



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

June 20, 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, starting in the HOPES/Rue School faculty lounge and continuing in Church Square Park when a fire alarm went off. The next meeting and Board of Review will take place in the HOPES/Rue School on September 26, 2017.

1. **Present**

Marie Luizzi (presiding)	Lenny Luizzi
Mike Evers	Bob Manzari
Norman Kasser	Rich Kurland
Ken Nilsen	

Also: Life Scouts Jacob Grossbard and Aaron Kurland

2. **Board of Review**

Jack Nilsen was approved for Tenderfoot.

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

A few days ago, Jacob received a final go-ahead from the District Advancement Committee allowing him to proceed with his Eagle project. Earlier this evening, Jacob addressed all the Scouts and parents, asking them to join him on Saturday July 8 at the Columbian Towers at 76 Bloomfield Street at 1:00 PM. The plan is for Jacob and a team of Scouts to canvass the building's tenants with three goals in mind: One goal is to ensure that each senior will be prepared for an event like Hurricane Sandy. A second goal is 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). A third goal is to list which tenants have special needs, such as an oxygen tank or a wheelchair, and might need assistance if they have to leave the building. The list will be turned over to the Hoboken OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and to the Hoboken CERT team (Community Emergency Response Team). Jacob said that Scouts will try to interview as many tenants as possible in the community room, and then try to canvass the rest by knocking on doors.

An interesting event took place during the May 23 Scout meeting, when two representatives from Hoboken's CERT team, Nadja and Valerie, told the Scouts about the job they do and the training they had to take. They had a sample flyer with an emergency check-list that Jacob intends to use as part of his project. Rich Kurland read the checklist aloud: Water and a water jug, non-perishable food, radio, flashlight, lantern, batteries, first aid, whistle, and a manual can opener. Jacob said that his current plan is to provide a free flashlight with extra batteries to each of the 136 units in the building, but added that he will provide more items if he is able to raise money by way of an e-mailed fundraiser campaign. He will also extract and laminate the flyer's checklist and provide a copy to each tenant, agreeing with Mike's suggestion to add a Spanish version, although Italian may also be useful.

Jacob must complete all the remaining requirements for Eagle Scout by August 10, 2017, but Bob pointed out that his Board of Review is allowed to take place as much as three months later -- and longer if a good case can be made. Jacob needs four more Eagle-required merit badges plus one more. The Eagle badges are Citizenship in the

Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Communication, and Emergency Preparedness, and the non-Eagle badge is Wilderness Survival. Norman disagreed with Jacob's plan to complete all of them at summer camp while working there as staff, since only E-Prep and Wilderness Survival are official offerings. Jacob replied that he will instead try to get some completions before heading to Camp Turrell. E-Prep will be done "tomorrow" with David Plotka, Citizenship in the Nation with Norman, and Citizenship in the Community with Lenny, who said, "You're pretty much there."

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jason Davidoff

Jason successfully completed his Eagle project on June 3, with the help of seven Scouts, 5 adults, and one Webelos Cub from Pack 18. Jason supervised his helpers working at the Hoboken Homeless Shelter to scrub down and organize the balcony storage space used for donated clothing, paper goods, office supplies, and toiletries. He also provided a number of storage bins to help improve organization. Money to pay for the bins will come from the \$272 that Jason raised last month with a bake sale at the PATH station. The Eagle project workbook calls for Jason to continue making entries to provide follow-up summary information that must be available at his Eagle Board of Review. One sour note was a theft: While no one was paying attention, a homeless guy entered and stole Jason's grandma's pocketbook.

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, which was 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 currently plans to run his Eagle project in the residence portion of the Hoboken YMCA (the gym portion of the building closed several years ago). Henry needs three more Eagle-required merit badges. Lifesaving and Environmental Science will be completed at Camp Turrell this summer, and Camping will be completed just as soon as Henry attends a tent camping trip or two. Henry will turn 18 in August 2019.

6. Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland

Aaron had an interesting proposal for an Eagle project that got immediate approval. He proposed cordoning off a section of the St. Francis Jefferson Street parking lot and converting it into a meditation garden that would honor the memory of Father Mike Guglielmelli. There would be a bench and potted plants, and Rich suggested adding a plaque. Lenny said that he would join Aaron when they make a presentation to Father Chris, recalling that he did the same thing when Rohan Mukherjee proposed a project to benefit St. Francis parishioners. Aaron said he would like to complete the project before year's end, and Lenny gave Aaron advice on how to best fill out the Eagle Project Workbook. Mike also had an interesting proposal for Aaron, saying that he could ask parishioners to sit on the bench and record their recollections of Father Mike.

Aaron needs five more Eagle-required merit badges: Citizenship in the Community, Communication, Emergency Prep or Lifesaving, First Aid, and Personal Management. He said that he hopes to get most of them done this summer at camp. Aaron will turn 18 in April 2018.

