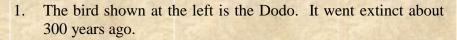# *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News*

11 November 2016

Troop Leaders, Advancement Chairs and Eagle Coaches of Dulaney District;

(Most of the contents have been copied from National Advancement News-July -December 2016)

A.   Internet Advancement:

1.   The bird shown at the left is the Dodo. It went extinct about 300 years ago.

2.   The image to the right is of Advancement Report Form 34403. It will be following the Dodo bird into extinction effective April 2, 2017.

3.   At this time, only 50% of the Scout Troops and Cub packs in Dulaney District are using Internet Advancement, and many of those who are listed as having used it have only used it once or twice.

4.   After April 2, 2017, your unit will not be able to purchase advancement supplies (badges, patches, etc.) from the Scout Shops without presenting a copy of your unit's submitted internet advancement report. The three-page Form 34403 will no longer be accepted by Baltimore Area Council.

5.   Training for Internet Advancement will be provided to Cub Packs and Scout Troops at the February Roundtable, Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Timonium United Methodist Church, at the corner of Pot Springs Road and Chantry Road in Timonium, MD 2093. No need to pre-register. Make-up training and training for Venture Units will take place at the March Roundtable, March 14, 2017. Please insure that your unit's Advancement Chair and/or other responsible person is present at one of these training events. The only other opportunity to receive this training will be at the Scouting University in March 11, 2107.

6.   An additional reason for using Internet Advancement is covered in Item B.2. below.

B.   Eagle Issues:

1.   **Eagle Project Proposal Issues-Common Errors and Omissions:**
   - Contact Information-Proposal Page B: Scouts often do not fill this page in completely, leading to review comments and requests to provide all indicated information. Troop

reviewers are requested to direct the Scouts to complete this form before they submit it to the District for review.

- Project Description and Benefit-Proposal Page C-Briefly Describe your Project: A common review comment is as follows: The Project Description should be an executive summary for the project proposal. It should give the reader a complete picture of the scope of the project and how it will be undertaken. Someone should be able to read this and understand the project. The rest of the workbook should only support the Project Description.

  In other words: Who, Where, When, What, Why, & How.

- Candidate's Promise-Proposal Page E: I receive a lot of proposals where the Eagle Candidate has omitted to sign this part of the "Approvals or Signatures" sheet. Please insure that the candidate has signed this form before submitting his proposal. When this signature is omitted, it stops the review process until received.

2. Extension Requests and the Importance of Updating Advancement Records:

Guide to Advancement topic 9.0.4.1 covers the process for submitting and evaluating requests for a time extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank, Summit Award, or the Quartermaster rank. When submitting an extension request, it is critical that all advancement information be up-to-date before the extension request is submitted. This will help ensure that the review team will have all the information necessary to promptly make an informed judgment.

At the national level, requests are frequently received asking for additional time to complete an Eagle Scout service project stating that all other requirements have been completed. However, a quick review of ScoutNET will show several required and sometimes even non-required merit badges as not complete, when in fact they really have been. These inconsistencies can result in significant delays in reviewing extension requests and in some cases might even have a negative impact on the final decision. That is why it is vitally important that the local council must confirm that the records are current before an extension request is sub-mitted to the national office.

Although the primary problem area with extension requests is with merit badges, it is also very important that correct rank advancement dates be shown in ScoutNET. The latter is important because of the time requirements between First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks. A quick way to confirm what information is in ScoutNET is to request a "Person Listing" from your local council office then compare that information with troop records. If troop records show certain merit badges or ranks completed but ScoutNET does not, then immediate steps must be taken to update the council records.

The best way to keep the records up-to-date is to routinely (at least monthly) update all advancement via the Boy Scouts Internet advancement portal, either directly though Internet Advancement or uploading information from other software programs such as Scoutbook or Troopmaster. In some councils, it is still possible to use a paper advancement report, although it is much better to do the reporting electronically.

3. Requests from a Unit or Council Regarding Past Eagle Scouts:

Occasionally, a troop or chartered organization or even the council has interest in, or a need to identify numbers of, or names of Eagle Scouts from a particular troop, or even from the council itself. This type of request should *not* be referred to the national office. This query should instead, be directed to the local council service center. There, the council registrar, or the individual responsible for tracking advancement has the ability to generate the list. It should be a simple matter for them to do. But, should the council person *not* be able to create such a list, the request should then be forwarded to advancement.team@scouting.org and the Team will share directions about how to generate the list, within the council. Once you have the list, who knows – there may be a famous person on the troop's roster, or maybe even the name of your next door neighbor.

4. Eagle Scout Board of Review Celebrates a Scout's Journey:

Every board of review is an important step in a youth's advancement and very useful for improving a unit's overall program. While most unit leaders are familiar with the general requirements for conducting a board of review (*Guide to Advancement*, **Topic 8.0.0.0**), there are some aspects of the Eagle Scout board of review (BOR) that are unique and occasionally result in misunderstandings (See "Particulars for the Eagle Scout Rank," Topic 8.0.3.0). Eagle Scout BORs are not typically conducted at the unit level. It is the local council's responsibility to decide how Eagle Scout BORs are organized and conducted, and then to disseminate that information. However, the council must not place any responsibility on the Scout to arrange or otherwise organize his own BOR. *Adult Scouters are entirely responsible for organizing each BOR; the Scout is only a participant.*

For most ranks, a BOR is generally made up of three to six unit committee members. However, the membership of an Eagle Scout BOR is open to the inclusion of other community members who understand the rank and the purpose and importance of the BOR. If large numbers of Scouts are earning the Eagle Scout rank, then consideration should be given to increasing the size of the pool of individuals who serve on those BORs. Elected officials, community leaders, school officials, business leaders, and sports figures, among others, are all encouraged to participate.

