

INELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION SERVICE
CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council No. 119 Date 3/2/89

Full Name RONALD STEWLAND
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Social Security Number _____

Address _____

City Chicago State Illinois Zip Code 60618

Date of Birth 11-05-30 (This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age 59 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known.)

Religion CHRISTIAN [LUTHERAN ELCA] Nationality USA

Occupation FIRE DEPARTMENT Education _____

Weight 220 Height 6-2 Race CAW

Color of Hair Blond Color of Eyes Blue

Outstanding Characteristics or Interests _____

Married or Single SINGLE Children _____

Spouse's Name NA (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Scouting Connections: _____

Chartered Organization TRUMB PARK LUTHERAN

Unit No. 35743 City Chicago State IL

Position EIT Date Registered _____ Date Resigned _____

NOTED Special Recognition _____

MAR 05 1990 Suspended or denied registration for following reasons: PARENTS AMID-A

JOSEPH L ANGLIM Asst Scout Captain or Publicist w/secret, for

ADMITTED SPECIFY THE FACTS THAT LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF INCLUDING HOW THE INFORMATION CAME TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACT CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION.)

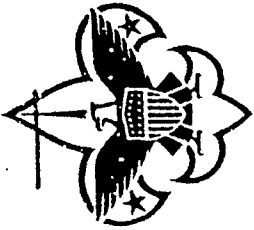
CONFIDENTIAL

FEB 27 1990

SIGNED William L. Laiter
Scout Executive

F. STARON

KPW/ck
9/89



CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL # 118

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

730 West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 559-0990

October 25, 1990

[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois 60618
[REDACTED]

At the request of the East Central Region, Boy Scouts of America, I am responding to your August 2, 1990 letter. In your correspondence you raised several issues. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to them.

Any further requests for information concerning suspension or appeals by this volunteer should be directed to Paul Ernst, director of Registration and Statistical Service at the Boy Scouts of America national office. The mailing address for the national office is 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. The phone number is 214/580-2000.

As we discussed on the phone and with regard to your request for reimbursement for counselling expenses incurred to date, I will wait to receive those from you. At that time I will submit them to the national office for consideration for reimbursement.

Please feel free to call with further questions.

Sincerely,

KENNETH P. WALTERS
Director of Support Service

KPW:gm

April 11, 1960

Mr. Donald Stenlund
████████████████████
Chicago, Illinois 60618

Personal & Confidential

Dear Mr. Stenlund:

This is to inform you that the East Central Region, Standards of Leadership Committee met on Tuesday, April 10 and the committee has voted to affirm the decision of the Chicago Area Council in denying your membership as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America.

This decision means that you will sever all relations you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. You are free to state whatever reasons you wish for your resignation. We see no need for this in preparing your employment if you accept this decision and quietly remove yourself from all youth activities.

This decision is subject to review by a National Council review committee but you must write within 30 days to the Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Belmont Hill Lane, P. O. Box 15770, Irving, TX 75015-2070, explaining why you believe the decision is in error, before review proceedings will be initiated at the national level.

Sincerely,

Robert Anderson, Chairman
Standards of Leadership Committee

jt

cc: Mr. Gene Cruse
Nelson L. Carter
Paul Ernst
Peter P. Barlemnitz

EAST CENTRAL REGION

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MEETING MINUTES

John Stensland

Since our last meeting, Lowell Anderson, Richard Kasperson, John Neesley, and Pete Barbernitz met with Pastor Poole at the Irving Park Lutheran Church.

FACTS DISCUSSED:

1. Ross Larson, former Pastor, cautioned Poole, 7 years ago when he arrived at the church, that there were rumors and some suspicion concerning John Stensland and boys.
2. There were stories and rumors concerning the big, black chair in Stensland's apartment. Boys frequently visit Stensland in his apartment and joke about so many sitting in that chair with Stensland at one time.
3. There was once a parent who expressed concern about inappropriate behavior in that chair.
4. The [REDACTED] boy was a typical candidate for a pedophile. So was [REDACTED]
5. Pastor Poole has counseled with both [REDACTED] and Stensland. Poole feels the letter is valid and relates a true incident that happened.
6. Following our meeting, Lowell Anderson, our chairman met with John Frank, Chairman of the Board of Irving Park Lutheran Church, who also confirmed the solid character of [REDACTED].

PMB:jb
4/11/90

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Paul Ernst
Director of Registration & Statistical Service
Boy Scouts of America
1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane
P.O.Box 152079
Irving TX 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Ernst,

Almost a year ago I expressed additional concerns about Mr. Don Stensland's indirect involvement with the Scouting program through the new leaders and through Don's involvement within other groups that interface with post 2863 and Troop 863.

I felt rebuffed by being passed on in the line to you at that time and decided not to pursue this at the National Office level. Several months have passed and I feel somethings have fallen short and still need to be corrected. I'm enclosing certain correspondences and documentation which you may or may not have in a central file regarding this matter. They will function to outline what has happened in the past and be of reference to what I am concerned about.

At present the relationship with my son has been "killed" by this matter. It has caused detrimental harm to our family. It has put a barrier between my son and his mother, his other brothers, and his sisters. My son is still involved with Don and this is being done with the help of the present Explorer leader and several members of the Scouting Committee. Don still involves himself on the perimeter of Scouting through these members and with their knowledge of the situation.

This is done through their long term personal involvement (as Scouts brought up by Don in the past), as members of adjacent organizations which sponsor or support the Troop and Post (the Pioneer Club and the Lutheran church members), and through professional patronage (the Chicago Fire Department).

Even tho we have requested Don to stay away from our son he has not. Don also still involves himself with other children who were Scouts at the time and are still Scouts.

Enclosed is a copy of the Troop Scouting Committee's letter. sent out at the time of Mr. Stensland's dismissal. It is inaccurate and has sent out the wrong message. It has made the parties that came forward appear to be lying and victims again. We have been ostracized by these members and they knowingly continue a tradition of Scouting which makes up their own laws to fit their own personal needs.

When this letter first came out it bothered me, but I had no

REC'D
12-7-91
J. Ernst

input or was I consulted about it. It has covered up the situation and has not informed others of a problem that as parents and Scouts they should be aware of. There are Scouting children who still have contact with Mr. Stensland because of the way this has been handled. Many parents and scouts believe Don resigned because of health reasons and feel no need to be concerned when there son is involved with Don through other programs or on a personal basis. I feel this letter should be corrected and reissued by the National or Chicago office, not the Troop Committee, to all the parents of Scouts and Explorers from that time. Mr. Stensland was asked to leave the program because of inappropriate behavior as a leader and misconduct not acceptable by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Al Henniges a Scout leader at this Troop for several years, but resigned a short while before I raised my concerns told me he had gone to the previous Pastor nine years prior with concerns about Don's behavior from Scouts and or parents. Nothing was done! Pastor Poole told me when I went that he had spoken with a victim of Don's one and a half years prior to me expressing concerns about what I saw and had been happening. I asked Mr. Henniges to document his stories to you in writing. I don't know if he has. Pastor Poole indicated to me that "he didn't know what he should do or how to go about addressing this". I know the Boy Scouts of America have clear guidelines as to how to respond to these situations, but they are not getting to the sponsoring organization leaders or some of the Scouting leaders. It does not appear to me the sponsoring organization is aware of what their role is in the program and how to respond to it.

On the other hand, some of this may also be true with a few of the new Scouting leaders and some of the Scouting Committee Members, but by inlarge I feel they do know what doesn't belong in the program and have chosen to cover it up, ignore it, not believe it, and flat out decided to do what they please. The tail is waging the dog here. Their tradition of Scouting has been diluted and manipulated to the point where they feel they are doing just great! They have not bought into what Scouting should be and how it has changed because of situations like this. They are not in the main stream of Scouting but have isolated themselves for there own version of Scouting.

There is a group of loose cannons blowing smoke about what a wonderful program they have. They beat their chests about what its done for so many young boys. Sure, some of this is true, but it is also true that a wake of young boys and their families have been damaged right along with it. There is no recognition of this. There is no strength in leadership here to correct this and other basic violations of the children and of the Scouting guidelines which governs the Boy Scouts of America. They rely on people to suffer in silence.

This Scouting program has been at Irving Park Lutheran Church for over fifty years. Mr. Stensland has been active in it since he was a youth himself. The majority, at over ninety percent, of the committee members on the attached rooster were Boy Scouts in this Troop and Scouts while Don was a leader. Only one or two members on this list currently are sons in this Troop or Post. Several of these members are subordinates to Don as employees of the Chicago Fire Department. Don is a Deputy Fire Commissioner in charge of labor relations. He has been influential in their careers to say the least. There are a few other younger members patiently waiting their turn to join the ranks as Firemen. There is a lot of loyalty to Don and a lot of patronage.

The Pioneer Club is a group of men basically made up of the same rooster as the Scout Committee. Don is chairman of this organization. This organization allows the Troop and Post to use property owned by the Pioneer Club for Scouting activities. Primarily a two week summer camp each year. A young boy told me Don was at the camp when it closed on the last day. I believe that because of Don's behavior that Boy Scouts of America should not be authorizing permission for a Scouting program to be conducted on a site which has the organizational leadership it currently has. This organization is so similar in membership to the Scouting Committee membership it is difficult to tell one group from the next. Don's influence in the personal and professional lives of key Scouting members is so prevalent that the traditions of their version of Scouting prevails. Don still impacts this program through this leadership.

I would like to clarify what this tradition has been, what I have seen and know it to be.

First of all, there is an underlying philosophy regarding what a Scout is and what a leader is. A "Rounder" Scouts are either "Rounders" or they are not. A "Rounder" is a boy on the wild side, athletic, a risk taker, an out going boy with a need to belong to a group. Leaders are either "Keysters" or men like themselves. Keysters are the wide bottomed, pear shaped men or women who go by the Scouting Book. They are the "Rounders" who now are leaders. One of their favorite watering holes after committee meetings is Keysters Saloon and is owned by a group of these men.

What I see is a leadership that rejects the basic guidelines of Scouting, is insensitive to the boys they are leading, is insensitive to the parents and families of these boys. They have established a setting for reliving how Scouting was taught to them and are continuing a tradition of the past which no longer belongs in the program.

The following are situations which appear to be acceptable

either because they are condoned by there responses/ or lack of response and because they still occure or have been postponed for one reason or another. But they do continue as they were taught, they are now teaching others.

...Leaders sleeping with Scouts in the same tents or in the same bed. Note, presents leaders and committee men now on the rooster were brought up under Don's wing the same way my son was.

...Transporting liquor on Scouting(Post) trips.

...Allowing liquor to be stored on the campsite.

...Allowing liquor to be consumed on the camp site while a

Scouting activity.

...Allowing liquor to be consumed by Scouts with/ or without there permission because it was at the site.

...Leaving Scouts under the sole supervision of junior leaders while they were away in town partying.

...Conducting many types of initiations while at camp, which I understand are not allowed.

First year campers are blind folded and kept in a darkened hut until individually lead to the camp fire. They are instructed to secrecy, not to divulge the proceedings to anyone. They go through a series of illusions regarding falling off a raised board, to walking through hot burning coals. Their initiation is finalized by grabbing their ankles and having the Scout Master (typically) hit them in the rear end with a canoe paddle. At times the blow is strong enough to make the Scout cry. He is then told to lay down in a shallow open grave and watch the other candidates that follow.

...Explorer initiation is typically a day of hard labor, on a meal of bread and water. No talking is allowed, if so, additional time is added on. A long distance run culminates this ordeal.

...Slave Day, not done lately, but it put one scout as the slave master over another scout to do his bidding. Some times it was brother with brother.

...Coining names for boys based on there physical characteristics. A fat boy might be named Tank for example. Speach impediments have been used at times to mimick and mock the boys. I asked Don about that once and he said it was to toughen them up.

...Certain leaders believe skinny dipping in front of the boys is acceptable. Some of the Junior leaders (explorers over the age of eighteen) are known to behave in this manner and in pantsing each other or just themselves in front of the rest of the Troop. There is little discipline here.

...There are safety issues regarding rope walks which are set at least 12' above ground with no safety netting. No one has gotten hurt yet but were does the liability fall.. were is the responsibility here. I've heard remarks like "They're not my kids". If it"s said it"s in their minds. Some of these activities do not appear to be too safety concious and I don't believe some common sense is being used here. These activities seem to be more for the leaders themselves reliving

there youth with little regard for the safety of the boys. ...Even their Scouting hand shake is different. They use the right hand shake with the split finger. This may seem trivial to some but as I understand it, it is not part of the program. To me it is another subtle way they maintain their version of Scouting.

Basically it is my opinion that this is an organization of past Scouts that are reliving there Scouting days through the lives of these young boys with little regard for the health and wealfair of these boys. Their own personal agendas dominate while they give lip service to the programs they lead. They are neglecting their responsibility to the Boy Scouts of America, the boys they serve, and parents and families of these boys. They are ignoring and violating the program they claim to hold so near and dear to them. They have picked and chosen what they want and have used the Boy Scout program to recruit these boys into their version of Scouting, the Pioneer Club, and the Chicago Fire Department. They are abusing the program and more importantly the children they come in contact with. It has been a recruiting base for Don. He has recruited them into the Pioneer Club and into the Fire Department. He has patronized them, manipulated them, to the point where it is difficult to tell the Scouting program from the Pioneer Club program, or the Lutheran Church athletic programs, or more specifically Don's programs. They all appear to have the same participants.

It is an established fraternitiy, a family unto itself and Don presides as the father figure and commands their loyalty through his patronige of them and them with him.

It has done irreparable damage to my family and our relationship with our son!

None of this belongs in the Scouting program in my mind. Parents bringing their children into this environment are unaware that there is a good chance they will loose their son to this group because of their traditions. It's gone beyond the Scouting program and the program is being used to benefit others personal agendas.

In summary the Scouting Committee letter about Don's resignation is inaccurate and is jeopardizing others and needs to be corrected. Some of the current Scouting leaders and members are undermining me and my family with our son. They are blatantly continuing and supporting my sons relationship with Don and with the traditions Don has taught them over the years.

The sponsoring organizations leadership does not know it's role and should have clear orientation and documentation to what belongs in the Boy Scouts of America program.

The Scouting Committee needs to buy into the current Scouting

guidelines. They need to enforce these guidelines with each other or get out of the program.

Don's direct or indirect involvement through the Pioneer Club and Scouting should be clarified. I find it inappropriate for Scouting activities to be allowed via this organization which he chairs and or is a member.

My wife and I literally fear for the course my son has taken, the pressure this has put on him. I don't know what his emotional state is. Communication is no longer there. At times we are concerned for his wellbeing at his own hand or that of others.

I know there are others with concerns but for some reason because "they know their situation" they feel that is enough. But That perhaps they have worked it out with their son. But because matters like this were not addressed many years ago it has past on to me and my family. I want it stopped here and NOW!

Sincerely,

Anonymous



Scoutmaster by
EVIDENCE NUMBER: CH1504

Chicago, Illinois 60618

Wednesday, February 21, 1990

Dear Scout Committee Member:

As you may have heard by now, Don Stensland has stepped down from his role as Explorer Post Advisor for health reasons and has asked that we find a replacement for him.

In addition, our Scoutmaster, Eric Helstrom, has indicated that due to his third shift work schedule, he does not feel he can continue as Scoutmaster and would appreciate our looking for a new replacement for him in the near future.

Our next scheduled meeting is set for this coming Tuesday, February 27, 1990, at 8:00 p.m. in the Scout Room of the gymnasium. At this meeting, we shall discuss trying to replace both Don and Eric.

This will be a very important meeting and we hope you can attend.

Very truly yours,

Paul Hjelmgren

copy

LAW OFFICES OF

SANDRA L. THIEL

2108 NORTH DAYTON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

(312) 880-5225

August 1, 1990

BY APPOINTMENT

Mr. Donald Stensland

[REDACTED]

Chicago, Il. 60618

RE: [REDACTED] Family

CHICAGO, ILL. 60610

Dear Mr. Stensland,

I represent [REDACTED] It is their request and demand that you no longer associate in any manner whatsoever with any member of their family.

You may not have contact of any kind with any of their children of any age in any manner at any time. You are not to write any of them notes, letters or telephone them or even speak with them.

You are not to contact them through any third party or secretively. I can assure you that if you violate this demand in any way I will demand an investigation of your behavior recently and in the past by the legal authorities.

Very truly yours,

Sandra L. Thiel

SLT/aa

Sandra L. Thiel

August 2, 1990

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

Enclosed is my letter describing the behavior of Mr. Donald Stensland, explorer advisor, troop 2863, Irving Park Lutheran Church. This letter is to be kept on permanent file at Boy Scouts of America. This letter is marked "Personal and Confidential".

I understand from Pastor Poole of Irving Park Lutheran Church that Mr. Stensland was served with a letter from B.S.A. by Pastor Poole and Mr. Jim Matthews (B.S.A. representative Phoenix District) requesting his permanent suspension as a leader in the B.S.A. program. I would like to request a copy of this letter be sent to me or I will be glad to personally pick up a copy.

I also understand that Mr. Stensland can in the future appeal this permanent suspension. I request to be notified at any time if such an appeal is submitted.

Pastor Poole indicated B.S.A. has a fund set aside for psychiatric reimbursement regarding matters of abuse. Since September of 1989, we have received and are continuing to receive counseling regarding my son and Mr. Stensland. I would like to discuss with you what is involved with requesting reimbursement from this fund.

We are disappointed that B.S.A. is unable to investigate this matter further, but, at the same time, I do appreciate your quick response once you were made aware of our incidents and those of another. I am convinced there are other injured parties from Mr. Stensland's behavior. I am concerned about his potential ability to use B.S.A. as a platform for his inappropriate conduct.

Please confirm receipt of this letter in writing at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Enclosure

August 2, 1990

Mr. Ken Walters
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America
[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

This letter, submitted at your request, concerns the behavior of explorer advisor Mr. Donald Stensland, 58 years old, with my son [REDACTED] 16 years old, an explorer scout. Mr. Stensland is the explorer advisor of troop 2863, sponsored by the Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL.

In August of 1989, I became aware of the fact that Don allowed our son [REDACTED] to sleep in the same bed with him, overnight, while at his cabin in Wisconsin. This particular incident took place during the third week of Boy Scout camp, which operated out of Don's cabin at Enterprise Lake, Wisconsin. One of our other sons, [REDACTED] was also there during this third week along with three or four other Boy Scouts. I also was in Wisconsin that week, but I stayed down the road a short distance in my cabin. One morning in Wisconsin, at the beginning of the week, I went over to the cabin to see my sons. The door was unlocked. I went into the cabin and viewed by son in Don's bedroom asleep in Don's bed. Our other son, [REDACTED] was asleep in a second bedroom. Other boys were asleep on the living room floor or front porch couches. Don was not in the cabin at the time, but out in his garage working. I did not confront Don at that time, because I did not know how to go about it. I telephone my wife, [REDACTED], who, with the rest of our family, was back in Chicago. I suggested we seek some professional counseling because I didn't know how to handle the matter with either Don or [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed, and she made an initial appointment for September.

Later that same morning, [REDACTED] told me that he and Don did sleep together

8/2/90

in bed, but that nothing "sexually" had happened. I was not specific as to types of contact. I told [redacted] those sleeping arrangements were unacceptable and that he had to sleep either with his brother or on the floor with the rest of the boys. [redacted] and [redacted] stayed the rest of the week with these new sleeping arrangements.

In September of 1989, [redacted] my wife [redacted], and I started the counseling with Dr. Anne Updegrove, PhD., Psychologist, Elston Plaza Family Physicians. Also included were my sons [redacted] 17, and [redacted] 15, both of whom are explorer scouts and aware of the situation. During this counseling period, it became clear that [redacted] and I needed to confront Don and limit [redacted] involvement with Don. In October, [redacted] and I spoke to Don about the sleeping arrangement. I told Don that I didn't understand why Don would allow that to happen, that my wife and I do not approve of that behavior with our son or sons, and that I did not see it as part of the Scouting Program. We also told him that the other Scouts who have known about this behavior were making homosexual remarks to [redacted] in front of others and that [redacted] brother, [redacted] was in the position of responding to the remarks in defense of [redacted] Don's responses to this was, "oh gee, that never crossed my mind", "I won't do that anymore", and "if I can help, tell me what to do". I find Don's responses totally unacceptable because it removes any responsibility from him. He is an adult leader of young people and appears to be unaware of his actions or impact on the young boys he is leading. My wife and I requested Don not to drive our three sons to school any longer and not to buy gifts for them or our other children. We told Don we wanted to limit [redacted] involvement with him. He agreed to comply with these requests.

It is necessary to understand the context of this incident to fully appreciate our concern. At first, I viewed Don's behavior as a friend being nice to my children, but as it developed, it seemed too frequent, invasionary of our family privacy, and ultimately, very unacceptable to us.

It was in 1987 that my sons, [redacted] and [redacted], first joined the Boy Scout troop. Our other son, [redacted], joined the Explorer Post 2863. I renewed my

8/2/90

acquaintance with Don Stensland and we became friendly. Don lives in the apartment building across the street from our home. Don is a youth leader with the Lutheran Church, coaches basketball, and is the Explorer Post Advisor. Don has a history of taking scouts "under his wing" and giving them special attention. There are several young men whom he has taken under his wing and who appear, even later in life, very dependent on Don.

Don started giving my sons gifts after he came back from business trips. He bought all my children gifts at Christmas. He bought my sons golf club bags which I thought was too extravagant. Don would regularly offer my sons, and later, only [redacted] opportunities to attend stock car races, golf driving ranges, and to go out for pizza. These activities had nothing to do with scouting.

Don started favoring [redacted] and taking him under "his wing". Don worked with [redacted] on his Eagle Scout award, and [redacted] spent many hours with Don. Much time seemed to be spent at Don's apartment. Sometimes, there were others present, but many times, Don and [redacted] were alone. Don sent my sons birthday cards and post cards signed "Love, Don" to [redacted] but signed "Don" to [redacted] or [redacted]

Don occasionally drove my sons to school in the morning, but gradually, he did it every day. It started to set up tension in the family because [redacted] was always ready to go, and, if [redacted] or [redacted] were slow out the door, they were being left behind. Don is a Deputy Fire Commissioner and has his own municipal car. He used this car to drive the boys to school. Don used the car phone and would have [redacted] do the dialing. All this made an impression on [redacted]

Don traditionally had Boy Scouts over to his apartment on Friday nights after Boy Scout activities were over. He also had the Explorers over. They watched movies and had pizza until 11:30 p.m. or 12:30 a.m.

Don also attended [redacted] soccer games which I was unable to attend because they were held in the afternoon before I got off work. The distinction

8/2/90

between scouting activities and social activities became blurred.

Don's cabin in Wisconsin is used as a Boy Scout camp annex in the summer and winter. It had become "a place to go" independent of scouting activities with scouts for many boys, including our sons, even to the extent that my wife and I bought a cabin down the road from Don. Don knew [REDACTED] and I were interested in a cabin, and he let us know of one that was available and which we purchased two years ago.

Don's cabin is set up with snow mobiles, four wheelers, boats, etc. and sits near a beautiful lake. All the boy scouts were able to go up at certain times while a select few were chosen to go up more often. My sons, typically [REDACTED] went to Don's cabin often. My sons spent more time at Don's cabin than at ours.

In Wisconsin, Don frequently took the boys out to eat, and sometimes, he would also take our whole family along with others. He would insist on paying for all. He typically had one of the older scouts inspect the bill and then write the check out for that bill and give it to Don to sign. This scout was always one of the boys "under his wing", including [REDACTED].

Don gave [REDACTED] the keys to his apartment so [REDACTED] could take in Don's

mail when he was on business trips and put the mail in Don's apartment.

Don took our son, [REDACTED] "under his wing". He showed him a lot of attention, he was attentive to [REDACTED] he bought [REDACTED] gifts, he drove him to school, he saw his sports games, he drove him home, he watched him through his eagle scout award, he bought him dinners, he taught him how to drive, to water ski, he took him to sports games, and, according to [REDACTED], Don is his "best friend".

In January, 1990, I went to Pastor Michael Poole at the Irving Park Lutheran Church. The church sponsors the Boy Scout program there. I wanted to discuss Don's behavior because I felt many parents besides my wife and I were having problems with their sons' involvement with Don. The pastor told me that a young man had come to him a year and a half ago about an incident

8/2/90

with Don when the young man had been a scout.

About a month later, in February, the Pastor, Mr. Matthews (Phoenix District Scouting Coordinator), the young man, and [REDACTED] and I met at the church. The young man described an incident of 14 years ago when he was 14 years old and under Don's wing. The incident occurred in Don's apartment while working on an Eagle Scout badge and ended up without his clothes on. He didn't go into details, but he cried for a couple hours before Don took him home. He believes it was an isolated incident and that no one would ever believe it happened. He said Don never bothered him again because he cried so much.

This letter is sent with the spirit that it is in the best interest of all concerned.

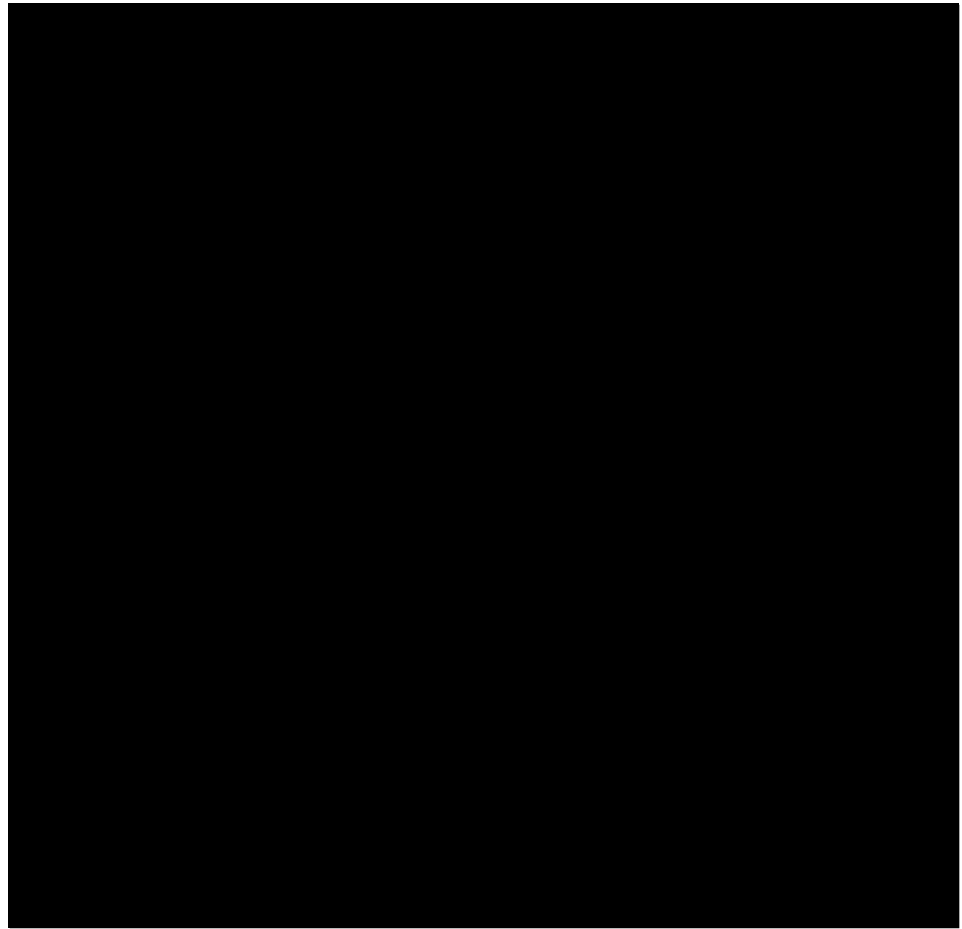
ANONYMOUS

Irving Park Lutheran Church
Scouting Committee Roster

Name Address Zip Telephone

Bruce Anderson
Eric Brodersen
Ernie Brodersen
Mike Callahan
Leve Davidson

John Dunne
Randy Fredericks
Robert Fredericks
Bruce Gebien
Elmer Haneberg
Grant Haring
David Helstrom
Eric Helstrom
Paul Helstrom
Al Henniges
Bill Hjelmgren
Jim Hjelmgren
Darin Hoeger
Ron Hofmann
Joe Malatia
Tim Monti
Jack Petersen
Harvey Reum
Mark Runas
Bill Schlichting
Don Schneider
John Stensland



Irving Park Lutheran Church
Pioneer Club Roster

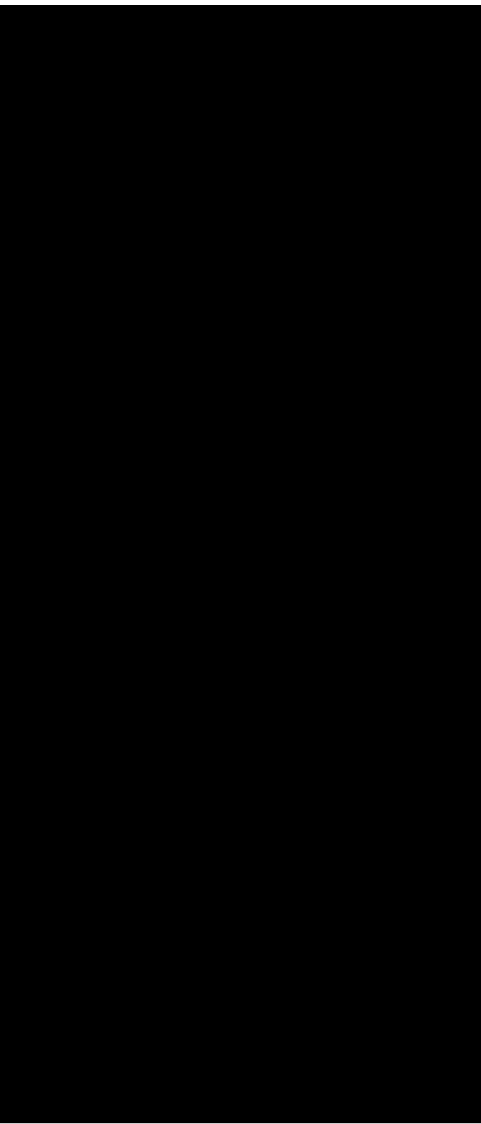
Name Address Zip Telephone

Bruce Anderson
Eric Brodersen
Eddie Brodersen
Mike Callahan
Steve Davidson

618
641
618
148
618

Bruce Gebien
Paul Greenslade
Elmer Haneberg
Grant Haring
David Helstrom
Eric Helstrom
Paul Helstrom
Al Henniges
Bill Hjelmgren
Jim Hjelmgren
Jack Petersen
Jim Petersen
Pete Petersen
Duke Reum
Harvey Reum
Steve Reum
Gary Roth
Jim Runas
Bill Schlichting
Don Schneider
Don Stensland
John Stensland
Rich Stensland
Chuck Stjern
Joe Tallurico
Ken Van Der Horst
Larry Hinman

618
068
618
618
63
63
063
009
061
061
064
006
006
061
06
06
06
000
600
606
606
606
600
294
600
60
60



CONSTITUTION OF THE PIONEER CLUB OF CHICAGO

We, the members of the Pioneer Club of Chicago, in realization of the necessity of establishing standardized laws to govern the club and to insure the furnishing of high aims and purposes to which the club is dedicated, do ordain and establish this

Constitution.

Article I - NAME

The name of the organization is:

- Section 1.
- A. The Pioneer Club of Chicago
 - B. A voluntary, not for profit association
 - C. Hereinafter referred to as the club.

Article II - PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this club is set forth in the original agreement of October 29, 1943, and witnessed thereof: The object for which this organization is formed is:

- A. For the purpose of good fellowship
- B. Aiding and sponsoring youth activities
- C. Owning and maintaining property now known as "Camp Cayuga" located near Elcho, Wisconsin

Article III - ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. The ten (10) signers of the original agreement shall be charter members, providing they are not deceased, resigned, or expelled.
- Section 2. Standing and temporary committees shall be organized as provided by the By-Laws Section 3.
- Section 3. Membership in the club shall be increased as per Article IV.

Article IV - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Candidates
- A. To be eligible for active membership a candidate must be:
1. 21 years of age or older
 2. An active member of the Boy Scouts of America for at least two years

Attend three consecutive meetings of the club or unanimous vote of membership to waive the attendance regulation.

4. A real worker in his Troop, Pack-or Post, or taking an active part in Scouting, Method of Investigation, term of pledgeship, duties of the pledge, etc., shall be defined by the By-Laws Section 2.
- C. In the final ballot for admission to active membership a candidate must receive approval by three-fourths of all members present. The ballot shall be called for at a regular meeting. An active member to remain in good standing, must abide by this Constitution and By-Laws, otherwise he may be expelled as stated in the By Laws.

Section 2.

Article V - OFFICERS

The officers of the club shall consist of:

- A. President
B. Vice President
C. Secretary-Treasurer
- These officers shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 1.

Article VI - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings; to call the meeting to order at the hour to which it stands adjourned, he shall enforce a rigid observance of the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and regulations of the club; appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered; see that the officers perform their respective duties; inspect and announce the results of all balloting, shall neither make nor second any motion of amendment; neither shall he take part in any debate while in the chair. He shall have a general superintendence of the business of the club; shall preserve order and decide all questions arising therefrom.
- Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside in the absence of the President, or when he engages in a discussion to perform the duties of that office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take the roll at every meeting and report delinquents; shall have charge of all documents, papers, and books for that purpose club; shall keep a book provided for that purpose to record the proceedings of the club, also a record of the name, residence, and telephone number of each member showing when he was admitted and when he died, resigned or was expelled. Shall notify each
- Section 3.

person selected as a pledge of such selection or nomination, and shall write all communications; he shall notify members of meeting place, time, date, etc. Shall receive all monies belonging to the club, keep an account of all dues, taxes, insurance, and all receipts and expenditures and shall make no payment without the written order of the President; at the regular meeting he shall present a written report of the financial condition of the club.

