

District Committee Meeting
January 7, 2016
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Ken Dutcher, District Chairman
Barry Goldman, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, District Field Director
Joel Lieberman, Senior District Executive

Opening and Handouts

Norman Kasser led the opening Pledge followed by the Scout Oath and Law. Handouts were tonight's agenda, which had been e-mailed in advance and which had three useful attachments, as described below. There were handout flyers that told about upcoming events, such as the "Prepared for Life" dinner, the "Scouter of the Year" dinner, the OA "Trade-o-Ree," and sample NNJC campership application forms.

A Full Agenda

Ken Dutcher welcomed everyone back after the New Year, but warned that tonight's agenda is long, which would thus preclude discussion of any topic not planned for in advance.

Looking Ahead: "Top of Mind"

Ken went around the room asking for items that should be discussed during the February or other future committee meetings. Responses were:

- o Anthony Catalano proposed a discussion next month about the revised requirements for Boy Scout ranks. Ken asked Anthony to work with Ed Ference (not present tonight) on that, and to prepare a summary of what the Advancement operating committee had accomplished in 2015 district-wide in terms of Rank Advancement; and especially with regard to Eagle Scouts.
- o Bob Lilley will run the district's annual election next month and will accept names to add to his Members-at-Large slate through the day prior to the election. Bob reiterated he cannot take nominations at our February meeting.
- o Bob also had pledge cards for any Scouter who intended to contribute to the Leadership FOS (Friends of Scouting) campaign. He had a tentative number/percentage of how many Scouters had already contributed, but Steve Leonardi said that better numbers were available.
- o Bob also referred to one of the attachments to tonight's agenda, which was a copy of an e-mail that went out on November 9 urging Scouters to contact Bob to firm up their registration with the Three Rivers District. Bob said that he still needed to hear from nine about how they will register in 2016. He said that the deadline will be the upcoming January 12 Roundtable, which is when he will submit the paperwork, saying, "Anybody who isn't registered by then: Too bad. Nice knowing you."

- o Sal Bellomo said that the Council Training Committee had not met in December, but they intend to schedule February sessions for both Cub and Scout leaders.
- o Mark Tarantino said that the OA election season is in progress and that he wanted Unit Commissioners to contact Scoutmasters to remind them.
- o Rich Curran said that next month he will want to discuss the District Award of Merit dinner, and said, "Hopefully last year's staff will pitch in and do their part."
- o Ed Quinn said that that Scout Museum will shortly makes its decision about who will receive this year's Scouter of the Year Award. He said that the Scout Museum's Board of Directors will meet on the 23rd and will select from among four nominees, one of whom is a Girl Scout leader with some 60 years of service.
- o Ed also said that he will sit in on a Sea Scout Quartermaster Board of Review this Sunday. *[Editor's note: Quartermaster is the highest Sea Scout award and is equivalent to Eagle Scout.]* Dave Tarantino remarked that the Council's last Quartermaster badge was awarded 16 years ago.
- o Ed also said that the OA was happy that they had managed to switch their Trade-o-Ree from Sundays to Saturdays, with the next one to take place on Saturday March 16. The location will be the same as before: The Guardian Angel Church in Allendale.
- o Paul Adams spoke about "community outreach" and offered to contact any business owners who might be willing to support Scouting. He asked for names and addresses and repeated his maxim of "Follow the money. Look in your checkbook to see who you spend money with." He added, "There's a lot of money out there untapped." Paul added that leaders should track which parents were not present during a Family FOS presentation and then follow up with them.
- o In response to Norman's question, Ken and Steve confirmed that the district had indeed met its responsibility to publicize the February election in advance as well as the names of Nominating Committee members. Steve added that he intends to send one more reminder.

District Commissioner's Report: "Time to Recharter"

Barry Goldman started by explaining why he had to cancel the last meeting of Assistant District Commissioners (ADC), then turned the subject to rechartering. He said that several charters had already been turned in and that Unit Commissioners were working to ensure that the remainder are submitted on time. Barry predicted that a lot of charters would be turned in during the upcoming January 12 Roundtable as happened last year.

Barry said that Jessica Hansen of Fair Lawn ("our newest Commissioner") will give a seminar during the Roundtable "on how to use social media to help run your troop or pack." The seminar will be a joint session open to both Scout leaders and Cub leaders. Barry said that the Roundtable will start at 7:30 PM sharp in order to ensure time for Jessica, rechartering, and a Boy Scout session on the new rank requirements.

Camping - Camp Promotions at Two Upcoming Events

Barry Messner of the Camping Committee said that he would very much like to have a table for camp promotions at both the upcoming Tiger Tumble and the Klondike Derby,

adding that we will have a building available during the latter. He said that he had contacted Eric Chamberlin at the Council office about obtaining copies of the videos that each Scout camp had prepared for itself, but so far Eric had not returned his calls. Barry also wanted to talk to Eric about offering discounts to increase camp sign-ups.

