



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### Troop 146

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

March 26, 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 St. Matthew Trinity Church. The next Committee meeting will take place on April 9, 2019 in the Multi-Service Center.

**1. Present**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Marie Luizzi
Paul Bayliss	Chris Nastasi
Ken Howitt	Ken Nilsen
Norman Kasser	Paul Scheiman

**2. Board of Review**

Tige Mauseth was reviewed and approved for First Class.

**3. Three Recent Boards of Review**

Tonight's Troop Committee meeting was originally set for March 12, but that meeting was entirely devoted to three Boards of review, leaving no time for Troop business. The boards were: Star for Aidan Ward, and First Class for Nick Facchini and Zack Scheiman. Thanks to the boards, all three Scouts became eligible to run for membership in the Order of the Arrow (see below). Note that the Committee was willing to also review Tige on March 12, but Tige arrived too late to that Tuesday's meeting.

**4. Venture Patrol Day Hike (Jan 19)**

Three Scouts and two adults hiked a 10-miler along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail from Ossining, NY to Dobbs Ferry, NY. Attending were Alex Cando, Henry Plotka, and Aidan Ward. Adults were ASMs Francis Howitt and Brendan Wilder. Norman explained that several years back we added a "Venture Patrol" to our program in order to keep older Scouts interested, "And it seems to be working okay." Every Scout automatically becomes a member when he turns 14, and thus becomes a member of two patrols, his own and the Ventures. The February day hike was organized by Venture Patrol Leader Henry Plotka and adult advisor Francis Howitt. As an aside to the day hike, Ken Howitt told about a huge coincidence. When the Scouts stopped for lunch, it turned out they were "right in front of my girlfriend's apartment, and she spotted Francis."

**5. District Klondike Derby (Jan 25-27)**

Scouts bunked for the weekend in a cabin at Camp Bullowa, then commuted on Saturday to Alpine Scout Camp where the Klondike took place. We competed against about 70 other Scout troops and ended somewhere in the bottom third of the standings. The winners were able to hustle and compete in all 6 stations, whereas we only got to four. Thanks to advance preparations, we did quite well at 3 of our stations, with only "Knots and Lashings" disappointing. Jovani Lugo was the steady cook for the weekend, which included preparing an outdoor hot lunch for the Scouts and adults.

One interesting event happened on Saturday morning as Bob was preparing to drive his truck from our cabin at Bullowa. He attempted to drive over a very large rock and wound up with his truck suspended, the chassis sitting on the rock and wheels spinning uselessly. It took about a half hour to jack up the truck and then to work with hammers and a log-splitting wedge to get the rock unfrozen from the ground and out from under the truck. Norman said, "Watching Scouts solve the problem of the rock was worth winning three Klondike stations."

**6. Two Guest Speakers (Jan 29 and Feb 26)**

During the January 29 Scout meeting, Carter Craft addressed the entire troop about steps Hoboken had taken and will take against the possibility of another super-storm Sandy. During the February 26 Scout meeting, two Stevens students addressed the entire troop about bullying. Casey Moon and Sean Willamin are members of the Stevens Alpha Phi Omega (APO) service fraternity. Ken Nilsen said that he had brought in Craft and that Francis Howitt had brought in Casey and Sean. In response to Norman's question, Ken explained that he had asked Francis to serve as the "Scouting Advisor" to APO, which is a service fraternity that was started by Eagle Scouts. Ken added that over the years several APO members had been attending Cub meetings, assisting in any way they could, specifically mentioning Bill Gilroy.

**7. We Were Honored at the Four Chaplains Ceremony (Feb 3)**

We had a good turnout of 10 Scouts during the Vets' annual wreath-laying at the Four Chaplains memorial in Church Square Park. This year we were honored to provide the Color Guard, usually done by the Hoboken Fire Department. American Legion Commander John Carey thanked Norman and said that consistent Boy Scout support of the Vets is what gets them to march at the front of Memorial Day parades in May.

