

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
Oct. 1, 2013**

Attending were Vickie Oehring, Becca Franco, Ajey Chandra, Cheryl Moyers, Mike Kasper, Bob Weenig, SueAnne Wake, Jon Metcalf, Bob Hohne, Paul Houston, Susan Flores, Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Laban Marsh, Mark Danheim, Steve Ware, Kevin Meier, Bob Dunn, Steve Hargis, Wanda Pinson, Chris Laycock, Mark Hoffart and Mike Walker.

Opening: Welcome and pledge by Mark Danheim.

Introductions by Kevin Meier. Invocation by Jon Metcalf. Song was by Vickie Oehring.

Jon Metcalf invited everyone to attend a 100-year celebration of Scouting in the LDS Church at a reception at 7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 30 at the LDS Chapel at 10055 West Road at Wheatland. The building is expected to be full and district units are invited to attend and recruit new members. To contact Jon for questions about the gala, please e-mail jon@jonmetcalf.com.

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. The district currently has \$63,400, or 81 percent of that goal. We are looking at ways to increase giving.

FINANCE

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING CAMPAIGN – District Executive Tiffany Riggs said we have had call-downs at the Cockrell Center, and there are five units that have not had Friends of Scouting presentations. Presentations to the units will be scheduled.

BSA MEMBERSHIP FEE – The Boy Scouts have increase the national membership fee from \$12 a year to \$24 a year. The increase will take effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

POPCORN – Door-to-door popcorn sales began on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Internet sales already have begun.

The goal was for 24 units to sign-up to sell popcorn, and we currently are at 23. But another unit reports that they were unable to access the ability to sign-up through the Internet. So far, 13 units have been trained to sell popcorn. Sales are scheduled to stop on Nov. 29. Popcorn distribution will be on Dec. 14, at the place to be determined. To save costs, the popcorn distribution center will be shared with the Copperhead District.

For more information or to be trained, please call popcorn Kernel Wanda Pinson at wandapinson@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

FALL RALLY – Soaring Eagle District started the year in August with 1,451 members and today the district has 1,580 members. The goal for the fall recruiting drive was 280 new Scouts and the district brought in 151 new Scouts. Last year's year-end membership was 1,873. Scout executive Chris Laycock attended and said that membership appears to be down in a lot of districts. The discussion to increase membership centered around getting a better relationship with the Cy-Fair ISD principals and superintendent, getting Cubmasters excited about kids bringing friends to join, have kids in uniforms at bus lines, have kids perform flag ceremonies at the elementary schools, use www.beascout.org, and Cubs recruiting friends to join Packs. Another recommendation was to send rally training materials to district leaders earlier than it currently is so they can prepare for Open Houses and Meet the Teacher events.

RE-CHARTER TRAINING – Vickie Oehring attended re-charter training and will teach unit representatives how to re-charter. Training will be at the District Roundtables on Oct. 10 and Nov. 14, with another training each in October and November on dates to be determined.

Re-chartering packets will be available at the Oct. 10th Roundtable. Units can begin the process of re-chartering on-line on Nov. 1. Each unit leader needs leadership training in order to turn in the re-charters, which is something new for this year.

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.

One of the highlights of WTSE is the Order of the Arrow transition ceremony, where Webelos are introduced to the OA and receive a transition feather for their career arrow. This year's WTSE also will have a big event during the day.

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.

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

COMMISSIONERS NEEDED – District Commissioner Mark Danheim said that a couple of commissioners are close to retiring, and is looking for more commissioners to take their places. One place to look for more commissioners is Cub Scout moms whose sons have graduated to Boy Scouts and still want to be involved in Scouting. They have the Cub Scout information still at their fingertips and can be great resources for assisting Packs in need as a commissioner.

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 was a success with almost 40 Cub Scouts participating, despite a huge rainstorm that caused flooding and made it hard for people to attend.

Since BB gun shooting and archery were unable to be held due to the weather, there is an idea that the district would have those two events later in the fall so that Cubs can earn their belt loops in those areas.

A proposed BALOO training for Cub Scouts leaders at Belt Loop Bonanza (there must be at least one BALOO-trained adult at all Cub Scout campouts) was cancelled due to lack of participation, with the few who signed up sent to another district's BALOO training on the same date at a different venue.

TIGER DAY – Tiger Day is Oct. 5 at Jersey Village Church of Christ. 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.

FUN WITH SON – The Fun with Son program is Oct. 18-20 at either Camp Bovay or Camp Brosig. This is for any new Scout and a guardian, who will participate in activities and learn more about the scouting movement. There will be BB gun shooting, archery, crafts and more. For more information, go to www.shac.org/fun_with_son. Send questions to funwithson@shac.org, or call 713-756-3303.

PUSHMOBILE – Pushmobile has been moved from Dec. 7 to Dec. 14. It remains at Mills Road LDS Church, 10555 Mills Road, Houston, 77070. Karen Lade and Lisa Clark will co-chair the event. Pushmobile will conflict with Wreaths Across America and district popcorn distribution, but other districts have had their Pushmobile on the same date with the Wreaths and popcorn distribution and been able to work out schedules.

COUNCIL COORDINATED – The Council meeting for all leaders – and all interested parents -- to learn more finance, leadership, membership,

advancement, Friends of Scouting, communication and other areas – is at 7 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 24, at the Cockrell Center. All are invited to come out and learn about how the Boy Scouts is organized.

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 or SueAnn.

DISTRICT DINNER – The Soaring Eagle District Dinner is 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 25, 2013, at a place to be determined. Please think about who you would like to nominate for district awards, which will be given out at this event. Award forms will be available at Roundtable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHAC SILVER BEAVER DINNER – Soaring Eagle District has three who will be honored with the Silver Beaver Award – the highest honor a council can give a volunteer. The dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues, Oct. 15, at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay St., Houston, TX 77024, in Memorial. For more information, see the SHAC website at www.shac.org. This event does not require tickets. Please come and enjoy seeing our friends being honored.

Guest speaker is Dr. Red Duke, and the emcee is Ch. 2 news anchor Bill Balleza.

CUB SCOUT LEADER POW WOW – The Cub Scout leader training event is at Davis High School, 12525 Ella Blvd., Houston, TX 77067. This is a learning extravaganza that all Cub leaders should consider attending. You can register on-line at www.samhoustonbsa.org/training. If you have questions, e-mail kathy Bozarth at kathy.bozarth@scouting.org. Several of our SED parents will be instructors.

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.

ARROW OF LIGHT – The Order of the Arrow will put on the Arrow of Light ceremonies for Webelos Scouts transitioning to Boy Scouts at 7 p.m., Sat., Dec. 7, at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. There will be another ceremony in January on a date to be determined. To get more information, please e-mail vc.communications@colonneh.org.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE’S MINUTE – Tiffany Riggs wanted the district to try and recruit more kids for the area units. She also passed out a SHAC newsletter to all who attended, with the fall schedule of council events.

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 with names presented at the November SED Committee Meeting.

CLOSING – Becca talked about Kareem Abdul-Jabar, with Los Angeles Lakers professional basketball player, who made a 20-point proposal entitled “20 Things Boys Can Do To Become Men.” Part of the points are to treat adults with respect and to take action when necessary, and an interesting correlation of his “points” is that they are similar to the 12 points of the Scout Law.

This district 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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