



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

St. Francis Church
308 Jefferson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
www.troop146.org

January 15, 2019

To: Members and Friends of Boy Scout Troop 146

Here is a summary of the Troop Committee meeting and Board of Review that took place this evening in the Hoboken Multi Service Center. The next Committee meeting will take place on February 19, 2019 in the Multi Service Center.

1. Present

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Norman Kasser
Joe Facchini	Ken Nilsen
Ken Howitt	Dave Sytsma

2. Board of Review

Gabriel Weaver was reviewed and approved for First Class.

3. Rechartering the Troop and Pack for 2019

Each January, the troop and pack renews with our parent Northern NJ Council for another year. We send them our current rosters, and Father Chris verifies that he is willing to continue as our sponsor. The renewal fee is \$42 for each registered Scout and \$42 for each registered adult. Boy Scout fees are covered by their weekly dues, while Cub Scouts and adults are expected to write a check. Our numbers:

Boy Scouts	44 (20 more than last year)
Cub Scouts	39 (same as last year)
Adults	23 (1 more than last year)

Lenny remarked that there was a time many years ago when Troop 146 had 50 Scouts, thanks to a merger with another troop, saying, "I never thought we get anywhere near 50, but 44 is really close." In response to Ken Howitt's question, Norman expected three Cubs from Pack 146 and five more from Pack 18 to join the troop in March. Norman added that Scouts going from 24 to 44 or adults going from 22 to 23 "is not a straight line." As an example, two Scouts came off the roster when they turned 18, and 6 more just dropped out. Similarly, we took some adults off the roster in order to ensure compliance with the Archdiocese youth protection requirements.

4. Quartermaster Invitational Camping Trip (Nov 30-Dec 2)

Bob reserved a cabin at Camp Bullowa where he treated his Quartermasters and their guests to an all-play-no-work weekend. Scouts were John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Charlie Greenwood, Aidan Ward, and Gabriel Weaver. Bob, assisted by Joe Facchini and Francis Howitt, did all the cooking and cleanup. On Saturday night they went bowling. In past years, this annual trip would take place in mid-December, but this year Bob chose an earlier date so as not to conflict with Aaron Kurland's Eagle ceremony (see below).

5. Battleship New Jersey Sleepover (Dec 1-2)

We attended this overnight as two separate contingents. Boy Scout Troop 146 was represented by Veer Agarwal, Jayden Altamura, Frank Castro, Jovani Lugo, Jacob Moretz, and Teddy Muldowney. Extra slots were taken up by Teddy's little brother Pierce, and Zack's little brother Noah (Zack didn't attend). Six adults also made the trip. Meanwhile, Hoboken Packs 146 and 18 formed a second contingent with about 40 Cubs and adults.

Everyone was assigned a bunk in the quarters where the sailors used to sleep, and everyone went through the supper and breakfast chow lines the way the sailors used to do. Our Scouts were assigned KP duty for Saturday supper, and their job was to prepare and hand each participant a tray of food. One highlight was the firing of a cannon just prior to Saturday night Taps and lights

out. Norman said he was disappointed that there was no raffle to select a Scout who would pull the lanyard on the cannon, saying, "It was just one of the Battleship crew that did it."

6. December Court of Honor (Dec 11)

The highlight of the Court of Honor was the formal induction of five new Scouts, which, when added to seven new Scouts inducted in October, made 2018 a very unusual year. These 12 were recruited from local schools. Contrast that with past years, when we relied on newly-bridged Cub Scouts to grow the troop.

New rank badges were given to Aidan Ward, Tige Mauseth, Alex Cando, Jayden Altamura, and Jeremy Warren. Merit badges were earned by John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Charlie Greenwood, Zack Scheiman, Jayden Altamura, and Frankie Sanchez. Rhys Wylie was promoted to "Troop Guide," and Jovani Lugo was promoted to "Den Chief." Norman noted that Jovani will work as staff at an upcoming district event for Tiger Cubs. At the Court of Honor, Victor Mauseth and his Draco Patrol were declared winners of the fall 2018 patrol competition and received Doctor's Note awards. (See below for a follow-up.)

