

Dear Northern New Jersey Council Volunteer Leaders and Chartered Partners:

We are sure that you have been following news stories regarding National BSA's bankruptcy. The Northern New Jersey Council ("NNJC") would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the NNJC Chartered Partners and clarify some information that has been published by some national chartered partner organizations and the national news media.

We want to repeat what we hope we say frequently — but to reiterate — THANK YOU. NNJC's Chartered Partners are the churches, civic clubs, temples, schools, mosques, and other community organizations that work hand in hand with the NNJC to offer Scouting to their organization's families and the community at large. The Chartered Partner relationship has been one of the foundations of the Boy Scouts of America since it was founded in 1910. We want to emphasize how important our Chartered Partners are to the success of Scouting in the NNJC, and we want to do everything in our power to preserve and nurture these relationships.

Please [click here](#) to review the Charter Agreement between the NNJC and each Chartered Partner.

As you have probably read, the National BSA organization in mid-February 2020 filed a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceeding (restructuring) due to lawsuits from past abuse cases and potential future claims from actual and alleged victims of abuse. Most of the lawsuits and claims had their origin before the mid-1980's. We want to emphasize the NNJC is not a "party" in the bankruptcy.

In the 1980's, the BSA introduced a robust Youth Protection Program intended to address the issues stemming from people who committed acts of abuse against young people and prevent any such instances from happening again. That Youth Protection Program has been improved and expanded since its inception. Today, BSA's Youth Protection program is considered one of the best, if not the best, of any youth serving organization.

Please [click here](#) to review the BSA Youth Protection Program

National BSA currently is in confidential mediation sessions with multiple interested parties. Those include the tort claimants' groups, the Unsecured Creditors Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils ("Council Ad Hoc"), and multiple national organizations representing church-based Chartered Partners. The goal of mediation is to reach a resolution that provides certain protections to the parties involved, including Local Councils and Chartered Partners.

The mediation is ongoing, and while it is a fluid situation a great deal of progress has been made in recent months. As noted above, the NNJC is not a "party" in the bankruptcy, although the Council Ad Hoc has been acting on behalf of local councils. We want you to know that NNJC is supporting the efforts of Council Ad Hoc as best it can. NNJC has been working all year with the Ad Hoc Committee and its lawyers to provide value and protection to its Chartered Partners. The Executive Committee and the Executive Board of NNJC adopted a Resolution agreeing that NNJC would contribute a substantial amount to a prospective "victims' trust" in the bankruptcy court proceeding, **but only if** the NNJC is satisfied with a resolution negotiated by the Council Ad Hoc which provides protections to the Chartered Partners. We remain optimistic while we await an update from the Council Ad Hoc.

Here is some information that you may not have received from your national organization:

Current Liability Insurance Policy from BSA for Chartered Partners ([Click Here](#))– There has been some miscommunication that BSA does not currently have liability insurance for its chartered partners. BSA does provide liability insurance for Chartered Partners.

In closing, we understand that the current situation has caused some confusion on the part of our unit leaders and Chartered Partners. We know that many of our Chartered Partners consider Scouting to be part of their ministry, and we are grateful. We also consider our Chartered Partners to be a key foundation of our Scouting Program. We are steadfastly committed to ensuring the best possible outcome as we work together to serve young people with a Scouting Program that makes a positive difference in their lives. Thank you for your diligent work and continuing commitment to our Scouts and families.

Yours in Scouting,

Dr. Philip Mollica
Council President

Kenneth Dutcher
Council Commissioner

Rebecca Fields
Scout Executive/CEO