

District Committee Meeting
May 3, 2012
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack, NJ,

Key People

Pat Stamato, District Chair
Leslie Sonkin, District Vice-Chair for Program
Robert Deutsch, District Vice-Chair for Development
Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, District Director
See attachment for other attendees

Opening

Norman Kasser led the Pledge and the Scout Oath. Pat passed out an agenda with attachments for finances and membership. Bill Metts passed out copies of proposed District events for 2012-13.

Pat welcomed everyone and took a minute to talk about the Gold Rush, saying, "I was very impressed and I had a great time." He also spoke about the District Awards Dinner, where he was one of the recipients of the District Award of Merit, saying "I thought it really went off well, and my family had a great time. It meant a lot to me and my family." He thanked the organizers and the people who attended.

Membership - Recovering some at-risk units

Robert Deutsch pointed to the "Leaders Recharter" handout, which listed all district Scout units from 2011, highlighting those that failed to recharter in 2012. He asked Sal, "We're trying to recover some of these lost units. Is there anything that the Commissioners can do?" Sal responded there had been some success, and thanked Jim Africano and Barry Messner for work they had done. About Jim he said, "He's a very dynamic speaker, and when he gets ahold of a group of parents -- there are very few who can turn them around like he can." About Barry, Sal said that he and Barbara Werner had managed to recover Oradell Pack 136, saying, "We walked out of there with four Assistant Cubmasters and over 20 committee members."

Sal proposed, "If we can get a couple of people like that, whether as a full-time group or on an ad-hoc basis, and they go to these units, we may be able to turn some around."

Norman asked, "Are you proposing a SWAT team?" Pat said, "That's a good name, and I'd like to ask Jim and Barry to take charge."

A summary of recovered units appeared on a Membership handout that Steve Leonardi had prepared. It started by saying that output from the rechartering process stated that 32 units had been lost since 2011 along with 348 youth registered in those units. The handout then summarized the Commissioners' recovery efforts by stating that 8 lost units had been recovered adding 77 youth back to the total.

Membership - Spring recruitment

Robert said that he will shortly target units that have lost membership since last year and encourage them to recruit in the spring "before the kids go off for the summer and before they sign up for other sports and the like." He added, "Then we have to get the new kids to go to summer camp, because that's the hook."

Membership - Recruitment in Jersey City

Pat said that he has an appointment with Dr. Elnardo Webster to talk about Scouts as an after school program. Someone pointed out that Webster had recently been inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Finance - Family FOS

Robert said, "Joel [Lieberman] will give me a list of units that have not signed up for FOS presentations -- we're falling short on our goals," and estimated that 69% of district units would be on the list." He said that scheduling those units, even if contributions were "minimal," would be enough for us to reach our goal. Sal said he will pass the list onto his Unit Commissioners for action.

Finance - Community FOS ("Words to Live By")

Pat said that a fund-raising event will be scheduled shortly for middle Bergen County with assistance from Leslie and Dr. Phil Mollica, and said, "We're trying to reach out to the business community. It will be helpful if the people here tonight can think up any businesses "that we can bring into this." He added that the goal is to make the fund-raiser an annual event.

Finance - Leadership FOS

Bob Lilley referred to the Financial handout where "Leadership FOS" was at just 71% of its goal, but he wants to see 100%. He said, "I have forms if anyone wants them," and showed a patch and a "fancy magnet" to be awarded to anyone who makes a contribution. He said, "If you know anyone on the District Committee who has not contributed, please encourage them to do so."

Finance - Golf Outing (Oct 18)

Pat said that the date is now set and the location will be White Beeches in Haworth. Robert said, "Dave Wolf has volunteered to coordinate it, but not to do it himself. He needs volunteers, so contact Dave or Bob Lilley." He added, "This is our one big ticket event, and, if it's successful, the numbers go over the top." Bob said that people can support it by buying ads, sponsoring holes, sponsoring the beverage cart, or playing golf. He described the event as 18 holes with a shotgun start and dinner at the country club afterwards. He said, "We generally have all kinds of stuff to give away, and I walk around with a bucket full of tickets." He explained that past year tickets were restaurant meals, items in the pro shop, VCRs, and TVs. Bob said that in the past they offered \$10,000 for the hole-in-one prize and joked, "I've been told that representatives from Hudson County will be watching the holes."

