

Boy Scouts of America

W.D. Boyce Council

October 8, 1981

Mr. Paul Ernst
Director of Registration
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75062-1296

Dear Paul:

Subject: James R. Lankton, 5911 N. Isabell, Peoria, Illinois, 61614. Registered as Executive Board member and as Scoutmaster of Troop 0304.

Enclosed is a copy of the resignation received from James R. Lankton. He has stopped all activity in Scouting. With the help of his wife and minister he is securing professional help.

On September 17, 1981, Director of Field Service, Daniel G. Miller, received a call from a parent who did not identify himself but reported on actions of a Scoutmaster that he felt were unacceptable. He received his information from his son but wanted to check into his son's story further. Later the same day, Miller received a call from a mother who did identify herself, Mrs. [REDACTED], and reported on what her son had said. This was in reference to the boy's Scoutmaster, James R. Lankton. Miller immediately reported to Ralph S. Kroehler, Scout Executive.

Kroehler tried to contact Mr. [REDACTED] to set up an appointment but did not make any contact.

9/18/81. Kroehler returned a call to Reverend [REDACTED]. Reverend [REDACTED] reported that a Mrs. [REDACTED] had called him about what to do over her son's story about his Scoutmaster, James R. Lankton.

9/18/81. Kroehler set up an appointment for 7:00 P.M. on 9/21 with Reverend and Mrs. [REDACTED]. No contact was able to be made with Mrs. [REDACTED].

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9/18/81. Kroehler talked to [REDACTED] because he knew that the [REDACTED] had a son that was thinking of joining Troop 304, but didn't join. [REDACTED] replied that his boy and wife did not like Lankton's actions in touching the boy and having him sit on his lap. Also [REDACTED] had heard rumors that Lankton fondled the boys.

9/19/81. Mrs. [REDACTED] called Kroehler and an appointment was made to see her at 2:00 P.M. on 9/19.

9/21/81. Kroehler and Miller went to the [REDACTED] home at 2:00 P.M. Other parents were present having been invited by Mrs. [REDACTED]. They were Reverend and Mrs. [REDACTED] (who we were scheduled to meet that evening), Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] (this was the man who called on 9/17 and did not identify himself), Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] (whose son had not joined the troop because of an incident).

One parent reported that her son said Lankton had fondled his buttocks on a spring of 1981 camping trip.

Another parent reported their son said on this same camping trip Lankton had fondled his buttocks and also reached inside his underwear to fondle.

A third family reported several incidents. Son was asked to come to Lankton's office when no one else was present. Then asked to sit on Lankton's lap. When asked if he wanted to be tickled or rough-housed, he had his pants pulled down around his ankles and then his legs were hooked behind Lankton's head and he was swung around in this position. On another instance, at Lankton's office, his belt was removed, feet were tied together with the belt, pants pulled down and then was hung from the office door.

A fourth report was on Lankton taking nine new Scouts alone on a camping trip. When boy returned from camping trip he said, "I hate Mr. Lankton". When parents pushed for an answer, he said he was taken into a tent by Lankton, told to remove his lower clothing, and then Lankton laid down with the boy on top of him and proceeded to give the boy a "rubdown". (boy's words) Campout in September 1981.

Fifth family related experience in spring of 1981 campout. Three boys were in one tent; one boy complained of a stomach ache. Lankton entered the tent to assist the boy and rubbed the stomach area. Then turned to the son of the fifth family and gave him a rub down including the groin area and privates.

One family, having an older son, after hearing the report from the youngest son, questioned the older son. The older son reported that the older boys have learned to say no when asked to sit on Lankton's lap and how not to be alone with Lankton because of his actions.

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These five families also reported on other families they had learned of who had similar experiences. One parent reported there had been an incident about five years ago where a parent had complained to the District Executive and they had met with an assistant Scoutmaster, Henry Sinclair, but nothing further had happened.

9/21/81. Ralph Kroehler and Dan Miller met with Council President, Robert Wilkins, to review the reports to date. Wilkins made appointments with some of the parents so he could get his own information from them.

9/21/81. Ralph Kroehler and Dan Miller met with Henry Sinclair, assistant Scoutmaster of the troop, to get a report on an incident five years ago. Sinclair did not give details of the incident other than a parent had made a complaint at that time. Sinclair and the District Executive had met with Lankton and the parent and felt everything was resolved satisfactorily. Sinclair also said he would contact some parents. Later that night, Sinclair called Kroehler to report he knew of another parent who had a report of an incident. Sinclair told the parent to call Kroehler. (Note: - that parent never called).

9/22/81. Ralph Kroehler met with Jim Baldwin, Scouting Coordinator, and long-time friend of James Lankton, and reviewed the reports. Baldwin has a son in college who was in the troop a long time plus another son currently in the troop. Baldwin to check with some parents and his sons. Later that day Baldwin called Kroehler to say that he had talked to at least one parent and his son in college and there was no longer any question left in his mind about the reports.

9/21/81 - 9/22/81. Kroehler and Wilkins talked together on both days. Wilkins is convinced of the general correctness of the reports. They set up an appointment to see Med Tornow, Chairman of the Troop Committee, and an attorney, for 9/23/81.

9/23/81. Wilkins and Kroehler meet with Med Tornow and outline the problem. Tornow indicated some surprise but at same time said he had some concerns that had not been expressed about Lankton's actions. Tornow followed up with contacts of his own to confirm our reports.

Baldwin called Kroehler to report he had talked with his youngest son and definitely had no questions left.

Kroehler made appointment with Lankton for 11:00 A.M. at the Council Service Center on 9/24/81.

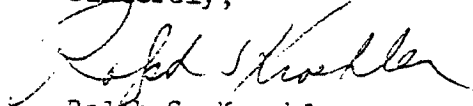
9/24/81. Robert Wilkins, Council President; Med Tornow, Troop Committee Chairman; and Ralph Kroehler, Scout Executive, met with James R. Lankton. Wilkins complimented Lankton on his

long service to Scouting and his great work, but told him we had reports of actions with boys unacceptable to Scouting, and asked for his resignation. No specific charges were made. After some expression of feelings Lankton signed a resignation. (copy attached)

Tornow and Kroehler then took Lankton to his minister's office.

There is greater detail of these actions in the file at the Council Service Center.

Sincerely,



Ralph S. Kroehler
Council Executive

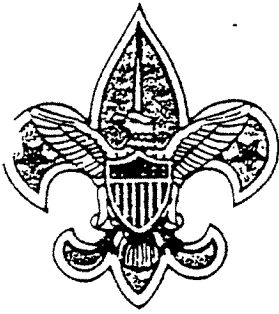
RSK/bu

cc/Robert Durgin, Associate Area Director

attach:

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Boy Scouts of America

W.D. Boyce Council No. 138

September 23, 1981

TO: LINDBERG SCHOOL PARENTS CLUB TROOP 304 AND
W. D. BOYCE COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Effective today, I resign all positions with both Troop 304 and the W. D. Boyce Council, Boy Scouts of America, and will not be able to take part in any Scouting leadership position.

September 23, 1981

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James R. Linton".

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