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# FIRST OF 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Vice President of Communications: Andrei Niemczyk

2016  
**2017**



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Alex Murphy started out in Scouting as a Tiger Cub in Pack 118 in 2005. Alex then passed through all the ranks including Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos, earning all 20 Webelos activity pins as well as the Arrow of Light. Alex bridged into Boy Scout Troop 307 where he slowly, but surely went up through the ranks, While in Boy Scouts, Alex held multiple positions in leadership in his Troop including Historian, Den Chief, Scribe, Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Alex was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, is a part of the Chapter Achoicominga, and serves in his Chapter. After completing the rank of Eagle Scout, Alex turned 18 and aged out of Scouting. Luckily, Alex's journey in Scouting did not end, as he had heard of a Venturing while attending Eagle meetings. Without hesitation, Alex decided to attend a crew meeting and ended up joining. Currently a part of Crew 1947 as a Camp Whitsitt Staff. He also joined the Western Los Angeles County Council's Venturing Officer's Association and was inducted into the role of Vice President of Program.



Alex Murphy Vice  
President of  
Program



# Update from the WLACC Venturing Officers Association:

\*Well, we did a lot. So here is some of it

Western Los Angeles County Council's Venturing Officers Association has been up to great things! To close the New Year, WLACC had their first ever Day on the Ice at the Simi Valley Iceoplex where Scouters, along with friends and family of Scouters united for a couple of fun-filled hours of free skating on the ice!

Matt a Boy Scout from Troop 1 enjoyed "a night on the ice" and even contributed to renting a seal of which they used to push "one another around on and as they avoided running people over." Ian a Boy Scout from Troop 22 and a Venturing Scout from Venturing Crew 22, on the other hand, loved how the Venturing Officers Association and other event attendees worked diligently to teach him how to skate.



To kick off 2017, WLACC VOA leads leadership training at the first ever Order of the Arrow/ Venturing Officers Association Leadership Academy. There Boy Scouts, Venturing Scouts, and Arrowmen from WLACC and Malibu Lodge had the opportunity to join together and learn more about the OA, VOA, Venturing program, and many leadership skills like time management, mentoring, project management and so much more! This joining of the two scouting honor societies (Venturing Officers Association and Order of the Arrow) in leading an event was a new and exciting development for WLACC opening doors to many opportunities in the future and strengthening the scouting program as a whole!



Shortly after, WLACC's VOA attended the annual Council Silver Beaver dinner where many outstanding adult and youth leaders alike were acknowledged for their outstanding work with the scouting program in our council. There, our very own VOA Vice President of Program Associate Advisor, Jessica Pazdernik was honored, among others, with a Silver Beaver award, a small token of appreciation for all of the remarkable work and commitment she and others have put into today's youth in scouting. In addition to the Silver Beaver award, the WLACC VOA presented Venturing Leadership Awards (equivalent to the Silver Beaver in the Venturing Program) to three youth and one adult.

~(pictures below in the VLA section)~



To close up January, WLACC VOA ran the first ever Venturing Academy on the West Coast in cooperation with Pow Wow and the University of Scouting offering over 14 training courses youth specific, adult specific, and for everyone. Some courses offered were Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews, Advisor Specific and Committee Challenge, Here's Venturing, Venturing Advancement and Awards, Leadership Opportunities beyond the crew, scholarships, and scouting, and more! The WLACC VOA had the honor of hosting guest speakers like previous National Venturing Vice President Jillian Infusino, and members of the Western Region Area 4 Venturing Cabinet training over 50 participants from all branches of scouting!



# Venturing Leadership Award Recipients Are Officially Awarded

The WLACC's 2017 Council Recognition Dinner was a joyous occasion that celebrated the recipients of the Silver Beaver award, the Venturing Leadership Award, and the heroic acts of two boys.

The Silver Beaver is the highest honor a Council can award its volunteers in recognition of service to the youth through scouting and other organizations. The 2017 recipients of this award were, Nancy Berk, Dr. Mark Carlson, Rodger Chartrand, Glenn Crites, Victor Garza Jr., Jennifer Kurt, Jessica Pazdernik, and Luann Peterson. They have all done a tremendous job setting an excellent example within our council and to those around them.



The Venturing Leadership Award (for Council) is the highest honor the Venturing program can award to those who have served the youth within the Venturing Council. The 2016 recipients of this award were, Justin Engstrom (received by Steve Engstrom), Michael Henderson, Natalie MacEwan, and Madeleine Part. They have been prime examples to those within our Venturing community.

The names of the boys are unknown, but their actions made a life-saving impression. The first boy saved the life of his dad who was convulsing on the floor from a sudden seizure. The second boy saved his grandfather from drowning when he saw him face down in the pool of his backyard. Both boys did a courageous act by rushing into action and tending to the men in distress.

Everyone was living by the Scout Oath and Law, and it was wonderful that those who went beyond the call of duty were recognized that night.

Written By: Madeleine Part



# VLA Recipients

Natalie MacEwan



Madeleine Part



# VLA

## Recipients

Steve Engstrom on the  
behalf of Justin Engstrom



Michael Henderson



**R**anger

**A**ward

**D**evelopment

Coming back for a second season is the Ranger Award Development Program (RAD Days)! This year the RAD Days will be better than ever featuring more of the Ranger Award requirements like shooting, Rock Climbing, and so much more in the three part series. As always, the RAD Day program is open to all branches of scouting (Sea Scouts, Explorers, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts) over the age of 13. Keep reading through this issue for more information and stay up to date by making sure to like our council Facebook page (Western Los Angeles County Council Venturing)

# Day 1

Spend March 19 with youth across WLACC and GLACC for a day of shooting everything from shotgun, pistol, rifle and more!

