

District Committee Meeting
January 8, 2015
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Ken Dutcher, Interim District Chairman
Barry Goldman, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, District Field Director

Opening and Agenda

Norman Kasser led the Pledge. Copies of the agenda (also e-mailed in advance and attached to the end of these minutes) were handed out along with reports about membership, FOS, summer camp attendance, popcorn sales, and the district's Journey to Excellence "dashboard." There were also flyers about the upcoming April Sports Dinner and 2015 Cub summer camp.

Ken's "Curse Jar"

This was Ken Dutcher's first time chairing a District Committee meeting as its interim head until a permanent Chair will be elected at next month's District Annual Meeting. Ken set out a jar on the table and decreed that the names of TRD's old predecessor districts may never again be spoken aloud, whether positive or negative. Also taboo was the name of NNJC's former Scout Exec, Doug Dillow. Penalty: \$1 into the jar. Ken said, "I'm sure to mess up sometime tonight, so I'll just put the first dollar into the jar now." He then gave an example of how someone might slip by saying, "Van Saun Park is a great place for a Klondike, since that's where the old Tantaqua District used to hold them..." Instead, he proposed saying, "Let's explore alternative locations, such as Van Saun Park..." Ken closed by explaining "I think it is very important that in order to move our district forward together, we work hard to leave behind legacy terms and names that only anchor us in the past. I hope you will join me and, when you slip-up, you will put a dollar in the jar, in the spirit with which this is intended."

Side Discussion: Klondike Derby at Campgaw Mountain (also see below)

Ken's example triggered a short unintended discussion about the upcoming Jan 24 Klondike that will take place at Campgaw Mountain Reservation as organized by Allen Sterk. Barry Messner proposed creating a committee of present and former Klondike organizers to consider alternative locations, Warren Dressler recalled past Klondikes at Ramapo County Park, and Norman said that a second event will take place at Campgaw at the same time as our Klondike, namely a Council-sponsored ski day. Ken said that any such discussion must wait until the current Klondike is over, but he allowed that a different location might keep the event "fresh," saying, "Mixing it up is never a bad thing. We should be open to new things." However, he added, "There's a reason to keep doing the same thing again and again, which is that we know how to do it, a repeat is easier, and past events have been successful."

"Top of Mind" Additions to the Agenda

Ed Quinn asked for a discussion about the upcoming Scouter of the Year dinner. Barry Messner asked for a discussion about third-party program helps no longer appearing in the district newsletter, and Warren asked for a discussion about how the Order of the Arrow intends to step up its unit penetration and its service to district events in order to raise its JTE score. Ken said he will bring each up prior to adjourning.

Very Good Membership Numbers from 2014

Steve Leonardi pointed to numbers on the Membership handout, explaining that the Council set the closing date for 2014 as January 9, 2015, and so tonight's handout was one day short of the closing. Steve got applause when the chart showed that 2014 was about to end with 25 more youth than this same date in 2013 (4693 up from 4668), and then said that tomorrow might bring in 20 more, thanks to work that DE Oliris Ramos was currently doing with new Cub packs in Union City. Steve noted that the 4693 was just for "traditional" troops, packs, and crews, but didn't include 7 Explorer posts. When the posts are included in the tally, then 2014 ended with 21 more youth than 2013.

Steve said, "I know that an increase of 25 doesn't seem like a lot, but the fact is that we dug out of a huge deficit." He said that 2014 started out with a loss of 11 units, which caused us to start with a deficit of about 400 youth, and said, "Our progress this year was remarkable! We even started enough new units so that we're only two less than 2013." Steve joked that Ken was off to a really good start as District Chair, to which Ken joked back, "I've always said that I'd rather be lucky than smart!"

In response to Paul Adams' question, Steve described the difference between Venture crews and Explorer posts, and how the latter are career-oriented and thus fit better with other "Learning for Life" programs, as opposed to the "Traditional" programs.

The District's Journey to Excellence "Dashboard"

Steve pointed to the JTE handout with its 18 images of dials fashioned to look like fuel gauges and said, "We are currently at a solid silver level." He said that some of the numbers are generated automatically from the ScoutNet database, whereas others, currently at zero, will shortly be set manually. One will be "Membership Growth," which will add 50 points, and another will be "District Committee Positions Filled", which will add 200 points.

