

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
Feb. 3, 2015**

Attending were Neal Farmer, Bob Steubing, Bob Dunn, Robert Ausmus, Tony Hensdill, Steve Ware, Mike Walker, Mark Hoffart, Becca Franco, Laban Marsh, Judy Lizarraga, Matthew Hohne, Robert Hohne, Bob Weenig, John Brogan, Bobby Hale, Klaus Oehring and Vickie Oehring.

Opening: American Pledge of Allegiance by Steve Ware.

Prayer by: Vickie Oehring.

Song by: Vickie Oehring

FINANCE

For Friends of Scouting, our goal in 2015 is to raise \$44,000 in the District. We are asked to raise \$33,000 from families and \$11,000 from the community. We are at 15 percent of what we have been asked to raise.

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 up to 10 tables at \$2,000 each to area businesses, and sell individual seats for \$250 each. We also will sell seats to Scouters who want to attend the dinner for \$25 each, which is below cost. We request that 25 Scouts and 25 Scouters attend. The Scouts will be needed also to serve food and have flag ceremonies. Then the Scouts and Scouters can be available to talk to local business(wo)men about what Scouting has done for them.

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.

Scout Fair tickets are available to sell. Many are using area Kroger stores to sell the tickets. Turn-ins for money raised from the tickets are at the February and March Roundtables, as well as at Backyard Grill on March 5 and March 26.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 1,440 **Scouts registered** in the District and need to have 1,576 to achieve the goal that the Council has set. We have to meet that goal to achieve gold status in Journey to Excellence. We are at 72 units in the district, as we added four since last month.

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

Another suggestion to try and get Scouting before other kids was to attend youth activities – such as Little League games or soccer games – and perform an opening flag ceremony and hand out flyers.

Another suggestion was to try to make the Venturing groups larger by recruiting high school age kids.

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., Feb. 12, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road.

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.

A new way to report commissioners' visits to unit is scheduled to come on-line on March 1.

Bobby Hale repeated his request from last month that he 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

A **Classroom Youth Protection Training Session** for all leaders will be at 9 a.m., Sat., Feb. 21, at the LDS Chapel, 21521 Fairfield Place Dr. at Cypresswood, one block from the Cypress Outlet Mall. Steve Ware will lead this session.

Scoutmaster Specific Training and **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills** will be March 6-7 and run by Bobcat Steubing, and held at New Kentucky Park, 21710 FM 2920 in Hockley. Please e-mail Bobcat for more details at bsteubing@comcast.net.

Scouting for Food raised about 4,000 pounds of food, down from last year's 10,000 pounds of food. There were 26 District units that participated last year and 22 that participated this year.

The feeling was that advertising on TVs and radio stations was down this year, and a lot of people forgot to participate who gave food last year. An idea is to get articles to neighborhood newsletter in mid-December, 2015, so the word will get out in the Jan-Feb. newsletters.

The **District Dinner** was a success. Kudos to Troop 1177, the OA and others, which set up the venue, ran the food, performed the flag ceremony, and helped tear the event down. Judy Hohne and Karen Thomas coordinated the tickets and the decorations. District Executive Tony Hensdill gave the state of the district.

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.

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

Tiger Day on Oct. 4 will now be **Bobcat Day** at a place to be determined. This will be for family members who are new to Scouts. It will be run by Lynn Villareal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was decided to keep the **March Roundtable** on March 12, even though that is during Spring Break for Cy-Fair ISD. Some could be out of town that week, but others already have unit activities planned the following Thursday.

The **Order of the Arrow** has a full calendar of events, which are listed on the District's website at soaringeagledistrict.net.

There still are some **defective re-charters** in the District. If they are not resolved by 4 p.m., Fri., Feb. 27, at the SHAC offices, then the unit will be dropped. In 2015, all re-charters have to be finished by Dec. 31, or face being dropped.

The District was presented with the silver award for **Journey to Excellence** at the committee meeting by District Executive Tony Hensdill.

The LDS troops in the District will hold a **Merit Badge Fair** on Sat., May 16, at the LDS Chapel, 12310 New Hampton Road. All Boy Scouts in the District are invited to participate and earn merit badges.

The **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – section of the Council will come to the SED's Feb. 12 Roundtable and present Robbie

Lizarraga with a Super Nova Award. We will find out what the group has to offer with their presentation.

Training for **religious emblems** for Protestants is listed on the District's website. Coordinator Judy Lizarraga wants to put together a Religious Emblems Display Team, which could display the programs at Roundtables or District meetings. She hopes to have multiple faiths represented.

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. Bob Weenig will be program chairman of Day Camp.

Day Camp is looking for the **paper tubes** that toilet paper and hand towels are wrapped around for crafts. Camp also needs **2-liter bottles** for crafts – the bottles that Dr Pepper and Cole come in. Please bring the items to Roundtables.

Laban Marsh reported that a local archery club will have a **Level One archery training session** for adults sometime in March. Cost is \$75, and is for someone who leads a shooting range at a day camp, summer camp or a camporee. Contact Laban if you are interested at labanmarsh@sbcglobal.net, as the exact date had not yet been set.

Two District troops – 1014 and 479 – were involved in the Houston-Chiba Scout Exchange program, which took place over the holidays in December. Fourteen Japanese Scouts and their leaders visited Houston for a week, staying part of the time in the homes of Houston Scout families and part of the time at Winter Camp. At Winter Camp, Houston Scouts helped the Japanese Scouts with their **Japanese Cultural Tent**, which included Kendo (wooden sword) demonstration, tea ceremony, calligraphy with ink & brush, and Japanese card games. Earlier in the year, area Scouts & adults leaders, including the two from Troops 1014 and 479, visited Japan for a homestay, Camporee, and sightseeing. The World Jamboree will be in Japan this summer and spots are still available for interested Scouts. Contact Bob Steubing (bsteubing@comcast.net) for more information about joining the group going to World Jamboree.

John Brogan reported that he is trying to get a future Precinct 4 park – Kickerillo-Mischer Park, located across SH 249 from the HP campus – to have a **Boy Scout area** in it, complete with a campfire ring. There already is a lake on the property, and John also wants to try and find a totem pole to go near the

proposed Boy Scout area. He already has met with the Precinct 4 Parks Department assistant director. The park is budgeted to cost \$6 million, so the Harris County officials are likely to put the park on an upcoming bond proposal. Everyone can help by letting Commissioner Cagle know that you support funding for this park.

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