Troop 194 and 255 opened the reception with the Court of Honors presentation.

Annual Heritage Society Reception Held at The Foundry

Aaron Marcovy welcomed Heritage Society members and guests to The Foundry, Cleveland’s Community Rowing and Sailing Center on October 27, 2017. Marcovy is the former executive director of The Foundry and continues to serve on the board today. As an elite rower, Aaron’s dream was fulfilled with the opening of the complex in 2017. In his comments, Aaron, an Eagle Scout, spoke about the renovation of the former industrial, multi-building complex, the indoor rowing tanks, training center, rowing dock that spans 520 feet and the impact this training center has on youth through their participation in rowing and sailing.

Color guards from Troops 194 and 255 opened the Court of Honor for the Distinguished Eagle Scout presentation to Bert Moyar. Mitch Blair, immediate past Council president, and Al Lambert, Assistant Chief Scout Executive, presented the award. Mike Brady presented the Heritage Society annual report, welcomed new members and invited others to think about how they might participate. Scout Executive, Marc Ryan, concluded the formal agenda with a summary of highlights from his inaugural year at the Lake Erie Council.

Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Presented

On October 27, 2017, at the Annual Heritage Society Reception, Bert Moyar received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award recognizing outstanding professional achievements and volunteer service from the National BSA office. He is only the sixth Eagle Scout of the Council in the 106-year history of the BSA and only one of 2,300 award recipients nationally to receive this honor.

Serving as chairman and Scoutmaster of Troop 15 in Shaker Heights, with his three sons by his side, Bert Moyar has made Scouting an integral component of his life personally and professionally. He was honored with the Silver Beaver Award in 1996. Bert joined the Executive Board of the Greater Cleveland Council, now Lake Erie Council, in 1993 and has served in various capacities. Most notably, Council Commissioner and the President of the Council from 2006 to 2008. He has worked tirelessly to expand the Scouting program in Cleveland to serve more underprivileged young men.

Bert has had a wide-ranging business career. He practiced law for 15 years and then became involved in the hotel business. He later acquired the controlling interest of Ohio’s second largest full-service commercial real estate brokerage firm and served as its chairman and CEO. He is currently chairman of MEI Hotels Incorporated and MEI Development Company. Bert and his son, David, an Eagle Scout, develop, own and manage hotels. Since 2011, he has been chairman of the board of directors of LifeHealth Science, LLC, a Cleveland biomedical company.

Bert is a past member of the board of trustees of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He has established a partnership between the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America on the local and national levels. Bert has been a board leader of the International Orthodox Christian Charities, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, and Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Cleveland. Bert is a member the City Club of Cleveland and the Bluecoats of Cleveland.

Bert and his wife, Marjorie, have three sons and five grandchildren. The Moyars are members of the Heritage Society.
Four Wonderful Gifts and a Family Affair with Scouting

Tracy Blake hails from a family of Scouters. He and his brothers are Eagle Scouts from Troop 403 chartered to Forest Hills Church in Cleveland Heights. Tracy’s father, Robert, was the Committee Chair of the troop; his sister, Jane, was in Girl Scouts; and, his mother, Emily, coordinated the annual troop lightbulb sale among many other things. Most recently, Jane and Emily hemmed 20 pairs of Cub Scout pants! Tracy honored his mother and father with a gift to establish James E. West Fellowships in 2014.

As an adult, Tracy became involved in Scouting with his nephews in Chagrin Falls. Next, Bill Garrison recruited him to help with Pack 63 at Case Elementary School chartered to the Rotary Club of Cleveland where he has served as Cubmaster since 2011. Tracy also helps Troop 931 during summer camp at Beaumont Scout Reservation.

Over the years, Tracy witnessed a decline in the physical condition of the Beaumont pool where he learned to swim and worked as a camp counselor during his college years.