In response to Norman's question about recognitions, Bob said, "In the past, we recognized one Scouter and one person from the community, but Dave recommended dropping the community person, because none of the awardees were helpful in getting us any money."

Activities - 2012-13 calendar

Leslie had a copy of the 2012-13 event calendar that Bill Metts had prepared. She said, "If anyone intends to run an event, you need to make sure either that it's on the calendar or that we know about it."

Activities - Roundtable location and dates

In response to Neil Bookspan's question, there was general agreement that Roundtables should continue to take place in the Holy Name Medical Center if possible, and continue to take place on the second Tuesday of each month. Neil also said that he is working on a plaque to thank Karen Chapman for arranging our Holy Name meeting place.

Activities - Bike Rodeo (Jun 9)

Pat told about an upcoming bike safety event to be run by Hudson County in Lincoln Park in Jersey City on June 9. He asked for Boy Scouts to come and act as staff and for people to man a booth with Scout recruiting literature. He said, "The cable people will be there, and we need someone that they can interview to talk about Scouting. I can't do it myself, because I have a commitment to work with Bayonne Troop 19." Mark Worthington said, "After Sal's build-up, I think Jim Africano should do it." Another suggestion was Biff Van Kleef. Steve said he would e-mail a flyer to Bob Hastings to be handed out at the next Roundtable.

Activities - Upcoming May Roundtable

Leslie said that Holy Name will not be available due to seminars being held there, and so the May Roundtable was moved to the Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst. She said, "It's a beautiful facility," but getting there can be tricky, so people should make use of driving directions given in e-mails or on the Meadowlands website. Leslie was also hoping for postcards, but Ken Hesse said that they were all pre-printed with Holy Name as the location.

Activities - Upcoming June Roundtable/Program Launch

Leslie said that the June Roundtable will be held as an outside picnic at the American Legion in Rochelle Park. The event will double as a program launch, "So anyone that has an event should prepare a flyer, even if it says 'TBA: to be announced.'" The flyer should go to one of the Roundtable Commissioners. Leslie noted that the Council usually holds its own Program Launch around the same time, but said, "I haven't heard much about it, and their attendance has been so poor in the past that we're better off doing our own district-level launch."

Ed Quinn was worried that no one had contacted the American Legion. After he explained why he preferred not to do it himself, Leslie volunteered to handle it. Ed agreed with Pat's proposal to open the Scout Museum for visitors.

Activities - Gold Rush (Apr 14)

Leslie said, "It was a great event, and the location was terrific, but we're sorry that we didn't have more participants." She explained that the Gold Rush occurred on the opening day of various Little League and soccer teams.

Activities - Rocket Launch (May 6)

Ken made sure that everyone called the event "Rocket Launch" instead of "Rocket Derby." He said that e-mailed sign-ups he received were currently around 70, however some people refused to come because Ken was insisting on one rocket per den instead of one per boy. He said, "Given the size of the District, I might get 200 kids, and I won't have time to launch 200 rockets. I can only do 100 in the hour allocated." He invited people to come by to work as staff to ensure that kids are doing a good job of adding fins and decorating, and that no one thinks to put holes into their 2-liter bottles. He said, "If the bottle has holes in it, it will just look like a sprinkler head. That's pretty cool, but it won't go up."

Activities - Swim Meet (Jun 22)

Mike Carp said that he and John Sedlock had reserved the Lyndhurst City Pool for 6:00-11:00 PM and they were insisting that Scouts come as teams or patrols. He said that races will be different lengths according to age groups: Webelos, Scouts, and Venturers. Mike said he will have information ready for the Roundtable, but he and John needed one more planning meeting to take place just as soon as this meeting ends. Leslie invited anyone interested in helping to also stay after. In response to Leslie's question, John said that he had already arranged for a lifeguard to be present -- a Scout from his own troop.

Activities - Weboree (Apr 27-29)

Leslie called the Weboree "Incredible and very smooth from an administrative point of view." She said that they decided to add a third loop trail just for adults to follow, "which turned out to be great." Leslie estimated attendance at 630-635 instead of the 750 of past years. She said, "We had a lot of enthusiastic first-timers on staff, both adults and 'yoots.'" She also thanked Barry and Mark for their hard work in the kitchen, saying, "They had a good time even though they had to get up at 4:00 AM."

