

Troop 645
Parent/Committee Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2008

Attendees: Tom Campbell, Brian Hildreth, Marlaine Teahan, Vladimir Zokvic, Deacon Andy Tardif, Joellen Mitchell, Paula Martin, Gary Mandley, Jacob Z. and Rebecca Meszaros.

A. Welcome, Call to Order - 7:06 pm.

B. Approval of October Minutes

C. Senior Patrol Leader Report

Jacob Z., Assistant Senior Patrol Leader gave the report of upcoming events.

December 1 - Scouts will continue to work on the Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge. Two Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge counselors will be at the meeting to help the scouts with the requirements for this merit badge. Some work afterwards will need to be completed by the scouts in order to finish the merit badge.

December 8 - Scouts will be working on the Aviation Merit Badge. They will be working on the requirements needed to be done in order to get the merit badge at the Air Zoo outing. One of the requirements for this merit badge is for someone with an aviation career to speak to the scouts. There will need to be some leeway in meeting planning depending on when this person is available to speak with the scouts.

December 15 - Possibly working on the aviation merit badge.

December 22 - no meeting scheduled.

Jacob reported on past weekend's (November 22-23) camping trip. Jacob was unsure why a cub scout troop was there with the boy scouts on Saturday. It was unclear to the cub scouts also why they were there. The scout who had invited them needed to better explain what the cub scouts were to do. Jacob reported that the younger scouts had trouble building their outdoor shelters and the older scouts had a hard time motivating them and being mentors. It was discussed by the committee that the Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Patrol Leaders should have delegated responsibilities to other scouts to help with the shelter building.

Tom Campbell asked Jacob if the scouts were ready to do winter camping, when it was really cold. Jacob said that they were, that they were all warm this past weekend, though the younger scouts will still need the help of the older scouts. Jacob said he would take responsibility that this would happen..

D. Reports from Committee Members

1. Advancement - Paula Martin

Mrs. Martin reported that there were no Board of Reviews scheduled for this evening. Mitchell M.'s Board of Review was rescheduled and he has now achieved the rank of First Class. Mrs. Martin is making sure she is in touch with those scouts who are close to advancement. Mrs. Martin also reported that there are several scouts who are close to achieving the rank of Tenderfoot but just need a flag and thus would need some mentoring on getting this accomplished. Mr. Hildreth explained that the scouts did not need an actual flag but just a design for the rank of Tenderfoot.

2. Outdoor Activities - Marliane Teahan

Mrs. Teahan reported that there is not a tour permit yet for the December Air Zoo trip. The scouts will be traveling in personal vehicles. There is no information yet on the January Camporee from the Chief Okemos Council.

It was suggested that Mystic Lake would be a nice outing for the scouts in February because of the activities that the scouts could do there. The cost of this outing would be expensive. Mrs. Teahan had another suggestion for the Naturalist programs put on by the Eaton County Parks Department. Their programs are free and include visiting the Observatory in Fox Park and night hikes. Mrs. Teahan thought these activities could tie into a merit badge.

Mrs. Teahan and Mr. Hildreth will meet to do further planning for upcoming troop activities.

3. Website - Mr. Hildreth will be working on the website this weekend.

4. Treasurer - Tom Campbell

Mr. Campbell reported that most of the boys will be in the positive because of the football cleanup payment to be deposited. Mr. Campbell reported that overall the accounts looked pretty good and accounts are balanced for the most part. Mr. Campbell sent the required information to the St. Michael Knights of Columbus regarding the insurance for the troop trailer which they pay. Mr. Campbell wondered if the mailing address for the troop bus registration could be changed to St. Michael's address. The committee thought that even though it is a permanent trailer plate, the address should be able to be changed. Mr. Campbell will look into this. Mr. Campbell asked where the troop was in regards to the recharter. Mrs. Martin will look into this.

Mr. Campbell reported on some upcoming costs for the troop: the trailer will need new brakes this summer, some new tents should be purchased, and a new, smaller trailer should be purchased. Mr. Campbell was wondering if the dues scouts pay each year should be reduced from \$90 to \$75. There is a surplus of \$700-800 to pay for some of the upcoming costs. A new trailer would cost around \$4000 and some new tents around \$300-400. Mr. Campbell will

have a tentative budget ready for next month. Vladimir Zokvic asked the committee to come to the next committee meeting prepared to discuss the budget and these possible upcoming purchases.

5. Scoutmaster - Brian Hildreth

All of the Scoutmaster agenda items were discussed during other points in the committee meeting.

6. Quartermaster/equipment status - Alex H.

There was nothing to report.

7. Parish Representative - Deacon Andy Tardif

Deacon Andy reported that there are currently four scouts participating in the Religious Scout Award meetings. Deacon Andy also had some suggestions for service projects for the troop. The first one was for the scouts to send a card to a recovering soldier. It was suggested that this could be done at a meeting. Deacon Andy also had information on how the troop could provide a food basket for a family at Christmas. The committee agreed that they would like the troop to do this. Deacon Andy will follow up on this.