7. Camping Trip to Gettysburg (May 19-21)

Eight Scouts attended plus two Cubs and six adults. The Scouts were Nick Facchini, Aaron Kurland, Andrew Lopez, Tom Morgan, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, Gabriel Weaver, and Ryan Womack. We intended to charter a 20-seat mini-bus to tour the battlefield with a professional guide on the PA system, but the charter fell through, forcing us to tour with our private cars in a convoy. Luckily the guide was able to propose an alternative: Nick's dad Joe Facchini set up a cell phone conference call, and each car had one cell phone turned up to use the speaker as the guide gave his lecture. Part of our

tour was to have Scouts pose for a photo in front of the Hexamer Battery monument that honors Hoboken soldiers. We were pleased to see that photo appear in the Hoboken Reporter a week later.

By way of prior preparation, Lenny arranged for a professional tour guide named Bill Trelease to attend a Tuesday meeting. Trelease talked about the Battle of Gettysburg, but he also told us a lot about how the Civil War affected New Jersey. On the following Tuesday night, Scouts watched portions of the movie "Gettysburg."

8. Memorial Day Parade (May 24)

We had a very good turnout with 15 Scouts and lots of Cubs, and once again we were honored by being placed at the very front, just behind the Vets. Lenny considers the parade an important event for the troop and for the Cub packs, since it lets citizens know that Scouting is alive and well in Hoboken. Scouts were Xavier Aniello, Jason Davidoff, Christian Englehardt, Charlie Greenwood, Jacob Grossbard, Aaron Kurland, Andrew Lopez, Tige Mauseth, Tom Morgan, Jack Nilsen, Liam Richardson, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, Niklas Tseng, and Ethan Zhang. After the parade and refreshments ended, three Scouts volunteered to stay behind to help dismantle the reviewing stand: Jason, Tige, and Xavier.

9. A Spring Food Drive to Benefit St. Francis (Jun 4)

A very successful one-day food drive at ShopRite resulted in about 1,500 pounds of donated food delivered to the food pantry run by St. Francis instead of our usual beneficiary, *In Jesus' Name*. There were also \$110 in cash donations that will go towards the Church's daily sandwich program for the homeless. Lenny explained that the St. Francis pantry is usually well stocked without our help thanks to monthly requests from Father Chris, but this year was an exception. Scouts attending were Jason Davidoff, Aaron Kurland, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, Niklas Tseng, and Ethan Zhang.

10. Flag Day at the Elks Lodge (Jun 14)

Zack Scheiman and his Cub brother Noah were the only ones to respond to a last-minute call for Scouts to assist at the annual Elks Flag Day ceremony. Lenny explained that the lack of notice was due to a communication mix-up on the part of the Vets. Lenny was disappointed that the Elks failed to mention that June 14, 2017 was the 100th anniversary of WW I troops departing from Hoboken to the war raging in Europe.

11. Backpacking Trek to Smith's Den and Beyond (Jun 17-18)

Seven Scouts and one Cub put on their backpacks for a day and a half of rugged hiking in Harriman State Park. They started with a steep uphill climb to the amazing rock formation known as Claudius Smith's Den, stopped for lunch, then continued hiking for the next few hours until they reached an ad-hoc campground. Scouts were Christian Englehardt, Nick Facchini, Aaron Kurland, Andrew Lopez, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, and Niklas Tseng. The Cub was Noah Scheiman, who was out in front for much of the hike. Adults were Norman, Paul and Gretchen Scheiman, Joe Facchini, and Dave Sytsma.

12. Tonight's June Court of Honor (Jun 20)

Tom Morgan received the most awards, with a Star Scout badge, four merit badges, and recognition for being accepted into the Order of the Arrow honor society. Other merit badges went to Jacob Grossbard (2), Tige Mauseth (3), Jack Nilsen (1), Henry Plotka (1), and Will Sytsma (2). Will and his UFO Patrol were declared winners of the patrol competition, with each member earning a "Doctor's Note" chip that can be used to get out of a camping trip chore. Zack Scheiman was honored as the troop's best point-earner.

In addition to Scout awards, Lenny had framed certificates for four Hoboken citizens in recognition of their support, although only two of them attended the ceremony. Not present was Acme Store Manager John Bincoletto, who has assisted us with many food

drives and bagging fundraisers starting from 1999. Present were real estate agents Trip Patterson and Jeffrey Radlin, who helped us with last February's Scout Week display window on 108 Washington Street. (By the way, our display won the District's competition.) Not present was Dr. Vito Petruzzella, who owns the building and gave us permission to use it.

13. Scouts New and Old

James Jensen informed us that he resigned due to the press of school work. Devin Reed and Logan Brown have stopped coming to meetings and other troop events, and so we presume they have also dropped out. On the other hand, we recently registered Zack's friend Ryan Womack, and we hope to sign up two potential Scouts who attended last week's meeting. As noted above, Ryan attended our trip to Gettysburg.

Eagle Scouts Francis Howitt (2010) and Sean Evers (2014) recently attended some Scout meetings and also marched with us during the Memorial Day parade. Lenny is hoping that Francis will agree to take over as the Venture Patrol adult advisor (see below).

