

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

Attending were Kevin Meier, Becca Franco, Neal Farmer, Jon Metcalf, Bob Steubing, Terry Gordon, Julia Thorman, Susan Flores, Stirling Pack, Vickie Oehring, Mark Danheim, Nancy Salinas, Tiffany Riggs, and Wade Bitter.

Opening: Welcome and pledge by Mark Danheim, and the prayer was led by Wade Bitter. A song was led by Vickie Oehring.

Tiffany Riggs was introduced as the new Soaring Eagle District Executive. She came to us from Tall Timbers District, which is The Woodlands and part of Conroe and Spring. She is a graduate of the University of Memphis and grew up in Memphis, Tenn.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

There are 18 metrics in the JtoE, but there are not many statistics available for review this early in the year. Kevin Meier wants the district to pay special attention to the areas of concern in the past, such as reporting commissioner visits to units.

Kevin wants units to keep up with the different areas in JtoE, instead of waiting until the end of the year when there would be a mad scramble. Most units should be able to turn in their rechartering, which include the JtoE program, in November. All units go to a December reporting for rechartering, which means that the council will be very busy with the reporting this year.

FINANCE

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – This year's goal is to raise \$78,177. With the \$14,760 raised so far from the fundraising Patron's Dinner on Feb. 28, the district has raised \$56,500, or about 72 percent of that goal.

Stirling Pack, who heads up the Friends of Scouting portion of family campaign, said that there are still some presentations to give units, but he has no way of knowing how much will be given.

Everyone present who attended the Patron's Dinner said the event was excellent, and the feedback they received was similar. The district had Houston Chronicle sportswriter John McClain as the emcee and Houston Texans president Jamey Rootes as the guest speaker. They were both given Soaring Eagle trophies.

The district's goal to sell Scout Fair tickets for the April 13 event is \$112,000, but we are at \$48,880 – or 44 percent of the goal. There is a goal of 34 SED units to have booths at the Scout Fair, but we are at 10 units. More volunteers are needed for Thursday evenings, when money for Scout Fair tickets sales are turned in at the LDS Chapel on West Road at Wheatland.

MEMBERSHIP

We have approximately 1,431 youths in the district in 82 units. We are down from last year's membership of 1,861 youths in 86 units. A way to get more youths to participate is to have spring recruiting.

All units are asked to promote Day Camp for all youths at their respective schools. There also are plans to have a teaching event in May to teach parents about Day Camp and what expectations are – like Tiger Cubs need to have an adult partner with them at all times. Parents also need to know that the unit is adult-driven, in that adults are needed for transportation, to help with meetings. Food at campouts, leadership, etc.

Becca Franco wants to create a new membership committee for the district. She wants to let units know that they can gain more membership if they participate in district-wide events where youths can see the units and participate with them.

There needs to be follow-up with a Pack at Fairbanks UMC with Pastor Cramer Johnson; A crew is under review at Foundry Methodist; There is an attempt at starting a Pack and a Troop in Spanish-speaking LDS Waller 2 Ward; There is interest in starting a Crew 663 in Spring Branch.

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. At this point, 11 units have been visited by six commissioners.

PROGRAMS

RONDEVOUS FOR VENTURERS – will be March 15-16-17 at Camp Strake. It will be a recruiting activity, as each member can bring a friend to participate.

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. 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. For more information, or

go to www.trashbash.org, call 291-486-9500. Participants will receive a T-shirt, lunch and a chance at door prizes.

SED CAMPOREE AND WEBELOS DO YOUR BEST CAMPOUT – 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.

CLASSROOM YPT – Save the date – There will be a classroom Youth Protection Training class, on May 11 at the New Hampton LDS Church, 12310 New Hampton Road Dr. in Tomball. The same venue will host classroom YPT on May 18 and June 1.

MERIT BADGE TRAINING – There will be merit badge counselor training at Roundtable at 7 p.m., Thurs., March 14. Please note that all merit badge counselors must register through the district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

SED MINUTE

Nancy Salinas said goodbye after serving the district for more than a year. She will go to the Longhorn Council, which is in Tarrant County. The district gave her a Soaring Eagle trophy with warmest appreciation for her work.

START, STOP, LISTEN – Kevin Meier paraphrased a platitude from Thomas Jefferson to end the meeting, saying: “Nothing can stop the man or woman with the right mental attitude. Nothing can help the man or woman without the right mental attitude.”

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
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- 713-899-0783 – cell