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Good afternoon,

The first step in a challenging journey has now been taken by nine councils in Area 2. The formation of a new organization within the Scouting family, a "coordinating council" has now been endorsed to the Council membership of these nine councils. They have forwarded the Crossroads Recommendation to their membership for consideration at meetings on November 1. We celebrate the democratic process and the decisions made by every Executive Board yesterday reflective of a thoughtful, engaged process.

We are still challenged by economic and demographic conditions in each of our councils for this fall. We dare not take our eye off the ball as we move ahead with fall round-ups, popcorn sales, FOS finalization and the development of adults to deliver high quality programs to retain youth throughout the year.

As we finalize the participation in the coordinating and field service councils on November 1, the excitement of this new organizational structure and the potential it has to reverse membership trends relies on everyone's renewed commitment and energies. The Transition Board certainly has challenges to be addressed, but with the composition of such outstanding leaders that each of these councils are contributing, our trust is well placed.

Our future is indeed bright as we establish this new organization while supporting our traditional partners – both focusing efforts on bringing more youth to Scouting and more Scouting to youth.

Craig A. Younkman
Area 2 President

Councils voting to submit the Crossroads Recommendation to their members on November 1:

Great Sauk Trail Council, Ann Arbor
Great Lakes Council, Detroit
Tall Pine Council, Flint
Lake Huron Area Council, Auburn
Gerald R. Ford Council, Grand Rapids
Southwest Michigan Council, Kalamazoo
Chief Okemos Council, Lansing
Scenic Trails Council, Traverse City
Blue Water Council, Port Huron

"Before you begin anything, remind yourself that difficulties and delays quite impossible to foresee are ahead.... **You can only see one thing clearly, and that is your goal.** Form a mental vision of that and cling to it through thick and thin."
-- Kathleen Norris