Councils and districts should make every attempt to ensure that Eagle Scout BORs are conducted within two weeks of the council verifying the Eagle Scout Rank Application. Making a Scout wait longer can negatively impact his ability to earn Eagle Palms. Therefore, the BOR must not be denied or delayed due to lack of reference letters, i.e., the Scout must not be required to provide a minimum number of reference letters in order for his BOR to be held. The Scout's only responsibility is to provide contact information, or perhaps deliver a brief note to each contact. Beyond that, *it is an adult responsibility to gather any references that might be submitted*.

Eagle Scout BORs may be a little longer than for other ranks; however, 30 minutes should generally be sufficient for the board members to make an informed decision regarding the Scout's advancement. The board of review is intended to be a celebration of the Scout's journey, not a marathon review of that journey. Keep it light and make it fun for everyone.

5. Updates in process:

Both the Eagle Scout Rank Application and the ScoutNET system are in the process of being updated. This revision will reflect a number of positions that have been updated to qualify as Eagle Scout positions of responsibility. A listing follows.

In that list, please note that one position name change—changing Leave No Trace Trainer to Outdoor Ethics Guide.

Positions of Responsibility: **Boy Scouting:**
Troop Patrol Leader
Troop Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
Troop Senior Patrol Leader
Troop Guide
Troop Order of the Arrow Representative
Troop Den Chief
Troop Scribe
Troop Librarian
Troop Quartermaster
Troop Webmaster
Troop Outdoor Ethics Guide
Troop Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
Troop Chaplain Aide
Troop Instructor

Troop Historian

Please note that Assistant Patrol Leader and Troop Bugler are not included on the above list.

C. OTHER ADVANCEMENT ISSUES:

1. What Is An Appeal?

"A legal dictionary would define an "appeal" as a process for requesting a formal change to an official decision, pro or con. The BSA has a similar but more limited interpretation of the term.

"In Scouting programs, only adverse decisions made by boards of review pertaining to certain ranks can be appealed. An adverse decision for Star and Life may be appealed as far as the council advancement committee, while decisions for Eagle and Quartermaster ranks, and the Summit Award may be appealed through the local council to the National Council. Appeals are not permitted for other Boy Scouting ranks or for the Eagle Palms, the Cub Scouting ranks, or Venturing awards.

"When advancement is declined for the ranks of Star, Life, Eagle, Quartermaster, and the Summit Award, the procedures in the *Guide to Advancement* (**topic 8.0.4.0**) must be followed. First, advancement should only be declined if the member did not complete the requirements for the rank. Should that happen, the Scout must be given a document that explains the appeal procedure and outlines actions that could lead to advancement.

"The procedure should stipulate that all appeals— including those for boards of review under disputed circumstances—are first routed to the council advancement committee. From there a designated appeals coordinator should be responsible for coordinating the process through completion. Usually, the appeal of a *unit* board of review is assigned to a three- or five-member *district* appeal board. If the appeal board does not render a decision in favor of the Scout, then the decision may be appealed to the next level. For example, appeals from a district would be assigned to a council board. Remember, only the Eagle rank, Summit Award, and Quartermaster rank may be appealed to the National Council.
"Finally, above all, it is important to understand that an appeal board is not another board of review. It should focus only on the issues that brought about the negative decision and that were documented in the letter the Scout received after his initial review. However, unlike the original board, where a unanimous decision is required, only a majority vote by an appeal board is needed to approve advancement. See the *Guide to Advancement*, **topic 8.0.4.2**, for specific details and procedures."

2. Boy Scout Requirements: 2016 Transition Period Ends January 1:

On January 1, 2016, a new set of Boy Scout requirements became effective for all who joined Boy Scouts on or after that date, and were included in updated editions of both the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Boy Scout Requirements*. However, for those who were Boy Scouts prior to this year, a transitional process was established for calendar year 2016:

- Those already working on requirements for the Scout badge were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements for Scout only. Thereafter, all further ranks required use of the new requirements.

- Those already working on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class ranks were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements through First Class. Thereafter, ranks above First Class required use of the new requirements.

- Those working on ranks above First Class were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements for the rank they were working toward. Thereafter, the remaining ranks, if any, required use of the new requirements.

January 1, 2017 will be the date that all new requirements become mandatory for all ranks, regardless of a Scout's current rank or his progress in completing the requirements for his next rank.

Consequently, it is important to encourage Scouts to complete the requirements for the rank they are currently working toward on or before **December 31, 2016**. This will make their transition to the mandatory new requirements, an easier process.

3. Merit badge Counselor Training:

If you find that the merit badge counselors in your troop are having issues with what they are to do, or if you have a group of new merit badge counselors in your troop, there is training available. It takes about an hour and a half. If your unit needs this training, please contact me or the District training Chair, Tom O'Dwyer.

Yours in Scouting;

Rick Shaw
Dulaney District Advancement Chairman
410-823-8522
ricncork@erols.com