

**Communication
Between
Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts
And
Venturing**



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A Growth Project Requirement Doctor of Commissioner
Science Degree

Ronald Elliott November 13, 2006

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Responses by State

The numbers and States listed below represent the number of responses I got from 168 Responses I received back from my Survey, "Communications between Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing."

Colorado	1	Texas	9	Florida	6
Alabama	1	Ohio	3	Virginia	2
Kentucky	3	Illinois	3	New Hampshire	3
Louisiana	4	Wisconsin	3	Michigan	4
New York	3	Arizona	1	Washington	4
Pennsylvania	3	Oklahoma	1	Alabama	2
Nebraska	1	Maryland	1	North Dakota	48
Minnesota	43	Iowa	2	South Dakota	3
Japan	2				

I decided to put the survey world wide to see if these problems are all over the world and to get input from other units on the questions asked.

Questions and Results of Survey

1. Is your committee chairperson working with other committee chairpersons?

Yes - 55.6%

No - 44.4%

The majority are working with other units. The units are using E - mails as a way of communicating so more people are aware what is going on.

2. Is there one person in the unit assigned to work with the other unit committees?

Yes - 32.7%

No - 67.3%

No: was 65.3 % of the responses that I received back from the survey. The reason being too much responsibility is on the Cub master, Scout master, Advisor, and Chairperson. The committee needs to have someone to help with some responsibilities.

3. Is there one person assigned to make sure that unit information gets to all other units?

Yes - 36.7%

No - 63.1%

Most of the units answered no that means there's too much for the key leaders to do. The key leaders should have someone in the

committee to share responsibilities. Example, put information going out to the parents and sponsoring institution.

4. Is the Troop working with the Pack?

Yes – 71%

No – 21%

The troop invites the Webelos to go on campouts. They also help the boys with their activity pins.

5. Does the troop work with the Webelos to help them to graduate into the troop?

Yes – 75.9%

No – 24.1%

The majority says yes, troop helps the pack by planning the Arrow of Light. The ceremony is when pack boys cross over to the troop.

6. Are the units gathering information and giving it to the Sponsoring organization to update their newsletters?

Yes – 38.1%

No – 61.9%

Evidently with 61.9 % saying no the charter representative is not bringing information back to the sponsoring institution. The committee is not passing on the information sponsoring Institution.

7. Is the Chartered Representative of the sponsoring organizations involved with their units?

Yes – 53.7%

No – 46.3%

The charter representative is the go between people. The Representative keeps the sponsoring institution informed about everything that happens in the units. No, 46.3% the charter representative is not involved but in Name only.

8. Do you know who your Unit Commissioner is?

Yes – 72.2%

No – 27.8%

The unit commissioner evaluates the unit's works with all Units assigned to. The survey indicates that 72.2% are actively involved with the units assigned. The 27.8% of Survey's which answers no indicated that there maybe is a shortage of unit commissioners or the commissioners aren't responding to units they are assigned to.

9. Does your Unit Commissioner work with your unit?

Yes – 61.1%

No – 38.9%

The majority feel that the unit commissioner is working with the unit planning, outings, programs, advancement. The unit Commissioner is keeping the unit informed of what is going on in the district.

38.9% said no. In a lot of units they do not know who their unit commissioners are or if one has been assigned to the unit. The commissioner may not be involved with the unit to the extent that he could be.

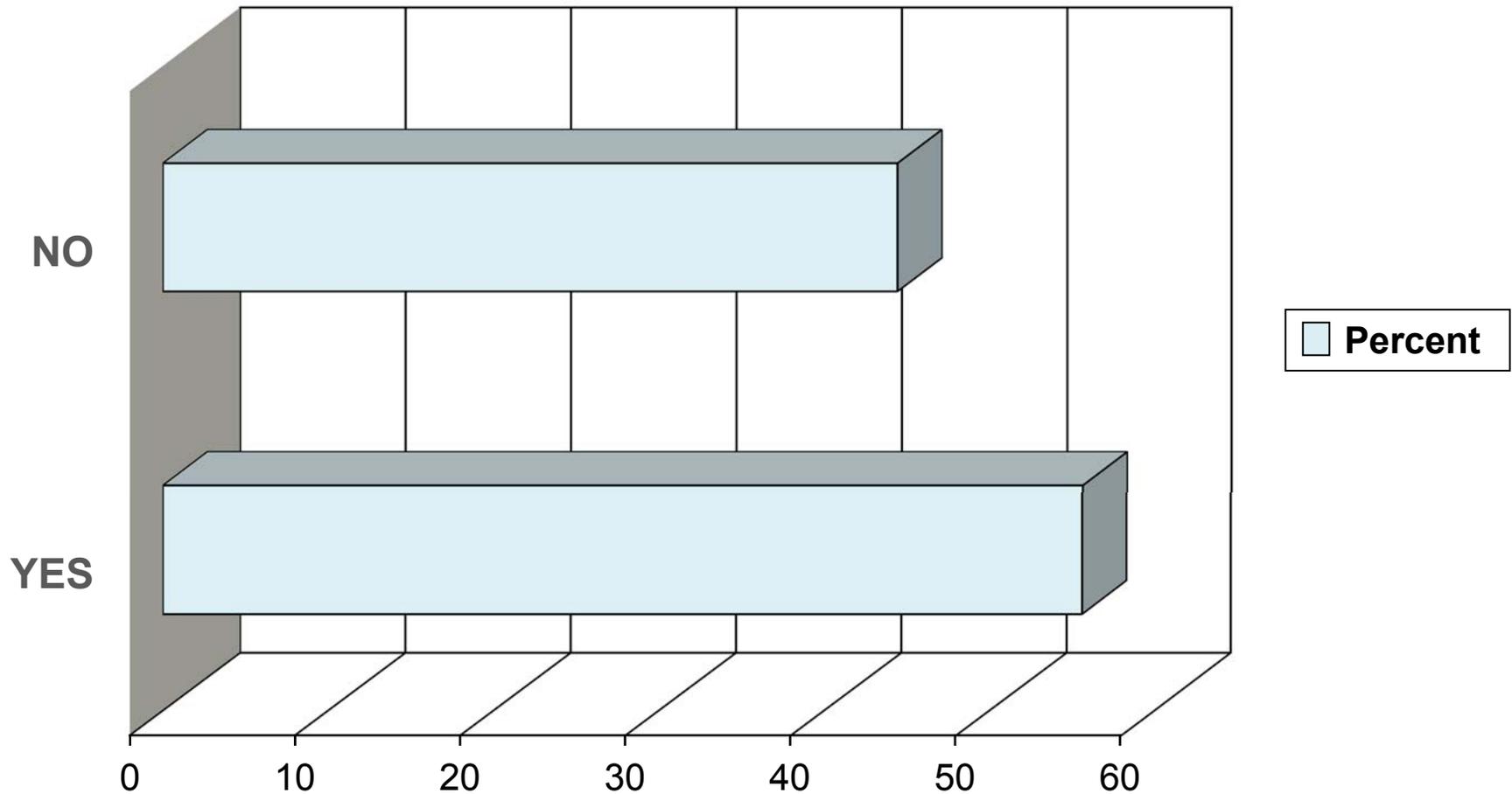
10. Do we need more communication training with the volunteer leaders?

