



NCCS membership elects new Chairman and Vice Chairmen

The results of the 2008 NCCS election have been announced by the NCCS nomination committee, and the membership has chosen John Halloran as the new Chairman and John Ribar and Jerry Scanlan as the new Vice Chairmen.

They will be installed at the April 2009 board meeting to be held in Galveston, Texas. Halloran will serve a one year term as chair elect and at the 2010 Board Meeting will be installed as NCCS Chairman for a three year term. Ribar and Scanlan will each be installed for two year terms as Vice Chairmen.

John Halloran started his affiliation with Catholic Scouting in 1971 when he became an emblems coach counselor for the Diocese of Albany, N.Y. Since then, as the military moved him, he served in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., Nashville, Tenn., Fairbanks, Alaska, Lake Charles, La. and Baltimore, Md.

His first contact with the NCCS came in 1983 when he joined the Religious Activities standing committee. In 2001 he was elected as the Chairman of Region 5. During his tenure as Region

Chairman he also served on the NCCS Membership Committee and International committees. In 2003, John was appointed the National Vice-Chairman for Finance until 2007. In addition to preparing and managing the annual budget for the NCCS, he had oversight responsibility for the committee's investment accounts. He currently serves on the NCCS Advisory Board. He is a retired Army colonel, retiring from the military in April 2008.

John Ribar, from Louisville, Ky., is a 49 year veteran of Scouting, all as an adult leader. His Scouting experience began in the unit level as a Cubmaster, then a Scoutmaster and progressed into the District Chairman and District Commissioner. His Scouting experience includes being appointed to the national camping task force and representing the BSA at an international symposium for Russian Scouting in Irkutsk, Siberia. He is a 19 year member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting having served as Membership Advisor, seven years on the NCCS Ex-

ecutive Committee as a Vice Chairman, the National Membership Initiative Chairman and also Chairman of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee. His Scouting recognitions include the Brother Barnabas Founders award.

Jerry Scanlan has served in a variety of leadership positions within NCCS. He was advisor and later Chairman of the Religious Emblems committee while the new Pope Pius XII program was being developed and a Chairman of the Marketing and Public Relations committee when the *e-bridge* was launched. He was assistant Course Director and Course Director of Scouting in the Catholic Church at Philmont. Jerry has served as a Vice Chairman with oversight of various committees including: Religious Emblems and Religious Activities, Marketing and Public Relations, International and Administration. He attended the 2004 ICCS Inter-Americas meeting in San Salvador to help plan an Inter-Americas Pasqual Encuentro. Currently, he serves as the representative and Vice Chairman of the International Foundation for Catholic Scouting (FICS) with oversight of the ICCS funds managed in Europe and the United States. He also serves as Vice Chairman for the New York Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. He was awarded the Silver St. George at our 2006 Annual NCCS Meeting in Chicago.

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NCCS NEWS NOTES

New Regional Leadership Elected

Congratulations to the following new Regional leaders who recently won election (or re-election) to Regional leadership positions.

Region 4 Chairman: Sam Bridgeman

Region 6 Chairman: Al Tarlo, Sr.

Region 9 Chaplain: Rev. Joseph B. Powers

Region 12 Chairman: Deacon Roy Harrington

Region 13 Chairman: Don Ellefsen

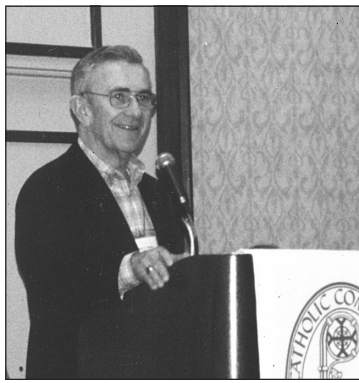
They will take office on January 1, 2009 and will be sworn in at the annual meeting in April.

NCCS participates in NCCYM Conference in Cleveland, Ohio

The biennial National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) was held December 4-7 at the Cleveland Ohio Convention Center. Thousands of youth and campus ministers, religious education leaders, performers and artists, and volunteers from every level came together for inspiring keynotes, challenging workshops, dynamic prayer and worship, helpful networking, extensive resources, and good-hearted entertainment. The NCCS was represented with a booth staffed by George Sparks, Associate Director of BSA; John Ribar, Vice Chairman; Msgr. James Kolp, Region 6 Chaplain; Ed Martin, Vice Chairman; and Ed Garriolo, Past National Chairman.

Vocational Program available

Many Catholic priests serving the Church today began their discernment, or found support for their budding vocation interest, during High School and/or in Scouting. Serrans across the country are invited to be part of a new movement to offer Serra awareness and discernment opportunities for youth in Catholic High Schools, through Serra Club chartered Venturing crews. Please see <http://www.serraus.org/> for more information.



