

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

Attending were Vickie Oehring, Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Laban Marsh, Mark Danheim, Steve Ware, Bob Dunn, Wanda Pinson, Bob Steubing, Bob Hohne, Kelly Kenny, and Klaus Oehring.

Opening: Welcome, Scout law and pledge by Steve Ware.

Invocation was by Bob Steubing. Song was by Vickie Oehring.

Three items were discussed at the beginning of the meeting, due to their importance – Re-charters, Pushmobile and District Dinner.

- 1) Re-charters are due at the December Roundtable on Dec. 12. If you are not finished by Dec. 12, the final deadline is Dec. 15, and you must take the re-charter to SHAC headquarters at the Cockrell Center. More than 25 units in Soaring Eagle District have yet to sign onto the Internet to start the re-chartering process.
Each unit leader needs leadership training in order to turn in the re-charters, which is something new for this year. SHAC will have training for Cubmasters and Scoutmasters on Sat., Dec. 14. You can register on-line at www.samhoustonbsa.org.
- 2) Pushmobile is Sat., Dec. 14, at the LDS Church, 10555 Mills Road, 77064. No unit has registered yet, but multiple units have said that they will be there. Registration forms already have been sent to the SED Packs. For more information, call Karen Lade at 713-385-8635.
- 3) District Dinner is Sat. Jan. 25, at the LDS Church on Mills Road. Tickets are \$20 each, but there is a \$20 discount if you purchase a table. All tables are eight seats each.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

There are 18 metrics in the JtoE, and only a few were mentioned this month. SED District Executive Tiffany Riggs said SED was given a goal of raising \$131,605 in the combined arenas of Friends of Scouting, Scout Fair ticket sales and popcorn. (Last year's goal was \$101,585, which we met.) We so far have raised only \$91,102. We cannot achieve a gold, silver or bronze status in the Journey to Excellence program if we do not meet the \$131,605 figure.

Tiffany suggested that the district leadership stay focused on raising money in 2014, and wanted us to find out when each unit's Blue & Gold Banquet, or Court of Honors were and try to have talks to the parents at those formal events.

We currently have 1,655 Scouts and recruited 190. Our goal was to recruit 280. Only three of the 32 SHAC districts made their goals for recruitment in 2013.

Popcorn distribution will be on Dec. 14, at the Janitor's Warehouse, 4610 Brittmore. The hours have yet to be determined. For more information or to be trained, please call popcorn Kernel Wanda Pinson at wandapinson@gmail.com.

NEW UNITS

While there are no new units on the horizon, there was movement of one troop. Laban Marsh announced that Troop 1944 has moved from Jersey Village Church of Christ to Fairbanks United Methodist Church. Troop 771 formerly at Fairbanks UMC has folded.

COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS NEEDED – Former District Commissioner Mark Danheim has received new commissioners list and will compare them against the current list on file. More commissioners are needed for the district, said District Commissioner Vickie Oehring, who can be reached at vickieoehring@yahoo.com.

PROGRAMS

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. Registration forms have been e-mailed to leaders, and also are available on the district website at www.sedbsa.com.

RISK MANAGEMENT – Mike Walker said the district will have a First Aid Meet for the BSA troops on Feb. 1st at a place to be determined. Mike attended the Council Coordinated sessions in October, and it was pointed out that first aid training is required for leaders, but is not offered on-line. The SHAC website now offers first aid training through its website at www.shac.org. Contact Mike with questions at mikekim001@aol.com.

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING – This important training event is Sat., Feb. 8, at the Cockrell Center. Leaders can get specific training that they need for their units. You can register on-line through the SHAC website at www.samhoustonbsa.org.

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 SueAnne.

DISTRICT DINNER – The Soaring Eagle District Dinner is 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 25, 2013, at the LDS church, 10055 Mills Road. Cost is \$20 per person for a full chicken fajita meal. Tables of eight will be \$140, which is a discount of one seat. 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 and on the SED website at www.sedbsa.com.

CHEER BASKET FOOD DRIVE – The annual food drive with the Lion's Club on West Little York and Gessner will have a food drop-off at the December Roundtable. The Order of the Arrow will perform a service project, and take the food to a local food bank from the Roundtable.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – This event honoring the military will be Dec. 14 at Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Scouts are encouraged to assist in selling the wreaths, and also to attend the ceremony to place the wreathes on the fallen soldiers graves. For information about selling wreathes, contact Becca Franco at francob@sbcglobal.net. Please don't forget to log these service hours.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD – The day to put out door hangers to advertise Scouting for Food is Jan. 25, and the day to canvas the homes to see if they have provided bags of food is Feb. 1.

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**: Klaus Oehring; 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. The venue originally was Spring Creek Park in Tomball, but inclement weather allowed the event to be moved to St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church on West Road at Wheatland. More than 40 Webelos II boys have registered for the crossover to Boy Scouts.

There will be another ceremony on Jan. 11th.

To get more information, please e-mail seceremonies@yahoo.com, or call OA advisor Bob Hohne at 713-582-9113, or call OA advisor Marty Stakes at 281-851-7936.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mark Marquart has accepted being the district's quartermaster. He will be in charge of items that can be used by district units and for district events, such as Day Camp.

CLOSING – Neal Famer said he saw an interesting quote on Facebook that applied to Boy Scouts. "I will be posting telepathically today, so if you think of something funny, it was me." He said that when boys think of things, such as helping someone who is being bullied at school, or helping at a fire or car accident, that it is us – the leaders and trainers – that put those thoughts into the boys' heads. He wanted the adults to realize that the kids are listening to us and that we put thoughts into their minds telepathically whether we realize it or not.

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
- 713-849-9860 – home office
- 713-899-0783 – cell