

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

August 10, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Annette Schoeberle.

In attendance: Steve Dunning, John Evans, Diane Gill, Gary Gill, Steve Kupsky, Max Maier, Karen O'Koniewski, Mike O'Koniewski, Dan Ruark, Annette Schoeberle, Bob Schoeberle, Wes Searcy, John S., and Tim Valley.

Secretary Report: Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Steve Kupsky, Wes Searcy seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Tim Valley and Steve Dunning reviewed the August 2016 treasurers report. Several topics were discussed:

- Very little activity on the account during August.
- Noted a correction needed to be made on the report provided for August to the Committee: the \$260 in restricted funds that were noted as used for summer camp to support a scout in need was actually only \$240.
- Tim noted that the Troop needed to cut a reimbursement check for \$240 because former scout Seth V. did not attend summer camp. A motion to do this was made by Wes Searcy and seconded by Steve Kupsky; motion passed unanimously.
- Steve Dunning said he plans to reconcile camp card sales and some miscellaneous transactions.
- Council has again asked the Troop for financial information to help it determine how much it costs to run a typical troop. Tim and Steve have developed some information to help answer Council's question. Wes noted the request was intended to meet a regional BSA information request and was not intended to be highly detailed in content.

Activities Chair Report: Diane Gill gave the Activities Chair report:

- The Troop's Ten Year Anniversary celebration went well. About 55 people attended. The Troop also received several very nice emails updating it on the lives and activities of some past members who could not attend.
- A mountain biking event for the Troop will take place on August 27 from 9 AM to noon on the SIUE mountain bike trails. A waiver must be signed in order to attend and it will be required by August 22. We are expecting about 20 scouts at this time; first preference to get a bike goes to the scouts. The mountain bikes will be demo models provided free of charge by the Bike Surgeon in Shiloh, Illinois. The Bike Surgeon will also provide outfitting and instructors free of charge, but will not provide helmets, which participants must supply. The Committee discussed arranging for a newspaper photo opportunity and article about the event to show our appreciation to the Bike Surgeon.
- Diane is working to arrange another CPR training session at the Glen Carbon Fire Department. Six scouts are on the waiting list for the next session we can arrange. There is a \$5 fee for each participant. We now have the CPR certificates from the last session; these will be handed out at the next Troop meeting and the training itself can be tracked in Troopmaster.

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- Rendezvous will be held on September 30 at Warren Levis. Natasha McClintock is making the arrangements. Campsites will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. The Committee discussed the possibility of someone getting there on Friday to grab a good camping site (the Rotary site was mentioned) but no one was identified to do this at the meeting.
- Diane didn't have any firm details on Troop activities after September 30. She needs information from the scouts and about anything decided at the recent Patrol Leaders Conference.
- The Committee decided, with input from John S., to schedule the annual winter lock-in for December 2 at the Esic YMCA.

Advancement Chair Report: John Evans provided the committee with advancement reports. John reported that he is working to train new parents to participate in Boards of Review (BORs). He noted a parent must be a registered committee parent to serve on a BOR. Gary asked that the training emphasize that the BOR should be perceived by the Scout as a test of the program, not of the boy. If a scout makes it to the BOR unprepared, that indicates that the program has likely failed the scout in some way and this information must be relayed to the Committee and/or Scouters for remedy.

- Ian K. needs a BOR at the next Troop meeting.
- John asked the Committee to discuss the pros and cons of purchasing patches for patrol identification and leadership positions. There was general agreement that patrol and position patches are good way to foster pride, responsibility, and unit cohesion. Dan Ruark moved the Committee purchase patches for patrol identification and leadership positions and that these patches may be retained by the scouts after they leave their positions; motion was seconded by Steve Kupsky and passed unanimously.
- Noted that Danny S. has his Eagle BOR tomorrow night and that Jim A. is working on his application package for his Eagle rank.

Council/District Representative Report: Wes Searcy gave the council and district activities report. Wes raised the issue of Troop communications and how we can better share information with parents, including that gathered outside the Committee meetings such as information from Council brought to us by Wes. Annette discussed possible ways we could better use the Troop's Facebook page. The Committee recognized we needed to get our webmaster, P.J. Welsh, into this discussion. We decided to form a Communications Subcommittee to explore the entire communications issue, both from a policy and a technology standpoint, and report back to the Committee. Initial members of the subcommittee are Steve Dunning, Wes Searcy, and P.J. Welsh. In the meantime, Wes will be granted access to the Troop's Gmail account to send council information on behalf of the Committee. Other items discussed included:

- Wes referred the Committee to an August 9 email from Lewis and Clark Council about the details of the proposed merger with Greater St. Louis Area Council. The Executive Committee will hear reports from several subcommittees on various issues related to a potential merger, and in September will make a recommendation to the Council Board on whether to proceed with a merger.
- Popcorn training has begun.

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- Scoutmaster Indoor Leader Training is on 13 August.
- Unit Leader High Adventure Training will be held August 27.
- NESAs will be held at Camp Joy on October 27.
- University of Scouting will be held at Collinsville High School on January 28, 2017.
- Troop 216 is the top troop in the district for training.
- Wood Badge will be taught on the weekends of September 9 and October 8, but only if seven more participants sign up to make a full class.
- Scouting for Food will start on 12 November and pickup will be 19 November. The Troop does not have a Scouting for Food coordinator at this time.

Senior Patrol Leader Report: John S. provided the SPL report.