Steve remarked that the camp videos were all excellent but had special praise for the Floodwood video that includes shots taken from a drone aircraft. However, Steve said that the videos were done by the camps and are thus not "Council-controlled." However, he said that they are all available on YouTube, and that someone knowledgeable about IT should be able to download them and put them onto a flash drive, saying to Barry, "That's the answer!" Barry asked Steve if Jamie Laga of the Council Camping Committee had made any progress on a new video that she had volunteered to create, but Steve said, "I wouldn't count on that being ready in time for the Klondike."

In response to Ken's question, Barry said that Matt Dalzell had set up a promotion at last year's Tiger Tumble and had brought a video with him. But because Matt had not attended prior meetings, Barry said, "We don't know what the status is, but Matt is scheduled to do a presentation at the Tiger Tumble, but I don't know about the Klondike." Barry said that he will again contact Eric and also Mark Wrightington. One question for Eric will be, "Who owns the videos?" Ken said that he in fact had spoken with Eric yesterday and had told him that TRD was planning to "be more diligent this year about camp promotions." Ken proposed that both he and Barry could contact Eric and insist on getting copies of the videos. Ken added that his company can easily reproduce copies once he has an original.

Mark Wrightington arrived later in the meeting and said that he heard from several people that Matt Dalzell was planning to attend the Klondike along with Tom Gingerelli. Mark also was confident that Matt or someone else would attend the Tiger Tumble as well.

Followup on Scouters with Lapsed Youth Protection

Ken recalled that 13 Scouters had volunteered last October to follow up on a database list of "hundreds" of Scouters with lapsed or missing Youth Protection certification. The 13 were named in one of the attachments to tonight's agenda, and Ken asked each in turn for a status report. The resultant reports showed that very few problem people had got themselves fixed, which meant that the others would therefore be dropped from the ScoutNet database in January. Ken's own report was that four had responded to tell him they and moved away and were okay with being dropped, whereas the other 30 individuals simply didn't respond at all. Ken said in his messages and e-mails he had directed them to Joel, and wondered if that was why he had received few responses. Other status reports from others present tonight were similar.

The only exception was Norman's report, in which he said that 9 of his 37 names had fixed themselves, and that 4 others turned out to have multiple member IDs, which had been passed on to Joel for research and resolution. Joel estimated that he had researched some 35 problems that were brought to his attention, including variations in names and

misspellings, which he called "data entry-type stuff." Barry Goldman proposed that other Scouters still intend to recertify but had simply delayed until the last minute, giving as examples two from his own home pack.

Bob Lilley pointed out a serious problem that could result when a lapsed Scouter was also one of a unit's "Key-3." In such a case, Bob said, "The charter will not be processed, the unit will be dropped, and their tenure is done." He added, "National is not crying Wolf."

Bill Metts pointed out that summer camp counselors typically receive Venture-level YPT certification, and he wondered if the database might have ignored Venture certification when it listed "hundreds" of problems.

Activities - Bowl-a-Thon (Dec 28)

Mark said that the Bowl-a-Thon "went very well," with 115 attendees in Montvale, 85 in Parkway Lanes, and 41 in Union City. Mark pointed out that Union City had doubled compared to last year, while the other two "were kind of on par." The net profit was \$1,579.51. Ken remarked that the figure was about the same as last year. Mark was not able to answer Ken's question about Boy Scout versus Cub Scout turnout but he was certain that more Boy Scouts attended this year versus previous years that were nearly all Cub Scouts.

Mark guessed that the Monday date had depressed turnout, possibly due to people taking long weekends after Christmas. Mark's ideal is when Christmas occurs early in the week, allowing the Bowl-a-Thon to take place on a Friday. Instead he said, "We're bound by the calendar -- we can't change Christmas."

Activities - Upcoming Tiger Tumble (Jan 16)

Mark said that he had confirmed the Palisades Park location a couple of weeks ago and that many Scouters had agreed to work as staff. So far 72 Tigers have already registered. Joel noted that the online registration added a \$3 late fee after December 31 and asked why that date was so early. Mark responded that the online system was set up badly. Instead of December 31 imposing a "\$3 late fee", it should have been a "\$3 early bird discount" prior to December 31. He explained that an early headcount is good so he knows, for example, how many doughnuts to buy. Mark recalled one year when 10 Tigers registered in advance, but 90 showed up. Joel summarized, "So \$8 is the standard fee, but early birds pay \$5." Mark added that he had been diligent this year in contacting Tiger parents directly with some 300 e-mails, saying, "No Tiger should have an excuse. I sent three broadcasts starting at Thanksgiving."

Activities - Upcoming Klondike Derby (Jan 23)

Mark Wrightington said that so far no one had volunteered to take over from Allen Sterk the role of Klondike organizer, so Mark said he would do it himself this year and would welcome a volunteer co-chair. So far only two Scout troops have registered online. Joel and Rich Curran verified that past year sign-ups were typically delayed until a week to 10 days prior, and Ken and Mark both admitted that they had not yet signed up their troops.

Mark asked Joel for a current list of Scoutmasters in order to e-mail another reminder. He said he would be happy with an online registration of just one place-holder Scout + sled with other Scouts to be added later.

