

April 12, 2017 Troop 216 Committee Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Annette Schoeberle. In attendance: Steve Dunning, Grant G., Diane Gill, Steve Kupsy, Max Maier, Edgar M., Natasha McClintock, Mike O'Koniewski, Dan Ruark, Annette Schoeberle, Wes Searcy, Tim Valley, and Mike Veith.

Eagle Scout Project Presentation: Edgar M. presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the Committee. He plans to construct two benches for the Metro East Humane Society. The Committee asked a number of questions and approved the project.

Secretary Report: Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. A proposed amendment by Steve Dunning was discussed which would replace the sentence:

We received a federal tax identification number for the Troop and established a new checking account with the Bank of Edwardsville. Our funds have been transferred over and now we can use debit cards.

with:

We received a federal tax identification number for the Troop and have updated the checking account with the Bank of Edwardsville replacing the K of C tax number with our own. Our account now has debit cards assigned to each of the Troop members registered on the account.

Max Maier moved for approval with the amended sentence, seconded by Wes Searcy, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Tim Valley reviewed the March 2016 treasurers report. Highlights included:

- We are now using debit cards to make purchases.
- There were slightly more debits than deposits made in March.
- Some Scouts are now in arrears on dues. Steve Dunning will send an email directly to each of these Scouts and their parents.
- The Committee discussed the draft Scout account closeout policy that Annette Schoeberle had drafted and emailed to everyone before the meeting. Steve Dunning proposed a change to Annette's suggested language. The final language considered by the Committee was as follows:

In the event that a Scout leaves the Troop due to aging out, funds allocated to this Scout through fundraising activities may be used to pay for Eagle Court of Honor expenses, the purchase of camping gear, or other scouting related expenses with proper documentation (i.e. receipts). Reimbursement should be requested within 90 days of aging out. Remaining funds may be transferred to a younger sibling scout or

registered adult (parent), who remain active the Troop, for use towards future activities and scout related expenses.

Scouts that leave the troop and transfer to another scouting unit may request the balance of their scout account monies transferred to the new scouting unit.

Scouts who leave the troop for any other reason, may submit receipts for reimbursement of previously purchased camping or uniform expenses within 90 days of leaving the troop, otherwise the balance of available monies will revert back to Troop 216's general fund. For any Scout that has not rechartered at the end of a calendar year it will be presumed that they have left the troop and any balance remaining will revert back to the Troop's general fund 90 days from their last date of activity or end of the year, whichever is later.

If a scout returns to the Troop within the calendar year of leaving, previously forfeited funds can be credited back to the scout after payment of any outstanding recharter fees and/or dues.

The Troop Committee reserves the right to consider refunds on a case by case basis.

Tim moved for approval of this language as our Scout account closeout policy, seconded by Max, motion passed unanimously. We noted he will add the new language to the Troop documentation on the website.

Activities Chair Report: Diane Gill reported on the following:

- April 17: Deadline for early bird registration and merit badge enrollment for summer camp. The early bird cost is \$300 per Scout and \$145 per adult; it increases to \$315 and \$170 respectively after the early bird deadline. An email will be sent to parents about the deadline. As of this time, seven Scouts and two adults have registered, but we know of more who plan to do so.
- April 21-23: Campout and canoeing event at S bar F Scout Ranch. Fifteen canoes have been reserved and the fee for camping is \$28 per person. An email with permission slip has already been emailed.
- April 22: First Christian Church Bike Rodeo from 10 AM to noon. Scouts can participate and can man stations for service hours. Stations will help with safety checks, training, and other bike-related activities. An email has already been sent on this.
- April 24: CPR class from 6-9 PM at the Glen Carbon Fire Department (same night as the regular Monday Troop meeting at the Church). Eight people have already signed up and there is room for two to four more. The cost is \$5 each.