Yes – 73.1%

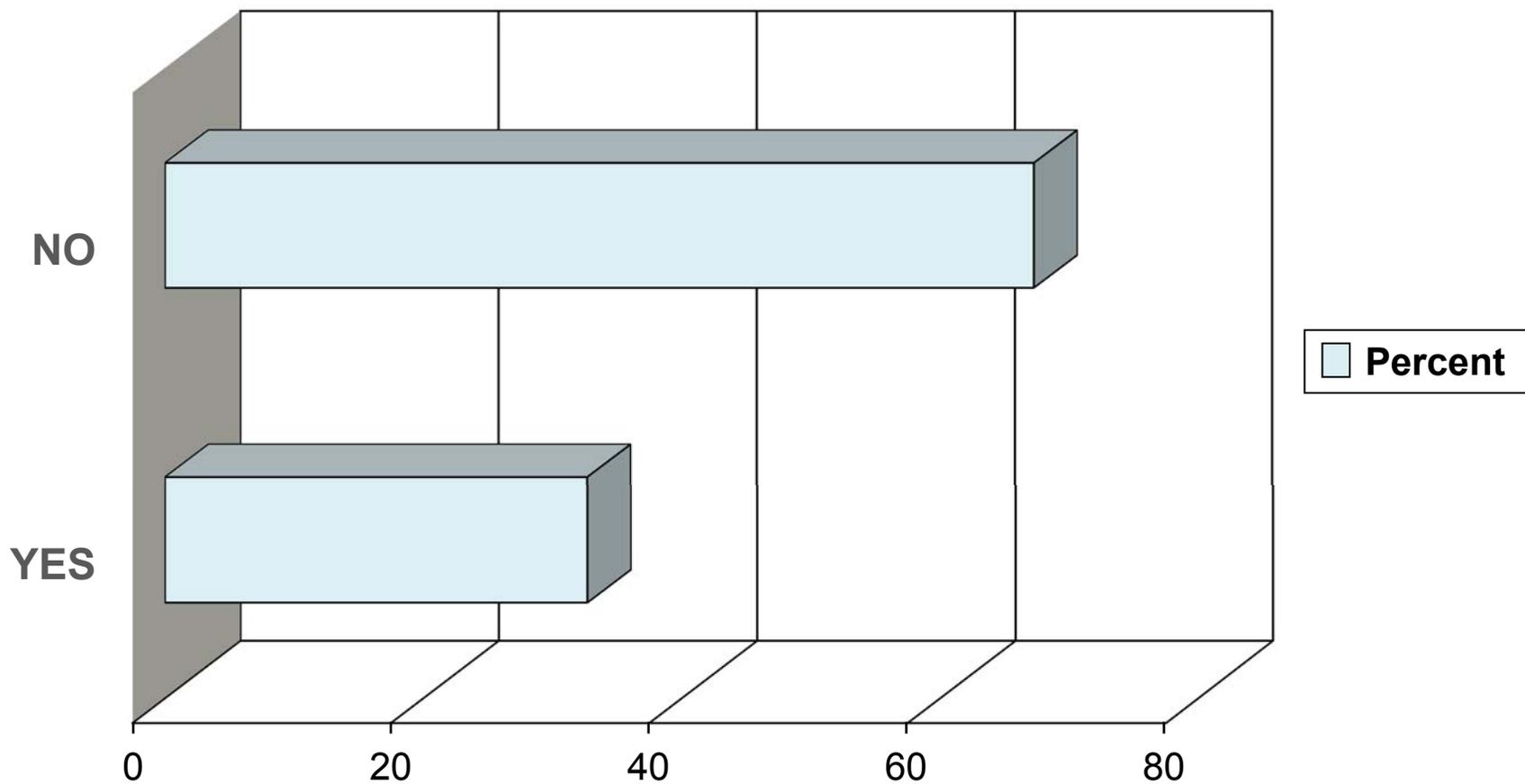
No – 26.9%

The responders feel that they need more training. The volunteers need to be trained in what their roles and the role play in the unit so they can do the best job they can. The volunteers need and want more information so they understand how the unit works, they need to learn to communicate with the groups in order to do their duties in the position they have volunteered for.

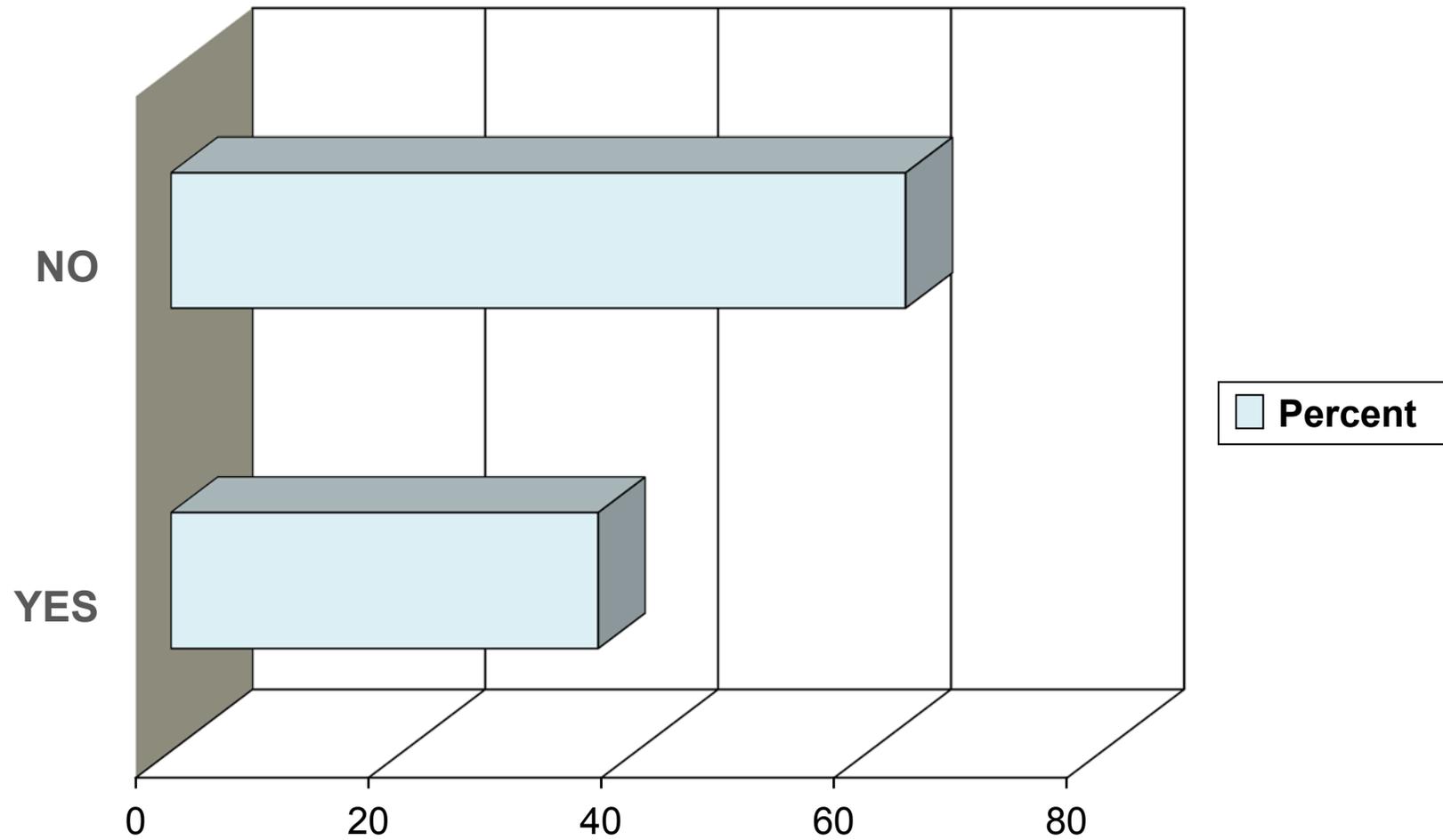
Are the committee chair persons working together with other committee chair persons?