Turning to the subject of the Klondike Leader's Guide, Mark said that Allen had still not submitted an updated version, but Mark was puzzled about its importance, since the guide hardly varies from year-to-year, and the 2015 version is currently available as part of the TRD calendar posting for 2016. Mark said that all stations run the same competitions each year, which means that what troops have to prepare for is the same each year. Exceptions are Gerry Beatty's "Fire Building" and Ron Shock's "Shelter Building," but since Scouts are given final details only when they arrive at those stations, no extra preparation is possible. However, Norman pointed out that a very important part of the Leader's Guide is the what-to-bring list, which Gerry and Shock change each year.

Rather than wait for Allen, Ken volunteered to contact Allen and handle the 2016 Leader's Guide himself if someone could provide the source document in Microsoft Word format. Norman said that it would not be difficult to convert the 2015 PDF version into Word. *[Editor's note: Later that evening Norman did the conversion and e-mailed the result to Ken.]*

Bob Lilley said that he had worked with Ron Shock last year and was delighted with the zany competitions that Shock devised each year. As a result, Shock's what-to-bring list often contains strange odds-and-ends, such as last year's tarp, rope, basketball, frisbee, coffee can, and a bag of leaves. Bob said, "A lot of parents were upset about the list, since they were expecting boys to build a sleeping shelter." As it turned out, Shock told the Scouts to devise a shelter for a raw egg with the last step being a 10-foot drop. Bob said, "The kids were happy, and we do it for the kids, so I told the parents not to worry about it." About fire-building, Rich Curran said that use of "fatwood" is still not allowed. *[Editor's note: Fatwood is sticks of pine that naturally contain a lot of highly flammable resin.]*

Ken was concerned about vehicles and parking at Camp Alpine and asked Mark about the location of the stations, how spread out they will be, and where staff and attendees will be able to park. Most important, he asked Mark, "Do you think we have enough people to assist with directing parking?" Mark added his own concern, saying, "We're not the only event that day," and said that there will be another Klondike and also some kind of cook-off event.

Steve said that the stations will be clustered around the camp's Activity Center, and Mark said that we will also use an extra campsite plus the baseball field. Staff will be able to park in the smaller lot near the Activity Center, while troops can drop off their Scouts and gear and then return to park in the main lot close to the camp entrance by the highway. Ken asked Mark to contact Allen in order to get a list of people who directed parking at Campgaw last year and suggested trying to double that number. Dave Tarantino said that he will reach out to the OA to provide extra staff.

Ken reminded Mark about an earlier suggestion for Klondike mayors to drive to the camp in advance to see the layout and said, "If you can schedule a day and give me advance notice, I'll join you." Ken asked if one of the mayors, John Brobson, had confirmed he would be able to help again this year. Rich Curran proposed that Gerry might also take the opportunity to take her fire-building gear to the camp in advance and leave it there, assuming the Ranger approves. Mark replied that the Ranger had been very accommodating so far.

Steve warned Mark about a week-long Regional Planning Conference that will take place just prior to the Klondike, which means that hardly anyone will be available at the Council office. Thus, "Don't plan on getting a last-minute run of 200 copies of some flyer you need."

Activities - Upcoming M.A.S.H. Camporee (Mar 11-13)

Ken asked Mark about the three camporees listed in the 2015-16 calendar: The past September 2015 Aviation Camporee, the upcoming March 2016 camporee, and the September 2016 camporee. Mark replied that September is our usual month and that March will be an extra that will be organized by Ken Hesse. Mark was short on details because so far the staff has not met, but he said that Ken Hesse wants a theme based on the long-running M.A.S.H. TV series. Leslie Sonkin recalled that on TV the M.A.S.H. unit might find itself under attack and have to quickly evacuate to a new location, and apparently Ken was thinking along those lines for the camporee.

Joel verified that Ken had reserved Camp Lewis and had also worked out some of the logistics. He had also lined up some staff volunteers during the December Roundtable, with program and promotion still left to do. Tom Molnar said that Ken Hesse was considering showing the full length movie on Saturday night, which elicited a lot of groans from people who recalled how risqué and inappropriate some parts of the movie were. Leslie instead proposed showing one or two TV episodes. Otherwise the movie would have to be edited into a PG version, especially since the event will be open to 2nd year Webelos (recently renamed to Arrow of Light Webelos).

Activities - District Pinewood Derby - An Unusual Date (Apr 2)

Leslie wanted to remind everyone that this year's District Pinewood Derby had been moved from its usual St. Patrick's Day timing to early April. However, she apologized for its date conflict with the Commissioners College where she is also a presenter, saying, "I have to figure out how to be in two places at the same time." The location will be the same one in Secaucus that was used last year "because they're terrific." She also invited people to volunteer to work as staff.

