

District Committee Meeting
April 4, 2013
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Pat Stamato, District Chair
Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Joel Lieberman, Senior District Executive
See attachment for other attendees

Opening

Pat handed out agendas, Bob Hastings led the Pledge, and Biff Van Kleef led the Scout Oath.

Addition to the Roundtable Staff

Sal announced that Marc Jenkins had signed up as a Roundtable Commissioner, adding that he is young and energetic and said, "We're trying to get new young people involved." Sal thanked Biff for his past participation on the Roundtable staff.

New District Vice Chair

Pat announced that Eric Makar agreed to serve as the District Vice Chair for Finance, Membership, and Advancement, with Membership as his primary focus. Pat said that Eric will take over for John Keenan, who had to resign due to his other workload, and that Membership Chair Susie Becker had to resign due to family commitments.

Membership - "Lapsed Units"

Biff pointed to a handout that listed 50 "lapsed units" that had failed to get their rechartering paperwork completed on time. His opinion was that the Assistant District Commissioners (ADCs) and Unit Commissioners had left many units without coverage. Of the 50 he said that 10 will become "dropped," while 25 others should get back on track shortly. Joel elaborated on the 25, saying that their paperwork was flawed in some way, such as failing to pay the \$5 per member insurance surcharge, missing application forms for new youth or adults, and no one signed up as the Committee Chair. He said that most of the problem units are in Communities 1 and 2.

Biff proposed to Sal that Unit Commissioners should urge their units to collect rechartering money in September and deposit it in an account until needed in January. Biff also recommended that packs run a second recruitment in May or June, citing the success of Teaneck Pack 172 that does this. He added that each recruitment should have two open house dates, one after the other, with two sets of flyers, also one after the other.

Biff proposed that "transitions" are a major cause of lapsed Cub packs, and that visits by a Unit Commissioner are needed to prevent the lapses. As an example, Biff told of a pack he visited where the Cubmaster transitioned to a Boy Scout troop along with his Webelos

son, leaving behind a pack with four Assistants but no Cubmaster. Biff said that he asked the four, "Who do I talk to?" and each answered, "Him [Not me.]" Biff asked those present if anyone had an idea, saying, "Some of you have been at this longer than me."

Finance - Family FOS

Biff said that we're around halfway to reaching our goal of \$75,000, having raised \$36,800. He said that there are "a ton" of presentations scheduled for April and May, and then passed around a printout showing which units still had no presenter scheduled, including one for this coming Sunday (Joel said it was a last-minute add-on). Biff asked for volunteers to fill in the blanks.

Finance - "Unrenewed Gifts"

Biff said that he is organizing a kind of phone bank in which volunteers will call people to ask for a donation, explaining, "These are people who gave last year but for some reason or other did not give this year -- people who gave over \$100." If a person volunteers to make calls, the calls can be made from home using a pre-printed script. The goal is to get the person to make a pledge, after which someone from the Council office will follow up. Joel elaborated, saying that we are targeting "historical givers," who have made donations over 2, 3, or 4 years -- not one-time donors." Biff guessed that there will be 20-30 names, "certainly no more than 50." Biff joked, "If we're lucky, one of the people we call will be that guy in Passaic who won \$1 million dollars." Sal responded, "Forget him. He didn't even pay his child support. You think he'll give any money to us?"

Finance - Golf Outing in 2013

Dave Wolf said that his committee is willing to run a golf outing this year, and suggested October as was done in 2012. Dave told Pat that he will provide details later.

Finance - Journal/Calendar Ads

Joel said, "It's an opportunity for us to develop some community dollars for local businesses who are supportive of Scouting." He explained that, rather than asking businesses for a simple donation to FOS, we can give them an opportunity to advertise in a "Scout-friendly calendar" that will be exposed to 15,000 families. He said, "They get something for their money." Joel said that he already got responses from Campmor, Ramsey, and a local magician, but nothing yet from EMS or Meltzer's Sporting Goods. Dave suggested contacting Wakefern Foods. Joel handed out order forms that people can use when they make contacts.

