

**Soaring Eagle District  
District Committee Meeting, LDS Church, 10055 West Road  
Sept. 1, 2015**

**Attending were Neal Farmer, Robert Ausmus, Bob Steubing, Mike Walker, Tony Hensdill, Mark Hoffart, Bobby Hale, Becca Franco and Vickie Oehring.**

Opening by Mark Hoffart.

**FINANCE**

For **Friends of Scouting** goal is to raise about \$6,000 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 looking at a date with Backyard Grill.

We also will look at having a Bahama Buck's event at their facility on 12105 Jones Road. You would purchase a shaved ice at the venue and they would donate part of the cost to the District.

Another idea is to appeal to adults to donate \$100 to FOS, so we can meet our goal.

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

**MEMBERSHIP**

New membership chairman Steve Ware held a program to teach representatives from each Pack about how to try and recruit new members at the same time as the District Committee Meeting was held. New yard signs were passed out and new ideas were given to try and get Scouters to bring in new recruits.

Recruiting will be discussed at Roundtable on Thurs., Sept. 10.

The dates for Packs to hold **recruiting events** at their respective schools or churches were Sept. 1 and are Sept. 21. Pack representatives can turn in new membership forms to Steve Ware or Tony Hensdill at Backyard Grill on Sept. 21 before 9 p.m.

We have approximately 1,535 **Scouts registered** in the District in June, after having 1,693 registered at this time last year. We are at 71 units in the district.

**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**. The District deadline to turn in re-charters is at the Dec. 10 Roundtable at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland. (Units 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.

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](http://scouting.org). A new way to report commissioners' visits is available at [www.my.scouting.org](http://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 Pack as they already will have a great deal of Cub knowledge.

## **PROGRAMS**

Sept. 12-13, more than 300 **Sea Scouts** are expected at Lost Pine in Bastrop for a skills weekend. There will be advancement, as things like blind canoe races. Save the date. And in January, the Sea Scouts will meet at Galveston Sea Base for advancement activities. More than 300 from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana are expected.

Tiger Day will now be **Bobcat Day** on Sat., Sept. 26, at the LDS Chapel, 10055 West Road at Wheatland. Walk-ups are invited to arrive at 8 a.m., with preregistered Cubs invited to arrive at 8:30 a.m. The event will end at 1 p.m., and will have crafts and games. Registration forms will be handed out at the Sept. 14 Roundtable. There will be snacks but no lunch, which will lower the cost to \$10 per person.

Also invited to attend Bobcat Day are Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos Scouts, as they all can work on advancements. ALL participants will need Parts A & B of the BSA medical form.

This will be for family members who are new to Scouts, and teaches them about the Scouting movement. It will be run by Lynn Villareal. Links to register will be on [soaringeagledistrict.net](http://soaringeagledistrict.net).

There also will be a **BALOO training** at Bobcat Day, to assist new Cub leaders who need the training required for Pack campouts. Each Pack must have at least one BALOO-trained person at all campouts for the duration of the camp-out, as per BSA rules.

BALOO training will be open to Big Cypress and Copperhead Districts. Cost is \$15 per person for materials and food, and participants must register in advance with Bob Steubing at [bsteubing@comcast.net](mailto:bsteubing@comcast.net).

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

**Fun with Son**, which is 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](http://SHAC.org).

The Cub Scouts' **Pushmobile** will be in either December or January.

#### **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.

**Scoutmaster Specific Training** will be Tues.-Wed., Oct. 6-7, at a venue to be determined. Please contact Bob Steubing at [bsteubing@comcast.net](mailto:bsteubing@comcast.net).

Also, **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills** training will be Fri.-Sat., Oct. 9-10, at New Kentucky Park. Please register through Bob Steubing at [bsteubing@comcast.net](mailto:bsteubing@comcast.net).

**Youth Protection** – The District will have classroom Youth Protection Programs on Oct. 8 and Nov. 12 at Roundtables. This also will help with re-chartering, as some unit leaders will need the classroom YPT training for Winter Camp.

**WEBSITE** – Due to liability reasons, the Soaring Eagle District website will be folded into the website at [SHAC.org](http://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](mailto:nfarmer07@att.net) so they can be put on the District Facebook page.

**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.

\*\*\*use school fairs to recruit kids.

\*\*\*have recruiting booths at open houses and Meet the Teacher meetings.

\*\*\*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.

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