

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
March 4, 2014**

Attending were Chris Laycock, Vickie Oehring, Neal Farmer, Laban Marsh, Steve Ware, Bobby Hale, Bob Steubing, Bob Hohne, Bob Dunn, Klaus Oehring, Robert Ausmus, Becca Franco and Mike Walker.

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

Prayer and song were by Vickie Oehring.

FINANCE

The district has been asked to raise **\$68,947 with Friends of Scouting -- \$47,947 through family Friends of Scouting and \$20,000 with Community Friends of Scouting** -- which is approximately \$10,000 under what was asked last year from the Council. We have raised about \$12,000 with the family portion and \$10,573 with the community businesses.

District finance chairman Klaus Oehring wants to have a **Patron's Dinner** in May, where we ask business leaders in the Soaring Eagle District geographic area to donate money to the FOS Community fund. He and Neal Farmer are working on a speaker and a location.

The idea for the District Dinner is to have between 10-15 tables of participants at \$250 each seat, or \$2,000 per table. All tables are eight seats each. The hope is that area businesses will sponsor a table each. The SED Committee gave Klaus the authority to find allocation and a speaker.

We also plan to honor an area businessman at the Patron's Dinner, as someone who has assisted the district.

The district also has talked about having a **gunshot tournament** as well as a day as **Top Golf** to raise money for the FOS Community fund, as well as create community within the SED units. Another proposal at the March SED Committee Meeting was to have a **bowling tournament**. Details are to be worked out.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership vice chairman Griff Danheim is working to get **adult volunteers** to assist with recruiting on the Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing levels.

Ten units have dropped from Soaring Eagle since 2013, which means we have **74 active units** at this point in 2014. At one point in February there were 39 units with problems on their re-charters; the re-charter deadline was March 1. District Executive Tiffany Riggs worked hard to resolve those problems, and at this point there are two units that will be dropped. They are Pack 1026 and Pack 396, which means there will be 72 units in the district.

We will have a **Spring Rally** on May 3 at Foundry United Methodist Church, 8350 Jones Road, which has been updated. The rally will be in conjunction with a blood drive that a district Life Scout will put on for his Eagle Service Project. We will get flyers to area elementary schools, will ask Boy Scouts to bring a friend and have Venturers make posters for their high schools. We plan to have interactive booths promoting Cub Scouts, promoting Boy Scouts and promoting Venturers.

Since most principals in Cy-Fair ISD have disallowed Boy Talks during lunches within the schools, we are going to have to rely on other avenues of recruiting Scouts. We can:

- *Have Scouts wear their uniforms to school on the day of rallies.
- *Host a booth at Meet the Teacher before school opens, and host a booth at PTO meetings at night.
- *Have kids wear stickers on their clothing at school the day of rallies.
- *Have boys run flag ceremonies at their respective schools before school begins.

The **Belt Loop Bonanza** has been set for Sept. 20 at a place to be determined. The BLB is where Cub Scout can bring friends and use the event as a recruiting tool, and also earn belt loops. Please mark your calendars.

We did not meet our membership goals last year. SHAC will give us new membership goals for 2014 around May.

COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS NEEDED – There were 59 commissioner visits recorded in February, which is up from 26 commissioner visits in January – about a 50 percent increase.

There are seven units without a commissioner. There also is a need for Assistant District Commissioners, who oversee the unit commissioners. There currently are two Assistant District Commissioners and the goal is to have four.

Vickie Oehring said **more commissioners are needed** for the district. Commissioners are trained to have sage advice for units only after unit leaders request the advice. Vickie can be reached at vickieoehring@yahoo.com.

A repeat from last month: **Commissioners will meet** on the second Thursday of each month at the same place as Roundtable – the LDS Chapel at 10555 West Road. Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtables will begin at 7 p.m. – which is 30 minutes sooner than Boy Scout Roundtable has previously begun – and will break out from the Roundtables.

PROGRAMS

TRAINING

Scoutmaster Fundamentals and Introduction to Outdoor Leader in March has 25 people signed up and will be led by Bob Steubing. That is a very successful participation level.

Laban Marsh announced that **Classroom Youth Protection Training** will be at the March and April Roundtables. Those dates are March 13 and April 10. There also will be Classroom Youth Protection Training for Cub Scout Day Camp on May 22.

A **Good Turn Chairman** is needed for the district. This position includes Scouting for Food, plus the ability to promote parents and youths to list their services hours on-line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EAGLE SCOUT REQUIREMENTS – District Eagle Scout chairman Greg Leub will host a talk on **how Life Scouts can obtain the Eagle rank** at the March Roundtable meeting, which is at 7 p.m., Thurs., March 10, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS COORDINATOR – Judy Lizarraga has been named the **district's religious emblems coordinator**. Each religion has its own religion award, and Judy will coordinate those for Soaring Eagle.

WEBSITE – The Council wants the 29 Districts in the Council to run a link on their websites at shac.org. There will be major changes coming to the SED website. Judy Lizarraga will be the **new website coordinator**.

Please send all updates for the website to the vice chair of your area. Those vice chairs are -- **Programs**: Becca Franco at francob@sbcglobal.net; **Finance**: Klaus Oehring at klausoe@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. Hundreds of pictures of recent events around the district are being posted on the page.

CAMPOREE/TRASH BASH – Mike Marquart and Troop 1177 are heading up the SED **Camporee**, which is March 28-30 at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. Registration materials are available by e-mailing Mike at michaelmarquart@yahoo.com and on the district website at www.sedbsa.com.

Trash Bash will meet at Bang Elementary School again this year, but is the same Saturday as Camporee. So the older boys who go to Camporee will have a conservation project selected by the park ranger to also participate in the same theme as Trash Bash.

Trash Bash is where people in our geographic area meet at Bang and clean up area waterways, such as White Oak Bayou, and receive a T-shirt and a lunch. The district is represented by Todd Running.

Trash Bash will meet at Bang Elementary School again this year, but is the same Saturday as Camporee. So the older boys who go to Camporee will have a conservation project selected by the park ranger to also participate in the same theme as Trash Bash.

Trash Bash is where people in our geographic area meet at Bang and clean up area waterways, such as White Oak Bayou, and receive a T-shirt and a lunch and is the first event that qualifies units for the **SED Earth Day Ribbon**. The SED Earth Day Ribbon can be earned by participating in Trash Bash, Earth Day project or other Spring 2014 conservation project benefitting Chartered Organizations or a community project within the SED -- and logging the service hours. Unit leaders will receive the Ribbons at the May Roundtable upon turn in of the service hours certificate from the Journey to Excellence site and the roster of unit participants.

WEBELOS DO YOUR BEST – The Webelos Do You Best Campout is April 25-27, at a site to be determined.

BOY SCOUT ROUNDTABLE – The Boy Scout Roundtable will begin at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. The change will continue for the rest of the year.

This Soaring Eagle 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. We also are looking for a new scribe to take these minutes for the district.

Sincerely,

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