Camping - Complaint about NNJC's Camp Alpine

Rich Habick said he recently took his troop camping at the Camp Alpine owned by our council and was angry at the number of mountain bikes going through and the number of dogs being walked. He said, "A couple of my Scouts walked into dog poop -- I counted

10 different dogs." He added that there were mountain bikers all over the place, and apparently another mountain bike event was scheduled for the following weekend. He asked, "This is a Boy Scout camp. How is it that these people come in and do whatever they want?" Ed Quinn told about a time when he estimated 50 motorcycles in the camp. Rich said, "Three couples asked me what I was doing there with Scouts, since they thought it was a park for general use."

Rich Curran said that it was indeed a public camp with only the Boy Scout built buildings off limits to the public. Norman said that his understanding was that the camp was under the jurisdiction of the Palisades Park Commission, which is why it's open to the public.

Rich Habick said, "The place looks run down as usual," to which Joel responded, "A number of people want to do something about it," and told of a Commissioner's meeting that he and Rich Habick attended along with Allen Sterk. Joel said, "There are service opportunities for Scouts. The question is how campers will be able to compete with the dog walkers and cyclists." Ken added that leaders from Dumont Troop 1345 are considering creating a "Friends of NNJC Camp Alpine," modeled on the successful "Friends of Camp Turrell" and "Sand Pond Society" organizations. Ken said that the Dumont Scouters will likely consult with Turrell's Larry Tosi and ask, "What do you do and how do you do it?"

Ken said, "The camp is so run down that it's primitive," but Barbara Bruno said, "Even so, you still have to pay the council \$50 per night to reserve a camp site." Warren Dressler said that the Council has a Properties Committee that plans to conduct on-site evaluations of each property, and that they had asked Warren to provide youth members to assist. However, when Warren looked at the list, Camp Alpine was not on it. He said, "A good question to pose to Don Duthaler is whether or not he considers Alpine to be under his committee's jurisdiction. It would be a good thing to resolve." However, Ken recalled that the Council's budget for 2016 had earmarked some amount to invest in Alpine's "most basic facilities." Ed Quinn recalled that "some OA guys" had restored the Ranger's cabin about 20 years ago, although they did nothing about the collapsed lean-tos. Ken concluded, "Alpine is actually a Council issue, so the best we can do is to put the word into some people's ear and report back in a month or two."

Advancement - Registering and Reregistering as a Merit Badge Counselor

Rich Habick said that the Council intends for each merit badge counselor in the database to reregister annually in order to prevent an accumulation of people no longer active. However, Rich was unable to find a link anywhere in the NNJC website that allowed him to simply reregister. Instead the only link provided gives a start-from-scratch PDF adult application form where you name all the badges you counsel. Ken said, "We'll ask Ed Ference to update us next month, since he's the Advancement Chair."

Finance - The Council's "Prepared for Life" Fund-Raiser Dinner (Mar 2)

Ken referred to one of tonight's handout flyers that told about keynote speaker Robert Gates. Ken said, "Gates is the current president of BSA National, was the Secretary of

Defense under two presidents, and was a former Director of the CIA." Ken said that he heard Gates speak twice elsewhere and called him "the real deal." Warren agreed and recommended a YouTube video of Gates' "outstanding" speech at the OA's NOAC convention. Ken said that the dinner will be held at the super-elegant Venetian in Garfield, "which is also the real deal." Paul Adams agreed with Ken about the Venetian. Barry Messner wondered if anyone plans to make a video of Gates' speech, to which Ken replied that he would mention it at an upcoming briefing for District Chairs and Council Board Members.

Recognitions - The District's Annual Award Dinner (Apr 17)

Barry Goldman told about the District's "Service to Scouting" award (renamed from "Service to Local Unit" award). All troops and packs are encouraged to turn in a name of someone deserving of recognition. Barry stressed that it doesn't have to be a registered Scouter, but can be any adult who made a contribution. He said that the wording of the flyer and the certificate are both being worked on, but basically the flyer will ask the unit to make a recommendation that the "Awards Committee" will review and endorse. A unit leader may make the presentation or, if shy, may ask Barry to do it for him. Barry predicted about six awards based on past years' experience.

Barry explained the "Awards Committee," by saying that the proposed flyer will say something like, "If you would like to help, please volunteer to join the District Awards Committee." Barry admitted frankly that his real purpose was to find people willing to join the Three Rivers District Committee and to do so by starting them with something small (as opposed to asking them right off to take charge of the Klondike Derby). He agreed with Ken's calling it a "recruiting ploy" and said that the procedure had worked well in his own home Cub pack. He said, "Once you get a person in to help a little bit... Well, everyone here started by doing one little thing, and now look at you." He joked, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that in the presence of the new people here." Lillian Molnar described how she agreed to "help" with a popcorn drive and wound up becoming the District's Popcorn "Kernel" Chair.

Recognitions - The District Award of Merit or DAM (Apr 17)

In response to Ken's question, Rich Curran said that the DAM nomination form can be downloaded from BSA National's forms library. Bill Metts said that the NNJC website also has a link to National. *[Editor's note: The NNJC webpage does not have that link, but the Three Rivers webpage does.]* Rich said that DAM nominations are due by the March Roundtable, which will give his committee time to consider them and then announce the names.

