

District Committee Meeting
November 3, 2011
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Pat Stamato, District Chair
Leslie Sonkin, District Vice-Chair for Program
Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Lex Leonard, District Executive
See attachment for other attendees

Opening

Pat started the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance. He had handouts about District membership and finances. He also had an agenda but said that he'd like to take some things out of order. Later in the meeting Leslie propose skipping break-out sessions for the individual committees, which was agreed to. Biff Van Kleef proposed that break-outs should take place either at this location before the 7:30 meeting begins, or at a different time and location altogether.

Upcoming Cub Outdoor Activity Day (Nov 5)

Gordon Beattie said that there were over 160 participants (Cubs and parents), either registered in the system or committed by e-mail, but Leslie warned him to expect twice that number to show up. Gordon described in detail how he will handle lunch, which will be burgers cooked in foil over a long strip fire. There will also be hot water all day for those who bring their own cocoa or tea bags. Gordon said that he wanted to talk about food before discussing the rest of the event, because he considered it to be the more important, saying, "If you can't feed everybody, there will be no happiness. No matter how good the rotation stations are, the food has to work. Send them home with a full belly and they'll be happy."

Gordon listed the stations that Cubs will rotate through: Fire-Building (with fire starters), Map & Compass, Civil War Campsite, Tent Set-up and Take-down, and First Aid + CPR. Gordon also said he will have a station called "Scouting Technology." For example, he will show Cubs how to attach mantles onto lanterns, noting that he will actually be addressing the adults, who are typically new to camping and the gear required.

Gordon described how he will start the morning by organizing attendees into six groups, and then send each off to a different station in the rotation. Biff and Leslie were concerned about having too many attendees to comfortably fit into six stations, to which Gordon responded that he can always create a new station at the last minute, such as splitting off First Aid from CPR, or setting up an extra Tent Setup station. However, Gordon noted that adding extra stations could cause lunch to be delayed. He then remembered that there should also be a station for Camp Promotions, but he had no one

to run it. Leslie said that Cub Camping Chair Tristan Vidreiro was the best choice but she had not been able to reach him, so various other names were proposed.

Gordon said that his staff was in place, but he will need someone to handle parking, registration, and the food table where burgers will be handed out. Leslie said that she, Pat, and Mark Wrightington will attend and can fill in. Gerry pointed out that the camp promotion presenter ought to show a video, which led to a side discussion about whether a current video exists and how electricity might be provided.

Gordon said that his Troop and one other will stay after the event is over for weekend camping. He added that he was sorry that more Scout troops won't be present, because it would give them an opportunity to meet and mingle with others from the former districts that now make up Three Rivers.

Advancement

Ed Ference introduced Paul Adams as a new member of the Advancement Committee. Adams said that he had previously served as Advancement Chair in Manhattan with the Hendrik Hudson District. Ed said that the Welding merit badge will be rolled out next month.

Ed said that he had just attended an Eagle Board of Review for a Leonia Scout whose Eagle project was so outstanding that Ed intends to nominate him for a National award. Ed said that the Scout (he could not recall the name) had built a park within the park, and had logged 755 man-hours of work done under his supervision. The project cost about \$6,000 and laid about 3,000 bricks, of which half were etched with the names of donors who funded the project. Ed said, "He sold 100 bricks at \$50 apiece then did a little bit here and there to raise the rest of the money."

Ed also announced a new edition of the Eagle Project workbook that will take effect in January 2012.

Membership

Scott Lomberg pointed out the agenda entry that said, "We need help recruiting," and said, "The note is accurate." He turned to the cover sheet of the District Membership handout, which showed that our new Three Rivers District had lost 6% of its youth and 4.4% of its troops and packs when compared with the three former source districts at this time last year. However, Scott was skeptical about the numbers. He said that when he looked at the youth totals and added the three source numbers from the following pages, they didn't match the cover page total, with a difference of about 200 making the 6% look worse than it should have. *[Editor's note: 2.5% would be more accurate.]*

Gordon said that he will give Lex 12 new Scout application forms tonight, saying that his Committee Chair had been holding them back while waiting for two more to come in. Scott urged people to turn in forms as quickly as possible, saying, "Boy Scout insurance

does not cover until we enter a boy into our system." Lex said that he and the other DEs are willing to drive out to pick up application forms.