Program - District Bowl-a-Thon (Dec 29)

Mark said, "We had a total of 198 bowlers in our three locations," and gave the break-out, all down from 2013, as 112 at Montvale, 76 in Parkway, and 12 at BowlRite in Union City. He explained that the Monday he chose for the event probably contributed to the decline, but it seemed the only choice due to the way Christmas fell this year. Even so, the event earned the district close to \$2,200.

Program - Upcoming Klondike Derby (Jan 24)

Mark passed on a status report from event organizer Allen Sterk, saying that the Klondike is "On track, with all the 'Mayors' lined up along with some 'new blood.'" Also on track is the responsibility of each mayor to recruit his own staff. The stations still cover the same subject matter as last year, but the requirements of each station have been changed "to spice them up a little bit." The request to the county to use Campgaw, which had to wait until January 1, was submitted, and the port-a-johns were ordered. However, the patches have not yet been ordered.

Mark also passed on a request from Allen for a volunteer willing to take over the event after perhaps two years, first working with Allen, and then taking full charge. In response to Ken's question, Steve said that various budget concerns had been resolved. Mark said that online registration had just been enabled and that so far only one unit had registered. Ken and Leslie Sonkin were both certain that a lot of units were poised to register, so Steve asked Norman to broadcast a reminder to district members. Ken wondered if additional promotion was needed, but Mark was confident that units would continue to sign up as they did in past years.

Program - SOP Needed

As an aside, Mark said, "We really should have a written plan that specifies a timeline for every single event," and gave an example, "This is the date for the first e-mail blast." Leslie was certain that such a plan already exists, but she didn't recall what happened to it. Ken asked Leslie to look and see if she could find a copy of an old plan or list, and to share it with him and each operating committee chairperson.

Program - Upcoming Tiger Tumble (Jan 17)

Mark said that 58 Tigers had already registered with the early \$5 fee, but he expected more \$8 late online registrations plus a "healthy number" of \$10 walk-ins, with a resulting 130-150 to match previous years. His staff will largely be the same Scouters who helped out last year, plus some Boy Scouts coming from various troops including his own. As a result, he was able to decline Warren's offer of helpers from the OA (see below).

Mark proposed an interesting discount offer: Anyone who comes to the upcoming Roundtable and pays for the Tiger Tumble may do so with the early \$5 fee. Ken said, "That's a great idea. It's a two-fer that ups event registration and also ups Roundtable attendance." Mark said that he will e-mail the offer tomorrow.

Program - Upcoming District Pinewood Derby (Mar 14)

Leslie said that this year's Pinewood will again take place in Secaucus. Leslie also told about her "Pinewood-to-Go" program that will run a Pinewood for any Cub pack without its own track, saying that her team already has 13 requests "from Norwood down to Jersey City," with a possible 14th in Secaucus. Mark reminded Leslie of a offer from a Penske dealer in Jersey City to host and sponsor a local Pinewood, but both agreed that

Penske's facility was too small for a full district Pinewood, whereas the Senior Center in Secaucus "was so accommodating and loved having us there."

Program - Upcoming District Camporee (Mar 21-22)

Mark said that the district's fall Camporee was shifted to March in order not to conflict with the council's ScoutFest last October. He said that Ken Hesse will use a "M*A*S*H" theme that will introduce an unusual twist: "At some point in the middle of the event they will blow an air horn, and all units will have to pack up and move to another site." Mark said that Pat Stamato had been charged with reserving Liberty State Park, but he didn't know about progress. Warren predicted an easy agreement, saying that the superintendent in charge of the park is Rob Rodriguez, who started as a very active local Eagle Scout and OA member, and that Rob had already approved using the park for an October "Liberty Jamboree" to be run by the Patriots' Path Council. Ken asked Mark to reach out to Pat and to let him know by this time next week the outcome of their conversation.

Rechartering the Three Rivers District for 2015

Bob Lilley said he wanted to have all the TRD rechartering paperwork submitted on time, which meant finalizing the roster of "Committee Members" and of "Members-at-Large." He said that he was set with all the Scouters present tonight but had numerous other people that he was trying to contact. Ken joked that the process resembled somewhat the problem of having deceased people still listed as active merit badge counselors, but turned serious when he said the plan for 2015 was that everyone registered as either a District Committee Member or a Member-at-Large had to be a member of one of the operating committees, and, as such, would agree to work closely with the committee's chair and make some kind of positive contribution via that operating committee.

