

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
Sept. 3, 2013**

Attending were Vickie Oehring, Becca Franco, Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Laban Marsh, Mark Danheim, Steve Ware, Linda Porrás-Pirtle, Bob Steubing, Kevin Meier, Bob Dunn, Jim Cash, Steve Hargis, Rich Weiser, Bobby Hale, Greg Leub, Wanda Pinson, Greg Richards, Ronna Stonely, Chris Laycock, Mark Hoffart and Mike Walker.

Opening: Welcome and pledge by Becca Franco.

Introductions by Kevin Meier.

Song and Invocation by Vickie Oehring.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

There are 18 metrics in the JtoE, and only a few were mentioned this month. For fundraising, we have to hit the assigned mark of \$78,177 or we cannot achieve gold status as a district for Journey to Excellence. Fall rallies also are important because they will help us hit our membership numbers.

FINANCE

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – This year's goal is to raise \$78,177, and we are at \$63,779. District Executive Tiffany Riggs said we have had call-downs at the Cockrell Center. 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, but will be visited.

POPCORN – Popcorn sales have begun. So far, 12 units have signed up to sell, with the district having a goal of 24 units to participate. On-line sales already have begun. If units want to participate on-line, please call popcorn kernel Wanda Pinson at wandapinson@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

FALL RALLY – Fall Rally for Cub Scouts mainly are scheduled in the district for Sept. 10. Other rallies will be on Sept. 19 and other dates, as some elementary schools have different dates that they can accommodate.

Remember that recruiting is a year-round process.

Turn-ins will be at the Backyard Grill Restaurant at Jones and West Road, from 7-10 p.m. on Sept. 10 and Sept. 19.

RE-CHARTER TRAINING – Vickie Oehring attended re-charter training and will teach unit representatives how to re-charter. That process will be touched on in at Sept. 12 District Roundtable, and will be taught more fully at the Oct. 10 District Roundtable.

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 5th and 6th 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. Boy Scout troops are asked to attend and hold a Scout Fair, where Webelos Scouts can see what different types of troops are available for them to join.

The plan is to have an Order of the Arrow ceremony at WTSE.

CAMPING CHAIR – District camping chairman Steve Ware was able to secure where the units in the district camped last spring for a data base. He is working on such a list for fall campouts. He said his job is to promote camping, and to promote camping at SHAC camps. He also pointed out that units can go through Harris County Precinct Three Parks Dept. to obtain free campsites that are close to home.

PACK FOLDS – A Pack at Hancock Elementary School, run by St. Timothy's Lutheran School, has folded. The 20-plus kids likely will all join Pack 1928 at Prince of Peach Catholic Church.

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

PROGRAMS

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 belt loops for archery and BB guns this year, as well as soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, conservation, music and computers.

Also, there will be BALOO training (all must have one BALOO-trained adult at all campouts) during the Belt Loop Bonanza at the same venue. 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. Tigers and their partners can earn a belt loop while adults are taught about Scouting and district events. This is an opportunity to recruit first graders into Cubs.

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, 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. Contact Mike for details at mikekim001@aol.com.

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 District Advancement Chairman Greg Lueb and not the Troop Committee Chair. New forms must be filled out now for all merit badge counselors, with no grandfathering. The easiest way is to come to Roundtable and drop off the form for Greg.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

JERSEY VILLAGE HS HOMECOMING – The Health Occupation Services Association at Jersey Village High School – a student organization for those who think they want to be health professionals – will have a float at the Sept. 24 Homecoming Parade in Jersey Village. The high school group will allow Cub Scouts to ride with them on the float, and allow Boy Scout troops to walk beside the float during the parade to promote Scouting. Please contact Becca Franco at francob@sbcglobal.net to participate.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE’S MINUTE – Tiffany Riggs has made folders for each district event/area chairmen and will hand them out. The folders will have responsibilities for each person in their area. She said she also is learning the different styles of leadership of the volunteers in the district.

DISTRICT CHAIR – Kevin Meier said that the district will start to look at people to fill positions for next year. Mike Kasper will be chairman of that nomination committee. Kevin also thanked everyone for their volunteer service. He said that the payout was in the way the kids perform after they graduate, using their leadership development and other skills.

CLOSING – Neal Farmer jokingly compared volunteering as a Boy Scout leader to playing a football game. Some will get the credit, like a running back scoring a touchdown, and others will be the pulling guards who do a lot of work but receive no credit. He said it is amazing how much people and groups can accomplish if they do not care who gets the credit.

Speaking of football, district chairman Kevin Meier is a graduate of BYU and vice chairman Neal Farmer is a graduate of the University of Texas. The two teams plays this weekend in Provo, Utah. **The person whose school loses has to wear the hat of the other team at a Boy Scout function.**

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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