



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

St. Francis Church
308 Jefferson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030

October 29, 2019

To: Members and Friends of Boy Scout Troop 146

Here is a summary of the Troop Committee meeting that took place this evening in the Hoboken Multi-Service Center while the Boy Scout meeting was in progress. The next Committee meeting and Board of Review will take place on November 12, also in the Multi-Service Center.

1. Present

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Ken Howitt
Paul Bayliss	Norman Kasser
Lorraine Cademartori	Paul Scheiman

2. Troop Finances in 2020

Norman said that the Troop's financial situation through September 2020 "Will be close, but I think we'll make it." He summarized the situation with, "In past years, with troop dues, our annual bagging fundraiser, popcorn sales, and a few donations, we were able to cover all our expenses. However, in 2020, there will be a major increase in expenses, and the bagging fundraiser is no longer an option." A lengthy discussion followed:

- o **Increased expense - Registration fees:** Norman said that BSA National will nearly double the charge to register each Scout for a year. In 2019 it was \$42, but in 2020 it will be \$71. Scout dues at \$2 per meeting works out to \$72. In 2019, a Scout's dues covered his registration fee with \$30 left over for other expenses. In 2020, a Scout's dues will exactly cover his registration with nothing left over. By way of explanation BSA National said that their "cost of [liability] insurance has increased dramatically." Registered adults are also affected with a fee of \$47 (was \$42 last year).
- o **Increased expense - Lots of Awards:** Norman said that our Scouts are becoming much more focused on rank advancement and merit badges. For example, for last week's Court of Honor, we purchased 111 cloth merit badges from the Scout Shop at \$2.79 each = \$310.
- o **Increased expense - Inflation at the Scout Shop:** As noted above, each cloth merit badge currently costs \$2.79, compared with 2017, when each badge cost \$2.49.
- o **Ideas for fundraisers**
 - o Lenny proposed running a bake sale, either at the PATH station entrance or at St. Francis.
 - o We will do another car wash in the spring.
 - o Paul Scheiman volunteered to contact Bowtie Cinemas about selling ticket vouchers as a fundraiser.
 - o The amount raised from this year's popcorn sales will become known next month. Last year 10 Scouts sold popcorn and raised about \$700. Lenny mused at how Cub Scout super-salesmen somehow lose interest in selling when they graduate into the troop.
 - o Lenny said that he will find out more about a pancake breakfast run each year by the Newman Catholic Association at Stevens. He thought they could give the troop pointers in how we might run such a breakfast ourselves. The St. Francis "cry room" would be a good location, since "parishioners are kind of a captive

audience." The Elks Lodge lower grill room is another possible location. Paul Scheiman said that Zack has experience as a cook for the pancake breakfasts run by their neighborhood association.

- o Ken Howitt has a contact in Brooklyn who has experience in getting grants for non-profits. Ken said he has not yet had a chance to review raw data that Norman provided itemizing past troop expenses. We have never formally written up a budget, but Norman estimated our expenses at about \$2000 per year plus yearly registration fees for our Scouts (\$1800 in January 2019, possibly \$2700 in January 2020).
- o Later in the meeting, Lenny proposed selling Christmas tree ornaments with a picture of St. Francis plus a Boy Scout logo, and Ken proposed selling flowers at the PATH station on Mothers Day.
- o **Will Scout Families Have to Pay More?**
 - o Lenny and Ken both said that the Scout program should be kept as inexpensive as possible. Troop dues are \$2 per meeting, and a camping trip typically costs \$30 per person. Norman said that camping trips are subsidized by having the troop pay for the campsite or cabin.
 - o Lenny posed the question whether we should increase dues and/or charge more for camping trips. For camping trips. Ken proposed a fund similar to the KMK fund currently made available to the Venture Patrol. Ken also proposed raising the weekly dues to \$2.50 or \$3, saying, "If someone can't afford the increase, they talk to someone, and we just quietly charge the original \$2." Lenny and Norman rejected the idea as unworkable. Paul Scheiman proposed a slight increase in dues to \$10 per month, which everyone agreed to, starting in September 2020.

3. **Two New Adult Requirements Imposed by BSA National in 2020**

BSA National decided that it was time to redo background checks for all "direct contact" adult leaders and asked each to sign a form authorizing them to proceed. Norman joked, "National ran a check on me when I registered in 1992. Who knows what kind of crimes I may have committed between then and now."

