



December 13, 2018

Stonewall Jackson Area Council Executive Board, Executive Committee, staff and volunteers.

Many of you may have already seen the WSJ article stating that National BSA has hired a bankruptcy attorney in light of the costs of defending sexual abuse lawsuits.

In a communication released yesterday, National BSA reaffirmed its focus on keeping children safe and delivering our nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training.

Our National Council stated its commitment to the social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting, and the deep care and concern for all victims of child sex abuse and the proactive steps to help victims heal and prevent future abuse. BSA stresses that at no time in BSA history has the organization knowingly allowed a sexual predator to work with youth, and will always seek to act swiftly when alerted to abuse allegations.

Our National Council is committed to communicate transparently and stated there are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected by BSA in light of the WSJ news story.

We must stress that this story refers to our National Council looking into filing for Bankruptcy **not** the Stonewall Jackson Area Council. We have assembled a few facts from the Stonewall Jackson Area Council that may help you understand our local role;

- The strength of Scouting for over 100 years has been its local domain. Each scouting unit is owned by its charter partner which is typically a place of worship, service club or educational institution. Each Council is locally incorporated in the specific state where it operates.
- The Stonewall Jackson Area Council is a 501(c)(3) entity incorporated in Virginia and is headquartered in Waynesboro, VA. Our Camp, our Volunteer Service Center and our bank funds and investments are owned and controlled by the Stonewall Jackson Area Council.
- The nature of the relationship between our council and our national BSA organization is as follows: our council is the holder of a charter to conduct the Boy Scouts of America programs in our defined territory.
- Our council receives no funding from the national organization; in fact, we pay fees to National BSA as a part of our charter agreement and for specific services. We receive value back from the national organization, but we operate as a significantly financially independent not-for-profit organization.
- Areas where we partner with National BSA are as follows: for business purposes, which include several insurance programs, services for IT and expertise related to camping. Additionally, an important note is that employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement are funded by each council but through programs controlled and operated by National BSA.
- The Stonewall Jackson Area Council is one of the strongest councils in the BSA from perspectives of fiscal health, program quality, board and volunteer dedication and staff commitment and talent.

It is our hope that our national organization can navigate the difficult waters that many organizations face over a century of existence. In Central VA and West VA, we will stand ready to help - and we will continue our primary focus on bringing high-quality Boy Scouts of America programs for over 3,500 Scouts in each neighborhood we serve.

You are welcome to call or email with thoughts or questions.

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