

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

Attending were Neal Farmer, Bobcat Steubing, Robert Ausmus, Tony Hensdill, Steve Ware, Judy Lizarraga, Robert Hohne, Bob Weenig, John Brogan, Bobby Hale, Megan Keck, Tara Sal, Jennifer Nobles, Mike Marquart, Jahrod Harris, Klaus Oehring and Vickie Oehring.

Opening: American Pledge of Allegiance by Steve Ware.

Prayer by: Bob Weenig.

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**, previously scheduled for March 5, at Gyrodata, 23000 Northwest Lake Dr., was postponed. We had five tables at \$2,000 each sold to area businesses, but four canceled after the businesses suffered layoffs. We will work on a future Patron's Dinner, as we have been tasked by Council to raise \$11,000 for the community side of Friends of Scouting.

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 March 12 Roundtable, as well as at Backyard Grill on March 26.

MEMBERSHIP

After the rolls were purged, we have 1,148 **Scouts registered** in the District, after having 1,575 registered on Dec. 31. We need 391 more Scouts to meet the goals that the Council has set for us. We have to meet that goal to achieve gold status in Journey to Excellence. We are at 70 units in the district.

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

Suggestions that were made to get kids to participate in Boy Scouts:

***get Scouts in uniform before other kids at youth activities – such as Little League games or soccer games – and perform an opening flag ceremony and hand out flyers.

***try to make the Venturing groups larger by recruiting high school age kids.

***the Council has asked four troops to have an Open House event at either a troop meeting or troop outing. Most recruiting efforts have been on the Cub Scout side and the Council wants to expand efforts into older getting more older kids.

- ***have more Boy Talks at school lunches, where they are allowed.
- ***participate in area parades, specifically in parades or on floats at St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Homecoming parades. Kids can walk or use things like a Pushmobile.
- ***another way to recruit is to get photos and news stories of Scouting events into the smaller, local newspapers and website.
- ***invite kids from your neighborhood to sell Scout Fair tickets.
- ***the District Executive will get a Dropped Scout Report – boys who no longer are in Scouts after being in Scouts in 2014 – and will try to contact boys to get them to come back.

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 March Roundtable at 7 p.m., Thurs., March 12, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road.

Please enter your **commissioner visits** on the UVTS section of scouting.org. A new way to report commissioners' visits to unit is scheduled to come on-line on April 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. Bobby will attend a Roundtable Training Seminar at Philmont Scout Ranch this summer.

PROGRAMS

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.

Registration for Camporee can be downloaded from the District website at www.soaringeagledistrict.net. Cost is \$15 per scout and is free for adults.

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

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.

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 website at www.soaringeagledistrict.net.

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. For more information, contact Eric Petty at thepettysplace@gmail.com.

TRASH BASH is set for Sat., March 28, where participants will take buses from Bang Elementary School 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.

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.

The Order of the Arrow will have **Boy Scout memorabilia trading event** on March 27-28 at the Cockrell Center on T.C. Jester at Loop 610. Proceeds will go to scholarships for OA members.

The OA said there will be a limited number of **ordeals** this year after the closing of Camp Strake.

Winter Camp will be at Bovay Scout Ranch this December, the week after Christmas. **National Youth Leadership Training** will be at the same time and the same venue.

WEBSITE – The new Soaring Eagle District website is up and running. Go to www.soaringeagledistrict.net. Judy Lizarraga is the **website coordinator**. She is in the process of purchasing soaringeagledistrict.com so that we are able to use both e-addresses.

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. You can now tag the photos and also use them for your unit’s recruiting purposes.

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 that the District will have a booth at the Scout Fair on April 18 at NRG Park, and wanted to get volunteers to run the booth.

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