Rich also spoke about the Silver Beaver award, where the Council handles the nominations, saying, "Our only job is to promote the award." The Council's deadline for submission is January 31.

Venturing Officers Association (VOA)

Ken said that he received a note from Mike DiGiaimo asking each of the three districts to nominate one or two youth Venturers to represent their respective districts at VOA meetings. Joel elaborated by saying that the Council is trying to make the Venturing program more district-oriented and then have districts support the overall council program in a grass-root fashion. They can also voice their needs.

Mark Tarantino said that there was a fellowship event last month with good representation, and plans to organize the district VOA during the upcoming Roundtable, adding that he already has the names of several volunteers. The next step will be to select which members will attend council-level VOA meetings. Dave Tarantino asked about three district applications that were submitted in May, and Ken's guess was that they could be "recycled" and accepted as-is. Ken agreed to Mark's request to become the Roundtable Commissioner for Venturers.

Membership - 2015 Was a Very Good Year!

Joel pointed to the December 31 2015 membership report attached to tonight's agenda and said, "We had growth in all our programs: Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Learning for Life (LFL) Explorers." Thus the total increase in "traditional" youth (excludes LFL) was 84. He said, "Kudos to you. We professionals play our part, but it's the pushing of the volunteers such as Cubmasters and Scoutmasters -- It wouldn't have happened without you." Looking ahead to 2016, Joel cited the football maxim, "Once you've won the Super Bowl, expectations are that you'll get back there every year. We've had two year of successful growth, and so now the question is how to get to the third... and the fourth and the fifth."

Joel said that a recent Commissioners meeting discussed creation of new units and areas of potential that are currently underserved, saying, "It's not just Jersey City, but also areas like Northvale and Demarest and other areas in Bergen County," and Ken added Paramus. Joel pointed out that having more families in the program "gives more opportunities for FOS, camping, Pinewood Derby participation -- just about everything we do is driven by how many boys we have in the program."

Joel repeated an old concern by saying, "We're still trying to find some younger ladies and younger gentlemen to help support our Membership and Marketing Committee. It's very hard for guys in their 50's and 60's to determine what's best for a 30-year old mother."

Norman was puzzled and asked Joel, "Last month's membership report said that we were 183 youth short of our goal, but this month we ended ahead with plus 84. How the heck did we add 267 kids in just one month?" Joel said that one source came from Cub parents learning that the online advancement system refused to grant awards to their sons because they were never properly registered, thus goading Cubmasters into finally processing applications they had been sitting on. Joel said that there were also some recruiting events and that brand new units had been started up in Union City, Jersey City, and Rochelle

Park. Steve added new Venture crews in Tantaqua and River Edge. Dave Tarantino added a new Sea Scout ship in Carlstadt.

Membership - A New Program: Middle School Explorer Clubs

Steve pointed to the line on the Membership Report titled "LFL Explorers" with its 201 youth. He said that Dr. Geoff Zoeller, Superintendent of Schools in Rochelle Park, came up with a unique solution to provide real-life career skills to middle school students in grades 6-7-8.

Joel expanded by saying that schools have to meet the state's Common Core 9.2 requirement concerning "careers in the future," and Zoeller realized that he could meet the requirement by simply using the Explorer Club program with its career fields of Public Law and Safety, Fire Service, Law and Government, etc., and made it part of the school curriculum with two periods during the week. In addition to getting real-life skills in the classroom, such as balancing a checkbook, speakers come into to talk about their career fields.

Joel expressed his hope that other school districts might follow Zoeller's lead and said it "could be a big plus for us." The Roselle Park students are in fact registered as Explorer Scouts with the Council and thus show up on the December Membership Report. However, Joel told how difficult it has been for him to get appointments to meet with other Supers so he can explain how they can benefit from a strong existing program and "not have to reinvent the wheel."

Camping Committee Report

Barry Messner gave this report based on a meeting he attended on December 15:

- o About 3,000 kids used our camps over the summer.
- o Camp numbers were down compared to last year. Turrell was down about 100 boy-weeks, which they blamed on "scheduling problems" that should be fixed this year.
- o The two Cub camps will integrate the new adventure belt loops into their programs, and the Scout camps will integrate the new Scout requirements.
- o All camp staffs are pretty much in place now.
- o Several camps will use Star Wars as their theme.
- o We will reach out to attract boys from southern NY councils and districts.
- o There will be a "camp sampler" discount program.
- o The Council's campership application form was revised, and samples are on the table.
- o As noted by Warren, there will be site evaluations, and Barry volunteered to inspect Yaw Paw.

In response to Bill Metts' question, Barry verified that Eric Chamberlin had taken over all Council camp-related responsibilities previously handled by Grey Rolland.

Finance - Leadership (and Family) FOS

Paul Adams said that he was still waiting for pledge cards to be turned in with only 28% turned in so far, which works out to about 35% towards the dollar goal. He said, "I want your checks!" He said that would like to finish the drive by January 31.

