

2009 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Report

The Andrew Jackson Council, Boy Scouts of America, has had a busy year filled with activity. We began our year with the Murphy Adkins Class of Eagle Scouts honoring 102 Eagles. We then maxed our Woodbadge Training Course with 48 participants at Hood Scout Reservation and Mr. Bill Howell serving as Scoutmaster. Many of our Cub Scout Packs will, throughout the year, participate in Den, Pack, District, and Council Activities. This summer, 440 Cub Scouts participated in one of 3 Cub Scout Day Camps. 70 Cubs and their parents attended Cub Scout Resident Camp at Hood Scout Reservation. This Fall, **718** Cub Scouts **with** their **family members** participated in a weekend activity called an Akela Cub Campout at Hood Scout Reservation. For many, it was their first camping experience.

Many of these Cub Scouts and their Packs earned their way to pay for these activities by participating in our Annual Popcorn Sale. We are fortunate that this year we project a 6% increase in our popcorn sale. Due to our "Support our Troops" sale, \$13,500_worth of popcorn will be donated to the military men and women serving our country.

Three years ago, our council embarked on an extensive camp improvement program with such things as: new program shelters, barrier-free tent frames, handicap ramps, new roofs and fresh paint on several buildings, cell phone service, a computer lab, a pottery program, and a horsemanship program. In addition, several pieces of equipment were donated. An air condition system was installed at the Dining Hall and the trading post along with other improvements.

Overall our summer camp staff and program has been greatly improved with better pay and a more qualified staff. The attendance at Hood Scout Reservation Summer Camp increased from 422 in 2008 to 508 Scouts this year. 2010 looks ever more promising with a goal of 750 Scouts participating at Summer Camp. In addition, Stan Kynerd served as contingent leader for 22 Scouts and Venturers along with 10 other adult leaders in a High Adventure Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Another 16 Scouts and 6 adults experienced the Florida Sea Base.

Our Winter Camp continuously proves to be equally successful. It began in 2006 with a totally volunteer driven program and with 232 Scouts in attendance the first year. This year, with Ken Estes as Winter Camp Chief, it grew to 343 Scouts and Scout Staff and 109 Scout Leaders and Adult Staff in attendance. 30 Troops participated. Winter Camp has also helped to supplement our summer camp operation to the tune of \$10,000 to

\$15,000 annually. Year-round camping has also been on the rise with 239 packs, troops, and crews completing Local and National Tour Permits, representing 3,232 youth and 1,651 adults.

In other areas, our council continues to improve with a 75 member Commissioner staff and 96 District Committee members. In addition, we project a traditional membership growth of 2% with a 1% growth in units this year. We are proud to note that the Andrew Jackson Council has recognized its Class of Eagle Scouts by honoring Distinguished Board Members. The 2009 Class of Eagle Scouts will be named in honor of our own Board Member and Eagle Scout, Jim Moore, and will be held on Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Jackson Hilton. The registration form is in your packet.

This year, Peter and Tamar Sharp, owners of the Fairview Inn here in Jackson, again hosted the "Chefs and the City" fundraiser to benefit our council and the Blair E Batson Hospital for Children. We are also proud to note that the Andrew Jackson Council – BSA conducts an annual toy drive for the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. Chaired by Mr. Jim Dunn, this year 807 toys and \$665 in cash and gift certificates was collected and will be donated to the hospital.

Our council raised additional dollars through special events such as our Annual Clay Shoot at Kearney Park in Flora chaired by our Treasurer, Ralph Ross for the second year. We'd like to recognize Ralph at this time with a special 100th Anniversary token of appreciation. The other council special event has been the Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner. This year, Andy Wimberly chaired the event, honoring Sister Dorothea. We'd like to recognize Andy at this time with a special token of appreciation. As most of you all know, Andy has served our council well as our council's FOS Chairman for 10 years and he is finally getting a break. For his continuous service to youth, we'd like to recognize Andy with this framed mural of the History of Scouting by artist Bill Morrison in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America

As 2009 comes to a close, we are preparing for our University of Scouting Training course to be held at Hinds Community College in Pearl on Saturday, February 20th and chaired by Ms. Pam Fryer. For the 2010, with Dr. Zachow as Scoutmaster along with 3 other leaders, our council is preparing for the National Scout Jamboree at Ft. A. P. Hill with 36 scouts pre-registered. We are preparing for BSA's 100th Anniversary and looking to several programs, service projects, and good Council-wide publicity.