



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

September 26, 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 faculty lounge. The next meeting will take place on November 7, skipping October due to Lenny and Marie away on holiday.

1. Present

Marie Luizzi (presiding)	Norman Kasser
Jon Davidoff	Lenny Luizzi
Mike Evers	Bob Manzari
Francis Howitt	Ken Nilsen

Also: Life Scouts Henry Plotka and Aaron Kurland

2. Board of Review

Zack Scheiman was approved for Tenderfoot.
Will Sytsma was approved for Tenderfoot.

3. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jacob Grossbard

Jacob was able to complete his Eagle project and last 5 merit badges just prior to turning 18 last August. Next Jacob must schedule an Eagle Board of Review, but he is currently away at college. Pending is the final Eagle Application Form to be submitted to the council office for approval. It will summarize Jacob's achievements, give the names of 6 people willing to write letters of recommendation, and will be signed by Jacob, Marie, and Norman. Jacob is aware that the application should be submitted within three months of his 18th birthday. Extra paperwork will be required between 3 and 6 months, and lots of extra paperwork will be required after 6 months.

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jason Davidoff

Like Jacob, above, Jason was able to complete his Eagle project and last remaining merit badge on time. And, like Jacob, he also has to fill out and submit an Eagle Application Form to the council office. However, Jason is currently not under any time pressure, since he won't turn 18 until July. Lenny had urged Jason to finish up in September, but clearly that won't happen. In response to Jon Davidoff's question, Norman said that Jason must get 6 people to agree to write letters of recommendation, and that this should be done as soon as possible, but the letters themselves will not be needed until later.

5. Eagle Scout Status Report for Henry Plotka

Henry currently plans to run his Eagle project in the former Hoboken YMCA, which will hopefully reopen as the Hoboken Community Center (see below). The goal is to clean out and refurbish what used to be 2nd floor office space, currently filled with old equipment and other trash, plus old paperwork, which must be separated into "save" and "discard." There is enough trash to require a dumpster, but that can only be done on a weekday. Henry proposed working the weekend of December 9-10, plus one weekday to load the dumpster. That weekday session might take the place of a Tuesday Scout meeting. Henry will likely run a fund-raiser as part of his Eagle project.

Ken Nilsen is expected to act as both the project's beneficiary and as Henry's Eagle Mentor. Ken gave the Committee some history about the YMCA building, how the gym

portion closed but the single-room-occupancy portion still has tenants, and how they decided to no longer be part of the national YMCA organization, hence the name change. Ken explained how a grant was obtained some time ago to refurbish the residence portion of the building, and now a second chunk of money from investors is needed to reopen the gym portion as a community center. Henry's project will make the place more presentable when potential investors tour the building.

Henry is down to his last required merit badge, Camping, which will be completed when Henry attends one or two more tent camping trips. Henry will turn 18 in August 2019. Assuming that Henry will successfully earn an Eagle badge, BSA National recently announced a rule change that will affect Henry, who has earned far more merit badges than the 21 required for Eagle: Henry will be eligible to receive two or more Eagle Palm awards at the same time he receives his Eagle badge.

6. Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland

Aaron presented a Eagle project proposal in the form of an outline, and explained his plan to create a meditation garden to honor the memory of Father Mike Guglielmelli, with a bench, potted plants, and a plaque. The spot will be in a patio area just behind St. Francis Church. Note that Francis Howitt also did his Eagle project in that same patio in 2009, and Francis agreed to be Aaron's Eagle Mentor. However, before installing the bench, Aaron described how his project will first clean up the patio area, removing trash, pulling out vines, and scraping and scrubbing the walls prior to repainting them. There was talk about doing the project in two phases: clean-up as soon as possible, even during cold weather, followed by painting in the spring when the weather is better. Aaron said that he will consult with local artists Vinny Rossi and Ray Guzman for additional ideas about improving the patio. The final phase of the project will be to ask parishioners to sit on the bench and to video tape them as they reminisce about Father Mike.

Lenny said that the Parish Council is very happy with the project and promised a lot of assistance from parishioners and other church-sponsored groups. Lenny added that they want to get started right away, which required Lenny to explain to them how the BSA Eagle process will cause a delay. Lenny urged Aaron, "Get your project approved as quickly as possible. They are filled with energy, and we don't want to lose the momentum."

Aaron's last remaining merit badge is Communication. He will turn 18 in April 2018. Like Henry, above, Aaron also has several extra palm-eligible merit badges. This past weekend, Aaron was officially accepted into the Order of the Arrow at the "Ordeal" level.

