



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

April 11, 2017

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 HOPES/Rue School Conference Room. The next meeting will take place in the HOPES/Rue School on May 9, 2017.

1. **Present**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Ken Nilsen
Al Greenwood	Dave Sytsma
Norman Kasser	

Also: Life Scout Aaron Kurland

2. **Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland**

Aaron reached Life Scout at last month's Board of Review, and attended tonight's meeting in order to declare himself an Eagle candidate. He started by reviewing the five merit badges he needs, expecting to complete several this summer at Camp Turrell: Citizenship in the Community, Communication, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, and Personal management. In reply to Aaron's question about "indoor" merit badges, Norman said that last summer the camp offered Personal Management and Citizenship in the World, whereas the indoor choices the summer before were completely different. Norman said, "It's not a good idea to depend on Turrell for any of the indoor badges you need." He added, "I'll let you know about this summer's offerings just as soon as I find out."

Aaron said he had not yet thought about an Eagle project, to which Lenny proposed organizing a 5K race in town. Ken immediately chimed in because he was involved with numerous past 5Ks and had a good idea of the steps involved in setting one up. He offered to let Aaron sit in the next time a group started their own planning in order to see for himself what's involved. Ken said a race will be run on September 17 with the beneficiary to be a charter school in Jersey City. Ken also described how Aaron might get a lot of Scouts involved in the early planning stages by delegating tasks such as permissions, publicity, and race-day logistics. Ken added that we will have to pay overtime for a couple of police officers to be present for a few hours and estimated \$150. Lenny said it will be important to select who the beneficiary will be and proposed one of the cancer research foundations to which Ken suggested St. Jude Children's Hospital. Dave proposed a 5K for serious runners plus something smaller at the same time for kids. Al said that choosing a good weekend can be a factor, since it can provide a theme and catchy name, such as a Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. Norman suggested an April Fool's race.

3. **Eagle Scout Status Report for Jacob Grossbard**

Jacob was not present this evening. Norman said that last month Lenny accompanied Jacob to Columbian Towers at 76 Bloomfield Street to discuss with the building manager Jacob's proposed Eagle Project. Jacob was supposed to follow up within a day or two by e-mailing a written proposal to the manager and meeting with her again, but so far that has not happened.

As Jacob described his plan last month, he and a team of Scouts will go door-to-door and speak with each tenant with three goals: First to ensure that each senior will be prepared for an event like Hurricane Sandy, second to ensure that each tenant has a good container for water and a good flashlight so that they don't try to rely on candles (fire hazard), and third to list which tenants have special needs, such as an oxygen tank or a wheelchair, and who might need assistance if they have to leave the building. Jacob said, "Most likely we will give that list to the city."

Norman said, "This is a good project, and should easily get the approval of the District Advancement Committee, however there is one concern." Norman said that Jacob's proposal will include organizing a fund-raiser in order to purchase water jugs and flashlights, but Jason Davidoff is also planning to organize a fund-raiser for his Eagle project (see below). Norman joked, "We may run into dueling fund-raisers," then added, "The rules of Eagle projects don't allow them to run a joint fund-raiser -- each Scout must organize his own event."

Jacob must complete all the remaining requirements for Eagle Scout by August 10, 2017. He needs six more merit badges: Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Communication, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, and Sustainability. Norman said that Jacob had just today contacted him about starting Citizenship in the Nation and Communication. Lenny said that he had not yet heard from Jacob about starting Citizenship in the Community.

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jason Davidoff

Jason missed tonight's Committee meeting due to Passover, so he will make a special report later to Lenny and Marie. The original plan was for tomorrow evening, but Lenny suddenly remembered a conflict, and so Jason and Lenny will have to work out a new date. Jason's proposed Eagle project is to benefit the Hoboken Homeless Shelter by scrubbing down and organizing the storage space they use for donated food and toiletries. He will also provide mouse-proof containers for stored food, with money coming from a proposed bake sale.

Jason's last required merit badge is Personal Fitness. The outdoor component is done, but he needs to schedule make-up sessions in order to complete the indoor component, missed when Jason signed up to work with his school's Robotics Club. Jason will turn 18 in July 2018.

5. Eagle Scout Status Report for Henry Plotka

Henry reached Life Scout last month. He had to miss tonight's meeting due to Passover, but instead sent this e-mail to Norman:

I would like to officially declare myself as an Eagle candidate. My merit badge situation is very good, I am on top of all merit badges and plan to finish the remaining ones at Turrell this summer. As for my Eagle project, I have put some thought into it, but I don't have any solid ideas yet.

Ken Nilsen said the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps may have something for Henry involving renovation on the third floor of their station house. The contact would be a Stevens Alumnus named Mark Harris. Henry needs three more Eagle-required merit badges: Camping, Lifesaving or Emergency Prep, and Environmental Science or Sustainability. Henry will turn 18 in August 2019.

6. Scout Week Window Display Followup (Feb 5-11)

We won! We submitted photos of our Scout Week window display to a panel of District judges, who awarded Troop 146 a \$25 gift certificate for Campmor. The window was in an empty office building at 110 Washington Street. Looking ahead to the June 13 Court of Honor, Lenny would like us to make a special thank-you presentation to the two local realtors who arranged for us to use that location, saying, "We'll probably go back to them

again next year." However, Norman was concerned that the gym may not be available on June 13, requiring us to squeeze the ceremony into the conference room. Lenny wondered if we should instead reschedule or possibly use a different location.

