

**Soaring Eagle District  
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road  
April 1, 2014**

**Attending were Ajey Chandra, Mike Kasper, Vickie Oehring, Neal Farmer, Laban Marsh, Steve Ware, Bobby Hale, Bob Steubing, Bob Hohne, Bob Dunn, Becca Franco, Ronna Stonely, Wanda Pinson, Bob Weenig and Tiffany Riggs.**

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

Prayer by: Bob Weenig.

Song by: Vickie Oehring.

### **FINANCE**

TO REVIEW: 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 \$26,738 with the family portion and \$13,538 with the community businesses.

The other SED finance goals are:

\*\$95,600 in Scout Fair tickets sold – we have sold \$72,790

**A Patron's Dinner** has been set for 7 p.m., Thurs., May 29. We are still getting a place for the event. Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia has agreed to speak at the Patron's Dinner.

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. Please now ask businesses that you work for or have connections with to see if they will purchase tables at the Patron's Dinner.

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

### **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.

Griff attended the latest Council Coordinated – where leaders in districts go for training in their specific areas – and came back with these discussions that he wants to implement.

- Membership Calendar Review
- Spring Recruitment

- Support materials available. Can customize, contact District Executive
- Tiger specific requirements
- Dropped Scouts (leakage) strategies
- Fall Recruitment
- SHAC 2014: The Century Project
  - Unit, District, Commissioner Requirements
- Discussion of Scoutmaster/Cubmaster relationship
  - Ideas to promote healthy productive, connected relationship
  - Discuss with Scoutmasters what their plans are for the packs.

A new unit was started at First Metropolitan Church on Beltway 8, near West Road. It is Pack 1986, and has leadership in place as well as the support of the church's leadership. This gives the District 73 units. We need to get a commissioner assigned to this new unit, and are looking for a volunteer.

The **Spring Rally** on May 3 at Foundry United Methodist Church, 8350 Jones Road, has been combined with a **Community Blood Drive & Health Fair** – and is a part of an Eagle Scout project. Also having booths at the health fair will be the Jersey Village Fire Department, Jersey Village Police Department, the Red Cross, the Marrow Bank, Life Gift and Trash Bash. We also want a booth to promote Soaring Eagle District Day Camp.

We will get flyers to area elementary schools, will ask Boy Scouts to bring a friend and have Venturing Scouts make posters for their high schools. We plan to have interactive booths promoting Cub Scouts (with a Pinewood Derby track), promoting Boy Scouts and promoting Venturing.

**REVIEW FROM LAST MONTH:** 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 in August 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.**

**\*Send flyers advertising membership rallies to the schools to put in the Thursday folders that go home with kids.**

**\*Have a booth at the annual Fall Festival or Spring Fling at each elementary school, with the Pinewood Derby track or Rainutter Regatta set up.**

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 plan to add

training for color guards who start off the school day at their respective school's flagpoles, and will offer it to Scouts and non-Scouts.

We currently have 1,290 youths in the District, which is about 11 percent under what we had at this time last year.

## **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. But all Commissioners must go through basic commissioner training by June 1, or the Council will not allow them to be Commissioners any more. We have 27 commissioners and 11 are not trained.

The next Commissioner training will be at 8 a.m. on Sat., April 5, at SHAC's Cockrell Center.

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](mailto:vickieoehring@yahoo.com).

**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

Laban Marsh announced that **Classroom Youth Protection Training** will be at the April 10 Roundtable. There also will be Classroom Youth Protection Training for Day Camp on May 22 and May 31. Both start at 7 p.m. at the West Road LDC Chapel, 10055 West Road.

**Rangemaster Training** is available April through June to prepare staff for Day Camp Ranges. A training on May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be in the District at Fairbanks United Methodist Church, 14210 Aston, near Dean Middle School. Time is to be determined. All other dates and locations are available on the SHAC website. Congrats to Tony Franco, who is now serving the Council as the Cub Scout Shooting Sports Chair.

