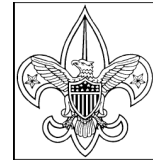


BSA Troop 645

Grand Ledge, Michigan
Chartered to St. Michael
Roman Catholic Church

www.troop645.org



Parent/Committee Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2009

Attendees: Brian Hildreth, Vladimir Zokvic, Joellen Mitchell, Paula Martin, Marlaine Teahan, Tom Campbell, and Rebecca Meszaros.

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

B. Approval of January Minutes - The minutes were approved. We will keep trying to have the minutes reviewed and approved via email.

C. Guest – Erik B. was in attendance because he is currently working on his Communications merit badge. He was to take notes and report back to his merit badge counselor.

D. Senior Patrol Leader Report

The senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leaders were not in attendance. It was reported that those who met for the PLC were unable to decide on many upcoming events due to the absence of the SPL and ASPLs. Erik B. gave the SPL report of upcoming troop events.

March 2 – Troop will work on finishing the disabilities merit badge. The troop had planned on doing a field trip to Peckham but is unable to do so at this time. Those boys not interested in working on the disabilities merit badge will be working on rank advancement.

March 9 – Troop will be working on patrol flags. Erik said he would let the SPL know about this activity so boys can be contacted about what they need to bring.

Camping in March – the boys discussed the possibility of a rock climbing day trip.

Mr. Hildreth said he would contact the SPL about finalizing planning of the March activities.

E. Reports from Committee Members

1. Advancement - Paula Martin

One Board of Review was completed this month. Rafael M. advanced to second class. His goal is to make first class before the next Court of Honor.

Paula Martin reported that the topic of communication came up during recent Boards of Review. One scout has reported that he would like to see improved communication about troop events and happenings from adults and

patrol leaders, as well as mentoring from the adults.

Mrs. Martin said that patrol badges on uniforms need to be changed, as these are not up to date with the current patrols, along with troop job badges.

2. Outdoor Activities - Marlaine Teahan

Mrs. Teahan and Mr. Hildreth conferred by email and phone since the last meeting about upcoming activities. Mr. Campbell said that he has a contact at Fox Park and that person would open the observatory for us whenever we would like. Mrs. Teahan reminded the committee that the observatory would be open in March, the weekend the troop is planning an outing.

In April, the troop will be tree planting on the 18th all day and then backpacking in Pickney on another weekend.

Mrs. Teahan brought to the attention of the committee the possibility of a camping trip the second weekend of June. She knows of a site near Grand Rapids that is on a river where the boys can swim and canoe. The committee discussed that this might be an activity that would work well in September also. It was also mentioned that in the summer this could be a patrol activity, not necessarily a whole troop activity.

Mrs. Teahan reminded the troop about Nature Discovery which would be willing to come to a troop campout with some of the wild life that they have to talk to the boys. She also suggested the possibility of camping at Fenner Nature Center during their Maple Syrup Festival.

Mrs. Teahan will begin working on obtaining a national tour permit for the trip to Dorchester in May.

3. Website – Mr. Hildreth is working on a functionality update. He is trying to make the website more organized and usable. He renewed the domain for another two years.

4. Treasurer - Tom Campbell

On Tom Campbell's treasurer report, he reported that the account was almost balanced from the previous month. The troop made \$1198 on the Little Caesar's pizza sales. They also received \$50 from Eaton Federal for the Christmas wreaths made for them. There was only one bad check from the fall popcorn sale. Mr. Campbell will transfer \$100 to the account at the Chief Okemos Council.

Mr. Campbell reported that at the A & W fundraiser, there were 37 sales resulting in \$74 for the five boys who participated in this. The troop will get a check from the council on Friday, February 27 refunding the Boundary Waters money. Mr. Campbell said that those going to Northwoods this summer will need to pay \$75 by April 1st.

5. Scoutmaster - Brian Hildreth

Brian Hildreth reported on the progress of the Disabilities Merit Badge. He said that the field trip to Peckham was temporarily postponed because Peckham

was moving and they asked if the troop could wait until about mid-March for their field trip. Peckham is closed in the evening so the field trip would have to be after school. Mr. Hildreth will send an email out about this to see if this will work for everyone. Boys are to bring their disabilities paperwork to the March 2nd meeting.

