

## Status Report

The Gulf Ridge Council appointed a team of Board Members and past Presidents, to act as a Task Force to examine membership enrollment procedures and investigate allegations regarding membership. The initial conclusion of the Task Force is that the membership enrollment procedures that have been in effect for many years and that are currently used by the Council are consistent throughout all ten districts of the Council.

Further, no evidence of Council-wide membership discrepancies has been found, and the Task Force is satisfied that the policy for membership enrollment, as administered by the new Council Scout Executive and the Council Commissioner represents "Best Practice" procedures that are consistent with National BSA policy

Moreover, the Task Force has also determined that the Gulf Ridge Council's relationships with the Hillsborough County Commission, six United Way agencies, and other entities continue to be solid and consistent with prior periods. No changes in these relationships have been requested or are expected to be made by either party, and to clarify any misunderstanding no funding received by Gulf Ridge Council from these entities is based upon membership.

Several instances covering the past five years were reviewed where membership errors were previously discovered by the Council through the application of standard internal check procedures. In all cases, the errors were corrected. These instances involved only a small number of Scouts, and did not involve public funding. It is the judgment of this Task Force, that the reported membership of the Council is correct. To further define internal procedures of checks and balances, additional measures have been adopted by the Council Commissioner including conducting an additional spring unit inventory each year as well as continuing the fall inventory of membership already in place.

This Task Force was formed in February of this year and through postings on the Council web site has requested that anyone with information regarding membership issues contact the Task Force so that any and all allegations of Council membership impropriety could be investigated. Nonetheless, as of June 30, 2005, no specific facts have been presented to the Task Force by any party that indicate a membership problem. As previously reported, the Council continues to cooperate with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on this matter. This Task Force will remain in place and available for the receipt and review of any possible new allegations throughout the foreseeable future.

If anyone has any additional information regarding membership issues, please contact the Task Force Chairman, Ken Hyatt, at (813) 639-7596.