7. March Court of Honor (Mar 28)

The highlight of the evening was the formal induction into the troop of seven former Cub Scouts, plus new Scouts Anthony Hawk and Devin Reed. Charlie Greenwood was elected Patrol Leader of the Sasquatch Squad, and he selected Zack Scheiman to be his assistant. Zack also volunteered to serve as a Den Chief in his former Cub Scout Pack 18. Zack's mom, Gretchen Scheiman, signed up as our newest Assistant Scoutmaster. Just before the closing, Eagle Scout Nick Walker (2003) took a minute to thank Norman and to present him with an Eagle Mentor pin, which Nick said should really have been presented many years ago.

8. Starting a New Patrol Competition (Mar-Jun 2017)

The seven Webelos Cubs who joined the troop in early March formed the Sasquatch Squad Patrol, with new Scout Anthony Hawk joining them to make eight. The two other existing patrols voted to remain (almost) intact, and so a new zero-based competition was started. At this point Will Sytsma's UFO Patrol is in the lead, which is a surprise, since historically new-Scout patrols have always been the best point-earners. About the "almost": Patrol Leaders Will and Tige Mauseth arranged for a trade in order to even out their membership.

9. STEM Day at Liberty Science Center (Apr 8)

LSC ran a STEM day for Scouts. Tom Morgan earned Chemistry and Fingerprinting, and Will Sytsma earned Chemistry. Tom is now ready for a Star Board of Review, currently scheduled for April 25. Dave said that the LSC staff did a very good job with the chemistry badge, with three presenters and various stations for the Scouts to go to.

Later in the meeting Ken Nilsen said that he would like Stevens to run something similar. His starting point would be to get Eagle Scouts on the campus to sign up as merit badge counselors. Ken is currently working with Senior District Executive Joel Lieberman at the Scout Service Center to schedule a training session for new merit badge counselors.

10. Upcoming Whitewater Camping Trip (Apr 21-23)

Saturday will be spent rafting on the Lehigh River in Pennsylvania, with the possibility of the ride becoming more challenging if we happen to be there during a dam release. Lenny and Marie told the Scouts that they may camp in the back yard of their vacation home, also in Pennsylvania. Thanks to ASM Terrence Richardson for researching our options.

11. Upcoming Post-Earth Day Service Project (Apr 29)

We told the Hoboken Shadetree Commission that a bunch of Scouts would show up in Church Square Park on Saturday morning, ready to work on whatever jobs might be assigned. Note that Liam Richardson and Zack Scheiman won't be present. They, along with Norman, will be in Camp No-Be-Bo-Sco working as staff during the annual Council Weboree for 4th grade Webelos Cub Scouts.

12. Upcoming Spring Food Drive (Jun 4)

Lenny said that it's now time for the Troop to run a food drive to benefit the St. Francis food pantry. He explained that it had not been needed until now, thanks to a huge donation from the A&P supermarket as it closed down prior to reopening as the Acme, "But now the stocks are low." Lenny did not want to wait until November, and so we set a date of Sunday June 4. Norman said he will contact ShopRite's home office in Mahwah in order to get permission, with Acme as a fallback.

13. Scout Summer Camp (Jul 9-15 and Jul 30-Aug 5)

This summer, instead of our usual two consecutive weeks, the second week was delayed in order to accommodate several Scouts who signed up for a summer school Higher Achievement Program (HAP). As of this evening, the rosters are:

July 9-15

Jacob Centeno
Noel Centeno
Christian Englehardt
Nick Facchini
Anthony Hawk
Aaron Kurland
Andrew Lopez
Henry Plotka
Liam Richardson
Zack Scheiman

July 30-Aug 5

Patrick Groo
Tige Mauseth
Jack Nilsen
Will Sytsma
Kyle Valenzuela
Aidan Ward
Ethan Zhang
(Plus adults Matt Groo and Dave Sytsma)

14. Two New Adults Plus One More Soon

Adam Gellman turned 18 in March and Fernando Rosen turned 18 in April. Next month Julian Spilatro will also turn 18. Each will have to decide whether or not to remain active in Troop 146.

15. Venture Trek to Minnesota this Summer (Aug 7-17)

After several alternatives were considered, the Venture Patrol voted to spend a week at the Boy Scout Northern Tier High Adventure camp in Minnesota. The current roster:

Jacob Grossbard
Henry Plotka
Adult Mimi Lavine
Adult Adam Gellman

A recent e-mail from Adam estimated the cost at \$1,000, with a \$200 deposit needed now.

16. Upcoming Weboree for Cub Scouts (Apr 28-30)

The Weboree is a weekend campout restricted just for 4th graders and is intended to give them a taste of what a Boy Scout summer camp will be like. As noted above, Norman, Liam Richardson, and Zack Schieman will attend as staff.

17. Finances - T-Shirts as a Fund-Raiser

Our recent run of Troop 146 T-shirts apparently caught the eye of some St. Francis parishioners, when Lenny wore his to a Parish Council meeting. While Scouts can purchase a T-shirt at cost, Lenny said that we may have a "side business," because the Holy Name Society is willing to pay a few extra dollars for T-shirts that they can use, and the Rosary Society may order some too. Lenny is currently working with Matt Groo on this project.

18. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$2071.68

Current Scout balance: \$1534.15

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from a donation.

Money went out to reimburse Bob for 1st qtr expenses.

Money went out for Bob to buy new troop gear.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for Adam's Eagle ceremony.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$3316.83

Current Cub balance: \$3238.83 (no change)

Expected expense: Subsidize Feb sleepover at Liberty Science Center.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for the Blue-and-Gold banquet.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NORMAN KASSER". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster