

**De Nguyen, BSA & Jeff Herrmann, SE Meeting with  
International Vietnamese Committee on Vietnamese Scouting (ICCVS)  
Thursday June 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm – 9:20pm  
Orange County Council Service Center  
Santa Ana, California**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:**

De Nguyen - BSA National Staff  
 Jeff Herrmann – Scout Executive - Orange County Council, BSA  
 Hui Ly - NVSC Chairman  
 Nicholas “Viet” Nguyen - Former NVSC chair  
 Lam Nguyen – NVSC – Vice Chair  
 Dinh Tran – NVSC  
 Nhan Vo – ICCVS/HDTU-HDVN Chairman  
 Tue Nguyen – ICCVS  
 Tammy Nguyen – ICCVS  
 Nhan Nguyen – ICCVS  
 Van Bui- ICCVS  
 Dang Ho – ICCVS  
 Tien Nguyen – ICCVS  
 Kiet Tran – ICCVS  
 Called in Linda Le – ICCVS

**De Nguyen speaks on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America and represents the BSA leadership.**

Meeting was organized by De Tan Nguyen, National Council, BSA, and Mr. Nhan Thanh Vo, Chair ICCVS.

**De stated the purposes of the meeting:**

- To deliver a message from BSA Leadership
- Future of Vietnamese Scouting in the USA and the BSA
- Open invitation to join Vietnamese Scouting BSA
- Emails/letters sent to Chief Executive offices
- Message: To invite ICCVS/HDTU-HDVN members to join the National Council, BSA

The national BSA office has been receiving a lot of communications in the form of letters and emails regarding ICCVS/HDTU-HDVN, Vietnamese Scouting, and other issues.

This meeting is served as a discussion and an invitation for members of the ICCVS to join the National council, BSA, before BSA leadership responds to these communications.

BSA acknowledge that ICCVS exists because of the freedom of association.

ICCVS is not a committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

ICCVS is not going to use/incorporate any BSA’s uniform insignia and brand.

The BSA will communicate soon to local councils and Vietnamese leaders that are registered members of the BSA.

**Future Vietnamese Scouting in the USA and the BSA**

The existence of the ICCVS/HDTU is not part of this agenda.

This discussion is stressing that the NVSC, BSA is not taking over (ICCVS/HDTU). It is an invitation for members of the ICCVS to join the National council, BSA,  
The only committee speaking on the behalf of the Vietnamese Scouting in the USA is the NVSC, BSA.

All future activities of ICCVS/HDTU in the United States are NOT sanctioned by the BSA since ICCVS is not a committee of the Boy Scouts of America. The use of BSA uniforms and insignia is prohibited. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) does NOT recognizes ICCVS.

### **Invitation to join the National Council BSA and the NVSC**

**The BSA would like the members of the ICCVS/HDTU to engage and be a part of the National Vietnamese Scouting Committee, BSA (NVSC).**

The only committee speaking on the behalf of the Vietnamese Scouting in the USA is the NVSC, BSA. Many Vietnamese scouters believe the ICCVS is connected to the BSA, but it is not.

### **Protecting the BSA Brand**

Non-members (people who are not currently registered in the BSA) are not allowed to have other organizations using the BSA uniform, program, resources, and training for themselves or their organization.

### **Discussion/ Q&A**

- Q (Tue Nguyen): Does the NVSC have a structure, terms, mission, and vision statement? Can there be a more democratic process?
- A (De Nguyen): The NVSC mission is the same as the BSA's.
  - Purpose is stated on the website. If you go through the site, the purpose is laid out.
  - The BSA volunteer committee chair is a position that is appointed by the BSA Council Executive Board and National Council Executive board. Depending on the level (council, area, region, national), all candidates provide a bio, and the national council staff will review and submits the candidates for approval through the scout executive of the candidate's local council.
  - The purpose of the NVSC is to provide services to local councils and registered Vietnamese Scouting units.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): The NVSC serves the Vietnamese Scouting community?
- A (Jeff Herrmann): Yes, If you are looking for representation, then that is via your unit's chartered organization representative (COR) at the local level. Every Lien Doan (LD) has a COR and can speak on that LD's behalf at their council's board of directors meeting.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): What services does the NVSC provide?
- A (De Nguyen): For the past 20 years, the NVSC has provided:
  - Literature in the bilingual format (English/Vietnamese)
  - Organizing new units in Vietnamese community
  - Training courses (Tung Nguyen/Wood Badge, etc...)
  - Assistance local councils in organizing new units within Vietnamese communities.
  - Training for staff and volunteers on the needs of the Vietnamese Scouting communities.
  - National events such as National Vietnamese Venturing Super Camp (Trai Khai Pha I, II & III)

All of which is done with local council cooperation

- Q (Tue Nguyen): Does the BSA recognize the ICCVS?
- A (Jeff Herrmann): The BSA knows that the ICCVS exists in the United States. But not as an officially sanctioned body- the ICCVS does NOT speak for the BSA and is not a committee of the BSA.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): Will you recall the letter about the uniform insignia?
- A (De Nguyen): If you are a registered Scout in the BSA, the uniforms are the property of the BSA. The BSA asks that the uniform be worn correctly. Units and BSA members refer to the BSA Insignia Guide for uniforming requirements. The letter will not be recalled. The letter addresses the uniform policy that we violated.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): Can there be an exception?
- A (De Nguyen): You can put the Vietnamese insignia on the right pocket only.
- A (Jeff Herrmann): There is a way; by petitioning to the National Advancement Committee. If this is going to be a way to make people happy, there is a path. I can be an advocate.
- A (De Nguyen): The BSA's mission is to encourage ethnic groups in the BSA to keep their culture and heritage. Having individual units protesting is not the way. There is a way by going through proper channels to get it done and approved. Again, we are inviting the members of the ICCVS to join the NVSC, BSA. To clarify, we are inviting the adult volunteers registered with the BSA to join the NVSC, BSA.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): Based on the letter you just read, the BSA recognizes that the ICCVS exist, is that true?
- A (De Nguyen): Not true, The BSA is saying that ICCVS is NOT part of the BSA, and we've been talking about this for the last 20 years. In the United States of America, you are protected by the First Amendment rights; anyone of us can organize any group we want. It is called freedom of association.
- A (Jeff Herrmann): The letter acknowledges that the ICCVS exists but does not officially recognize ICCVS or allow it to speak for the BSA.
- (Tue Nguyen): The reason why parents send their kids to the LD is to keep the Vietnamese heritage and keep what we have.
- (Tien Nguyen): Regarding the NVSC, what is the purpose? ICCVS is doing very well. The units are succeeding.
- (De Nguyen): We already answered the question of NVSC's purpose. Regarding culture and heritage, you (ICCVS) are doing a good job in culture and heritage training. We don't step on each other's toes, but we support these events. When we join forces, we are stronger. BSA asks to join forces together and move forward. The BSA is protecting their brand. If ICCVS violates the BSA brand, actions will be taken, if necessary.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): Can we have Chi Nhanh HK (USA branch, ICCVS) co-host TT12 (the 12<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese International Jamboree)?
- A: (Jeff Herrmann): TT12 (the 12<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese International Jamboree)? I don't know. Only if it is an official BSA-sanctioned event and not ICCVS. If not, BSA units can't go to the event. Youth will not be able to participate as Boy Scouts or Venturers.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): How do you define "sanctioned" event?
- A (Jeff Herrmann): Approved by the board of directors of BSA.

- Q (Tue Nguyen): Are you going to support us if we have TT12 in Orange County?
- A (Jeff Herrmann): I do not have the authority to sanction TT12, and I would support it only if it is an official BSA-sanctioned event and not ICCVS.
- De Nguyen: Thang Tien 11 is NOT a BSA-sanctioned event. The TT11 organizing committee (BTC) is running it.
  - De's office is working with BSA Risk Management to see how this event can happen.
  - The only thing the local council, BSA is doing is leasing the campground to the TT11 organizing committee.
  
- (Nhan Vo): The ICCVS needs to work with the local council and the National office.
- Q (Tue Nguyen): Can ICCVS co-host with Orange County BSA to organize TT12?
- A (Jeff Herrmann): Only if it is an official BSA-sanctioned event and not ICCVS.
  
- Q (Linda Le, on the phone): I want to attend a Vietnamese training in Australia and want to go as an official Scout leader. What do I need to do?
- A (De Nguyen): When you do an international trip, you need an international letter of introduction from the BSA International Division. Maybe a tour plan/permit needs to be filed.
  
- (Nhan Vo): We want to have a Vietnamese Scouting Association in the U.S. Because I'm not comfortable because the way National Council select their leadership.
- (De Nguyen): The WOSM recognizes the Boy Scouts of America as the only authorized Scouting organization in the United States for Scouts.
- (Nhan Vo): ICCVS want to form a Vietnamese Scouting Association that will serve as COR and chartered Vietnamese units across state lines.
- (Jeff Herrmann): Please DO NOT organize any more associations. The best way for the Vietnamese community to have an official voice is through each unit's Chartered Partner and COR and through the National Vietnamese Scouting Committee.
  
- (De Nguyen): The National Vietnamese Scouting Committee is serving units and/through local councils, and we all can work together under the NVSC and have BSA support. **Again, we are inviting the members of the ICCVS to join the NVSC, BSA.**
  
- (Jeff Herrmann): The BSA will say that ICCVS has the right to exist but is not recognized by the BSA.
  - If the event is not sponsored by the BSA, then they cannot use the BSA brand.
  - This event (TT12), participants are not going as units, but as non-Scout individuals.
  - If this event (TT12) were to be sanctioned and operate under WOSM (it is not), the BSA would likely support it.
  - **If the real desire is to execute and preserve this program, the best way is to join the NVSC and have the support of the BSA.**
  - If any event is not run by the BSA, this is not a sanctioned BSA event. As the scout executive, I cannot permit Packs, Troops, and Crews to participate.
  - Jeff's wrap-up: Eventually, the BSA national council will say ICCVS is not recognized by the BSA. Any event not sponsored by the BSA, the packs, troops, crews will not be covered by BSA. Our kids are not going to be able to go to these events as Scouts.

Respectfully submitted: Dinh Tran, Tammy Nguyen & De Nguyen