



District and Unit Volunteers, Members and Parents:

I am sharing information regarding the WSJ article yesterday stating that National BSA has hired a bankruptcy attorney in light of the costs of defending sexual abuse lawsuits. I anticipate learning additional information on a structured call with National BSA later today.

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

BSA 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.

BSA 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.

I have assembled a few items of information from a Tulsa perspective that may be helpful considering the news story.

- The strength of Scouting for over 100 years has been its local domain. Each troop 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 Indian Nations Council is a 501(c)(3) entity incorporated in Oklahoma. Our Camps, or Volunteer Service Center, our bank funds and investments are owned and controlled by the Indian Nations Council.
- The nature of the relationship for a council with the national BSA organization is that our council is the holder of a charter to conduct the Boy Scouts of America programs in our defined territory.
- Council's receive 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, for business purposes, include several insurance programs, services for IT and expertise related to camping, Youth Protection and so on. Also, important to note is employee benefits such as healthcare and retirement are funded by each council but through programs controlled and operated by National BSA.
- The Indian Nations 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 the national organization can navigate the difficult waters that many organizations face over a century of existence. In Tulsa, we will stand ready to help - and we will continue our primary focus on bringing high-quality Boy Scouts of America programs for over 20,000 families in the neighborhoods we serve.

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

**Bill Haines** | Scout Executive/ CEO

Indian Nations Council, Boy Scouts of America

4295 South Garnett Road | Tulsa, OK 74146

P 918.743.6125 | F 918.743.6049 | [bhaines@okscouts.org](mailto:bhaines@okscouts.org)

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