance their futures. We are excited that our scholarship endowment is growing. **If you would like to contribute to the scholarship endowment please contact MCCS Executive Director Kent Barnett.**

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES REWARD "TOP SCOUTS"

MCCS is pleased that Christian universities across the nation continue to offer scouting scholarships to incoming freshmen who have earned the highest awards in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing and American Heritage Girls. We are encouraging these schools to recognize Trail Life USA, as well. These scholarships are given annually for four years to the recipients.

Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX, was the first university to offer these scholarships in the fall of 2009. Jerry Strader of Abilene, a MCCS trustee and past chairman, served as the driving force to make this initiative a reality. Nathan Williams, MCCS trustee of Abilene developed the details and operations by serving as the Director of Venturing and Scouting at ACU (2008-11). Nathan orga-

nized a coed ACU Venturing Crew and they began conducting their own crew chapel meetings.

Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, Harding University in Searcy, AR, Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, OK, and Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL, are also awarding scholarships to incoming freshmen. MCCS has assisted in the development and promotion of these scholarship programs, and we are grateful that these institutions are rewarding top scouts for their achievements.

To find out more details and to obtain applications for these scholarships for the fall of 2015, contact the admissions offices at the universities (you will find links off of www.goodservant.org).



MEMBERS OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST FOR SCOUTING
401 CYPRESS ST., SUITE 406
ABILENE, TX 79601

INFO@GOODSERVANT.ORG
WWW.GOODSERVANT.ORG
325-370-1679

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT NO. 10
79604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IS IT TIME TO LEVEL UP?

MCCS loves it when a young person completes one of our servant leadership awards, but we do not want their Bible study to stop there. We provide curricula that will enrich a young person's spiritual walk throughout their formative years. The Servant Leadership series is designed to help and reinforce an attitude of prayer and Bible study in young people that will create a pattern of spiritual growth that will last a lifetime.

The Servant Leadership Series includes:

- Loving Servant - Grades 1-3
- Joyful Servant - Grades 4-6
- Good Servant - Grades 6-8
- Giving Servant - Grades 9-12 & Venturers

The curricula are designed to be used in a one-on-one format or in a group setting where one counselor works with several youth. Each curriculum level can also be adapted to serve as a Bible Class curriculum. All young people will benefit from the habits that they develop in these programs. They do not have to be enrolled in a scouting program to participate.

Go to www.goodservant.org to order the Servant Leadership Series, and look for more information about the programs.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

JOYCE BARNETT, ABILENE, TX
CHLOE HAMPTON, SHEPHERD, MI

GENEVA HUFF, CARLSBAD, NM
CHLOE HAMPTON, SHEPHERD, MI

MICHAEL SORRELLS - EAGLE SCOUT
GARY & CLAUDELINA SORRELLS, FORT WORTH, TX

JARNOT "TY" TROYER, BOWIE, MD
VIRGINIA H. TROYER, BOWIE, MD

GIFTS IN HONORARIAM

CONNOR DIMMITT, BESSEMER CITY, NC
HOLLY & JONATHAN DIMMITT, BESSEMER CITY, NC