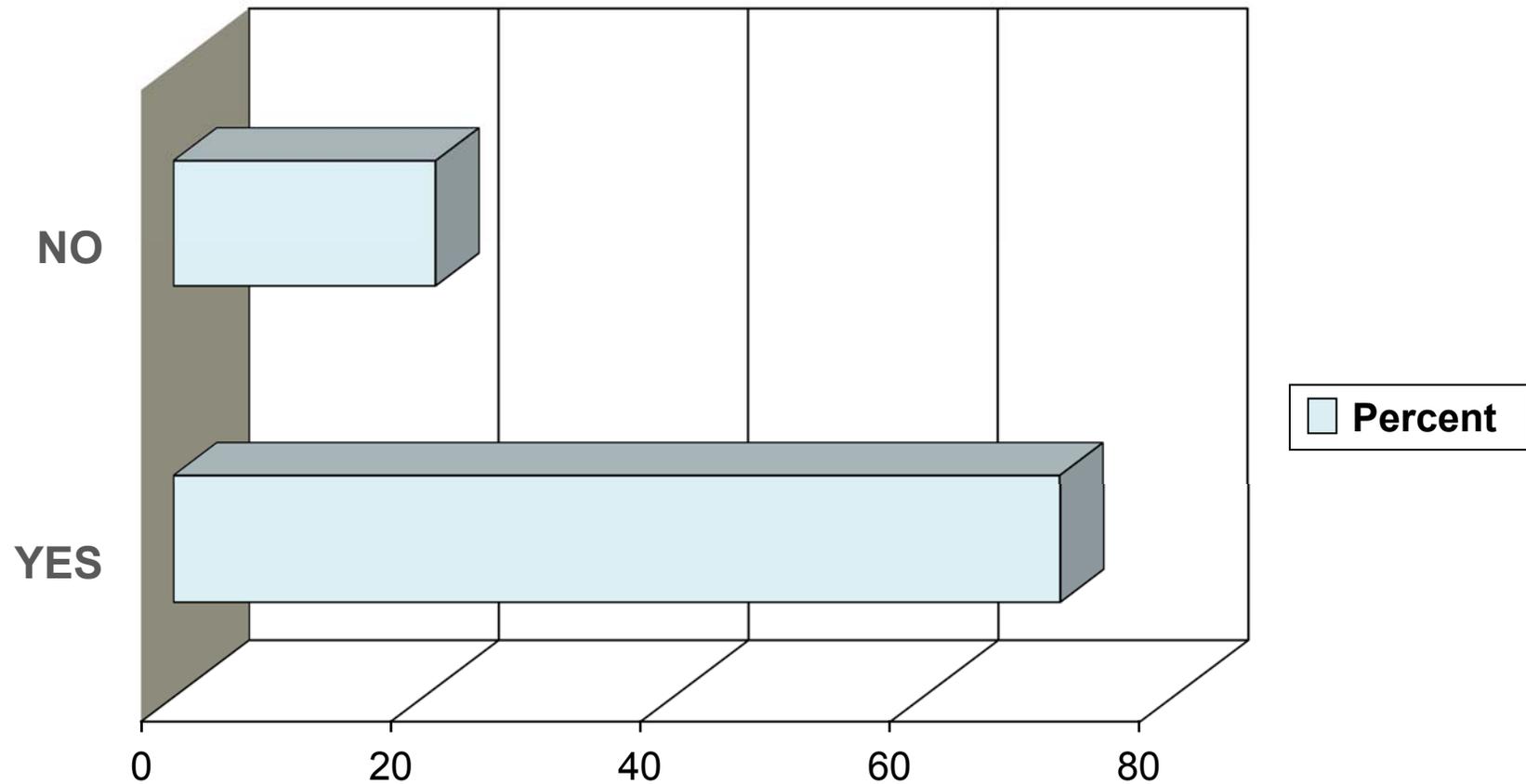
Is there one person in the unit assigned to work with the committee?



