

Greater Pittsburgh Council Boy Scouts of America
JAPEECHEN DISTRICT
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 7:00PM

Comfort Inn - Banquet Room
Harmar, PA

Presiding: C. Arthur West III, District Chairman

Attended:

William A. Ammer, District Commissioner
Rick Fellers, Vice Chair-Development
Ronald King
Rosemary C. Kuniak, F.O.S.
Cliff McCalmont

Jeffrey S. Milligan
Jaime Oliva
Wade Rankin, F.O.S. Chairperson
Andy Rogers, Advancement Chairperson

Unable to Attend: Members-At-Large

John Arenth-Popcorn
Karen Brienza-Cub Round Table
Dave Dailey
Ronna Cullen Doyle, Activities Co-Chairperson
Mark Eberhardt, Leadership Chairperson
Evan Erickson
Richard German
Dennis Haramic-Nominating
Angie Harl-Communications
Robert Harrington-F.O.S. Family
Scott Harris
David Hartman

Thomas Hill
John Komar
Stephen Kuniak-Vice Chair-Programs
Tom Miller
Melvin Pack
Mark Polczynski
Don Stahlman
Jamie Uber
Ken Volle-Activities Co-Chairperson

Unable to Attend Chartered Organization Representatives:

TO BE ADDED

Staff Attended:

Dave Maudie, District Director

NEW BUSINESS

- 1.) Art West opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00PM.
- 2.) Art West reported on matters that came before the Greater Pittsburgh Council, Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 Flag Plaza. Mark Breedlove, the new Council President, reported on the board retreat held at Camp Heritage this past summer. The Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the Westin Convention Hotel. The Cub Scouts 1-2-3 program was introduced to the board. This new Cub Scouts 1-2-3 program is a chartered education program for elementary age boys in at-risk communities throughout the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Scout Hank Arch from Troop 195 discussed his summer adventure at Philmont.
- 3.) Committees went into their breakout sessions to conduct planning.

Japeechen Committee Reports

Vice Chair Finance- Eric Okunewick, was not able to attend. Wade Rankin, F.O.S. Chair provided a report.

Unit / Family

- Training – Bill Ammer will provide training for delivering F.O.S. Unit Talks at the November District Meeting.

Vice Chair Programs –Stephen Kuniak, was not able to attend, Ronna Cullen Doyle was not able to attend but provided a Japeechen District Activities report, which follows:
District Activities Report – Oct District Meeting 2009 – by Ronna Cullen Doyle

Unit leaders need to understand that the Registration process for Fall and Spring Camporee is done through council and that payment is required to complete registration. I had several e-mails for the Fall Camporee that gave the impression that Scouts thought

they could just send the form to me, pay me or that by telling me they were coming, that that would make them registered for the event. Pre-registration is very important.

FALL CAMPOREE

The Fall Camporee was a success. From what I heard, the Scouts and the volunteers all had a great time. Due to the weather, we had to reverse the program, but it all worked out. Most of the units did a great job of registering and this made the process easier. We purchased Golf Discs (Frisbees). I suggest we make them available to units to use for unit activities. We would need to have a sign out form (they technically belong to council).

Issue – I didn't have enough help. **Specifically, I needed a co-coordinator.**

I want to acknowledge that some people/units did volunteer ahead of time to help. I had some input for ideas, but basically I had to plan and prepare most of it. It is hard to express in writing. I am not saying that I did everything, because I didn't and there were several people who helped a lot during the event. I am saying that it is too hard to have one person running an event. It is also too hard to run headquarters, registration, explain events and be the one to go solve problems, when you don't have a partner that also knows what is going on. Please contact me directly at 412-657-7316 or ronna08@aol.com if you can help with district activities.

Klondike - Jan 9 2010

Ken Volle will be coordinating this. He will need a co-coordinator also.

We need to finalize a location, get a theme and get a registration form out. We have cocoa, cups and chips left from the Camporee that can be used for the Klondike.

Pinewood/Mall Show – Feb 13

We have handed out the *Sports Cuts* coupons and hopefully we will have a good response = \$ for patches and prizes and /or trophies for the Pinewood Derby.

At the Roundtable, we did a big push to get two Packs to volunteer to set up and run tracks. No response yet.

Mall Show - We asked at the Fall Camporee and have a few troops who are planning on having a display. What can we do to get more?

First Aid Meet – March 13

We need to find a site and a coordinator and a theme

Spring Camporee April 9-11- location and coordinator

Idea – having a merit badge based Camporee. I think it might be interesting to offer a “tasting” of some of the merit badges that the Scouts don't often pursue on their own. We could give them an opportunity to try something that maybe they are hesitant to try or would never even consider.

