**District Committee Meeting**
**September 6, 2011**
**One Bergen County Plaza**
**Hackensack, NJ,**

**Attendance**
Pat Stamato, District Chair
Robert Deutsch, District Vice-Chair for Development
Leslie Sonkin, District Vice-Chair for Program
Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, East Field Director
Ian Meades, District Executive
See attachment for other attendees

**Opening and Introductions**
Pat led the Pledge then welcomed everyone, congratulating them for attending in spite of the heavy rain and asking about the state of the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Someone joked that he just saw the USS Ling float past the window. Pat then gave an overview of the agenda and asked everyone present to introduce him/herself. Pat said, "If you're now confused about which committee you're on -- after tonight there will be no confusion."

**Thanks to Dave Ingalls of Jersey City Pack 475**
Steve thanked Dave for an extraordinary Good Turn, describing how Dave volunteered his church to lodge and feed a Scout troop from the midwest stopping to tour the Statue of Liberty prior to a high adventure trek in the Adirondacks. Steve added, "Unfortunately *not* Floodwood," referring to NNJC's own high adventure camp in the Adirondacks. Steve said that he had received the request from the trip's organizer just two weeks prior and said, "She e-mailed me back after the trip to tell me how Dave was a wonderful ambassador for Scouting in northern NJ."

**Decision on meeting dates**
Rob Deutsch led the discussion to work out the most convenient day to hold each of the three monthly district meetings. There was a fair amount of discussion followed by a show of hands for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The results:

- District Committee meetings: Changed from 1st Tuesday to 1st Thursday.
- District Roundtable meetings: Unchanged, still the 2nd Tuesday.
- District Commissioner meetings: Unchanged, still the 3rd Thursday.

**Decision on locations**
For subsequent Thursday District Committee meetings, there was general agreement that tonight's Bergen County office will be OK for the future, and that Thursday Commissioner meetings will take place in the Scout Museum in Rochelle Park. Leslie said that Roundtable locations will be "rotated until we get a feeling for which location will be best." She listed September at the American Legion, October at the Westwood Church, November at Holy Name, and December in Secaucus or Kearny.

**For later: Rob's "Top of Mind List"**
Rob made a list of topics that should be addressed at tonight's meeting "before we leave today." He named the September Camporee, popcorn sales, the World Conservation weekend, a new name for the "Eastern District," who will be our District Execs ("professional staffing"), Cub Outdoor Day, recruiting, and the Journey to Excellence Award.

**Break-out by committee [50 minutes]**
Each committees selected its own table to sit at. Leslie asked for Training, Activities, and Camping to locate on one side of the room, while Rob asked for Advancement, Membership, and Fund-Raising/Finance to locate on the other side.

**Steve's request to identify units that lost gear to Hurricane Irene**
Steve said, "I thought that I had a problem when I had an inch of water in my basement and was without power for three days," but then told about conversations with other Scouters who had suffered far worse damage. Steve asked to be informed of other Scout leaders who were also badly affected, saying that, in addition to family losses, they also might have lost the unit's camping gear." He said, "The first step is to identify folks like that. If I scrounge around in the store rooms of all the camps, I might be able to outfit a whole troop."

**Committee report: September Camporee**
Pete Hilaris said that the final date for signing up will be Sep 14. The Camporee started as an event for the Oceanography merit badge, which led to its location in Brooklyn on Jamaica Bay, with the American Heritage badge added later. Pete said he will prepare one more e-mail reminder for broadcast. They can fit 300 campers, but only 100 have signed up so far with perhaps another 100 on staff. Dennis Ng added that there will be many other activities, including a tour of an NYPD helicopter, and access to a lot of hiking trails. He said, "The airfield is so huge and open that you'll forget that you're actually still in Brooklyn." Scouts are invited to camp for the weekend, but Cubs are expected to make it a day trip unless they have arranged to join with a Scout troop for an overnight.

