

## **PIONEERS AND PIONEERING**

Fellow Scouters, Scouts, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you and welcome to Pathway's first annual meeting!

I'd like to reflect with you for a moment on pioneers and pioneering. Pioneers blaze trails, whether through earthly wilderness, the arts and sciences, or outer space. Pioneering is the knowledge and skill of using materials to build structures. (It was my favorite MB as a boy.) Pioneers and pioneering have been part of Scouting from the start. In his first handbook called Scouting for Boys, Scouting's founder Lord Baden-Powell described pioneers as those "who go ahead to open up a way in the jungles or elsewhere for those coming after them." In his Aids to Scoutmastership, he referred to pioneering as a "first step" in skills training. As our name implies, Pathway is a trailblazer; it is a pioneer, and the work in which we have been engaged as a new council is pioneering.

We train pioneers - responsible, participatory citizens who will make ethical choices according to the values of the Scout Oath and Law. We teach them the skills of pioneering – how to build human relationships and lead by example. In this council, we provide them with a pathway to life.

We have set 3 pioneering goals for 2018: Growing Together, Open to All, and Fully Sustainable.

- We are Growing Together:
  - Our merger at YE 2015 brought 4 proud councils together and made them stronger in a one of a kind, pioneering transaction
  - We have since been rebuilding our structure:
    - We hired a talented and experienced SE in Jeff Isaac

- We recruited pioneer community leaders to serve on our Executive Board, and they are connecting us through their extensive business and civic relationships: Cook County Board Pres. **Toni Preckwinkle**, CIBC Bank’s Chief of Staff and Eagle Scout **Kenny Shogren**, Accenture founder and philanthropist **Andre Hughes**, GoGo Wireless founder and CEO **Michael Small**, Riteway Construction owner **Larry Huggins**, UIC Vice Chancellor and Eagle Scout **Robert Barish**, litigator **Manny Sanchez**, and UofI sophomore and Eagle Scout **Kyrie Agee**
  - Our Commissioner Sue Simmons launched a council-wide survey to find out what you expect and need from us. Thanks to everyone who participated. You spoke and we listened, not only to what you said, but what you need.
  - And we are building new traditions with Council-wide awards, events and celebrations, like tonight’s Youth Recognition Dinner, the construction of a Pathway to Adventure trail, and visits by your Key 3 to every district roundtable. Next year we will host a council-wide camporee.
- We are Open to All:
    - Our communities are wonderfully diverse and our strength lies in our differences. All of our programs are now fully open to girls, to everyone
    - We have reconstructed our senior management and staff to reflect our communities and set a tone of transparency, openness and inclusion at the top
    - Our pioneer Restoring the Village Program is designed to and will bring Scouting into our underserved neighborhoods. I am thrilled to tell you that an anonymous donor has pledged \$1 million to support RTV – a million reasons why this program can and must succeed

- And we are becoming Fully Sustainable:
  - Under the watchful eyes of our finance-focused volunteers and Staff, we ended 2017 in the black with a \$150K more than we expected
  - We are entering into a formal relationship with the FPDCC and CPD to share in the use, development and maintenance of their facilities, which will bring the outing in Scouting closer to home
  - And we are renovating our camps, which will include renewable energy mechanisms

Growing Together, Open to All, Fully Sustainable - pioneering goals for a pioneering council called Pathway

Where do you fit into this? How can you help? Continue to enthusiastically plan those service projects! – help build our new Pathway to Adventure Trail. Adopt a new Restoring the Village unit – camp with their new Scouts, invite them to your courts of honor, and send them your Scouts as Troop Guides. If you are already an adult volunteer, THANK YOU! If you are not, please step up and become a pioneer; don't wait to be asked.

I have touched on but a few of the new and innovative ways that our Pathway to Adventure Council will continue to bring Scouting to all of the youth and their families in Northern Indiana and Northern Illinois. There is –and can be – so much more. It's all up to us – you and me.

I want to close by thanking all of you who have travelled this journey of change over the past few years. This is not an easy path we walk but one that is so very important.

Scouting has three Aims: character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. To fully provide these opportunities for all of our youth, I cannot do this alone. I need your help.

Thank you for all that you do and, more importantly, for all that you will do.