Ken explained that making the distinction could be helpful. Given the limited number of volunteers at the district level, he said that we need to know who we can count on to help when needed, saying, "It has been evident for some time that we keep going to the same well for volunteers and talent. I think we need to actively encourage more people to join our group." Ken said that he would raise the topic again later in the evening.

Definitions: "Committee Members" and "Members-at-Large"

Steve took some time to review the district's organization, starting with the "District Officers" who are the District Chair and any number of Vice Chairs (the number of which and specific roles of each still are TBD). Next came "District Committee Members," who are people whose contribution will be limited to assisting with only one or two functions and who do not often attend district meetings. With exceptions, this would include both activity chairs and the working members of their committees. These individuals generally are not accorded voting rights because they are unable or not willing to provide the high level of involvement or contribution expected of a Member-at-Large.

Finally, Members-at-Large include the chairs of the various operating committees who have specific responsibilities and are expected to attend most of the district committee meetings. Ken gave examples of Mark Wrightington with Events, Barry Messner with

Camping, Ed Ference with Advancement, and Bob Lilley with Nominating. Steve noted that it could be possible for an activity chair to be registered as a Member-at-Large, with one example being the previously-mentioned Klondike organizer Allen Sterk, given the significant district-wide impact that results from that activity.

Ken closed the topic by noting that it might be a distinction not worth making a big deal about, but, with the District Annual Meeting next month, coupled with the literature from BSA National that, if an issue arises that warrants being put to a vote by the district committee, it is only the District Officers and Members-at-Large who are entitled to vote.

Upcoming District Annual Meeting (Feb 5)

Leslie pointed out that the definitions "Seem like they should be the other way around," with "Committee Members" voting, and "Members-at-Large" not voting. Ken agreed that the names are indeed "counter-intuitive and 180 degrees different from the expected," but he assured Leslie that he had done a look-up and had verified that it was so, and that only Members-at-Large may vote. Warren added that all unit Chartered Organization Reps are also automatically allowed to vote, and Steve said that the CORs had all been notified and asked to attend the upcoming District Annual Meeting.

Steve also noted that a vote for District Commissioner at the upcoming meeting is treated as a "recommendation" pending final approval by the Council's Executive Board.

Referring back to Bob's plan to finalize the district's roster, Mark asked if people designated as non-voting "Committee Members" will be informed in case they might want to challenge the designation. Ken responded that the final slate of Members-at-Large will be published in advance of the vote, and added that he and Bob and Steve intend to spend time determining who will be on the slate. Ken also intends to contact the individual operating committee chairs to find out who has been active on each of those committees.

Ken said that he had recently found an old spreadsheet that had been created shortly after the formation of what would become the Three River District (back then it was called the Heckawee District). The spreadsheet listed each operating committee and its members, and was widely distributed at the time but was never updated since. Ken wanted to update the spreadsheet and attach it to the agenda, with both sent out in advance of the upcoming February meeting. Steve said he would see to it.

Norman pointed out that a final slate of Members-at-Large will be presented at the Annual Meeting, and that the entire slate will be put up for a yes-or-no vote, and that the slate may not be altered during the meeting. Bob said that people are added and removed in advance during the open meetings of the Nominating Committee. In response to Mark's question about someone wishing to serve as a Vice-Chair, Ken said to come to him or to Steve or to Barry Goldman. Bob added that Nominating Committee Chair John Felice would be a better contact and gave Mark an e-mail address.

Better Promotion of District Events

Ken floated a proposal that we create a small committee charged with doing "publicity, promotion, and outreach," adding, "As far as I know, we've never had one." The committee would have contact information for all the newspapers and community newsletters. He said, "Whenever the district does something that we want to publicize, such as the Klondike or the Pinewood, they would create an artistic flyer, add whatever content we give them, and get it out to the press." Warren said that the council's Marketing Committee already has a list of outlets, but Leslie was skeptical about how effective that council committee was, but she thought that it might work at the district level.

The people present seemed to agree that it was an idea worth pursuing, so Ken asked everyone to begin to "get the word out" and to pass along to him, or Steve, or Bob Lilley the names of anyone they could think of who might want to be part of such an operating committee.

Publicity By Way of the District Window Display Competition (Feb 8-15)

Mark said that he forgot to mention the annual Scout Anniversary Week Window Display Competition when he had the floor earlier, but was reminded when Ken started to talk about publicity, saying, "It's a perfect opportunity to get your name out there." Bob said, "It's a golden opportunity, but you don't have to stop when Scout week is over. Every town (unfortunately) has an empty storefront. Make a deal with the landlord to keep your display in the store window until the place is rented. It might stay up for six months with people walking by and seeing 'Boy Scouts' -- it's a great way to get new kids."

The District Membership Committee

Based in part on a meeting he had with Steve a week ago, as well as his own observations over the past year, Ken expressed his opinion that the District Membership Committee needs to be "re-launched" in 2015. Ken noted that for many months the Membership Committee chair had not attended any district committee meetings to report on the efforts and results of that committee. Barry Messner interjected and advised Ken that a new committee had been formed and was working with DE Joe Mertens as the Staff Advisor. Barry said that several meetings had already taken place at the Roundtable site in the hall a half hour before Roundtable starts.

Steve pointed out that "People don't usually flock to sign up for a membership committee," and guessed that they misunderstood its function, thinking that the committee was in charge of recruiting and with starting up new units. He said, "That shouldn't be our approach." Instead they should "help market Scouting and service Scouting." As an example, they might work on how to improve the transition of Webelos to Boy Scouts, or they might work with a Unit Commissioner who is trying to save a failing unit. Another function might be to go to Cub packs in order to promote the Weboree.

Ken summarized with, "The Membership Committee should come up with a series of finite initiatives that they hand off to others for implementation." Barry Messner proposed a help-wanted type of broadcast for people good at marketing and public relations, but Steve told Barry flatly that "This method doesn't work." Instead he said, "If you know somebody that you think should be part of a certain committee, give the name to Ken, who will do a one-on-one ask for you. This is the way to get people on board."

Getting "New Blood" as District Members

Ken agreed that personal outreach is the best way to get new people on board. He also noted that most of the people present tonight already handle multiple tasks for Scouting and said that we can't keep going to the same "well." He related how he and Ed Ference had already used that approach starting last September to bring new members into their Advancement Committee and said, "That's what each of our committees should be doing," and cited Allen Sterk's request for a replacement in two years as a good example of the need for new people. Ken asked, "Where would we be if Leslie were to stop organizing the Pinewood Derby, or Gerry Beatty were to stop with the Fishing Derby?" Mark joked, "You mean we should all hire our replacements?" Sal Bellomo said, "Didn't you read the fine print? There's no retirement!"

Returning to Membership, Ken said, "The Membership Committee is a big deal for me, and I think that it's low-hanging fruit." He listed other areas where TRD is doing okay and will be fine as-is, but he apologized to Barry Messner as he expressed his personal opinion with, "I want to see stuff getting done." Barry responded that he has gotten some Unit Commissioners involved with the Membership Committee and asked Ken's permission to invite the 17 UCs that came to his last meeting to also attend District Committee meetings. Ken assured Barry that they will be welcome, and that they, and anyone else on Bob's final list of Committee Members, will be assigned to one of the operating committees, since that is where all the work actually happens, and not necessarily at District Committee meetings like tonight's.

Camping Committee

Ken asked each of the Operating Committee Chairs to provide everyone with progress reports for each of their Committees, and to cover what they would be working on over the next month or two. The Camp Promotions/Outdoor Committee was first. Barry Messner said that he had little new to report, since the council's Camping Committee had not met since last October. Instead he recapped information from prior reports.

- o Summer camp numbers in 2014 were about the same as 2013 in spite of a lot of good promotion and publicity by Grey Rolland and others.
- o We will try family camping weekends at Lewis and Yaw Paw.
- o Yaw Paw's day camp had issues with the bus service, especially from Hudson County and back. Thus they are looking into running a week or two of day camp somewhere in Hudson County.
- o Floodwood went well in 2014 with a slight increase in numbers. They are considering a fee increase of \$20, since the last increase was several years ago.

- o Summer camps are thinking about adding scuba and snorkeling, but they will need additional staff and will also tell Scouts to bring their own equipment.
- o Because the Cub Scout advancement program will change greatly in the fall, the Cub camps will have to change many of their badge offerings to match. Similarly, the Boy Scout program will change in 2016.
- o No-Be-Bo-Sco plans to add kayaking, COPE, target-archery, and paddle boarding.
- o Yaw Paw plans to add a climbing wall.
- o Lewis may add a zip line, but first needs permission to cut down four trees.

