One of the most significant transitions we make in life is moving from teenage student to wage-earner adult. Whether this comes after high school or after college, we expect young people to know by the time they finish formal schooling what career they want to pursue – and then go do it! But, except for a very few, how likely is that?

And, what do we do as educators and parents to help our young people make rational career choices?

The Council’s Exploring Program brings career opportunities to youth (both young men and women) to experience hands-on what that field would be like. It also helps them to mature, and prepares them to become responsible and caring adults and reliable employees.

Even better yet: Exploring is growing in Long Beach!

Exploring offers experiences organized by “posts” in various career fields. We’ve recently added posts in Animal Care, Aviation, and Videography. Existing posts include Reserve Enlisted Training, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Veterans Affairs, and Customs and Border Protection.

Relationships formed with professionals in each Post organization provide ongoing real-world experiences and training tailored to the Explorer’s interests. Often, these experiences put the Explorer right in the middle of everyday situations while learning on the job.

True to the Scouts mission, Exploring also develops leadership, ethics and a commitment to community. While learning about a career, Explorers discover what it’s like to continue to learn outside of school, to “work” at a job, and have a cooperative relationship with an adult.

Exploring business partners love to see “Explorers” on a job applicant’s resume. I think you’ll continue to see Exploring numbers grow in the Long Beach Area!
Community Leader and Bank Honored at DCD 2018

On April 26th, the Area Council once again honored its own “distinguished citizens,” Justin Rudd and Farmers & Merchants Bank. Seated in a beautiful room overlooking the water at the Hotel Maya, guests were greeted by Emcee Bruce MacRae, who also welcomed and congratulated the 45 Scouts and Explorers in the room. MacRae introduced the Council’s President, Brian C. Russell. Russell talked briefly about the Board’s goals, which include completing the new dining hall at Camp Tahquitz and adding a family camp, and making improvements to Sea Base. Russell also spoke about the recent passing of long-time volunteer leader and Board Member Robert Graham, saying he would miss Graham’s “full and resolute voice on difficult matters.” In recognition of his long service, he presented a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol to Mr. Graham’s two daughters.

Introducing the honorees, MacRae said they were being honored for “the values that each of them brings to their marketplace.” Justin Rudd, whose life is devoted to service to “people, animals and the environment,” founded Community Action Team to “organize people to come together” for various causes. Over the years, he has founded Rosie’s Beach, a monthly 30-minute beach clean-up which brings out hundreds of volunteers each month, Touch a Truck and the very popular dog parades. He was introduced by City Councilperson Suzie Price, who thanked him for making her district such an extraordinary place.

Farmers & Merchants Bank was represented by its Chairman and CEO Dan Walker, the great-grandson of founder C.J. Walker who opened the bank in 1907 at the same location on Pine Street where it is still located. For over 100 years, Walker said, F&M has lived by the values of “honesty, integrity, family, community, church and service.” It was the original Walker who began the policy of community giving, which remains a cornerstone of the bank’s policy today. In 2017, F&M gave over $2.5 million to over 300 non-profit organizations. “Giving,” he said, “is the ethos of the Farmers & Merchants.”

Congratulations to these two distinguished honorees and thank you to everyone who attended or supported the dinner. We look forward to a very special 100th Anniversary Gala next year in May 2019.

In The Spotlight:
LBAC Board Loses a True Champion

Everyone at the Long Beach Area Council was saddened to hear about the passing of Robert “Bob” Graham on Saturday, March 31, at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. He was 82.

While Bob was active in many community endeavors, he lent his keen mind, strong sense of values and competitive spirit to the council’s board for longer than almost any other tenure. Bob also served as Council President in 1994-95.

Bob was a renaissance man – proficient in business, sport, politics and philanthropy. He climbed to the top of the hospitality industry managing several Hilton Family-owned businesses, ending up serving on the Board of Directors of the Conrad H. Hilton Foundation. He rounded out his career with stints in banking, manufacturing and management consulting.

Somewhere while building his career, Bob found the time to indulge his love of yachting which he had picked up as a youth. Over the years, he was a member of the Long Beach Yacht Club, served as the club Commodore in 1978 and later was Commodore of the Yacht Racing Union of Southern California.

Bob was equally in demand in politics and government, serving both in President Richard Nixon’s two campaigns and in the first Nixon administration.

But, other than his family, Bob reserved his greatest love for his community of Long Beach, where he and his wife, Barbara, lived for almost 60 years and raised their family of two daughters and one son. Besides the Boy Scouts, Bob was active in the Long Beach Rotary, St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach Yacht Club, Vista Hill Foundation and St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church.

Said John Fullerton, Scout Executive, “Bob Graham was the embodiment of the Scout ideal – a man of character, compassion and drive. He was generous with his time and resources, and always kept his word. He was a mentor to many, including to me. We will all miss him dearly.”

The Re-Birth of Old No. 9

One year ago, we reported here that the Council had received $35,000 from the Long Beach Naval Memorial Heritage Association to renovate “Old No. 9,” a 26-foot fireboat, built in 1932, which had recently resided at the Long Beach Sea Scout Base. Today, the Council is proud to report that the work has been completed.

Old No. 9 was upgraded with a new rudder, propeller, propeller shaft, strut, bearings, thru-hulls for engine cooling and fire pump as well as new bottom paint. Her decks and cabin were stripped of paint and varnish for complete refurbishing. The bottom of the boat also had glasswork done. The windows were taken out to redo surrounding woodwork and put back in. Flush-mounted safety railings were installed so as to be removable and not diminish its historical integrity. Once she returned to the water, a new fire pump was installed that will shoot 80 gallons of sea water per minute up to a distance of 100 feet.

On Wednesday, April 25th, the Long Beach Naval Memorial Heritage Association did a final visual inspection of Old No. 9, declared her successfully restored and delivered the final grant payment. The letter that accompanied the check congratulated the Council on a successful restoration, and said, “It is only through the commitment of local, dedicated organizations that the physical and living history of our city is safeguarded for future generations.”

Following the inspection, Old No. 9 was returned to her original home outside of Sea Base in Basin 4 of the Alamitos Bay Marina. There she’ll serve as the focal point in a new Marine Safety Program to be run by the City of Long Beach Lifeguards, open to boys and girls ages 13-21 and operating out of Sea Scout Base.