**Committee report: Popcorn Sale**
Lillian Molnar said she has a list of units that have signed up, noting that some have not done so yet and asked those present to look at her list to help contact the ones she was unable to reach, saying, "Maybe you can get through to them." Lillian pointed out that her list does not say "Eastern District" but is still based on the three older districts, because the popcorn system has not yet caught up with the consolidation. She said, "When you go for your pickup and we ask which district you come from, your answer must be your old district, not Eastern." She explained that the delay in the system is caused by an overlap in unit numbers that has yet to be resolved. Steve added, "Please participate. We really need to get the numbers up. We need to sell popcorn."

**DE's report: Professional Staffing**

Referring to the possibility of hiring a fourth DE for the Eastern District, Steve simply said, "I'm not involved with the interviewing or hiring, so I really don't have anything to say. However, the position is still on the organization chart as a vacant slot. I'm covering one of the communities, and Ian [Meades] also has one." Steve pointed out the limitations imposed by the Council's tight budget, and Leslie was disappointed, saying that some Eastern District plans were based on the assumption of a fourth DE, adding hopefully, "Unless Joel's coming back..." [DE Joel Lieberman of the former Broken Arrow District was called to active duty in Afghanistan last May.] Pat said that he had a conversation with the Council a couple months ago and was told there would be a fourth DE and said, "I have not heard otherwise, so, as far as I'm concerned, we're supposed to have a fourth DE."

**Committee Report: World Conservation Weekend**
Mark Wrightington said that the weekend is scheduled for Sep 30 - Oct 2, with Boy Scouts invited for the full weekend, and Webelos just for Saturday-Sunday. He said that the location will be moved from Camp Lewis to Camp Alpine due to a conflict with Wood Badge. Steve urged Mark to get the event onto the Council's reservation chart. Later in the meeting Mark described the event as a way to encourage 2nd year Webelos to stick with Scouting by giving them a good camping experience, best done with the Scout troop they will bridge into.

**Committee Report: Combining Two Cub Events**
Mark said that the Activities Committee intends to combine Tantaqua's early October Gold Rush with Twin Valley's early November Cub Activity Day into one event. One sticking point is that each had its own set of activities. He said, "We need to talk a little more before we can give details and a date." Leslie urged them not to waste any time in deciding. Steve agreed on the need for speed, saying that he has been receiving many calls from unit leaders trying to plan their calendars.

**Committee Report: Two Other Events**
Gerry Beatty gave Nov 19 for a Merit Badge Fair. Mark said that they are working on a combined Bowl-a-Thon to replace the older Twin Valleys and Tantaqua events, proposing a single date in December, but continuing to use the two prior bowling lanes, thus resulting in one event taking place in two locations. He said, "I don't think either bowling lane could hold the full complement of people. Plus Scouts will keep going to the same places that they're used to."

**Committee Report: Recruiting**
Scott Lomberk reminded everyone that it's now time to start recruiting, predicting that "with our reorganization our numbers will be terrible, but we need new Cubs!" Steve verified that flyers are available. Scott also urged unit leaders to submit applications as soon as they are filled out in order to ensure that each new boy will be covered by the Scout insurance policy. He said, "You have one meeting or event where the Boy Scouts will extend coverage [to an unregistered boy]." This caused many present to ask Scott

where he heard that policy, since they had never been informed of it. One said, "I'd like to see that in writing somewhere."

**Committee Report: Training**
Mary Kay Tokar said that she is trying to create a consolidated list of anyone who is a trainer, even those who are not official members of the committee. She said to them, "Please see me before you leave. The Council is making a push for all trainers to be themselves trained and certified." She said that a new syllabus is available for Troop Leader Training called "Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops," available on-line as a PDF file." Mary Kay said that she hopes to have a calendar of training sessions available in time for next week's Roundtable.

Mary Kay said that the Council insisted that Youth Protection Training be made available as in-person sessions during the September and October Roundtables, and that she is trying to work out how to do so without disrupting the meeting's agenda. She also wants to compile a list of YPT facilitators to ensure that all have current certifications.

