



Annaliese Parker
*Western Region
President, 2012-13*

President's Message:

Hi all! My name is Annaliese Parker and I am the Western Region Venturing President for 2012-2013.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve you through another great year of Venturing.

Our region only founded an official Venturing Officers' Association

late last year, and this is the year that I think we can really grow by adding new positions and new people to our team. Last year we added three Vice Presidents to the mix and this year I am hoping to expand even further by adding at least two committees, with serving members, managed by each of them. These committees will have important work to do and will also help support our council VOAs by providing resources and assistance to them when needed.

I think that this support will also result in the launch of at least one new council VOA in each Area, and will strengthen many existing VOAs.

As a Region, we also want to hold an amazing Superactivity for any of us to attend. To see a more detailed document of the goals for the region, check them out on our website www.wrventuring-bsa.org.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this year our most successful, building a new tier on our strong foundation for years of amazing Venturing to come.

Yours in Venturing,
Annaliese Parker



Intro to Region Committees

Are you interested in helping plan the next regional Venturing Youth Conference, building a new page on the website, or helping with local VOAs? With our newly developing region committees, you can do these things and others!

We are looking for youth and adult Venturers who are interested in helping with jobs, big and small, around the region.

There are tons of things to do! You could be a member of the conference committee that will help with logistics, activities, sessions, or promotions for the conference. You could help plan the most amazing new Superactivity.

The website and newsletter committees need reporters that go out and find interesting events to write about and photograph, and they need computer jockeys to build hot new tools. We need people to hunt down and collect facts.

This is also an opportunity to give your own direct input into what should happen at the region level. If you want something to happen and don't see it mentioned already, this is your opportunity to introduce it.

If you don't have a local VOA, joining a region committee may be the best way that you can contribute to your community's Venturing membership.

Even though the Western Region has more Venturers than any other, we have the youngest and least developed VOA – it's less than a year old. As such, this creates opportunities for just about everyone who wants to serve.

If you're interested in an opportunity to serve at the regional level, please email me:

**WR-President @
wrventuring-bsa.org**

– submitted by Annaliese Parker



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Area VLAs

Curious about the Area VLAs? Who was awarded this distinction? Info about each Area's recipients are in gray boxes on the following pages.

AREA

President.....Jeremy Felty

Vice Presidents.....
Ethan Stroh Shannan Stevens,
Andre Giacalone

Advisor.....Dr. Bruce Noonan

Area 1 has a lot of big plans for 2012-2013. We have really great goals laid out. One important goal is to establish council VOAs. The Area currently has 3, and we hope to double that number, as well as assist in creating a joint-council VOA for the two Alaska councils.

Our Vice-President of Communications **Andre Giacalone** (Great Alaska) has some great goals, like an Area Newsletter, networking and connecting to all the councils in Area 1, and to keep them in contact and updated with the latest Area news.

Shannan Stevens, the Area Vice President of Administration, really wants to work on Venturing growth in each council, and get the word out about Venturing and the different training and recognitions, such as the Bronze and Gold awards, the proficiency awards (Silver, Ranger, Quest, etc.), and VLAs.

Our Vice-President of Programs **Ethan Stroh** (Pacific Harbors) has laid out some great goals as well, Ethan will begin to start planning for our Area Training Conference soon, and then for next year's Area event.

Area 1 really wants to expand this year and do great things to show we are... #1!

By Jeremy Felty,
2012-2013 Area 1 Venturing President



Area VLA Recipient

Jeff Zantek



Jeff's major contribution was creating an Area Venturing contact list and email reflector. He also authored an interactive web presence for the Area, and has been chosen to represent the BSA at the 2012 Central American Rovering Moot in Panama.

He is a certified Wilderness First Aid Responder and a Western Rivers Whitewater Guide. Venturing bling: nearly everything!

Area VLA Recipient

Kim Black-Ward



Kim's leadership was instrumental in the success of the VOA leadership summit at the Area 1 Training Conference at Camp Thunderbird in October, 2011.

She has served as Crew President and on staff at Fire Mountain BSA summer camp for three years.

Area VLA Recipient

Casey Burt



During her first few months, she adapted the Venturing Standard Operating Procedures to be functional in Area 1, and included the Area Boatswain and Sea Scout Commodore as adjunct members of the Area VOA.

Casey has earned the Venturing Bronze, Gold, completed her Silver, received the council VLA, and has served as Crew and Council VOA President.

Area VLA Recipient

Ryan Peterson



Ryan shed his Sea Scout whites and donned the Venturing green last October. Ryan's sense of humor, enthusiasm, and organizational skills are much appreciated.

Ryan has served as Quartermaster and Yeoman of his ship. He is also an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow.



Above, President Jeremy Felty signs BINGO squares at the WRVYC



AREA 2

President..... Copper Quist
 Advisor..... John Harris

In an effort to encourage continued progress, the Area 2 VOA and the Western Region Venturing President will give special recognition to the councils who complete these goals:

1. Establish Area 2 Operating Procedures and assist Council VOAs in Area 2 in creating local operating procedures by September 28, 2012.

2. Promote and encourage the Venturing Awards such as the Bronze, Gold, Silver, Quest, Trust, and Ranger; have ten additional awards presented in each council before January 1, 2013; between January 1, 2013, and June 1, 2013, we want 10 more awards to be presented. We strongly encourage councils to have events which can provide opportunities to work towards these awards.

3. Strongly encourage each council to complete one or more of the following by June 1, 2013:

- Form a Council VOA with five or more Youth, and two or more Adult Advisors.
- Form two or more District VOAs with five or more Youth, and two or more Adult Advisors.
- Form five or more Stake or Zone VOAs with five or more Youth, and two or more Adult Advisors.

In addition, we would like to have an increase in participants of Youth and Adults attending Trainings such as

ILSCs, Kodiaks, NYLTs, Wood Badges, Powderhorns and NAYLEs, as well as attending Venturing activities and meetings.

We encourage the promotion of Venturing in your Crews, Districts, Councils, Schools, and other organizations.

By Copper Quist,
 2012-2013 Area 2
 Venturing President



Area VLA Recipient

Ethan Lowe



Ethan has earned the Outdoor, and Community and Religious Life Bronze Awards, and is completing his Gold and Silver Awards. Ethan attended the first WRVYC in 2009, as well as the 2010 National and 2011 World Scout Jamborees.

Ethan contributes to his home Crew and Council, and has been on staff for three Kodiak courses, one Kodiak-X course, and numerous Wood Badge and adult leader training courses. Ethan is a natural leader and is well respected by his peers and adult mentors.



Copper Quist
 Area 2 VOA
 President - 2012-13

Area VLA Recipients

Justin Harris



Justin was Area 2's VP of Communications during its start-up in 2010. He attended the WRVYC in 2010, and was elected Area 2 VOA VP High Adventure that fall. Justin ran both Area 2 VOA Conferences in 2010 and 2011 at Camp Kiesel.

In 2011, Justin served as Area VP-Administration, where he met with both adult and youth leaders in helping local councils with VOA operations.

Tyler Weenig

Tyler served as the Utah National Parks Council Venturing President, and has been trained in VLSC, Kodiak and Kodiak-X, as well as youth staff on Kodiak and Kodiak-X. He helped plan his Area's VOA conference, and actively participated in the 2011 and 2012 WRVYC's.

Tyler will be an outstanding leader as result of his firm foundations in Area 2.



Area VLA Recipient

Brent Uberty



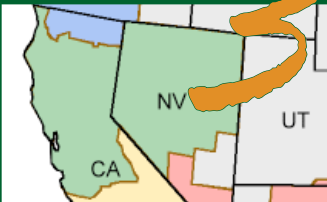
Brent Uberty has been a tremendous help in supporting Area 2's existing VOA and assisting in its improvement. Even as Region President, he has dedicated time to Area 2 in order to help officers with planning for the coming years, and helped individual Councils develop VOAs as well. He served as Area 2's VOA President before being selected as the 2011-2012 Western Region President, and has earned two Bronze awards, as well as a Silver Eagle Palm.



Area 2 contingent traveled by bus from Idaho to Utah for the conference!



AREA 3



President..... Tess Mitchell
 Vice Presidents..... Indy Nelson
 Amanda Clark Forrest Yeh
 Advisor..... Larry Peterson

Area 3 plans to have a busy next term. The main goal is to get four more functioning VOAs active at both the Council and Area levels. We plan on doing this by have a newsletter distributed the week after our meetings that includes the minutes and upcoming events or trainings.

We plan on populating the Western Region Venturing Calendar and the Area 3 Facebook Page. Our big event, The Area 3

Leadership Summit, will be in the spring where we hope to grow in participation and in youth trainings from our first Leadership Summit this past year. Until then, we will work on strengthening our councils and get people more involved. So remember: Stay classy, Western Region!

By Tess Mitchell,
2012-2013 Area 3 Venturing President



Tess Mitchell
*Area 3 VOA
 President 2012-13*

Area VLA Recipient

Annaliese Parker



Annaliese was VP of Communications the first year we started our VOA, and kept amazing records of what happened at every meeting. The next year she stepped up to become VOA President, and thanks to her, we now have a system for bi-monthly meetings, and clearer ideas of what each officer should be doing.

This year as Region VP Communications, Annaliese has remained active in the Area, even while attending college in Pennsylvania. She has attended scores of events outside her own council, and is a constant role model and friend to every Venturer she meets.

Area VLA Recipient

Kevin Tharratt



Kevin helped start Area 3's VOA. Working from the ground up, he built the foundation of what it is today. As the first president, he put in many hours working to create something that was neither official nor sanctioned by National.

He was also highly instrumental in gathering together council representatives, and helped organize the second Western Region Youth Conference at Coast Guard Island in Alameda.

Area VLA Recipient

Tess Mitchell

As Area VP of Program, Tess went above and beyond what was been asked of her. She volunteered to organize the training aspect of our Area 3 Leadership Summit, and did an outstanding job finding trainers and organizing classes.

Beyond that, Tess always has everything under control, and reminds her fellow officers whenever a deadline is approaching. She has done an amazing job representing her council's opinions, as well as that of those of the Area as a whole.



Area VLA Recipient

Carl Peterson



Carl has been representing the Redwood Empire Council at the Area VOA meetings since the first VOA meeting in October, 2009. He was the event chairman of the Redwood Empire Spring Rendezvous in 2011 and in 2012 when it was combined with the Area 3 Leadership Summit.

Besides arranging the non-training part of the program, Carl organized the food, site co-ordination, and all communications.

Area VLA Recipient

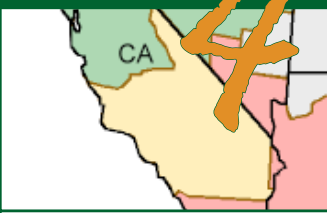
Teddy Heidmann

Teddy is from Pacific Skyline Council. He was the 2010-2011 Area 3 VP of Admin and the 2011-2012 Area 3 President. As Area 3 president, Teddy did a fantastic job in managing and running the Area. He managed meetings well, and helped start multiple Council VOAs.

Teddy has earned copious awards, and is always prepared for meetings. He set an ambitious goal of having an Area event this year, and it turned out to be a huge success.



AREA 4



President.....Jillian Infusino
Advisor.....Chuck Williams

The Area 4 cabinet will be extremely busy this upcoming program year! We are very excited about expanding Venturing within Area 4.

Our number one priority is expanding communication between our 10 councils. Our hope is that our 10 councils will attend each other's events and

establish new connections and friendships. We also want to establish a Facebook page for our Area so all events can be shared easily.

We also hope to establish at least one new Council VOA to help Venturing in our Area grow. Creating a consistent meeting schedule that includes conference calls and face-to-face meetings is also an important task that we will be addressing this summer.

Lastly, we want to create a master Area 4 calendar to keep track of all of the events going on in our Area so other councils, as well as the Area Cabinet, can attend these events. The Area 4 Cabinet has a lot of work ahead of us, but we are determined to accomplish all of these goals and help Venturing grow!

By Jillian Infusino,
2012-2013 Area 4 Venturing President



Area VLA Recipient

Anh Vu



Anh has served this past year as the Area 4 VOA President. During the year she participated in many Councils Venturing events promoting the Venturing Way. In 2011 Anh served as the Host Council Youth Leader for the Western Region Venturing Youth Conference at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. Previously she served as the Orange County VOA President and Vice President.

Area VLA Recipient

Jillian Infusino



Jillian served this past year as the Area 4 VP of Administration. In this role she helped to promote the VOA's involvement in Council events, Training, and Jamborees. She has been the Los Angeles Area VOA President and VP.

In 2011, she attended the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, where she represented the U.S. at the Model United Nations Project. Her presentation was one of the few accepted by the 157 Countries participating.

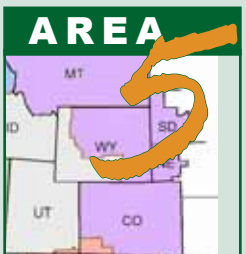
Area VLA Recipient

Chris Moncrief



Chris served as the Area 4 Vice-President of Program. During the year Chris helped to promote the various Councils Venturing Events and Activities. The past three years Chris has been the Youth Chair for the SGVC Venturing Rendezvous which involved many competition teams from the Area 4 Councils. They were successful each year. Previously he served as the San Gabriel Valley VOA President and VP.

AREA 5



The Area 5 Venturing Officers' Association continues to be a work-in-progress. Don Diaz, as Area representative, continues to work with each of the councils in the development of Council VOAs to strengthen Venturing in each council.



Above, Venturers participate in various activities at this year's conference

Western Region Venturing Officers, 2012-2013

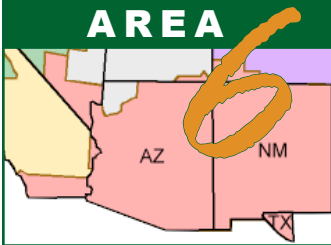
Annaliese Parker
*Region President,
Santa Clara County*



Annaliese is from the heart of Silicon Valley, California, and served as the Venturing Vice President of Communications for the Western Region and Area 3 President in prior terms. She attended Drexel University in Philadelphia studying Electrical Engineering last year, but has moved back West this month.

She began Venturing before the age of 14 with a 55-mile backpacking trip through Kings Canyon to the top of Mount Whitney in California, the highest point in the contiguous United States. From then on she knew Venturing was for her. Since then she has enjoyed river rafting, more backpacking, camping, all-night service projects, and even meetings (her crew held them at a local IHOP restaurant and they were a blast). She started working at the council level as a VOA organizer and trainer, staffed NYLT several times, and staffed the first Venturing NAYLE course. She is the oldest in her family, with two younger brothers.

AREA



President..... Malia Ashley
Advisor..... Mackenzie Lardie

The 2012-2013 term for Area 6 will be focused primarily on strengthening the Area VOA presence in the councils. We will accomplish this by setting up a functioning communications committee to reach out to the councils in Hawaii and the Far East. Optimally this committee will have representatives from most councils in the Area.

In addition, the committee will focus on promoting Area-level announcements through the Area Facebook page, a quarterly newsletter and an Area website.

The second goal will be promoting council- and area-wide events with the help of our Vice President of Program. Our initial area event will be August 24-26 in the Las Vegas Area Council.

Following that event, we will begin preparations for an Area Leadership Summit with a tentative date of March 2013. Outside of these area events, we will promote council-level activities and keep an updated calendar of the activities.

Lastly, we will promote the area and council VLA awards with the help of our Vice President of Administration, who will also aid our Area cabinet by helping conduct monthly conference calls.

During these conference calls, we will go over ways to better promote the Area VOA positions and go over current events pertaining to the area.

This term presents many challenges, but our Area cabinet is up for the task!

By Malia Ashley,
2012-2013 Area 6 Venturing President



Malia Ashley
Area 6 VOA
President - 2012-13

Teddy Heidmann

*Region Vice President of Communications,
Pacific Skyline*



Teddy joined Venturing in 2009, and is a member of Crew 37 in the Pacific Skyline Council. Over the past three years, he has served as Crew VP of Program, Council President, Area 3 President and VP of Admin, and has led numerous events, including Area 3's first ever Leadership Summit. Teddy has participated in numerous council and regional Venturing events, and attended the 2010 National Scout Jamboree and Order of the Arrow Canadian Odyssey program at Northern Tier.

Teddy has earned Bronze, Gold, Silver, Quest, Ranger, and Eagle Scout awards, and was recognized with both council and area Venturing Leadership Awards. He is a Senior at Mountain View High School, and plans to study mechanical and computer engineering. He works part time as a lifeguard and as a camp counselor at a local science camp where duties include building houses out of pretzels and painting rocks to look like ladybugs.

Shantell Sallee

*Region Vice President of Administration,
Longs Peak*



Shantell Sallee was born and raised in Colorado; she is part of the Longs Peak Council. She started Venturing the day she turned 14. She is President of Crew 6, and has held other leadership positions in the Crew and at the council level. She has earned her Bronze, Ranger, Gold, Silver, Council VLA,

and many other awards. She graduated from Aims High School in November 2008 and started at Aims Community College in January 2009.

She is working on a multimedia degree for game development, animation and graphics, which she will completed soon. She is also working on nursing and EMT degrees along with her multimedia degrees. She loves being outdoors and will try anything once. She has attended both Northern Tier and Florida Sea Base and had a blast at both!

Region VP-Program has not been named.

Area VLA Recipient

Christina Mootz



Christina attended the first ever Western Region Venturing Conference in 2009 and since has continued to grow as a Venturer. She has participated in numerous events in her Council and through Region. Christina has been able to bridge the gap that is evident in youth and adults working together in a program such as Venturing.

She is currently the Las Vegas Area Council VOA President, and at the beginning of 2012 was asked to step up from Area VP of Program to Area President.