Gordon had a complaint about a badly-timed Scout recruitment night that had been scheduled for Bergenfield. He said that neither Scoutmaster had been aware of it, and would have objected since it was scheduled for a Tuesday when both troops have their weekly meetings. To make things worse, flyers were not distributed, and power was out in the library where the event took place. He said, "This happens all too often. The professionals set up these things without consulting with the volunteers who have years of experience." Gordon also pointed out that recruitment should take place in September and October, not November. Scott promised to take up the matter with the DEs.

Commissioner's Report

Sal said that he wants to recruit new Unit Commissioners in the southern part of the district and asked Pat to introduce him to unit leaders there. He said, "We are woefully short." He added that he had lost some Commissioners in the middle part of the district and has to find replacements. Sal also said that the museum where his current 25 Commissioners meet is "tight," and he was hoping that Leslie might arrange for them to meet in the [Paramus] Elks lodge. Biff offered Langan Engineering, but Sal said he preferred the Elks because of its more central location.

Biff announced the "Scouting University" session that will be run by the Hudson Valley Council on Nov 12. He said that it started out years ago as a "Commissioner College," was discontinued, and then restarted recently as "Scouting University." Sal cleared up some confusion when he pointed out that Biff's announcement was different from another session scheduled for Nov 16 called "Commissioner Jump Start Training."

An Upcoming Eagle Project (Nov 5)

Pat asked Sal to describe his nephew's upcoming Eagle project, which will take place at the same time as the Cub Outdoor Activity Day. The Scout put together 450-500 DNA collection kits that will be handed out to parents during the day's soccer matches. The kits come with swabs and instructions, and parents preserve the kits in a freezer. Sal had a copy of the project flyer, which said, "These kits can be provided to local police in case of an emergency to the child."

Proposal for an On-Line Library of Eagle Projects

Gordon asked if it would be possible to upload and create a library of approved and completed Eagle project workbooks, making it clear that all names and other identifying information should be "redacted out." He said, "When I have a new Eagle candidate, I show him several other projects on a different topic just to show him what kind of text has to go into it, etcetera, etcetera."

Sal didn't think it was necessary. He said that his nephew had used the new project workbook, "and he had absolutely no problem going through the workbook." Sal said,

"The new workbook is much easier than the old." Leslie asked the Advancement Committee to look into Gordon's idea and also to weigh it against what Sal reported.

Scout Day on the Intrepid Aircraft Carrier (Nov 19)

Barry Messner suggested that unit leaders take a look at the event, which had recently been publicized. Someone added, "Last year it was a good program."

Bowl-a-Thon (Dec 28 or Dec 29)

Mark said that he is working with Maria Nigro to solve a set of problems in order to finalize plans. He explained that the goal is to run the event on a single day but at two different locations, one previously used by the former Twin Valleys District and the other previously used by the former Tantaqua. In addition to doing it on the same day, they want to charge the same price, and they want to offer the same snacks of pizza and soda. Mark went on to say that Dec 28 works better for one lane, while Dec 29 works better for the other, that each lane charges a different amount per boy, and that one lane includes pizza while the other doesn't. Mark promised to have a resolution and announcement soon. He thought he knew the best way to proceed, but said, "I just want to get Maria's buy-in. since it's her event. She's the Chairperson."

Tiger Tumble (Jan 21)

Mark said that the Tiger Tumble is on track and that he had reserved a school in Palisades Park, asking for both the gym and cafeteria, because he expects a larger turnout than in past years. Leslie gave an enthusiastic recommendation, saying, "You will have so much fun. It reminds you why we do what we do, because those little kids are just too cute." Leslie gave a quick description of the event and added, "I think the staff has as much fun as the Tigers."

Merit Badge Fair (Nov 19)

Gerry said that so far only 50 Scouts have signed up, which is fewer than usual, but she guessed that the power outage may have contributed and asked for another e-mail broadcast to remind Scouts about the event. She said that one of the "Citizenship" counselors is fully booked, but all the others are still willing to take on more Scouts, explaining that the counselors themselves determine how many they can handle.

Gerry said that she will be out of town that weekend, but everything should be able to run smoothly without her, except for someone manning the registration table, which Pat said he will do. Gerry said that tables will have to be set up, typically handled by the first counselors and first Scouts who arrive.

Gerry listed some rules, saying, "Absolutely no walk-ins and absolutely no Scout will earn a badge unless they're in uniform. Also they have to have their own blue cards." In response to a question about uniform pants, Gerry said, "Kids need to realize that they wouldn't go to their baseball games in half a uniform, and we're just as important." But she added, "Khaki pants will be OK. I don't want to make it so hard that kids can't be

successful." Gerry said that the uniform rule was waived for one inner-city troop that wears Army fatigues in order to prevent harassment from neighborhood bullies.