Lenny said that Carey asked if the troop could run a service project to clean up the WW I memorial statue in Elysian Park using a power washer. Lenny thought that the weather in late May or June would make the best time and added that we will have to coordinate with the Hoboken Parks Department. Lenny said that Leo Pellegrini is Hoboken's Director of Environmental Services and is "a good friend to Scouting," having arranged for the troop and pack to meet at the Multi-Service Center, and having attended Henry Plotka's Eagle ceremony. There was some discussion about where to get a power washer. Ken Howitt warned about poison ivy in the park.

**8. Two Supermarket Cancelations (Feb 3 and Mar 17)**

We had to cancel our plan to bag for tips at the Acme on Super Bowl Sunday, and to run our annual spring food drive at ShopRite on March 17. Both cancelations were caused by new policies implemented at each store's respective corporate headquarters. ShopRite simply stopped allowing all solicitations to take place outside their store, but offered to make up for it by delivering free groceries to any food pantry that requests it. Acme stopped allowing local store managers to decide on solicitations, but will consider requests sent to the corporate headquarters. They just approved a food drive on the afternoon of March 31 as requested by Pack 146 Den Leader Dan Vinish. Scouts who need credit for a service project have been invited to attend; hours will be 1:00-5:00 PM. Norman said, "Now that we know it can be done, we can put food drives back onto our calendar, but they will be done at Acme." Lenny said we should go to the Acme in Newport, which should be more productive than Hoboken, and added that we are already good friends with the store manager, John Bincoletto.

**9. Troop Finances Need Attention**

Referring to the above canceled Super Bowl bagging fund-raiser, Norman said it will cause a problem, since that event is virtually our only fund-raiser. We must come up with a substitute, possibly a bake sale at St. Francis, modeled on the one that Aaron Kurland ran as part of his Eagle project. A bake sale will have the added benefit of increasing the troop's visibility in the parish. Lenny proposed running a pancake breakfast in the St. Francis "Cry Room," modeled on an annual breakfast run by the Stevens Newman Catholic Association. Ken Howitt proposed a flower sale around Mothers Day or Easter Sunday. Norman said we should try to encourage better popcorn sales, especially among the former Cubs who were super-salesmen prior to joining the Scout troop.

Lenny pointed out, "We've never asked money from parents -- not a penny," and Norman said that the \$2 weekly dues really don't cover our expenses. Instead Lenny cited various donations from outside sources, such as Mueller Insurance. He then handed Norman a donation check that he had just received from the St. Francis Holy Name Society. Lenny said that soliciting for donations would be easier if the troop could get status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Later in the

meeting Lenny proposed creating a troop Finance Sub-Committee with the job of focusing on these issues, possibly meeting as early as next Wednesday.

**10. Three Catholic Religious Awards (Feb 10)**

Nick Facchini, Liam Richardson, and Ethan Zhang received medals for earning the Ad Altare Dei Catholic Religious award. The requirements were covered during several months of sessions run by Joe Facchini and Bob Manzari, ending with a Board of Review conducted by Lenny. The award ceremony took place in the impressive Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Two Hoboken Cub Scouts also attended and received medals, Theo Platt from Pack 18 (now a Boy Scout) and Michael McNamara from Pack 146.

Lenny said that he had wanted to run a second award ceremony at St. Francis during Scout Sunday in early February, but there were too many calendar conflicts. However, he would still like to do it saying, "We really can declare any Sunday we want as our own 'Scout Sunday.'" He said that Msgr Paul and Father Chris would both like to see it done.

**11. Two Ski Weekends (Feb 8-10 and Mar 8-10)**

The February trip was hosted by Dan Weaver and Paula Weinpahl at their winter home near Belleayre Mountain. Scouts attending were Xavier Aniello, Leo Burnett, Henry Plotka, Ivan Radoslavov, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, and Gabriel Weaver.