BSA National mandated that all "direct contact" adult leaders should receive training for the position they hold, in line with the slogan, "Every Scout deserves a trained leader." This affects Scoutmasters and Assistants, Cubmasters and Assistants, and Den Leaders. Classroom training can be done either online or at one of the Saturday sessions offered by our parent Three Rivers District. Outdoor training can be done only at one of the "Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills" (IOLS) weekend sessions run by our parent Northern NJ Council. Norman and Bob attended indoor and outdoor sessions some years ago. Recently Gretchen Scheiman and four Cub leaders attended an IOLS session at Camp Lewis. Norman said, "It's not clear what will happen to adults currently on our roster when we recharter in January if they have not met the training requirements. Maybe they'll give us a year grace."

4. **Scout Summer Camp at Camp Turrell (Jul 7-13 and Jul 14-20)**

We had 15 Scouts during the first week and 14 Scouts during the second, but note that 6 signed up for both weeks. Aidan Ward was one who signed up for both weeks and then remained at Turrell for 3 more weeks working as staff. Henry Plotka worked as staff for all 5 weeks. Acting SPLs were Zack Scheiman and Gabriel Weaver, both leading the troop to earn the Baden-Powell Honor Unit Award, and, unusual, both leading the troop to earn the extremely difficult "Clean Campsite Award." One non-camper was Nick Facchini, who opted to work all summer as staff at the Camp Lewis Cub resident camp.

Scouts at Turrell came home with 98 merit badges, 5 Totin' Chips, 4 Firem'n Chits, and several other awards. 11 Scouts completed all requirements for rank advancement and thus became ready for a Board of Review (below).

One disappointment was the Council deciding to cancel its August week of Cub day camp in Jersey City's Pershing Park -- no explanation given. Five of our Scouts had worked as staff in August 2018 and were hoping for a repeat in 2019.

5. Personal Fitness Merit Badge (Started Sep 7)

15 Scouts signed up to work on the Eagle-required Personal Fitness merit badge, which has an indoor and an outdoor component. We started with the outdoor component, which calls for logging exercises at home for 3 months, interspersed with monthly fitness tests conducted in Columbus Park. Most Scouts started in September and will complete the outdoor component with a final fitness test in early December. Scouts who started in October will end in early January. At some point, David Plotka will announce the start of classroom sessions for the badge's indoor component.

6. The 9/11 Memorial Service (Sep 11)

Three Scouts attended this memorial service on Pier-A: Teddy Muldowney, Theo Platt, and Ryan Ramos. For a while it looked as if the service might not take place, since it was not posted on any City calendar or on Hoboken-411 or Hoboken Patch. It turned out that Mayor Bhalla chose Twitter to publicize the event, and Hoboken Patch finally posted a notice on September 10.

7. Map & Compass day Hike (Sep 14)

We try to run this 5-mile hike every year so that Scouts can pass Second Class Requirement #3b. 10 Scouts attended, starting with a 45-minute prep session in the St. Francis parking lot prior to driving to the trailhead in Harriman State Park. The prep session ensured that each Scout knew how to use a compass and how to read a topographic map, with emphasis on understanding how contour lines work. Although the weather forecast was favorable, the hikers got drenched by a passing rain squall. When the rain subsided, Norman declared the hike completed and the requirement passed, even though they had only walked about 3 miles.

8. Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge (checkpoint on Sep 19)

Last April Lenny started sessions for Scouts interested in earning the Citizenship in the Community merit badge. As of the September 19 city planning meeting, seven Scouts completed the badge, but four still had a requirement or two left to fill.

9. Friends of Camp Turrell Recognition Dinner (Sep 21)

Geoff Garlick, President of the Friends of Camp Turrell (FOCT) contacted Norman and said that he had been selected as one of this year's awardees for its "Above and Beyond Award." The award was presented during the FOCT recognition dinner of September 21, and several Scout and Cub families attended to show their support. During his presentation speech, Geoff told how Norman had created the camp's website for Scout merit badge sign-ups and how useful it was. He also related how Norman had volunteered one summer to run the camp's "Soaring Eagle" week for older Scouts who wanted to work on their last Eagle-required merit badges.

10. Popcorn Sale for 2019 (Started Sep 24)

The "Take-Order" portion of the 2019 popcorn sale ended this evening (Oct 29), with colored order forms and money collected turned in. (Note that online sales may continue on into next year.) When the sale started in September, Scouts were urged to seriously sell popcorn as a troop fundraiser in order to help cover our expected expenses. As part of each Tuesday's opening announcements, Lorraine would remind Scouts about the Trail's End online system for selling by e-mail.