Chairman's Message From William Davies

The holiday season is upon us already. Now is the time to check your end of the year paperwork. Make sure you complete the National Catholic Quality Unit Award application, Gold Medallion application and the Quality Diocesan Award (QDA) application as necessary.

In November, Kay and I had the opportunity to attend the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) meeting where Bishop Gettelfinger hosted a breakfast for attending Bishops. More than 50 bishops participated in the breakfast where Padre was able to promote Catholic Scouting and the St. George Trek. He also thanked the bishops for their support of providing priests for the various NCCS roles and tasks.

The last few months have been hectic at the National headquarters of BSA and I sincerely appreciate your patience and forbearance. The NCCS Executive Committee has given the approval to hire a secretary for NCCS activities. He or she will report to George Sparks in the BSA Headquarters and should be in place sometime after the first of year.

During 2009, the National Catholic Committee will be celebrating a 75th year anniversary. The celebration will take place at the Annual Meeting in Galveston. Please set aside April 21st to April 25th and join us in Galveston. Special recognitions are being planned and you won't want to miss the festivities.

Finally, my congratulations to John Halloran who has been elected as our Chairman elect. Our by-laws call for the new Chairman to be responsible for the Long Range Plan, thus I have asked John to take responsibility for the Renew Project. I know you will be hearing from him often as we progress and continue our NCCS renewal program.

NCCS CALENDAR

2009

January 15	Gold Medallion submissions due to Regional Chairmen
April 21-25	NCCS annual meeting Galveston, Texas
June 21—27	Scouting in the Catholic Church training Philmont Scout Ranch
July 20—August 5	St. George Trek Philmont Scout Ranch
March 1	Doerr Scholarship applications due

The Bridge is an authorized publication of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS). It is published quarterly to provide news and information to members of the NCCS, Diocesan Catholic Committees, Youth Ministry personnel and Boy Scout Councils.

NCCS Chairman	William Davies
NCCS Chaplain	Rev. Raymond Fecteau
Chairman, Marketing and Public Relations	Tony Madonia
Advisor, Marketing and Public Relations	Rev. Donald Hummel
Editor	Mike Gannon
NCCS Webmaster	Tony Madonia

To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at scouttrain@aol.com. Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described. To submit items for the *eBridge* which is published monthly please send all information to nccsnews@nccs-bsa.info

Five Doerr Scholarships to be awarded to high school seniors this Spring

by Edward P. Martin

For the past five years, the NCCS has been awarding scholarships to Catholic Scouts in their senior year of high school who have earned both their Eagle or Silver award and the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII religious emblem. This school year, there will be five awards of \$2,000 each.

The scholarship was originally funded by John and Julie Doerr in memory of their father, Emmett Doerr, an active Catholic Scouter. Emmett Doerr was the first recipient of the Brother Barnabas Founders Award. He was also recognized with the Silver Antelope, Silver Beaver, and the St. George medals.

Emmett's love for Scouting, especially Catholic Scouting, is the reason why the Doerr family wants to ensure that his legacy continues. Last year, the NCCS voted to match the Doerr family contributions. Additional eligibility requirements and the application can be found on the NCCS website at <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/business/EJDScholarship.php>. The deadline for submitting an application is March 1, 2009.

"We are counting on the local diocesan committees and Catholic Scouters to spread the word of this opportunity to all their graduating Scouts," says Bill Davies, NCCS National Chairman. "They are the ones who have contact with the Scouts and can make the difference."

Did You Know . . . ?

By Bob Oldowski

...that your unit might qualify for the National Catholic Quality Unit Award?

Just as the BSA has a quality unit award for meeting certain Scouting standards, the NCCS has a quality award for meeting standards important to a Catholic-chartered pack, troop or crew. Originally called the Pope Paul VI National Unit Recognition, this was first presented in 1973. The Holy Pontiff at the time, Paul VI, approved use of his name for this recognition.

Requirements are posted on the NCCS web site. Scout Sunday is a good time to recognize the unit, and patches are available for each youth and leader.

Committees established and tasked to carry Renewal project forward focused on 4 major areas of concern

By Bob Oldowski

The NCCS renewal excitement generated at our annual meeting in Louisville in April has been transferred to four major committees. At that meeting the NCCS executive committee charged the following Vice-Chairmen to serve as project leaders:

Ed Martin - implement changes to the annual meeting formats, with the 2010 biennial as showcase.

Austin Cannon - expand NCCS services to dioceses and to unit leaders.

Dave Moskal - develop strategies for emerging leaders and leadership succession.

Jerry Scanlan - expand use of technology, especially web site improvement and expanded communications.

These committees will follow the recommendations of our consultant, School and Main Institute, and those of our NCCS members who participated in the Louisville biennial meeting general sessions. They would welcome your input and your willingness to help. Please contact the appropriate person noted above - addresses are on the web site. (<http://nccs-bsa.org>)

The second major (internal) phase of the Renewal has been suspended because of the reorganization of the BSA national office and its effect on NCCS operations. A decision will be made later on how to proceed.