Paul noted that two troops that received Family FOS presentations last year in fact made no donations at all. Paul's feeling was, "It comes from the top of the troop to say, 'Don't give.' That really bothers me. That's free riding." Ken was willing to bring up the topic again during next month's meeting.

Finance - Family FOS Video Presentations and Online Scheduling

Joel said that Barry Messner is scheduled to make the first Family FOS presentation next week that will rely on a video to make the "ask" instead of the presenter. Joel will demonstrate the newly purchased equipment at the Roundtable and then let Barry take the boxes home with him. Sal mentioned the simplicity of the equipment, and Joel said, "There's No PC. There's just a DVD, a projector, and a sound box. It's easy even for folks like myself who are technologically challenged."

Joel said that the FOS presentation schedule is now available online for presenters to select and volunteer for. The schedule uses the Google Docs application, and Joel asked the presenters to verify and correct any dates as required. Presenters ready to borrow video equipment should determine if they will also need a screen or if they can get away using a white wall. Ed Quinn said that the Museum also has a loaner screen.

Leslie asked Joel to consider using her pinewood-to-go events as venues for FOS presentations, calling them an "inside track" (*pun intended?*) Although she will always be too busy with the race to make a presentation herself, the new video should make it easy for someone else to do it. Leslie said she will send Joel a copy of her traveling schedule and let him decide.

Ken asked Mark if he would consider handing out FOS pledge cards to the families attending the upcoming Tiger Tumble, but Mark didn't like the idea at all. He recalled that cards were handed out at last year's District Dinner and said, "I had a problem with it." He said, "If people think they will be hit for money every time they show up for an event, it might cause them to not sign up. On the other hand, things like camp promotions are fine." About the District Dinner, Ken recalled feeling the same bad taste as Mark.

Training Report - Good Attendance

Sal Bellomo said that the Council Training Committee plans to run sessions in February for Scoutmasters, but especially for Cub leaders who need to know about the new requirements. There will also be a Trainer's EDGE course aimed to people who want to be trainers.

Joel told about a December session he ran for leaders and parents of the new MetroLife unit in Union City. Because there is no syllabus specifically aimed for a group like this,

Joel called his presentation "makeshift" with a combined YPT plus Cub basics. Although it was on a Friday afternoon just before Christmas, nevertheless 21 adults attended. Joel said, "We talk about our at-risk communities, but a lot of these parents are trying to make the investment and help their kids. They really are. If we can deliver some of our passion, hopefully it will rub off on them, and we will continue delivering great programs in those neighborhoods." Sal recalled a session run in mid-summer in Secaucus that brought in another 20 people.

Cub Family Weekends - Past (2015) and Future (Jun 11-12)

Following up on Joel's reference to MetroLife units, Mark said that during the past Cub Family weekends (May and June 2015), Rosa Urena had arrived with a busload of kids who came for the day. He said, "They didn't care that they were there just for the day -- they all had a happy time."

Looking ahead to the June 2016 Cub Family Weekend, Mark said that he does not want to be this year's organizer, saying, "Last year nobody raised their hand, so I did it, but I really, really want someone else to think about running it." In response to Norman's question, Mark said that the need is at the "administrative end, because the events and activities are literally in a box. Each station got a big tub with equipment, and that was it. It was fairly simple to run."

Unit Rechartering - Why Earlier is Better

Returning to the January 15 deadline for all units to recharter, Joel made these points:

- o When charters come in early, it gives the professional staff and the Commissioners early warning signs for problem units and more time to work with those units.
- o If a unit has to drop, Joel is willing to revisit and do whatever he can to rebuild it (hopefully with assistance).
- o As of tonight's meeting, "62 charters were in the works." *[Editor's note: The database as of Dec 31 shows a total of 179 troops, packs, and crews.]*
- o The 62 were a "pleasant surprise," because Joel expected everyone to delay working on them until the upcoming weekend.
- o Charters coming in on Jan 15 gives the DEs two weeks to work with them prior to the "drop dead date" of Jan 31 (see Barry's explanation, below).
- o The professional staff will depart for the Regional Planning Conference during the third week of January, "So we'll be of no help to anyone during that week."
- o After the conference, there will be just one week to chase down remaining problems, such as lapsed YPT.
- o Anyone with lapsed YPT will come off the charter. If the problem person is a Scoutmaster or Cubmaster or Committee Chair or Chartered Organization Representative, it will hold up the entire charter process.

Barry Goldman followed up after Joel's remarks with his own points:

- o Charters have to be submitted to the Council office by Jan 15. But non-submitted charters will actually expire on the "drop dead date" of Jan 31.

- o Barry remarked on the task confronting Council Registrar Tyrone Manning, saying, "Poor Tyrone will have 179 charters to work on all at the same time, plus whatever late ones come in from Ramapo Valley (due Dec 15) plus whatever early ones come in from Lenape Trails (due Feb 19)."
- o Barry had this advice: "If anybody tells you he intends to turn his paperwork in late, ask him to tell the IRS that he will turn it in late and see what they say."
- o Barry concluded, "We told you the 15th, and if you can't get it in by the 31st and Tyrone hasn't done it, you're dropped! There's nothing we can do about it."
- o Barry joked, "If anyone wants to give you an argument, give them my number," and he then dictated Joel's office number.