The purpose would not be to come to the Camporee and leave with merit badges, but to try something different, meet the merit badge counselors and start a merit badge. The scout would then need to decide if they want to continue working on it after the Camporee. We would not offer any Eagle required merit badges.

Recognition Dinner - Date to be determined

It will be a council dinner. We need to let Joe DeBaldo know that we will not be having a dinner in May.

Since it is a council event, we might want to have the Scout Buck Auction at the Roundtable in May. The idea of selling ads in our program isn't going to work this year. We won't be needing door prizes, but we could use that type of gift for the auction. Any new ideas for getting items?

Day Camp

Next year's dates have been changes to start after the 4th of July. Either July 5-9 or July 6-10 and July 11-15.

Vice Chair Development-Rick Fellers

The Japeechen Advancement Chair Andy Rogers met with Vice Chair of Development, Rick Fellers, along with Dave Maudie, Art West, Bill Ammer and others to discuss advancement policies and procedures. Following this discussion the following advancement policy and procedure overview was prepared by Art West from the Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures publication. The overview is no substitute to reading the Boy Scouts of America publication Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures

**Review of
Advancement and Recognition**

In response to recent questions that have arisen in the area of advancement and recognition to Life Rank and Eagle Scout Rank, as well as the review and appeal process, the District Director, Dave Maudie, District Chairman, Art West, District Commissioner, Bill Ammer, Vice Chair Development, Rick Fellers, Advancement Chair, Andy Rogers and Cliff McCalmont and other district leaders reviewed policies and procedures to be followed by the Japeechen District Advancement and Recognition Committee. All leaders that are charged with the responsibility of advancement and recognition issues need to read the publication Advancement Committee, Policies, and Procedures 2008 Printing – Boy Scouts of America. The following material has been taken in whole or in part from the publication Advancement Committee, Policies, and Procedures.

Troop Advancement – Tenderfoot to Eagle

The **Scoutmaster** must be in charge of advancement in the troop, in which he or she is Scoutmaster¹. The troop's unit commissioner and the Japeechen District Advancement committee play an important part in explaining advancement and helping the Scoutmaster utilize the advancement program. A Scoutmaster for one troop may not advance a Scout from another troop.

It is important that the troop advancement committee and the Scoutmaster set an advancement goal for the year. A basis goal should be for each Scout to advance a rank during the year².

Service Projects

Second Class Rank

For the Second Class Rank, a Scout must participate in a service project or projects approved by his Scoutmaster. The time of service must be a minimum of one (1) hour.

Star and Life Ranks

For Star and Life ranks a Scout must perform six (6) hours of service to others. Remember the Scoutmaster approves the project **before** it is started!!!

Eagle Scout Rank

For a service project to qualify as an Eagle Scout service project, the Scout, while a Life Scout, must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project benefiting any religious institution, school, or community. These projects, of course, must conform to the wishes and regulations of those for whom the project is undertaken.

The Eagle Scout service project provides the opportunity for the Eagle Scout candidate to demonstrate the leadership skills he has learned in Scouting. He does the project outside the sphere of Scouting.

¹ Advancement Committee, Policies, and Procedures, Boy Scouts of America, Pg. 25.

² Ibid, Pg. 25

As a demonstration of leadership, the Scout must plan the work, organize the personnel needed, and direct the project to its completion.

Eagle Scout projects should be about service to others. Guidelines to follow include:

- An Eagle Scout project involving council property or other BSA activities is not acceptable.
- An Eagle Scout project may not be performed for a business.
- An Eagle Scout project may not be of a commercial nature.
- An Eagle Scout project may not be a fund-raiser.
- Fund-raising is permitted only for securing materials needed to carry out the project.
- Donors to Eagle Scout projects must be made aware of what entity is benefiting from the project, and that it clearly is not the Boy Scouts of America.
- Any funds raised for an Eagle Scout project that are not used for the purchase of project materials must be returned to the donor.

Routine labor, a job or service normally rendered, should not be considered. There is no minimum number of hours that must be spent on carrying out the project. The amount of time spent must be sufficient for the Scout to clearly demonstrate leadership skills.

The most current *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, must be used to meet this requirement.

The Scout must secure the prior approval of his unit leader, his unit committee, and the benefactor of the project. The project must also be reviewed and approved by the district or council advancement committee or their designee to make sure that it meets the stated standards for Eagle Scout service projects before the project is started. This preapproval of the project does not mean that the board of review will approve the way the project was carried out³.

³ Ibid, Pg. 27

Upon completion of the project, the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, properly filled out, is submitted with the Scout's Eagle application to include the following information.

- What was the project?
- How did it benefit others?
- Who from the group benefiting from the project gave guidance?
- Who helped carry out the project?
- What materials were used and how were they acquired?