Program- Calendar for 2013-14

Bill Metts said he had all of our District events in place except for two: Gordon Beattie's science-oriented event, and some kind of swim meet, such as a "Swimming Follies." Mark Wrightington proposed that Bill go ahead without those two events, but Bill said that the actual deadline is when the Council asks him to present our calendar, which hasn't happened yet, but each event must have a date and a chairman. Bill then gave this summary:

	Cub Events in 2013-14	Boy Scout Events in 2013-14
Sep	[none]	[none]
Oct	Either Gold Rush or space theme	Camporee
Nov	[none]	Merit Badge Fair
Dec	Bowl-a-Thon	Bowl-a-Thon
Jan	Tiger Tumble	Klondike Derby
Feb	Scout week windows display	Scout week windows display
Mar	Pinewood Derby	
Apr	Cub Activity Day District Award Dinner Council Weboree	District Award Dinner
May	Rocket Launch Webelos World Conservation	
Jun	Fishing Derby Council Program Launch	Fishing Derby Council Program Launch

When Bill was done, these follow-up points were made:

- Bill said Dan Chazin of Teaneck Troop 226 had volunteered to chair the 2013 Camporee.
- Bill said that the 2014 Council Weboree cannot take place at No-Be-Bo-Sco due to construction by PS&G.
- Biff proposed alternating the April District Awards Dinner with a District Awards picnic with no charge to picnic attendees. There was a side discussion about how to cover the costs of the picnic's awards and food.
- Biff was concerned that we are running too many Cub events, and that causes attendance to be diluted, such that perhaps only 100 Cubs show up at a given event out of 2,200 registered. Mark said that the Activities Committee had discussed the question and had decided to continue running all the events. Pat recalled that a TRD merger decision was to evaluate each event as it occurred. Mark agreed but asked for the evaluation to be the subject of a separate meeting.
- Norman Kasser proposed running a District First Aid Rally modeled on the rallies that Kearny Troop 302 has been running since 1999. The idea was well received and someone suggested that a new hospital opening in Westwood might agree to act as sponsor. There was then a side discussion about how to coordinate with T302. Pat and Norman said they will discuss the idea with Al Hacker who runs the Kearny rallies. Lenny Luizzi cautioned that the discussion must be done tactfully, and that having two non-competing rallies will likely be the best approach. There were suggestions to add a "First Aid Merit Badge" component and a "Webelos Readyman" component, but both were rejected.

Fund-Raiser - Train Ride

Ed Quinn said that his railroad club offers train rides that can be used as a fund-raiser and passed out flyers. It will take place in October, and the fee will be far less than the amount appearing on the flyers: \$6 for a youth and \$10 for an adult. The train will stop to allow

tour of a mine and exploration of a corn maze. He said, "The money we raise can be used to fund the District Picnic." Bill warned that the train ride must not conflict with the October Gold Rush or the Golf Outing.

Need Help to Find New Unit Commissioners

Pat said. "If you guys can help out, we're looking for Unit Commissioners," explaining that likely recruits would be parents of Webelos who recently crossed into a Scout troop. Rich Curran added that Cubmasters also retire as their sons cross over. Pat said, "Give us names, and we will follow up with phone calls and getting them trained and getting them more involved at the District level. Bill added, "We won't worry if he starts out as a Commissioner for his own unit. After we get him trained, we may get him up to work with another unit in his area."

Need Help to Find "Young Blood"

Pat continued by saying, "We're trying to bring in younger people to get involved at the District level." He joked, "We need young blood and young ideas, rather than have old folks sitting around like me and Dave Wolf and Bob Lilley..." Pat then proposed that the "old guard" step aside into some kind of "new advisory position, known as..." Pat hesitated and Norman prompted, "How about 'Emeritus?'" Pat described the new Advisory Board as always present to assist with opinions and with judgment calls "if we're breaking any rules." Advisory members can also act as backup when one of the actual District chairs or vice-chairs is not present. Pat summarize with, "What I want are names of some young people who might be interested in becoming active with the District, such as people who just finished their Wood Badge training."