7. What to do with Troop Gear

Bob said that he wants to empty his garage of troop gear, with the most likely new storage area to be a locked trailer parked in the St. Francis back lot off Madison Street. In response to Mike Evers' question, Bob proposed doing it in mid-June; that is, just prior to Scout summer camp.

8. Scheduling Scout Summer Camp in 2018 (1)

Bob recalled our "split session" last summer and called it "unfeasible." He recognized that we reserved a week in August to accommodate five Scouts who attended summer school high achievement programs or family vacations. However the split between camp-week-2 and camp-week-5 was too far apart, so he proposed possibly camp-week-3 and camp-week-5. However, at this point we don't know if 2018 will be a repeat of 2017; that is, will another five families ask for a camp-week-5 session? (see next paragraph).

9. Scheduling Scout Summer Camp in 2018 (2)

Bob recalled how in past years Troop 146 Scouts always assumed that they would attend two consecutive weeks of summer camp, and he was unhappy that it gradually morphed into single week sign-ups. Bob was convinced that he could persuade families to return to

double sessions if he had the chance to speak with each family one-on-one. He told how he used to drive around town to visit families in their homes to get summer camp commitments while collecting registration fees and working out camperships. Lenny instead proposed inviting all parents to a meeting in January or February during which Bob would promote double week sign-ups. In addition, we can get feedback about how to best schedule camp weeks. Ken suggested having Camp Director Troy Knudsen also attend in order to promote the camp, and Mike recalled a promotion some years ago at Pack 18 that he thought was very effective.

The Committee ran out of time, and so the items below were not discussed.

10. Three New Scouts

Ayush Chadha joined the troop in June, just in time to sign up for Scout summer camp at Turrell. When we restarted this September, Alex Cando rejoined the troop -- he was a Scout 2012-15. As a bonus, his younger brother Erick also joined (former Cub in Pack 146). Norman predicted that Anthony Hawk, who joined in March, will drop out.

11. PL Election (Sep 19)

Scouts elected Liam Richardson as a new Patrol Leader, and re-elected Will Sytsma and Tige Mauseth to renew as Patrol Leaders. Their respective assistants will be Zack Scheiman, Xavier Aniello, and Jack Nilsen. Liam and his "Invisible Men" patrol got off to a commanding lead in the competition, thanks to good attendance during last weekend's Joint Camping Trip (below). Bob selected Aidan Ward as a new Quartermaster. Chief Quartermaster Tom Morgan is away on leave of absence while his family is temporarily on assignment in California. The Venture Patrol also restarted with Francis Howitt as the adult advisor, but no Patrol Leader yet to replace Jacob Grossbard.

12. Troop Planning Meeting for 2017-18 (Sep 13)

Scouts, troop leaders, and parents attended the annual September planning meeting in order to review and alter a draft calendar, to work out the monthly camping trip schedule, and to do some program planning. Our October trip will be a scary "Friday the 13th" camporee. Our annual historical camping trip will take place in May at the Naval Academy in Maryland. Our host and guide will be Nate Knueven, who was also our guide and "interpreter" during the August Venture Patrol canoe trip in Minnesota.

13. Upcoming Court of Honor (Oct 3)

In addition to honoring tonight's two new Tenderfoot Scouts, Niklas Tseng will receive a Scout rank badge (no review required). We will formally induct our newest Scouts into the troop. 69 merit badges will be awarded, most from summer camp and 18 going to Henry Plotka, as noted below. There will be numerous other awards earned at summer camp, also listed below. There will also be some IOUs: The Scout online catalog shop failed to send in time the BSA Eclipse patches we ordered immediately after the full eclipse in August.

14. Annual Joint Camping with Cubs from Pack 146 and 18 (Sep 22-24)

Once again we had a very successful weekend with perfect weather. Scouts attending were Alex and Erick Cando, Christian Englehardt, Andrew Lopez, Jack Nilsen, Liam Richardson, Zack Scheiman, Niklas Tseng, and Aidan Ward. 14 Cubs with parents attended from Pack 146, and 12 Cubs with parents attended from Pack 18. Liam was our steady cook for the weekend, with a lot of help in the kitchen from all the other Scouts and from his dad, Assistant Scoutmaster Terrence Richardson. Liam had to feed 66 people for Saturday lunch and 60 people for Saturday supper.

