

District Annual Meeting
February 7, 2013
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Pat Stamato, District Chair
Leslie Sonkin, District Vice-Chair for Program
Robert Deutsch, District Vice-Chair for Development
Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, District Director
Joel Lieberman, Senior District Executive
See attachment for other attendees

Pledge and Opening

Jim Africano led the Pledge, and Biff Van Kleef led the Scout Oath. Pat welcomed everyone and explained that the first order of business would be the annual election of TRD officers, to be chaired by Bob Lilley.

Election of District Officers

Bob Lilley said that the Nominating Committee had proposed:

- District Chair - Pat Stamato
- District Vice-Chair for Program - Leslie Sonkin
- District Vice-Chair for Development - John Keenan
- Recommendation for District Commissioner - Sal Bellomo
- Plus a slate with names of Members-at-Large

Pat asked Bob to read the names on his Members-at-Large list, but before he started, Steve Leonardi pointed out that the list is final in the sense that "nominations are not taken from the floor." When Bob was done reading, two names appeared to be missing. Bob said, "If you want to be on the list, give me your name after the meeting, and we'll put you on the agenda for the next meeting. Technically we can't do it tonight." There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor of accepting the slate.

There was another motion, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor of accepting Pat, Leslie, John, and Sal. Steve told Norman Kasser that he will provide a copy of the Members at Large for inclusion with these minutes.

Membership

Biff pointed to a large display chart that listed all TRD units (it told which had scheduled family FOS presentations). He said, "We're in the process of starting up a new unit, but we still need a few more to reach our goal." He urged Unit Commissioners to ensure that recruiting was taking place, reminding them that Webelos-to-Scout transitions will take place soon and is thus a good time to recruit. Biff added that the hockey season is ending, which should free up some boys. He proposed doing two open houses and two sets of

flyers, one after the other, in case a family had to miss one. About Venture Crews, Tom Molnar said, "We're about the same as last year."

Biff asked for more volunteers to join Susie Becker's Membership Committee, saying that he'd like to have at least one from each community.

Family FOS (Friends of Scouting) Presentations

Pat said that we have 92 presentations scheduled, and Biff said that we need to schedule 18 more in order to reach the district goal and asked those present to each find a unit and have them schedule a presentation. Biff named four units scheduled for February, and was able to get people to volunteer as presenters for all four.

Leadership FOS and Registration

Biff reminded everyone present tonight that they should donate to FOS, either as part of their unit's Family campaign or as part of the district's Leadership campaign. In response to Gerry's question, Biff said that the new policy is for the presenter to hand out patches on the spot, and he then handed out patches that he had with him.

Bob Lilley reminded everyone that they must renew their own registration for 2013, either as members of a unit or as members of the Council or District.

Community FOS

Pat said, "This year we're going back to what we did in Jersey City a year ago as a business outreach program." He said that this year's event will take place in Bergen County, and he will ask people to "bring in business associates."

District Calendar

Leslie held up a copy of the preliminary 2013-14 event calendar compiled by Bill Metts, saying that Bill had done the hard work of getting event chairs to commit to specific dates. She said, "If you have an idea for an event, this is a good time to talk to me about it." Bill described how event calendars are put together at the Council level, with districts allowed to get first choice of dates at two meetings, followed by the Council choosing dates at the next two meetings.

In response to Norman's question, Bill said that five event dates are still "to be determined," including the 2014 District Dinner, which has a potential conflict with Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. He said that the 2014 Weboree is also a problem.

Upcoming Activities Committee Meeting (Feb 13)

Leslie said that her committee has not yet had a formal meeting, and so one is scheduled for Feb 13 at her home -- or the Museum if too many people sign up. She noted that the Camping Committee and Training Committee had likewise never had formal meetings, which she characterized as "both good and bad" -- good because "people are taking care of what needs to be taken care of." However, she said that meetings are a good place to cover things like "protocols," recalling a previous discussion about the accuracy of flyers

posted on the district website. She said, "It's a good way to get people together and to see who your staff is."

Leslie asked Warren Dressler to schedule such a meeting, which she will publicize, saying, "I know a lot of people in this room who would make excellent trainers." Warren proposed running a meeting as a conference call.

