**Yucca Council Executive Board Bios**

**2024**

**Greg Baine** – Colonel (Retired) Gregory Baine is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&M University, where he received his Commission into the Army as an Infantry officer. He has commanded American service members, civilians and allied forces in the United States, Egypt, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Kosovo, and in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Greg is an Eagle Scout from a family of Eagle Scouts (Scoutmaster father and 3 brothers). Greg’s son is an Eagle Scout and his daughter was a member of a Venturing Crew while the Baine family were in the Washington DC area. Greg has served as a Tiger Cub Coach, Den Leader, Scoutmaster in the US and in Germany, Venturing Crew Advisor, and various district and council roles. He has led multiple high adventure crews to Philmont, Northern Tier, Florida Sea Base, and the Baden Powel High Adventure Camp in England. Greg holds multiple graduate degrees and is now the President of a Veteran-owned tech startup company based in El Paso. Greg serves on the board of directors of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Posse as Immediate Past President. He is a member of St. George Church where he serves as a choir director.

**Morris Brown** – Morris is a practicing architect. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Texas Tech University. He has served as Interim Director of Texas Tech University College of Architecture and taught there for many years. He is a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects and a recipient of the Texas Tech College of Architecture Distinguished Alumni Award and the Kleinschmidt Honor for service to the profession and society. He earned his Eagle in the Yellowstone Council, Montana. His son also earned the Eagle rank. Morris started and was advisor to a Venturing Crew Advisor so that his twin girls could be involved. Morris started two troops in El Paso and served as Scoutmaster both in Yucca Council and Chapel Hill, N.C. and earned a Scoutmaster of the Year honor.  He has been a Cubmaster, Den Leader, and Crew Advisor. He is an OA Vigil honor member and previously served as Lodge Advisor.  Morris has been a Yucca Council Executive Board member since 2011, including service as Council Commissioner. He is a founding member of the Council’s Unidos Prosperamos program. Morris has been honored with the Silver Beaver Award, Vale La Pena Award, Venturing Leadership Award, Marvin Lewis National Elks Lodge Award, and District Award of Merit. He also holds a Doctorate of Commissioner of Science and has served as the Chancellor of the Tri-Council of Commissioner Science and University of Scouting. He has attended Wood Badge and Powder Horn.

**James Di Nola** – Staff Sergeant (Retired) James A. Di Nola is a retired combat veteran of the United States Army who served on active duty for 20 years, including two combat tours to Iraq and one in Afghanistan and four years as an Army Recruiter. A native of El Paso, he serves as a Vice Commander with American Legion Post 58 where he is responsible for several youth programs including the chartering of new units for the council.  James and his family registered as members of the Boy Scouts of America when his was son Giovanni turned 6 years old (now Eagle Scout and OA Brotherhood member). Since then, James served in various adult leadership positions which include Eagle Scout Mentor, Den Leader, Pack Committee member, Pack Trainer, Cubmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, Troop Committee member, Scoutmaster, Unit Commissioner, Roundtable Commissioner and District Chairman for Mescalero District. Upon retirement from the military, James continued to serve as a Shooting Sports Instructor (holding NRA Instructor credentials). James served as a District Executive in Colorado. He serves on Campus Improvement Team, JROTC volunteer coach, Academic Decathlon/High-Q Team, and Alumni Association and Performing Arts programs at Irvin High School. James has been honored with many military recognitions, as well Scouting honors and is a 4th Degree Knight and a Kentucky Colonel. He holds a Master of Social Work with a concentration in Mental Health and Trauma (Youth and Veterans) and will be pursuing a PhD in Social Psychology.

**Jeff Duer** – Jeff was chosen as the Scout Executive for both Yucca Council and Great Southwest Council in November 2022. In January 2024, he was called as a Vigil candidate in the Order of the Arrow. He has worked for 18 years as a Scouting professional to ensure that the Scouting program serves youth and volunteers. Jeff is an Eagle Scout from the Denver Area Council and holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Communications from Northern Colorado University.

**Brian Faison** – Brian, an Eagle Scout from Troop 191 in St. Louis, Missouri, has recently re-retired and returned to Las Cruces to “for sure retire” as his wife would remind him. He has over 50 years of experience in alumni relations, marketing, fund raising (both University and public sector not-for-profit), public relations (including lots of crisis management) and all manner of business operations management. Brian served as athletics director at three Division 1 institutions and worked in other capacities from national development director to assistant/associate/ deputy athletics director.

**Tom Ferenczhalmy** - Eagle Scout Tom Ferenczhalmy is the current Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 147 in Alamogordo, New Mexico since 2014. He has over 17 years experience as a leader serving as Cub Scout/Webelos den leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster and District Chairman. Tom is a Woodbadge Beaver (Philmont 2015) and has had the absolute pleasure of experiencing five Philmont treks. “I Wanna Go aback!” Tom is a retired Air Force pilot and currently works as an aerospace engineer.

**Jacqueline Gonzalez** – Jacqueline has been involved in Scouting at every level; as a Girl Scout, volunteer, professional staff member and board member of both Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande council and the BSA Yucca Council. She has seen how the Scouting program develops leadership skills in not only the youth members but also the adult volunteers and professionals. She served on the Boards of Directors of the Pioneer Association and the Diabetes Association as well as several other committees for professional and non-profit organizations. Jacqueline is a health insurance agent serving small businesses groups, Medicare beneficiaries and a benefits counselor with the Premiere Colonial Life team.

**Bill Harty** - Bill Harty is an Eagle Scout who has served on the Yucca Council board from 1975-76 as the Gila Lodge Chief, from 1981-85, and from 1999 to date, holding positions as Lodge Adviser, Camping Chair, Sunshine District Chair, NM District Operations VP, Risk Management VP, Assistant Council Treasurer, Council Treasurer, and Council Executive Vice President.  He holds the Vigil Honor, the Silver Gila service award, the OA Founders Award, and was named a Centurion at the OA’s 100th anniversary.  He also holds the Silver Beaver, the District Award of Merit, and the Cliff Dochterman award from the International. Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians, as well as several training awards including three Wood Badge beads.  Bill served in various positions on Camp Dale Resler staffs for about ten years, including two as camp director, served the area as an NCAP visitor to several camps, and led units as an Explorer Advisor, Scoutmaster, and Den Leader.

**Sue Jacintho** – Sue is the Operations Manager for the Las Cruces branch of Core & Main LP. She is currently the Gila Lodge Advisor, a Vigil member of the OA and a Section Assistant Advisor. Sue has volunteered with the Yucca Council since 2006. In addition to her work with the OA, Sue is Committee Chair for working with youth with disabilities. She the recipient of the Silver Beaver, District Award of Merit, Torch of Gold, James E. West and Founders Award. She attended Wood Badge and has setrained and has worked on staff. Past National Youth Leadership Course Director and Baloo/IOLS Course Director.

**Nathaniel Jones** – Since registering as an adult in the Council, Nate has served in numerous positions of leadership with increasing levels of responsibilities and various assignments, including Pack Organizer, Den Leader, Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chair, Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Unit and District Commissioner, District Training, District Chair, National Youth Leadership Training Course Director, Wood Badge Graduate, and Assistant Wood Badge Director for 3 Courses. He has attended the Council Commissioner course at Philmont, Leave No Trace, LNT Trainer, Campmaster, Range Operation, and NYLT Course Director Training courses. His many awards include Training Award, District Award of Merit Award, LDS Church Duty To God, Silver Beaver, Award for Serving Scouts in the Hispanic Community, Serving Scouts in the African American Community, Nona Resler award, and 32 Eagle Scouts Mentor pins.  He has served as the District Chapter Advisor and is a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow.  Nate served his country in peacetime and in war for 27 years; he retired as Sergeant Major, US Army.

**Frank Kinson** – Frank Kinson works as an attorney at El Paso Electric Company where he oversees litigation and provides legal advice on various legal subjects. He served as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle driver in the Gulf War. He has four children, including one son who earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 59. He also volunteers with other local boards including the Rotary Club of El Paso and the USO.

**Jon Law** – Jon Law is the Chief Strategy Officer for University Medical Center of El Paso.  Prior to UMC, Jon worked for 12 years that Paso del Norte Health Foundation. In his final two years, he served as the President of the Foundation. He has served as the founding Executive Director of PHIX, the Health Information Exchange (HIE) serving El Paso and surrounding communities.  Jon is an Eagle Scout from Troop 105 in the Grand Canyon Council. He currently serves as Committee Chair of Troop 164 in El Paso. I have a son with Troop 164 and a daughter in Troop 2.

**Jim Libbin** – Jim Libbin is currently serving Yucca Council as Council President and Council Advancement Chair. His son, Zack, is an active Scouter and earned his Eagle in Troop 66 in 1999. Jim rejoined Scouting as an adult in 1989 as a Den Leader, then Scoutmaster, and continues as Committee Chair for two troops and a pack. He retired from New Mexico State University in 2016 after a 40-year career as Professor of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business and as Extension Farm Management Specialist; he also served seven years as Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

**James Montoya** – James is currently a Deputy Public Defender for El Paso County, representing indigent members of the community. He has previously served as an El Paso County Assistant District Attorney as well as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He earned his Eagle Scout in Yucca Council Troop 37 and received both his B.A. and J.D. from George Washington University. He has volunteered as a member of the Horizon City Economic Development Corporation, Emergency Services District #1, and the City of El Paso Charter Advisory Committee.

**Presi Ortega** – Presi is the owner of Retirement Advisors of the Southwest. He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 727, St. Pius Church. Some of his past experiences include Chairman of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo Bank board member, Chairman of the Board of Sierra Providence East Hospital, and is currently Vice Chair of Centro San Vicente. He served as Mayor Pro Tempore twice, once with Mayor Carlos Ramirez and then with Mayor John Cook. He has been the Scoutmaster for Troop 191 for over 15 years and has mentored 35 Eagle Scouts in that time period.

**David Panko** – David is currently the Manager of the El Paso Foreign Trade Zone 68 which covers all of El Paso County and is under the direction of the El Paso International Airport.  David is an Eagle Scout, a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, and a Silver Beaver recipient.  He has also received the Vale la Pena, Daniel Carter Beard, and OA Centurion awards for his work in Scouting.  David has served as a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, Explorer Advisor, Venturing Advisor, and Sea Scout Skipper.  In the past he served as the Gila Lodge Adviser, Area 6 Vice President of Membership, and OA Section Adviser.

**Horacio Porras** – Horacio has served on the Yucca Council Executive Board for 12 1/2 years. He has served as Cub Scout Leader & Cubmaster for five years and as Scoutmaster of Troop 187 for 11 years. Horacio has been a self-employed financial counselor for 31 years. He previously served as the Board Chair of El Paso Elks Lodge 187. He is the father of an Eagle Scout who is currently a Veterinary Medicine Student in the United Kingdom.

**Hazel Ruby** – Hazel is currently serving as Gila Lodge Chief and thus is a youth member of the Yucca Council Executive Board. Hazel joined Scouting in 2019 as a member of Troops 219 and 220. She has served as Senior Patrol Leader in both units. She has attended and staffed NYLT. She was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 2020 and has served as Chapter Chief, Lodge Secretary, and is working with the Section Conclave. Hazel is a senior at Coronado High School in El Paso where she is active in band. She has played piano for 11 years and qualified for state competition in the Alamodome.

**Chris Sanders** –

**Art Slaughter** – Art retired from the U. S. Army after 23 years at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Shortly after entering the Army, he found himself serving as a Cubmaster and it stuck. He served in this position in California, Germany, Colorado, Alabama, and for the past 30 years in Deming, New Mexico. He has also served as an Assistant District Commissioner and as the Geronimo District Chairman for a number of years. He has a Scouters Key, Unit Leader Award of Merit, District Award of Merit and Silver Beaver as well as the Vale la Pena Award. He received his Wood Badge Beads while in the Tennessee Valley Council in Alabama. He has over 50 years’ service to Scouting programs. His son is an Eagle Scout as well as four of his grandsons. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University and after retirement from the Army worked in Human Resources for several healthcare facilities in the El Paso and Las Cruces Area.