Training for Den Chiefs (Nov 19)

Dennis Ng said he will run Den Chief training on the same day and same location as the Merit Badge Fair, but in a different room. He said that Scouts should register on-line in advance, but pay when they arrive. Pat said that he was very impressed by the course when his son took it.

Training for New Cub Leaders (Nov 28)

Rich Curran said he will run a Cub Scout Leader-Specific session on Monday Nov 28 in Oradell. He said that nothing has been published so far, but he will arrange with Training Chair Mary Kay Tokar to create a flyer.

A Train Ride for Scouts

Ed Quinn said that the Patriots Path Council ran a "Train Day" for Scouts last year and offered to pursue it for this year if there is interest. Leslie asked him to proceed.

"Holiday Lights Tour" in Manhattan (choice of 8 days)

Leslie had a flyer that Ricky Goldsmith had given her before he left from tonight's meeting. She explained that Ricky drives a bus and offered to drive Scouts around to the six best New York City Christmas attractions. Leslie said she had misgivings when Ricky first proposed it several years ago, but she changed her mind after actually taking the tour herself, saying, "We had a ball! You get to see all the sights of the city without the hassle. It's like being a tourist."

Amateur Radio Review Course (Dec 30)

Gordon said that he will run an all-day review course followed by a test session in the evening. He said, "Half the Scouts in my troop have ham licenses," and noted that ham requirements overlap requirements found in 19 different merit badges, such as the Citizenship badges. The charge will be \$25, which includes pizza for supper, but Scouts have to bring their own lunch.

Leftover Awards from Two Events

Ken Hesse said he will double-check to see if anyone ordered but did not receive a T-shirt from the September Gateway Camporee. He will also pick up the patches from the October World Conservation Weekend.

Window Display Week

Bob Lilley said that the prize for past display competitions in the former Twin Valleys District was a \$25 gift certificate, with one each to the best pack, troop, and crew. He said that the actual certificates were donated. He asked for advice on what prizes should be awarded in the Three Rivers District, and asked how they will be paid for,. After a lengthy discussion, the decision was to purchase six certificates, with 1st and 2nd places

going to the three unit types. Bob was reluctant to use e-mailed photo submissions but agreed when Mark volunteered to be the recipient.

District Awards - Not Straightforward

A lengthy discussion took place that tried to resolve several different competing issues, most resulting from the different approaches and traditions in the three former source districts:

- **Award:** District Award of Merit
- **Award:** Scouter of the Year for the Three Rivers District
- **Award:** Scouter of the Year presented by the Scouting Museum
- **Award:** "Sparkplug" Award for unit parents or unit Committee members
- **Award:** Training awards and Scouter Keys
- **Event:** District Awards Dinner in April
- **Event:** Cub Scout roundtable in January (combined with Blue & Gold)
- **Event:** Boy Scout roundtable in June (as a picnic)
- **Location:** Paramus Elks Club
- **Location:** Camp Alpine (picnic)
- **As a fund-raiser:** To benefit the Scouting Museum
- **As a fund-raiser:** To cover costs for the Three Rivers District
- **Concern:** Who decides on the recipients?
- **Concern:** How many Scouter of the Year awards?
- **Concern:** The Museum's "traveling plaque" is engraved with "Tantaqua District"
- **Concern:** Is it okay to invite youth?
- **Concern:** If youth come, can the event be made affordable for the family?

Conclusion: Rich Curran and his Awards and Recognition Committee will attempt to resolve the above issues. Later in the meeting, Ed Quinn urged Scouters from the former Twin Valleys and Hudson-Liberty to join the Nominating Committee, saying, "I don't know the people in those areas. We should have people who know them to make sure the process is fair." He suggested Greg Boyle as a good choice for the former Hudson-Liberty area.

Camping - Partnering with Patriots' Path Council

Barry Messner told about a Council Camping Committee meeting he attended on Wednesday. Attendance at the Boy Scout camps was good with No-Be-Bo-Sco the best, Cub day camp at Yaw Paw "wasn't bad", and Cub resident camp at Lewis was way down with just 156 boys attending.

Barry said that NNJC had decided to partner with Patriots' Path Council. They need a Cub resident camp and would like to send their boys to Lewis, and we need a Cub day camp located more central than Yaw Paw, and they can provide Camp Watchung and Camp Wheeler. Also, their Boy Scout high adventure Camp Sabattis doesn't provide canoeing treks, so they would like to offer Floodwood to their Scouts. Barry's opinion was, "There's

some good benefits here." Leslie agreed, pointing out that families now have more choices.