Recap of Action Items

Norman had a lengthy list of action items that he read from the notes he had been taking during tonight's meeting. Examples are "Dave Tarantino will contact the OA to get additional people to direct traffic during the Klondike Derby" and "Barry Messner will ensure that camp promotion videos are available for the Tiger Tumble and the Klondike Derby."

Scout Sunday and the District Window Display Contest (Feb 7-16)

Bob Lilley reminded everyone that Scout Sunday will be February 7, and that will kick off the week-long District Window Display Contest with the prize being a gift certificate to Campmor. Bob pointed out that Rutherford won last year because they were the only entrants, but that the contest is open to all troops, packs, crews, ships, and posts. Bob joked, "If you make a heavy FOS contribution, you get an automatic first prize." Barry Goldman volunteered to alert the Commissioner staff, and Mark Wrightington referred him to the TRD website to get details.

District Exec's Minutes

Joel concluded the meeting with these points:

- o Once again kudos for ending the year with 84 more Scouts, Cubs, and Venturers than last year.
- o He expects future Family FOS presentations to be more successful thanks to the video format being launched.
- o The FOS video starts with an introduction by Robert Gates, who will also be the Keynote Speaker at the March "Prepared for Life" fund-raiser dinner.
- o Joel likes the fact that Three Rivers can say that it's the best in the Council.
- o The Council's new Director of Field Service (DFS) Rosa Urena told Joel, "As Three Rivers goes, so goes the entire Council." Joel said, "Our success contributes to the success of the entire Council, and our failures contribute to their detriment." Joel jokingly corrected himself and changed "failures" to "opportunities that didn't work out the way we wanted."

Closing

Ken expressed his appreciation for everyone participating in a very long meeting and promised that February would be much shorter and would also be dominated by the annual election.

**District Committee Meeting
January 7, 2016**

Attendance

Paul Adams
Sal Bellomo
Barbara Bruno
Anthony Catalano
Warren Dressler
Ken Dutcher
Dona Furfaro
Barry Goldman
Rich Habick
Norman Kasser
Steve Leonardi
Joel Lieberman
Bob Lilley
Barry Messner
William Metts
Tom Molnar
Lillian Molnar
Leslie Sonkin
Susan Stigliano
Rob Stigliano
Marc Tarantino
Dave Tarantino
Mark Wrightington



AGENDA
FOR THE
DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
JANUARY 7, 2016

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 – 7:40pm).
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”? (7:40 – 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. Report by District Commissioner regarding the last Commissioner’s meeting – Barry Goldman (7:50 – 7:55pm).
6. 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 23: What Still Needs to be Done in order for the event to be a Success? What Are the Open Issues that Need to be Resolved? Do we have a Camp Promotion planned? – Mark Wrightington & Allen Sterk (8:00 – 8:10pm).
 - (i) Mark to provide a similar Status Report for the Tiger Tumble on January 16 (including a Camp Promotion like last year)
8. Update regarding the outreach that was initiated at our October meeting (to registered scouts whose YPT was missing or expired) – Everyone who agreed to Help with the Outreach (refer to the attached list) (8:15 – 8:25pm).
9. Update regarding the plans for a M*A*S*H camporee – Jim Wrynn & Mark Wrightington (8:25 – 8:30pm).
 - (i) the likely timing; and an idea when the draft budget might be ready
10. Discussion regarding NJC Camp Alpine – Rich Habick & Joel Lieberman (8:30 – 8:35pm).

11. Former Secretary of Defense and former Director of the CIA Robert Gates (who is also the current National President of the BSA) will be the keynote speaker at the Prepared for Life dinner on March 2nd – Joel Lieberman (8:35 – 8:40pm).
12. Plans for the *Service to Scouting Award* including **soliciting nominations from Packs, Troops, Crews and Ship(s)** – Barry Goldman, Rich Curran & Bill Metts (8:40 – 8:50pm).
13. Request for Nominations: the TRD has been asked to identify 1 or 2 Venturers (**scouts**) to represent the TRD at the Venturing Officer’s Association – Ken Dutcher & Joel Lieberman (8:50 – 8:55pm).
14. Update regarding Recent Efforts to Recruit New members to the District’s Membership & Marketing operating committee – Joel Lieberman (8:55 – 9:00pm).
15. Update regarding District Rechartering by January 15th – Bob Lilley (9:00 – 9:05pm).
16. Update on new Roundtable Commissioner? – Barry Goldman Lilley (9:05 – 9:10pm).

There will now be a 10-minute break to allow Bob Lilley to update his registration paperwork and take payments from those rechartering; and to collect 2016 FOS pledges from the District Leadership. This is the last opportunity to register with the District Committee.

