



Rotary Club of Los Altos

P.O. BOX 794
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA 94022

BSA National Executive Board
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

September 12, 2012

To Bob Mazzuca, Chief Scout Executive and the BSA National Executive Board:

I write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, California, in opposition to the Boy Scouts of America's stand to discriminate against homosexuals both as members of the Boy Scout troops and in leadership roles within the Scouting organization.

Our Rotary Club has both chartered and supported a local Boy Scout Troop for the last sixty years. We have always been strong supporters of the Scouting programs in our area because of the value that we have seen it bring to the youth of our community.

Rotary is founded on the premise of "Service Above Self" and guided by the Four Way Test. Rotary asks the members of its over 34,000 clubs worldwide to apply this test to everything the Rotarian says or does. This test is comprised of the following questions:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

As we try to apply Rotary's Four Way Test to the Scouting stand to discriminate against homosexuals in Scouting, we find that it does not fit. The BSA Board of Director's stand is NOT FAIR to all concerned, it does NOT build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS, and it is NOT BENEFICIAL to all concerned.

As the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, we have discussed withdrawing our support of our local Troop and pulling the Charter. We have chosen not to do that at this time. However, as a Board of Directors, we feel compelled to voice our disagreement with and disdain for your stance. It is our hope that you will revisit this stand and make a change in the Boy Scouts of America's archaic position in favor of the inclusion of all individuals.

Sincerely,

John Sylvester, President

cc: Mr. Sakuji Tanaka, Rotary International President
Mr. Joe Hamilton, District Governor, Rotary District 5170