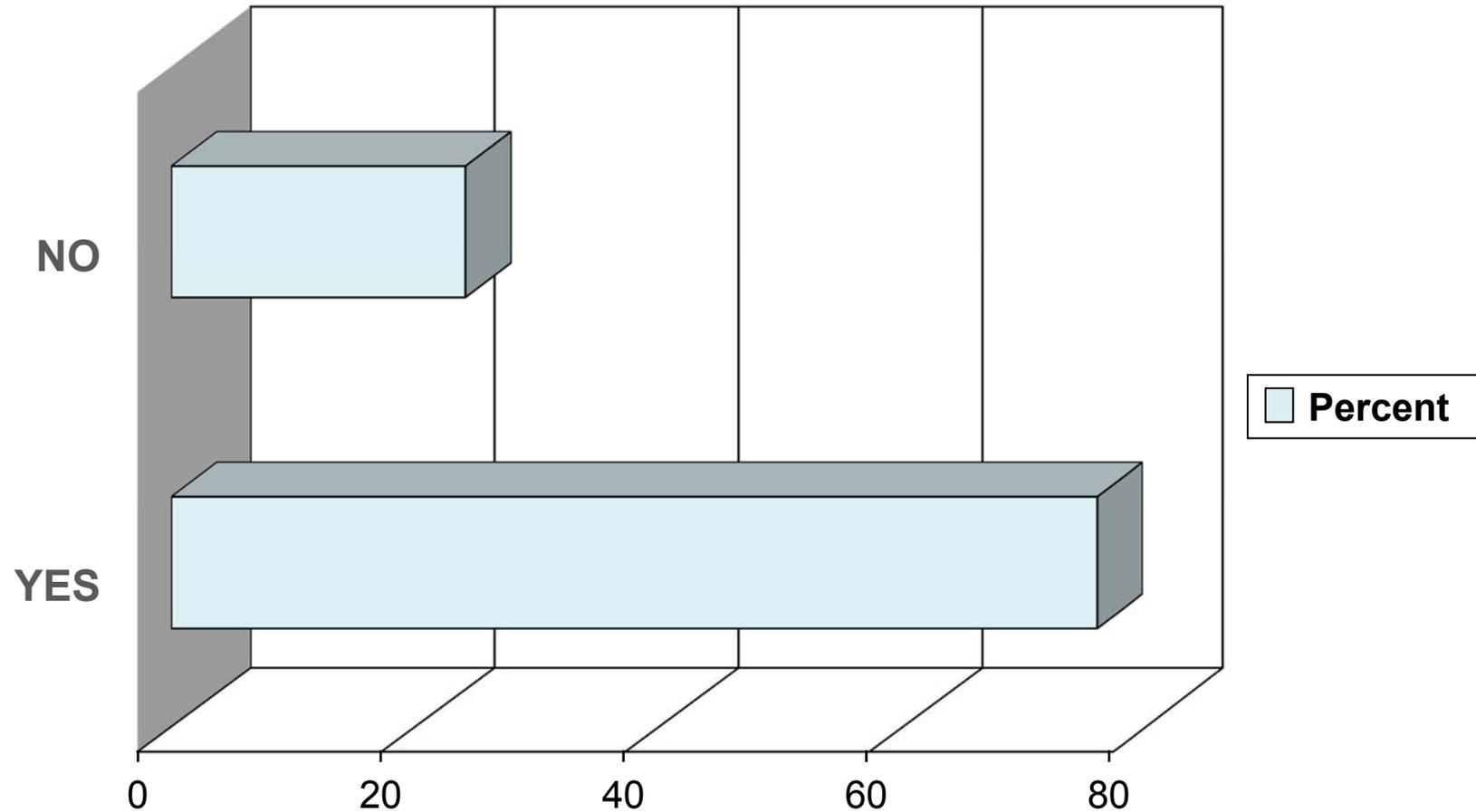
Is one person assigned to make sure that information get to all units?



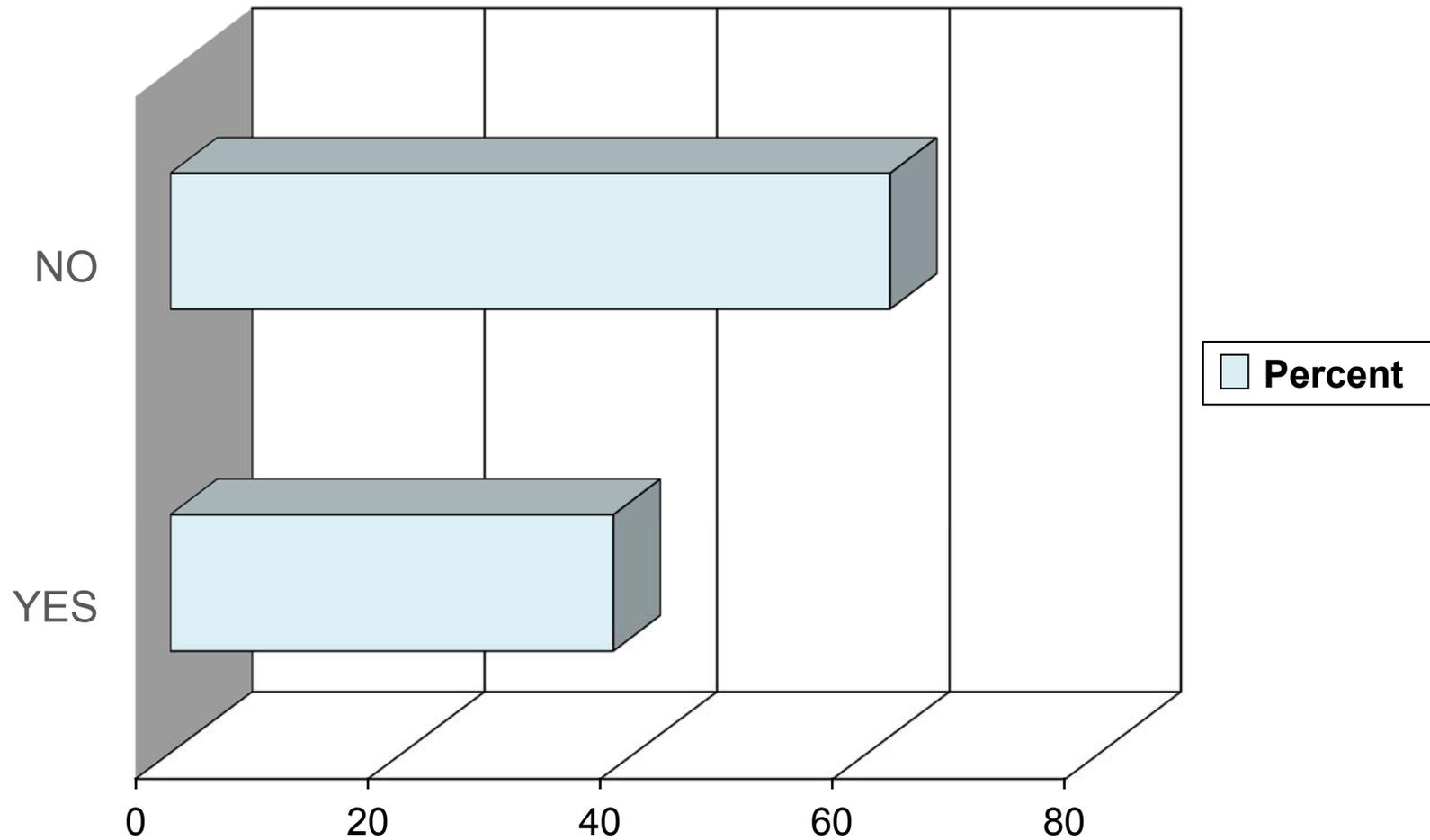
Is the Troop working with the Pack?



