

## **Minutes for Troop 870 Parents Meeting on December 3, 2012**

Kari Francis conducted the meeting as Committee Chair Mike Marston was not feeling well. The meeting was called to order by Kari at 7:10 p.m.

### **Committee opening**

The secretary position is still open. Kari asked if anyone would be willing to volunteer to fill this position. Erica Stepchinski is the new recording secretary.

### **Fall Camp Report**

Ron Roark reported that everyone had a good time overall. The camaraderie between the younger and older scouts was much improved from Summer Camp. Ron is working on resolving merit badge issues. Our scouts participated in KP duty and were very impressed by what it takes to feed that many campers! The camp at Mt. Bayou Lake, La. did not offer as much adult training as promised. Troop 870 adults and Eagle Scout Brad Paul taught 7 Merit Badge classes.

### **Upcoming Events/Campouts**

The **troop holiday party** will be at UBC on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Karen Zimpfer will send out an e-mail with details about what each patrol should bring for refreshments. **Please be mindful that a couple of the scouts have peanut or red dye allergies.**

Plans for the **campout/bike ride/hike event** this coming weekend at UBC were reviewed. Scouts will also be learning cooking skills and how to take proper care of troop equipment.

Charles Phillips reported on plans for the **outing to McKinney Roughs State Natural Area** on January 19 or 20. This state certified facility offers rock climbing, rappelling, ziplining, and a challenge course. Scouts should be able to get most of the requirements completed for the climbing Merit Badge that weekend. Charles asked parents if they might be interested in having the boys spend the night at UBC prior to the early morning departure for this trip so that they could make a quick getaway at 5:00 the next morning. They might even be able to cover some of the safety review for the MB on Friday evening. Charles will check with Mike Lovelace to determine if the overnight stay at the church will be possible.

A few more volunteers are still needed to serve on the Outdoor Activities Committee. The more members on the committee, the less campouts and other activities any one person or team has to coordinate.

### **Recharter/Re-registration**

Recharter/re-registration is in progress. Forms were distributed to parents and scouts in attendance at tonight's meetings. These forms are due back to Sharon Marston by January 14<sup>th</sup>. All parents who participate in activities involving scouts (including camping and driving to/from events) are required to take Youth Protection Training (YPT). The online training is sufficient. A copy of the Driver's Pledge that is required for adults transporting scouts to/from activities is included in the forms. The pledge will be filled out annually now, rather than for each campout or activity, so please complete this form also. (See Joe Layden's December 4<sup>th</sup> e-mail for more information).

### **Service Projects**

There was some discussion about the Seafarer's Toiletry Drive, one of our annual service projects. It was noted that this project has become less boy focused and that the scouts should be more involved in this project. A suggestion was made that the scouts might be able to have a collection drive at either a dollar store or at a grocery store on two Saturdays to collect items for the seafarers. This would have to be considered for next year's collection since there is not enough time to organize for this year's project. The scouts also need to come up with a better assembly line plan for putting together the items for individual boxes. The process has been too chaotic and unorganized in recent years. Kari will ask her sons if they can come up with a better system to organize the sorting/distribution/wrapping process.

### **Treasurer report**

Michelle Croce said that expenditures for November included the monthly campout, Camporee, and fall camp. There currently is plenty of money in the treasury. She will be working on the 2013 budget and the year- end fiscal report soon.

### **Philmont High Adventure update**

Kari reported that the troop has requested either a 7 day or 12 day trip for the summer of 2014, but we have not received a response yet. The individual cost for Philmont will exceed \$800 when costs for transportation and gear are factored in. Qualifications for going to Philmont are: 1) Scouts must be 14 or over and must be at least First Class or Star rank. 2) Scouts must be physically and emotionally mature enough for a demanding outing of this nature.

### **Fundraiser Chair Report**

The troop has received permission to advertise our flag fundraiser by word of mouth to residents in the Bay Oaks subdivision. The troop can display signs and distribute flyers, but the scouts can't go door to door for subscriptions. The fundraiser will also be promoted in the Bay Oaks newsletter and on their website.

Paul Nguyen is working on development of a subscription website for this fundraiser so that residents can sign up for automatic renewal and direct bank payments. He is also looking into credit card payment and PayPal options. Paul Schaidler mentioned that he has a supplier for 50-100 more flagpoles.

With the expansion of this fundraiser, the troop will need to rent a larger storage unit. Paul said that scouts and their parents will probably need to sign up for 3 flag distribution dates instead of 2 to provide coverage for the increase in subscriptions. He plans to meet with the scouts in the future to review proper procedures for rolling up the flags so that they don't get wrinkled in storage. Additionally, he mentioned something the troop could consider is renting a U-Haul type trailer to facilitate distribution.

### **SPL/Scout Master Announcements**

- Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Lane Francis announced that Mr. Bauder will be having a meeting for all Life Scouts on Friday, Dec. 7. A meeting for parents of Life Scouts will be held on December 10 at UBC.
- There will be a lot going on in December and January with SPL and patrol leader elections, Webelos visits, and patrol leader training coming up.
- Kyle Ludovice will be having his Eagle Court of Honor this month at the United Methodist church.
- The bike ride/hike/campout/cooking skills review is this weekend at UBC. We could still use 2 or 3 more parents to help with the bike ride/hike. Extra helmets will be available if any scout needs one.
- Mr. Francis will be delivering the Seafarer Toiletries boxes to the Port on December 22.
- **January 21 is the Martin Luther King holiday. Although scouts will have a school holiday on that day, there will be a scout meeting. We will be hosting an Open House for visiting Webelos that night.** Mr. Galliker will be giving a very interesting presentation on his experiences in the U.S. Marine Corps. He will also be bringing some of his military gear to show the scouts.
- There are several Eagle projects making their way through the pipeline.
- The next Court of Honor will be on the last Monday in January.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Erica Stepchinski