As the people and memories flooded back to him, he was inspired and gave $75,000 for a new pool which opened June 2017. Tracy’s motivation for a third gift came from Jay Gorham, the ranger at Beaumont for 35 years, who said, “No one budgets for maintenance.” So, Tracy gave an additional $25,000 that was placed in the Council’s endowment fund. It will provide annual operating support and maintenance income for the new pool. This gift qualifies for membership in the 1910 Society. Finally, Tracy has included a bequest in his estate plans for the Council.

Tracy is the retired president of Blake Packaging Products, Inc., a member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland and the Church of the Covenant. Tracy and Beth, his wife, love to ski and work in the yard. We thank him for his outstanding gifts and recognize the entire Blake family for their Scouting legacy.

A Lifetime of Scouting and New Vision for the Council Prompts Planned Gift

We are pleased to announce that Robert Kenyon of Geneva, Ohio, has provided the Lake Erie Council with a planned gift of $1.1 million. We welcome him as the newest member at the Founder’s Circle Platinum level. He is also a James E. West Fellow.

Mr. Kenyon joined Troop 50 in Harpersfield, in 1968 and earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1971. Bob credits Scouting for creating the foundation of servant leadership that has shaped his life. Specifically, it was Bob’s memories of the many outings at camp, treks through the forests and trips he took with the troop that he values. The skills that he learned and the friendships made that grew out of those shared experiences were “icing on the cake.” Bob went on to a successful career in the field of chemistry and retired as senior research chemist at Ricerca Biosciences, LLC. He continues to volunteer and support Scouting today.

When finalizing his estate plans, Bob credited these experiences and relationships in Scouting as the main reasons that he wanted to include the Lake Erie Council as a beneficiary in his estate. His support of the new vision for the Council and the confidence he has in its future also aided in his decision to plan a significant gift.

Once realized, Mr. Kenyon’s gift will establish a multi-purpose endowment with two primary focal points. The first is to make Scouting more accessible to others by funding camperships, experiences, important events and fees making them affordable to all Scouts and their families. The second is to enhance the Scouting experience through new programming or additional current programming, capital projects, vehicles and equipment.

While Mr. Kenyon is a private man and seeks no recognition for his generous deed, he has given the Council permission to share his story with the hope that it will inspire others to remember the Council in their own estate plans.
Guerra Gift of $1.1 Million at Work

Scouting had been a lifelong adventure for Eagle Scout John B. Guerra. John grew up in Wilkes Barre, PA where he earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1945 in the Wyoming Valley Council. As an adult, John mentored Scouts and Scouters alike. He served as Scoutmaster for Troop 22 charted to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights from 1979 to 1989. His goal was to help Scouts strive for the best in themselves using the patrol method as a guide. He served as a Sea Scout leader and shared his talents with many inner city troops and leaders. As a trainer, John helped others become quality leaders, so even more boys would receive the benefits of Scouting.

As a Scout, John's troop had six patrols, a drill team and a bugle corps. John was a member of the bugle corps and played the “echo” during ceremonies recognizing World War II military personnel. After college, John returned to the town to help with the Sea Scout Ship 4 as a mate.

John graduated from Wilkes University in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He worked full-time while attending Cleveland Marshall College of Law in the evenings. He earned his juris doctorate and spent the rest of his career as a trust officer for Society National Bank, now Key Bank, retiring in 1979. John continued to practice law on a part-time basis in retirement.

In addition to the time and talents he has shared with youth and adults alike, John made numerous monetary gifts to the Greater Cleveland Council. Additional gifts included annual five-figure gifts to pay for low-income Scouts to attend summer camp at Beaumont Scout Reservation. In 2016, John gave $100,000 to construct the Guerra Arts Center at Beaumont. This building allows for numerous merit badge classes to be offered simultaneously and provides display spaces for sculptures, art work, and railroad and war model recreations donated by Mr. Guerra.

