

**Soaring Eagle District
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road
Oct. 8, 2015**

Attending were Neal Farmer, Robert Ausmus, Bob Steubing, Mike Walker, Tony Hensdill, Mark Hoffart, Bobby Hale, Megan Keck, David Lizarraga, Judy Lizarraga, Bob Dunn, Steve Ware, Bob Weenig, Becca Franco and Vickie Oehring.

Opening by Steve Ware.
Prayer by Bob Steubing.

NOTE – The November Soaring Eagle District Committee Meeting on Thurs., Nov. 3, will have the annual **District Election**. Former District Finance Chair Wade Bitter will serve as the Election Chairman. Wade will present a slate of District leaders at the committee meeting. If you currently are on the District committee, then your name will be voted on at the November District Committee meeting to remain on the committee. If you would like to be added, please let Neal Farmer know at nfarmer07@att.net. Names can be added to the District Committee after the November election.

FINANCE

For **Friends of Scouting** goal is to raise about \$5,000 more from the District for Sam Houston Area Council in order to meet the goal of \$44,000 set by the Sam Houston Area Council for us. A committee was appointed of Ajey Chandra, Scott Thomas, Becca Franco and Neal Farmer to look into a beer-tasting/root beer-tasting event in October. Becca Franco is still looking at a date with Backyard Grill. The idea is to bring in non-Scouter parents into the facility and ask them to give money to Soaring Eagle District, as the leadership and moral values taught in Scouts helps the youth become participating citizens in the community.

SED Scout Executive Tony Hensdill will send out about 150 letters by next week to area real estate agents, financial advisors and doctors in an attempt to raise money for Friends of Scouting. If you personally know of someone who you want a letter to go to, please contact Tony at jose.hensdill@scouting.org. We need assistance in meeting our Friends of Scouting goal, as a person is more likely to give to a client or to a friend than receiving a letter from someone they do not know.

We will have a **Bahama Buck's** event every Wednesday through December at their facility on 12105 Jones Road. If you purchase a shaved ice at the venue and they will donate 10 percent to the District. If it is a night of large sales, then the company will donate a larger percentage.

The deadline for FOS monies raised in 2015 is the November Roundtable.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman Steve Ware was appreciated for holding meetings to get more Scouters involved on the unit level with recruiting new Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

We have 1,353 **Scouts registered** in the District in September, after having more than 1,600 registered at this time last year. We are at 72 units in the district.

Parents are asked to find out what magazines cover their neighborhoods, and find out how to get articles on those periodicals. Getting the word through the media will help get more members.

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

COMMISSIONERS

District Commissioner Vickie Oehring will have commissioners meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road. To accommodate that, the District Committee meeting will be moved back to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the same venue.

The Oct. 8 Roundtable will be about **teaching units how to re-charter**. If there is someone there from your unit to learn the re-chartering process, then new parents will break off into leader-specific meetings.

The District deadline to turn in re-charters is at the Dec. 10 Roundtable at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland. (Units also can turn in re-charters at the November 12 Roundtable.) The Council deadline to turn in re-charters is Sat., Dec. 12 at the Cockrell Center on Loop 610. Re-charters turned in at the Cockrell Center must be given to SED District Executive Tony Hensdill, not the SHAC receptionists.

Council representative Dan Goetzman presented a seminar on how to use the new software program to input **commissioner visits** to units just before the Oct. 6 SED District Committee meeting. Ten commissioners out of the 32 commissioners in the District attended the informative seminar. Goetzman is scheduled to teach the seminar again at Cub Scout Pow Wow on Nov. 14 at Aldine High School.

SED Commissioner Vickie Oehring asks that all **units log in** to the SHAC re-charter site by Nov. 7. Those instructions on how to log on will come from Vickie.

We are asking all **Webelos Scouts** who will go to a Boy Scout troop in January to re-charter with their Pack this fall. They can then transfer to the troop in January. BSA has dropped the \$1 fee to transfer. This will make the re-charter process easier for both Packs and Troops.

Please enter your **commissioner visits** on the UVTS section of scouting.org. A new way to report commissioners' visits is available at www.my.scouting.org.

We need **more unit commissioners**. If your son has bridged to Boy Scouts from Cub Scouts, we think that former Cub Scout leaders will make great commissioners for Packs as they already will have a great deal of Cub knowledge.

PROGRAMS

Bobcat Day on Sept. 26, was a big success. Thirty-four kids were served at the event, and they were able to earn their Bobcat advancement badge.

Several Cub Packs were unable to attend, so there will be a second Bobcat Day from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tues., Oct. 13, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland. Cost is \$10 per Cub Scout, and people are asked to register by the Oct. 8 Roundtable.

This is for all new families and students who just joined Cub Scouts. We will have activities for the youth, help them earn the Bobcat badge, and they will receive water bottles. There also will be a meeting with parents to explain Boy Scouts to them.

ALL participants will need Parts A & B of the BSA medical form. We have opened this event to Cubs in both Copperhead and Big Cypress districts, if families missed their district's similar event (Big Cypress called their event Tiger Day). One Pack from Copperhead already has signed up. For more information, e-mail Becca Franco at francob@sbcglobal.net.

Cub Scout Pow Wow is Nov. 14 at Aldine High School. This is one of the best trainings in South Texas for Cub Scout leaders. Save the date, as more information will be presented later. SED's Judy Lizarraga is in charge of programming for Pow Wow. (Sa-LUTE.)

A very successful **BALOO training** was held on Sept. 26, on the same day as the first Bobcat Day at the same facility. Thanks to Marty Stakes, Tony Franco and Bobby Hale for a successful event, and 25 people trained to go on campouts with their respective Packs.

Webelos to Scout Expo will be Oct. 23-24-25 at Spring Creek Park.

Fun with Son, which includes fun activities for kids and (a) parent(s), will be Oct. 16-17-18 at Bovay Scout Ranch. One session will go Oct. 16 and 17, and the other group will go Oct. 17 and 18. There will be wrist rockets, BB guns, archery and more. Register on SHAC.org. Soaring Eagle District has been assigned games from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 17. Several District representatives will be at the event, but more are needed. Please let Tony Hensdill know if you can attend and help with games at josehensdill@scouting.org.

Webelos To Scout Expo is Oct. 23-24-25 at Bovay Scout Ranch. Four troops have committed to attend, three troops are a maybe. Troops can check in at 8 a.m., Sat., Oct. 24, if they do not want to camp overnight on Friday. The camp will include archery and BB guns. For adults, there will be merit badge training, Arrow of Light Crossover discussions, and career arrow talk. Kids will receive a feather instead of patches.

The District again has joined the Cy-Fair Lions Club to create **Cheer Baskets** of food for needy in Cy-Fair ISD schools. Food donations can be received at the Dec. 10 Roundtable. The food will be distributed to needy families in CFISD, as nominated by the nurses at schools. The District at Cy-Fair Lions Club had 50 baskets last year, and has set a goal for up to 60 baskets this year.

Recognition knots for parents to wear on their uniforms have not been given to District adults in well over a year – and some have been longer. Advancement chair Bob Steubing has complained to Council, but there has been no relief on the Council level. There is a lot of frustration with District parents because of this.

Troop 1944 is in the middle of a communications merit badge program, and will promote Scouting by attending school board meetings by wearing their full uniforms.

Council representatives will meet this month with the CFISD leadership to talk to them about helping us gain more membership. In the past, the schools allowed Boy Talk at lunches, which would assist in recruiting if it were allowed again.

The Cub Scouts' **Pushmobile** will be in March 5, as December was full with other Scout activities.

Camporee was in March, but will be moved. It could be moved to April 22-23-24 to run at the same time as **Webelos Do Your Best** at Bovay Scout Ranch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **District Dinner** is 7 p.m., Sat., Jan. 23, at a venue to be determined. Please save the date, as this is where the District gives out its awards. District award nominations will be first available at the Oct. 8 Roundtable, and again at the Nov. 12 Roundtable and Dec. 10 Roundtable.

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills on Oct. 9-10, at New Kentucky Park was cancelled due to lack of participation.

Starting October 6, the national council of the BSA will send a **Voice of the Scout** link to an e-mail survey to leaders, chartered organization representatives, parents of Scouts, and Scouts over age 14. The survey is called the "Voice of the Scout." Responses are due by Oct. 20, 2015.

The survey happens twice a year. It's important because it's a chance for you to give both the national organization and our council Executive Board and staff your feelings on what works and what doesn't in Scouting. Past feedback has figured into changes like the new Cub Scout advancement program, so your answers will be taken seriously.

Each unit in Soaring Eagle District -- as well as Big Cypress and Copperhead District districts -- is invited to host a booth at **Cy-Fest** on Nov. 7, at Lone Star College on Barker-Cypress Road. This is a great way to recruit new Scouts. Please consider doing this.

You can hold a bean-bag toss, a min-bowling alley, a first-aid display, or any of many other things. Respond below to let us know if you can participate.

Cy-Fest is Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information is at <http://www.lonestar.edu/cy-fest.htm>

FIRE-FEST is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., this Sat., Oct. 12, at the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, 18134 West Road, near Lone Star College.

See rescue trucks and fire ladders; vehicle fire extinguishment demonstrations; kid interaction with Sparky the Firetruck robot; see Hermann Hospital's Lifeflight helicopter; take a photo with a firefighter and an antique fire truck; walk through interactive house made to look like it is on fire, and other things.

For more information, go to www.cyfairfirefest.org.

Council Coordinated is at 7 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 22, at the Cockrell Center. This is for all District Committee members to learn about ideas and ways to help on the District level. (The District is set up to assist units.) You also can attend if you are not on the District Committee, to see if you want to join the committee.

WEBSITE – Due to liability reasons, the **Soaring Eagle District website** will be folded into the website at SHAC.org.

FACEBOOK – The district has a **Facebook page, called “Soaring Eagle District.”** Don't forget to snap some close-ups as well as photos of people having fun at your events and e-mail them to nfarmer07@att.net so they can be put on the District Facebook page.

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