Mr. Hildreth reported that the day trip planned in February to Burchfield Park did not happen due to too much water on the hiking trails and not enough snow for sledding. They will keep this place in mind for another day trip.

Mr. Hildreth reported that there will not be any boys crossing over from Pack 645 to our troop this spring. Mrs. Martin suggested that next year a representative from the troop go and visit the packs. In the past, the troop used to be asked to come and visit the packs but this has not happened recently.

Mr. Hildreth said that some boys from the Troop had been elected to the Order of the Arrow. Since the troop will not be at the Spring Camporee, because they will be in Dorchester, when the calling out ceremony is, something special will need to be done to recognize these boys. Perhaps they will have someone come to call them out at a troop meeting or special event.

6. Quartermaster/equipment status - Alex H.

Mr. Hildreth reported that the trailer is parked at his house right now. Alex H. will be phasing out as quartermaster and Rafael M. will be phasing in. Mr. Hildreth would like both boys to work together for both the March and May campouts to facilitate this transition.

7. Parish Representative - Deacon Andy Tardif

Deacon Andy was not present. Mrs. Martin reported that the list of duties for the Court of Honor worked well. She will type it up and laminate it. She suggested that the patrols responsible for set up and clean up be given the list before the Court of Honor to make sure they ask what equipment will be needed for the COH. It was suggested that the COH duties list be given out at the PLC immediately before the COH.

Alex M., Rafael M. and Erik B. had their Board of Review for the Ad Altare Dei religious award on February 16. All three passed and will receive their award at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing on April 19. Mr. Campbell will reimburse Deacon Andy for the cost of the awards, which he paid for himself.

Scout Sunday, February 8, did not go as well as planned for numerous reasons. Scout Sunday happened to fall on the same day as a youth mass, Fr. Jim Eisele was not present this weekend and only one scout showed up in uniform. Those scouts present, with or without uniform, brought up the gifts at offertory time.

F. Fundraiser/Community Service

1. Community Meals - Ben C. is organizing the troop's involvement with Community Meals. All of the troop assigned weeks are full and the boys who are helping out with this are doing well.

Mrs. Teahan mentioned that Immanuel Lutheran will be starting a soup

kitchen every Monday from 4:30-6:30 pm. She will look into the possibility of the troop helping out once a month.

2. Sea Base - A bottle drive for the group going to Sea Base will be organized in late March/early April. Mr. Campbell has not contacted McDonalds yet. He would like to make sure there are boys and parents interested in participating. They will need to help with clean up and talk to the patrons. It would most likely be a weeknight from 4-8 pm.

3. Spring Popcorn - Joellen Mitchell reported our order has been placed. She has four show and sell dates available at Lowe's. They will be open to those going to Sea Base first and then if there are dates still available, she will open them up to the rest of the troop. Candle sales again this spring are a possibility. She will have the order forms ready for the next troop meeting.

Mr. Campbell will check into the \$121 discrepancy in fall popcorn sales. If there is no reconciliation, Vladimir Zokvic and Joellen Mitchell will sign off on this discrepancy.

4. St. Michael's Fish Fry – More boys are needed to help with this. Most weeks only have one boy signed up. Michelle Clark is making reminder phone calls to boys.

G. Old Business /New Business

1. Scout uniforms – the committee discussed the fact that many boys are not showing up to meetings wearing their uniform, which is mandatory. The committee also discussed the possibility of bringing back uniform inspections. Mr. Zokvic will send out an email reminding boys that wearing their uniform to troop meetings is mandatory.

2. By-laws – Mrs. Teahan asked if the committee had by-laws to govern the meetings and committee. No one was certain, but it was thought that there were no by-laws. Mr. Hildreth will check into this. The committee uses the troop handbook and the scout handbook as well as Roberts' Rules. It was suggested that the principles of the scout law also be used during troop committee meetings.

3. Bus/trailer titles - all of the titles, insurance, registration, and license, are now mailed to St. Michael Parish.

4. Spring Food Drive – Mr. Hildreth will see when the Chief Okemos Council has scheduled the annual food drive.

H. Next meeting is Monday, March 23, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.