7. Computer-Generated Patrol Rosters - An Experiment

As noted above, the Draco Patrol won the most recent patrol competition. They started out by getting a big jump ahead of the other three patrols, and then kept extending their lead every subsequent week, resulting in a lopsided win. When it was over, the four Patrol Leaders, with agreement from the rest of the troop, decided to launch an experiment in which they let a computer work out the patrol membership. Thus the 2019 competition will feature the same four patrols, the same four Patrol Leaders and Assistants, but entirely new rosters for everyone else. The hope is for a tighter competition instead of another lopsided win. Norman said that the experiment is "kind-of working, since three of these four patrols are pretty even." But once again the Draco Patrol has surged ahead, thanks to a good turnout at the blood drive, and thanks to a leadership bonus that Victor himself earned by organizing and supervising the drive (see below).

8. Aaron Kurland's Eagle Ceremony (Dec 15)

Aaron's Eagle ceremony was our first conducted in the St. Francis Community Center. The space small when compared to St. Matthew Church, and so we had standing room only for many of the Kurland family guests. Henry Plotka was the M.C., and Father Chris provided the invocation, and Rabbi Scheinberg did the closing benediction. Scouts attending were Jayden Altamura, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Charlie Greenwood, Jovani Lugo, Tige Mauseth, Jack Nilsen, Henry Plotka, Jacob Moretz, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, Rhys Wylie, and Ethan Zhang.

The next Eagle ceremony will be for Henry Plotka, with a proposed date of March 16 at St. Matthew. Ken Nilsen said that he had already booked that date with the church for 1:00-5:00 PM, so the invitations will say 2:00 PM. Ken Howitt asked Ken Nilsen to handle the printing and folding of the programs, since he will be away in March. Ken Nilsen recalled that Pastor Beeson gave just the quickest of a welcome at the start of Aaron's ceremony, and suggested that a new interim pastor, also an Eagle Scout, might be available to give a more extensive welcome. Ken Howitt passed on a message from Rabbi Scheinberg, who said he enjoys coming to Eagle ceremonies, and would be happy to come as a regular guest with no speaking part.

9. Annual Red Cross Blood Drive (Jan 12)

This was a hugely successful blood drive, with the Red Cross adding 44 pints to their stores. Victor Mauseth volunteered to be the drive's "Chief," arranging for the pre-publicity and pre-signups, and then supervising other Scouts during the day of the drive. Victor's assigned target was 37 pints, and so everyone was very pleased when they announced 44. Other Scouts were Jayden Altamura, Tige Mauseth, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, Aidan Ward, Aneel Ward, and Rhys Wylie. Several Troop 146 adults volunteered to donate blood: Vivian Altamura, Matt Groo, Ted Mauseth, Vicki Mauseth, Ken Nilsen, and Gretchen Scheiman.

Lenny said that he was happy that Msgr Paul Bochicchio stopped by and had his picture taken with the Scouts. On the other hand, he started the morning very worried that the Red Cross would understaff the drive as happened last year. For the first half hour there was just one lady truck driver with a full load of blood drive gear and no one to assist. However, eventually Veronica

arrived with a full staff that was able to set up six beds for donors and keep them mostly occupied the entire time. Lenny said that Veronica decided to keep the drive going until 4:00 PM.

Ken Howitt asked Norman to ensure that announcements about the blood drive should mention that it was sponsored by both the Scouts and the church's Holy Name Society. He liked the idea that St. Francis was closely involved with a successful Boy Scout project, saying, "It's a good thing for the troop to have events like this." Ken Nilsen was concerned that we didn't have enough Scouts at the very beginning to help with the setup, and at the very end to help with the cleanup. He proposed that whoever the Scout is in charge next year should make it a point to improve those aspects of the drive.

10. Upcoming District Klondike Derby (Jan 25-27)

We made a pretty good showing at last January's Klondike Derby competition, and have spent prep time during several Scout meetings working on skills that might be tested this year. Last Tuesday, patrols competed to see which could lash together the best tripod in the quickest time. Last year, there were enough older Cub Scouts to form their own Klondike crew. However, this year Cubs were invited to simply attend for the day and tag along with the Boy Scouts.

11. Need to Revise the Camping Trip Schedule for April and May

For the past two years, our April camping trip has centered around whitewater rafting, and for the past six years, our May camping trip has had a historical theme. It appears that none of the outfitters is offering rafting in April, and so a revision to our schedule is called for. Norman proposed moving our historical trip back to April (the plan was to tour West Point), and to sign up for the "X-Treme Sports Weekend" that will take place at Camp Turrell on May 17-19.

Lenny was concerned about the X-Treme weekend \$50 fee. Norman's suggestion that the troop could subsidize the fee led to a discussion about the upcoming Super Bowl Sunday fund-raiser. Ken Howitt recalled that John Bincoletto had offered to let us bag at his Acme store in Newport, but, after some discussion, it was decided to stick with Acme in Hoboken, and Ken agreed to make arrangements with the store manager.