In 2017, the Lake Erie Council received John’s $1 million estate gift. His gift reflected what he valued most and was allocated as follows:

• $200,000 will be used to renovate two troop lodges at Beaumont and be named and dedicated to the memory of William Hillcourt, Scoutmaster to the World.

• $200,000 to establish the John B. Guerra Endowment Fund for New Scout Troop Formation. The fund will assist with startup costs of the formation of new Scout troops in low-income areas throughout the Lake Erie Council.

• $200,000 to establish the John B. Guerra Summer Camp Staff Endowment Fund. Recognizing that talented individuals are needed to create and deliver programs, the fund supplements the salaries paid to certain camp staff members selected by the Council based on their exceptional ability and performance.

• $400,000 to establish the John B. Guerra Marketing Endowment Fund. The purpose is to provide the salary of a marketing and public relations specialist who will promote, communicate and celebrate the value of Scouting to members, communities and donors.

It was John’s wish to help future generations of Scouts. He hoped that his gifts would inspire others to consider making gifts to the capital campaign or the endowment fund at any level. Scout Executive, Marc Ryan, said, “John’s generosity is magnificent. His gifts are thoughtful and transformational, benefiting Scouts for generations to come!”
P. Thomas Austin Recognized as 2017 Eagle Scout Class Honoree

The inaugural Lake Erie Council, Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Class consisted of 310 fine young men of which 175 attended the annual Eagle Class Recognition Dinner on March 18, 2018. Parents, family members and career sponsors filled the Grand Ballroom at the Renaissance Hotel to honor and celebrate the 2017 P. Thomas Austin Eagle Scout Class.

Mr. Austin embodies the ethos of Scouting having earned the Eagle Scout Award in 1941 with one Bronze and two Silver Palms, Troop # B5 in Birmingham, Michigan. He has served as an Executive Board member of the Lake Erie Council since 2005 using his expertise in estate planning to help grow the Council Endowment Fund. He is a member of the Heritage Society. In recognition of his service and many contributions to Scouting over 33 years, he received the prestigious Silver Beaver Award in 2011.

Mr. Austin is a certified public accountant and retired partner from Ernst & Young after a 38-year career. Currently, he is a consultant with the law firm of Ziegler Metzger LLP in Cleveland specializing in estate planning and personal finance. He is the founder of the American Institute of Accountants Annual Advanced Estate Planning Conference and served as its chairman for 36 years. He is an estate planning volunteer for the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and Trinity Cathedral. He received the Distinguished Accredited Estate Planner given by the National Association of Estate Planners in 2008.

Tom is the proud father of five children and has 11 grandchildren. He and his wife, Judy Watson, enjoy family gatherings, friends, traveling and their numerous volunteer activities.
Due to recently enacted legislation, you may also be able to make a gift to charity with a distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and take advantage of tax savings. Under The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, Americans over the age of 70 ½ can distribute up to $100,000 in a calendar year from an IRA to Lake Erie Council, Boy Scouts of America or other charities, tax-free. This distribution to charity can be a significant benefit for IRA owners who are required each year to take minimum required distributions, which are included in their gross income for income tax purposes.

If an IRA owner directs the IRA plan administrator to distribute any amount up to $100,000 to charity, the distribution counts toward the owner’s minimum required distribution, but is not included in his or her income for income tax purposes. Although the IRA owner is not entitled to a charitable deduction for the distribution, the distribution benefits charity. This option is known as the “IRA charitable rollover.”

**Here’s How It Works:**

- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- You may distribute any amount up to $100,000 in a calendar year to charity, as long it is completed by December 31 of the year in which you intend to make the charitable distribution.
- Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity, or you may write a check payable to the charity from your IRA checkbook.

If you have questions, please call Scott Evans, chief development officer, at 216-498-8927, or email scott.evans2@scouting.org. Before proceeding, you should also consult with your tax advisor to discuss your particular situation including any impact of your state’s tax laws.

**Council Receives Two Estate Gifts**

George F. Qua died in September 2017. He served as a Council executive board member, owned an auto dealership and was a Colonel in the U.S. Army. He joined Scouting with his son and provided a gift of a paid-up life insurance policy naming the Council as the beneficiary.

Harold (Hal) Swinerton was another lifelong Scouter and was very involved with the Order of the Arrow until his passing in 2002. His wife, Jessie who died in March 2017, left a gift in her will to benefit the Scouts in the Lake Erie Council.

Lake Erie Council is grateful to these families and honors their Scouting legacies.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution**

Due to recently enacted legislation, you may also be able to make a gift to charity with a distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and take advantage of tax savings. Under The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, Americans over the age of 70 ½ can distribute up to $100,000 in a calendar year from an IRA to Lake Erie Council, Boy Scouts of America or other charities, tax-free. This distribution to charity can be a significant benefit for IRA owners who are required each year to take minimum required distributions, which are included in their gross income for income tax purposes.

If an IRA owner directs the IRA plan administrator to distribute any amount up to $100,000 to charity, the distribution counts toward the owner’s minimum required distribution, but is not included in his or her income for income tax purposes. Although the IRA owner is not entitled to a charitable deduction for the distribution, the distribution benefits charity. This option is known as the “IRA charitable rollover.”

**Here’s How It Works:**

- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- You may distribute any amount up to $100,000 in a calendar year to charity, as long it is completed by December 31 of the year in which you intend to make the charitable distribution.
- Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity, or you may write a check payable to the charity from your IRA checkbook.

If you have questions, please call Scott Evans, chief development officer, at 216-498-8927, or email scott.evans2@scouting.org. Before proceeding, you should also consult with your tax advisor to discuss your particular situation including any impact of your state’s tax laws.
Philmont Trip

There is still time to join Lake Erie Council Heritage Society’s annual trek to the iconic Philmont Scout Ranch on October 7-10, 2018. Individuals and couples are welcome. There will be activities including hikes and suburban tours of the Ranch and back country, fellowship, two hours of educational seminars and lots of fun. To learn more or make a reservation, please contact Culeen Carey at (216)458-8948 or culeen.carey@scouting.org.

Beaumont to Philmont Camp Funds

An $800,000 gift to the Council from an anonymous donor in 2015 to enhance summer camp experiences for Scouts is making a difference. The Beaumont Camp Fund ensures that Scouts can attend summer camp regardless of their financial need. The Council Camping Committee determines which Council campers who have attended three years of summer camp at Beaumont would be eligible to earn support from another new camp fund to offset the expense of a trek to Philmont Scout Ranch. Each year, $20,000 from these restricted funds will be distributed in accordance with the donor’s wishes.

Save the Date

The annual Heritage Society reception will be August 21, 2018 at Bissel Maple Farm in Jefferson, Ohio. Invitations to follow.

Welcome and Thank You

Members of the Heritage Society

These new members have established a planned gift for Scouting through estate planning by will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance or other vehicles.

- Bill and Rayna Bakker
- Dave and Bonnie Blank
- Richard and Jann Glove
- Sami and Tom Lang
- Barry and Penny Norris
- Larry and Beth Mitchell
- Michael and Gabrielle Quintin
- Joe Wollet and Kathie Wilkens

1910 Society

These new members gave $25,000 or more to the Council’s endowment.

- Tracy H. Blake
- John B. Guerra

New James E. West Fellows

These new members gave $1,000 or more to the Council’s endowment.

- Mark Anderson
- Martin Andrews
- Anonymouse
- Paula Berghauser
- Carl Boyles
- Kenneth Fox, Jr.
- Thomas Gilligan
- Joseph Groszek
- David Hearne
- Robert Kenyon, Sr.
- Mark Kikta
- Frank Klaus
- Beth Mitchell
- Dennis Stocker
- Jeff Vanderpool

*This list above was generated on April 30, 2018. We apologize for any errors or omissions.