Chairman’s Letter

Yawgoog Alumni,

The Holidays are over and as we begin a new year we look forward to Yawgoog’s 102nd camping season. The Ranger’s staff have been working hard to prepare our camp for the summer of 2017.

I trust all of you have received your 2017 YAA collectable membership patch. If you haven’t already done so, please be sure to complete your membership renewal application and send it in to the Council office. If you have not received your patch and renewal letter, please e-mail Judy Ferrante at Judith.Ferrante@scouting.org or call (401) 351-8700 X11.

We are also soliciting donations for our 2017 projects which include the digital storage and preservation of many old documents from camp and the Chief’s and Gus’ archives. Additionally, we are installing two I-PADs for sign-in and digital presentations of a virtual tour and history of Yawgoog in the museum.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13th for YAA’s 3rd Annual “Day of Service”. This year we will helping the ranger staff by assembling new bunks. Don’t worry about tools or your carpentry skills, the rangers supply all needed materials and make assembly very easy. Please consider joining us for a day to support our camp and fellowship with fellow YAA members.

We have scheduled our annual reunion for Saturday, July 29th. It won’t be the extravaganza we held last year but we will still open with breakfast and alumni use of the program centers followed by lunch, tours, our annual meeting, and the Campmasters’ famous chicken BBQ. Our efforts to build our Yawgoog Endowment Fund continue. To date we have raised over $1.3 million dollars. These funds will be kept in perpetuity for support of Yawgoog in its second centennial. You can keep your personal memories of Yawgoog alive with the purchase of a memorial brick on the Donald North Court Walkway. There are many bricks that remain available for purchase to support the endowment and recognize Yawgoog Alumni and supporters.

For more information, please go to: http://www.narragansettbsa.org/event/yawgoog-100-memorial-brick-walkway/1769613.
The Yawgoog Alumni Association looks forward to your continued support for the 2017 season and for many years to come.

Yours in Scouting,
Jim . . .

cunhajim@gmail.com

Gus’s Gossip: Memories Old and New
Warren Cyr: Fond Memories of Camp

Yawgoog Alumni Association Secretary Warren Cyr may be 76, but shows no signs of slowing down.

District commissioner of the Hockanum River District of the Connecticut Rivers Council, Cyr was honored with a Silver Beaver award in May of 2016. A former camp master, he served in the mid-1980s with Larry Jetty with Boy Scout Troop 39 in Marlborough, Connecticut.

Cyr has fond memories of camp.

“In 1978, we were on a 50-mile hike. We landed on the parade field, and it was quite an experience … 1,200 Scouts cheering us on,” he said.
For Cyr, Scouting is all around. His sons, Daniel and Michael, both achieved Eagle Scout. Daniel served on the staff at Camp Yawgoog. Warren recently discovered, in fact, that the name, Cyr, which is Seyer, means “Scout” in Hebrew.

Having your surname mean “Scout” is fitting for a man who is the curator/owner of Oakledge Reservation Boy Scout Museum, which was relocated to Middletown this year. (He has his original compass from 1952 and other items on display).

Though an ordained Catholic deacon, he has written a book about Jewish concepts and beliefs. He calls himself a Hebrew in the Catholic Church. He kayaks. He plays guitar and has even met the late Johnny Cash.

With a life full of varied experiences, however, for Cyr it always comes back to Scouting.

“I have no time to write memoirs,” he said. “I’m having too much fun.”

**Marc Ryan: A Commitment to Excellence**

Marc Ryan is the Scout Executive of the Greater Cleveland Council. Before taking the reins in Ohio — and before many stops at various Scouting leadership positions along the way — he was a Yawgoog camper via his Scout troop on Long Island, N.Y.

“A ferry from Long Island would drop us off in Connecticut and Yawgoog staffers would pick us up and bring us to the Camp,” said Ryan. “Yawgoog was known as the jewel of New England.”

Camping at Yawgoog played a huge role in Ryan’s life. He eventually went on to serve as a Program Executive for the Narragansett Council, and then back to New York.

“I have always loved the structure, teamwork and adventure that Scouting brings,” he said.
But it was Ryan’s position as Assistant Director of the Urban Emphasis Division — which focused on promoting Scouting in the five most inner-city boroughs of New York City — that put the importance of Scouting through a whole new lens for him.

“I grew up in the shadows of New York City,” said Ryan. “I had no idea how different it was.” Safety in getting to and from meetings, recruiting leadership that you could count to show up every week were among the challenges, he said. But rewards existed, as well. When taking kids from the Bronx to Manhattan to camp, it was the first time many of them had seen stars in the sky, he said.

The commitment to excellence that Scouting teaches is now being taught in fewer and fewer places, said Ryan. Resourcefulness and reliability all play a role in successful futures.

As for Ryan’s three children, all are involving in Scouting — even his kindergartner. “Our children thought they were Scouts long before they thought they were Scouts,” said Ryan, with his family having been by his side at so many Scouting events before then.

**J. Harold Williams: Bigger than Life**

The late J. Harold Williams — Yawgoog Scout Reservation director from 1919-1950 — was also a camp chief for many years and considered one of the founders of Camp Yawgoog.

“He liked the innovation side of it, building a nonprofit up from nothing … he liked that challenge,” said Greg Marsello, his grandson, and jumped right in.

Marsello is grateful for the two decades he had with Williams, the man he remembers as “bigger than life. I don’t think there was a shy bone in his body,” he laughs. He remembers his grandfather as a real leader, with a sense of humor and knack for storytelling.

Stories were Williams’s way of illustrating a point, said Marsello, to further explain things to the Scouts at camp. “He’d use stories to provide guidance. Every Sunday, wrap-up day, all Scouts would come onto the field and he would tell a story to wrap up the week.”
He also remembers his grandfather as a Master of Ceremonies for the Saturday Night Show.

Williams certainly made a positive impact: Marsello also went to Camp Yawgoog as a Scout with Troop 117 Warwick, and went on to become an Eagle Scout. By that time, Williams had retired. Marsello’s sons also got involved in Scouting and became Eagle Scouts as well.

Today, the J. Harold Williams Award at Yawgoog Scout Reservation is one of the highest honors a Scout can receive, and allows Williams’ legacy to live on even further.

100th Reunion – Class Photos
BRUNNCKOW, E. Everett Yarmouthport, MA 1936 –
Thanks Ev for your extra donation and for your note for us to apply it any way that is most helpful! Thanks also for your kind words: “The Belltower is getting better with every publication; the 2016 edition was a joy to read, especially the article by Tom DelPrete. Congratulations!” We did have a wonderful 100th Anniversary Celebration this past summer and the support and the camaraderie that took place the entire weekend will be forever etched in my mind. I loved every minute of the entire weekend –
THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO MADE THIS WEEKEND POSSIBLE. WAY TOO MANY TO MENTION BUT YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND I LOVE ALL OF YOU! Judy

ISABEL, Daniel P.F. (Riverside, RI) Hey Dan, I must tell you that I never received such a glowing letter from any alumnus because we sent out a letter asking for membership dues – in all of my 34 years here at the Narragansett Council! Thank you so much – hope you don’t mind me sharing it with everyone! “Dear YAA. What a wonderful letter to receive! At a time of such partisan discourse and vitriol in our nation, it can sometimes seem difficult to see through the fog to the bonds and values that truly unite us. To open a letter from the YAA with my 2017 Alumni Association Member patch already enclosed “in anticipation of (my) support” speaks volumes. I am so proud to be a member of an organization where character, loyalty, and charity are simply assumed (without a second thought). This trust that not only I, but all members of the Alumni Association, can be counted on to “do the right thing” and continue to “keep the spirit of Yawgoog burning brightly for all future generations” is inspirational. We need Scouting and Yawgoog now more than ever! This act of trust has reminded me of the sincere importance and beauty of the tenants of our Scout Law. We need not doubt in the unity of our country. As always, the Scouts are here to guide us and train those who will follow. Thank you for all the work you do and God Bless. Yours in Scouting, Daniel P.F. Isabel”. Wow, Dan, beautifully said. You and the other thousand plus Yawgoog Alumni Association Members are the main reason I love my job so much and why I hope I can continue my association with all of you for many years to come! Judy
NICHOLS, David R. (Princeton, MA) 1942 – Both Gwen Mazanetz and I were wondering why our buddy Dave Nichols did not attend the 100th Anniversary Celebration at Yawgoog this past summer. Well, lo’ and behold I heard from Dave at Christmastime and here is what he had to say: “Dear Judy, If there was ever an annual YAA celebration at Yawgoog that I didn’t want to miss – this was surely the one. July 30th was circled on my calendar months in advance as a red-letter day and I had clearly planned to be at Yawgoog’s 100 Year Centennial celebration. But events got in the way. Five days earlier I had major sinus surgery that called for a relaxed and slowed-down follow up. Unknown to me at the same time the fatigue and shortness of breath I was experiencing were from pneumonia that was diagnosed just two weeks later. The sinus surgery was successful and I think it had put an end to years of recurring infection.

The pneumonia, in spite of antibiotic treatment, is still with me but I think I’m turning the corner and I hope this week’s CT Scan will show that to be the case. As you remember I did get to Yawgoog in 2015 for the beginning of the Centennial year celebration and it was a fine event. My memory says that only 12 of us from the ‘40’s made it back for that one. This year’s turnout must have been huge and I wish I could have been there. There won’t be another like it in my lifetime. I’d be remiss not to mention the wonderful writings of Tom DelPrete in the Fall, 2016, issue of the Belltower – “Yawgoog – A Timeless Experience”. It was a beautiful tribute to what Yawgoog has meant to so many of us. I was there as a camper for 2 weeks in the summers of ’42 and ’43 and on staff for 8 summers from ’44 through ’51. Tom’s writings bring back all the memories and feelings of those wonderful years. His essay is a beautiful remembrance and at the same time is a Classic. Thank you so very much Tom.” Well, Dave, I knew it had to be something serious to keep you from coming to this celebration! Glad you are finally on the road to recovery. Okay, all you 1940’s Alumni who attended this year’s Centennial Celebration, send Dave an email and some good wishes! You may reach Dave at: smachange25@gmail.com Love you Dave! Hope your New Year is filled with much love and good health! Judy
TO ALL MY YAWGOOG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FAMILY MEMBERS

MAY 2017 BE FILLED WITH GOD’S LOVE, HAPPINESS, GOOD HEALTH, GOOD FRIENDS AND ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY YOUR BILLS – WHAT MORE COULD WE ASK FOR… LOVE

TO ALL OF YOU… Judy

May your life
Be like good wine
Tasty, sharp and clear,
And like good wine
May it improve
With every passing year.

A ‘SCOUT SALUTE’ TO DECEASED ALUMNI MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

EDWARD O. ADLER (Providence, RI) August 13, 2016

PAMELA “PAM” ANN CRANDALL (Westerly, RI) February 24, 2016

ELAINE M. DOLAN (SHEA) (Barrington, RI) November 21, 2016
Sister of Alumnus Robert B. Shea
CAPT. ELWOOD JOSEPH EUART (Pawtucket, RI) October 26, 1942
His remains were recovered from the SS President Coolidge and he was finally laid to rest in 2016 in St. Francis Cemetery in Pawtucket. Capt. Euart was one of the 319 Narragansett Scouts who gave their lives in World War II.

FRANK GAGLIONE (Cranston, RI) 2016

JOSEPH A. GRANDE (Warwick, RI) July 22, 2016
Father of Alumnus & Executive Board Member Michael A. Grande

CHARLES W. JOHNSON, JR. (Utica, NY) June 2, 2016

RAYMOND F. LAMORE, SR. (Hope, RI) August 3, 2016
Father of former YAA Chair Ray Lamore

MARTIN P. LARAIA (Bethpage, NY) September 4, 2016

ROBERT L. LIGUORI (South Kingstown, RI) August 9, 2016

LAWRENCE E. MANGEI (Johnston, RI) April 11, 2016
Yawgoog Campmaster

EARL POTTER (St. Cloud, Minnesota) June 13, 2016

F. WILLIAM SCHULTZ (Stuart, FL & Barrington, RI) December 4, 2016
Long-time YAA Alumnus and
Father of Yawgoog 100th Anniversary Committee Member Frederick W. Schultz

ALLAN W. STILES (Swansea, MA) July 2, 2016
Narragansett Council Executive Board Member

GLADYS S. WYATT (Riverside, RI) July 26, 2016
Narragansett Council Advisory Council Member