Awards - District-Level and Council-Level

Rich Curran said that his committee does not handle the Silver Beaver award, which is Council-level. He also pointed out that the January 31 deadline for nominations had passed. His committee also does not handle the "Scouter of the Year" award (below). However, his committee does handle the District Award of Merit (DAM), which will be presented during the District Awards Dinner on April 14. Rich said that nominations must be submitted prior to the March 12 Roundtable, since that is when they will be evaluated and awardees selected. He explained that the selections will be done by a group of prior DAM recipients who will meet after the Roundtable has ended.

Rich also asked people to let him know about adult training awards "for those knots that you wear," since he had not yet received any. He said, "I gave out the secret at last month's meeting that all you have to do is apply for them."

Awards - Scouter of the Year (Feb 8)

The "Scouter of the Year" award will be presented to Eric Dlugosz on Feb 8. At Pat's insistence, Eric gave this short pitch for the Wood Badge course he is in charge of: "Wood Badge is May and June this year at Camp Lewis and Camp Winnebago. Everybody should go online and sign up, because it's fun."

Awards - District Awards Dinner (Apr 14)

Rich agreed that Barry Goldman should be the M.C. at the April 14 awards dinner, saying, "You were a much better speaker than I was last year." Rich said that he was also hoping that the OA Dance Team would come to perform a Native American dance or two at the Awards Dinner, "But I have not heard back from them."

A Draft Council Calendar

Pat had a few copies of a draft event calendar that the Council intends to publish for 2013-14. It has space for advertisements, and Pat said, "For whatever business you're involved in... it will go throughout the Council."

Activities - Tiger Tumble (Jan 21)

Mark Wrightington said that 111 Tigers had signed up and that a lot of his staff were "people in the room here." He said that 111 is the second highest number ever.

Activities - Klondike Derby (Jan 26)

Gerry Beatty called this year's Klondike "a big success with about 1,200 people." In response to Leslie's question, Gerry said that she didn't know when patches will be

available for distribution. Pat said "Everything I heard is positive. The kids had a great time, the parents couldn't believe it, and we picked up some new units along with some that had dropped out then came back." Gerry said that the high point at her "Fire-Building" station was Norman's "delight" when his troop performed really well versus last year "when they couldn't get a fire going at all." Leslie remarked, "That's why we do the activities we do." Norman said that he has a copy of all the Scout and Webelos scores from the Klondike and promised to "post them shortly."

Activities - Upcoming Pinewood Derby (Mar 16)

Leslie said, "I can't get an answer from the Rothman Center, and I'm starting to get desperate for a location." She and Mark discussed the possibility of using the Palisades Park High School, and she and Gordon Beattie discussed using the gym at St. John's in Bergenfield. Leslie said that her committee had come up with a solution to the long lines and "registration nightmare" that Cubs experienced last year by using staggered registration and race times. Pat and Sal volunteered to run the snack bar with hot dogs, chips, candy, and water.

Activities - Upcoming Pirate Quest (Apr 6)

Biff said that the event will take place at the Camp Alpine owned by the Greater NY Councils. His first choice was Camp Lewis, which could have let the event double as a camp promotion, but Alpine turns out to be much cheaper. He said that the event will be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with an early charge of \$6 per person, \$8 if late, and \$10 at the door. Gordon warned Mark to use correct wording on his flyer to ensure that people come to the "correct Camp Alpine, the one on Route 9W." He said, "Otherwise you'll have to ferry people from the wrong end of Ruckman Road." Biff asked for volunteers to man stations, preferably dressed in pirate garb.

Gerry was concerned about the date, since many schools have off that week. Mark explained that the date was carefully chosen based on Easter and the start of the Little League season.

Activities - Proposal for a "Tech Day"

Gordon proposed a half day event to give Cubs a hands-on experience with gear such as communications and radio direction finding, run at St. John's in Bergenfield with \$1 as a walk-in fee. However, because Gordon's only open date is the same April 6 as the Pirate Quest, he decided to delay and try again in 2014. Leslie asked Gordon to consider doing it in May 2013.