The two Cub Scout packs took advantage of the "Show-n-Sell" method of selling popcorn by setting up a table at the PATH station on two successive Fridays and selling to homebound commuters. With all methods of selling, the money brought in is divided roughly into thirds. The troop and packs keep one third, the Northern NJ Council keeps one third, and the Trail's End wholesaler keeps one third. Final numbers will be available and announced in early November.

11. Camping at Quail Hill plus Oceanography at Sandy Hook (Sep 27-29)

Nine Scouts camped at Quail Hill Scout Reservation in Monmouth County, with Saturday devoted to compass-related activities. Zack Scheiman was the acting SPL for two compass

exercises, first working out how to place four Scouts so that they formed a perfect square, followed by placing three Scouts to make an equilateral triangle. This was followed by a lengthy hike out of camp to find a geocache that some local person had hidden (Jovani Lugo was the sharp-eyed finder). After lunch, Scouts followed an orienteering course that Quail Hill had set up. Sunday morning was spent at Sandy Hook, where two docents had Scouts work a drag net to see what kinds of aquatic life could be found in Horseshoe Cove. The campers were joined by three day-trippers who drove in from Hoboken.

12. Two Power Wash Service Projects (Nov 16)

Mention of Sandy Hook reminded Ken that the American Littoral Society runs a membership day in May, featuring clam chowder along with a beach clean-up service project. Following up, Lenny asked Norman about two power wash service projects that we are committed to run but that are not yet on the calendar. After some discussion, we settled on Saturday November 16 to clean the area around the Father Mike Meditation Garden, followed by the WW II memorial in Sinatra Park at the base of 4th Street. Lenny said that St. Francis has a power washer that we can use and that he will inform the Parish Council and the Vets about our decision.

13. Four Boards of Review in October (Oct 1,8,15,22)

In past years, rank advancements earned at Scout summer camp were handled by a Board of Review and Court of Honor in late September. However, this year Lenny asked us to postpone to late October, which turned out to be a good thing, because we had so many Scouts to be reviewed. The schedule:

Oct 1 - Leo Burnett, John Facchini, Teddy Muldowney, Noah Scheiman, Ryan Womack

Oct 8 - Nick Facchini, Tige Mauseth, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, Ethan Zhang

Oct 15 - Jack Cademartori, Victor Mauseth

Oct 22 - Ivan-Asen Radoslavov

14. The Catholic Religious Award and a Procession at St. Francis (Oct 4)

Four Scouts signed up to work on the Ad Altare Dei religious award for Catholic Scouts, with sessions run by Joe Facchini and Bob Manzari. They hope to get done by December and to receive their AAD medals at a formal ceremony in February. When Father Chris asked for some Scouts to act as a Color Guard during the St. Francis Feast Day procession on October 4, Joe volunteered his students. Flags were carried by Jayden Altamura, Leo Burnett, Theo Platt, and Ethan Zhang. Lenny said that Joe will take his AAD Scouts to visit the Church sacristy next week to fulfill some of the badge's requirements. There will also be a visit to a seminary.

15. Joint Camping Trip with the Two Hoboken Cub Packs (Oct 11-13)

Lenny and Marie proposed running a joint Scout/Cub camping trip in 2013, and we have done so every year since then. One goal is to ensure that Cubs will look forward to becoming Boy Scouts when they are old enough, and the other goal is to encourage Cub parents to become more active. Cub attendance got a big boost in 2015, when BSA National revised the requirements for earning Tiger through Arrow of Light badges. Many of the new requirements could be completed only on a camping trip, and so Den Leaders urged Cubs in their dens to attend. About Cub parents becoming more active, Norman reported that three adults recently decided to register as leaders in Pack 18.

This year we had over 90 people: 15 Boy Scouts, 24 Cubs, 12 siblings, 7 adults from the troop, and 31 adults from the Cub packs. Ethan was the head chef and impressed everyone with his ability to organize, supervise, and delegate. Among those impressed was Tom Gingerelli, who will run the Cub resident camp in July. Tom urged Ethan to sign up to work on staff at the camp. Tom made a similar offer to Ryan Womack, saying that he liked Ryan's "presence." One unexpected dividend from the weekend was an overage of about \$440, which went into the troop bank account. Norman said, "We calculate the fees we charge with the intention of breaking even -- it's not our intention to make money off the camping trip. The overage works out to about \$4.90 per person, too small to consider a refund."