Chairman Bill Davies has assigned the overall Renewal responsibility to the newly elected National Chairman elect, John Halloran, who under the NCCS By-laws has responsibility for long-range planning.

The Reverend Monsignor Anthony Thomas Ferrero, 53, of Ontario passed away on October 12, 2008 in Redlands, Calif. Monsignor Tony had been the Region 11 Chaplain for many years and a long time member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Monsignor Tony graduated from Saint John's School of Theology at Collegeville, Minnesota, receiving his MA in Theology in 1981. He was ordained Priest for the Diocese of San Bernardino on July 3, 1981 by Most Rev. Phillip F. Straling. Monsignor Tony's priesthood took him down many paths. At the time of his death he was Pastor of St. George Parish in Ontario, Calif.

Monsignor Tony's funeral was held at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino, California. Several members of the National Catholic Committee were present at the funeral including Region 11 Chairperson Marie Simons, Thomas Nishikubo of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, Chris Manning, NCCS Advisory Board member and faculty member of the 2008 Scouting in the Catholic Church Course at Philmont, and Father Michael Hanifin, Chair of the Chaplains Committee. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.



Galveston is a small romantic island 32 miles long and 2 1/2 miles wide, possessing all the charm of a small southern town

Galveston meeting still a go for April 21-25; no major damages reported from Hurricane Ike's devastation

NCCS meeting planners have conducted their pre-conference visit to the Galveston Hilton, site of our meetings from April 21-25, 2009. Even though their visit fell only 13 days after the hurricane Ike made landfall, every room in the Galveston Hilton was occupied and the hotel was fully staffed! By the end of October, most of the Island's attractions and downtown shopping district were up and running! Hurricane Ike struck Galveston a direct blow on September 13, 2008.

Power and television service had been restored, and cell phone, water, and natural gas service were never lost. The hotel was only waiting for restoration of land-line telephone service on which internet, email, and fax service depended. These services were restored by the end of the first week of October. The western half of Galveston Island, on which our meetings' site is located, is protected on the Gulf side by a 16 foot seawall. The less protected eastern half of the island suffered more extensive damage from Hurricane Ike. It certainly was impressive for them to see how swiftly Galveston is recovering!

With the help of the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we will be celebrating the NCCS 75th anniversary

at our Galveston meetings! The Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, is scheduled to be the principal celebrant and homilist at our Wednesday evening Eucharist, April 22nd, and our guest at the banquet that evening. The local committee has invited the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, to be key-note speaker at the banquet. Governor Perry's book, "On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For," was just published in February 2008.

The committee notes that all participants who make and honor their reservations at the Galveston Hilton will subsequently receive a 25% discount coupon from the NCCS applicable toward the registration fee of one participant at any future NCCS biennial conference or standing committee/board meetings. This is not applicable to clergy whose expenses are partially or entirely paid by NCCS.

A 10-floor tower addition to the Galveston Hilton was completed and has been open since 2004. The complete refurbishment of all the sleeping rooms in the original 6-floor hotel to the highest quality Hilton standards was just completed Memorial Day weekend in 2008! A number of off-

site beachfront dining options from an IHOP to a Rainforest Café to a Kroger "Signature" supermarket with deli and hot lunch/salad bar are within a block from the hotel. The Galveston Hilton and the Galveston Island Convention & Visitor Bureau are teaming up with incentives to make for a pleasant stay at the Galveston Hilton. Meeting the "sleeping room block" stipulations of our contract with the Galveston Hilton is crucial to the financial solvency of our NCCS meeting arrangements with the hotel. Most of us consider our expenses to attend these conferences as a charitable donation to NCCS, but in this case, it can also be considered a charitable contribution to economic stimuli assisting hurricane recovery efforts!

As you plan your trip, the William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) is a short 40 minute drive to the Galveston Hilton. The airport is the largest hub of Southwest Airlines. You'll be surprised at the airfares you can get by purchasing now! The Galveston Island Convention & Visitor Bureau and local Catholic Committee on Scouting are teaming up to arrange the best possible options/pricing for shuttle service from/to Hobby Airport/Galveston Hilton. All major car rental agencies are represented at Hobby Airport as well, and parking at the Galveston Hilton is free and ample!

All major airlines are available at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), but it is at least a 1 1/2 hour drive from north Houston to Galveston, so it is NOT recommended unless you are planning to rent a car. This airport is the main hub of Continental Airlines.

The committee plans to get out the registration packet with complete information in the very near future. In the meantime, contact Susan Barriball at sbarriball@comcast.net or Father Randy Cuevas at ncb387@charter.net if you need further information.

SEE YOU IN GALVESTON!!