From the Desk of John Fullerton
Continued from page 1
them and what scientific discoveries will they play a part in uncovering? What will a visit to Camp Tahquitz or the Long Beach Sea Base look like? How will Scouts travel there and what novel technologies will capture their curiosity?

The Council is taking the next two years to develop the agenda for our Centennial. During that time, we will be reaching out to alumni, today’s Scouts and their families, local leaders, visionaries, and futurists for both recollections and predictions. The past and the future – both will play a part in this momentous birthday celebration.

On Wednesday, May 24, 2017, the Long Beach Area Council Boy Scouts of America will honor the Port of Long Beach and Steve Goodling, President/CEO of the Long Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau with the Good Scout of the Year Award at The Gallery at the Long Beach Arena. Guests will enjoy talking with Eagle Scouts seated at each table. Bruce MacRae will serve as emcee.

Dinner Chairman David Thornburg said, “I am thrilled to be honoring the Port and Steve. They are both powerhouses in the community. We’re going to have a great time with this classical music theme. You won’t want to miss it.”

Tickets to the 2017 Distinguished Citizen Dinner are $200 per seat. A variety of table sponsorships are available from $1,750 to $20,000 and congratulatory ads start at $500. Please visit our webpage for more information at www.longbeachbsa.org/dcd.

For additional information, please contact Marc Bonner, Development Director, at 562-427-0911 x 280 or by email at marc.bonner@scouting.org.

All birthdays are momentous, some more so than others. But nothing resonates as deeply as 100. One hundred years is long enough to have seen some significant history, long enough to get over feeling like just a passing fad, and long enough to have emerged from a hard-won past and be able to face the future with confidence. In 2019, the Long Beach Area Council will celebrate its centennial anniversary.

The Long Beach Area Council was founded in a busy time, following the Boy Scouts’ founding in the United States by only nine years, and only 31 years after the 1888 founding of the City of Long Beach. In 1911, 600 acres of muckflats were dug out at the mouth of the Los Angeles River which became the Port of Long Beach – today the second busiest port in the United States. In 1919, the same year as our founding, local aviator Earl Daugherty opened a 20 acre flying field for his flight training school at Bixby Road and Long Beach Boulevard, and in 1920, the City asked Daugherty to develop a 60-acre municipal flying field on land west of Long Beach Boulevard.

We have seen some significant history in these 100 years. During our Centennial celebration we want to honor that past and the men and women, boys and girls who built it. But we also want to look to the future to the next 100 years. What will our Scouts be doing, and will it be on earth or perhaps on a distant planet? What new careers await distant planet? What new careers await
Eagles Recognized by City Leaders

Over 250 guests including Eagle Scouts, families, and friends gathered on February 23rd at The Grand in Long Beach where 61 Eagle Scouts were recognized for their achievements and personal projects completed in 2016.

Police Chief Robert Luna addressed the larger group before dinner service. Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia then congratulated all Eagle Scouts for the remarkable achievement. Mayor Garcia said, “We as a city are incredibly grateful for the work you all do. And to the parents, thank all of you for supporting your young people to be a part of this great organization and to give back to Long Beach.”

Vice Mayor Rex Richardson was also on hand to meet and greet with Eagle Scouts, asking them about their backgrounds, projects, and future plans.

Eagle Scout Noah Dyo of Troop 212 in Long Beach addressed the audience as the 2017 Voice of the Eagle, recounting his experiences growing up in Missouri where he advanced to Eagle Scout at age 14. “I did all the Scouting programs,” he said. “It taught me about the outdoors. I was a farmboy, and Scouting showed me that I could accomplish things. I guess you could say it gave me a lot of self-confidence.” When he advanced to college, Doyle added that “being an Eagle Scout was important.”

As an adult engineer, Doyle moved to California, settling first in the north, then finally moving south to Long Beach eleven years ago. While he has turned Powell Constructors over to his son Michael to operate, Doyle stays active in community affairs. Truthfully, he has to run to keep up with his wife, Suzanne, who plays a prominent role in the Assistance League of Long Beach. Their son Michael has three daughters, the oldest of whom is a Girl Scout. Their daughter’s sons are too young to join Cub Scouts, but Doyle is confident they’ll be enrolling in a few years – and maybe one of these days will be crossing over the bridge he helped to build.

Camp Tahquitz Puts Out the Welcome Mat

For the first time in many years, Camp Tahquitz, the Council’s premier camping facility located in the San Bernardino Mountains, will host a VIP Visitor Day on Thursday, July 20th. This free Open House will feature a walking tour of the camp. Included in the tour will be the camping accommodations, the bridge across Highway 38, the infamous climbing wall, the lake, equestrian area, shooting range and historic lodges. In addition, visitors will see the learning facilities where campers take classes and earn merit badges, plus the site of the new planned Dining Hall, scheduled to be open in time for the 2018 Camping Season.

Throughout the tour, guests will have the opportunity to see Scouts already at Camp for the summer season, to ask questions, and to interact with youth and adult staff. A number of Scout Leaders and peer counselors will be on hand to answer questions as well.

The Council will be arranging group transportation to leave from a central location in Long Beach. Visitors coming from communities near the camp may drive themselves and should plan to arrive at Camp Tahquitz no later than 10:30 am. Tours will start at 11:00, break for lunch, and conclude at approximately 2:30 pm.

To register for Visitor’s Day, please contact Cindy Spalding at the Scout Service Center by telephone at (562) 427-0911 ext 211, or by email to cindy.spalding@scouting.org. Before July, Cindy will send final details on the tour and the group transportation to everyone who has registered with her. We look forward to a wonderful day on the hill!

Corporate Spotlight: Powell Constructors

Completed in October 2014, by now the 100-foot bridge over Highway 38 at Camp Tahquitz must seem just part of the landscape. But it wasn’t always so. For decades, Scouts, families, and staff risked their lives whenever they had to cross the busy highway to access the lake, and facilities on the other side. Not anymore! The bridge stands as testament to the committed team of professionals who needed to solve an engineering problem attractively, cost-effectively and within a complicated legal environment.

Although many players had a role in completing this extraordinary edifice, few may be aware of the technical expertise, achievement and enormous generosity exhibited by Powell Constructors, led by the now-retired former President, Doyle Powell. Powell Constructors cleared the site, designed and constructed the concrete abutments and windwalls on which the pre-fabricated bridge rests, and, ultimately, orchestrated the delicate operation that lifted the superstructure and rested it precisely on top of the abutments, ready for walking. And, on top of their technical excellence, Powell donated its management time and profit. According to Doyle Powell, “it could not have been done cheaper.”

Doyle admits that Scouting has been a big part of his life from early childhood growing up in Missouri where he advanced to Eagle Scout at age 14. “I did all the Scouting programs,” he said. “It taught me about the outdoors. I was a farmboy, and Scouting showed me that I could accomplish things. I guess you could say it gave me a lot of self-confidence.” When he advanced to college, Doyle added that “being an Eagle Scout was important.”

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Laserfiche Preserving Local Scout History

Remember when a visit to a public library started with a search at the card catalog? Each drawer had hundreds, if not thousands, of alphabetically organized cards with the name of the book and the author. With the onset of computers, that search, which could have taken hours, is now just a click away.

Believe it or not, the Council’s historical record of all of its Scouts, dating back to its founding in 1919 through the 1950s, is stored on cards – one card for each Scout. Despite all possible safety precautions, this invaluable record of Scouts’ service to the community remains susceptible to deterioration, fading, fire, flood, theft, or natural disaster. But someone has come to the rescue.

Founded in 1987, Laserfiche is a global leader in enterprise content management (ECM) software. The Long Beach-based company has developed software that helps organizations make documents accessible and enables workplaces to operate at their full potential -- just what the Council needs for its Scout records.

Laserfiche has obtained the set of Scout records and will begin scanning to digitally store the cards on a secure server. Access will be password protected for privacy. This scanning and storage project is already underway and is expected to be completed in 2018.

Finally having its Scout records digitally stored and managed will preserve this vital piece of our community history.