MCS 309 - Discussion Group Scenario – 15 minutes

(10-minute discussion time and 5-minute debriefing)

Instructor: Divide the class into 2 or 3 small discussion groups, giving each the handout - **MCS 309 - Discussion Group Scenario**. Using the below questions, have each group discuss how to provide unit service by identifying resources best suited for their needs.

A Cubmaster calls the district executive stating that she is leaving the unit and has not been able to recruit a new Cubmaster. She is leaving when her son crosses over to Scouts BSA in February.

The district executive gives the information to the district commissioner who in turn contacts you.

Describe how you would go about finding out how this situation arose and what has gone on. In addition, describe what can be done to help remedy the situation and what resources are available. If time allows, include what you would enter into Commissioner Tools.

Additional information:

- The pack is in a small rural community. This is a relatively new unit, only 4 years old. The committee that was formed when it was started had only 3 members and has never really functioned. Most do not even know what their positions are.
- The pack is at a school where the youth come from several rural small communities around the school. Den and pack meetings are difficult to hold since the youth all live 30-40 minutes away from the school in all directions.
- The cubmaster is frustrated and desperately wants the unit to grow, but she is at a loss. At one time the pack had 25 youth, but it has shrunk to 12 youth. Many of the parents are at the meetings but no one has stepped up. Most of the remaining youth are Webelos scouts.
- When you call the charter organization representative, he says he hasn't been to a meeting in years and he just signs the charter. When you call the committee chair, she says that she doesn't do anything and that the Cubmaster has run everything for the past few years.
- The committee chair also informs you that she and the Cubmaster have made pleas at several meetings and no one has stepped up and they are at a loss as to how to proceed.

To be able to help we need to understand the unit we are serving. Using the questions below, have each group discuss how to provide unit service by identifying resources best suited for their needs.

- Where is the unit located? Rural, urban?
- Who is the chartered organization of the unit?
- What are the socio-economic conditions affecting that unit?
- How knowledgeable and experienced is their leadership? Are they trained for their roles?
- What resources are available to that unit?
- What are the ages and experience levels of the Scouts within the unit?
- What Scouting experiences has that unit had?
- Other questions to ask?

Instructor: About midway in their group discussion time **ask**: *"What things that might not be obvious could be causing difficulties?".*

Ask the **AWE Question** (introduced in BCS 106) **- *And what else?*** This question creates more - more wisdom, more insights, more self-awareness, more possibilities—out of thin air.

You do want to remember that the first answer someone gives you is almost never the only answer, and it's rarely the best answer. You may think that's obvious, but it's less so than you realize.

When you use "And what else?" you'll get more options and often better options. Better options lead to better decisions. Better decisions lead to greater success.

If you get three to five answers, then you've made great progress. **And what else?**" is such a useful question that you can add it into almost every exchange.