Norman said that the Friends of Camp Turrell is currently raising money for a zip line at that camp. Steve explained the Cub camp handouts he brought to tonight's meeting as copies of cards already mailed to all Cub units. The cards have 2015 dates and prices along with a reminder about the \$50 early-bird discount. Mark asked for more copies so that he might have them available at the Tiger Tumble, and Gerry responded by gathering as many as she could find on the tables and handing them to Mark.

Ed Ference asked how many Scouts come to No-Be and Turrell from out-of council. Steve replied by pointing out the handout with camping numbers organized by district and said, "Out-of-council is our biggest 'district!'" Paul posed the opposite question of how many NNJC troops go to out-of-council camps, to which Barry was able to reply with a list of those camps along with numbers that he received from Grey Rolland. Steve explained that all councils are supposed to share those numbers with each other, especially since they will improve their respective JTE scores, but Steve was skeptical about how many actually do so. Ed Quinn agreed and said that his troop had gone "all over the nation, and no one in the council ever knew about it." Even so. Steve was confident that 99% of our Scouts in fact go to a Scout camp somewhere. He quoted Grey as saying, "Kids don't join Scouts to have their character developed." Steve instead said that they join to have fun and to have great summer experiences.

There were some suggestions about how to obtain accurate information about troops going out of council. Gerry proposed polling troops or polling the Unit Commissioners. Barry Goldman proposed the number could be derived by finding out which troops remain in-council and subtracting.

Finance/FOS Committee Update

Ken said he had received a status report from Biff Van Kleef, currently attending training at Sea Base in Florida regarding the new Cub Scout program, in which Biff asked more people to join his operating committee.

Bob said that he had received contributions from about 35% of the district leadership and that he would like to close out the campaign by February 1. Steve recalled that the success of our 2014 Leadership campaign really impressed and even "shamed" the rest of the council. Ken said he would add Leadership FOS to the February agenda.

Training - BALOO in Secaucus (Feb 3)

Dennis Ng said that a January BALOO session was postponed to February 3 and will take place in Secaucus. He said, "We moved our training to the south part of the district in order to attract those Scouters. The session will take place on a Tuesday evening in the Senior Center." He assured Barry Goldman that the online calendar was accurate and that early empty placeholders had been filled in. Dennis said that he really wants a good turnout in order to justify using the Senior Center for future sessions, and thus asked for good promotion of the session.

Recognitions - Service to Local Unit Award

Rich Curran held up a sample certificate for the "Three Rivers Service to Local Unit Award," and urged each unit to nominate someone in time for the District Award Dinner in April. However, "Only one person per unit per year." Norman said that the Council had recently posted an invitation to nominate for a similar award, but it was restricted just to unit leaders. Norman said to Rich, "I like yours better, since it's open to anyone in the unit, such as parents and committee members." Rich asked Norman to publicize the award, saying that each award made is a good way to increase attendance at the dinner. Rich was also willing to make presentations at the Scouter of the Year Dinner and the District Roundtable Barbecue in June, but Sal thought that the April dinner was really the only appropriate venue.

Recognitions - District Award of Merit (DAM)

Rich said that he is now ready to receive DAM nominations, with the official form accessible via the NNJC website link to "Resources | National Forms". In order to prevent a Scouter being mistakenly nominated for a second award, Rich will shortly make available a list of prior awardees alphabetized by last name. He added that his list will also name past recipients of the Silver Beaver award. While on the subject, Steve said that the deadline for this year's Silver Beaver nominations is January 30.

Advancement, Awards, and Recognitions - Scouter of the Year Also Membership Surveys

Ken noted that Ed Quinn and the Scout Museum run a Scouter of the Year dinner in March, and proposed that the new Membership Committee should run a survey of each TRD unit, asking them to submit one name of a likely candidate to receive that award in 2016. He said, "There's only one Scouter of the Year, but all the others can be invited to the dinner and be recognized as having been put forth by their unit." Leslie proposed making it a separate award so as not to disrupt the history and continuity of past Scouter of the Year awards. She suggested something like "Outstanding Scouter."

Rich said that it will be useful to compile a list of former Scouter of the Year awardees from all three of TRD's old predecessor districts -- assuming that each of those districts in fact had equivalent awards. Ken said that was a great idea, and asked Rich to do it.

