

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
May 6, 2014**

Attending were Ajey Chandra, Neal Farmer, Steve Ware, Bob Steubing, Bob Dunn, Ronna Stonely, Erik Craig, Mike Walker, Griff Danheim, David Lizarraga, Judy Lizarraga, Klaus Oehring, and Tiffany Riggs.

Opening: American Pledge of Allegiance and Scout law by Steve Ware.

Prayer by: Judy Lizarraga.

Song by: Klaus Oehring, with a little help from his friends.

FINANCE

The Patron's Dinner appears to be on schedule, but needs assistance from a few SED Scouts and Scouters. Sheriff Adrian Garcia is scheduled to speak at the Patron's Dinner, and we are going to give a Businessman's Award to Mark McShaffry, who owns Backyard Gill and has assisted area Boy Scouts for years. The gala is at 7 p.m., Thurs., May 29, at gyro/data, an oil and-gas-support business at 23000 Northwest Lake Dr., Houston, TX 77095, which is off of 290 at Telge Road.

At this point seven tables have been sold for \$2,000 each, with eight seats at each table. The goal is to sell 11 tables at \$2,000 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 will open up an area of seating to about 50 Boy Scouts and Scouters for \$25 each, if they want to come and hear the sheriff speak or get a selfie with the sheriff. If you want to attend the meeting, please contact Neal Farmer at 713-849-9860, or at nfarmer07@att.net. We will need several Scouts to assist in serving the food. The Order of the Arrow Scouts will be the first to be asked to assist.

A committee of Neal Farmer, Tiffany Riggs, Vickie Oehring, Klaus Oehring and Ajey Chandra were given approval to make decisions about the event after the May District Committee meeting.

It is hoped that this event will raise the \$20,000 the District has been assigned to raise by the Council under Friends of Scouting.

Scout Fair ticket sales are at 99.7 percent of what we were assigned to sell by council, and that committee was chaired by Erik Craig. We raised \$99,230 and need only \$330 to meet that Council's goal. One unit still has not turned over their packet sales to Erik, so we might hit the assigned goal.

For our overall Friends of Scouting goal, we have raised about \$42,100, which is 61 percent of the \$69,947 we were assigned.

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.

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. Last year at this time, we had 83 units.

The **Spring Rally** on May 3 at Foundry United Methodist Church did not receive any new members. One of the reasons was that none of the flyers sent to the area elementary schools were put out at those schools.

One idea is to combine the membership drive with an event in Jersey Village during a Fire Department festival in 2015.

However, the blood drive that was at the spring rally was a great success. The blood unit was expecting between 5-10 pints of blood, but 34 were taken. Also, a person who is about to have a special surgery benefitted from this blood drive. He had 30 pints that were a match for him, which means his surgery will have a much-better chance at being successful. We are very happy with this result. Scout Robert Dunn set up a meal for the blood drive workers, who could not eat until the drive was finished because they were so busy.

REVIEW FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS: 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 Dery 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 1,307 youths in the District, which is about 11 percent under what we had at this time last year when we had 1,692.

The best way to recruit for Scouts is to replace yourself each year with a friend, relative or neighbor.

COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS NEEDED – Commissioners must be trained by September, or they will be removed as a commissioner by year's end. Soaring Eagle District will train commissioners at 6:30 p.m., Tues., May 13, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road. So far five have committed to attend – the training is open to other districts.

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.

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 the commissioners will break out from the Roundtables.

PROGRAMS

TRAINING

A **Youth Protection Classroom Training** session will be at 8 a.m., Sat., May 10, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 W3est Road.

The Webelos Do Your Best Campout at Spring Creek Park in Tomball was a great success. Webelos competed against each other and earned advancement pins. The event was cut short and everyone was sent home on Saturday night due to the possibility of an extreme weather event.

Day Camp is June 10-13 at Cypress Church. There is a morning session and an afternoon session. Please look at the new district website for more information.

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

WEBSITE – The new Soaring Eagle District website is up and running and looks great. Go to www.soaringeagledistrict.net. Judy Lizarraga is 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.

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.

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 100th 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 – During the last freeze in Houston, Neal Farmer did not put his plants inside because the weatherman said it would only go down to 35 degrees. But the weather went down to 28 degrees. Some of the plants looked like they had died. However, he just kept on watering the plants and this week several of the plants sprouted new leaves or green spots. Neal suggested that if a friendship, or relationship is frozen out, or if it looks like a Scout is doing something from which he will never recover, never stop watering the relationship. You never know what will grow out of it.

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