**Charles Spencer** – Charles Spencer is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and, currently, the interim Departmental Chair at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is an Eagle Scout and serves as a Zone Commissioner, Committee Chairman for Troops 82 and 219, and Chair for the Cub Scout Klondike. He haa previously served as Charter Organization Representative and District Chairman. He has received the Polaris Star, District Award of Merit, and William D Boyce recognition. He is a Vigil OA member, Wood Badge graduate, and serves on Eagle Board of Review panels.

**Laura Strathmann** – Laura Strathmann grew up in El Paso and was away only to earn an MBA and a JD. Upon her return to El Paso she ran her own law firm for 12 years before being elected judge of the 388th District Court in El Paso. She was the judge of the 388th for 8 years and then was appointed as the IV-D Court Associate Judge and now serves El Paso, Hudspeth, and Culberson Counties. She has 2 sons, Jordan (21 years old and an Eagle Scout) and Taro (13 years old and a 2nd Class Scout).

**Stephanie Sutter** – Stephanie Sutter has a diverse background in healthcare spanning private, public, and non-profit sectors. She earned her bachelor's degree in Community Health from NMSU in 2008. She is active within her community and passionate about the intersection of healthcare and education. As a Southern New Mexico resident since 2005, she has served with various community organizations including but not limited to, the Dona Ana County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, and multiple parent-teacher organizations. During her time serving with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, she helped secure and facilitate grants that helped revitalize a program that increased access to healthcare for high school students through the Student Based Health Centers. Stephanie brings a unique and fresh outlook to existing organizations that allows them to continue to grow and change in the world of community outreach.  Stephanie is a proud parent of a son and daughter in Scouting. She comes from a family deeply rooted in scouting traditions, reflecting her genuine love for the values it instills. As a Boy Scouts of America volunteer, she plays a crucial role on our local board, contributing her experience, creativity, passion for community advocacy, and commitment to making scouting accessible to all. Additionally, she has been the driving force of a successful and fast-growing popcorn campaign within Yucca Council, coaching and mentoring Scouting units towards earning their way through the Scouting program. With a keen interest in board development and engagement, Stephanie actively contributes to fostering creativity in shaping the future of scouting, ensuring its continued impact and relevance in our community.

**Michelle Wilson-Stecher** – Michelle Wilson-Stecher is a native El Pasoan who earned her bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She began her career as a writer with a small newspaper in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She returned to the Southwest to be closer to family and start her own business in the property and casualty insurance industry. Michelle, a resident of Las Cruces, is a member of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. She participates in numerous community events, including working with Las Cruces area realtors and mortgage lenders, the Las Cruces Think Tank, and supporting the Sophia.org through their One Huge Fiesta outreach. She has worked alongside the Arrowhead Center and WESST to help start-up businesses with their risk management and their challenges in new business start-ups. Michelle works primarily with the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies and as such has been asked to sit on numerous focus groups throughout her tenure with the company. She has been an appointed agent with them for 16 years in both Texas and New Mexico. Michelle is also a founding member of the Wild Women’s group through the Yucca Council. She has been a fully trained den leader in Las Cruces Pack 179 and is currently an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 64. Her Cub Scout dens were awarded the Den of the Year award for 2020 by the Sunshine District and she received the Silver Roadrunner for her efforts on behalf of the district. Michelle is also the chairperson for the BSA Bullets & BBQ fundraiser held in Las Cruces each year. Michelle’s outside interests and hobbies include backpacking, hiking, hunting, and fishing. She is a member of the La Pandilla Feliz salsa-casino dance group and has competed in the Next Level Dance Challenge, earning her Bronze II level achievement for Waltz and Rumba. She has also won 1st place in five different styles of ballroom dance at the Rio Grande Invitational. She is the proud mother of a 12-year-old Tenderfoot, Joseph.