Article VII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Board

- A. All the officers shall be elected singly by ballot to serve a term of one year or more. When there is only one nomination for the office, the person may be elected by acclamation, without a ballot being taken.
- B. In case of a vacancy occurring in an office, the club will go into immediate election to fill the same and the officer elected shall take his seat immediately after such election.
- C. A majority of legal votes case shall be for election.

Section 2. Committee Chairman

See By-Laws, Section 3, Committees.

Article VIII - REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. Reason for removal

- A. Should any officer or member of a committee neglect, or be found incompetent to discharge the duties of his office he may be removed by a vote of two-thirds majority of the active members.
- B. The votes of absentee members shall be solicited and must be returned by the next regular meeting to be valid.

Article IX - MEETINGS

Section 1. The Date

- A. The date for the following meeting shall be determined and announced by the President in the course of the regular meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

- A. Special meetings called by members of the Executive Board before designated date. See Note 1 and 2.

B. Special emergency meeting may be called for by an active member before designated date. See Note 1 and 2.

C. Request by an active member when regular meetings are not held within a reasonable time.

-NOTE 1

When a special meeting is called for by the Executive Board or by an active member, only the subject in question will be brought to discussion at the meeting. After subject in question has been decided, dropped, or continued, meeting will be adjourned.

-NOTE 2

If a meeting is made by telephone or verbal, a written confirmation must be submitted stating the facts and reason for such request.

Article X - PROPERTY

Section 1. The name of the property

A. Camp Cayuga

Section 2. Description

A. The west half of the southeast quarter of section twenty-one, in the Township thirty-four north of range ten east, consisting of eighty (80) acres, more or less, according to the government survey, situated in the County of Langlade, State of Wisconsin.

Section 3.

Trust Agreement

A. Entered into the 3rd day of October, 1947, by Fidelity Savings Bank of Antigo, Antigo, Wisconsin.

Article XI - OCCUPANCY OF THE PROPERTY

Section 1.

A. Persons eligible to use camp site

A. Members of the Pioneer Club and families requesting such use.

B. Any group or individual for a requested period

C. Any such request in A or B above is conditioned

upon approval of three-fourths of members present at the regular meeting where such request is

made. Where such party makes a request for use and no regular meeting is scheduled between the

time of request and the time of use, the Executive Board may grant such use at its

discretion. No such party may use camp unless accompanied by a leader over the age of

twenty-one.

- Section 2. Rental
A. Camp site cannot be rented or occupied by anyone other than persons named in Section 1, paragraphs A-B-C.

Article XII - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. Amendments
A. No amendment can be made to this Constitution except as specified in the sections below.
- Section 2. Committees
A. The President will appoint three (3) active members to the Constitution Committee; this committee will have the power of recommendation only.
- Section 3. Active Members
A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any active member to the Constitution Committee. This committee shall investigate the proposed amendment and submit it to the membership for ratification.
- Section 4. Adoption
A. Adoption of the proposed amendment shall be by two-thirds majority vote of the active members present at the meeting to which the amendment is submitted for ratification.
- Section 5. Effective date or time
A. After ratification, the amendment shall be considered in force.

Article XIII - DISPOSITION OF SPECIAL CASES

- Section 1. Interpretation
A. In any case not covered by law or in any dispute as to the interpretation of this Constitution, it will be the power of the Executive Board to render a decision in settlement of such cases.

Article XIV - ACCEPTANCE OF CONSTITUTION

- Section 1. Acceptance
A. This Constitution shall be in force when accepted by three-fourths of the active membership.
- Section 2. Effective date
A. This Constitution was amended by the active membership in 1959 and again November 11, 1975, and will be considered in force effective that date.

President

Donald Stensland

Vice President

Jack Knowles

Secretary/
Treasurer

SEAL

BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. Rules of Order

A. The rules of parliamentary procedure as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all meetings.

1. Name of organization
2. Date of meeting and location
3. Hour of meeting and absent
4. Names of those present and minutes
5. Reading of previous minutes
6. Unfinished business and report of committees
7. Action taken on unfinished business
8. New business
9. Informal discussion
10. Date of next meeting
11. Adjournment and time of adjournment
12. Approval and signature of minutes
13. Members unable to attend any meeting may submit a vote by proxy in writing to the club President. Such vote, in order to be valid, must be received by the President before the meeting to which the vote is addressed.

Section 2.

Membership

A. Candidates of the club shall submit the name of

1. a candidate with his address and phone number, stating the number of years in Scouting and to the best of his knowledge that the candidate qualifies to the requirements of membership, set forth in Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph A, of the Constitution.

2. Name and reference to be announced at regular meeting for approval or denial.

3. Candidates to be invited to three consecutive regular meetings.

4. Candidate to be voted upon after three consecutive meetings as provided in Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph C.

5. Duties of candidates - Show interest in club by participation or decline membership.

B. Active Members

1. A fundamental obligation of all members is

attendance at all regular meetings. An exception to this obligation is extended to members who for reasons of unusual business purposes, military duty, or other extenuating circumstances cannot attend a regular meeting and so inform President before the meeting.

2. A fundamental obligation of all members is payment of any dues or assessments levied upon all of the members.

C. Expulsion
Members may be expelled from the club by a three-fourths vote of members present at a regular meeting.

Section 3.

Committees

A. Members

1. The President shall appoint members to committees, unless otherwise ordered.

B. Term of Office

1. Members of a committee are limited to one (1) year term on any one committee.

C. Eligible

1. All members are eligible to be selected for a committee.

D. Standing or temporary committees

1. Any committee deemed necessary to fulfill the purpose and requirements of the club.

2. Buildings and Grounds

3. Constitutional

4. Financial

5. Good and Welfare

6. Membership

Section 4.

Firearms at Camp Cayuga

A. Leaders

1. At regular camping periods, the adult leader will be allowed to have a firearm on hand for protection if necessary.

B. Groups or individuals

1. No group or individual can have a firearm in their possession at camp at any time without the permission of the Pioneer Club, such permission being granted or rejected simultaneously with the request for use of camp. (See Article XI, Section 1, Paragraph C)

C. Caliber

1. Not over 22 caliber guns may be used for the sport of skeet shooting. The location to be designated by the leader, during the regular camping period. At least one leader to be present at the allocated period, to insure strict observance of the rules and regulations set forth by the leaders.

Section 5.

Damage to trees

A. No trees shall be defaced or cut within 30 feet of the main camp site. This includes the

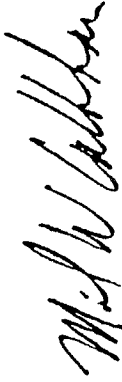
and within 300
by leadership for improvement of

Constitution of The Pioneer Club of Chicago

By unanimous vote in accordance with Article XII, Section 4(A), the following amendment is added to Section 2B(2) of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations: "Charter Members are exempt from payment of annual dues."

The above amendment was ratified on January 23, 1976.

Official



Michael W. Callahan
Secretary/Treasurer
Pioneer Club of Chicago

August 2, 1990

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Ken Walters
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America

██████████
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

Enclosed is my letter describing the behavior of Mr. Donald Stensland, explorer advisor, troop 2863, Irving Park Lutheran Church. This letter is to be kept on permanent file at Boy Scouts of America. This letter is marked "Personal and Confidential".

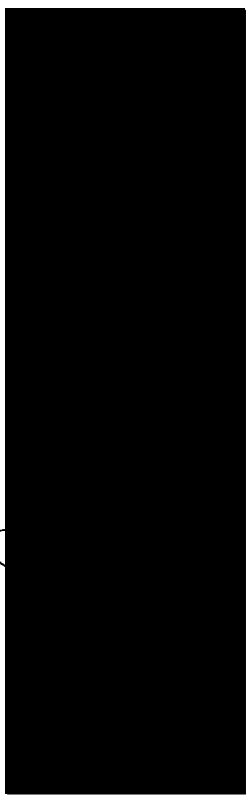
I understand from Pastor Poole of Irving Park Lutheran Church that Mr. Stensland was served with a letter from B.S.A. by Pastor Poole and Mr. Jim Matthews (B.S.A. representative Phoenix District) requesting his permanent suspension as a leader in the B.S.A. program. I would like to request a copy of this letter be sent to me or I will be glad to personally pick up a copy.

I also understand that Mr. Stensland can in the future appeal this permanent suspension. I request to be notified at any time if such an appeal is submitted.

Pastor Poole indicated B.S.A. has a fund set aside for psychiatric reimbursement regarding matters of abuse. Since September of 1989, we have received and are continuing to receive counseling regarding my son and Mr. Stensland. I would like to discuss with you what is involved with requesting reimbursement from this fund.

We are disappointed that B.S.A. is unable to investigate this matter further, but, at the same time, I do appreciate your quick response once you were made aware of our incidents and those of another. I am convinced there are other injured parties from Mr. Stensland's behavior. I am concerned about his potential ability to use B.S.A. as a platform for his inappropriate conduct.

Please confirm receipt of this letter in writing at your earliest convenience.



Enclosure

August 2, 1990

Mr. Ken Walters
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America

██████████
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

This letter, submitted at your request, concerns the behavior of explorer advisor Mr. Donald Stensland, 58 years old, with my son ██████ 16 years old, an explorer scout. Mr. Stensland is the explorer advisor of troop 2863, sponsored by the Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL.

In August of 1989, I became aware of the fact that Don allowed our son ██████ to sleep in the same bed with him, overnight, while at his cabin in Wisconsin. This particular incident took place during the third week of Boy Scout camp, which operated out of Don's cabin at Enterprise Lake, Wisconsin. One of our other sons, ██████, was also there during this third week along with three or four other Boy Scouts. I also was in Wisconsin that week, but I stayed down the road a short distance in my cabin. One morning in Wisconsin, at the beginning of the week, I went over to the cabin to see my sons. The door was unlocked. I went into the cabin and viewed ^{my} son in Don's bedroom asleep in Don's bed. Our other son, ██████ was asleep in a second bedroom. Other boys were asleep on the living room floor or front porch couches. Don was not in the cabin at the time, but out in his garage working. I did not confront Don at that time, because I did not know how to go about it. I telephone my wife, ██████ who, with the rest of our family, was back in Chicago. I suggested we seek some professional counseling because I didn't know how to handle the matter with either Don or ██████ agreed, and she made an initial appointment for September.

Later that same morning, ██████ told me that he and Don did sleep together

8/2/90

in bed, but that nothing "sexually" had happened. I was not specific as to types of contact. I told [redacted] those sleeping arrangements were unacceptable and that he had to sleep either with his brother or on the floor with the rest of the boys. [redacted] and David stayed the rest of the week with these new sleeping arrangements.

In September of 1989, [redacted] my wife, [redacted], and I started the counseling with Dr. Anne Updegrave, PhD., Psychologist, Elston Plaza Family Physicians. Also included were my sons [redacted] 17, and [redacted] 15, both of whom are explorer scouts and aware of the situation. During this counseling period, it became clear that [redacted] and I needed to confront Don and limit [redacted] involvement with Don. In October, [redacted] and I spoke to Don about the sleeping arrangement. I told Don that I didn't understand why Don would allow that to happen, that my wife and I do not approve of that behavior with our son or sons, and that I did not see it as part of the Scouting Program. We also told him that the other Scouts who have known about this behavior were making homosexual remarks to [redacted] in front of others and that [redacted] brother, [redacted] was in the position of responding to the remarks in defense of [redacted]. Don's responses to this was, "oh gee, that never crossed my mind", "I won't do that anymore", and "if I can help, tell me what to do". I find Don's responses totally unacceptable because it removes any responsibility from him. He is an adult leader of young people and appears to be unaware of his actions or impact on the young boys he is leading. My wife and I requested Don not to drive our three sons to school any longer and not to buy gifts for them or our other children. We told Don we wanted to limit [redacted] involvement with him. He agreed to comply with these requests.

It is necessary to understand the context of this incident to fully appreciate our concern. At first, I viewed Don's behavior as a friend being nice to my children, but as it developed, it seemed too frequent, invasive of our family privacy, and ultimately, very unacceptable to us.

It was in 1987 that my sons, [redacted] first joined the Boy Scout troop. Our other son, [redacted] joined the Explorer Post 2863. I renewed my

8/2/90

acquaintance with Don Stensland and we became friendly. Don lives in the apartment building across the street from our home. Don is a youth leader with the Lutheran Church, coaches basketball, and is the Explorer Post Advisor. Don has a history of taking scouts "under his wing" and giving them special attention. There are several young men whom he has taken under his wing and who appear, even later in life, very dependent on Don.

Don started giving my sons gifts after he came back from business trips. He bought all my children gifts at Christmas. He bought my sons golf club bags which I thought was too extravagant. Don would regularly offer my sons, and later, only [redacted] opportunities to attend stock car races, golf driving ranges, and to go out for pizza. These activities had nothing to do with scouting.

Don started favoring [redacted] and taking him under "his wing". Don worked with [redacted] on his Eagle Scout award, and John spent many hours with Don. Much time seemed to be spent at Don's apartment. Sometimes, there were others present, but many times, Don and [redacted] were alone. Don sent my sons birthday cards and post cards signed "Love, Don" to [redacted] but signed "Don" to [redacted] or [redacted].

Don occasionally drove my sons to school in the morning, but gradually, he did it every day. It started to set up tension in the family because [redacted] was always ready to go, and, if [redacted] or [redacted] were slow out the door, they were being left behind. Don is a Deputy Fire Commissioner and has his own municipal car. He used this car to drive the boys to school. Don used the car phone and would have [redacted] do the dialing. All this made an impression on [redacted].

Don traditionally had Boy Scouts over to his apartment on Friday nights after Boy Scout activities were over. He also had the Explorers over. They watched movies and had pizza until 11:30 p.m. or 12:30 a.m. Don also attended [redacted] soccer games which I was unable to attend because they were held in the afternoon before I got off work. The distinction

8/2/90

between scouting activities and social activities became blurred.

Don's cabin in Wisconsin is used as a Boy Scout camp annex in the summer and winter. It had become "a place to go" independent of scouting activities with scouts for many boys, including our sons, even to the extent that my wife and I bought a cabin down the road from Don. Don knew [REDACTED] and I were interested in a cabin, and he let us know of one that was available and which we purchased two years ago.

Don's cabin is set up with snow mobiles, four wheelers, boats, etc. and sits near a beautiful lake. All the boy scouts were able to go up at certain times while a select few were chosen to go up more often. My sons, typically [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], went to Don's cabin often. My sons spent more time at Don's cabin than at ours.

In Wisconsin, Don frequently took the boys out to eat, and sometimes, he would also take our whole family along with others. He would insist on paying for all. He typically had one of the older scouts inspect the bill and then write the check out for that bill and give it to Don to sign. This scout was always one of the boys "under his wing", including [REDACTED].

Don gave [REDACTED] the keys to his apartment so [REDACTED] could take in Don's mail when he was on business trips and put the mail in Don's apartment.

Don took our son, [REDACTED] "under his wing". He showed him a lot of attention, he was attentive to [REDACTED] he bought [REDACTED] gifts, he drove him to school, he saw his sports games, he drove him home, he watched him through his eagle scout award, he bought him dinners, he taught him how to drive, to water ski, he took him to sports games, and, according to [REDACTED], Don is his "best friend".

In January, 1990, I went to Pastor Michael Poole at the Irving Park Lutheran Church. The church sponsors the Boy Scout program there. I wanted to discuss Don's behavior because I felt many parents besides my wife and I were having problems with their sons' involvement with Don. The pastor told me that a young man had come to him a year and a half ago about an incident

8/2/90

with Don when the young man had been a scout.

About a month later, in February, the Pastor, Mr. Matthews (Phoenix District Scouting Coordinator), the young man, and [REDACTED] and I met at the church. The young man described an incident of 14 years ago when he was 14 years old and under Don's wing. The incident occurred in Don's apartment while working on an Eagle Scout badge and ended up without his clothes on. He didn't go into details, but he cried for a couple hours before Don took him home. He believes it was an isolated incident and that no one would ever believe it happened. He said Don never bothered him again because he cried so much.

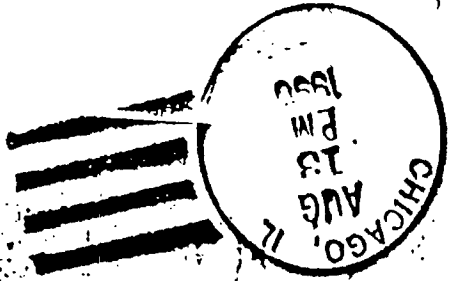
This letter is sent with the spirit that it is in the best interest of all concerned.

ANONYMOUS

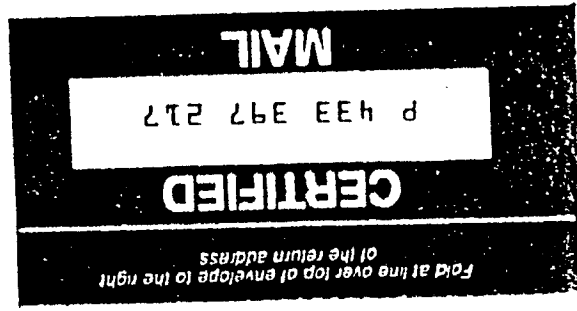
POST OFFICE



Mr. Ken Walters
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

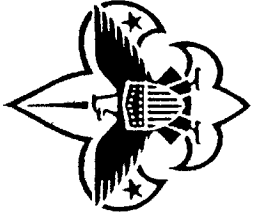


RESTRICTED
DELIVERY



RECEIVED

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079
214-580-2000

August 16, 1990

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL FILE
DONALD STENSLAND

FROM: Debra Duhs, S402

TO: Paul Ernst, S108

Attached please find a copy of a FAX which we received this date from Ken Walters with the Chicago Area Council concerning the above individual. I promised Mr. Walters that we would see to it that you received this information as well.

attachment

c11



FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 8-16-90

To: Deborah Duks **Fax #** ()

From: Ken Walters

Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Message: _____

RISK MANAGEMENT

AUG 16 1990

confidential

urgent

This fax contains 6 pages not including cover sheet. If you do not receive all pages please call immediately.

August 2, 1990

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Ken Walters
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America

730 W. ...
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

Enclosed is my letter describing the behavior of Mr. Donald Stensland, explorer advisor, troop 2863, Irving Park Lutheran Church. This letter is to be kept on permanent file at Boy Scouts of America. This letter is marked "Personal and Confidential".

I understand from Pastor Poole of Irving Park Lutheran Church that Mr. Stensland was served with a letter from B.S.A. by Pastor Poole and Mr. Jim Matthews (B.S.A. representative Phoenix District) requesting his permanent suspension as a leader in the B.S.A. program. I would like to request a copy of this letter be sent to me or I will be glad to personally pick up a copy.

I also understand that Mr. Stensland can in the future appeal this permanent suspension. I request to be notified at any time if such an appeal is submitted.

Pastor Poole indicated B.S.A. has a fund set aside for psychiatric reimbursement regarding matters of abuse. Since September of 1989 we have received and are continuing to receive counseling regarding my son and Mr. Stensland. I would like to discuss with you what is involved with requesting reimbursement from this fund.

We are disappointed that B.S.A. is unable to investigate this matter further, but, at the same time, I do appreciate your quick response once you were made aware of our incidents and those of another. I am convinced there are other injured parties from Mr. Stensland's behavior. I am concerned about his potential ability to use B.S.A. as a platform for his inappropriate conduct.

Please confirm receipt of this letter in writing at your earliest convenience.



Enclosure

August 2, 1990

Mr. Ken Walters
Director of Finance and Support Services
Boy Scouts of America

██████████
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Walters:

This letter, submitted at your request, concerns the behavior of explorer advisor Mr. Donald Stensland, 58 years old, with my son ██████████ 16 years old, an explorer scout. Mr. Stensland is the explorer advisor of troop 2863, sponsored by the Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL.

In August of 1989, I became aware of the fact that Don allowed our son ██████████ to sleep in the same bed with him, overnight, while at his cabin in Wisconsin. This particular incident took place during the third week of Boy Scout camp, which operated out of Don's cabin at Enterprise Lake, Wisconsin. One of our other sons, ██████████ was also there during this third week along with three or four other Boy Scouts. I also was in Wisconsin that week, but I stayed down the road a short distance in my cabin. One morning in Wisconsin, at the beginning of the week, I went over to the cabin to see my sons. The door was unlocked. I went into the cabin and viewed by ^{my wife} son in Don's bedroom asleep in Don's bed. Our other son, ██████████ was asleep in a second bedroom. Other boys were asleep on the living room floor or front porch couches. Don was not in the cabin at the time, but out in his garage working. I did not confront Don at that time, because I did not know how to go about it. I telephone my wife, ██████████ who, with the rest of our family, was back in Chicago. I suggested we seek some professional counseling because I didn't know how to handle the matter with either Don or ██████████. ██████████ agreed, and she made an initial appointment for ^{my wife} September.

Later that same morning, ██████████ told me that he and Don did sleep together

AUG 16 '90 11:13

PH5E.003

CONF019283

in bed, but that nothing "sexually" had happened. I was not specific as to types of contact. I told [redacted] those sleeping arrangements were unacceptable and that he had to sleep either with his brother or on the floor with the rest of the boys. [redacted] and David stayed the rest of the week with these new sleeping arrangements.

In September of 1989, [redacted] my wife, [redacted] and I started the counseling with Dr. Anne Updegrave, PhD., Psychologist, Elston Plaza Family Physicians. Also included were my sons [redacted] 17, and [redacted] 15, both of whom are explorer scouts and aware of the situation. During this counseling period, it became clear that [redacted] and I needed to confront Don and limit [redacted] involvement with Don. In October, [redacted] and I spoke to Don about the sleeping arrangement. I told Don that I didn't understand why Don would allow that to happen, that I told Don that I do not approve of that behavior with our son or sons, and that my wife and I do not approve of that behavior with our son or sons, and that I did not see it as part of the Scouting Program. We also told him that the other Scouts who have known about this behavior were making homosexual remarks to [redacted] in front of others and that [redacted] brother, [redacted] was in the position of responding to the remarks in defense of [redacted] Don's responses to this was, "oh gee, that never crossed my mind", "I won't do that anymore", and "if I can help, tell me what to do". I find Don's responses totally unacceptable because it removes any responsibility from him. He is an adult leader of young people and appears to be unaware of his actions or impact on the young boys he is leading. My wife and I requested Don not to drive our three sons to school any longer and not to buy gifts for them or our other children. We told Don we wanted to limit [redacted] involvement with him. He agreed to comply with these requests.

It is necessary to understand the context of this incident to fully appreciate our concern. At first, I viewed Don's behavior as a friend being nice to my children, but as it developed, it seemed too frequent, invasionary of our family privacy, and ultimately, very unacceptable to us.

It was in 1987 that my sons, [redacted] first joined the Boy Scout troop. Our other son, [redacted] joined the Explorer Post 2863. I renewed my

acquaintance with Don Stensland and we became friendly. Don lives in the apartment building across the street from our home. Don is a youth leader with the Lutheran Church, coaches basketball, and is the Explorer Post Advisor. Don has a history of taking scouts "under his wing" and giving them special attention. There are several young men whom he has taken under his wing and who appear, even later in life, very dependent on Don.

Don started giving my sons gifts after he came back from business trips. He bought all my children gifts at Christmas. He bought my sons golf club bags which I thought was too extravagant. Don would regularly offer my sons, and later, only [redacted] opportunities to attend stock car races, golf driving ranges, and to go out for pizza. These activities had nothing to do with scouting.

Don started favoring [redacted] and taking him under "his wing". Don worked with [redacted] on his Eagle Scout award, and [redacted] spent many hours with Don. Much time seemed to be spent at Don's apartment. Sometimes, there were others present, but many times, Don and [redacted] were alone. Don sent my sons birthday cards and post cards signed "Love, Don" to [redacted] but signed "Don" to [redacted] or [redacted].

Don occasionally drove my sons to school in the morning, but gradually, he did it every day. It started to set up tension in the family because [redacted] was always ready to go, and, if [redacted] were slow out the door, they were being left behind. Don is a Deputy Fire Commissioner and has his own municipal car. He used this car to drive the boys to school. Don used the car phone and would have [redacted] do the dialing. All this made an impression on [redacted].

Don traditionally had Boy Scouts over to his apartment on Friday nights after Boy Scout activities were over. He also had the Explorers over. They watched movies and had pizza until 11:30 p.m. or 12:30 a.m. Don also attended [redacted] soccer games which I was unable to attend because they were held in the afternoon before I got off work. The distinction

between scouting activities and social activities became blurred.

Don's cabin in Wisconsin is used as a Boy Scout camp annex in the summer and winter. It had become "a place to go" independent of scouting activities with scouts for many boys, including our sons, even to the extent that my wife and I bought a cabin down the road from Don. Don knew [REDACTED] and I were interested in a cabin, and he let us know of one that was available and which we purchased two years ago.

Don's cabin is set up with snow mobiles, four wheelers, boats, etc. and sits near a beautiful lake. All the boy scouts were able to go up at certain times while a select few were chosen to go up more often. My sons, typically [REDACTED] went to Don's cabin often. My sons spent more time at Don's cabin than at ours.

In Wisconsin, Don frequently took the boys out to eat, and sometimes, he would also take our whole family along with others. He would insist on paying for all. He typically had one of the older scouts inspect the bill and then write the check out for that bill and give it to Don to sign. This scout was always one of the boys "under his wing", including [REDACTED].

Don gave [REDACTED] the keys to his apartment so [REDACTED] could take in Don's mail when he was on business trips and put the mail in Don's apartment. Don took our son, [REDACTED] "under his wing". He showed him a lot of attention, he was attentive to [REDACTED], he bought [REDACTED] gifts, he drove him to school, he saw his sports games, he drove him home, he watched him through his eagle scout award, he bought him dinners, he taught him how to drive, to water ski, he took him to sports games, and, according to [REDACTED] Don is his "best friend".

In January, 1990, I went to Pastor Michael Poole at the Irving Park Lutheran Church. The church sponsors the Boy Scout program there. I wanted to discuss Don's behavior because I felt many parents besides my wife and I were having problems with their sons' involvement with Don. The pastor told me that a young man had come to him a year and a half ago about an incident

with Don when the young man had been a scout.

About a month later, in February, the Pastor, Mr. Matthews (Phoenix District Scouting Coordinator), the young man, and [REDACTED] and I met at the church. The young man described an incident of 14 years ago when he was 14 years old and under Don's wing. The incident occurred in Don's apartment while working on an Eagle Scout badge and ended up without his clothes on. He didn't go into details, but he cried for a couple hours before Don took him home. He believes it was an isolated incident and that no one would ever believe it happened. He said Don never bothered him again because he cried so much.

This letter is sent with the spirit that it is in the best interest of all concerned.

ANONYMOUS

FROM



EC. REGION

4-11-90

TONY KELL

TURNED DOWN AND REEVALUATED

STENSLENG

TURNED DOWN ON REGION REVIEW

DAVID MOLLER

TURNED DOWN ON REGION REVIEW

Paul Ernst

March 7, 1990

Mr. Nelson L. Carter
Scout Executive
Chicago Area Council, No. 118

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: DONALD STENSLAND

Dear Lin:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Ineligible Volunteer File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

ag

cc: East Central Region

SEARCHED FILE
MAR 07 1990
ERIN ORILEY

CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING FORM

The following information was provided to:

RONALD A. POOLE PASTOR IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Name of person/position)

(Telephone number/address)

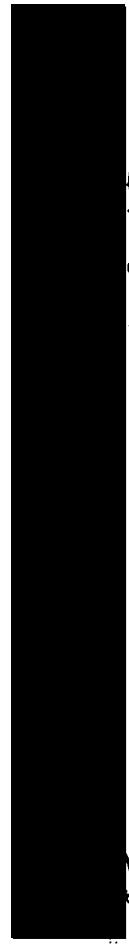
Name of suspected abuser: DONALD STEWLAND
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone No: [REDACTED] outing position if known: EXPOSER LEADER
Child's name: [REDACTED] Date of birth: (1) 12-00-80
Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone No.: [REDACTED]
Physical indicators observed: was admitted that
he has the very last years of age (now 29). Don did have physical
contact with him. Last August
Behavioral indicators observed: and
Don did share a double bed at Don's summer cabin in Wis.
Other indicators observed/known: has been very close to Don and
in his home and rides to various activities at that time. admits physical
Reporter's name and position: contact by Don.

Date of report 2-16-89 Signature: R.A. Poole

2-16-90

IN CAPTION, SE 6/18



EA E 2863

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHICAGO

DOB 11-30

ATR TO BE DELIVERED

Grant

C 3863 - 016605

E 2863 - 022060

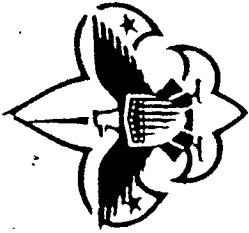
E 9763 - 024133

E 9763 105064

S 0863 - 030483

12/33

Added to Ins file
Added to new file
Added 2/21/90



CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL #1118
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
730 West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 559-0990

February 16, 1990

Personal and Confidential

Mr. Donald Stensland
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois 60618

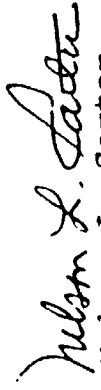
Dear Mr. Stensland:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. A refund of your registration fee is enclosed.

You should understand that Boy Scouts of America membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the Boy Scouts of America seeks to provide for American youth.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a Boy Scouts of America regional review committee, please write to the regional director within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a Boy Scouts of America member should be reinstated. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely yours,


Nelson L. Carter
Scout Executive

NLC/ck
Encl.

bcc/ Gene Cruse
Debra Duhs
Paul Ernst
Ted Hanley

Louis P. Vitullo, Esq.
Robert R. Yohanan
Lynn Lowder
Richard Poole

CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The following information is provided should you desire a review by the East Central Region, Boy Scouts of America, of the decision to suspend your registration.

1. Within 60 days, you must request in writing a review of this decision. Your request should be sent to the regional director, East Central Region, Boy Scouts of America, 230 West Diehl Road, P.O. Box 3085, Naperville, Illinois 60566-7085. In your request you may include your version of what occurred in support of your claim that your registration should not have been suspended.
2. Upon the receipt of your written request, a committee will be appointed to review the situation.
3. You may attend the review hearing, but it is not adversarial in nature and neither the committee nor you will be represented by legal counsel. If you wish, you may be accompanied by no more than two other individuals if their testimony might assist the committee in discovering the truth and arriving at a correct decision.
4. The committee will review the facts as presented, and may interview any persons whose testimony might assist them in arriving at a correct decision.
5. You will receive a letter setting forth the decision of the committee.
6. If you disagree with the decision of the committee, you may request a review of this decision by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

/ck
9-89

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

02/21/90
11:15:29

CNCL 118 PRG/UNIT S0863 SEQ. 034483

FIRST: DONALD LAST : STENSLAND

ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: CHICAGO IL

ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4: ZIP: 60618

REG STATUS: M ENROLL: 1184 BIRTH: 1130 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A

POSITION: MC FINDERCODE: 50 PHONE ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:

REN DAT: 1090

TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

MAGAZINES

--SOURCE--		PRICE	SUB	STRT	--COPIES--		ISSUES	TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP	
TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	TOTAL	COUNT	PRINTED	DAT
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

02/21/90
11:14:23

CNCL 118 PRG/UNIT E9763 SEQ: 024133
FIRST: DONALD LAST : STENSLAND
ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: CHICAGO IL
ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4:
REG STATUS: M ENROLL: 0185 BIRTH: 0000 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A ZIP: 60618
POSITION: CR FINDERCODE: 50 PHONE: ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:
REN DAT: 1290
TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

--SOURCE--		PRICE	SUB	STRT	--COPIES--		ISSUES TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP		
TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	TOTAL	COUNT	PRINTED	DAT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY
MS08

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END
MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

02/21/90
11:14:35

CNCL 118 PRG/UNIT E9763 SEQ. 105064
FIRST: DONALD LAST : STENSLAND
ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: CHICAGO IL
ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4:
REG STATUS: M ENROLL: 0187 BIRTH: 0000 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A ZIP: 60618
POSITION: CC FINDERCODE: 50 PHONE: ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:
REN DAT: 1290
TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

--SOURCE--		PRICE	SUB	STRT	--COPIES--		ISSUES TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP		
TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	TOTAL	COUNT	PRINTED	DAT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

02/21/90
11:13:25

CNCL 118 PRG/UNIT C3863 SEQ. 016605
FIRST: DONALD LAST : STENSLAND
ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: CHICAGO IL
ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4: ██████████ ZIP: 60618
REG STATUS: M ENROLL: 1184 BIRTH: 1233 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A
POSITION: MC FINDERCODE: 50 PHONE: ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:
REN DAT: 1090
TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

MAGAZINES												
--SOURCE--		PRICE	SUB	STRT	--COPIES--		ISSUES	TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP	
TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	TOTAL	COUNT	PRINTED	DAT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY

MS08

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SYSTEM
MEMBER DELETE

02/21/90
11:13:42

CNCL 118 PRG/UNIT E2863 SEQ. 022060
FIRST: DONALD LAST : STENSLAND
ADDR1: ██████████ ADDR2: CHICAGO IL
ADDR3: ██████████ ADDR4: ██████████ ZIP: 60618
REG STATUS: R ENROLL: 1184 BIRTH: 1130 SEX: M AGENCY: M ADULT/YOUTH: A
POSITION: EA FINDERCODE: 50 PHONE: ██████████ BULK: MAG-STATUS:
REN DAT: 1090
TRANSFER FROM = CNCL: PGM/UNIT: SEQ: TRANSFER DATE:

MAGAZINES												
--SOURCE--		PRICE	SUB	STRT	--COPIES--		ISSUES	TO GO	AREAR	LAST LABEL	EXP	
TYPE	CNCL	P/UNT	CODE	TRM	DATE	FIRST	LAST	ORIG	TOTAL	COUNT	PRINTED	DAT
S	-	-	N	06	0190	0190	0390	04	004	00	2701	1190
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PF2>DELETE PF12>MENU CLR>END

MEMBER DELETED FROM DATABASE SUCCESSFULLY