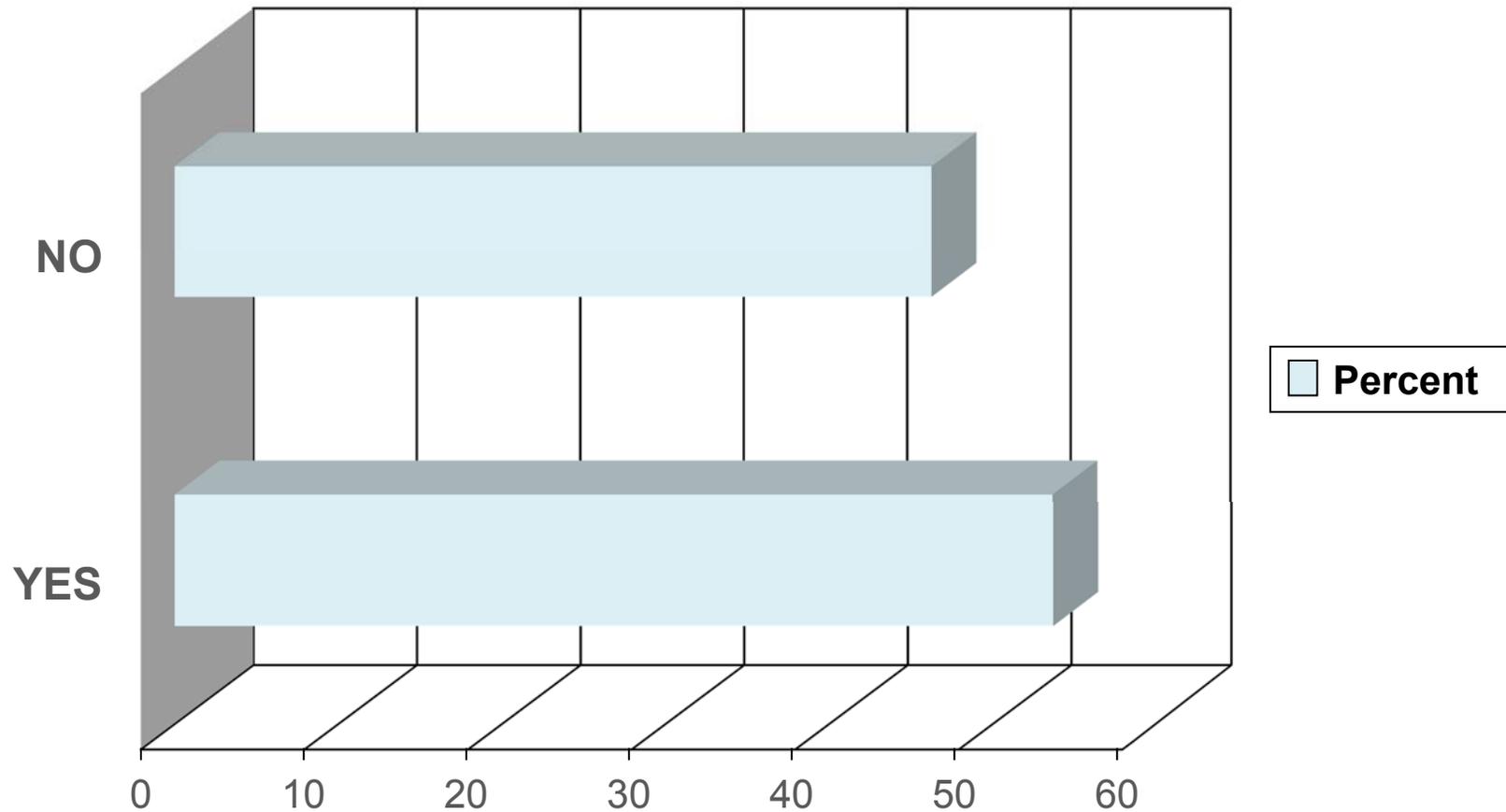
Does the troop work with the Webelos to help them to graduate into the troop?



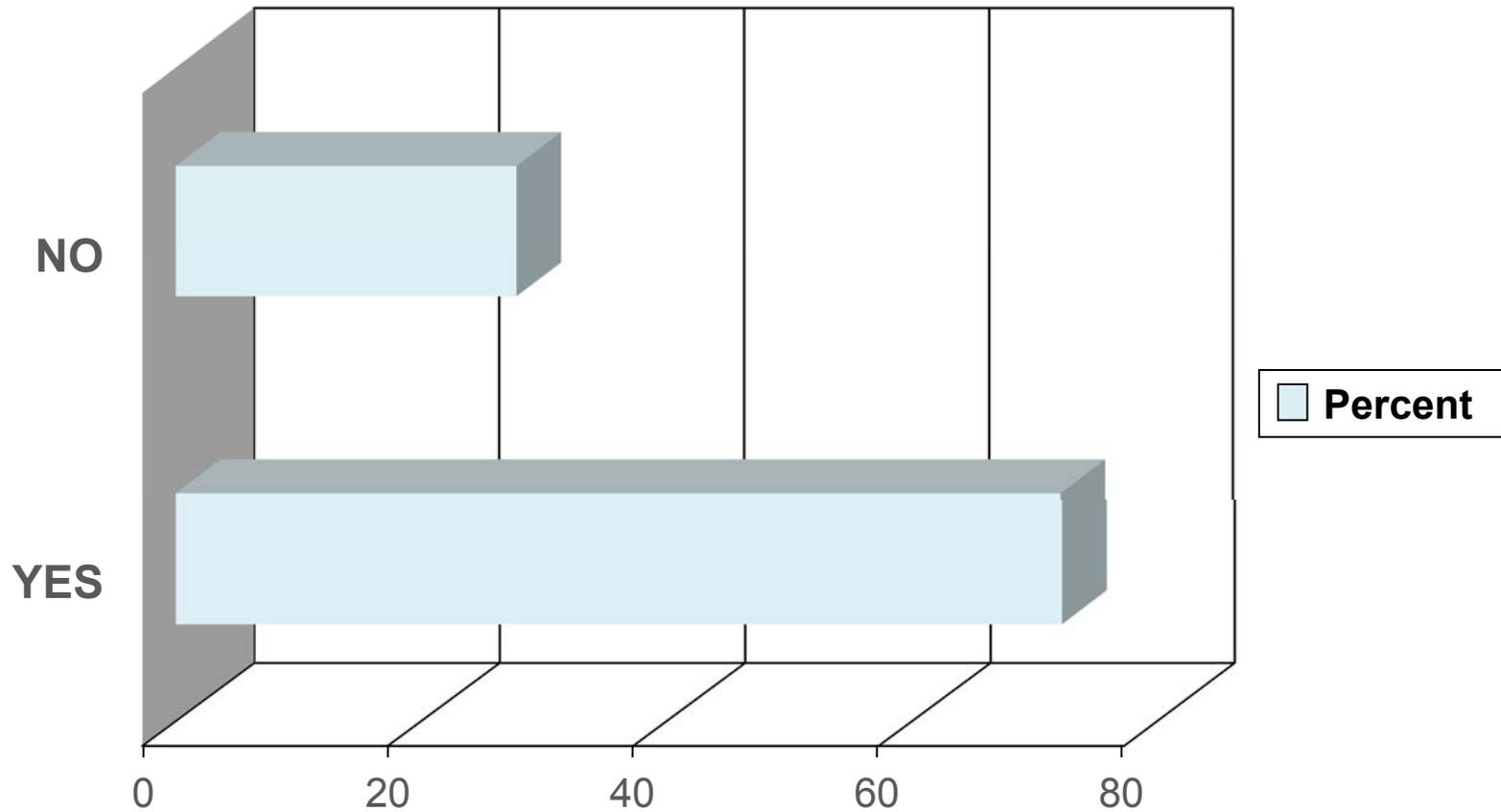
Are the units gathering information and giving it to the Sponsor organization to update their newsletters?