Leslie spotted Mark's son Matthew and asked him about his experience as Trail Guide, but his response was interrupted by people concocting jokes about him getting lost and showing up at Camp Towadena on Tuesday. Pat apologized for not attending, saying that he attended an Eagle Court of Honor in Jersey City that also honored long-time Scoutmaster Lou Cappelluti.

Activities - Council Derby Day (Aug 2012)

Leslie said that early planning was in progress at the Council for a Cub Derby Day to take place at the same mall parking lot as last year. She described the event as a mix of Pinewood Derby, Raingutter Regatta, Cubmobile, and Rocket Launch. Pat requested another "Anything Goes" Pinewood competition for adults and asked Lillian Molnar to convey to her husband Tom his challenge to race.

Activities - Fishing Derby (Jun 16)

Bob Lilley said that the Fishing Derby will take place at the Oradell Reservoir, and Mark said that Gerry Beatty has a flyer ready to distribute at the next Roundtable. Bob said that both adults and youth may enter, and Mark said that anyone over 14 will need a fishing license, which can be obtained from Ramsey Outdoors, Walmarts, or any hunting or fishing store. Youth will also need a signed release form.

Bob said, "The Water Company has been very good to us." He explained how the reservoir was locked down and made off limits after the 9/11 attack, but they agreed to open it just for Scouts.

Activities - Wings and Wheels Show (Jun 16+17)

Ken proposed a good Fathers Day event at Teterboro Airport. He joked that it will be a "rare opportunity to actually see me in long pants." He said that he was "blown away" at last year's event by a guest speaker who was a Luftwaffe pilot. Even more ironic was that he was sitting right next to a Tusgegee Airman. Ken guessed that attendees will be able to see a P51 Mustang, a B17 bomber, and a Marine trainer helicopter. Bob noted the conflict with the Fishing Derby, but Ken pointed out that the air show takes place over two days. Ken said that the "wheels" part of the show is about cars. *[Editor's note: the flyer promises a Batmobile, a Green Hornet, and vintage military vehicles.]*

Camping - Promotions

Leslie said that Matt Dalzell and Tristan Vidreiro "had been going all over the place doing camp promotions like crazy." She said they had also done a really nice job during the Weboree 3:00 PM parents meeting. She urged unit leaders to take advantage of their enthusiasm by scheduling a promotion.

Camping - Siblings Allowed at Lewis

Barry Messner quoted from a recent District broadcast that told how younger brothers and sisters are welcome to attend Camp Lewis. The note gave prices and what kind of program the siblings can expect.

Camping - Early Bird Discount Extended

Barry also quoted from a recent Council broadcast that extended early-bird discounts to May 4 (the previous date was April 15).

Camping - "Sampler Program" Discount

Mark recalled another broadcast about the Council's "Sampler Program." It allows Boy Scouts to attend a regular week at, say, No-Be, and then attend a second week at

Floodwood with a nice discount. Norman added that Philmont and the Turrell "Soaring Eagle" week were also included in the mix.

Training - Wood Badge

Eric Dlugosz said that two courses will be offered, fall and spring, each requiring two weekends. He called them "cluster courses" done in cooperation with Patriots' Path Council, so the first weekend will take place at Camp Winnebago, and the second weekend at Lewis. The fall course will take place in September+October run by Bob Cunniff, and the spring course will take place in May+June run by Eric.

Training - Leave No Trace (May 9 and 10)

Jim Preciado said that the Council calendar shows two days of training for Leave No Trace Trainers to be run by Suse Bell. He said, "She snagged the Subaru Leave No Trace traveling road show, which are the best experts you will ever get." Jim said that "LNT Trainer" is a relatively new junior leadership position that can be used by a Life Scout aiming for Eagle. Jim said that "Leave No Trace Trainer" will be one of the sessions given at the September Train-o-Ree. Leslie said that Suse had also done presentations at the Weboree. *[Editor's note: The May 9+10 sessions were organized by the Lenape Trails District with limited seating. By the time Jim made his announcement, all slots for both sessions had been filled.]*

Advancement - Eagle projects

Fred Creswick didn't have exact numbers but estimated "six or seven new projects." He added, "Eagle Boards of Review are moving along." Pat told Fred that the District is doing better this year than last and congratulated the Advancement Committee on the good job they are doing. Fred responded, "It's the boys who are doing a good job!"

