Commissioner Technology Focus Group (CTFG) Status Report

November 8, 2019

Updated Commissioner Tools
Since its initial release in early April, Commissioner Tools has had many minor bug fixes and enhancements. BSA Project Manager Alma Redmon and CTFG volunteer lead Rick Hillenbrand continue to work a prioritized list of additional enhancements for development.

Notable enhancements made since April include the following new items:

- Reports
  - Detailed Assessments with Comments
  - Newly Registered Commissioners
  - Simple Assessments with Comments
- A “neat” one button ‘Units Contact Visual Analysis’ tool (called ‘Export to CSV and Analyze’) which will replace the Power Pivot Table District Contact Stats Report. See image below.
  - Advantages include:
    - EASY to use... really!
    - Does not require Windows i.e., it will work on a Mac and Linux machines
    - Does not require EXCEL 2013 or newer
    - Does not require additional configuration of EXCEL

Upcoming near-term enhancements include:
- Simple/Detailed assessment – Adding Summer Camp and District Event to the Type of Meeting selection (a User suggestion)
- Adding Type of Contact field to the Simple/Detailed Assessment with Comments reports
Development of the Phase I training for the updated Commissioner Tools continues. This is an extensive update that includes not only updating the Commissioner Tools training videos, but also all the tentacles into all associated commissioner training.

**Internet Rechartering**

Version 10 of Internet Rechartering was released in early November, and incorporates the newly approved fee structures. For units that had started rechartering their units using Internet Rechartering but were awaiting the registration fee decision, they may now continue and finish their online rechartering process.

Exciting news for the Exploring community is the fact that Internet Rechartering is now available for Exploring units!

Coincidental to the charter renewal season and process, the BSA will implement periodic US criminal background checks on a five-year basis, with the first periodic recheck to take place January 2020. Every adult re-registering with BSA must submit a new, signed Disclosures & Background Check Authorization form.

For completeness sake, the new BSA fee structure effective Jan 1, 2020 is reproduced here:

- $60 for youth members in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts,
- $36 for youth members in Exploring, and
- $36 for adult members
- $60 for unit charter fees
- Optionally, some councils have included a Council Activity fee
  * (If done, this is included with the insurance fee label providing approval was given to Council.)
- Optionally, some councils have included an Insurance fee

Project Manager Tom Ritchez advises that being allowed to become a “Multiple” in an adult position based on the youth $60 fee is still being determined at the time of this publication. Additionally, they are working to determine whether or not a Paid Adult can be a “Multiple” in a youth position without paying the Youth Fee (in a Pack, Troop, Crew, Ship). Finally, it should be noted that whatever the decisions are, they will be validated in PAS and as the presentation notes ‘Additional fees will be due if persons are marked as Multiple incorrectly.’ The PAS validation occurs when a registration is being processed and the process detects if an appropriate Fee Paid position exists. The PAS system response is conditional as to whether or not Multiple will be allowed.

Bryan’s Blog had a good article on the topic, which can be found at: https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/10/23/bsa-membership-fee-to-change-beginning-jan-1-2020/

**My.Scouting Improvements**

- In **Member Manager** there is a new report called the Membership Totals Report which is the initial step in moving membership reporting to the new platform. The totals balance to the District Totals Report (DTR) which was only accessible via ScoutNet.
- **Online registration** is now available for no Fee positions (Merit badge Counselors, Nova Counselors, Supernova Mentors) as well as Exploring Posts and Clubs
- **Organization Manager** was updated with a new look and easier navigation for district and council users. This tool also is available for Exploring units to manage their online registration settings.
- Gender was added to the Trained Leader Reports. This report can also be filtered to include Explorer Posts and Clubs.
**Mobile application enhancements**
- Push notification to Key 3 Unit Leaders on applications received thru online registration
- Forgot username and password
- Additional member contact details in Organization Roster

**Scouting and Scoutbook applications**
- For Units utilizing the new Scoutbook Den leader experience, the Scouting app provides the ability to complete missed Den meeting content via the calendar event. Once completed the leader will receive the update.
- Added the parent connection capabilities for those that need to add an additional scout or parents with scouts in units that do not use Scoutbook.com as their unit management tool.
- In the “Good news / Not-so-good news” Department, the number of Scoutbook and Scouting application users has intensified. Consequentially, over the last few months Advancement applications have been dealing with performance issues. BSA’s Information Delivery Group is aware and respective Project Managers are working to improve the user experience. Your support during this time is greatly appreciated.

**New Commissioner Recruiting website**
Have you seen the new page at [https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/commissioner-recruiting/](https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/commissioner-recruiting/)?

**Florida Sea Base Courses**
Are you looking to “get away” from Winter doldrums? Would spending a week in the Florida Keys in January help? Scouting U is partnering with Sea Base to provide participants with an amazing venue for learning and fun in the beautiful Florida Keys... in January! Two commissioner specific courses are being offered. Week 1 (Jan 12-18) “Applying Technology in Unit Service” and Week 2 (Jan 19-25) “Venturing Commissioner and Council Venturing Service Conference.” Cost for course participants is $495. At only $350 there are lots of activities for Non-Conference-Attending spouses wishing to attend. Course descriptions and additional details can be found at [https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/11/07/fly-south-for-the-winter-for-a-florida-sea-bases-volunteer-development-conference/](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/11/07/fly-south-for-the-winter-for-a-florida-sea-bases-volunteer-development-conference/)

**Final Note**
We are in the process of updating the distribution list for this periodic status report. If you no longer wish to receive this report, please let us know by sending an e-mail to CommissionerTools@scouting.org. Also, if you were receiving this status report because of a position you no longer hold, could you provide the name and contact information of the new incumbent?

**Support**
Member Care Contact Center is available to offer support at 972-580-2489 Monday thru Friday between 7 am – 7 pm Central time, or by sending an email to myscouting@scouting.org. Please provide your name and BSA membership ID number in addition to specific details about your concern so that we can more quickly troubleshoot your issue.

*The Commissioner Technology Focus Group*