16. Car Wash Fundraiser (Oct 19)

18 Scouts came to the Elks Lodge, working in various shifts from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and were able to raise \$500 by washing cars or by collecting donations. Lenny arranged with Jim Dilworth,

the Elks' current "Exalted Ruler," to meet with us at 9:00 and to set us up with gear that the Elks use when they run their own car washes. Jim also provided the flyer we used for advance publicity, as well as instructions on how to get the Parking Utility to post temporary "No Parking" signs in front of the Elks. Paul Bayliss said that one car had to be towed and was amazed at how little time it took to hook the car and drive off with it. Norman said we could have ended at 2:00 PM instead of 3:00, saying, "In the last hour, there were just two, maybe three cars."

17. Fall Court of Honor (Oct 22)

After we inducted new Scouts Henry Craft and Kallum Powell, 13 Scouts received patches for their new ranks: 1 Life Scout, 3 Star Scouts, 2 First Class, 6 Tenderfoot, and a third Eagle Palm to Henry Plotka, earned just prior to his turning 18. 111 (!) merit badges were handed out, most earned at summer camp. Position patches were given to the four new Patrol Leaders and their assistants, and Jack Nilsen was promoted to Troop Guide. Inadvertently omitted was a Quartermaster patch to Ivan-Asen Radoslavov, and an Instructor patch to Zack Scheiman.

Certificates from Scout summer camp were given to the two acting SPLs, Zack Scheiman and Gabriel Weaver, and to other Scouts who won various competitions. Nick Facchini, Zack Scheiman, and Aidan Ward were recognized for joining the Order of the Arrow. Six Scouts who spent a week at Scout Sea Base in August each received a Ziploc packet with awards earned and souvenir patches. Ethan Zhang received a framed certificate for "Chef Extraordinaire," earned by cooking for 90 during the October joint camping trip with Cub Scouts and their parents.

18. Upcoming Camping and Cook-Off at Glen Gray (Nov 1-3)

During our September planning meeting, Scouts voted to repeat the Glen Gray Cook-Off competition and camping trip that we attended a year ago. Last year, our head chefs were Gabriel Weaver and Aidan Ward, who set up an outdoor kitchen in the camp's athletic field, and created a meal using a bag full of ingredients supplied by the judges. We earned third place, and each of our Scouts was given a gift card that they turned in at the camp's trading post for a free pocket knife.

19. Problems with Food Drives at Acme (Nov 17 canceled)

In the past, when we worked with A&P, Hoboken Scouts ran three food drives each year: Pack 146 in March, Pack 18 in September, and Troop 146 in November. With Acme, two of the three must change, because Acme has blacked out all of September, November, December, and a week in October, saying that they run their own food programs during those months. Pack 18 shifted its annual "Mitzvah Day" food drive from September 15 to October 6, and nine of our Scouts participated with the Cubs. We decided that the November food drive would instead take place on February 9, and that it will benefit the "Father Mike Food Pantry" at St. Francis.

We ran into a paperwork problem resulting from Acme's insistence that any food drive application must be accompanied by a letter from the IRS certifying 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Acme's online application system insists that certification must be entered using 12-1234567 format, whereas St. Francis and all other Catholic churches have a special certification number, "GEN 0928." As a work-around, the United Synagogue of Hoboken agreed to stand in as the sponsor for all Hoboken food drives, since their certification number matches Acme's required format. Lenny told how the St. Francis Parish Council did a double-take when they heard that the Synagogue will sponsor a Catholic food drive, which gave Lenny a chance to repeat one of his favorite quips about how the Church is sponsoring a Catholic troop with a Jewish Scoutmaster and a Moslem Eagle Scout.

20. Upcoming First Aid Rally (Nov 20)

We have been prepping since October under Gretchen's guidance to compete in this year's annual First Aid Rally. (Note that the 2018 Rally was canceled.) We won the trophy several years in the past, and intend to win it back from Weehawken T223 -- we should have beaten them in 2017 except for a logistical snafu. The Rally is sponsored by Kearny Troop 302.

Our attention to first aid paid off during the Scout Tuesday meeting of September 11. The meeting was interrupted when an elderly homeless lady staggered in and asked for assistance.

Tige Mauseth and Assistant Scoutmaster Francis Howitt led her out of the noisy meeting and into a quiet space in the Multi-Center foyer. While Francis phoned 9-1-1, Tige asked the lady for background information about her medical history. Tige then waited on Grand Street for the EMS ambulance to arrive and escorted the techs into the foyer. On the way in, Tige related the information he had gotten from the lady, to which one of the techs said, "Thank you. You have already done half our job for us."

21. Upcoming District Recognition Dinner (Apr 19)

Norman said that he will nominate Ken Nilsen and Francis Howitt to receive "Service to Scouting" awards from our parent Three Rivers District, recalling prior recipients Paul and Gretchen Scheiman, Colum Ward, and Joe Facchini. Ken Howitt recalled attending a prior dinner and remarked at how long it went on.

22. Venture Patrol Week at Scout Sea Base (Aug 2019)

The Venture Patrol selected Scout Sea Base as its high adventure trip for 2019, and chose the "St. Thomas Sailing Adventure" option. They spent the week sailing around St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands on a 40-foot vessel with an experienced captain. There was lots of snorkeling, and Scouts cooked their own food in the ship's galley. Sleeping was mostly out on the deck. Scouts were Xavier Aniello, Christian Englehardt, Tige Mauseth, Henry Plotka, Aidan Ward, and Gabriel Weaver. Adults were Francis Howitt and Ted Mauseth.

23. Upcoming Venture Patrol Week at Philmont (Aug 2020)

The 14 sign-ups for Philmont in 2020 have already begun planning for the trip and have already started physical conditioning for the rugged trek in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo mountains. This trek was originally scheduled for 2018, but was canceled when Philmont closed due to threat of wildfires. In 2018, there were 7 youth and 7 adults, but this summer there will be 6 and 8, caused by Henry Plotka turning 18 in the interim. The youth are Patrick Groo, Tige Mauseth, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, and Gabriel Weaver. The adults are Matt Groo, Francis Howitt, Ted Mauseth, Ken Nilsen, Henry Plotka, Gretchen Scheiman, Colum Ward, and Dan Weaver.

24. Henry Plotka as Assistant Scoutmaster

Lenny asked Norman about Henry Plotka's status in the Scouts now that he has turned 18. Norman guessed that National's database still shows Henry as a Boy Scout, but will drop him altogether in January if we don't act prior to then. Norman said that he will contact Henry about the three steps needed to get him promoted and keep him on the roster.

25. Subcommittee for Organizing Cub Outings

Last March, several Cub parents decided to form a subcommittee for organizing Cub outings "in order to make Norman's job a little easier." On September 8 they ran a successful day hike along the Palisades, and on September 29-30 they ran a successful camping trip at Alpine Scout Camp. This month they handled a lot of the advance organization prior to our October joint Scout/Cub camping trip. They also sent reminders about IOLS training weekends that direct-contact leaders must all attend.

26. Looking Ahead to Cub Scouts Graduating into the Troop (Mar 1 and 2, 2020)

In response to Ken's question, Norman said that Pack 146 will graduate 7 Cubs in March, and Pack 18 will graduate 6. Norman added that, over the years, 100% of our Cubs have registered with the troop as Boy Scouts, versus the national average of just 50%. Lorraine said that her son Jack looked forward to joining the troop after seeing the older boys in action. Lenny responded it was exactly for that reason that he launched our annual joint camping trips. Norman said that, when the four 3rd grader girls in Pack 18 are ready to graduate, he will invite Weehawken girl-Troop 812 to come to Hoboken for the bridge ceremony. Ken said that Adam Gellman's mom and sister joined Troop 812 in September. (Adam is one of our Eagle Scouts.)

Norman said that the 13 future Cub graduates have already received some information about what to expect when they join the troop, and that one Cub was present right now at the ongoing Scout meeting. However, Ken proposed some kind of meet-and-greet meeting where Cub parents could meet with Scout parents.

27. Finances

Prior Scout balance reported in June: \$50.78

Current Scout balance: \$1502.97

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in as donations.

Money came in from the October car wash fundraiser.

Money came in from the October joint Scout/Cub camping trip overage.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Money went out to reimburse Bob for 3rd qtr expenses.

Expected income: Money raised from popcorn sales.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Bob for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense in January: Recharter the troop and pay the fee for all active Scouts.

Prior Cub balance reported in June: \$1128.28

Current Cub balance: \$293.70

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Expected income: Money raised from popcorn sales.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Donation to the St. Francis sandwich program.

Expected expense in January: Recharter the pack and renew Boys' Life subscriptions for all active Cubs.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "NORMAN KASSER".

Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster