

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

September 14, 2016

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

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

Secretary Report: Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and Steve Dunning moved for approval, Seconded by Steve Kupsky, motion passed unanimously.

Activities Chair Report: Diane Gill provided a written Activities Chair report and touched on these points:

- The Rendezvous campout will be September 30-October 2 at Camp Warren Levis. Permission slips are due at the next regular Troop meeting.
- The Silver Lake campout will be on October 14-16. There is a five mile hiking trail there and the scouts can fish. There is a pavilion there for our use. There is no camping fee; the Committee agreed on a \$25 per person fee for food.
- The Giant City campout will be on November 4-6; permission slips will be due October 24.
- Scouting for Food will start on 12 November and pickup will be 19 November.
- The annual winter lock-in will be January 13 at the Esic YMCA.
- There will be no regular Troop meetings on October 10, October 31, November 21, December 26, or January 2, 2017.
- Diane and Gary talked about the need to have at least two work-up campouts in the April-June 2017 timeframe to prepare for a probable Boundary Waters High Adventure trip. One of the campouts would practice lightweight camping like we would do at Boundary Waters.
- Diane mentioned there is a service opportunity on Sunday October 16 at the LeClaire 25th Annual Festival. Organizers are looking for volunteers to help set up for the event and clean up afterward. John S. will gauge scout interest at the next meeting.
- Scott Ganschinietz is the new Scouting for Food lead.

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

- They noted a substantial camp card deposit (\$465.00).
- Three needed corrections in the August report were noted: the first correction needed regarded a stated \$63.00 spent on chartering/re-chartering: in fact, the expense was for new scout administration. The second corrected needed was for an expense of \$240.00 for a scout account closeout; it was actually to reimburse a scout for not attending summer camp. The third regarding \$168.90 reimbursed to Diane Gill for Jack Gill's Eagle Court of Honor (COH) expenses; the expense was actually for general Troop 216 Eagle (COH) expenses and not specifically for supplies only for Jack Gill's COH.
- Annette noted the large balances remaining in the scout accounts of some scouts who have aged out. She asked the Committee if there was any objection to reaching out to these individuals to

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

September 14, 2016

remind them that they can use the remaining balances on Scouting-related expenses. Everyone agreed that is was a good idea. Annette also noted that scouts who have aged out may become reserve scouts and remain involved with the Troop with lower obligations for training.

- Annette and Tim Valley attended the last roundtable Meeting and saw a presentation on troop budgets. It doesn't appear the financial information the Council has asked all the troops to provide will be closely scrutinized; it appears it is just for the Council to check off a box and have general figures on what it takes to run a troop. Tim said the Troop will submit completed forms for 2016 and 2017 and that one purpose was to make sure Troops are actively managing their money, which we already do. Everyone agreed that Annette, Steve, and Tim may complete and submit the forms without any further oversight by the Committee.

Advancement Chair Report: Gary Gill gave the Advancement Report in John Evans' absence.

- Danny S. and Jim A. passed their Eagle BORs in the past month.
- John S. continues work on his Eagle rank and has until next August to complete it.
- Annette ordered sixty neckerchiefs. They should be shipped this week and all of the embroidery work by Bev West can be done by October Court of Honor (COH).

Council/District Representative Report: Gary Gill gave the council/district representative's report in Wes Searcy's absence.

- It looks like the merger of the Greater St. Louis Area council and the Lewis & Clark Council is likely to happen. The pros seem to outweigh the cons in the view of several Lewis & Clark subcommittees that assessed a potential merger. Gary doesn't think there will be a significant downside to such a merger. It isn't clear how or whether the Order of the Arrow Lodges will combine. It also isn't known what the name of the new council might be. It may be hard to defend the current number of scout camps but it is also possible new programs may be brought to Lewis & Clark camps.
- University of Scouting will be held at Collinsville high School on January 28, 2017.
- 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.

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

- John reported that the Titans patrol is working better now that he intervened and talked to some of the older scouts about playing a more constructive, supportive role.
- John will be unable to attend the September 26 meeting or the Rendezvous campout.
- John has notified nominees for positions who did not attend the last meeting that their names had been entered into contention for Troop positions.
- The Troop needs new paper for the marker board used during the meetings.

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

September 14, 2016

- New patrol leaders will be elected before the October COH. Gary stated he will analyze how best to reorganize the patrols and integrate new scouts into the patrols (rather than having them all in one patrol of their own).
- Mini patrol leader conferences will resume at the next meeting.
- Steve Dunning thanked John for his help contacting scouts with past due balances.

