

# Mohegan Council of Boy Scouts Gives Silver Beaver Award to 4

The Mohegan Council, Boy Scouts of America, last night honored four scout leaders with the Silver Beaver Award during a ceremony at the Worcester Marriott Inn.

The Silver Beaver Award is the highest award a local council can bestow on a volunteer.

Receiving the award in recognition of "noteworthy service of exceptional character," were Walter T. McCann Jr. of Grafton, Dennis E. Parker of West Boylston, Donald W. Harris of Worcester and F. William Kobel of Auburn.

The Mohegan Council, which represents about 5,200 scouts and 2,000 scout leaders in Worcester County, has given the Silver Beaver Award annually since 1934.

## Chosen by Panel

The recipients are selected by a panel that includes former award winners, and their identities are kept confidential until the awards are presented.

Thirty-seven previous award recipients were at the annual reception dinner last night. About 200 scouts, leaders, family members and friends also attended.

In honor of the Diamond Jubilee of scouting, its 75th anniversary, diamond pins were presented to the 36 people at the reception with the most years of involvement in scouting. Each recipient had given at least 26 years of service to scouting.

Council President Austin W. Keane announced the awards of the diamond pins.

A three-layered cake adorned with flags and scout emblems and crowned with a "75" was wheeled into the room by Todd Bouche, Patrick O'Connor, Jason Perron and Christopher Palmer, all Cub Scouts with Pack 5, Trinity Lutheran Church of Worcester.

Gregory R. Szlyk, of Troop 141, Rutland Grange 242, received a standing ovation for his talk on "75 Years of Heritage and Me."

## 'Like Wine'

"Scouting is like wine," Szlyk said. "The older it gets, the better it tastes. Now it's at its very best."

David A. Sjosten, general manager of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette Inc., served as master of ceremonies for the evening. The invocation was of-



Gregory R. Szlyk

ferred by the Rev. Stephen Johnson of the Catholic Youth Corps of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester.

Edwin J. Wolfahrt, council commissioner, recognized the unit leaders who were present and thanked them for bringing a quality program to the youth of the council.

Robert L. Calvert, a retired professional scouter with 54 years of scouting service and a former scout executive of the Mohegan Council, was guest speaker.

Awards given at the dinner besides the Silver Beaver included the Wood Badge Bead, the top training recognition for scout leaders.

The award was presented by Roy F. Bourgault, Wood Badge coordinator, to Ralph M. Strout of Millbury, Paul M. Laconto of Charlton, Herbert A. Hutnak Sr. of East Douglas, Wayne R. Mallquist of Holden, Peter Smith of Worcester and Milton E. Ross and Edith M. Ross of Sturbridge.

Keane recognized the 1984 recipients of the District Award of Merit, the highest honor a district can bestow on a scouter.

They were: Parker, Joseph Clancy Jr. of Jefferson, Harold Colby Jr. of

Shrewsbury, Raymond Neslusan of Oxford, Wanda Homme of Webster, Strout, G. Clifford Anderson and Kenneth Martindale, both of Worcester, and Joseph DiMauro, formerly of Spencer.

## Presentation of Awards

Richard B. Collins, chairman of the Silver Beaver Awards Committee, coordinated the presentation of the Silver Beaver awards.

McCann, commissioner of the Hassenamisco District, has served as a Webelos leader, cubmaster, assistant adviser to an Explorer Post, assistant scoutmaster, scoutmaster, scouting coordinator and unit commissioner. He also has organized a Tiger Cub program.

He has reached brotherhood status in the Order of the Arrow and has earned the Train the Trainer's Award, the Scouter's Training Award, the Scouter's Key and his Wood Badge beads. He also has earned the Bronze Pelican and the St. George religious award.

Parker is Explorer adviser of Post 13 at First Congregational Church of West Boylston and Nimat District training chairman. He also served as a den leader, cubmaster, troop committee chairman, assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster.

He was assistant scoutmaster of the 1981 National Jamboree Troop, crew leader for the Philmont contingent in 1982 and 1984 and scoutmaster for the 1983 Council Junior Leader Training.

Harris is committee chairman of Troop 54 of the Unitarian-Universalist Church, where he has served for 11 years. He publishes a troop newspaper and has led the sustaining membership enrollment for more than five years.

He also has been active in the Boy's Club, the YMCA and the Order of DeMolay, and he is a master mason of Athelstan Lodge of Masons.

Kobel, treasurer of the Mohegan Council since 1976, "has proven invaluable, particularly at the beginning when the council was having serious financial trouble," Collins said.

He has served the finance committee, the scout executive and the executive board.

He has been an assistant coach for the Auburn Little League for 10 years and is a member and former president of the Exchange Club of Worcester.