**DE's report: "Journey to Excellence" Award**
Steve explained that the Journey to Excellence Award had superseded the Quality Unit Award of past years. He said that the major difference is that the 8 requirements for Quality Unit were "cut and dried" yes/no questions, whereas the JTE requirements are now answered by selecting one of three "levels," called bronze, silver, and gold. Steve displayed a printed evaluation chart with a series of dials that look a bit like the dials on a basement gas or electric meter. Steve said that the purpose is to keep units focused on delivering a quality program to their Scouts. The JTE award is available to Scout units, districts and councils, but, given the reallocation currently in progress, it's not clear if the new districts will be eligible this year.

**District Chair's Report: Fund-Raising**
Pat said that he intends to run three 2-hour dinners, where local businessmen will be invited and asked to make donations to Scouting. The first one will take place in Jersey City on Sep 26, followed by one in middle-to-lower Bergen County and another in upper Bergen. Pat said, "This is very important!"

**Committee Report: Cub Scout Summer Camps**
John Beatty said that more attention will be paid this year to the camp promotion DVDs and videos, ensuring that they "get rolled out in time and are not too large for on-time distribution." He said that he would like to compile an e-mail list of families whose sons attended camp last summer, so that he can inform them of upcoming camp promotions. The current plan calls for contacting individual Den Leaders in order to obtain the information. In response to Leslie's question, John said that a video for Yaw Paw is complete and one for Camp Lewis is almost done. In response to Biff Van Kleef's question, John was certain that Lewis will be open next year. Leslie noted that there is no report tonight about Boy Scout summer camps.

**Committee Report: Advancement**
There was no report from the Advancement Committee, but Rob remarked, "I know you guys are doing a lot of Eagle boards and have a lot of Eagle projects coming."

**District Vice-Chair's Report: New Name for the "Eastern District"**
Rob said that 56 or 57 name suggestions were submitted via the on-line system. The next step will be for the District Committee chairs to cull them down to a smaller number, such as five. He explained that the professionals had given some selection criteria that the Committee had agreed to use:

- Easy to pronounce
- Easy to spell (not like Iaoapogh)
- Avoid a reference to one of the former districts
- Avoid using a name familiar to old-timers (such as Oratam)
- Avoid using a name similar to a name used elsewhere (such as Lenape)
- Aim for a name that could unify the three former districts into one
- Pick something we can be proud of

The final choices will be presented at the upcoming Roundtable for a vote. There was discussion about how to ensure that the process goes as quickly and smoothly as possible so as not to disrupt other Roundtable business. There were also jokes about Hudson County's reputation for tainted elections.

**Closing Remarks**
Pat said, "In closing, I want to remind people to think about popcorn, fund-raising, unity, and membership." He thanked everyone for attending "during this miserable weather."

**Post-Meeting Joking Around**
While discussing fund-raising, one wag proposed soliciting corporate sponsorship, such as "The Pep Boys Pinewood Derby." There were some, "Wait a minute -- that's not such a bad idea!" Then someone else recalled that in 2005 Chevrolet and local Chevy dealers had agreed to a 3-year sponsorship of a recruiting drive called "Race to Cub Scouting," that involved giving away a plastic lunch box with a toy car inside to any new Cub that registered.

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Sal Bellomo, District Commissioner
Steve Leonardi, East Field Director
Ian Meades, District Executive
Jim Africano
Linda Sue Andrese
Randy Andrese
Gerry Beatty
John Beatty
Neil Bookspan
Greg Boyle
Lawrence Butto
Richard Curran
Gerald Dalzell
Eric Dlugosz
Warren Dressler
Ed Ference
Rick Goldsmith
Al Hacker
Kenneth Hesse
Peter Hilaris
Dave Ingalls
Norman Kasser
Kevin Kilroy
Bob Lilley
Scott Lomberk
Barry Messner
William Metts
Lillian Molnar
Tom Molnar
Dennis Ng
George Simoni
Mary Kay Tokar
Tom Tokar
Biff Van Kleef
Mark Wrightington
James Wrynn