

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Thomas G. Scharf, CPA/ABV, CVA, CFFA, is a partner with Walthall, Drake & Wallace LLP in Independence. He heads up the Business Valuation Department in addition to his responsibilities as the Practice Development Partner. Tom began his career with WD&W as an intern when he was 20-years-old as a way to accommodate his two-week honeymoon trip to Hawaii that semester. The internship also allowed him to earn his B.B.S. degree in 1977 from Cleveland State University in just three years. He became a CPA the following year. Over the years, Mr. Scharf has earned the following professional designations: Certified Valuation Analyst, Accreditation in Business Valuation, Certified Fraud Deterrence Analyst and Certified Forensic Financial Analyst. Tom loves his work and assisting clients in achieving their financial goals.



Tom and Leanne, his wife, have seven children and two grandchildren. They enjoy golf, theater and vacationing with all their children. Tom is a singer, member and past president of the Hermit Club and a board member of Canterbury Golf Club. Over the years, Tom enjoyed coaching baseball and soccer. He coached ice hockey for 18 years.

Following are some of the ways Scouting has influenced Tom's life.

How and when did you join Scouting?

I joined Boy Scouts when I was nine years old – I had a late birthday. Ted Green was the Scoutmaster for Troop 137 and he lived up the street from us. I attended meetings on Tuesday nights at Maple Leaf School. My dad wasn't very involved. He was a tool and die maker and would work all the overtime that was offered.

I earned my Eagle Scout award at the age of 13 in 1968. I basically finished up my Scouting career then because money was tight in our house so I began working at a pizza shop the following year and did not quit until I joined WD&W. I installed aluminum siding during summer vacations to earn more money. I was able to earn enough money to pay for my college tuition.

I earned my Pro Deo Et Patria, the God & Country award for Lutherans, after I became an Eagle Scout. It took me a year to earn, 150 hours of volunteerism at and around the church, culminating with a sermon to the congregation. It was a commitment I made and completed. I keep my Eagle Scout medal and the Pro Deo Et Patria medal in my safe box. I am very proud of these achievements.

What did you like most about Scouting?

Scouting provided lots of fun. I liked the outdoors, the campouts and cookouts. Our Assistant Scoutmaster owned a farm so we would spend lots of time out there.

What was your favorite merit badge and the hardest merit badge to earn?

My favorite was the Cooking Merit Badge. I remember cooking, and my father had to eat what I had prepared, burns and all. He was a sport.

Life Saving was definitely the most challenging merit badge. I earned it at Clendening Scout Reservation in the lake. At the time, I was all of 90 pounds and I had to save a big guy. I remember so vividly grabbing him and holding on for dear life...I didn't want to fail. When we reached shore, I finally let go and saw that I had actually made the guy bleed because of my grip. I was one of two that earned the merit badge that afternoon.

I remember being very focused on the goal, the next rank. Earning merit badges was part of achieving the goal.

What merit badge do you still use today?

I use different knots depending upon the task at hand. I also have used my life saving skills – I saved a client's life using the Heimlich Maneuver when he was choking on a piece of meat. I have also performed CPR twice in my life.

What was your favorite camping experience?

I loved going camping whether to Beaumont or to Clendening. Clendening had horses then. I missed out on our Philmont trip because I was sick with pneumonia. All the guys came over after the trip to share their adventures. I was so bummed.

Did Scouting impact your career choice?

Yes and no. I attended CSU thinking I was going to be a mortician-my dad's suggestion. I figured out very quickly that I didn't like it and wanted to be a businessman. I took 20 hours per quarter because I was paying for up to 20 credit hours. I know all I achieved in Scouting helped me become more focused and tenacious.

What does being an Eagle Scout mean to you?

Being an Eagle Scout is a measurement of an individual's ability to focus and accomplish goals. I associate successful men with the Eagle Scout award.

Any final thoughts on Scouting?

Scouting taught me about the importance of honesty and integrity. The Scout Oath and Law are as relevant today as they were in the 60's, as is the Scouting program.