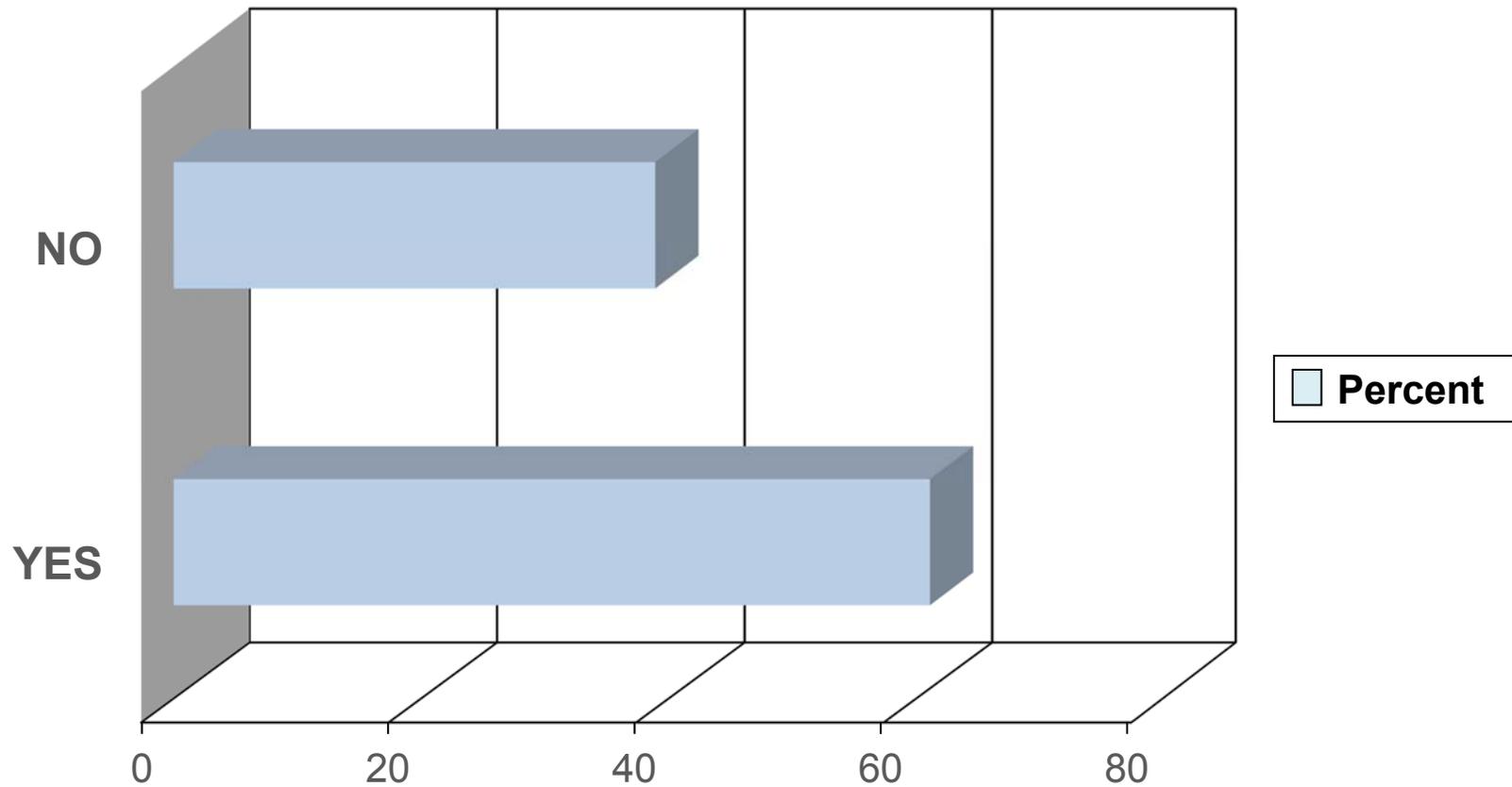
Is the Chartered Representative involved with the units?



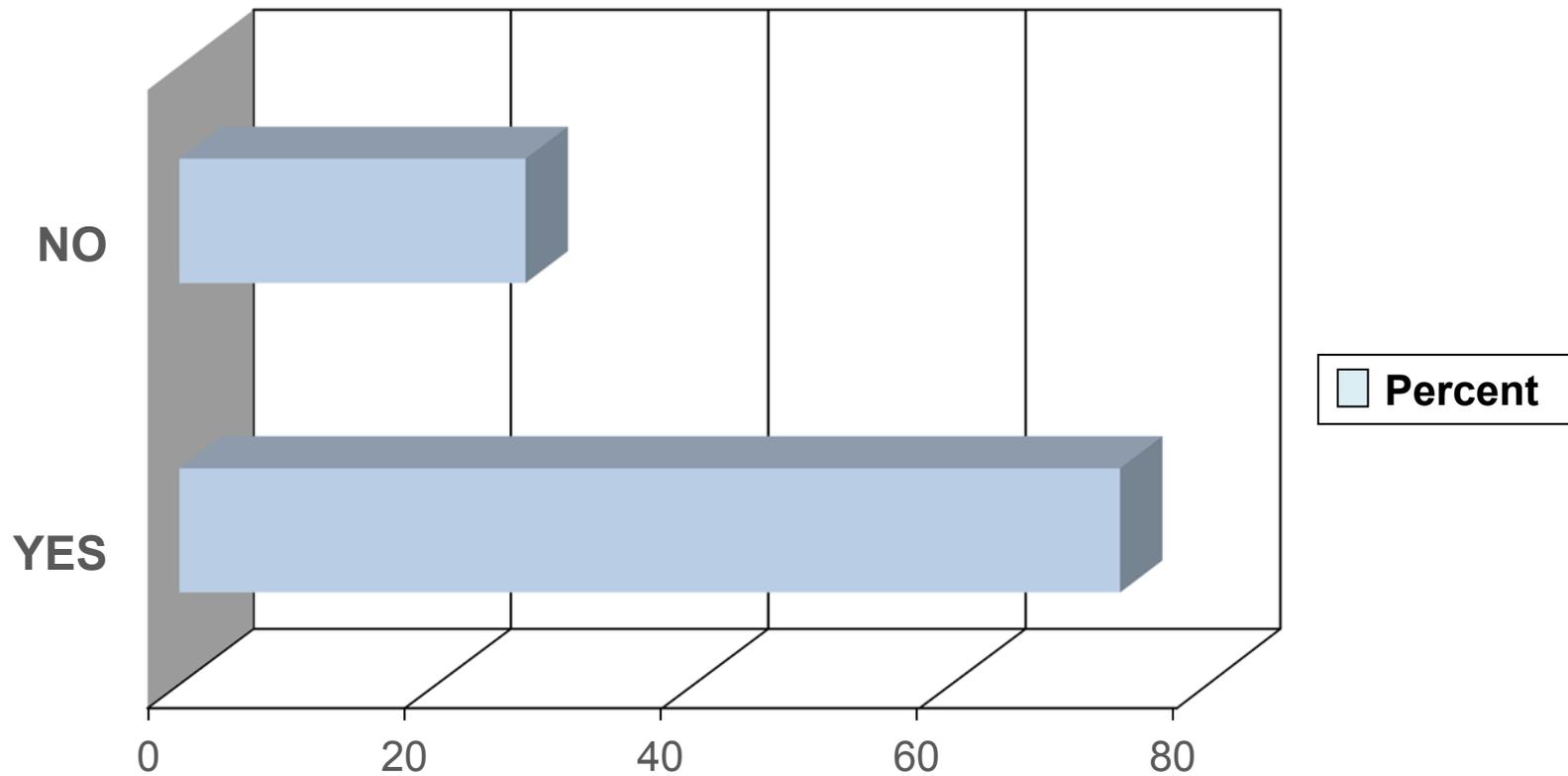
Do you know who your Unit Commissioner is?



