

**Troop 33 – Takoma Park MD**  
**Monthly Committee Meeting**  
**December 18, 2017 Church Parlor**  
**8:00 – 9:30**  
**Annotated Agenda/Minutes**

**Introductions and Chair’s Report** – Howie Schaffer

Action Taken: None

Short discussion of next steps in rechartering process. All is on schedule. Letter to Camp Horseshoe to request removal of plaque with confederate flag has been submitted to church pastor for signature. 2017 has been a year of big transition for Troop 33. A big thank you to the whole Troop family was offered. We are strong, growing, and learning together. We have a strong troop culture and are increasingly boy-led. We stand on the shoulders of many dedicated scouts, parents, and leaders who have created the nearly 100-year-old institution that we have inherited.

**Old Business**

Treasurer’s Report: Dave Lanar reported we have about 20K in the bank currently. We have pending deposits for the February 2018 ski trip and Philmont 2019 that need to be submitted for payment.

Action: None

Dues Collection: Bert Brandenburg has been working with the Troop Chair and Scoutmaster to nudge the final 18 scouts with unpaid dues to register and pay. We lost one scout during the recharter due to competing interests. Otherwise, all have re-upped. The Troop Chair reported that 6-8 scouts have asked for financial assistance with their dues and the troop has agreed to pay those fees.

Eagle Scout Committee: Eagle ceremony for Matt Balfe was held in church chapel on 12/9/17. It was a reverent and warm occasion. Reilly Caprioglio-Chase has completed his project and will have his council board of review in January 2018. Jeremy Gagnon will be back from college in early January and is working with Scoutmaster Hammerstrom to set a date for his Eagle Scout ceremony. Dave Lanar also reported that a “Welding Party” was held on 12/16/17 at his house. About ten adults came to learn how to weld and spend some time together in a social capacity. Dave also reported that he plans to convene a “Trail to Eagle” meeting with Life Scouts in January to encourage them to accelerate their progress toward rank.

Rechartering: All training issues have been resolved.

Action: Bruce Andersen will work with Dirck Byler to finalize the recharter for signature by Key Three Troop leaders.

Advancement: Matt Rees reported that a Court of Honor will be held in January and that seven scouts will move up in rank. Merit Badge Day is approaching in February 2018. A discussion of the merit badge process will be put on the agenda for the January 2018 troop committee meeting.

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Discussion of Policy and Process for Granting Financial Assistance to Scouts

The Troop Chair reported that he and the Scoutmaster had met to discuss a recommendation for prioritizing requests for financial assistance and increasing transparency of the request, review, and approval process for such requests. It was recommended that requests for financial assistance be prioritized as follows:

- 1) **Helping Scouts Pay their Dues** to enable a full year of scouting program
- 2) **Helping Scout Pay for Camp**, both weekend camping and full-week summer camp
- 3) **Helping Scouts with Other Outdoor Activities**, such as the ski trip and ropes course

The committee approved the policy above and also recommended two additional steps:

- 1) All scouts receiving financial help are encouraged to participate in troop fundraising activities such as Pancake Supper, Mulch Sales, and Scoutscapes. These are opportunities for scouts to “give back” to the troop and also to earn funds toward other scouting activities.
- 2) The Scoutmaster was charged with exploring the creation of a system for scouts to collect dues on a weekly basis. For some families, it may be easier to pay \$2 a week for scouts than \$90 in one payment. The Scoutmaster agreed to the charge and will report back at a future meeting.

Action: Howie Schaffer, troop chair, will follow up with Jim Vorhies, treasurer, to ensure creation of training budget. The chair will also follow up with Scoutmaster to respond to pending requests for financial help with the ski trip.

Discussion of Process for Signing up for Troop Events

Bruce Andersen asked the troop committee to think about ways to give scouts more responsibility to sign themselves up for outings and activities. It was agreed that we may be rely to heavily upon SignUp Genius and other systems where parents sign up scouts. The discussion revealed that the scouts lack experience in communicating directly with one another and also that the scouts lack training in managing a “phone tree” and other systems to communicate from the senior patrol leader, to the patrol leaders, to the individual scouts.

Action: Scoutmaster Hammerstrom will put this item on the agenda for the next Patrol Leaders Council meeting and report back to the troop committee on the PLC’s dialogue and next steps.

Scoutmaster Report:

Johan Hammerstrom reported that the next camping trip is in January 2018 to Camp Schmitt. The next few scout meetings will focus on winter camping skills. The December Gift Exchange with Montgomery Public Housing was a big success. Thanks were given to Kristen Dill, Roger Griffis, Nicole Phillips, and Minya Zeru for their leadership and personal generosity in making the event a success. The annual Troop Caroling event will be held at Forest Hills Nursing Home in Washington DC on January 19, 2017. The troop quartermaster, Graham Velsey, will accompany the scouts on piano.

No New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. Next meeting: January 22nd, 2018, 8 PM in Church Parlor