

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10555 West Road
May 7, 2013**

Attending were Bruce Sutherland, Kelly Kenny, Bob Steubing, Vickie Oehring, Becca Franco, Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Mike Kapser, Bob Hohne, Laban Marsh and Giff Danheim.

Opening: Welcome and pledge by Neal Farmer.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

There are 18 metrics in the JtoE, and only a few were mentioned this month. Growth -- We had two new units added this month – two Cub Scout Packs in Waller with the LDS group. That gives Soaring Eagle District 83 units, which is ahead of where we were last year at this time, but behind that total number of 86 units at the end of 2012.

Membership – There was a discussion about the proposed change in the national membership policy, which would allow gay Scouts but not gay Scouters. Sam Houston Area Council parents and Scouters were polled and of those responding about 70 percent said they did not want to change the current membership policy, which bans gays. SHAC will have 12 votes on May 23 at the National meeting, where the final decision is scheduled to be made, and SHAC decided to cast all 12 votes against changing the membership policy.

Unit Service Visits – Tiffany is conducting the Charter Partner visits to units in her capacity as the new District Executive.

FINANCE

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – This year's goal is to raise \$78,177. We do not have a final figure, but SHAC executives said that we are at 77 percent of that goal. In order to reach gold status for District Journey to Excellence, SED must reach the \$78,177 figure.

Plans for a call-down to raise more money toward the goal of \$78,177 are in the planning stages, pending what the outcome of the May 23 membership vote will be.

The SED top seller for Scout Fair tickets was Nicholas Lane, of Troop 1014.

MEMBERSHIP

The spring rally was a success at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, as we got 10 Cub Scouts to join and one Boy Scout. Membership chairman Griff Danheim congratulated Becca Franco, who coordinated the event and included a pushmobile and a rain-gutter regatta race. We also could have up to six more kids could join and go to Cub Scout Day Camp. Flyers were sent to all the elementary schools in CFISD in our district, except for some in the north, by

Karen Lade and Wanda Pinson. The plan is to have a district-wide spring rally the first Saturday of May at Foundry United Methodist Church from now on.

All units are asked to promote Cub Scout **Day Camp** – which is June 11-14 at Cypress Bible Church -- for all youths at their respective schools. Again, it was stressed to invite recent kindergarten graduates to attend Day Camp, so they will have a chance to join Cubs before they start the fall semester. Tiffany passed out direct mail cards from SHAC that are scheduled to arrive at home addresses soon.

COMMISSIONERS

UNIT HEALTH FORMS – The forms will be due at the end of May. Please get with your units, as this is an important part of the Journey to Excellence program.

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.

PROGRAMS

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. For more information, please contact Ronna at gonzimom@juno.com. The idea is also to train Pack parents at the May Roundtable.

SED CAMPOREE – Camporee was at Bovay Scout Ranch and was a success, with 56 leaders and 134 Scouts, said coordinator Steve Hargis. Laban Marsh led an archery range and Paul Tyllick and Crew 357 led a shotgun range. Multiple competitions also were held.

At the Camporee, 54 were called out for the Order of the Arrow honoring camping group, and there were three Brotherhood conversions.

WEBELOS DO YOUR BEST CAMPOUT – WDYB Campout was at Bovay Scout Ranch, at the same time as the Camporee, and had a good turnout with 125 in camp. There were 67 Webelos Scouts. Kudos to the troops and packs that sent adults to the campout to run events. The archery and BB gun ranges were overseen by Tony Franco. The archery range was run by Mike Kapser and Stephen Franco. And the BB gun range was run by Jason Camp and Tony Franco. Range assistants included Robert Hanraads and Todd Running. A great Adult Program also was held.

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.

NEW TRAINING CHAIRMAN – Laban Marsh has been named the new district training chairman.

SCOUTINGMASTER TRAINING – Bob Steubing has been named the leader of training for Scoutmaster Fundamental Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills. The next outdoor Scoutmaster training will be Sept. 24-26 at New Kentucky Park near Tomball. A second training is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 28-March 2 at the same venue.

GOOD TURN DAILY – Cheryl Moyers has been named chairman of the Good Turn Daily program. All Scouts who are applying for the Eagle rank **MUST** put their service hours on goodturnforamerica.org, and include the certificate as part of the Eagle application. Any person can turn in hours for any service project on the site. You and your unit each will get credit for the service hours, with the unit's hours credited toward the Journey to Excellence program. Projects Also, any SED Scouts or Scouters who record "green" service hours through goodturnforamerica.org can receive a SED patch and ribbon. Those Green service hours can include work at Trash Bash, Earth Day or Arbor Day projects. Bring certificates to the May Roundtable to receive a Unit Ribbon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER DISTRICT PICNIC – The summer picnic will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sat., July 27, at Bane Park off of West Little York near Gessner. The event will be co-coordinated by Jim and Amber Anderson. Hot dogs and buns will be provided, and will be cooked again by Bob Dunn. Each family is asked to bring a side dish. Please coordinate through Amber Anderson at amberanderson5190@sbcglobal.net, to make sure there are not too many of the same sides. You also are asked to RSVP to Amber to make sure there is enough food.

The fishing belt loop again will be offered, but you likely will need to bring a fishing pole. Other games include washers, horseshoes, watermelon spitting contest, stomp rockets and door prizes. Also there will be a contest to put rubber bands around a watermelon and see whose rubber band makes the melon explode. Indian dancers from the OA Iron Horse District also will perform.

WEBSITE – Please send all updates for the website to the vice chair of your area. Those updates will be funneled through them (i.e. Becca for programs) instead of being sent directly to webmaster Rich Weiser for the website, www.sedbsa.com. Those vice chairs are -- **Programs:** Becca Franco at francob@sbcglobal.net; **Finance:** Wade Bitter at wade.bitter@gmail.com; and **Membership** to Griff Danheim at griff.danheim@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Becca Franco ended the meeting by quoting Gandhi: The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

This committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month, except for June and 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