

**Boy Scout Troop 33
Takoma Park Maryland
Monthly Committee Meeting
Minutes**

December 17, 2018, TP Church Parlor Room, 8-9:30pm

Present: Nicole Phillips, Dave Lanar, Lee Howard, Sonja Kueppers (Secretary), Dave Goldberg, Marian MacDorman, Howie Schaffer (Committee Chair), Jim Vorhies (Treasurer), Mark Verschell

Introductions & Chair's Report - Howie Schaffer

- Centennial Logo Contest Outcome
 - Cal's submission was chosen by the Scouts. Jim moved that it be approved as the Centennial badge, Victoria seconded, the motion was unanimously approved. Lee remarked that the fleur de lis probably needs to be on the badge, and suggests the bottom center; whoever is hired to produce the badge will know about these details.
 - No one has yet stepped forward to coordinate the Centennial. Howie would really like to see a whole year of activities, including a banquet, a family campout at Camp Schmitt, service opportunities, etc.
- Scout Sunday will be on February 17th. Typically Scouts are ushers on that day and have other roles.
- Status of BSA Recharter
 - Mark Verschell, Howie, and Nicole have been working on this. Lee has been talking with people about Youth Protection Training.
 - 62 youth are being reregistered and 39 adults, 10 of whom are multiples with the Pack. The Troop and the Pack each pay for half of the registrations for the multiply-registered adults. Lee registered 25 leaders with the pack.
 - Lee says that some parents will be crossing over from the Pack this spring. They include Lee Howard, Scott Ward, and possibly Steve Moody.
 - \$4351 is the recharter cost. Bert Brandenburg did a great job following up with people, collecting money, etc. One of the important reasons to get the rechartering done on time is that you lose access to my.scouting.org if you don't submit on time.
 - We renew the crew's charter each year although it is inactive, since that is easier than restarting it at a future time when we have interested youth.
 - We got 1800 out of 2000 possible points in the Journey to Excellence, earning the gold level. One place we didn't get maximum points is that we had 8 (rather than 9) short-term camps, due to the weather-related

cancellations we faced this year.. Another place we lost points is in training for the troop committee members — while we do have one member who has received advanced training lasting at least 5 days (e.g. wood badge), we don't meet the criterion that $\frac{2}{3}$ of committee members should have position specific training.

- The church has re-appointed Howie as Troop Committee chair, and he has re-appointed all current troop officers to their existing positions. We will have nominations and an election at a future meeting.

Review/Approval of Minutes of November 19 Meeting - Sonja Kueppers

Nicole noted that her last name was spelled incorrectly. Minutes were approved unanimously with that correction.

Priorities

- Merit Badge Day
 - Merit Badge Day should fit into a larger advancement plan for the troop.
 - We want to make sure scouts understand the merit badge process. Scouts should know what is available at Horseshoe, and understand the benefits of taking Eagle-required badges there when possible. Merit Badges also provide a valuable way to engage parents as Merit Badge Counselors.
 - Marian believes that we should only offer badges at a Merit Badge Day that can be done in one day, or at most with one follow-up session. She suggested that we consider doing a Merit Badge Day every other year, and would like someone new to start working on organizing it.
 - Marian made a list of the badges that are suitable for a Merit Badge Day a few years ago.
 - Lee Howard noted that Merit Badge Counsellors might want to check and make sure they are still registered as Merit Badge Counsellors.
 - There was some discussion of logistics for the Welding Merit Badge. Lee is a MBC for this badge, and Dave Lanar has the welding equipment at his home. It would be best with 3 boys.
 - Nicole moved that we have a merit badge day on February 9 or another nearby date under Matt's leadership, with guidance from Marian and Dave Goldberg. Dave Goldberg seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
 - There was some discussion about whether it matters for the Pack's Pinewood Derby work session to be on the same date. Marian remarked that the Scouts are occupied all day.

Committee Reports

- Treasurer (Jim Vorhies)
 - Changes to the budget since the last reading:
 - Previously budget had not had any funds for Camp Schmitt. Tim reported that there is one tree overhanging the Venturing Cabin which may require removal.
 - Increased expenses for the equipment closet, as discussed at the last Troop Committee meeting.
 - Budget was approved unanimously
- Eagle Scout Committee (Dave Lanar)
 - Two boys going for their Boards of Review on the second Friday in January. Massimo did his project this weekend, collected over 1000 books, and had over a dozen Scouts helping. Giovanni just needs six months of leadership; he is currently Webmaster. Dave suggests we give the boys their patches soon after they are earned.
 - There may not be enough time to get their patches by the time of the Court of Honor on January 17.