Activities - Upcoming Pirate Quest (Apr 6)

Biff said, "We need help with both staff and attendance." He explained that Camp Alpine was selected, "So the people in the northern section of the District would be closer to home." Mark said that he was disappointed that only 60 Cubs had signed up so far, to which others responded that we were conflicting with Little League opening day. This reopened the discussion about "evaluating" events. Joel said, "This is the second year in a row that we tried April..." to which Mark agreed and said that next year's event is now scheduled for October, and so any evaluation should be delayed.

Camping - Construction at No-Be-Bo-Sco

Joel said that the Council will close No-Be in order to allow PS&G to upgrade the cables that cross the camp, from September 2013 through the last week in May 2014 with an absolute deadline of June 10, 2014. Thus No-Be will be open for its 2014 Staff Week and for a full summer camp session, but Joel added, "I don't think we have a Plan-B."

Bill noted that Dan Chazin will not be able to use No-Be for the upcoming District Camporee. Pat said that he is looking into using Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus, using a site close to the Dinosaur Park. He explained that a prior attempt to use that site was vetoed based on worry about tent pegs damaging the underground sprinkler system. However,

the official who vetoed had retired, and the Mayor and County Exec are both in favor of letting Scouts use the park.

Camping - Camp Cards

In response to Biff's question, Sal said that the Council already has Camp Cards available for units to use as a fund-raiser, saying, "All the units that want them can go to the Council office and get them." *[Editor's note: Units pay \$2.50 for each card and resell them to family and friends for \$5 each. The card is good for discounts at many participating vendors.]* Pat said he will ensure that a stack of cards will be available at the upcoming Roundtable and said, "Just be aware that, when you sign for them, you are responsible for them." Sal added, "But you can return the unsold ones."

Camping - Promotions at Last Month's Roundtable

Bob Hastings said that representatives from each of the Council's camp attended the March Roundtable in order to make presentations, "So we promoted it on the Cub side pretty good." But he added that four or five presenters took up most of the session, saying, "They had a nice video going on... and on... and on..."

Pat said that the OA and NYLT (Order of the Arrow and National Youth Leadership Training) had both requested time at the upcoming Roundtable to do their own presentations. Sal said OA asked for just 5-10 minutes, and that NYLT intends to make one brief announcement followed by a Q-and-A session after the Roundtable ends.

Camping - Financial Assistance for Units in North Hudson

Mike Carp announced that he had received application forms for families to apply for Campership money from the Paulsen Foundation in North Bergen. The fund is available only to people residing in certain ZIP codes in and around North Bergen.

Training - IOLS plus OWLS (May 3-5)

Biff announced the IOLS course (Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills) at Camp Lewis on May 3-5. Rich added that IOLS will be twinned this year with an OWLS session (Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills). Whereas, in the past, the two were handled separately, this year the "young guys" organizing decided to combine some of the training, such as knots. He said there will be a single course director who will have to shuttle between the two sites. Rich seemed to be disappointed when he said they are asking for Cub staff, "But they didn't ask me."

Training - All Leaders Need It

Pat said, "There's a big push to get training for all our leaders." Biff responded that the Council's online system "doesn't work! It requires people to go to the website to see if sessions exist, whereas we have to let them know that it's available." He said, "What he have now doesn't work. You can tell when you look at the statistics for people not trained, we're not in the top 10." Rich pointed out that the website list of Council training sessions are squeezed into a single page using a very small font.

Sal asked us to push the upcoming Wood Badge training session in May and June, currently at about 30 participants, with a meeting scheduled for April 11. He said, "It looks like it will be a good course with some really great staff."

Training - BALOO (April 15 and 22)

Bob Hastings said that BALOO training (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) will take place on two Mondays in Harrington Park. He said that Warren Dressler was looking for help and that he himself had volunteered earlier today. Rich said that he is handling the registration and refreshments. Pat said they will new a new syllabus.

Advancement - Eagle Projects

Paul Adams was pleased to report that he receives one or two proposals for Eagle projects every week. There were also a large number of Eagle Boards of Review conducted in 2012, but Paul did not have the exact figure. He said that the new Eagle Project Workbook is slated for another revision. Paul repeated the message to Scoutmasters and Troop Advancement Committees that they are expected to filter out project proposals that clearly don't meet the standards, saying "There were a couple of times when proposals were sent directly to Ed Ference or me, bypassing the troop's Advancement Committee and the required signatures."