Ken said that the idea of surveys appears in BSA National's guidelines for what a Membership Committee does, and said that running the survey will also help make units

aware that the district exists and does stuff for them. Ken said that he had only received one Scout survey in his life, which arrived after a National Jamboree and was concerned with logistics.

"Top of Mind" Agenda Addition: Service from OA Members

Ken recalled Warren's earlier offer for OA members to serve at district events and particularly the Klondike, and asked Mark to pass that offer on to Allen Sterk. Ken said he recalled OA scouts actively hustling and helping during a prior Klondike. As noted above, Mark said that he will have enough volunteers at the Tiger Tumble that he won't need help from the OA. Ed Quinn said that Troop 213 and OA members will shortly start a project to reopen the Edison Historical Trail.

"Top of Mind" Agenda Addition: Program Helps Omitted from the Newsletter

Barry Messner started by saying, "Last month Norman reported that the Council Marketing Committee instructed him not to publicize any third-party program offerings in his newsletter. That kind of incensed a lot of us who were here at the time." Barry said that he had recently run into Council Commissioner Dr. Phil Mollica during a training session and said, "I mentioned it to him and his response was, 'That's incredible!'" Barry then read excerpts from some e-mails he had traded with Phil, who had done some follow-up of his own. Phil found that the Marketing Committee was concerned that Program Partners who pay for the privilege of publicity from the Council would be bothered by other vendors getting free publicity, and Phil guessed that they feared that the Program Partners might drop their support. Phil's argument to the Marketing people that the newsletter articles were "just programs for the kids and not marketing ploys" did not change any minds.

Barry said that he replied to Phil that he will bring the issue up at the next Commissioners Meeting, and that he will ask them to express their opinion in a vote. He will also point out the difference between a one-time newsletter text article versus the full color professionally-written ads that appear permanently on the Council's website, and he will say that program information is important to many units. A reply from Phil said that he spoke to Council President Joe Healy and that they both thought that "this issue was dumb." Phil said, "We need program information, and the newsletter is the perfect forum for it." Ken added that he had conversations with people other than Phil Mollica and Joe Healy, and that he was perfectly comfortable with reinstating the newsletter articles.

However, Norman was not comfortable reinstating the articles and thus initiating a confrontation. He also rejected a suggestion to distribute the newsletter by bypassing the Council's Doubleknot e-mail system. Norman was willing to wait for a revised decision to come from the Council, and he agreed with Steve who said, "If the Council leadership [Mollica and Healy] thinks that the idea is dumb, they need to sit down with the Marketing Committee, since that committee serves at the pleasure of the leadership."

In response to Gerry's question, Norman explained that it was basically a money issue, that is; a conflict between vendors who pay the Council for publicity versus vendors who

get newsletter-based publicity for free. When Gerry suggested using Roundtables as a way to disseminate program help information, Norman replied that the upcoming newsletter will suggest exactly that. He read aloud an article that will appear shortly, wherein unit leaders will be urged to patronize the Program Partners and will be advised to attend Roundtables in order to get additional suggestions from experienced Scouters. Ken wrapped up the discussion by saying he is willing to bring it up again at the February meeting.

Commissioner's Minute

Barry Goldman noted three recent deaths and how distressed he was when he heard of them: Tom Molnar's father, Steve Scanlon, and Randy Merlino. He said that the Commissioner staff is currently working to ensure that all units recharter on time; that is, by January 15. About a dozen units have completed the process, and so Barry sent e-mail reminders to all the others. He said three thanked him for the reminder and may take up Barry's offer to meet them at the upcoming Roundtable. However, Barry was confused by one response from a leader who promised to send in a check "for me and my son," and decided to let Oliris figure out what to do with it. Barry said he was also working with Bob to ensure that all Unit Commissioners are reregistered with either a home unit or with the Three Rivers District.

District Director's Minute

Steve thanked everyone for a "great year." He said it was "remarkable that we had cracked some significant nuts." He was very pleased with numbers from membership, Family FOS, and Leadership FOS (but not so much with Community FOS). Steve predicted that membership would continue to grow due to a sense he had that Scouting was becoming more acceptable to the communities, a sense he said was also shared by Joe Healy and Warren Dressler. As an example, Steve received an unsolicited call from a mosque in Union City asking about starting a new Venture crew.

Finally Steve wanted to make sure that everyone had seen the handout about the April Sports Dinner featuring Eli Manning ("even though the Giants didn't go all the way this year"). He said it will be an easy way to contribute to our Community FOS goal.