Camping Committee Report

Camping Chair Barry Messner said he had to miss the last meeting of the Council's Camping Committee and deferred to Steve, who passed out two brochures, one for Cub Camps and one for Scout Camps.

National Jamboree - Venturers and the Spectator Tour

Steve said, "There are still some open slots in the Venture contingent, available to any boy or girl who is a registered Venturer."

Leslie said that the Council's 3-day spectator tour is still a work in progress. One problem is that only one day would be spent at the Jamboree, with the other two spent on the bus, but that one day will be "a great day with a show." She said that the hotel in Mount Hope is pretty close to the site, but she is waiting for them to come up with a better rate. The current estimated cost is \$300-350, but Leslie guessed that it will go up and said, "If you have a family or are going with a couple of kids, it adds up."

Leslie explained that planning for the spectator tour is difficult, because the plans for the Jamboree itself are constantly changing, "which makes it hard to pin anything else down."

Training - Cub Leader-Specific (Jan 31)

Biff said that 21 Cub leaders signed up in advance, but attendance was actually 36. After showing everyone a new video from National, breakout sessions were handled by Barry Messner, Ken Hesse, Bill Severino, and Rich Curran. This session was unusual in that 9 people asked for training as Pack Committee Chair. Biff said, "It's obvious that we have a need for live training sessions where people can participate in face-to-face discussions."

Training - Scoutmaster and ASM (Feb 2)

Ken Dutcher said that his full-day course had 23 attendees. He said, "It was very successful, and we'll do another in the fall." Biff said he also wants to run a session on March 2 in Bayonne, but Warren asked him to first coordinate with the Council Training Committee.

Training - Council Pow Wow (Mar 2)

Warren said that anyone looking to be on staff should contact event organizer Geoff Garlick or Robin Caiazzo. He said that it will take place at Westwood Regional High School (same as last year). As an aside, Warren said that National will shortly release a new module for training Den Leaders.

Training - Wood Badge (May and June)

Eric gave the dates for his spring Wood Badge course as May 17-19 plus June 8-10. Leslie urged people to recruit leaders from their units to attend, saying, "Without participants there is no course." Warren said, "We really need to push this course, because the next one after Eric's will likely be 18 months later, because so far no one has signed up for the Director's Conference." Warren added that people have asked for a spring course due to conflicts in the fall. Referring to the course fee of \$295, Warren said that scholarship money is available, typically covering one third, with the participant paying a third, and his unit (which will benefit from the training) paying a third. Exceptions are possible under "genuinely extenuating circumstances."

Training - Trainer's EDGE Course (Feb 23)

Warren said that this course is mandatory for anyone who is a trainer or who plans to sign up as one. He said, "You have to do it every three years." The next course will take place in Patriots' Path on Feb 23, "... and they charge less than we do."

Training - T³ (also called T-Cubed)

Warren said that National is in the process of replacing their "Train the Trainer" modules with "T-Cubed." He joked that the three modules are being released "like the Star Wars movies, with the middle section first followed by the prequel and the sequel to come later." He said, "The stuff looks really good."

Communications

Norman said that the Council Webmaster asked him to cut down on the number of e-mail broadcasts in order to "conserve our electronic resources." As a result he will instead try posting a weekly summary page along with a single e-mail broadcast alerting people to its presence. Norman explained the advantage of the past method, where a single message covered a single topic, saying, "Before, you could delete a message of no interest and save for later a message that is useful. Now you have to save each week's message and remember to go back to review it." He concluded, "We'll try it out and see if it works."

In response to Rich Curran's question, Norman said that he occasionally gets a note asking him to add a new unit leader's e-mail address to the distribution list. He said that he responds directly to that new leader with instructions on how to do it himself.

Advancement - New Eagle Project Workbook

Ed Ference said that the Advancement Committee intends to schedule a session on a Sunday in April to brief Scoutmasters on how to use the new Eagle Project workbook. The proposed location and time will be 9:00-11:00 AM at the Elks Club in Paramus.