Link to Register is coming soon!

For now keep the graphic attached below handy to Save The Date!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**3/19/17**



**RANGER AWARD DAY I**



**Hosted By:**

**WLACC's**

**Venturing Officers Association**

**Shooting Outing;**

**.22s and more!**

# Day 2

A day of fun climbing with making new friends  
council-wide!



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**5 / 13 / 17**

**RANGER AWARD DAY 2**

**Hosted By:**  
**WLACC's**  
**Venturing Officers Association**

**Indoor Rock Climbing;**  
**High Wall Climbs and MORE!**

You can get even more fun by going from the  
WLACC RAD Day 2 to the Western Region Area 4  
Banquet where you can see the new cabinet be  
sworn in, recognize those who earned awards,  
and have tons of fun at another all nighter

# Day 3... FINALE

Join WLACC for a weekend of fun at the beach!

We will celebrate the past year's accomplishments, acknowledge outstanding leaders, and induct our new 2017-2018 Venturing Officers Association cabinet!

Another event you won't want to miss so save the date!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**6 / 9 - 11 / 17**

**RANGER AWARD DAY 3**

**~FIN~(for now)**

**Hosted By:**

**WLACC's**

**Venturing Officers Association**

2 Night "overnighter";

Theme: **Hawaiian Luau**

What: **FUN** Trainings and  
Dutch Oven Cooking!

# Limited Edition Western Los Angeles County Council CSP:

Western Los Angeles County Council Introduces their new Limited edition Council Venturing Council Shoulder Patches offered in three different colors. The first, a ghost patch with a venturing green outline and green venturing logo representing the people that matter the most- the individual crews in our council, the silver patch representing the council level Venturing officers association that serves our crews, and the gold representing the National, Regional, and Area level Venturing Officers Association.

All patches are for sale:

Ghost Patch: \$5

Silver Patch: \$10

Gold Patch: \$20

Set of all three: \$30



All proceeds from patch sales will go back to the Western Los Angeles County Venturing Officers Association in order to help continue providing resources for each unit, awards, and recognition for outstanding leaders and achievers in our council, and run our program open to all; including leadership trainings and fun program like the Ranger Award Development Series!

Link to purchase online will be coming out soon so make sure to like our Facebook page (Western Los Angeles County Council Venturing) for more information and updates!

As for now, look to buy these awesome patches at council events like Ranger Award Development and more!



# RAD DAY 1

## EXTRAVAGANZA

On April 23, 2016, crew 128 attended the RAD day 1 event located at Orange County Ropes Canyon RV Park. This gathering was hosted by the Western Los Angeles City Council.

At the time our crew was just starting out and we wanted to frequent as many events as possible in order to spread the word about our new group. We also were looking for ways to prepare us for working towards the Ranger Award and this was a wonderful opportunity to start. RAD day 1 was made up of a fun cope course which had three levels and was around six stories high. Each level tested different sets of skills such as flexibility, strength, and balance. After the cope course was a competitive orienteering course in which we navigated to different areas around the RV site. All in all, we met some really cool people and are really excited to attend the event this year in 2017.



By: Zachary Fineberg  
Crew 128





From One VP Comms.

To

YOU

As my term goes on as your 2016-2017 Vice President of Communications, I have learned more than I ever thought I would. I learned the true value and the pure outreach of emails, and these newsletters. I also learned how without networking and contacts I would be nowhere. Most importantly I learned the value of friendship.

**I KNOW IT SOUNDS CHEESY!**

(but just continue reading.)

Through working as VP Comms. I've learned that if you have friends to help you out, no task is too much.



I have become relatively close and have gotten to know my advisors. For the most part, learning their strengths and how we can work together to succeed was fairly easy. We are all hard working individuals who love to help. I have also begun to work with the Area 4 Vice President of Communications, Soham Patel. His leadership skills and guidance have got me to my level now, and I still have much to learn from him and my peers.

YIV,

Andrei "Da Cool Comms. Dude" Niemczyk



# What's There to Joke About?

1. How do psychologists party?

By: Maddy Part  
Crew 104

2. How does a Boy Scout know that REI  
has good deals?

By: Anonymous  
Crew Unknown

## The Answers to LIFE!

1. They Cerebrate.

2. They SCOUT it out



Hello Venturers and  
Advisors,

First I'd like to  
congratulate all of the  
Venturing Leadership  
Award recipients along  
with one of our Advisor  
who received Silver  
Beaver, Jessica  
Pazdernik. This was  
the first year that we  
have an opportunity to  
present VLA at our  
Council Recognition  
Dinner. WLACC VOA  
has been getting off to  
a great Start this year!

The cabinet has decided  
to bring back the RAD  
(Ranger Award  
Development) series  
again. They have a  
little bit of different  
twist with some  
surprise on each one of  
our RAD! Everyone  
should attend and  
experience at least one  
of the day or better yet  
all three RAD!



Currently we are excepting the nominations for next year VLA. If you know of someone that need to be recognize please nominate them! Last thing I like to mention is the term of our 2016-2017 has come almost to an end. So we are looking for a new set of council level youth volunteers. We are now taking application and the selection for the new VOA cabinet is just right around the corner. Remember that if you ever need any helps from the council with your crew, don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you.

T. Itsarapakdetam  
Council VOA Advisor



V

*Don't Forget*  
**ABOUT THE COUNCIL**  
**WEBSITE**

Western Los Angeles County Council Venturing



*WLACC Venturing, BSA*

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