Deacon Andy again reiterated his concern about the lack of volunteers in the troop. He suggested that the committee become more assertive in January and plan some activities like a father/son, mother/son spaghetti dinner to talk about volunteer positions and how parents can help out the troop.

E. Fundraiser/Community Service

1. Community Service - Mr. Campbell reported that Ben C would like to take over the organization of the Community Meals Wednesdays. He already helps out every week and has agreed to contact scouts to help out on the days the troop is assigned to. The committee agreed to this. Upcoming days are December 17 and January 21.

Mr. Hildreth and the committee agreed to participate in another community service project they were approached about. This one would be this Thanksgiving weekend and would involve the scouts helping to decorate the large cement pots in downtown Grand Ledge. They would be working with Mrs. Seiffert and will be using some of our pine boughs. This will be a yearly service project.

2. Sea Base/Boundary Waters - No fundraiser activities have been planned at this time. Mr. Campbell will look into the potential problem that Boundary Waters may not happen in 2009 because not enough boys are signed up.

3. Fall Popcorn Wrap up - Joellen Mitchell reported that there was \$162 in candle sales, \$4508 in popcorn sales and around \$400 in tips from the fall

popcorn sales. She still has two tins of chocolate and two tins of caramel popcorn left.

4. Food Drive Wrap up - The food drive was well organized. 1700 items were delivered to the Grand Ledge Food Bank. The troop will organize a spring food drive which puts them back on the schedule recommended by the council. It was reported that the food bank is taking perishable items right now.

5. Football Field Cleanup - Mr. Hildreth reported that they were able to do a great deal of recycling. New cans are needed, possibly one specifically for recycling, along with new writing on the existing cans to help people know which ones are trash and which are not. This could be a possible troop activity.

6. Fundraisers - The committee decided that the troop will participate in the Little Caesar Pizza Kit fundraiser in January or February. Mrs. Martin will get the brochures for this. Mr. Campbell will set up a fundraiser at McDonalds. He will also look into one at A & W. The committee agreed that the money raised would be for the scouts participating in High Adventure this summer. These fundraisers will try to be scheduled before Lent.

F. Old Business /New Business

1. Christmas Parade - Friday, December 5. The troop is signed up with location in the parade to be finalized next week. Mr. Hildreth will send out an email informing scouts and parents of the parade. Scouts will also be reminded at the next meeting. Some Scouts will be needed to decorate the bus before the parade. Interested scouts will meet at 3 pm at the Christmas tree lot at Eaton Federal. Mr. Campbell put in a request for garland for decorating the bus.

2. Troop Meeting Set-Up - Mrs. Martin suggested that the room where the boys meet be set up for every meeting like it was during the Order of Arrow presentation. She said the room looked nice, the scouts were sitting in their patrols, and seemed able to listen better. There were three tables and the correct number of chairs at each table. Mr. Campbell agreed and suggested that the scouts all be on one side of the table. This set up will be tried at the next scout meeting.

3. Welcoming/Communication - The committee discussed having a standard welcoming plan for when other groups, such as cub scouts, visit. The plan would include a way of welcoming the group to the meeting and a way to incorporate them into the meeting so that the meeting could continue as planned. This discussion came about because of the poor welcoming a cub scout troop had to both a troop meeting and campout. Deacon Andy said that the boys need to remember WWWWH - who, what, where, when and how when approaching tasks such as welcoming others. Mr. Campbell suggested again the merits of the boys working on the communication merit badge, which would aid them in talking to groups or making presentations at the Court of Honor. Mr. Hildreth said he

would talk to the boys about possibly working on the communication merit badge in the near future.

4. Court of Honor - The committee discussed that each patrol should have a job for the Court of Honor in regards to set up and clean up and the other duties involved with this event. Deacon Andy will come up with a list of tasks to be done for the next committee meetings. This list could be given to the Senior Patrol Leader and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders to make sure the items on the list are completed.

5. Air Zoo - The committee discussed how to proceed with this outing. The discussion revolved around whether or not scouts were responsible for their share of the cost if they backed out before the deposit was made. It was discussed that there has been a troop precedence that if a deposit has not been made for a camping trip or other outing, you are not charged for the event. For example, if a scout signs up to go camping but cancels before the food is bought on Thursday or Friday, they are not charged for the camping trip. It was discussed that this was a special outing and scouts and parents were made aware of the cost and the importance of having enough scouts committed to going. The committee agreed that this is a one time incident and future decisions of this sort will be discussed and approved on a case by case basis. The committee decided for the Air Zoo outing that after the deposit is made by December 4, if scouts back out of the outing they will be responsible for their share of the cost. At the moment 19 scouts are signed up to go.

6. Scoutmaster Duties - Mr. Hildreth informed the committee that he will be resigning his duties as Scoutmaster at the end of the school year for health reasons.

G. Next meeting is Monday, December 15. If there is an aviation speaker for the troop, the meeting will be at 7:45 pm. If there is no aviation speaker for the troop, the meeting will be at 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.