



Brent Uberty
Western Region
President, 2011-12

President's Message:

Hey Western Region Venturers:

It is my honor to bring you my final President's Message of the 2011-2012 term. This past year has been one that I will never forget. Our region has grown so much and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us. Let me lay out some of this year's accomplishments for you:

- The most exciting and important achievement is we now have an official Venturing Officers' Association (VOA) in the West. This means that, for the first time ever, we are officially recognized as a part of the BSA's leadership organization. We have our new regional Staff Advisor, **Mike Hale**; and have secured the opportunity for future Western Region Venturing Presidents to serve on the Program Impact Committee at the Region Board meetings.
- We have also added three Vice Presidents to our VOA structure that have worked their tails off to make everyone's job a little bit easier. As VP-Administration, **Chris Gifford** did an awesome job with our Regional President Selection, kept an up-to-date contact sheet, and helped form a committee that awarded six Region Venturing Leadership Awards (pg. 6). VP-Communications **Annaliese Parker** rocked the stage by producing great newsletters for the first time in the West and supported our talented webmaster, **Jeff Zantek**, to launch a website that competes with many that have existed for years in features and content. Last but not least, VP-Program **Malia Ashley** blew us away with the recently held Western Region Venturing Youth Conference.
- Tandem with the Vice Presidents, we saw three associate advisors added. Ken Bower, the Region VOA Advisor, has had my back all along; he was joined by three others, each assigned to a Vice President, to provide support, additional mentoring and counseling.
- Let me review the Youth Conference we had April 27-29 in Salt Lake City, Utah. We had close to 100 participants come together to learn about Venturing and their VOAs. We had representation from every area and a large number of councils. This initiates a milestone

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What a Great Conference!

What a Great Youth Conference! During the few days at Camp Tracy (just outside of Salt Lake City), youth from all six Areas of Western Region converged to learn, have fun, and get to know each other in preparation for a new leadership year.

The regional team had been busy planning this great weekend for several months, and it was well worth the time. The 2011-12 team had a chance to meet and get-to-know the incoming team (for 2012-13), to discuss future plans, and to make connections.

To begin, it was games galore! It seems Ken Bower had a briefcase full of action games, from SET to the "Inventor's Machine," in which groups of three had to move 30 feet with only two hands and two feet. It led to an interesting "patent" issue team-building sport.

Obviously, an important part of the Conference was setting goals for the next year. Each new VOA or Area President was asked to develop reasonable, attainable goals for his or her council or area for this next term. The Conference gave everyone a unique opportunity to bond with area and region leadership, meet one's counterpart, and network amongst great resources.

In between activities, Area Presidents (both outgoing and newly elected) worked with those attending from Council VOAs to



plan for the coming year. We also had the opportunity to SHOOT GUNS, and listen to an inspiring presentation by Charles Dahlquist, former National Venturing Committee Chair and current President of Great Salt Lake Council. Take a look at the next few pages to see some of the action, people, activities, and reactions (in words and pictures) from some of the attendees.

A significant outcome was initial planning for next year's Youth Conference to be hosted by Area 1 in the Seattle area. Stay alert for dates and location, and mark your calendar. Bottom line: It was a great conference, and hope you can attend the next one.

– submitted by Brent Uberty

STORIES AND MORE INSIDE

It's part of the "Incredible Machine" game in which teams had to form quickly to solve the patented problem.

Youth Conference Highlights, April 27-29

Editor's Note: *At the closing of the Youth Conference at Camp Tracy, we asked each Area to submit a closing report of activities. These are the reports filed.*

AREA 1

This past weekend, Area 1 was well-represented at the WRVYC, including the full Chief Seattle Council Venturing Officer's Association. In the Area 1 breakout sessions, many great goals were discussed.

One of our big goals is to expand the Council VOAs in Area 1, and double the amount of council VOA's.

Our next big goal is to run an Area-Wide event, an Extravaganza! At this event we hope to show crews other crews activities, recognize recipients of awards, and have fun! We also plan to install an Area Newsletter.

submitted by Chris Gifford, Area 1



AREA 2

Between meals at the Conference, I drifted among many groups including Advisors, Alumni, and Youth from many different tiers. I worked with many of them as we prepared for this coming year, and participated in the many activities. I now know many of next year's leadership on a personal level, and have grown to appreciate what they do.

submitted by Copper Quist, Area 2

CAPTIONS: (clockwise, from top left to right): The "Bus" from the North; President-elect Annaliese Parker takes a 'swing'; Three welcoming "Hellos" to the Conference; Playing the "Patent Pending" game; and "Everybody Up," another interactive game.