Fundraising Chair Report: Karen O’Koniewski provided a report on popcorn sales in her role as Popcorn Colonel. She has created a letter to scouts and a worksheet they can use to track popcorn sales. Six scouts are already selling, using the official websites set up for online sales. One scout father told Karen he doesn’t believe in scouts having their own websites; this complicates ordering the product since it could introduce the potential for incomplete or partial cases of product. Karen asked the Committee for its opinion on the father’s objection; the general sense of the Committee was that the official websites for this purpose aren’t personal websites, can’t be used as such, and reveals no personal information. Karen will reach out to the parent again to explain how the system works and see if something can be worked out. In other news:

- Beth Welsh has volunteered to work with Steve Dunning to run Cardinals Calendar sales.
- Tara Kuhne is looking into wreath sales for the Troop.

Chartering Report: Annette gave a report on progress in the effort to identify a new chartering organization.

- The chartering subcommittee has been in contact with several potential new chartering organizations.
- The subcommittee met with the Edwardsville American Legion again. The meeting went well and the officer seemed supportive. It was noted that the Legion has bingo games on Monday and so their hall would not be available those nights for use by the Troop; however, we can probably work around that if the Legion does not demand we meet there and the school remains available for meetings (there is no reason to think the school won’t be available to us in the foreseeable future). There is a lot of outside space. Gary thinks it is a good fit; both organizations have similar missions and there are a lot of service opportunities. Larry Miller, our main interface with the Legion, badly wants a troop associated with the Legion.
- Dr. Brooks at First Christian Church contacted us and is very interested in Troop 216 being associated with the church. The church board has even already approved being our charter organization. The church had a troop before but it dissolved from a lack of adult leadership, so there may be boys there who would join our Troop if we charter there.
- Committee members discussed their personal leanings one way and another between the Legion and the Church. Everyone agreed that either organization would be acceptable, and each had strengths and weaknesses; for example, logistics is probably with the Legion but the Church may be a better recruiting grounds for new scouts.
- Gary will email both organizations, thank them for their interest, and ask what the next steps are with each to carry on the process.

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

September 14, 2016

- The Committee discussed what our next steps would be and arrived at this process 1) verify all information and identify any issues with each party; 2) send a status email to all parents, ask for their input, and invite them to attend a committee meeting (ideally, the October 12 meeting) to discuss pros and cons; 3) the subcommittee would put viable candidate organizations to the committee for a decision.

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.

Quartermaster Report: Gary Gill gave the quartermaster report in John Evans' absence. The only item discussed was the need to replace the latches on the Troop's largest cooler.

Communications Report: Steve Dunning reported to the committee on the work of the Communications Subcommittee. He provided a memorandum outlining the issues the subcommittee will address. The subcommittee looked at the spreadsheet prepared by Gary that outlines various information that the Troop needs to track, maintain, and share with various parties. The subcommittee recommended there be one repository for all troop information for ease of access and use. It needs to be in a medium that all parents can access, including Scouts. For example, not everyone has smart phones and Facebook is

Troop 216 Committee Meeting

September 14, 2016

for individuals 13 years and older only, which would exclude the youngest Scouts, which may be a problem. Annette said the Troop website should be our top priority. Questions that remain for investigation include: 1) is the Troop website mobile phone-friendly, and if not, can it be made so? And 2) Will all Troop information be there for everyone to see or should some be password protected? The Committee discussed the possibility that it may need to find a new website hosting company to be able to accomplish everything we want the website to do. Facebook has many tools but not every function we need. Everyone agreed we would still need to send emails to at least drive traffic to the website or whatever other site we end up using.

Scoutmaster report: Gary Gill reported on the following:

- The biking event went very well. Even though it ran 2 hours longer than planned.
- He has been conducting minim patrol leaders conferences during the Troop meetings to get information out and to answer questions.
- The CPR class hasn't been scheduled yet and we haven't heard back from the Glen Carbon Fire Department. This event may be better done during the winter anyway.
- Gary will call Packsack Outfitters to get pricing for the potential Boundary Waters high adventure outing.
- Gary noted that Max Maier has started his Woodbadge training, which will be a big benefit to the Troop.

Committee Chair Report: Annette Schoeberle reported the following:

- We have received our Journey to Excellence package and she is reviewing to paperwork. She will determine when it has to be submitted and will update the Committee at the next meeting.
- John Evans now has an updated and presumable accurate merit badge counselor list.
- She has the Troop's re-chartering package and will review the roster for completeness and accuracy.
- Some adult leaders are behind in their required training, so she will reach out to those individuals.

New Business: None.

Charter Organization Representative Report: No significant news.

Motion to adjourn by Dan Ruark, seconded by Steve Kupsky, approved.