About publicity, Barry said, "We were told that Patriots' Path has a full-time marketing/camping director." There was some discussion about a video or DVD, and the agreement was that the most recent was one for Lewis provided by Mary Kay Tokar's son, which can also be found on You Tube.

In response to Ken's question, Barry said that NNJC will continue to take "credit" for any NNJC Scout who attends a Patriots' Path camp, but in response to Gordon's question, Barry said that an NNJC Scout must attend an NNJC camp in order to take advantage of an NNJC campership.

Leslie asked about flyers, because she wanted something to hand out at the Activity Day event on Saturday, but Gerry and John Beatty both agreed that the ones they had just looked at really needed a good proof-reader and should be redone. John said he will call [NNJC Director of Support Service] Grey Rolland in the morning.

Barry said that Patriots' Path camp fees are slightly higher than NNJC (about \$5-10), so NNJC agreed to raise theirs so as to be the same. Biff objected, saying that NNJC had already published its camp fees and dates, and had even handed them out during the last camp week at Turrell. Barry didn't think it will present a problem, and Gordon was certain that anyone who wrote a check for the smaller amount and enclosed their Turrell flyer would receive a "thank-you."

Camping - Construction by PSE&G at No-Be and Yaw Paw

Barry said that work on upgrading the electrical power lines that run through No-Be will likely begin in the fall of 2013 and end the following spring, hoping to complete before the Weboree at the end of April. Barry said that Scouts have a good relationship with PSE&G, and can expect a lot of camp improvements as a spin-off, such as re-paving the access road.

Barry said that a second PSE&G construction project will be a new pipeline for natural gas that will go through Yaw Paw making use of an existing right-of-way.

Finances - DE's Report

Lex had a copy of the District Finance Report and said, "We're not doing too well. We're only at 13% of our goal." He started with Community FOS with a target of \$32,000 but only \$4,000 raised. He said that discussions at the Council office talked about putting together more fund-raisers before year's end. There were objections, with people saying that money raised this year by the former Tantaqua and Twin Valleys districts did not seem to be counted.

Gordon asked Lex a series of questions that he was not prepared to answer, such as, How did the former districts do last year with respect to the categories on Lex's handout? and

How many people wrote checks contributing to Leadership FOS? Gordon said, "That information would be helpful to figure out where the shortfall is, and then we can start to make analyses about what we have to improve on."

Leslie had another objection. She pointed out that there was no goal for "special events," and yet some \$17,700 was raised. She said, "That ought to count for something against the \$32,000. The bottom line is still the bottom line." In response to Leslie's question, Lex explained the difference between the chart's "Goal" column and "Goal-to-date."

Gordon wondered if there was any way our district could get credit for work-place contributions; that is, if Gordon specified that his payroll deduction United Way donation should go to NNJC, "could it be used to back-fill these numbers?"

About Leadership FOS, Lex said, "If you're a leader who hasn't contributed yet, please do so." About Family FOS, Lex said that we should start to think about next year's campaign, who our presenters will be, and scheduling presentations in January, February, and March.

Finances - Popcorn Sales

Referring to Oct 31 unit popcorn orders, Lillian Molnar started by saying, "I'm going to give you more bad news." Because the popcorn system is still organized by former source districts, she was able to compare orders placed this year versus last year: The former Tantaqua District was down by \$8,200, and the former Hudson-Liberty District was down by \$6,200 (she did not have a comparable figure for the former Twin Valleys). Lillian then predicted that the numbers will get worse next week when units return for credit their unsold Show-n-Sell stock. Lillian did not know how Lenape Trail or Ramapo Valley had done.

Judy Leonardi Remembered

Leslie asked everyone to stand for a minute of silence to honor Judy Leonardi, who passed away recently. She said, "I'm sorry that Steve Leonardi, our District Director, is not here so we can let him know how much we support him."

**District Committee Meeting
November 3, 2011**

Attendance

Paul Adams
Gordon Beattie
Gerry Beatty
John Beatty
Salvatore Bellomo
Neil Bookspan
Greg Boyle
Richard Curran
Eric Dlugosz Sr
Steven Ference
Kenneth Hesse
Norman Kasser
Bob Lilley
Scott Lomberk
Barry Messner
William Metts
Tom Molnar
Dennis Ng
James Preciado
Patrick Stamato
Mark Wrightington