- John reported that there is a problem with the Titans patrol. The scouts in that patrol are not listening to their patrol leader, including two older scouts who don't provide any support even though they should know better. The assistant patrol leader is also not helping. Gary said he will consider intervening to help correct the situation.
- The Committee indicated it will get John a list of scouts who need completed health forms. John will talk to the scouts indicated to encourage them to update their records. The goal is to have the forms updated by the August 27 biking event.
- John and the Committee decided planning for elections needs to start now in advance of the October 3 Court of Honor.
- The next Troop meeting will be the last held at the Church before we resume meetings at Liberty Middle School.
- There was more scout interest in a Boundary Waters canoeing trip than in Philmont at the recent Patrol Leader Conference. The Committee recognized the need to begin advance planning for a summer 2017 high adventure outing and formed a High Adventure Subcommittee; initial members are Gary Gill, Steve Kupsky, and Dan Ruark. Gary indicated that high adventure-related activities, including training and preparation, will be integrated into regular Troop events so that all scouts can build skills and benefit from them, regardless of whether they actually go on the outing.
- The Committee provided John with complimentary feedback from members and parents on how well he is running Troop meetings.

Fundraising Chair Report: Annette Schoeberle gave the fundraising report.

- The Troop needs a new E-Scrip coordinator and a new Cardinals Calendar coordinator.
- A possible sandbag-filling fundraising event was discussed; Annette will gather more information and report back to the Committee.
- The Committee discussed selling wreaths again this fall. Tim and Steve will look into how much past wreath sales have generated so that the Committee can make an informed decision on whether or not it is worth the effort.

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- Karen O'Koniewski has agreed to be the Troop's Popcorn Colonel. The Troop will do online sales only. Only scouts who are interested will participate. The online sales profit margin of 50% is higher than in past popcorn sales. Sales started on August 1.
- Quartermaster Report: John Evans reported that he priced rain canopies and purchased one for \$55. It will require slight modifications to fit perfectly on our framework. He hopes to test fit it at the next Troop meeting. He also reported the following:
- There is a recurring problem with low flames on the camping stoves. He hopes to set up the stoves at the next meeting and swap equipment around to isolate the problem.
- John suggested we number the patrol boxes and stoves to better track maintenance and responsibility at campouts; this idea was enthusiastically accepted by the Committee.
- Annette has donated expired fire extinguishers to the Troop for use in fire extinguisher training.

Scoutmaster Report: Gary Gill reported on the following:

- Between 12 and 15 scouts attended the Patrol Leaders Conference. The event went well and Gary built in some leadership training.
- Summer camp at Camp Gamble was awesome. He thanked Diane Gill and Annette Schoeberle for terrific planning and preparation. The site was beautiful and he would definitely support the scouts if they chose to go there again. Everyone really enjoyed the patrol cooking method the camp used. The staff was outstanding and the Order of the Arrow call-out ceremony was first-class. 73 merit badges were earned at camp and another 15 were partially completed. After a few days, the scouts realized they needed duty rosters to make sure the work was evenly apportioned. One scout became sick on Monday and had leave. Two more boys left on Thursday; one of these departures was disappointing because the issue was reportedly an inability to sleep well, but this was not mentioned to anyone at camp until after the scout had called their parents. Gary was very impressed by the leadership of Garrett V. in his role as acting SPL. Finally, Gary thanked Max, Wes, John, Tim, and Tara for their attendance and support. Wes thanked Gary and Max for very effectively turning around a scout who was struck with a strong case of homesickness.
- Missed opportunities at summer camp included a great water-based program at Swift Base; unique troop activities such as boat tours to a remote camp site; and Huck's Cove water park. Gary suggested we can always consider S-Bar-F campsites for a weekend campout.
- Wes offered to create a promotional video using all the great video we have from summer camp and show it at the October Court of Honor.
- Gary raised the question of whether the Troop needed to revise its dress code to promote the wearing of official uniform pants or shorts. The problem of whether or how to mitigate the additional cost to parents was discussed. There was general agreement that scouts should be encouraged to wear a more complete official uniform, but the Committee took no action on changing formal policy.

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Committee Chair Report: Annette Schoeberle reported the following:

- The Troop has its re-chartering package now and Annette will review the roster for completeness and accuracy.
- She has emailed one scouter about updating their Youth Protection Training. She also emailed Chris Robinson about his needed training.
- Annette reported that the Re-chartering Subcommittee met that evening before the regular Committee meeting. The Subcommittee reported the following:
 - Father Al Allen of St. Cecilia's previously informed members of the subcommittee that the church will not be the new chartering organization for the Troop. No specific reason was given.
 - Wes met Mr. Larry Miller of the Edwardsville American Legion at a recent Venturing Camporee. It just so happens that the Legion is looking for a Troop to sponsor. Mr. Miller came to the Subcommittee meeting this evening to meet everyone involved and just to get to know us better. They have plenty of service opportunities, such as flag placements and cleaning up after fireworks. Larry is a former Assistant Scoutmaster and merit badge counselor; he is also interested in being the Chartering Organization Representative and in sponsoring a Venturing Crew. The meeting went well and the Subcommittee will continue investigating this option.
 - The Subcommittee is also looking into other organizations that have been suggested by parents and committee members, and the District has also provided some names for our investigation.
 - The subcommittee will move as quickly as possible to vet options and make a recommendation to the Committee.
 - Gary would prefer if Cub Scout Pack 216 also chartered with the same organization as the Troop if possible, but that shouldn't prevent the Troop from making its own best decision which group to charter with.
 - The Troop should be aware that with a new chartering organization, a change in Troop meeting nights from Monday night may be required, at least during the summer when Liberty School is not available. At this time, we have not been told that there is any change in school policy that will prevent the Troop from meeting at the school during the school year.

New Business: None.

Charter Organization Representative Report: None.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Schoeberle, seconded by Dan Ruark, approved.