A **Good Turn Chairman** is needed for the district. This position includes Scouting for Food, plus the ability to promote units and youths to list their

services hours on-line. Trash Bash promotion and the Earth Day ribbons also fall under this umbrella.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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](mailto:francob@sbcglobal.net); **Finance**: Klaus Oehring at [klausoe@gmail.com](mailto:klausoe@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. Hundreds of pictures of recent events around the district are being posted on the page.

CAMPOREE– Mike Marquart and Troop 1177 had a very successful Camporee March 28-30 at Spring Creek Park in Tomball. Photos from the event are on the District's Facebook page: Soaring Eagle District.

One of the improvements that came out of the Camporee is that the District will have seminars on filling out tour permits that all units have to fill out to go camping. Participants also must have their cars properly inspected and registered by the state in order to carry youths to BSA events.

Also, National sent out a new BSA health form on March 1, 2014, that all are expected to use. Please go to [www.SHAC.org](http://www.SHAC.org) and download these forms for Summer Camp and Day Camp.

SHAC'S 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY – SHAC will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake at the Cockrell Center at 11 a.m., Fri., April 11. Sheriff Adrian Garcia is scheduled to speak. Y'all come.

TRASH BASH -- Trash Bash was at Bang Elementary School again this year, and had another successful run as participants in our area cleaned up White Oak Bayou.

Trash Bash is the first event that qualifies units for the **SED Earth Day Ribbon**. The ribbons can be earned by attending the Trash Bash, the 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 Spring Creek Park in Tomball. Registration materials are available by e-mailing Becca Franco at [francob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:francob@sbcglobal.net). Registration is due by April 10, for proper planning purposes. Volunteers are still needed to help teach activity pins to the WEBELOS.

SCOUT FAIR – The Scout Fair will be on April 12, and will help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Sam Houston Area Council. Blue Bell will have a new ice cream that will be available only at Scout Fair called Scout Crunch (hopefully it will not contain popcorn). And SHAC will attempt to set a new record with the most people who sign a birthday card. The District booth will be manned by Venturing Crew 1292, as well as other Venturing units.

FIRST AID MEET – The **District First Aid Meet**, which will determine the two Boy Scout patrols that are sent to the Council First Aid Meet, will be from 8 a.m. to noon on Sat., Nov. 22, at a place TBA.

BALOO TRAINING – There will be a BALOO training at 8 a.m., Sat., May 3, at the Fairbanks United Methodist Church, 14210 Aston St., next to Dean Middle School. All Cub Packs must have at least one BALOO-trained person attend each Pack campout, other than the Cubmaster.

BOY SCOUT ROUNDTABLE – The **Boy Scout Roundtable** will begin at 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m., which is the same time that the Cub Scout Roundtable begins. Leader Bobby Hale would like input on things participants would like to see at the Roundtable meetings, as he said the meetings are “rigidly flexible” to add anything that is needed.

EL RANCHO CIMA – All must have a campout at a SHAC camp this year to qualify for that part of the segment patches that go on your uniforms to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SHAC. El Rancho Cima requires that all units have at least two adults attend camps there with units for every 10 kids, and formerly had one of the adults attend for free. To entice more people to go to El Rancho Cima, both adult leaders now will be free. There also will be a third free adult for the next eight kids, a fourth free adult for the fourth set of eight kids, and so on.

MINUTES – We also are looking for a new person to attend SED Committee Meetings each month and take the minutes. We will double the current scribe’s pay.

ENDING – Neal Farmer wanted to use a saying he learned from a Boy Scout-related organization, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. APO is a coed fraternity in colleges open to all students based on the Boy Scout principals and founded by Eagle Scouts in 1929. The group says to “replace yourself each year” by bringing in a new member each fall. If Soaring Eagle District families

would bring in one new family a year – a neighbor, a friend, or a relative – then membership problems likely would be solved.

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