Does your Unit Commissioner work with your unit?



Do we need more communication training with the volunteer leaders?



Survey Response

Excellent start towards making things better. I sure miss Lake Agassiz District!

Comments = A couple of the answers would have been maybe but I didn't have that choice which forced an answer which may or may not be correct.

Comments = I feel there needs to be an emphasis on Cub Leaders to understand there is more beyond just their den and pack. They are so focused on program and their weekly den meetings, they don't know other units exist. Likewise, more emphasis is needed on Webelos leaders understanding their purpose, namely preparing boys for Boy Scouting. We have pack leaders that schedule pack events that conflict with district webloree/camporees. We have Webelos leaders that want to keep the boys in the pack until June. Communication with Venturing Crews is better because Venturing is more flexible and some Boys are dual enrolled.

Another issue is many units meet at schools, but cannot be chartered by schools. PTAs don't want to charter units. Many units are simply chartered by a group of parents, and the support varies from year to year.

Comments = I have to qualify some of the answers above. I am both an associate advisor and the ADC for Venturing, so I do provide some Commissioner service to the Crew. Since the Commissioner Staff is still too small, that takes some pressure off the DC until he finishes his recruiting drive. The Church does have a committee on scouting that tries to see that the units coordinate with each other, but it is not entirely successful. The Troop and Pack work together, but the Scoutmaster is adamantly opposed to the Crew because he sees us as a threat to his senior boys. He has had seven of them leave the Troop since he came in, but only one joined the Crew.

We don't need more communication training with volunteers, we just need them to take and use the training that is there.

Comments = I wish each Council and District had an official email list. Most units already have such email lists.

Comments = More Commissioners and more from all units attending basic and Wood Badge would be very helpful.

Comments = If you have a good Committee Chair, info gets back to the Pack that should. If your CC doesn't relay info, the Pack never know about it. I is pretty pivotal on one person.

Comments = WE HAVE A VERY 'STRONG' UNITS-PACK. TROOP CREW AND GIRL SCOUT.

Survey Responses

Comments = Wish we had better/more frequent communication with COR. Although he is invited to all our COH's he has yet to attend one in the 8+ years I've been Scoutmaster. In fact in the time about the only time we have heard from him is when there has been a complaint about the boy's behavior on the sponsor's property.

Comments = I am writing on behalf of Troop 48. However, I am the District Commissioner for Pontchartrain, which suffered catastrophic losses in enrollment and units following Hurricane Katrina. There is more at stake in our council now since the flooding. Good luck with your doctorate. May the Great Master of all Scouts keep you safe and help you to continue to deliver the message of Scouting to all who care to receive it.

Comments = I think there needs to be more assistance for the Tiger leaders from the experienced leaders.

Comments = Communication problems have existed in my 20 association with the BSA. This council has never totally resolved this problem. There have been cycles of good and bad but it has never been resolved for the long term. People and old/new ideas have come and gone but the situation still exists.

Comments = One of the best ways we've found to spread 'the word' (whatever the word is) is by using a yahoo group.

Comments = This would be a good roundtable topic – “Meet your UC”

Comments = It's all a matter of time and priorities, isn't it?

Comments = Some of the questions are not yes or no. For instance the troop works with the Webelos when asked, but does very little on its own to recruit or be interested in the younger boys until the younger boys need to move up. So instead or no, I would rather answer – sort of.

Comments = This doesn't really apply to me, as one of the ADC's, but we do try to run things the Scouting was.

Comment = It's been bumpy, but we are trying to get the Webelos and Boy Scouts closer together. The Scoutmaster (md) has to do most of the pushing, however...

Survey Responses

Comments = - I don't know that volunteers need communication training. They just don't know what is expected.

- I have been in this Pack for 9 years. I have never seen our COR and only know his name because it's on our Charter.

- I have no idea who our UC is. I've never seen a UC at any Pack function or meeting. What is the role of the UC???

- Our COR is a big time Boy Scouter. He is involved in the Troop but doesn't do anything with the Pack or Crew.

Comments = I think in my district there is a dearth of volunteers on the district level (commissioners etc.). Also training seems to be a problem (outdoor leader training was cancelled for lack of participation!) I work with the district trying to make our moribund roundtables work better but without much success. At least we have many great units in the district. As for the troop my children are in, the committee is fairly young, but the chairpeople (two people) work hard. We don't have formal lines of communication but at least everyone is willing to work together.

Comments = NOTE: We do not have a Unit Commissioner.

Comments = you seem to assume all packs have a troop in their unit – this is not true in the small town for which I cubmaster. Current the cubscout pack is the only scouting unit.

Comments = The COR for the church that sponsors my former pack can care less about Cub Scouts. I had to make it a point to find out when Scout Sunday was to get Cub Scouts there. There is extensive communication and coordination between the Troop and the Crew as there is for the units I am responsible for as a UC. In short, it seems that packs are useful to troops only as a source of boys.

Comments = Our district communicates through a website and email list. We try to get new leaders on the email list when they are training or come to Roundtable. District announcements go out by email, usually sent out the day they are submitted to the Postmaster. Still some people say they didn't hear about events. I'd be interest in you posting the results of your survey.

Comments = Your questionnaire needs to have the option of not applicable. For example, my unit does not have a Unit Commissioner because our district is short of UCs and they are only assigned to units that need extra support. You also assume that each troop has a feeder pack. In our area the packs are associated with public schools and the troops are associated with churches. Typically, each Webelos visits about three troops and decides which one to join.

Survey Responses

Comments = This troop has one pack “assigned” to it. It’s chartered to, and meets at a United Methodist Church. It draws from four school districts, although the majority of the boys come from Dublin. This spring, the welcomed 32 Webelos into the troop. The new Scouts have already had 3 troop/patrol camping opportunities, and a district camporee with two night of camping. Each new patrol has a troop guide, and an assistant scoutmaster working with them. All new guys, plus better than half of the rest for the troop, are signed up for summer camp. (The older boys are doing high adventure trips.) Total membership in the troop is about 90 boys, 35 adults. The troop has a website that is used extensively for unit communications. The council and district also have websites that are updated weekly. The troop’s interaction with other units is at the district level, such as at roundtables, camporees, and neighborhood service activities. The troop also helps with programming at Cub activities like day camp, first aid, etc.

Comments = communications seems to be the biggest problem in Scouting. Units think they are on an island by themselves and no one else matters. We as a district committee are trying very hard to get information out there, but sometimes it seems to be a losing battle. Our POC for units don’t always pass the word to everyone else, not everyone is on our E-group for the district, only about ¼ read our website. Units don’t talk to each other. But we keep trying and hoping. For without communication and work together the Scouting program, in today’s environment, will ail and falter. What a sad state that would be for our future.

Comments = These responses are in reference to the troop. The troop communicates well in most cases. We have an email list through the website, information about activities can be found on the website (if updated). The SPL is actively in contact with all boys. Our CO is a church. In the last few months they have been getting more involved into the troop. Besides giving us space we get support for the religious emblem, camperships while we give back volunteering in church events like the annual rummage sale and church festival. Having older membership in the church, the people are thrilled to see the boys doing good work. After a recent merger with another church the troop even gained a Silver Buffalo recipient – We are very blessed right now. Our UC is part of the troop as well as the ADC.

These references are in response to the pack. The pack is chartered through our local elementary school – actually, suddenly on this recharter package the PTO appeared as the CO without our prior knowledge. We communicate through a yahoo group, leader phone calls, and during/after meetings. It sometimes gets tough to reach everybody.

After never having a UC around since joining the pack in 2000, last month one appeared after one of our adults voiced some complaints (found to be unreasonable). This district nearly has a UC ration of 3:1, hence only half the units have a UC assigned to them (including our pack who never knew of his existence). The district committee is aged and has been unable to involve the younger generations into the district work.

Due to the PTO becoming our COR, our treasurer who is also treasurer for the PTO has become executive office and COR. WE use the school’s space for pack, den, and committee meetings free of charge. We get to pass out recruiting flyers, do boy talks and recruiting nights at a date of our choice. The boys are permitted to wear uniforms for the day of our pack and den meetings. Otherwise the school has never been involved or send a representative. All is well.

Survey Responses

Comments = From past experiences I have seen the best years of Scouting were the ones where we used direct mailers to each registered adult. These were either in the form of a Council and District Newsletter, activity/event promotion flyer, or training promotion/registration flyers. These were often reinforced by phone calls to key unit leaders. When we transitioned to email messages and website postings, we lost at least 85% attendance and participation.

Names Of Council, District, States

Grand Canyon, Thunderbird, Phoenix, AZ. Grand
Canyon, Talakto, Harest, AL.
Grand Canyon, Arrowhead, Decatur, AL.
Grand Canyon, Vulcan, Hoover, AL.

Pikes Peak, Frontier, Colorado Springs, CO.

SWFL, Alligator, Naples, FL.
North Florida, Timucua, Crescent City, FL.
Gulf Coast, Troop 451, Pace, FL.
Pack 339, Tampa, FL.
Gulf Ridge, Tacachale, Tampa, FL.
North Florida, Baden Powell, Fernandina Beach, FL

Mid America, Thundercloud, Mareus, Iowa.
Rainbow, Greater Five Rivers, Morris, IL.
Abraham Lincoln, Log Cabin /Rail Splitters, Raymond, IL.
Sycamore, Blackhawk. Crystal Lake, IL.

Shawnee Trails, Alotawatta, Benton, KY.
Lincoln Heritage, Lincoln Trail, Ft. Knox, KY.

South East Louisiana, Metairie, LA.
South East Louisiana, Pontchartrain, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Clinton Valley, Ottawa, Farmington Hills, MI.
Detroit Area, Michigami, Warren, MI.
Detroit Area, Sunset, Redford, MI.

National Capitol Area, Western Shore, Mechanicsville, MD.
Gerald R. Ford, Kent, Michigan.

Hudson Valley, Nimham, Wappingers Falls, NY.
Mid -America, Wagon Wheel, Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Daniel
Webster, Abnaki, Rochester, NH.

Daniel Webster, Historic, Portsmouth, NH.

Simon Kenton, Buckeye, Upper Arlington, OH.

Dan Beard, FT Hamilton, West Chester, OH.

Simon Kenton, Buckeye, Dublin, OH.

Last Frontier, Eagle, Edmond, OK.

Troop 59, Port Matilda, PA.

Minsi Trails, Pocono, Sciota, PA.

Sioux, Northstar, Webster, SD.

Sioux, Troop 128, Redfield, SD.

East Texas, Three Rivers, Jacksonville, Texas.

Capitol Area, Tomahawk, Georgetown, Texas.

East Texas, Three Rivers, Slocum, Texas.

Circle 10, North Trail, Dallas, Texas.

Alamo Area, Keystone, San Antonio, Texas.

Sam Houston, Brazos, Sugar Land, Texas.

Occoquan, Woodbridge, V A.

Glaciers Edge, Verona, WI.

Cascade Pacific, FT. Vancouver, Vancouver, WA.

Chief Seattle, Cascade, Bellevue, WA.

Chief Seattle, Aquila, Des Moines, WA.

Southeast Wisconsin, Lighthouse, Racine, WI.

Far East, Japan, Tokyo, Japan.

Old Colony, Seven Rivers, Tokyo, Japan.

North Star, Central Lake, St. Cloud, Minn.

North Star, Oxcart. Breckosrde, Minn.

North Star, Arrowhead, Esko, Minn.

Northern Lights, Northern Sky, Fargo, ND.

Northern Lights, Flicker Trails, Barnes, ND.

Northern Lights, Oxcart Trails, Wahpeton, ND.

Northern Lights, Lake Agassiz, Grand Forks, ND.

Northern Lights, Roughrider, Dickinson, ND.
Northern Lights, Tomahawk, Minot, ND
Northern Lights, Voyageur, Thief River Falls, MINN.
Northern Lights, Frontier Trails, Bismarck, ND
Northern Lights, Great Plains, Froid, Montana, & Williston, ND.

Summary

I'm attaching the survey response. The percentage of those that answered the survey is pretty low but it seems to be working in the units.

I hoped by this survey to have people start to communicate more what commissioner is and what a commissioner's role is.

The communication's between the units is not a team effort, it is a hit and miss program because the Scouting representative is not really being used as it should be.

Hope fully this information will help people get to know their positions and help available to them.

The Scouts program isn't really working with the cub scouts their involvement is only when the Webelos graduate.

Basically the units don't know how to find the resources where to get the commissioners or what the commissioner's role is.

More training is needed so each person knows their role and what each person is doing. With each other and understand what a unit

Round table is a good training resource to talk about the roles and duties and to understand what they are supposed to be doing.