Advancement - Merit badge Blue Cards and Counselors

Ed said that the text on the front of the merit badge blue card was changed. *[Editor's note: It said "[name] is qualified to begin working..."]* Ed said that the Scoutmaster no longer decides whether or not a boy is qualified. Instead his only job is to provide the boy with contact information for a registered counselor, and the counselor will judge for himself the boy's qualifications. Ed said, "I guess that we had some zealous Scoutmasters who would hold back a 14-year old who wanted to go for Communications. He can't do that now. He just signs the card." Bill Metts said that he had rejected young Scouts for Personal Management, "because the kid had no idea what money is." Gerry proposed that the counselor might have to reject the Scout by giving him a "partial."

Ed changed the subject to an Eagle Scout who might be considered too young, saying, "You get Scoutmasters with 14-year old Eagles -- you can't stop that. I tell Scoutmasters that once the boy makes Life and he does his 6 months and is qualified..." Biff noted that Eagle Scout requirements also call for a leadership position as well as "be active in the troop," saying that either of these might slow a boy down.

Commissioner Service - Unit Commissioners Needed

Bill Metts said, "We have 54 active Commissioners and we have 65 units that are not covered by anybody. Our total is 190 units." Sal asked Eric to push Commissioner Service as a Wood Badge ticket item, and Eric responded, "We can certainly suggest it." On the bright side, Sal said that Three Rivers is in better shape than either Lenape Trail or Ramapo Valley with their 8 and 12. Of the 65 not covered, Sal said, "Our biggest problem is the southern end of the district, so if you know anybody in that area..." Pat said that a meeting had been scheduled for that area but had to be canceled when Hurricane Sandy came. He promised to start over again and "hopefully add 6 or 7 new people."

Commissioner Service - Unit Commissioners Must be Registered

Bill said that all 54 have to appear on the District charter as registered Unit Commissioners, which means that some will have to fill out an extra Adult Application form to make that happen. He will shortly get a list from the DEs to find out who is missing. Bill explained that registered Commissioners have access to a special database site where they can log visits they make to their assigned units and said that the logged entries will help Three Rivers when it applies for a Journey to Excellence Award.

Steve said that Unit Commissioners typically have a primary registration with some unit and a secondary "multiple" registration with the district. He said, "Believe it or not, it's not uncommon for someone to say, 'I'm registered here and I'm registered there,' and it turns out they don't have a primary registration anywhere." Steve said that it's easy enough to contact him or Council Registrar Tyrone Manning to verify a primary registration, and, if none, then to pay \$20 to have a primary registration with the Three Rivers District.

Sal warned the Commissioners that the online Unit Visit Tracking System is uncommonly slow, saying that it might take as long as five minutes to accept a password.

District Chairman's Minute

Pat said, "Since 2011 we've come a long way together." He told how much he had learned from working with the district's members, and how much he enjoyed his experiences. Pat singled out the Advancement and Activities Committees as "phenomenal," with special praise to Gerry Beatty. He thanked Warren for taking on the Training Committee and congratulated Eric as Scouter of the Year. He concluded with how impressed he was with how the people here "donate your time for the kids." He said, "The one thing I don't want us to lose focus on is our program and the advancement of our kids."

Robert Deutsch's Thank-You

Robert said, "I just want to thank everyone for your support over the last year and a half. I'm going to step down as Vice-Chair for Development. John Keenan will take over, and I'm looking forward to welcoming him aboard."

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Attendance

Paul Adams
Jim Africano
Gerry Beatty
Sal Bellomo
Charles Blumeling
Greg Boyle
Robert Cappiello
Mike Carp
Sam Croot
Rich Curran
Robert Deutsch
Eric Dlugosz
Warren Dressler
Ken Dutcher
Ed Ference
Ron Geschwinder
Andrew Goldman
Barry Goldman
Ricky Goldsmith
Bob Hastings
Ken Hesse
Norman Kasser
Dave Kingman
Steve Leonardi
Joel Lieberman
Bob Lilley
Scott Lomberk
Lenny Luizzi
Barry Messner
Bill Metts
Lillian Molnar
Tom Molnar
Ed Quinn
Pat Stamato
Mark Wrightington