AREA 3

In our Area Three break out sessions at the Conference, we discussed many ways to help strengthen our future Area Event by dissecting our Area Three Leadership Summit that took place April 20-22, 2012.

We also spent a large portion of our time looking at goals for the next term such as: getting four more functioning VOAs, creating an Area Three Newsletter, and planning and completing an astonishing Area Three Leadership Summit in the spring of 2013.

submitted by Tess Mitchell, Area 3



Youth Conference Highlights, April 27-29



AREA 4

Participants from Area 4 had a fantastic time at this year's Region Conference. Area 4 decided that we would like to have an Area BBQ at the end of this summer so all of the new Council Officers can get to know each other and the new Area Officers.

We also want to continue to strengthen our communication between Councils, and do so with our new Facebook page. Our Area also wants to promote the VLA and make sure that all of our Council VOAs are going through the correct VLA process.

We enjoyed meeting everyone from all over the Region and we look forward to an exciting year in Venturing!

*submitted by
Jillian Infusino, Area 4*



AREA 5

Venturers throughout Longs Peak Council recently attended the first ever Camp adVenture at the YMCA of the Rockies. This event planned and lead by the leadership of Crew 10 in Estes Park, CO was a huge success and included multiple crew activities including Introduction to Leadership Training for Crews for everyone attending.

A huge opening campfire, team building exercises, a speed hike race, round robin games were held in the afternoon followed by a huge game of capture-the-flag at the YMCA's boulder field.

*submitted by
Shantell Sallee, Area 5*



CAPTIONS: (from top left to right): Most of the "Camp Tracy Gang" gather for a closing Conference photo; (far left) The "Patent Pending" game; Charles Dahlquist speaks at the closing dinner; (near left) President Brent addresses the participants; (bottom left) new Area President Malia Ashley meets with others from Area 6 to establish a working Area VOA.



AREA 6

At the 2012 Western Region Venturing Youth Conference, Area 6 discussed the issues that hinder our area. Communication was one of our major goals during this term and we plan to develop a communications committee that will work on keeping a link between the continental Area 6 Councils and the island Councils in the Far East and Hawaii. Although we had a small group, we thought of ideas to include multiple Councils in events this term to promote large-scale Venturing in Area 6. We hope to gain more Area-wide activities like the Area 6 event in August, and discussed the possibility of having an Area 6 Leadership Summit before the next conference. Lastly, we made plans to bring more representatives from our area to the next conference.

submitted by Mahlia Ashley, Area 6

Conference Highlights

In addition to a special presentation by Charles Dahlquist at the closing banquet, a Conference highlight was presentation of the Region Venturing Leadership Awards to:

Brent Uberty – for his leadership at the national and regional Venturing levels, particularly serving with distinction as President (2011-2012) of the Western Region Venturing Cabinet. He established and developed the VOA as an operating team of the Region Program Impact and Membership Impact committees, and helped develop the framework for Area and Region VOAs.

Annaliese Parker – for her outstanding work in developing the communications programs for Western Region Venturing, including the newsletter, website, and social media networks. She had previously served as the Area 3 VOA President, as well as her Council's VOA President. She participated at the first Powder Horn course to accept youth, and later staffed a second Powder Horn, as well as NYLT, NAYLE, and Kodiak.

Jeff Zantek – for his dedication and professional-level expertise in developing and implementing the Region Venturing website. He successfully navigated the responsibilities of webmaster by developing an interactive site while providing open access

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Top Left: Region VOA Advisor Ken Bower reviews with adults who attended the Youth Conference in Salt Lake City the many aspects of an Advisor role and the many youth leadership responsibilities, especially when compared to youth roles at the unit President, council or Area President roles.



Left: Youth Conference attendees review events prior to the closing banquet. Below: One of many smaller groups discussed a wide range of Venturing issues during the Conference.



Participants to the Youth Conference at Camp Tracy (above) began with the Pledge of Allegiance on Friday, and closed by honoring the current Youth Cabinet leaders (left to right) Chris Gifford, Malia Ashley, Annaliese Parker and Brent Uberty with a personalized plaque.



Both Brent and Annaliese were also honored for their leadership and presented the Region Venturing Leadership Award. Also receiving the Region VLA during closing dinner festivities were Hayley Bahr, Evan Sawyer, and Ben DeRemer. Jeff Zantek (who was unable to attend) was also honored with the Region VLA.

Will You Enter The Arena?

Humid air and a blazing sun were my sole companions when I first sat down to write my term goals as VOA President in Area 1. I had such visions!

At one point I wanted to inspire each crew in Area 1— yes, *each crew* – to Adopt a Highway. Imagine the impact Venturers could have environmentally, in terms of road safety and kinesthetically on their community!

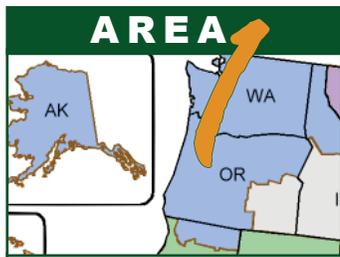
I had to prune some of the more fanciful goals and many of them were accomplishable and have been accomplished. A few, however, were still slightly extravagant. For instance, I planned on attending at least one event hosted by each council in Area 1 (if you didn't know, we have 11 councils) and increase the number of council VOAs by two.

Goals are noble things, but they take momentous effort and patience. It wasn't until the summer sun had cooled that the reality of my goals became as apparent as the burgeoning autumn. Many could not be accomplished within my single term.

I wish to leave every Venturer in the Western Region with this

advice: Keep all of your goals close to your heart (I still want to see crews adopting highways), but learn to recognize when it is time to take a step back. There is nothing wrong with admitting there's only 24 hours in a day.

I'd like to conclude my term as Area 1 president with a quote from President Theodore Roosevelt, which has been applicable throughout most of my time as a youth leader:



AREA 1

President.....Casey Burt
 Vice Presidents...Ryan Peterson
 Kim Black-Ward Jeff Zantek
 Advisor.....Dr. Bruce Noonan



‘The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.’

Venturing is young; you will have to enter the arena and risk embarrassment and failure. But if you never put in the effort, then you, your fellow scouts, and Venturing as a whole will never know the sweet taste of victory.

By Casey Burt,
2011-2012 Area 1 Venturing President

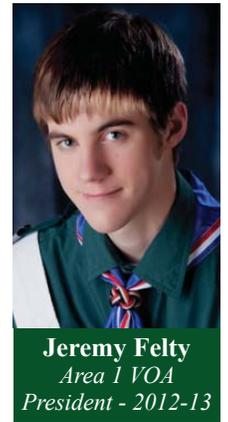
Introducing Jeremy Felty

...from Bremerton, WA, Jeremy will be serving as the 2012-2013 Area 1 VOA President, Jeremy previously served as Vice-President of Programs for the Chief Seattle Council VOA, and as served as President in a Crew, Senior Patrol Leader in a Troop, and as a Boatswain in a Ship as well.

He is an avid runner, he also enjoys Skiing, Backpacking, and Ultimate Frisbee. He is a former Boy Scout and current Venturer and Sea Scout, Jeremy has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and the Gold Award, and earned the William T. Hornaday Badge.

He has big plans for Area 1, and hopes to get all the Council VOAs in Area 1 working on their programs and uniting the Crews and Ships in each council together, he also wants to put on a Large Area 1 Extravaganza.

Jeremy believes that the Venturers and Sea Scouts going above and beyond their normal duties, and those earning awards, like the Silver, Ranger, and Quartermaster awards, should be recognized more publicly, possibly by putting on a Recognition Dinner/Ball. These are just some of his great ideas.



Area 2 Leaders Grow Programs

Area 2 comprises six councils that serve communities in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Arizona. Over the year Area 2 has experienced organizational growth with international exposure.

Five of the six councils now have functioning VOAs; the sixth is making progress towards supporting a VOA.

As president of the Area VOA, I participated with 144 young men from three councils who attended the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. Through that experience many have been



AREA 2

President.....Ethan Lowe
 Vice Presidents.....Justin Harris
 Copper Quist
 Advisor.....John Harris

effective in strengthening the Venturing program within their charter organizations, districts, and councils.

Last fall, Area 2 hosted its annual Area conference, where
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Introducing Copper Quist

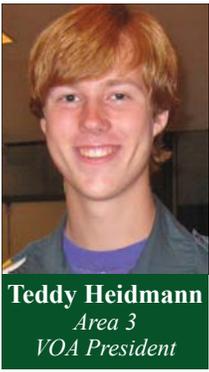
...joined us October 21, 1994, in the small town of Blackfoot, Idaho, an eager child and first of six siblings. He was raised in the city of potatoes, with loving parents who schooled him at home.

At age 14, Copper began attending Blackfoot High School. During this period in his life, he became involved with the school debate team, economics team and cabinet-making team.

In his free time he participated in Frisbee golfing, woodworking and singing along to his car radio. He became employed at Techzone Communications and quickly became and is currently electronics manager.

He also participated with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. He was a participant and later staffed at The Grand Teton Council's Island Park Scout Camp and Cedar Badge NYLT. He attended, and assisted with, a couple of Venturing Trainings, and soon became heavily involved with the Venturing program.





From Zero to Cool!

This past year, I have had the immense privilege of serving as Area 3's VOA President. We started off having no advisor and lacking some clarity in what our purpose should be.

Thanks to our work over these past 12 months, however, I am pleased to report that we are now official and that every advisor and VP position has been filled by extremely enthusiastic Venturers all working to make the Area the best it can be.

So what exactly have we been doing all year? We started off planning an all-youth Powder Horn course, but unfortunately missed the deadline for sign-ups and postponed the event until we are better prepared to tackle such an undertaking.

Instead, I sat down with various Venturers, past and present, and started brainstorming for our main event: the Area 3 Leadership Summit, which took place April 20-22 at Camp Masonite Navarro in Navarro, CA.

My amazing VP of Training, Tess Mitchell, took care of finding quality classes for the mornings ranging from ethical controversies to earning your Gold and Silver awards. Others worked on registration, program, and making sure we had close to 80 Venturers from all over the Area participating.

Whether it was the sock hockey game at midnight, the kayak trip up a nearby river, the outstanding classes, or the variety of firearms we were able to shoot, I am proud to say that the event was an amazing success, and Area 3 is looking forward to hosting it again next year with even more people in attendance.

By Teddy Heidmann,
2011-2012 Area 3 Venturing President

AREA 3

President..... Teddy Heidmann
 Vice Presidents..... Max Metzger
 Tessa Mitchell Mikey Tharratt
 Advisor..... Larry Peterson

Introducing Tess Mitchell

...has been in Venturing since she turned 14 and has loved every second of it. She has served in a range of different Crew level positions, as well as Golden Empire Council President and Area 3 Vice President, Program. Her résumé indicates she has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, four of the five Bronze Awards, the Silver Award, the Outstanding Achievement in Shooting Sports, and both the Council and Area Venturing Leadership Awards.

Her favorite event was going to the 2010 National Jamboree as staff in the Venturing Exhibit. While there, she was mentored by an older Venturer; inspired by that experience, she constantly strives to better herself in hopes of mentoring other Venturers.

She currently attends American River College with intentions of transferring to Humboldt State University to study human rights in the fall of 2013.



A4 Exceeds Expectations

This past year for Area 4 has been nothing short of amazing and fun. As we close the 2011-2012 term, I would like to thank everyone who supported Area 4 throughout all of its endeavors.

Area 4 has progressed so much since the beginning of this term, and I am sure the new officers of Area 4 will accomplish even more than we did the previous years. Here is a short recap on this wonderful term:

We finally created our own Facebook page! Check our page to keep up to date on our latest adventures. Congratulations to Los Pades Council for creating its Council VOA. We can't wait to hear from them and to attend their first event planned for the fall. San Gabriel Valley Council held yet another successful Venturing Rendezvous at Camp Trask, and is planning to hold its annual Venturing Banquet in May.

Along with SGVC's banquet, the Long Beach Area Council will be holding its first Venturing Banquet in January. LBAC will also host an event with Sea Scouts at the Long Beach Sea Base. California Inland Empire Council held another successful Venturing Quest event at Camp Emerson, and will also hold its annual Venturing Banquet in May.

Another triumph for Area 4, Orange County Council was
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Introducing Jillian Infusino

...as the new Area 4 President. Jillian joined Venturing at the age of 14 after hearing about the program through her brother's involvement in Scouting.

She has been the Los Angeles Area Council Venturing Officers' Association President for the past two years and was Secretary before that. She has also served on her district Camporee Committee for the past two years.

Jillian was a member of the Western Region World Jamboree Crew 2011 that traveled to Sweden, and served as Vice President of Logistics for the Jamboree Crew. She was a representative for the U.S. and B.S.A. at a Model United Nations event at the Jamboree.

She lives in Whittier, California and will attend Whittier College this fall to study kinesiology with an emphasis on pre-physical therapy. She currently attends Sonora High School in La Habra, CA, one of 20 International Baccalaureate Candidates.

She is also involved in the California Scholarship Federation, Junior Statesmen of America, and Girl's League, while serving as President of Best Buds, Activities Chair of Quidditch Club, and Team Leader in Sonora's IMPACT Freshman Mentoring program.

Jillian serves as President of her American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Unit 272 in Montebello, CA. Her unit raises money for veterans and active military.

AREA 4

President..... Anh Vu
 Advisor..... Chuck Williams



Western Region Venturing Officers, 2011-2012

Brent Uberty
President
Great Salt Lake



Annaliese Parker
Vice President,
Communications
Santa Clara County



Chris Gifford
Vice President,
Administration
Chief Seattle



Malia Ashley
Vice President, Program
Great Southwest



Parker Smith
Sea Scout Liaison
(Region Boatswain)
Mt. Diablo-Silverado



Make Connections, It's Important

After taking over as Area 6 President halfway through the term, I was gung-ho on getting communication in my area up to par. I made a minimum of one strong contact in each council, including the Far East. I sent a Council update form that the VOAs or contact filled out so I'd know what's going on locally.

By promoting communication in my Area, I hope that in the year to come, councils are able to work together and build a stronger Venturing program.

Some councils don't have VOAs yet, but we are working on getting them started in the right direction. We've established a specific email address for making contact, which will make it easier as officers move through.

Another thing that we were able to get done this year is plan the first Area event. The Ultimate Venturing Challenge will be at the end of August in the Las Vegas Area Council. It's going to be a ton of fun with a lot of different activities and will resemble the Amazing Race. In the past we have had geocaching, climbing, aquatics, shooting, canoe races, as well as basic scout skills like first aid and knots.

It's fun competition and we have tons of fun participating. The Area VI incoming officers and I are extremely excited about the event and hope that we are able to get many crews to join us.

AREA 6

President.....Christina Mootz
Vice Presidents..Nick Leimbach,
Blaine Shelton, Malia Ashley
Advisor..... Mackenzie Lardie

By Christina Mootz,
2011-2012 Area 6 Venturing President

Introducing Malia Ashley

...lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is part of the Great Southwest Council. She hopes her time as the Western Region Program Vice President and Area 6 vice president of communications will aid her in her upcoming term.

Malia currently attends the University of New Mexico and is pursuing a degree in biochemistry. Malia began her experiences in Scouting through helping out at Cub Scout day camps while her younger brother was a participant. Once she turned 14, Malia joined a newly formed crew in the hopes of one day going to the Florida Sea Base (considering the lack of water in New Mexico). She eventually did in 2009 going on an excursion to Big Munson Island, but her experiences in Venturing did not stop there.

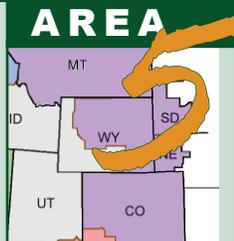
Since then, Malia has participated in a Kodiak trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, a Powderhorn course in Marin county, California and she hopes to complete her triple crown this winter with the Northern Tier's winter program Okpik.

In her free time, Malia enjoys spending time with her three dogs and her family. She also spends time in Taos, New Mexico, one of her favorite outdoor destinations. An avid golfer, Malia also enjoys ballroom dancing and enjoys attending basketball games for her university team. Go Lobos!



Malia Ashley
Area 6 VOA
President - 2012-13

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.



President's Message

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for the region as we move into our fifth anniversary conference next year in Seattle, Washington.

This year could not of been so successful without our entire regional team. I thank each and every one of them for being being such amazing representatives of the program. The Venturing Program and the Western Region VOA have some great adventures ahead of them. I cannot wait to see what happens in the years to come.

As always I thank you for being involved in the program. We do not do our jobs for the titles or the bright gold shoulder loops, we fulfill our accepted responsibilities to better the experience that you have in your Venturing Crew at home. That is what makes our job so awesome. I challenge you to get involved and



Brent Uberty (center), 2011-2012 Western Region Venturing President, isanked by Staff Advisor (professional) **Mike Hale** (left) and Region Venturing Advisor (volunteer) **Ken Bower** (right). Brent completes his term of ce at the end of May, passing the leadership baton for the Western Region Venturing Cabinet to **Annaliese Parker** (not shown).

Region VLAs Presented

(continued from page 4)

for both Region and Area content, calendars, and information.

Hayley Bahr – for her ongoing support of Venturing throughout the Region, and particularly as a youth trainer and staff member at Region Powder Horn courses, as well as Course Director Conferences over a four-year span.

Evan Sawyer – for his continuing leadership in Venturing at the council, area, and region levels, beginning as a participant with the very first Venturing Youth Conference and continuing as part of the region leadership team. He was the Crew President for the Western Region Venturing contingent to the 21st World Jamboree (2007) in Great Britain, and returned as Associate Advisor to the 22nd World Jamboree (2012) in Sweden, where the Western Region Venturing contingent was the only co-ed Crew representing the United States and BSA. He has also served as an Area Venturing President, Section Chief for the Order of the Arrow, and youth leader at the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Philmont.

Ben DeRemer – for his service to Venturing, as a leader and participant at all of the Venturing Youth Conferences, and currently serving as an Associate Advisor in Area 1.

step into the spotlight and lead. We need leaders like you to help guide us over the next year and throughout our lives.

It is with great honor that I say farewell as your Western Region Venturing President. Serving all you Venturers in the West has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I have learned so much! It wouldn't have been as great if I didn't have great people like you with me.

I will continue to be involved with Venturing – continuing to serve on the National Venturing Cabinet and on the newly appointed National Venturing Task Force.

I hope that you have the best of times in Venturing and thrive in your future leadership endeavors. As always, feel free to send the region an email at president@wrventuring-bsa.org and tell us your thoughts on the program or just say hi. Annaliese Parker will serve you well in the next year.

Once again thank each and everyone one of you and remember **THE WEST IS BEST!!!!!!!**

Yours in Venturing,
Brent Uberty

Area 4 Report

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victorious in its Venturing Out event at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center, plus an annual Venturing Banquet in June.

In Los Angeles Area Council, Venturers conducted an awesome event with the LAAC Venturing Winter Camp at Forest Lawn Scout Camp. Southern Sierra Council Venturers supported their Council's Scout Fair Event. All Area 4 VOAs are promoting Venturing participation at the 2013 National Jamboree at Bechtel Summit in West Virginia.

One final note. I'm excited to see the support and enthusiasm of Venturers in Area 4, can't wait to see Venturing take over the Scouting world!

By **Anh Vu**, 2011-2012 Area 4 Venturing President

Area 2 Report

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four of our six councils were represented. In addition to youth leadership we are fortunate to have mentoring adults who will maintain shadow leadership for years to come.

The most significant achievement during my tenor as Area 2 president was contribution to a LDS Stake VOA Standard Operating Procedures.

This document mirrors the National SOP template and addresses the specific needs of the predominate charter partner in Area 2.

I have enjoyed visiting districts and LDS stakes in a leadership training capacity for Venturing youth and adult positions to help them catch the vision of Venturing.

Through my experience I have learned that my strength as a leader lies in the program and high adventure opportunities offered through Venturing.

I have come to appreciate the administrative roles that a leader must also take on through the leadership responsibility. While others will continue to lead our area, I plan to continue promoting the vision of Venturing on a district and Council level.

By **Ethan Lowe**, 2011-2012 Area 2 Venturing President