Advancement - Eagle Courts of Honor

Referring to Joel and himself, Steve said, "There are more Eagle Courts of Honor that any two people could possibly attend," and listed four this weekend, three next weekend, and at least one or two every weekend from now through June. This set off a lengthy conversation about who might help out by attending ceremonies to represent the Council or District in addition to Pat and Leslie. Jim Preciado proposed enlisting Unit Commissioners, and Lillian Molnar proposed that the Council hire more DEs, saying, "I personally was promised that Three Rivers would have four DEs." Leslie agreed. Ed Quinn said he was willing to attend ceremonies on behalf of the District, since he already attends ceremonies on behalf of the Scout Museum.

Jim asked Steve if he was concerned that Eagle ceremonies were taking place that no one at Council or in the District knew about. Steve assured Jim that this was not his current concern, and Robert assured Jim that it was the unit's or family's responsibility to inform the Council and District, saying, "So the ones we don't know about are really not our problem." Norman verified and said, "When BSA National gives their final approval, Tyrone Manning informs the Scoutmaster with a letter telling him to come to Oakland to pick up the medal, and also telling him to include the Scout Exec and the District Exec

when they send out invitations." Steve said, "Believe it or not there are a good number of Eagle Scouts who never have a Court of Honor -- it's just not that important to the family."

District Commissioner's Minute

Sal said, "We have a good staff of Unit Commissioners, but we still need more, so if you know anybody out there, send him down and we'll sign him up." Sal proposed former Scoutmasters and Assistants. Bill Metts said that we have some communities that need extra people, such as those assigned to Biff and Kevin Kilroy.

District Exec's Minute - "Circles of Influence"

Steve held up one of tonight's handouts with a large circle in the middle of the page ("My circle of influence - People I know...") surrounded by fill-in-the-blanks with "My friend" and "My professional associate." Steve said, "Many, many times you'll hear: 'If you know someone willing to help out...'" He proposed that this approach has as much chance of success as "Sitting in a room and asking if anyone wants to be the next Cubmaster."

Steve prefaced his explanation with a story about meeting with Bob Lilley at the Iron Horse restaurant where he saw a large statue of a Boy Scout. Bob told Steve that the owner had once received a District Good Citizen Award and was always reaching out to help his Westwood community. Steve proposed that the owner might be someone willing to partner in an upcoming Words to Live By "ask" event. Bob then said that the Mayor and the Boro Administrator are also great guys. Steve's point was, "We don't know if any of them will actually be able to help us, but in just a couple of minutes of brainstorming we came up with three good names." Steve continued, "If we ask, they might not be able to help, but there's a good chance that they'll say, 'But I know somebody...'" Steve was certain that the process would result in one or two people being invited into what he called "our Scouting family." He added that there was a good chance of turning up an Eagle Scout in the process.

Steve proposed that each person here has a friend or business acquaintance who admires what they do in Scouting but is not involved himself. He said, "Maybe you don't want to ask the person yourself, and maybe you don't even know what job he might be suited for, but there may be a way for someone else to ask him." Steve asked people to fill in the blanks and told how there are many slots to be filled, such as Unit Commissioners or members of committees that are short-handed. He said, "After we identify the people, then we can decide on the best way to contact them."

Steve was about to conclude when he recalled the parlor game called "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon," where you name any actor and, within six connections, you can tie him to actor Kevin Bacon. He said, "They've been with somebody who's been with somebody who's been in the same movie as Kevin Bacon." Steve said, "Maybe we'll fill out these sheets during every meeting and have a prize to the person who turns in the most names."

**District Committee Meeting
May 3, 2012**

Attendance

Jim Africano
Salvatore Bellomo
Greg Boyle
Michael Carp
Daniel Chazin
Fred Creswick
Robert Deutsch
Eric Dlugosz
Ricky Goldsmith
Kenneth Hesse
Norman Kasser
Steve Leonardi
Bob Lilley
Barry Messner
William Metts
Lillian Molnar
Dennis Ng
Ed Quinn
John Sedlock
Leslie Sonkin
Patrick Stamato
John Tkaczyk
Mark Wrightington
Matthew Wrightington