Although the project idea must be approved before work is begun, the board of review must determine the manner in which the project was carried out. Questions that must be addressed include:

- Did the candidate demonstrate leadership of others?
- Did he indeed direct the project rather than do all of the work himself?
- Was the project of real value to the religious institution, school, or community group?
- Who from the group benefiting from the project may be contacted to verify the value of the project?
- Did the project follow the approved plan or were modifications needed to bring it to its completion?

All the work on the project must be done while the candidate is a Life Scout and before the candidate's 18th Birthday, unless a time extension has been allowed.

The Eagle Scout service project is an individual matter; therefore, two Eagle Scout candidates may not receive credit for working on the same project.

The variety of service projects performed throughout the nation by Scouts earning their Eagle Award is staggering. For ideas and opportunities regarding service projects, the Scout can consult people such as school administrators, religious leaders, local government department directors, or a United Way agency's personnel.

The district or council advancement committee also can be helpful by identifying possible projects.

Boards of Review

A periodic review of the progress of a Scout is vital in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scouting program in the unit. The unit committee can judge how well the Scout being reviewed is benefiting from the program. The unit leader can measure the effectiveness of his or her leadership. The Scout can sense that he is, or is not, advancing properly and can be encouraged to make the most of his Scouting experience.

Not only is it important to review those Scouts who have learned and been tested for a rank, but also to review those Scouts who have shown no progress in their advancement over the past few months.

The review is not an examination; the board does not retest the candidate. Rather, the board should attempt to determine the Scout's attitude and his acceptance of Scouting's ideals. The board should make sure that good standards have been met in all phases of the Scout's life. A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review, to make sure that the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school, and community.

The decision of all boards of review is arrived at through discussion and must be unanimous⁴.

Appealing a Decision

There are two (2) sets of circumstances in which a Scout or his parent(s) or guardian(s), acting on his behalf, may appeal a decision.

The first situation occurs when a unit leader or unit committee does not recommend a Scout for a board of review, or refuses to sign the Eagle Scout Application. In such cases, the Scout or his parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the decision to the committee responsible for advancement at the next level, as described below. The committee hearing the appeal shall then grant the Scout a board of review and appoint its

⁴ Ibid, Pg. 28

members. In such cases, the committee hearing the appeal shall decide to grant or not to grant a board of review.

The second situation occurs when a board of review does not recommend a candidate for rank advancement. In such a situation, the Scout or his parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the decision.

All appeals, under any circumstances, shall initially be directed to the next highest level. If the decision leading to the appeal occurred at the **unit level**, the appeal shall be directed to the **district committee** responsible for advancement. If the decision leading to the appeal occurred at the **district level** (i.e., an Eagle Scout board of review convened by the district), the appeal shall be directed to the **council committee** responsible for advancement. A decision at either level finding in favor of the Scout shall be final. Units have no right of appeal of a decision.

If the initial committee hearing the appeal does not find in favor of the Scout, he or his parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal that decision to the next highest level. If the initial appeal was made at the district level, the next highest level is the council advancement committee. If the initial decision was made at the council level, or if the council advancement committee upheld the unfavorable finding of the district advancement committee, the Scout or his parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal to the national Boy Scout Committee. All requests for appeal shall be made in writing, signed by the Scout and/or his parent(s) or guardian(s), and shall set forth in detail the reasons for requesting an appeal.

Upon initial receipt of an appeal, the district and the council advancement committee charged with hearing the initial appeal shall provide for a prompt review to determine the facts. All parties must be interviewed or written statements obtained. Confrontations between opposing parties must be avoided. The appeal review is not a second board of review and thus a unanimous decision is not required. A decision may be reached by majority vote. A written report setting out all details of the appeal and the reasons for the committee's decision shall be prepared and forwarded to the council Scout executive. A copy shall be furnished to the Scout bringing the appeal.

Appeals to the national Boy Scout Committee shall be processed through the local council, and the local council shall furnish copies of all pertinent documentation to the

national committee, including a statement of the council's position on the matter. If the appealed issue concerns an Eagle Scout candidate, a copy of the Scout's Eagle Scout Rank Application shall be included. If the Scout's Eagle Scout leadership service project is at issue, a copy of his Eagle Scout leadership service project workbook shall be included. All decisions of the national Boy Scout Committee in reference to appeals shall be final⁵.

District Director-Dave Maudie

Dave reviewed the 2009 Centennial Quality and Achievement District Award process. The Japeechen District needs to achieve a two percent (2%) growth in traditional membership or a one percent (1%) gain in traditional density and organize seven (7) new units in 2009 to be in a position to achieve the 2009 Centennial Quality District Award. Our district can achieve the criteria for the award. All units can help with our membership goals.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Yours in Scouting,

C. Arthur West III
Japeechen District Chairman

⁵ Ibid, Pg. 33