The March trip to Shawnee Mountain was billed as two days of skiing, but we decided to cancel Sunday due to rain. Scouts who signed up for both days bunked in a cabin at nearby Resica Falls Scout Reservation: Jayden Altamura, Henry Plotka, Zack Scheiman, Noah Scheiman, and Ryan Womack. Three Saturday day-trippers were Nick Facchini, John Facchini, and Charlie Greenwood,

**12. Nine New Scouts Graduated from the Two Cub Packs (Mar 3 and Mar 4)**

Older Boy Scouts attended two back-to-back Cub Scout bridge ceremonies to welcome Cub Scout graduates into the troop, five from Pack 18 and four from Pack 146. Cubs crossed a wooden bridge from the "Cub side" to the "Scout side," where our Scouts welcomed them and altered their uniforms to show the change. All nine attended their very first Boy Scout meeting on March 5. Norman said that Liam Richardson was very helpful in the week prior to the bridge ceremonies when he briefed the then-Cub Scouts on what to expect when they join the troop.

In response to Norman's question, Marie said we should move the Pack 146 wooden bridge from its storage location in the Elks Lodge to a shed in the St. Francis Madison Avenue parking lot that Father Chris said we can take over. Lenny said he would like to cover a glass window in the door with plywood. Ken Nilsen volunteered to check out the shed's current contents shortly and see how much clean-up will be required. Norman proposed that Bob should also take a look and consider which items he might like to transfer from our Jersey City storage site down to the shed.

**13. New Patrol Leaders, New Patrols, and a New Patrol Competition**

As we do every March when we have a new crop of Boy Scouts, we declared the end of the January-through-March patrol competition, dissolved the existing patrols, and then started over again with new patrols and a new competition. Christian Englehardt and his U.U.F.W Patrol (United Union of Free Workers) won, thanks to last-minute points earned at Henry Plotka's Eagle ceremony (see below). The new Patrol Leaders are Christian, Zack Scheiman, Jovani Lugo, and Joey Nastasi, with the latter as PL of the nine newest Scouts. As of tonight, Joey's Ninja Panda Patrol is ahead in the current competition. Continuing an experiment started last January, we let a computer assign Scouts to populate Christian's, Zack's, and Jovani's patrols. In the past, each Patrol Leader selected his own members, and past competitions usually turned out to be lopsided victories for the winners. This past January-through-March competition worked out to be more even and less lopsided, which is why we did it again. Also the procedure was much faster. As an aside, Norman told how Zack was not actually present at the meeting when he ran for and was elected to Patrol Leader. Instead he was away visiting his aunt and worked out a remote way to be present via a smart phone Google app.

**14. Eagle Ceremony for Henry Plotka (Mar 16)**

Henry's Eagle ceremony took place at St. Matthew Trinity Church at 2:00 PM, with a good turnout of 15 Scouts arriving at 1:00 to set up. There were about 70 guests in total. Henry received two silver palms to add to his Eagle Scout medal in recognition of his earning 54 merit badges. Scouts were Jayden Altamura, Leo Burnett, Jack Cademartori, Christian Englehardt, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Jovani Lugo, Spencer Neissen, Jack Nilsen, Theo Platt, Zack Scheiman, Noah Scheiman, Will Sytsma, and Aidan Ward.

Norman said that Aidan and Lenny shared M.C. duties, and Ken Nilsen told how Aidan frequently had to improvise when Bob borrowed Aidan's copy of the script and then lost it. A few items on the agenda wound up getting swapped around, but Lenny said, "No one in the audience knew the difference. My advice to Aidan was to just work through any glitches." Ken had a suggestion for improving the script process for next time, and he had another suggestion for reducing the time needed for prior rehearsals, saying, "We should have a Color Guard crew of 4 or 8 or 12 who are called on to march the flags in at every Court of Honor. Then, when we have an Eagle Ceremony, they're ready to go with just a minimum of preparation." Lenny recalled a prior Eagle ceremony where the M.C. was then-SPL Orson Chansler (Eagle 2012). Lenny said that Orson did such a good job that his reward was Lenny's approval for an Eagle project outside of Hoboken. Lenny approved Orson's building and mounting bird houses around a reservoir in Jersey City. (See item #24, below.)

Among Henry's guests were several Troop 146 alumni, including Nick Walker (Eagle 2003), Jason Davidoff (Eagle 2017), Aaron Kurland (Eagle 2018), and Hoboken Police Lieutenant Michael DeTrizio (Eagle 1990). Francis Howitt (Eagle 2010) is currently an active Troop 146 Assistant Scoutmaster.

St. Matthew was represented by then-interim Pastor Gary LeCroy, also an Eagle Scout. (Ken Nilsen said that LeCroy was later offered a permanent position.) St. Matthew has been very supportive of our troop, and in December we sent them a thank-you donation for their lunchtime ministry program. They acknowledged with a very nice card with photos of their lunchtime clients.

**15. Dropping Several Inactive Boy Scouts**

Several Scouts stopped attending meetings, and failed to respond to an e-mail asking about their status. Norman dropped from the troop roster Devon Dehghani, Jack Halligan, Ryan Halligan, Joe Scalzo, Andrés Rodriquez, and Jacob Moretz.

**16. Merit Badge Sessions at Liberty Science Center and Montclair (Mar 3 and May 5)**

Seven Scouts attended a STEM merit badge day, returning with two merit badges each. Older Scouts were Jayden Altamura and Frankie Sanchez. Norman gave the nine very-nearly Boy Scouts permission to sign up if desired, and five did: Thomas Bayliss, Jack Cademartori, Spencer Neissen, Theo Platt, and Noah Scheiman.

The May 5 session will take place in Montclair. Gretchen will be one of the adult counselors, and she is encouraging our Scouts to attend. This will be an unusual merit badge fair in that counselors will be expected to instruct. Contrast this with most merit badge fairs, in which Scouts are expected to learn all the course material in advance and to prepare all the requirements in advance, after which the counselor simply reviews the requirements and signs off on the completion.

**17. Order of the Arrow Election (Mar 19)**

Bob arranged for the OA Election Team to come to Hoboken, resulting in Aidan Ward, Nick Facchini, and Zack Scheiman being elected as candidate members of the prestigious Order of the Arrow Honor Society. Later in May or June or September, each will have to attend an OA "Induction Weekend" camping trip in order to finalize his membership.

- 18. Tonight's Court of Honor Award Ceremony (Mar 26)**

SPL Aidan Ward conducted tonight's Court of Honor while this Troop Committee meeting was still in progress. Nine new Scouts were formally inducted into the troop. Aidan, Nick, Zack, and Tige got new badges of rank based on Boards of Review, and 7 Scouts received "Scout" badges of rank (no Board needed). Nine Scouts received merit badges, mostly earned at the Liberty Science Center. Four new Patrol Leaders and their assistants got leadership position patches, plus one more for new Den Chief Thomas Bayliss. Christian Englehardt and his U.U.F.W. Patrol received "Doctor's Note" awards for winning the Jan-Mar competition, and Zack Scheiman was recognized for being the troop's best point-earner. Two Scouts received "Recruiter" badges to sew onto their shirts.
- 19. Friends of Scouting (FOS) Fund-Raising Presentations (Mar 26 and Apr 15)**

We asked the Northern NJ Council to send an FOS presenter to make a pitch to Troop 146 on March 26, and to Pack 146 on April 15. Allowing such presentations is a requirement imposed on every troop and pack in the council.
- 20. T146 Scouts Working as Staff at Camp Turrell (Jul 7 - Aug 10)**

Aidan Ward and Tige Mauseth submitted applications to work at Camp Turrell as counselors-in-training (CITs) during this summer, but for some reason they have not yet been asked to appear for an interview by the Camp Director. During the interview, both plan to ask to be relieved of CIT duties for one of the camp weeks in order to turn into regular campers and join the other Troop 146 Scouts when they arrive.
- 21. The Multi-Service Center Sometimes Unavailable for Meetings**

When troop and pack meetings restarted last September after the summer break, we were warned to expect cancellations due to other organizations needing to use the room for conferences, etc. Since then, the Cub pack was displaced for three Mondays, and the Scout troop was displaced for two weeks in early March and is currently in the middle of a second 2-week displacement. Plan-B for Cubs was to meet in other venues, such as an archery range or a swimming pool. Plan-B for the troop's first displacement was to meet in the Mustard Seed School gym (thanks to Terrence Richardson for making the arrangements), and the current displacement is taking place in St. Matthew (thanks to Ken Nilsen).
- 22. Troop Committee Meeting Calendar Changes**

Due to a change in Lenny's schedule, Troop Committee meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of each month whenever possible (we previously met on the third Tuesday). Norman pointed out that the 2nd Tuesday of April is just two weeks from tonight, so it's not clear how much business there will be to discuss. Ken Nilsen proposed holding the meeting anyway just in case some Scout will be ready for a Board of Review, and in fact his son Jack may be ready by then.
- 23. Rechartering Problem with the Pack 146 Tiger Den**

Norman said that we ran into a problem when rechartering Pack 146 for 2019, which resulted in temporarily dropping the entire 7-Cub Tiger den. The Registrar at the Council office is aware of the problem and has agreed to reinstate each Tiger with his parent-partner as appropriate.

The problem arose when the Archdiocese of Newark told each member church that ALL adults who appear on a youth organization roster MUST sit through an in-person session called "Protecting God's Children." The Pack 146 roster for 2019 listed seven adult parent-partners, none of whom were certified. Norman had no choice but to drop those adults from the roster along with their Tiger Cub sons. As of this writing, four of the seven are now certified and have been reinstated back onto the pack roster. Ken Howitt said that the Archdiocese offers a second way of getting certified that can be done at home with an online system, but Norman clarified by saying that two preliminary steps are needed, saying, "First you have to attend an in-person session. Then you can ask the Archdiocese to give you a logon and password so that all subsequent sessions can be done at home."

**24. News about Two Cub Day Camps**

The August "Hidden Gem" Cub day camp was canceled for 2019. Too bad, since some of our Boy Scouts had planned to work there as staff. Still on is Camp Yaw Paw, the council's Cub day camp in Mahwah, NJ. The council contracted for a bus to support Cubs in Hudson County, using a single pick-up-drop-off site in Jersey City, and to do so for all six camp weeks. But there is a down-side condition: Each week's bus must have a minimum of 15 registered/paid Cub Scouts. If registration falls short, that week's Jersey City bus will be canceled, and parents must find a Plan-B, such as driving to Clifton, where there is an alternate pick-up site.

Norman did not have a ready answer for Lenny during tonight's meeting, but a later look-up showed 12 Boy Scout troops in Hudson County. One each in Hoboken, Weehawken, Jersey City, West New York, North Bergen, and Secaucus. Two in Kearny, and four in Bayonne. Lenny told how he got a phone call from a mom in the Jersey City troop asking for advice on what to do for an Eagle project. Lenny told how he was very hesitant to get involved, but finally suggested that the Eagle candidate might propose mounting bird houses around the reservoir close to the troop's sponsoring church. (To see where Lenny got the idea, refer to item #14, above.)

**25. Sad News about an Eagle Alumnus**

Ken Howitt said that Cathy McElroy had recently passed away, and that the family had an open house this past Sunday. She was the mother of Johnny Bauers (Eagle 2012) and wife of John Bauers, a musician who performs frequently in Hoboken. Ken said that Francis, who also lost his mom, had been in touch with Johnny. Ken Nilsen said that he was able to speak with John Sr. when he performed at the Stevens "Taste of Hoboken" event. Lenny said that we should send a sympathy card.

**26. Finances**

Prior Scout balance: \$2788.26

Current Scout balance: \$329.11

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in as a donation.

Note that the above donation from the Holy Name Society will appear in next month's report.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$2140.93

Current Cub balance: \$2366.75

Money came in from 2018 online popcorn sales.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Blue-and-Gold banquet.

Expected expense: Subsidize an April overnight at the Liberty Science Center.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser  
Scoutmaster