

## **December 13, 2017 Troop 216 Committee Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Annette Schoeberle. In attendance: Tim Valley, Diane Gill, Mike O'Koniewski, John Evans, Tara Kuhne, Gary Gill, Reece W., Mike Veith, PJ Welsh, Steve Dunning, Bob Schoeberle, Neil Joellenbeck, Steve Kupsky

**Secretary Report--** Secretary Dan Ruark was not in attendance. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Corrections included the spelling of Reece W. and clarification under the Council/District Representative Report that there is a discount for the second summer camp if the Troop attends two within council. Steve Dunning moved for approval of the minutes with the noted corrections and Mike Veith seconded.

### **Treasurer's Report--** Tim Valley

- Tim provided printed copies of the November Treasurer's Report.
- Deposits were up due to rechartering fees, campout receipts, and the wreath and Cardinal calendar fundraisers.
- Debits included expenses of the wreath fundraiser, and camping fees and food associated with Hawn State Park and Lock-in.
- Discussion included the clarification that Scout account funds are available to be transferred to follow the Scout when relocating to a different troop.

### **Activities Chair Report--** Diane Gill

- The Beaumont January 19-22, 2018 campout is the only thing currently scheduled.
- Once the Scouts provide their list of interested activities generated from the recent PLC, more will be added to the calendar.
- There has been input from the Scouts as to desired summer camps and the Scouts' decision should be finalized in January.
- Don Halpin is serving as the Troop's High Adventure Coordinator. He will be generating an email soon with the deadline for final commitment to the Philmont trip in July 2018. Gary Gill stated that of the Scouts going, selection of Crew Leader, Chaplain, and Guia (Guide) will need to be made in addition to the selection of trek routes.

### **Advancement Chair Report--** John Evans

- A question was posed asking if the sharing an electronic copy of advancement information was amenable to the Committee. There was no negative feedback to this option, however, the SPL will continue be provided a printed copy.
- Four Scouts had recent Board of Reviews and passed for rank advancement. A few merit badges have been achieved.
- New Scouts data has now successfully been added and completed within Troopmaster.

- The Troop roster is now updated.
- The license for software currently used expires February 2018. A survey will go out to Scout families to see if they find it useful and would they prefer to keep it. A decision regarding renewal will be made next month.
- Neil Joellenbeck shared information of another Troop's use of Scoutmaster/Scoutbook.
- Reece W. expressed he felt it would be helpful for scouts and parents to readily have access to advancement information.
- Shane Smith is helping in Advancements and picking up the use of the system well.
- Trevor W. has his Eagle project council approval scheduled for tomorrow night.
- Edgar M. has his Eagle ceremony scheduled for this Saturday at the First Christian Church.
- Annette Schoeberle stated the new Eagle plaque will be available by that time. The church is generously paying for the new plaque and the Troop will pay for the name plates and engraving. The cost of the new plaque was around \$200 and considerably less than first estimates and what the Committee approved for purchase of the new plaque.
- Certificates of Recognition from the local and national American Legion organizations were secured by Larry Miller and will be presented to Edgar at his ceremony.

#### **Council/District Representative Report-- Steve Kupsky**

- The Troop received a ribbon for Scouting for Food participation.
- Flyers are available for summer camps within GSLAC including at S bar F Scout Ranch (Gamble, Swift Base, and Famous Eagle) and Camp Llewellen.
- National Youth Leadership Training will occur at Council camps, is a week long, and is available for more experienced scouts to attend.
- University of Scouting held at Granite City HS January 27, will be the sole one offered for GSLAC this winter. Registration is open and classes are filling. Link is on the Council site.
- Upcoming STEM events include 12/16 at UMSL, 1/6 at SEMO, 2/24 at SIU-Carbondale
- Merit Badge Counselor directory searches may be made by zip code, district, or merit badge
- A "hardcore" Klondike Derby hosted by Cahokia Mounds and Piasa Bird District will be 1/13 at Camp Warren Levis, registration is \$10/scout or \$12 after 1/6
- Order of the Arrow Lodge dues are up soon. Steve K will send out an email to those involved requesting that payment to go to the Troop treasurer so the Troop can make a single payment.
- Gary recognized Steve K in the new position of Unit Commissioner. This role is not technically part of the Troop so he will be unable to serve on Boards of Review or Committee votes. His previous duties of Council Rep required attendance of the Roundtable meeting once a month at the First Christian Church. He is willing to continue in this role but will step aside if another adult is interested.

### **Fundraising Report-- Mike O'Koniewski**

- 20 wreaths and 59 calendars were sold
- He is waiting for information from the Cardinals organization on available game dates to possibly sell tickets again as a fundraiser. He has had contact with Troop 1072 regarding the opportunity to share the number of tickets to be sold. No commitment has been made yet on selling Cardinals tickets.
- Bob Schoeberle expressed concerns with the risks of selling Cardinal tickets based on last year's difficulties with sales being slow and the Cardinals lowering their ticket prices after the Troop began their sales. He felt concerned that by it being an optional fundraiser for individual Scouts, any funds gained goes to the individual Scout's account but any losses must be shared by all Scouts as Troop funds would have to cover any shortfalls.
- Annette Schoeberle added that some of the unsold tickets (approximately 10-15 of 280 total) were used for the Troop's recruitment efforts.
- It was proposed that scouts and families be asked for feedback on their interest in the Cardinals tickets fundraiser.

### **Quartermaster Report-- John Evans**

- All tents are accounted for.
- The trailer is still in need of a new taillight. It will be measured and ordered from a trailer supply source. Gary indicated he and John will coordinate on making the order.
- The repaired stove was not tested on the last campout.
- Working lanterns are down to two due to broken globes and needing mantels replaced. More care in packing needs to be emphasized. The mantel supply on hand should be sufficient but the globes will need to be purchased at approximately \$11-\$15 each.
- Tent poles are needing replaced and a suggestion for getting four sets was made.
- The small trailer needs painting. The option of vinyl wrapping was mentioned.
- Steve Kupsy commented that he felt the Troop logo could be larger on the trailer.
- Gary brought up gear requirements for Philmont include providing our own ground tarps. He is looking for a source of discarded Tyvek house wrap scraps that would make 5x7 tarps. Tent stakes will not be a problem. Don Halpin has donated a WhisperLite stove and Tara Kuhne indicated she has one the Troop may use. Some items like backpacks will be available for rent at Philmont. Gary suggested investment should be made in proper boots and socks. Practice with gear will be available at the upcoming campouts.

### **Communication Report-- Steve Dunning**

- The Scout Webmaster position is open. He would like a Scout to be hands-on with the website including entering news items.
- Discussion included the options for restricted access to certain information. WordPress offers a subscription that has a user sign up or a log-in through Facebook or Google is another way to enter into secure areas.

- Troopmaster can be used for email, permission forms, and links, including a link to the Troop website.
- It was felt that feedback as to Scout families' interest in the website use or Troopmaster would be helpful.
- Discussion included concerns with adults having limited access to pertinent medical information during events, particularly campouts. Diane indicated an additional line is now on the permission forms that asks for any pertinent medical information. Typically the Scoutmaster is fully aware of the medical statuses, but in situations in which the Scoutmaster is not present, we need a procedure to insure all adults present are told of any relevant medical issues.

#### **Senior Patrol Leader Report-- Reece W.**

- A Patrol Leaders Conference was recently held. An email will be going out soon related to making a decision of summer camp and the potential upcoming activities discussed at the PLC.
- A remixing of patrols will occur in order to rebalance the groups.
- Gary suggested on the first meeting of every month the Patrol Leaders and Adult Leaders touch base.
- John mentioned a reminder might be needed that Scouts need to be participating in the meetings and should not be using opportunities to hide out to avoid activities.
- Gary said he would like to see more structure in the meeting agendas.

#### **Scoutmaster Report-- Gary Gill**

- A thank you goes out to all that participated in the Veterans Day parade and Scouting for Food.
- The Hawn State Park campout in November conflicted with Scouting for Food pick-up and was lightly attended. Only 5 scouts were present, however the campsite was found to be "enormous and excellent." Despite the cold weather, the scouts did very well; especially notable was Garrett V as SPL. The scouts prepared in advance for the upcoming turn in the weather. Steaks were donated by Max Maier and Steve Dunning shared his expertise in preparing them. A two-hour hike was made across rugged terrain with the Scouts performing well and with no complaints. This site would be recommended for a shakedown campout in preparation for Philmont. It is a 1.5 hour drive there.
- Regarding the Lock-in, thank you to those covering that event in Gary's absence. 18 scouts and 4 adults were present. Participation in swimming was reported as very limited (4 scouts). Scouts expressed concern with the quality of Internet connection. Food feedback was positive for the "quantity and quality" however it was noted that many hotdogs were left over. Diane suggested a later discussion for future Lock-ins cost considerations. For the two past years our number of Scouts paying to participate has decreased while the rental cost has not, so with the cost of food, a shortage of approximately \$100 has remained after the fees were collected. Adults have been able to attend at no cost in order to encourage adult participation.

- Gary attended Philmont Advisor Skills School at Beaumont in November. CPR and Wilderness First Aid Training will be required of at least two crew members on the Philmont trek. Tim Valley indicated his Wilderness Training was taken January 2017 and Gary reported his has lapsed.
- Gary commented that he notices the Scouts have raised the bar in the role of Chaplain. The prayer portion of meetings and events has continued to improve and the standard the Scouts have set themselves has risen to a noteworthy level.

#### **Committee Chair Report--** Annette Schoeberle

- Tara Kuhne is now serving in the role of New Member Coordinator and Tara has provided suggested updates to the Parent Guidebook regarding uniform details. These will be reviewed at the January meeting and considered then for final approval. The Adult Resource Survey, formerly known as the Parent Involvement/Interest form, will also be reviewed. Tara added that a current roster is now included in the Welcome documents.
- Pack 34 has reached out to the Troop for information and in order to coordinate Webelos' visits to a meeting and possibly campout. Mike O'Koniewski is in contact with them. Discussion included extending an invitation to them for the Jan 22 and Jan 29 Troop meetings, and expanding our cabin occupancy for the January 19 Beaumont campout or trying for a February date.
- Janice Little, President of the Edwardsville Garden Club, is asking for any assistance from Scouts in setting up tables for their plant sales, spreading mulch in gardens, etc. It was added that her term expires after April.
- Work towards the Journey to Excellence continues. Service hours information is needed to input. John will pass along this information.
- Council contacts have been made to address the Troop Leadership succession plan, especially for the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster positions. The Troop is looking for feedback or interest in helping to find a way of moving forward in filling these positions.
- Steve Kupsky offered that in the past, the process of Troop 216 involved a candidate interviewing with committee members. Another option mentioned was to make a list of those to be considered and approach them privately to see if they are interested.
- Gary Gill indicated he would also be looking for any Cub parents to become involved and would not limit potential candidates to current Troop members.
- Mike O'Koniewski said he will contact Webelo groups and post an informational flyer for recruitment.
- Current chartered members count is 23 youth and 21 adults.
- Other ideas for fundraising were mentioned including hosting a dinner in conjunction with the Church.

#### **Chartering Organization Representative Report--** Mike Veith indicated no report.

**Old Business—**none

**New Business—**none

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:18pm by PJ Welsh and seconded by Mike O'Koniewski.