We recently heard from Jonathan Muniz, who said "I am close to Eagle." Jon joined Troop 146 in 2010 and was very active and reached First Class rank. He went off to military school in Virginia and registered with a troop sponsored by that school. After he reached Star, we stopped hearing from him until just recently.

14. Recent Work on Merit Badges

Lenny is the troop's in-house merit badge counselor for Citizenship in the Community and recently ran one session in which he reviewed Hoboken's rich history going all the way back to Henry Hudson. Sadly, Lenny had to cancel his next session when we heard that Father Mike died.

The troop has other in-house counselors, and Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman recently created a summary sheet telling who they are and which badges they cover. That sheet can be found on the troop's website and currently lists 13 Eagle-required badges plus 19 others. Paul Scheiman announced that he will offer the Cycling badge this summer to interested Scouts.

15. Scout Summer Camp (July and August)

Troop 146 will attend Camp Turrell during three of the five weeks that the camp is open. Adam Gellman and Jacob Grossbard have been hired to work on staff. The attendance will be as follows:

July 9-15	July 16-22	July 30 - Aug 5
Christian Englehardt	Jacob Centeno	Patrick Groo
Nick Facchini	Noel Centeno	Anthony Hawk
Aaron Kurland	Henry Plotka	Tige Mauseth
Andrew Lopez		Tom Morgan
Henry Plotka		Jack Nilsen
Liam Richardson		Will Sytsma
Zack Scheiman		Kyle Valenzuela
Niklas Tseng		Aidan Ward
Gabriel Weaver		Ethan Zhang

In response to Lenny's question, Norman explained that we scheduled the July 30 week to accommodate Scouts who want to attend the "HAP" (Higher Achievement Program) summer school run by several Catholic high schools, and which runs the entire month of July. Also the date fits better with some family summer vacation plans. Rich said that Aaron had attended one summer as "extra insurance" for fall admittance. Norman said, "Based on how many Scouts signed up this summer, I wonder if we should plan on doing this every summer."

16. Upcoming Venture Trip to Minnesota (Aug 7-14)

Three Scouts and five adults signed up to attend the Boy Scout Northern Tier high adventure base, where they will embark on a week-long canoe trip. Scouts are Jacob Grossbard, Aaron Kurland, and Henry Plotka. Adults are Rich Kurland, David Plotka, Dawn Zimmer, Mimi Lavine, and Adam Gellman. Rich said that several adults stepped up to volunteer with the logistics, such as reservations, airlines, rentals, swim tests, etc. For insurance reasons, all 8 must be registered with Troop 146, either as Scouts, Committee members, or assistant Scoutmasters. Rich said that Northern Tier publishes a lengthy list of instructions plus a what-to-bring list that he hoped everyone will take the time to read, especially the part about mandatory footwear. Rich liked the choice of a Scout-run camp, because of how it simplifies a lot of the planning.

Any Troop 146 Scout automatically becomes a member of the Venture Patrol when he turns 14. Currently the youth Patrol Leader is Jacob Grossbard, but there is no official adult advisor. In September, Jacob will have turned 18, and so a new youth Patrol Leader will have to be elected and a new adult advisor volunteer will be needed. Rich said that he and Aaron had discussed the issue at home but without a decision. Lenny said that Francis Howitt had agreed to be the adult advisor on the assumption that his work schedule will allow for it. Mike said that Sean might also be available to assist Francis, but his work schedule might be better suited to helping with Cub Scout outings.

17. Silk-Screened Golf Shirts for the Holy Name Society and Father Mike

Lenny had a touching story about Father Mike that was triggered when the subject of silk-screened golf shirts arose (see "Finances" below). Some months ago, members of the Holy Name Society and Father Chris saw Lenny's Troop 146 T-shirt and asked us to silk screen something for them, but Father Mike declined, saying that he preferred flannel shirts instead. Later on Lenny arrived at the Rectory one Sunday with a stack of shirts, and Father Mike asked, "Where's mine?" so Lenny gave Father Mike the one intended for Father Chris and promised to come back later with a new one for Father Chris.

It turned out that Father Mike forgot to take his shirt home and phoned the Rectory to ask for it. Then suddenly and tragically Father Mike and his sister and niece were killed in an automobile accident. Lenny said, "Father Chris told me that Father Mike really liked the shirt, and so it went into the casket along with other memorabilia."

18. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$907.74

Current Scout balance: \$1237.74

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from Jason's Eagle bake sale.

Money came in from silk-screened golf shirt sales to the Holy Name Society.

Money went out to reimburse Adam's family for Eagle expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Jon Davidoff for Eagle expenses.

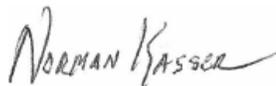
Prior Cub balance: \$1729.52

Current Cub balance: \$1729.52 (no change)

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Colum Ward for camping trip expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster