

**Soaring Eagle District  
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road  
Aug. 6, 2013**

**Attending were Vickie Oehring, Becca Franco, Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Mike Kapser, Laban Marsh, Mark Danheim, Steve Ware, Griff Danheim, Ajey Chandra, Linda Porras-Pirtle, John Brogan, Cheryl Moyers, Bob Steubing, Kevin Meier, Bob Dunn, McCall Sessions and Mike Walker.**

Opening: Welcome and pledge by Mark Danheim.

Introductions by Neal Farmer.

Song and Invocation by Vickie Oehring.

**JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE**

There are 18 metrics in the JtoE, and only a few were mentioned this month. We need to work more on membership and focus on fundraising. We also need more reporting of unit visits by unit commissioners.

**FINANCE**

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – This year's goal is to raise \$78,177, and we are at \$63,636 which is \$14,541 under budget. In order to reach gold status for District Journey to Excellence, SED must reach the \$78,177 figure. District Executive Tiffany Riggs said we are still waiting on some matching funds from companies that individuals have applied for. Tiffany will go through lists to look for more possible donations. And there are some units that have not yet had their Friends of Scouting presentations yet.

**MEMBERSHIP**

FALL RALLY – There are plans for Soaring Eagle District to try and have a Fall Cub Scout Rally on Sept. 10 at all Packs. However, Tiffany is still waiting to hear back from principals from elementary schools in Soaring Eagle District to see if that date works. The request is to have a second rally date in September. See the Soaring Eagle District Facebook page for updates.

FALL RALLY TRAINING FOR ADULTS – Membership chairman Griff Danheim attended a fall rally training session, and pointed out that there are new yard signs to advertise joining Cub Scouts – some of which are in Spanish. Griff is looking for a Fall Recruiting specialist who can coordinate the event(s). The initial date to train adults for rallies is Aug. 15, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland. Adult training is considered mandatory by SHAC.

WEBELOS – Bob Steubing will coordinate Webelos To Scout Expo, which is Oct. 25-27, 2013, at Bovay. The idea is that WTSE will be a retention event to try and

keep 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades involved in Scouting as well as a way to push kids into Boy Scouts from Webelos. Bob also has agreed to be the chairman for Webelos retention into Scouting, and help stop “leakage” of Cubs who do not transition into Boy Scouts.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

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). We have had a low number of unit visits reported on the computer system.

## **PROGRAMS**

EAGLE SCOUTS IN SED – Greg Leub said in an advancement report that we are up in both number of Eagle Scouts as well as Eagle Scout projects in the district. Last year, we had 24 Eagle projects and 31 Eagle Scout Boards of Review. So far in 2013, we have 42 Eagle Scout projects and 32 Eagle Scout Boards of Review.

Greg presented the Eagle Scout requirements at a Roundtable and has visited five troops to brief them on Eagle Scout requirements. Also, there is news about the Eagle Scout workbook. If a boy has not finished his workbook by Dec. 31, 2013, he will have to transfer his date to a new Eagle Scout workbook on Jan. 1, 2014. The new workbooks will have some changes, such as requiring the cooking merit badge for the top rank. There are still 21 merit badges for Eagle Rank, but the Eagle-required merit badges goes up from 12 to 13 with the addition of cooking.

BELT LOOP BONANZA – The BLB, which is an event used to recruit new Cub Scouts, is Sat., Sept. 21, at St. Timothy’s United Methodist Church, 8787 North Houston-Rosslyn, 77088. We plan to include archery and BB guns this year. Also, there will be BALOO training (all must have one BALOO-trained adult at all campouts) during the Belt Loop Bonanza. So adults can be trained as their kids achieve belt loops.

TIGER DAY – Tiger Day is Oct. 5 at Jersey Village Church of Christ. More details to come.

SCOUTMASTER 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 and Sept. 27-29 at New Kentucky Park near Tomball.

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](http://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. The Good Turn Chair will oversee the District's involvement with Scouting for Food, One Day of Caring, Trash Bash, Christmas Cheer Baskets and Wreaths Across America to encourage more community exposure for Scouting.

**RISK MANAGEMENT** – Mike Walker is now the district's Enterprise Risk Management chairman. That position is required in order for the district to reach gold status in the district Journey to Excellence metrics. The goal is to ask adults in a Soaring Eagle District unit who are an EMS, EMT, nurse or doctor to be on the District Emergency Response Team. We have to have a registered First Aid (First Responder) on staff at all district events; they do not have to be Scouters. Mike also wants to have a District First Aid Meet in January with the idea that it will prepare our units to participate in a SHAC First Aid Meet after that. It also was announced that if SED adults join the Citizens Emergency Response Team with the City of Jersey Village, the city will work with the District to train Scouters in First Aid and CPR/AED. See Mike for details.

**NEW TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT** – It was pointed out that all unit leaders – which means Cubmasters, Scoutmaster and Den Leaders (adults who have contact with kids) – will have to be trained in leader-specific areas in 2013, or the unit will not be able to re-charter in December.

**EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION** – Sam Houston Area Council has begun a local Eagle Scout Association, with Steve Hargis as the SED representative. That group will have meetings, from which local Eagle Scouts who are not associated with a troop or Pack can attend and offer to assist area units. Merit badge counselors could be obtained from this association. Suggestions included asking Eagle Scouts without a unit to assist with Camporee, and inviting them to the Patron's Dinner fundraiser in March.

**MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS** – SueAnne Wake will head the merit badge counselor program and update the list of qualified counselors. Counselors must be signed up through the District, not on the unit level. The signature on the application needs to be from the District Commissioner and not the Troop Committee Chair.

There will be merit badge training for adults at the SED Roundtable on Sept. 12 at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUMMER DISTRICT PICNIC** – The summer picnic was a big success, with photos on the SED Facebook page at “Soaring Eagle District.”

Congrats to co-coordinators Jim and Amber Anderson, as well as hotdog cooker extraordinaire Bob Dunn and all the other volunteers who made the event such a success. About 175 signed in at the event, but planners felt there were more than 200 who attended. A special thanks to the Houston Cy-Fair Lions Club

underwrote all expenses for the event. We plan to send them a thank-you plaque.

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](http://www.sedbsa.com). Those vice chairs are -- **Programs:** Becca Franco at [francob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:francob@sbcglobal.net); **Finance:** Wade Bitter at [wade.bitter@gmail.com](mailto:wade.bitter@gmail.com); and **Membership** to Griff Danheim at [griff.danheim@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

SILVER BEAVER – Three district people received the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest award from a council. Congrats to them for a well-deserved award. They are **Elizabeth Kasper**, **Rich Weiser** and **Alex Lamar**.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE’S MINUTE** – Tiffany Riggs said that the biggest challenge we have as a district is communication. She thanked Mark Danheim for presenting a flow chart at August’s district meeting that showed who to talk to for each department. Tiffany plans to give out booklets to each person on the district committee at the SED District Committee Meeting in September with instructions and ways to assist more communication.

**CLOSING** – Becca Franco read a quote from George Bernard Shaw: Perhaps the greatest service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family.”

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE MEETING IN JULY.**

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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