

Parent (Troop) Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 11/29/11

Present: David Corn, Chris Cozadd, Jim Custer, Julie Custer, Melissa Dana, Jeff Englander, John Fraas, Julie Griffin, Dave Hagigh, Michael Keays, Dieter Leach, Kathleen Norman, Kathleen O'Connell, Kathy Pala, Maria Ross, Chris Roussey, Millie Sjoberg, Steve Valley, Monique Wong, Wally Zampella

I. Approval of October Minutes

Approved. Melissa mentioned that she had reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, and thought that if we follow them, the meeting would take too long. General agreement from group.

II. Treasurer's Report - Kathleen O'Connell

Troop funds running low. Deposit paid to Philmont without having collected funds from Scouts, other bills coming due such as payment for hats and patches.

People are spending too much money on food for campouts. Should be limited to \$25 per Scout per two-night campout.

We must stay diligent with expenses and not pay out unless money comes in first.

Mechelle has suggested forming a Budget Committee. Idea well received. Steve Valley offered to serve with Kathleen O'Connell.

Request from Scoutmaster for reimbursement for Court of Honor expenses.

Amount requested by Michael for COH is \$432, which includes \$200 for gifts for Tony Ulses (departing ScoutMaster) and Ash Johnston (departing Parent Committee Chair). Steve suggested he may have to wait until funds come in from mulch fundraiser to be reimbursed, as funds insufficient right now.

III. Old Business

1. Parent Committee Meeting Time and Place - Melissa Dana

Last Tuesday of month, concurrent with PLC meeting, is by far the most popular time, according to Survey. But Melissa would like to meet elsewhere, as bar area at American Legion is too smoky. Perhaps rotating through parents' homes, or at a local establishment, such as Mad Fox? Melissa volunteered to host the next one at her house. Chris pointed out we may lose some time dropping boys, and then leaving to pick up. PLC runs 7-8pm, with a Leadership Lesson from 8-8:30. So we could have PLC from 7:05 until 8:25.

2. Fundraising - Steve Valley

Mistletoe: Three boxes of mistletoe arriving next weekend. After many parents asked for options for their sons to raise money to help pay for ski trip, not many stepped up to sell a full box as Steve had expected. Steve will plan sales for Metro stations by patrol.

Mulch: Will run Feb. 1 - April 14. Ordering four truckloads (at cost of or to raise)

\$7,920. Each Scout will be responsible for selling 114 bags at a cost of \$2.45 per bag. Steve received solicitations from many mulch companies after launch of new website. As a result, we could get mulch at a lower price/bag and possibly without having to pay delivery and pallet pick-up. If we go for the cheaper bags, it won't be from Merrifield. Discussion of whether quality of a cheaper mulch would be acceptable?

Other Issues: tabled until next meeting.

3. Weekly E-mail – Melissa

People don't want too many, nor too lengthy. Want important, vital facts. Steve suggests having a very short announcement, with a link to the website for more information.

Secretary will be responsible for enforcing editing.

Also some parents requested that the weekly e-mail go out earlier than Monday night. So now the Secretary will circulate the request to leaders for announcements on Saturday, and the weekly message will go out Sunday night.

4. Community Service – Millie Sjoberg

Dec. 10: Wreath-Laying at Arlington Cemetery

Meet at 7:30 am at American Legion, Ceremony at 8:30, will lay wreaths until noon. Millie asked Monique to help with Wreaths Across America.

Dec. 17: Scout Dinner for the Homeless Shelter

Need to prepare main course, salad, dessert for fourteen adults. Millie will be away on Dec 17 and asked for someone to step up as a coordinator for the holiday meal for the homeless shelter. Kathy Pala, Melissa Dana and Julie Griffin volunteered to help.

5. Advancement – David Corn

David is going through patrol by patrol to update all Scouts' information. He has finished the Tomahawks and will do the Flaming Marshmallows next.

6. Record-Keeping – Monique Wong

TroopMaster is the key database that has all troop info and updates. We should avoid making any other spreadsheets or documents, as that will confuse people, and key information may be lost. For example, Kathleen Norman will keep the troop roster updated on the website from TroopMaster information.

Mechelle Coppock will keep the Merit Badge Counselor list up to date.

David Corn is responsible for Scouts' Advancement Records (in TroopMaster).

Monique Wong is in charge of Adult Training Records.

7. Training – Monique

Monique to Council to update training records and apply for the NCAC 100% Trained Unit Recognition. Two more Assistant Scoutmasters need to finish training, then we are done.

8. Open House – Jeff Englander

Will be held Saturday, Dec. 3 at 9 am for rising Webelos.

Legion Hall not available; event to be held at Lincoln Ave Park. Twelve Webelos families expected. Debate if the coordinates for orienteering originally set up for the Legion parking lot could be used or adapted for that lawn area.

What info should Jeff give families interested in joining re: number of boys we will have join? We are at 32 Scouts in our troop now – what is our limit?

Melissa – our goal is 20 – 30. Idea was to have a smaller troop.

Some older boys are less active now.

Jim Custer – four patrols with equipment is our limiting factor right now, and eight is the ideal size of a patrol, so $8 \times 4 = 32$.

Kathleen Norman pointed out that at the April 2011 Parent Committee meeting we discussed this, noted that Troop Handbook says size is ideally between 30 – 45 Scouts, and concluded that we didn't want to be too big, nor too small, thus four patrols of eight boys each is ideal size.

Concluded that this issue needs to be discussed more, but for the recruitment event, we can possibly accept eight new Webelos to maintain troop size.

IV. New Business:

1. Ski Trip – Steve

Discussion of costs, bunkhouse. \$239 must be paid by 12/13 by any Scout interested in participating.

Total cost will be \$239 per Scout + \$10 per helmet (required per BSA).

Scouts staying at bunkhouse by ski slope; fee includes lodging, all meals, equipment and lift tickets for 3 days. Need 4 adults to stay at the bunkhouse. \$2,500 deposit needed for Timberline Ski Resort on Dec 19.

2. Increasing Participation of Older Scouts – Melissa

Older Scouts participation has been falling off recently. Why is this happening? Jeff Englander pointed out that he needs the older boys as teachers and mentors.

Chris Cozadd reported that some boys feel that the troop is less boy-led and more troop-led. They are getting less of an opportunity to be their own leaders. We need to give leadership back to the boys more. Where the older boys worked at their own pace, she heard at the Board of Review from boys that they are being pushed through. Also, campouts are too programmed, trying to do too many things, without enough time for just having fun.

Jeff asked that the Parent Committee give the Scoutmasters guidance on this. His goal has been to get as many boys to First Class as possible in the first year.

Melissa has heard that some feel the troop is too big.

Jim Custer pointed out that goal has always been to let boys make their own mistakes (as long as there are no safety issues involved).

How to get older boys interested again? How about a retreat weekend for the older Scouts, to let them have fun together but also reiterate that they have duty to help younger boys out.

Jim – boys need to give back, but also need to have fun with their friends and peers. Can we get back to having a theme for each campout, with two meetings to prepare for a certain activity at that campout?

All other items were tabled until the next meeting, due to lack of time.