



National News and Information

Updates from around the nation
that impact and affect YOU

AT&T'S CEO COURTEOUS BUT NON-COMMITTAL

On July 23 CCV President Phil Burress met with AT&T's CEO, Michael Armstrong, to discuss AT&T's involvement in hardcore pornography via their wholly owned cable channel, Hot Network. The meeting, held at AT&T's headquarters in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, had been arranged by Rick Schatz, CEO of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families and its affiliate, the Religious Alliance

Against Pornography (RAAP.)

In the meeting, Burress, Schatz, Dr. Jerry Kirk, and other members of RAAP, summarized for Armstrong the documented destructive toll that hardcore pornography takes on families and communities. The group appealed to AT&T's sense of responsibility as a corporate citizen and asked Armstrong to set in motion immediately a program to dissolve the pornographic subsidiary.

Burress reported, "The meeting was courteous, but we received no commitment. There was no indication that Mr. Armstrong's conscience was pricked by our description of the human suffering caused by AT&T's porn connection. What was clear was that the corporate giant's decision to compete with the likes of Larry Flynt was based solely on the all-important bottom line." **CCV**

GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY: THE AHG STORY West Chester-based scouting organization goes national



For as long as she can remember, scouting has been a part of Patti Garibay's life. When she was a little girl, Patti's mom was a troop leader for Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and Patti began her long-time association with that organization as a Brownie in her mother's troop. "During my school years," Patti recalls, "my family life revolved around scouting."

After marrying her grade-school sweetheart, Pat, who also was a scouting enthusiast, Patti's scouting tradition continued with the couple's four children. As an adult, Patti's involvement with the GSUSA actually increased. Troop leader, recruiter, camp director, and delegate to the local council were among the positions that she held.

A CHANGE OF DIRECTION

At first, Patti tried to ignore changes in her beloved Girl Scouts that seemed to represent an assault on her own beliefs and on the principles that she considered integral to the Girl Scouts' own creed.

The Girl Scouts' "promise" no longer mandated an oath to God. Prayer at troop meetings was discouraged. Mandatory leadership training promoted the homosexual lifestyle as normal, denying the consequences for the individual and the family.

In her last Christmas season with the Scouts, something happened that shocked Patti into reality. She was warned that she might be accused of "discrimination" for teaching traditional Christmas carols that made reference to God. "I came to the realization that to be a true woman of faith," Patti recalls, "I could not stay silent. I could not serve the Lord and the Girl Scouts." Thus marked the end of Patti's long association with the GSUSA.

And thus marked the beginning of the American Heritage Girls.

Distraught by the disintegration of the

GSUSA but still sold on scouting as a means to develop strong character and life skills, Patti found five likeminded women in her hometown of West Chester, Ohio, a Cincinnati suburb, and together, in 1995, they founded American Heritage Girls (AHG), an organization that today involves 1800 girls in 55 troops spanning 12 states.



In AHG, girls age 5-18 learn to love God, cherish their families, honor their country and serve in their community. Learning the physical, emotional and spiritual skills necessary to survive in a culture that trivializes the unique, special role of

women, AHG girls promise to be "compassionate, helpful, loyal, perseverant, pure, resourceful, respectful, responsible and reverent."

FAMILY FRIENDLY

The structure of AHG troops makes the organization family friendly. Garibay explains, "All the girls in one family can participate in the same troop, but at their own skill level. That multi-age focus not only puts less stress on family schedules, but also provides mentoring opportunities and chances for older girls to develop leadership skills."

AHG's National Growth Coordinator, Carolyn Moore, says that the scouting organization definitely has a faith-based focus, but stresses that it is not in competition with church programs such as AWANA or Royal Rangers. "AHG's programming is a well-rounded program that allows girls to share their faith, walk

their faith, and build on their faith," Moore explains. "Our goal is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country."

Along with outdoor activities, badges for crafts and life skills, and socialization, AHG has a strong emphasis on community service and patriotism. Projects include collecting hygiene items for homeless shelters, raking leaves for the elderly, baking cookies for prisoners, and participating in community Fourth of July and Veteran's Day activities.

NATIONAL EXPANSION UNDERWAY

During the past few years, as the lesbian influence with the GSUSA has become more pronounced, requests have poured in from every state for help in starting new AHG chapters. In response to those requests, AHG is in the beginning stages of an expansion program with a goal of a chapter in all 50 states in the near future.

At their annual banquet in May, AHG gave special recognition to CCV President Phil Burress for CCV's involvement in both the birth and growth of the organization. Burress meets regularly with AHG's board in an advisory capacity to assist in the transition from a local to a national organization.

The American Heritage Girls is completely self-funded, a fact that Patti Garibay is quick to point out. "We have learned to steer clear of pitfalls like government or United Way funding," she explains. "Such entanglements may someday pressure us to compromise on our principles."

Detailed information on AHG, including an Information Packet on sponsoring a new troop, may be obtained through AHG's Web site, www.ahgonline.net. **CCV**