- May 12-14: Cahokia Mounds Spring Camporee. The event is Lewis and Clark themed and will include an 8 mile hike from River's Edge to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. This event needs to be presented to the Troop for consideration.
- May 19: A campsite at Camp Warren Levis has been reserved for a campout/canoeing weekend.
- June 9: A campsite at Camp Sunnen has been reserved for a campout/canoeing weekend.
- We still don't yet have a firm list of participants for the Boundary Water high adventure trip starting July 7. Annette recommended we set up a Google form for people to sign up for the trip because we need commitments soon for planning purposes. The Committee set a deadline of May 1 to have the roster finalized and it decided to ask for a \$50 deposit from each attendee to confirm serious interest (the deposit would apply in full to that individual's costs for going). An email on this will be sent.
- Max Maier is now a canoeing merit badge counselor.

Advancement Chair Report: John Evans was absent but Wes reported the Troop needs more merit badge counselors. He plans to send another recruiting email to Troop parents and leaders. He needs seven more counselors for the Troop to have a merit badge counselor for all Eagle rank required merit badges.

Council/District Representative Report: Wes Searcy provided a written report and flyers on upcoming events and council news to the Committee. He noted that there is an Explore Venturing event at Camp Warren Levis on April 28-30.

Fundraising Report:

- Annette reported that all 50 Camp Card were sold.
- Mike O'Koniewski reported money is now beginning to come in from Cardinals ticket sales. About 100 tickets have been taken for sale so far, out of 400. He expects sales to increase now that the baseball season has begun.

Quartermaster Report: Mike O'Koniewski gave the quartermaster report on behalf of Karen O'Koniewski. He noted that the knives from the camp boxes will all be sharpened. Wes added that he is making new knife sheaths for them all.

Communications Report: Steve Dunning reported that he had investigated how our Troop website could have an RSS feed or a subscription service to notify leaders and parents when a change was made to the Troop website. Unfortunately, the way our website is built, there is no obvious way to do this.

Wes Searcy suggested we post links to the Troop website on our individual Facebook pages to help advertise the Troop and assist in recruiting. This suggestion started a spirited conversation among Committee members about recruiting in general. Natasha

expressed concern that we have only one new Scout in the Troop this spring, while Troop 34, for example, has nine. Other members expressed similar concerns. Among the comments made were:

- Natasha advocated for getting Scouts to be Den Chiefs with local Cub Scout packs.
- Max noted he was promoting the Troop to Cub Pack adult leaders at Roundtable meetings, and Pack 216 is interested in starting a program with us.
- Steve Kupsy has a list of local Cub Pack leaders that he will send to everyone.
- Max asked for any personal contacts individual Committee members may have with local Packs as a way of introducing himself and the Troop.
- The Troop needs to work the fall Scout recruiting heavily.
- The annual lock-in would be a great recruiting tool.
- The Troop could put something in the Church bulletin. Mike Veith agreed.
- Natasha suggested we invite some Packs to participate in Rendezvous with us.
- Other options for recruiting events were mentioned, such as Skyzone or a pool rental.

The Committee did not take action on any of these ideas.

Senior Patrol Leader Report: Grant G. provided the SPL report.

- He reported that feedback on the Court of Honor was good. Attendees felt it was the right length and the ice cream was popular. Committee members praised the event and complimented Grant on his first performance as SPL. We reported that the district executive there that night for Friends of Scouting was very impressed.
- Order of the Arrow elections are this Monday night 17 April. Grant took a suggestion to run the elections early in the meeting to allow the OA presenters to run the election and get home earlier. Annette said she will send an email to remind everyone to attend, since at least 50% Troop attendance is required to run OA elections.
- Patrol leaders have been selected but he still needs to get that information to Mr. Evans.
- The appointed positions are not filled yet.

Scoutmaster Report: Gary Gill was unable to attend but he provided a written report (attached to the end of these minutes as an addendum).

Committee Chair Report: Annette Schoeberle reported the following:

- GSLAC sent her information on Council activities and news. She will send an email to us on this, but of note, it included:

- The Council will organize camping at Camp Pine Ridge in southern Illinois the weekend (18-20 August) immediately before the total solar eclipse on 21 August. The cost is \$20 per camper.
- As of April 1, the BSA Tour and Activity Plan will no longer be required for Troop activities involving long distance travel. However, the old requirements are still suggested as good guidelines for Troops to follow for longer trips.
- She has done some research on options for a new Eagle Scout plaque for the Troop and Church. She passed around materials on various options, some of which could be projects for the Troop to actually make the plaque. No action was taken.

Charter Organization Representative Report: Mike Veith did not have anything to report on behalf of the Church.

Old Business: At its March 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed the timing for putting out flags on veterans' graves at Woodlawn Cemetery for Memorial Day. It decided to ask the cemetery if Monday May 22 would be acceptable (in lieu of a normal Troop meeting). No report on this topic was made at the April meeting.

New Business: Dan Ruark what interest Committee members had in having Troop Committee meetings start at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30. After brief discussion, Dan moved that the start time for Troop Committee meetings be 7:00 PM beginning with the May 2017 meeting. Wes seconded the motion and it passed 12-1.

Motion to adjourn by Max, seconded by Wes, approved unanimously.

ADDENDUM: Scoutmaster Gary Gill's Written Report for April, 2017

Scoutmaster Report

- Troop conducted themselves very well at Beaver Dam. High Ropes was a success, too cold for zipline again. Edgar and the Patrol Leaders set expectations and ensured the Scouts could accomplish what they needed to. Newest Scout, Elliott, probably wore himself out. Trevor led a service project of picking up trash around the lake. ~12 people assisted, 2 hours?
- Need to ensure we have agenda and assigned duties for each meeting. Flags, Chaplain, presentations, etc. Let's look ahead to when/if we want to meet outside (summer).
- SPL: let's get a PLC booked.
- This should be my last night of conflict. School is over May 2. No further planned work things.

- Kudos to Mrs O’Koniewski for organizing/labeling stuff in the trailers. Also to Bryan O’K for starting the effort to get all patrol boxes loaded uniformly.
- We have 10 propane tanks, all have some amount of fuel in them. U-Haul in East Alton has best rates (BZ Mr Evans!), but requires minimum quantity for good rate. Also, tanks need to be swapped, can’t be refilled if over 10 years old.

Boundary Waters Trip Planning

- Need names and deposit for commitment, can start gathering that April 17. Deposit is refundable until June (Pack Sack deposit is due then). We can have up to 18, if we fall short we can go with one crew, or open up to Venturers and/or another Troop.
- Will utilize previous roster for tracking Scout and Adult training/preparation.
- Need to designate Scout Crew Leader(s). SPL and ASPL?
- Intend to allow participation from all Scouts and interested Adults. Desire that those going will participate in prep campouts and meetings. Exceptions can be made, but should be discussed with Scout Crew Leader(s) and SM.
- Will send recommended gear list and link to planning documents (Google Drive).
- S bar F campout will have full camping gear (both trailers), will focus on simpler meals, single-pot, and will show field sanitation techniques for high adventure. Is Max Maier a Canoeing MB Counselor?
- May and June campouts will make lightweight stoves, single-pot meals, low-impact camping more of a priority. Need to emphasize fire-building and stove-lighting, bear bags and basic knot/rope skills.
- Want Scouts to self-select crews (with guidance and approval) after 1 or 2 canoeing campouts, once we assess skills and interpersonal issues. Will have 2 crews that interact very little during the time on water. Parents and sons should be together, try to balance skills and abilities.
- Route planning can start any time, recommend Grant and Reece lead that (with support). Both have been there, with different experiences. We’re locked to entry at Mudro, exit planned for Falls Lake but can be changed. Route doesn’t have to be set until we arrive.
- Really, really want to emphasize having Scouts help each other prepare rather than adults telling them what to do.
- My intent is to provide this opportunity to all Scouts, not just those going on the trip. Everything done in preparation will be applicable toward advancement and/or merit badges.
- Cost should be close to previous excursion, want to have Scout accounts credited with enough to cover expected costs, we can amortize travel cost across those who go then settle up final costs when we return.