

A joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs and the Senate Committee on Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services was held Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in room 100 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m.

Members present of the Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Garcia, and Olshove

Members excused of the Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee: Senator Basham

Members present of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services: Senators Hardiman, Kahn, and Jansen

Members excused of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services: Senators Scott and Barcia

Senator Allen called the meeting of the Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee to order.

Senator Hardiman called the meeting of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Human Services to order.

The Sub-Committee on Human Services adopted their minutes from their November 12, 2009 meeting by unanimous consent.

Senator Hardiman thanked Senator Allen and all who worked to organize the meeting and Boy Scout events at the Capitol. Senator Hardiman is very supportive and appreciative for all that scouting does for youth and the community. He offered his thanks and congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

Senator Hardiman turned over the gavel to Senator Allen for the remainder of the meeting.

Senator Allen welcomed the audience and thanked those present for traveling to be at the Capitol to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Senator Allen called up Dan Bettison and Mitchell Pierpont, representing the Boy Scouts of America, to speak about the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Bettison thanked the committees for the opportunity to speak and explained that Michigan can be proud to have ten strong councils which are all represented today.

Mr. Pierpont stated it was a big honor to be at the Capitol today and noted that there are many great ways in which the Boy Scouts impact their local communities, state, nation, and world. Mr. Pierpont thanked the committees for the opportunity to celebrate their 100th anniversary.

Joseph Calvaruso, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, testified as to the importance being a Boy Scout had on the late President Ford. Mr. Calvaruso read a segment from President Ford's son's memoir regarding the influence scouting had on President Ford's character.

James Davis, of the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camps, spoke to the service this section provides to the State of Michigan through their upkeep and actions on Mackinac Island. Mr. Davis stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve his community and fellow citizens.

Elizabeth Wisman, of the Gerald R. Ford Council and President of the Venturing Officers Association, testified as to the rewarding training opportunities available through scouting.

Ethan Perlman, of Troop 33 of the Great Lakes Council, testified that there had been many highlights in his seven years as a Boy Scout. Mr. Perlman stated that scouting has been an important part of his life.

Conor Parker, of the Hiawatha Land Council and Ag-IM Lodge, explained the program that the Ag-IM Lodge is undertaking this summer which involves irradiating invasive species, demolition of unwanted buildings, and repairing trails in the Hiawatha Land Forest.

Phil Farnsworth, of the Great Sauk Trail Council, spoke about the great opportunity to volunteer with the Boy Scouts and that it was a privilege to share the 100th anniversary with the legislature. Mr. Farnsworth stated that it was exciting to see what troops were doing today, and he thanked the committees for being a part of this.

Bill Semrau, of the Southwest Michigan Council, testified that scouting gave kids a sense of belonging with adult guidance and structure. He noted that there were many leadership opportunities for kids and that scouting prepared them for their futures as leaders.

Senator Pappageorge noted that when he was an admissions officer for West Point, an applicant that was an Eagle Scout got high marks for the accomplishments that rank entailed.

Senator Allen noted that committee members and boy scouts from their district should stick around following their meeting to take pictures. Senator Allen further thanked Senator Kahn for introducing legislation earlier this session to create a Boy Scouts of American license plate option.

Senator Hardiman thanked all those who volunteered with the Boy Scouts.

There being no further business to discuss, Senator Hardiman adjourned the Sub-Committee on Human Services at 1:11 p.m.

Senator Allen thanked Senator Hardiman for convening the joint committee meeting. There being no further business to discuss, Senator Allen adjourned the Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren K. Michalak
Committee Clerk

Jason Allen
Chairman

Date Approved by Committee