District Chair's Thank You to Pat Stamato

Ken said, "I should have opened tonight's meeting by thanking Pat Stamato, who did a great job for three years. This district would not have been nearly as successful if Pat had not been our Chairman. He was exemplary."

**District Committee Meeting
January 8, 2015**

Attendance

Paul Adams

Gerry Beatty

Sal Bellomo

Rich Curran

Warren Dressler

Ken Dutcher

Ed Ference

Barry Goldman

Norman Kasser

Steve Leonardi

Bob Lilley

Barry Messner

Bill Metts

Dennis Ng

Ed Quinn

Leslie Sonkin

Mark Wrightington

Sandra Wrightington



AGENDA
FOR THE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
JANUARY 8, 2015

1. Call to Order of the Committee Meeting made by Ken Dutcher (7:30pm).
2. Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law – Norman Kasser (7:30 – 7:35pm).
3. Welcome/Opening Remarks – Ken Dutcher (7:35 – 7:45pm).
4. Issues/Matters deserving of the District Committee’s Attention – Ken will ask each Attendee to share their list of What is “Top of Mind”? (7:45 – 7:50pm).
 - (i) this is also the time for Attendees to suggest topics/matters to be included on the Agenda for the February District Committee meeting
5. Update regarding progress with Membership at the Unit level; and 2014 JTE – Steve Leonardi (7:50 – 7:55pm).
6. Final Report on the Success of the Bowl-A-Thon – Mark Wrightington (7:55 – 8:00pm).
7. Status Report regarding Preparations for the Klondike on January 24: What Still Needs to be Done in order for the event to be a Success? Is there a List of Mayors and their Staff? Who is handling on-site Registration, Sled Inspection, etc.? What Are the Open Issues that Need to be Resolved? – Mark Wrightington & Allen Sterk (8:00 – 8:10pm).
 - (i) Mark to provide a similar Status Report for the Tiger Tumble on January 17
8. Review of Plans to Promote/ Publicize the Klondike – Mark Wrightington (8:10 – 8:15pm).
 - (i) What else can be done to ensure a good turnout? (ii) Who will handle?
9. What is the distinction between a District Committee Member and a “Member-at-Large” – Steve Leonardi (8:15 – 8:20pm).
 - (i) Ken and/or Steve to explain the plan in 2015 is for every registered Member to be assigned and contribute to one or more of the District’s Operating Committees (see agenda items #10 and #13 on the next page);
 - (ii) Update regarding District Rechartering by January 15th – Bob Lilley (8:20 – 8:25pm).
10. Question: does it make sense to form an Outreach & Promotions/Publicity Committee in 2015? – Ken Dutcher (8:25 – 8:30pm).
11. Initial Thoughts regarding 2015 re-launch of the District’s Membership Committee – Ken Dutcher & Steve Leonardi (8:30 – 8:35pm).
12. Update regarding Recent Efforts to Recruit New Members to the District Advancement Committee – Ken Dutcher & Ed Ference (8:35 – 8:40pm).

13. **Updates & Action Plans** from the Chair or Vice Chair of each Operating Committee (8:40 – 8:50pm).

- (i) Camp Promotion/Outdoors – Barry
- (ii) Finance/Fundraising/FOS – Biff
- (iii) Training – Warren or Ken
- (iv) Activities & Civic Service – Mark Wrightington
- (v) Nominating – John Felice * & Bob Lilley
- (vi) Advancement & Recognition – Ed Ference & Rich Curran
- (vii) Membership – TBD

* John Felice, of the Bergen County Board of Freeholders, to say a few words if he is able to attend

Immediately following the Action Plan Reports/updates by the Operating Committee Chairs, there will be a 10-minute break to allow Bob Lilley to update his registration paperwork and take payments from those rechartering.

During this brief break, anyone interested in joining an Operating committee should speak with that committee’s Chairperson.

- 14. Commissioner’s Minute – Barry Goldman (9:00 – 9:05pm).
- 15. Other Urgent Matters as necessary or advisable (9:05 – 9:15pm).
- 16. Recap of Action Plans/ Assignments & Next Steps coming out of tonight’s meeting – Norman Kasser & Barry Goldman (9:15 – 9:17pm).
- 17. The District Executive’s Minute – Steve Leonardi (9:17 – 9:18pm).
- 18. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment – Ken Dutcher (9:18 – 9:20pm).