

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
Jan. 6, 2015**

Attending were Neal Farmer, Bob Steubing, Bob Dunn, Robert Ausmus, Tony Hensdill, Martin Stakes, Susan Flores, Steve Ware, Mike Walker, Tim Girgenti, Mark Hoffart, Becca Franco, Ajey Chandra, Laban Marsh, Judy Lizarraga, Mike Marquart, Griff Danheim, Judy Hohne, Matthew Hohne, Bobby Hale and Vickie Oehring.

Opening: American Pledge of Allegiance by Steve Ware.

Prayer by: Tony Hensdill.

Song by: Vickie Oehring

FINANCE

For Friends of Scouting, our goal in 2015 is to raise \$44,000 in the District, which is down from \$67,947 that was set last year by the Council. We are asked to raise \$33,000 from families and \$11,000 from the community. We cannot achieve gold status as a District without raising the money that the Council has set for us. FOS was kicked off by each Scouter attending the January committee meeting receiving a pledge card to participate in the fundraising effort.

We need to get Blue and Gold dates from each Pack in the District and Courts of Honor in the spring from each Troop so we can schedule Friends of Scouting visits. Please e-mail Tony Hensdill with your meeting dates at jose.hendsill@scouting.org.

The fourth **Patron's Dinner** is 7 p.m., Thurs., March 5, at Gyrodata, 23000 Northwest Lake Dr., a business across US 290 from Cypress-Fairbanks High School. The idea is to invite area businesses to buy tables, which will allow us to raise less money from families in the District. Klaus Oehring is working on this project and could use some volunteers. The goal is to sell 8-10 tables at \$2,000 each to area businesses, and sell seats to Scouters who want to attend the dinner near cost.

The special guest speaker is **NFL Hall of Famer Kenny Houston**, who played in 12 pro bowls as a safety with the Houston Oilers and Washington Redskins. Kenny also was named by Sporting News as one of the top 100 NFL players of all time. He also won the NFL's Man of the Year Award for community service. Instead of retiring from the NFL and doing nothing, Kenny coached at Wheatley and Westbury High Schools, and continues to council inner-city youths event today. He has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of inner-city kids. We also will recognize a Business Partner of the Year for Soaring Eagle District at the gala.

Klaus is looking for volunteers to host and sponsor tables for the Patron's Dinner.

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. Please let him know if you can serve on a membership committee at griff.danheim@sbcglobal.net.

We currently have 1,532 youths in the District; we need to get approximately 325 more for the Journey to Excellence metrics. We have dropped four units to 68 in the District.

The District has reserved Sat., May 2, for a District-wide recruiting event at Foundry United Methodist Church. Plans are TBA.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners will re-start their break-out sessions at the Roundtable at 7 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 8, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road. Speaking at the session will be assistant commissioner Steve Ware.

Please enter your **commissioner visits** on the UVTS section of scouting.org. Twenty-four people reported their unit visits on that system in December. Updates are planned for the UVTS system, which should make it easier to record unit visits for commissioners.

Bobby Hale would like for people to try and get to the **Boy Scout Roundtable** on time, at 7 p.m., as it is hard to make announcements until a group arrives.

PROGRAMS

TRAINING

The **District First Aid Meet** has been cancelled due to lack of participation. The District will incorporate First Aid in the March Camporee, which hopefully will lead to units participating in future First Aid meets.

Pushmobile was run in December and was successfully coordinated by Tammy Koenig and Pack 771.

Units participation in the December **Cheer Basket** project at the December Roundtable was spotty this year. But like the scene from "It's a Wonderful Life," District units and individuals came and donated money to coordinator Becca Franco at her home and in the Kroger parking lot where she went shopping for food. The project assisted needy 50 families, just like last year – with 107 adults and 187 children receiving food.

District volunteers will be recognized at the annual **District Dinner**, which is 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 24 at the LDS Chapel on Eldridge Road near Louetta. Ticket sales will be at the January Roundtables. Please make every effort to attend the event, which recognizes the volunteers who aid the BSA in our area. Judy Hohne is the chairwoman of the event, whose theme is a Star-Studded Evening.

DISTRICT CAMPOREE is March 20-23 at Spring Creek Park, with Troop 1177's Mike Marquart leading the event again this year, assisted by the District's Order of the Arrow members. The OA will be trained and then take over the Camporee in 2016. The event is scheduled to be over at 9 p.m. on Saturday, so those who need to return home before Sunday can do so.

Scouting for Food will be Jan. 24, when the door hangers will be put in area neighborhoods, and Jan. 31, when the bags of donated food will be picked up and delivered to area food pantries. Mike Walker is the District's chairman for the event, and can be reached at mikekim001@aol.com. Jeannie Pedraza is vice chairwoman.

Please pick up the door hangers at the January Roundtable on Jan. 10 at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road. Units need to sign up at the January Roundtable for which area you are going to put up the door hangers to prevent overlap.

Scout Fair Ticket Sales kickoff is 7-9 p.m., Thurs., Jan. 22, at the Backyard Grill. Erik Craig will coordinate again this year. You can receive tickets at the Backyard Grill, and training on selling tickets will begin at 7 p.m. The Scout Fair this year is Sat., April 18, at NGR Park (formerly Reliant Park). If you sell 215 tickets, you are invited to a private party at the Scout Fair, and you will be invited to an overnight campout at the Houston Zoo.

University of Scouting is Sat., Feb. 7 at Aldine's Benjamin O. Davis High School, 12525 Ella Blvd.. This is a training session for all adults in Scouting. There are several youth leadership training sessions. You can sign up on the Council website at samhoustonbsa.org.

Scout Sunday is Feb. 8. Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms to a service that day and receive a patch.

Webelos Do Your Best campout is scheduled for April 25-27. Please save the date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The LDS troops in the District will hold a **Merit Badge Fair** on Sat., May 16, at a venue TBA. All Boy Scouts in the District are invited to participate and earn merit badges.

Laban Marsh in 2015 will become the activity chairman, and Bob Steubing in 2015 will become the training chairman.

The **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – portion of Scouting would like to attend a District Roundtable and present a Supernova Award. We have contacted a person about being the District's STEM chairwoman.

TRASH BASH is set for Sat., March 28, where participants will take buses and go to places on White Oak Bayou and clean the area. Coordinator Todd Running would like for people to donate door prizes for the kids who participate. Contact Todd at toddrunning@sbcglobal.net.

Anyone who wished to volunteer for Cub Scout Day Camp in June, please contact Robert Ausmus at rdausmus@me.com. Day Camp is June 9-12, which is Tuesday through Friday, at the Cypress Bible Church – the same venue as the last two years. The theme is Hometown Heroes.

WEBSITE – The new Soaring Eagle District website is up and running. Go to www.soaringeagledistrict.net. Judy Lizarraga is the **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 klaussoeh@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.

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

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE'S MINUTE – Tony Hensdill said he was expecting a great year in 2015. The Council has lowered the amount of money we have to raise as a district, and he is excited to work with the adult volunteer base.

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