Report from Scoutmaster - Johan Hammerstrom

- New web site
 - Charlie Hairston has been working with Giovanni to build a new website. He's been focused on creating scaffolding (content management system), which will then allow the troop to update the site later.
 - There will be sections for camping trips, history, photos, etc.
 - We will need adults to add information.
 - Jim Vorhies asked whether there will be a private section not available to the general public.
 - Mark Verschell thinks there is a BSA document for what information should be public vs. private.
 - Sonja and Victoria remarked that having a lot of information on the web can be good for marketing to youth and adults and for communicating with families.
 - Lee Howard noted that we should leave out personally identifiable information, and asked what permissions we need from families. The BSA registration form already covers this. Current troop policy is that Scouts are only identified by first name on the website; once

they turn 18, we can change photo captions and the like to identify them with their last names.

- **General Report**

- The Troop hosted Pack 33's Webelos last Thursday - 18 are slated to cross over into the Troop this spring. A pack in Silver Spring has 6 and wants to check us out. Tim has a couple in Pack 23 who may want to cross over.
 - We will need to add patrols to accommodate the new Scouts. Dave reminded us that when Don Patti was scoutmaster they had over 100 scouts. Johan talked with a leader at Webelos Weekend whose troop has 120 scouts. They have 4 trailers!
 - Johan was the den leader for 3 years of the Webelos 2 den, so he knows a lot of the parents. There are 4-5 who wear the uniform and are ready to help out. We need to make sure the parents have proper training and onboarding.
 - We need to find patrol leaders. At the same time, it is important to make sure the boys have a chance to experience Scouting before they become patrol leaders. It's a mistake for them to become Patrol Leaders too early in their Scouting experience.
 - Leadership changeover for the Scouts is March 1.
 - Nicole asked if we are thinking of having an adult advisor for each patrol? Johan does not plan for that to happen at the present time. Nicole noted that an advantage of this method is that it gives parents an adult to ask when questions arise. Sonja remarked that as the troop grows, patrol leaders may need different ways to get support.
- We had a really good debrief of the November campout. Johan thinks it would be a good idea to have defined roles for adults who come on camping trips.
 - It would be helpful to have an Assistant Scoutmaster whose job it was to support the quartermasters regarding gear.
- Winter camping at Camp Schmitt will be on the last weekend in January.

General Discussion

Howie reflected that it's been a great year of hard work for the Troop Committee, with a good regular cohort attending. He thanked all the troop committee and other volunteers whose contributions are vital to the troop's ongoing success.

Adjourned at 9:31 (Next Meeting January 21, 2019, 8pm)

Troop 33 Committee Officers

CHAIR – Howie Schaffer

CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE – Liz Hoge

TREASURER – Jim Vorhies & Dave Lanar

SECRETARY – Sonja Kueppers

- **Communications — Vacant**
- Webmaster – Charlie Hairston & Eric Smith

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR – ** Maria Wiseman & Gary Cardillo, Co-Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – Vacant

- September Renewal & Webelos Crossover – Bert Brandenburg
- **Recharter Coordinator – Vacant**
- Clothing Coordinator – Howie Schaffer
- **Training Coordinator – Vacant**

ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR – Matthew Rees

- Merit Badge Co-Coordinator/Merit Badge Day -- Marian MacDorman & David Goldberg
- Eagle Coordinator --Dave Lanar

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – David Droddy

- Summer Trip Coordinators – Kevin Balfe & John Mark Nieman
- Ski Trip Coordinator – Kristen Dill
- Soap Box Derby Coordinator – Rick Swan
- Health Form Coordinator – Rebecca Woodings
- Camp Horseshoe Coordinator – Bryan Frey

FUNDRAISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR – **Vacant

- Pancake Supper – Anna Golovko, Shellie Williams, Minya Zeru
- Mulch Coordinator – Dave Lanar & Eric Smith
- Scouting for Food Coordinator – Wagner Family
- **Service Projects (Church/Community) – Vacant**
- **Centennial Coordinator – vacant**