Paul added that his committee is encouraging Eagle candidates to organize fund-raisers and said, "I like to see a project where the Eagle candidate does no work himself, but directs everyone else." However, Paul got some pushback when he said, "We've put a kabosh' on certain projects that have been repeated over and over," giving the example of painting Maltese crosses on streets in front of fire hydrants. He said that the committee looks for a project that is unique, that if possible serves a long-term purpose, and, most important, "something that really shows leadership." In response to Lillian Molnar's question, Paul said that the "standards" applied by the TRD Advancement Committee are their own, since National has never published anything more than general guidelines, calling them "open ended." Mark was concerned that the Advancement Committee might object to a Maltese cross project because they had seen too many of them, whereas some town might actually want to have the crosses painted on their streets. About the 'kabosh' on blood drives, he recalled donating blood and having the nurse tell him how much the Red Cross relied on Boy Scout blood drives. He said, "These projects are supposed to be a benefit, and how much more benefit can you get than giving life?"

Bob Hastings asked what happens to any excess money left over from a project's fund-raising component, to which Paul responded that it goes to the beneficiary. He recalled a "Project of the Year" Scout in Wayne who raised \$36,000 for his church's memorial walkway and had \$15,000 left over that was donated to the church. Jim Africano joked, "They made a movie out of that project and called it 'Risky Business.'" Pat joked, "Whoever that Scout was, tell him that I'd like to see him."

Paul said that recently a number of Eagle candidates received extensions past their 18th birthday due to delays caused by Hurricane Sandy. He added that Ken Dutcher had

recently received a set of guidelines from National that covers situations where it's acceptable to grant an extension. Joel agreed, saying, "All the Scout has to do is mention Hurricane Sandy and he will automatically get a 6-month extension."

Advancement - Merit Badge Counselors

Bill made the following points about the online database containing a list of merit badge counselors and the badges they are authorized to counsel:

- Each Scoutmaster should have the user-name and password needed to access the database, although he may have turned that information over to his troop's Advancement Chair.
- All counselors were recently asked to go online and re-register themselves.
- The re-registration process allows only renewal of badges already authorized, but no additions or deletions.
- To find out which badges you are authorized to counsel, ask your Scoutmaster. As a backup, Norman is willing to do a search on your behalf.
- To add new badges to your list (up to a maximum of 10) submit a paper application form.
- To delete badges from your list, contact Council Advancement Chair Del Coonce.
- Counselors are expected to have current Youth Protection certification.
- Counselors are expected to have attended an orientation sessions. They are conducted frequently at the Council office by Frank Miller.
- The Doubleknot database of counselors and their badges is currently optimized to answer a Boy Scout's question of "Where can I find a counselor for the xxxx merit badge?" All other queries are very clumsy, but there are no plans to fix that.

Commissioner's Minute

Sal repeated Pat's request for new Unit Commissioners, with the need especially great in the southern part of the district, and he repeated Bill's announcement that a new UC may temporarily serve his own unit until he gets adequate training and can be assigned to another.

Sal said that there will be training for Roundtable Commissioners on May 11. He then thanked his existing staff, saying, "We have some really good Commissioners in place now."

Sal said that the Council has decided on a new Dan Carter Beard award for "exemplary service by Assistant District Commissioners, one for each district and one at the Council level, Nominations should be sent to Sal for consideration, and the awards will be presented at the May 13 Council Recognition Dinner. Sal joked that he himself might not meet the criteria.

District Chairman's Minute

Pat thanked everyone for coming and gave one more reminder that the District Committee is looking for new "young blood."

**District Committee Meeting
April 4, 2013**

Attendance

Paul Adams

Jim Africano

Salvatore Bellomo

Mike Carp

Rich Curran

Ricky Goldsmith

Bob Hastings

Norman Kasser

Joel Lieberman

Bob Lilley

Lenny Luizzi

Barry Messner

Bill Metts

Lillian Molnar

Patrick Stamato

Biff Van Kleef

Barbara Werner

Dave Wolf

Mark Wrightington