



EHLASBAS!

2020 has been unlike any year in Southeast Louisiana Council's history. Our Annual Elections were pushed back from January to November this year. Bill Metcalf cheerfully agreed to become the Council President (for the second time). Mark Young eagerly accepted the critical task of becoming the Council Commissioner. Holly McCollum enthusiastically dove into the position of Council Executive Vice President. And Torrey Hayden warmly welcomed the opportunity to step into the Interim Scout Executive position after the retirement of Ernesto Carballo.

Your Key 4 is here to help Scouting thrive in Southeast Louisiana. Any of us are available to discuss your ideas for improving Scouting. You can reach Bill at readership@aol.com, Mark at SELAUnitService@gmail.com, Holly at hollym@totalmediallc.com, and Torrey at Torrey.Hayden@scouting.org.



Bill Metcalf
Council President

Scouting saved my life. In 1959, I was an 8 year old Cub Scout living in a trailer outside Chicago. I was the official bugler of the Pack, and couldn't wait to go to Scout meetings! Mom and Dad kept things in a total uproar at home. Somehow, with Scouting as my life's rudder... I achieved the Eagle Scout rank in 1967 and it was the proudest day of my life.

What I learned in Scouting carried me to a self-paid journalism degree from UT Austin and into a dream-like career in advertising, marketing and publishing. Scouting taught me right from wrong and gave me life skills that were a keystone to building a successful national publishing company.

Looking back, I still feel as strongly today about the values, the education and the learning that Scouting gave me. Scouting is going through a rough patch right now, but it will not only survive, it will prosper. It is more important to young people now than it was over 100 years ago when it was founded. No matter how long I live...I will never be able to repay Scouting for what it did for me!



Mark Young
Council Commissioner

In grammar school, my friend Michael asked me if I wanted to be a Cub Scout. That single question set the course of my life. Joining Scouts quickly became a family affair. My mother became my Den Mother as I completed my Cub career by earning the Arrow of Light. My father became Scoutmaster within the first year of my Scouting tenure. I advanced quickly, earning Eagle at the age of 13. I got involved with the Order of the Arrow, was a member of an Explorer Post, served on staff at Salmen Scout Reservation for several years, joined the National Eagle Scout Association, and participated on both youth and adult Training teams. One of my highlights was to be a part of a NESA National Eagle Scout Troop in Washington DC. Two Eagles Scouts from each state in the nation formed a Troop to promote Scouting in our nation's Capital during our Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.

My adult career in Scouting has been long and fulfilling. I've been Assistant Scoutmaster in two different Troops for 42 years. I've also have served as Tiger Den Leader, Den Leader, Cubmaster, Crew Committee Chair. I've been recognized with the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award. As a youth in 1976, I started working with the Muskogee District Training Team in training adult leadership skills. To this day I'm still completely involved with Scouting training, including 8 Wood Badge Courses. I was honored to serve as the Course Director/Scoutmaster of the SELA/Pine Burr Area Wood Badge Course in 2018.

In 2012, I was introduced to the world of Unit Service. Unit Service allows tenured volunteers the opportunity to work with Scout Units within their Districts to strengthen their programs and share the knowledge we have gained through the years. Shortly after becoming Unit Commissioner, I was asked to be the District Commissioner of the Pelican District. Today, I'm thrilled to serve as Council Commissioner. With this joy I hope to be a positive influence to make the Mission of Scouting a reality for the boys and girls and young men and women in Southeast Louisiana Council.



VOLUME # 1

CONTINUED



In 2006, my son Evan came home from first grade with a sticker that said, “I want to be a CUB SCOUT” and that was that. During my son’s five school years in Cub Scouting, as he earned belt loops and made pinewood derby cars and lifelong friends, my husband Craig was the “designated camping parent” and assistant den leader while I became the Advancement Chair and then Cubmaster, responsible for the Scouting experiences of fifty-one first through fifth grade boys.

Holly McCollum

Council Executive
Vice President

When my son became a Boy Scout, I joined the Advancement Committee of the Troop, and became Advancement Chair. I mentor Scouts on their advancement on the Pelican District Eagle Advancement Committee. I joined the Council Marketing Committee in 2013, and the Council Executive Board in 2014, when I became the VP of Marketing. I have since attended

Wood Badge and Powder Horn, then staffed an additional two Wood Badge courses. I have been honored with the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, and am a proud James E. West Fellow. My highest honor was when my son told me, “You would have made a GREAT Boy Scout!”

I am enthusiastic about stepping into the role of Executive Vice President of the Council and in helping to spread the word of Scouting in our area.



Torrey Hayden

Interim Scout Executive

Ellen and I have been married well over 20 years. We met while she was a nurse and I was Business Manager for Camp Jackson, a Boy Scout Camp in North Alabama. We have been living in South Louisiana for most of our marriage and love the state. As a youth, my mom was our Cub Scout Den Leader. In Boy Scouts, Dad was our Scoutmaster for a year after he missed a Troop Committee meeting. Attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1982 as a member Troop 266 in Gardendale Alabama was very special for me. I still have some of my Grandfather’s Scout books. Although my Grandfather only had a girl (my mom), his coal mining community in rural Alabama asked him to become Scoutmaster of the local Boy Scout Troop when he returned home from the Army after WWII.

I became a Scouting professional in 1990. My first Scouting job was as a District Executive in Cullman Alabama, part of the Tennessee Valley Council out of Huntsville AL. From there I moved to Tupelo MS as a Senior District Executive and then to Little Rock, Arkansas as a Field Director. I came to Louisiana to become Director of Field Services in Baton Rouge. I begin service in Southeast Louisiana Council in 2004 and have wanted to stay here ever since. For me, there is no better council in the world!

Being asked to serve in the capacity of Interim Scout Executive of the Southeast Louisiana Council is a great honor. With that honor comes much trust and responsibility. We have a magnificent group of volunteers and a dedicated staff at the Scout office to ensure Scouting thrives in our communities. As a team we will work together to offer the best Scouting possible to the youth of our eleven parishes!

Now Taking Articles for Eh La Bas! Volume 2

Many years ago, Southeast Louisiana Council published a newsletter of this same name. We’re eager to bring this quarterly publication back to life electronically, as a way of sharing information on current and future activities. If your unit, committee, District, or any Scouting group you are a part of has anything you’d like to communicate, please send up to two paragraphs and any photos to hollym@totalmediallc.com. We may do some slight editing, and may not have space for all photos shared, but we will gladly share your information.

In true Scout fashion, many of our resilient Scouts and Leaders found a way to make service projects happen during a global pandemic. In each newsletter we'll highlight the community service of Scouts. In this edition we're talking about Anthony Veillon from Troop 217 who's Eagle project helps feed a community.

ACORN Community Farm in the Lower 9th Ward has a new Victory Garden thanks to

an Eagle project completed in July 2020. The nonprofit urban farm and community space is dedicated to increasing food access and education, where residents have access to produce that is local, healthy, and affordable. Life Scout Anthony Veillon, from Troop 217 at St. Martha Catholic Church in Harvey, worked with ACORN Master Gardener R.C. Brock to design, plan, and develop the Victory



Anthony is 16 years old and attends Jesuit High School. He's been a Scout for 7 years and his favorite activity in Scouting is biking with his Troop. Anthony received his Eagle award on September 12th, 2020.



Garden following the steps outlined in the Eagle Scout Project Workbook. Anthony directed community and Scout volunteers to clear the beds, add proper soil and fertilizer, and then plant seeds and flowers. In total, from planning to the day of service, Anthony and his volunteers put in 140 hours of service. The project will continue to serve the community in the future. Master Gardener Brock will continue the care and maintenance of the Climate Victory Garden at ACORN Farm.

The vegetables will go either directly to or will be sold for the benefit of community members in need.

In a year with so many struggling with food insecurity, Anthony's project is a shining example of Scouts filling a service need in the community.



Congrats on completing your Eagle Project, Anthony!

Extraordinary Eagles!

Are you an Eagle Scout with an exceptional story or know of an Eagle Scout with a fantastic project? Email Holly McCollum at hollym@totalmediallc.com with stories, photos, and more to get you or your favorite scout featured in our next edition of *Extraordinary Eagles!* We may do some slight editing, and may not have space for all photos shared, but we will gladly share your information.