During this brief break, anyone interested in joining an Operating Committee should speak with that committee’s Chairperson (their names are listed in #17 immediately below).

17. *Action Plans and Other Updates* from the Chair or Vice Chair of each Operating Committee (9:20 – 9:35pm).
 - (i) Camp Promotion/Outdoors – Barry Messner (v) Nominating – John Felice & Bob Lilley
 - (ii) Finance/Fundraising/FOS – Paul Adams (vi) Advancement & Recognition
– Ed Ference & Rich Curran
 - (iii) Training – Sal (vii) Membership – Joel Lieberman
 - (iv) Activities & Civic Service – Mark Wrightington
18. Commissioner’s Minute – Barry Goldman (9:35 – 9:36pm).

19. Other Urgent Matters as necessary or advisable, including the **deadline by which Units are to recharter – Joel Lieberman** (9:36 – 9:40pm).
20. Recap of Action Plans/ Assignments & Next Steps coming out of tonight’s meeting – Norman Kasser & Barry Goldman (9:40 – 9:45pm).
21. The District Executive’s Minute – Joel Lieberman (9:45 – 9:46pm).
22. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment – Ken Dutcher (9:46 – 9:47pm).

A PEAK AHEAD TO FEBRUARY:

- 2015 Accomplishments by the TRD: the head of each operating committee will review the year just past
 - Journey to Excellence in 2016
 - District Annual Meeting & Elections
 - a possible STEM/Nova fair later this year to help scouts earn those awards?
- and more.....!

Ken Dutcher

From: Norman Kasser <noreply@doubleknot.com>
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Ken Dutcher
Subject: Scouts: Important Notice to District Scouters



Important Notice to District Scouters

Please help the Three Rivers District and its Nominating Committee (see below) prepare for two upcoming deadlines:

1. The Three Rivers District must recharter by January 15 in the same way that troops, packs, and crews must all likewise recharter. The district roster must be accurate and must consist of registered Scouters who all have current Youth Protection certification.
2. The Three Rivers District Annual Meeting will take place in February, but an accurate "slate" of District Members-at-Large must be prepared in advance. The slate will be a subset of the above roster.

Bob Lilley is in charge of both deadlines. His contact information:
RWLi1710@gmail.com

Please contact Bob ASAP to ensure that he has accurate information for his paperwork.

The current Three Rivers District roster consists of about 70 Scouters who are either
District Committee Members-at-Large (may also have primary registration with a troop, pack, or crew)
Assistant District Commissioners (may also have...)
Unit Commissioners (may also have...)
Roundtable Commissioners (may also have...)

Please contact Bob Lilley to add your name.
Please contact Bob Lilley to delete your name.
Please contact Bob Lilley to stay on the roster and to tell Bob how you are registered; that is, is your primary registration with the District or with a troop, pack, or crew.

The members of the District Nominating Committee are:
John Felice (Chair)
Bob Lilley (Vice Chair)
John Hughes
Pat Stamato
Tom Gingerelli
Tom Molnar
Gerry Beatty

Report: 0119 v6.00
 Date: 01/05/2016
 Time: 11:43:34

Three Rivers District
 District Totals Report
 December 31, 2015 (01/05/2016)

Three Rivers District

	Youth			Adults			Boys' Life			On-Time		Qual Unit		100% BL		Ldr Trn		Units	
	Last Year	Last Mo.	This Mo.	Last Year	Last Mo.	This Mo.	Last Year	Last Mo.	This Mo.	Last Year	This Mo.								
	Boy Scouts of Amer.																		
Tigers	421	325	407	87	63	66	177	161	176										
Cub Scouts	1140	1105	1194	627	592	618	620	551	559	34	58	0	0	20	23	26	33	74	76
Webelos	1176	1104	1152	47	64	67	646	605	620										
Lone Cubs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cub Scouting	416 2737	2534	2753	761	719	751	1443	1317	1355	34	58	0	0	20	23	26	33	74	76
Boy Scouts	1924	1929	1956	1259	1265	1267	1089	1046	1045	48	69	0	0	27	21	27	36	82	83
Lone Scouts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varsity Scouts	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total Boy Scouting	452 1926	1931	1958	1259	1265	1267	1089	1046	1045	48	69	0	0	27	21	28	37	83	84
Venturers	131	151	152	79	79	79	7	6	6	5	10	0	0	0	0	7	8	17	17
Sea Scouts	3	17	18	8	10	10	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
Total Venturing	436 134	168	170	87	89	89	7	6	6	6	11	0	0	0	0	8	10	18	19
Non-Units	0	0	0	34	30	29	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Traditional	4797	4633	4881	2141	2103	2136	2543	2370	2407	88	138	0	0	47	44	62	80	175	179
Learning For Life																			
LFL Elementary	0	0	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
LFL Junior High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LFL High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LFL Explorers	69	52	201	41	31	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	7
LFL Special Needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total LFL	69	52	219	41	31	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	8
TOTAL	4866	4685	5100	2182	2134	2170	2543	2370	2407	88	138	0	0	47	44	65	81	182	187