

**Soaring Eagle District  
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10555 West Road  
Feb. 5, 2013**

Attending were Kevin Meier, Steve Ware, Becca Franco, Griff Danheim, Neal Farmer, Jon Metcalf, Mike Kasper, Randy Thomas, Bob Hohne, Bob Steubing, Claudia Jorgensen, Terry Gordon, Ronna Stonely and Kelly Kenney.

Opening: Welcome was by Neal Farmer, and pledge and prayer were led by Kevin Meier.

**JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE**

Soaring Eagle District achieved gold status for 2012 in JtoE, and we were given the news 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.

District Membership Chairman Griff Danheim said that there are 1,764 registered youths in Soaring Eagle, as of Feb. 5, 2013.

We did a better job of reporting visits to units via the Internet, which helped SED make gold status for JtoE.

**FINANCE**

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – This year's goal is to raise \$78,177, and so far \$15,725 – or 20 percent – has been raised.

We need to set up FOS presentations at the district's units, and we need more presenters for such campaigns.

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

PATRON DINNER – This fundraising dinner will be at 6:30 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. Please order tickets through Wade Bitter at [wade.bitter@gmail.com](mailto:wade.bitter@gmail.com). Donations for silent auction items will be accepted by Neal Farmer. Please consider donating or securing items for the auction, which could be oil changes, baseball tickets, ballet tickets, points from airlines, gift cards to restaurants, sports memorabilia, Scouting items, etc. If you have something to donate, please contact Neal at 713-849-9860, or [nfarmer07@att.net](mailto:nfarmer07@att.net), in advance of the Patron's Dinner.

SCOUT FAIR – More tickets will be available at the February Roundtable. You also will be able to turn in money for ticket sales at that Roundtable. So far 25 units have registered to sell Scout Fair tickets and the goal is for 34 units to sign

up to sell popcorn. Volunteers are needed for Thursday money turn-ins, which are each Thursday until the Scout Fair (except Valentine's Day).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We have approximately 1,764 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. One idea to land Tiger Scouts is to recruit kindergarten kids, who are eligible to join Cubs when they graduate kindergarten. We will work on a plan to register them and get them to attend Summer Day Camp.

Also, Kevin Meier formerly was in a committee that called Cub Scouts who dropped out of Scouting, and tried to get them to join Boy Scouts. It has been called "leakage" when kids graduate from Cub Scouts but do not join Boy Scouts. That idea was pitched as a solution to try and retain kids who already have been in Scouts.

Training is crucial to a unit's success. All were encouraged to attend and invite friends to attend University of Scouting on Feb. 9. All also are invited to take advantage of the Cub Scout Pow Wow this is offered each fall.

## **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](mailto:mark.danheim@pointsmith.com).

RE-CHARTER UPDATES – There are still some defective charters. Mark Danheim wants to make sure commissioners contact those units that have had problems. Many attending the February District Committee Meeting said that the problems have been fixed but have not yet shown up on the report from the Sam Houston Area Council.

Scott Laycock from the Sam Houston Area Council will be at the February Roundtable to take updates for re-charters.

## **PROGRAMS**

2013 DISTRICT DINNER – The dinner to celebrate what went right in 2012 with the district was very successful, and many volunteers were thanked for their efforts to ensure its success.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD – Laban Marsh oversaw Scouting for Food, where SED units put out placards on doorsteps on Jan. 26 and picked up bags of food on Feb. 3 – which are back-to-back Saturdays. The district has almost 4,000 pounds of food collected, with some still to come.

SUMMER DAY CAMP – will be June 11-14 at the Cypress Bible Church, 11711 Cypress-North Houston Road 77439. Ronna Stonely will head this event. Kickoff for leaders training is Feb. 21. For more information, please contact Ronna at [gonzimom@juno.com](mailto:gonzimom@juno.com). The idea is also to train Pack parents at the March Roundtable.

The last day to register for Day Camp for current scouts is May 1.

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 February 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. We will have shotguns, archery, tomahawk and many other events.

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**

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

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Mike Kasper attended the Key Leader Conference and listened to a risk management seminar. He said that the district needs a risk-management committee, made up of medical experts such as doctors, nurses and EMT technicians. He also would like to see a Council risk-management policy manual.

**MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS** – The district has been using the wrong procedure for merit badge counselors. Some units are allowing parent to be counselors without registering with the district. Merit badge counselors should always register through the district, not on the unit level. Register on a merit-badge counselor form listing specific merit badges. You can choose on that form whether to be a counselor only for their son's unit, or on a district-wide or council-wide basis. The unit leadership does not sign the merit badge counselor forms; District leadership signs the merit badge counselor forms.

**ROUNDTABLE** – Roundtable was moved from Thurs., Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day), to Thurs., Feb. 7, for somewhat obvious reasons.

**OA BASH** – SHAC Corps is Feb. 22-24 at Bovay, which is a work project weekend. The Order of the Arrow Bash is April 5-7.

### **SED MINUTE**

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

**START, STOP, LISTEN** – Kevin Meier pointed out that Abraham Lincoln once said that if he was given six hours to cut down a tree, he would spend four hours sharpening the ax. Kevin said that sharpening the ax referred to many things – such as preparing for a meeting, getting together the things you need for a meeting, and training for a particular job. Kevin also said that the preparation should include taking care of one's spiritual life, social life, physical fitness, and a balance with your family life.

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