

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10555 West Road
Jan. 8, 2013**

Attending were Kevin Meier, Steve Ware, Becca Franco, Mark Danheim, Neal Farmer, Wade Bitter, Bobby Hale, Laban Marsh, Jon Metcalf, Tim Girgenti, McCall Sessions, Ajey Chandra, Mike Kasper, Randy Thomas, Bob Hohne, Vickie Oehring, Terry Gordon and Robert Dunn.

Opening: Welcome was by Kevin Meier and pledge and prayer were by Wade Bitter.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

It appears that the district will achieve silver status for the Journey to Excellence Program for 2013, but it could be gold. The district will be awarded the status at the Key Leaders Conference on Sat., Jan. 12 at the Cockrell Center.

Our membership growth needs to improve, district-wide, as it was lower than last year. There are more than 1,800 registered youths in Soaring Eagle, which is more than 120 less than last year. There are 85 units, which is the same as last year.

Unit commissioners are asked to monitor Cub Scout and Boy Scout advancements, as there are questions as to whether the newly created electronic input of advancements was successful. District Chairman Kevin Meier said that the commissioners have done a great job overall for the district. And he encouraged them to familiarize themselves with the Journey to Excellence Program to see what needs to be done on a timely basis so there will be less scrambling at the December deadline.

For unit visits by commissioners, 38 percent of SED units had six or more visits by commissioners – which makes silver status in that metric. District Commissioner Mark Danheim would like to see that number increase. Kevin also wants more unit leaders to undergo Boy Scout training.

Also, the Colonneh Order of the Arrow achieved gold in Journey to Excellence, with 1,600 points out of a possible 1,800, said OA leader Randy Thomas.

FINANCE

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – The overall goal is \$78,210 was surpassed in 2012, the district raised \$100,900 – or 129 percent of the goal. The 2013 goal is to raise \$78,177.

FAMILY CAMPAIGN – The Family Campaign will have a new chair – Stirling Pack.

PATRON DINNER – This fundraising dinner will be at 7 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 28, 2013, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church at West Road and Wheatland. Plans by the steering committee already have been put into action to invite all leaders and parents in SED. People can sponsor tables, and there will be a silent auction to try and raise money for the district's budget. Individual tickets also are

available. Donations for silent auction items will be accepted by Neal Farmer. Please consider donating or securing items for the auction in January, as some companies who donate require a four-week waiting period. If you have something to donate, please contact Neal at 713-849-9860, or nfarmer07@att.net, in advance of the Patron's Dinner.

POPCORN – Sales were \$101,135, which was down from last year's \$135,570. Wanda Pinson was the popcorn leader, and was cited by the district committee for running a very smooth pick-up of the popcorn by the parents and leaders in area units. Plans are to recognize her at the Jan. 26 Soaring Eagle District Dinner.

MEMBERSHIP

We have approximately 1,800 youths in the district in 85 units.

New Troop 821 at From the Heart Ministries had multiple troop meetings.

Pack 655, which is the Odyssey Preparatory School and meets at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, needs a unit commissioner to serve as Pack trainer.

There needs to be follow-up with a Pack at Fairbanks UMC with Pastor Cramer Johnson.

Kevin Meier said that the district needs to look at more places to start or re-start units. We lost Cub Packs at Holbrook and Francone elementary schools, but all the kids who recently joined have been placed in current Packs.

COMMISSIONERS

NEW UNIT COMMISSIONER RECRUITING – More commissioners are wanted.

UVTS UPDATE – If you have had problems entering your unit visitation data, please e-mail your information to Mark Danheim and he will input the data for you. Mark's e-mail is mark.danheim@pointsmith.com.

RE-CHARTER UPDATES – There are 39 defective re-charters out of the 80 in the district that are due in December. Most are a lack of Youth Protection Training cards, leader applications, and blank disclosure forms. Anything that unit leaders take to the Cockrell Center to turn in for re-chartering needs to be placed in an envelope with District Executive Nancy Salinas' name on it. Please do not turn in re-charters at the front desk at this point in the process.

PROGRAMS

2012 DISTRICT DINNER – Is at 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 26, at the LDS Church, 10555 Mills Road, Houston, 77070. Becca Franco is looking for a troop to perform the Opening Ceremonies and to help with set-up and clean-up. Nominators of selected recipients will be notified Wed., Jan. 9. Tickets will go on sale at the SED Roundtable on Jan. 10 at the LDS Chapel on West Road. Mike Kasper will

have tickets at the Boy Scout Roundtable and Bob Dunn will have tickets at the Cub Scout Roundtable.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE – District units – led by Venturers and the Order of the Arrow – helped the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Clubs collect, sort and deliver 48 bushels of food – called Cheer Baskets – to area needy. Families are nominated by their respective school nurses to receive the aid, which included frozen turnkeys, perishables, non-perishables, and other items. Actual delivery of the baskets can be a life-changing experience for older Scouts. The Lion's Club sent their appreciation to the District.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD – Laban Marsh will oversee Scouting for Food. Placards with bags will be placed on the doors of area homes on Jan. 26. Scouts will be asked to go back to those homes on Sat., Feb 3, during the Super Bowl. Units can look on the Sam Houston Area Council to see where food can be delivered, if they do not already had a place in mind. Materials will be passed out at the January Roundtable.

DAYCAMP SCHOOL – will be June 11-14 at the Cypress Bible Church, 11711 Cypress-North Houston Road 77439. Ronna Stonely will head this event.

TRASH BASH – Will be March 23, with the pick-up spot for workers in our area at Bang Elementary School. Participants will go to a part of a near-by bayou and pick up trash, and will receive breakfast and a T-shirt. More information to come from SED's Todd Running at the January Roundtable.

SED CAMPOREE AND WEBELOS DO YOUR BEST CAMPOUT – The two items were left off of last year's calendar, so area leaders got with Becca Franco and will hold both events on the same day at the same place. They will be at Bovay Scout Ranch on April 19-21.

CUB SCOUT ROUNDTABLE – We need a Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner. Applicant needs to be "silly" about Cub Scouting. A support team already is in place and awaiting a leader.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN POSITION – We are looking for a district quartermaster. The district's items in storage already have been organized.

WEBSITE – Please send all updates to Rich Weiser for the website. His e-mail is richw47@gmail.com.

FACEBOOK – The district has a Facebook page, called "Soaring Eagle District." On Facebook, go to that site and ask to be friends, and you will be friended. Immediate information can be found on the Facebook page. Pictures of recent events around the district are being posted on the page.

KEY LEADERS CONFERENCE – The conference is 8:30 a.m., Sat., Jan. 12 at the Cockrell Center. You can sign up by going to www.shac.org. All leaders are welcome to attend and be trained. This also is where district's will learn if they are gold, silver or bronze for Journey to Excellence.

ARROW OF LIGHT – Jan. 19th is the last Arrow of Light dance ceremony for Webelos II kids who will cross over to Boy Scouts. The event is at dark, at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. Look for dancing Indians.

SED MINUTE

Nancy Salinas was at Boy Scout training and unable to make this month's meeting.

START, STOP, LISTEN – Kevin Meier thanked the committee for a job well-done for 2012. He said Soaring Eagle is a great district do to the volunteers.

This committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The only district event in July is the annual picnic. Please let me know of any changes, additions or corrections to these minutes, no matter how small or trivial.

Sincerely,

- Neal Farmer
- 713-849-9860 – home office
- 713-899-0783 – cell