Lenny said that bagging and an occasional donation were pretty much the troop's only source of funding, but he then proposed running a bake sale at St. Francis modeled on the one that Aaron ran as part of his Eagle project. Lenny said that Father Chris was very happy with Aaron's sale, and he also wants to see the Scouts in church more than once a year. Lenny called the bake sale "easy to do and high profile." Lenny was concerned that Bob might want to use troop funds for equipment, but Norman doubted that Bob still has any outstanding items on the shopping list he presented to the Committee several months ago. Lenny recalled another fund-raiser from years back when Scouts sold milk chocolate in the form of Scout trefoils and Cub diamonds. The molds were owned by Lepore's, but Ken Nilsen thought that Schnakenberg's might now possess them. Ken added that he had past experience with chocolate molds.

12. Multi Service Center - A Gift Certificate for Violetta

Our tenure at the Multi Service Center got off to a rocky start, when Kleber, the easy-going maintenance guy, was replaced by Violetta, who had many complaints about how the Monday Cubs and Tuesday Scouts were behaving. Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Facchini proposed that we smooth things over with a gift certificate, and he purchased one from Leo's Grandevous Restaurant across the street. Success! So far we have had no further complaints, and Violetta is just as friendly as can be.

13. Report from the New "Programming Committee"

Since September, Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman has been experimenting with various ways for Scouts to work more productively on rank advancement. Norman explained that in 2016 BSA National had greatly revised the requirement sets for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, making all three far more difficult to earn. Since then, our rank advancement has slowed considerably, and it became clear that we needed a new approach.

Working in Gretchen's favor was the fact that more adults were attending Tuesday Scout meetings, all of them willing to pitch in when asked. Her first experiment was to break Scouts

out into small study groups, and have each work at a station led by a different adult or older Scout. When time allowed, groups could rotate from one station to another. This was the method used when the troop was prepping to compete in the November First Aid Rally. (Note that the Rally was postponed until a to-be-announced date in the spring.)

The next step occurred recently, when Gretchen asked adults to form a "Programming Committee." They reviewed the three requirement sets, determined which could benefit from small study groups, and laid out a schedule to follow from now through June. Ken Nilsen said that he was part of the group along with Joe Facchini, Francis Howitt, and David Plotka. He liked the idea of having an upcoming event to focus skills training on, like the First Aid Rally and the Klondike Derby. There will also be guest speakers, such as tonight's Mark Smith to talk about weather, and another who will talk about flooding in Hoboken as an environmental concern.

Ken Nilsen said that the Programming Committee will also alert Scouts and parents about what is being planned so they can take full advantage of the opportunities. There will be alerts about opportunities during camping trips, merit badge sessions, and Scout summer camp. One example is the opportunity to pass the First Class orienteering requirement during the Klondike Derby.

14. Optional Advancement Clinic (Dec 18)

Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman organized this "extra" Tuesday Scout meeting, offering to work with any Scout who wanted to pass a few extra rank requirements during the holiday break. Some 20 Scouts took advantage of her offer, and got a lot done with the help of several other adults. Not present was Norman, who had scheduled knee surgery for that day.

15. Year-End Thank-You Donations Made by the Troop

Ken Nilsen said he will hand-carry a troop thank-you donation to St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, which has let us run several Eagle ceremonies in their spacious social hall. Our donation will be used by their lunchtime ministry for the homeless. Lenny said that some time in February he will arrange for Pack 146 to make a thank-you donation to the St. Francis sandwich program with Father Chris present at the Cub meeting to receive the check. Lenny added that the church's Holy Name Society is planning to make a donation to the troop.

16. Three Religious Awards

Towards the end of the Troop Committee meeting, Lenny called for a temporary adjournment in order to conduct Boards of Review for three Scouts ready to earn the "Ad Altare Dei" religious award for Catholic Scouts: Nick Facchini, Ethan Zhang, and Liam Richardson. Medals will be presented by Cardinal Tobin during Scout Sunday in February.

17. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$2559.35

Current Scout balance: \$2788.26

Money earmarked for Philmont and Sea Base payments: \$2975.00

Money came in from troop dues and a donation.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense later in January: Renew registrations for all Troop 146 Scouts

Prior Cub balance: \$2233.39

Current Cub balance: \$2140.93

Money went out as a popcorn adjustment.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster