

Soaring Eagle District Committee Meeting Minutes – 11/3/15 – West Road LDS Building

Attendance:

Bob Dunn, Steve Ware, Megan Keck, Tara Sal, Jennifer Nobles, Ajey Chandra, Bob Steubing, Bobby Hale, John Brogan, Judy Lizarraga, Becca Franco, Laban Marsh, David Lizarraga, Bob Weenig, Robby Lizarraga, Bobby Ausmus, and Vickie Oehring

Opening Exercises:

--Welcome: Vickie Oehring, District Commissioner (Neal Farmer, District Chairman was unable to attend)

--Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Steve Ware

--Invocation: Offered by Bobby Hale

--Song: Led by Vickie Oehring

Finance:

--Local Bahama Bucks franchises have agreed to partner with the district's Friends of Scouting campaign. They will donate a percentage of each transaction when a scout or scouter identifies themselves as an FOS participant. More details (exact percentages, procedures, and locations) will be made known in the near future.

--Steve Ware, on behalf of Tony Hensdill, briefly introduced the 2016 FOS campaign and distributed pledge cards.

The official kickoff will occur before the end of 2015. Committee members admired the regalia (patches, cap, belt buckle, and neckerchief) and were asked to consider making presentations to units throughout the district.

Membership:

--Steve Ware addressed the latest membership statistics (youth and units), but there was a discrepancy between two separate reports. Steve is going to collect the most current information and report back.

--Steve Ware and John Brogan discussed a membership recruiting initiative. Packs in the district are engaging in a friendly competition to recruit the most new members. Prizes will be awarded. More information is forthcoming.

--John Brogan reported that he has been in contact with Harmony School (at Highway 249 and Cutten Road). The school is interested in chartering scout units. They have the student body to support a pack and a troop (although the school only goes to 8th grade). John will stay in contact with Harmony and will collaborate with Tony Hensdill about starting a new unit.

--As a reminder, membership initiatives are not the exclusive responsibility of the membership committee. Every scout and scouter possesses the responsibility to share the message of scouting.

--As new units emerge, the need for New Unit Organizers and Unit Commissioners from the district are imperative. Please consider volunteering in these two important duties.

Program:

--Webelos to Scout Exposition: The participants endured significant rain, but the activity was a success.

--Registration is still open for the upcoming Order of the Arrow Fall Pow Wow on November 6-8 at Camp Bovay.

--Registration is still open for the upcoming Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow on November 14th at Aldine High School.

--The dates have changed for the upcoming Arrow of Light ceremonies sponsored by the Order of the Arrow. The new dates are January 9th and January 30th. Locations will be finalized in the near future.

--The annual Cub Scout Pushmobile will not be held in December as usual. The new date is March 5th, and it will be held at the Mills Road LDS building.

--Webelos Do Your Best will be held on April 22-24 in conjunction with the District Camporee. The location will be finalized in the near future.

--The annual District Dinner will be held on January 23rd at the LDS building off of North Eldridge (12310 New Hampton Drive, Cypress). The Soaring Eagle Award, the Partner in Scouting Award, the Family of the Year Award, and the District Award of Merit are presented at the dinner. Nominations for these awards are due at the December Roundtable on December 10th.

--Soaring Eagle District partners with the Cy-Fair Lions Club in a charitable program called Cheer Baskets. Baskets of food are donated to families in need during the Christmas season. Soaring Eagle is providing baskets for 60 families. This is a great opportunity for units to perform service. Contact Becca Franco for more information on

how to get involved. Bob Steubing asked about publicity for this initiative. The Lions club formally recognizes our efforts, and the committee discussed several ideas about how to publicize the service of our units even further. People need to be on the lookout for local magazines, newspapers, and HOA periodicals that would be willing to spotlight local scouts and scouters. Jennifer Nobles suggested we contact Jason Culpepper, a parent in Pack 866. Jason works with Impact News and would be a great contact.

--Soaring Eagle Shirt: scouts and scouters have the opportunity to show Soaring Eagle pride by wearing a district t-shirt. The shirts cost \$10.00, and participants in district activities can choose to have their shirts stamped with an emblem from the activity. Contact Becca Franco for more details.

--The November District Roundtable will be held at the West Road LDS building on November 12th at 7:00pm. Several awards will be presented during the combined opening session. The Boy Scout Roundtable will focus on the Eagle Scout project approval process and the associated paperwork.

Closing Exercises:

--Vickie Oehring invited each member of the committee to offer any new information or announcements.

--The next District Committee Meeting will be held at the West Road LDS building at 7:30pm on December 1st. All district committee members should plan to attend since this meeting will introduce the nominations for the 2016 district leadership.

--Vickie Oehring adjourned the meeting.