15. Scout Summer Camp-1 (Jul 9-15)

Scouts were Ayush Chadha, Christian Englehardt, Nick Facchini, Aaron Kurland, Andrew Lopez, Henry Plotka, Liam Richardson, Zack Scheiman, Niklas Tseng, and Gabriel Weaver. Adults were Norman, Bob, and Dan Weaver. We also had three guest

Scouts from Weehawken Troop 223. Christian led the troop in earning the Baden-Powell Honor Unit Award, and Aaron won the Ping-Pong tournament. Scouts earned a combined total of 30 merit badges. Two highlights were a large Troop 146 plaque now hanging from the dining hall rafters, and an in-site supper of four whole chickens roasted on a spit over a campfire -- both thanks to Dan Weaver. One downer was Norman going home for two days to assist Myrna when Myrna's sister passed away. Another downer was when Nick Facchini later discovered that he had contracted Lyme disease, but luckily responded well to antibiotics.

16. Scout Summer Camp-2 (Jul 16-22)

Bob attended camp in order to support the 12 Scouts from Weehawken Troop 223. Three of our Scouts took up his invitation to also attend: Noel and Jacob Centeno, and Henry Plotka. The week was a bad one for the Camp Staff, with so many taking time off for the National Jamboree. Bob volunteered to take charge of the rifle and shotgun ranges, and Henry volunteered to spend the week as an unpaid counselor-in-training (CIT). An interesting note is Henry's ambition to become the troop's record-holder for the most merit badges earned by one Scout. The current record is held by Eagle Scout Nick Walker with 41. Henry has already earned 36.

17. Scout Summer Camp-3 (Jul 30-Aug 5)

We scheduled this late-summer week to accommodate Scouts attending summer school high achievement programs or family vacations. Scouts were Patrick Groo, Tige Mauseth, Jack Nilsen, Will Sytsma, Aidan Ward, and Ethan Zhang. Adults were Norman, Bob, Nai Zhang, Dave Sytsma, and Matt Groo. We won just about every award there was: Ethan led the troop in earning the Baden-Powell Honor Unit Award, Aidan Ward, Patrick Groo, and adult Matt Groo earned the Scout Mile Swim award, Patrick Groo won the camp's Robin Hood Shoot archery award, Ethan Zhang and his dad Nai Zhang together won the camp's Dynamic Duo rifle award, Aidan Ward won the camp's Fishing Derby, and Jack Nilsen earned the camp's Polar Bear award. Scouts earned a combined total of 30 merit badges. One highlight occurred during the St. Francis Mass just prior to our departure when a thank-you to the troop was announced from the pulpit. It turned out that Nick's dad Joe Facchini had quietly donated 30 cases of bottled water to the Church's sandwich program in the name of Troop 146. Bob made sure that Aidan's birthday was celebrated appropriately in the dining hall. One scary episode was a 3-foot long timber rattler that crawled out from under Will's tent platform and slithered into Ethan's tent where he got tangled up in Ethan's mosquito netting. It took a while to free the rattler and send him on his way.

18. Cub Scout Summer Day Camp (Aug 21-25)

Jack Nilsen volunteered to spend a week working as staff for the council's "Hidden Gem" Cub Scout day camp in Jersey City. Among the 28 Cub campers were two from Hoboken Pack 146 and five from Hoboken Pack 18.

19. Venture Patrol Week in Minnesota (Aug 7-17)

Attending the Scout's "Northern Tier" high adventure camp in Minnesota were Jacob Grossbard, Aaron Kurland, and Henry Plotka. Adults were Rich Kurland, David Plotka, Dawn Zimmer, Mimi Lavine, and Adam Gellman (Jacob turned 18 in the middle of the trip). This turned out to be a really good trip and definitely something to do again in the future.

20. Venture Patrol Week in Philmont (Aug 2018)

We currently have 13 planning to attend: Scouts will be Patrick Groo, Aaron Kurland, Tige Mauseth, Henry Plotka, Aidan Ward, Gabriel Weaver, and Christian Englehardt. Adults will be Matt Groo, Francis Howitt, Ted Mauseth, David Plotka, Colum Ward, and Dan Weaver. We will turn in final payment and a final headcount on October 1.

21. Merit Badge Offerings

Currently in progress is the Cycling merit badge, organized by Zack's dad, Paul Scheiman. Scouts joining in are Charlie Greenwood, Henry Plotka, Nick Facchini, Andrew Lopez, and Zack Scheiman. Adults besides Paul are Gretchen Scheiman, Joe Facchini, David Plotka, Al Greenwood, and Peter Lopez.

Norman and David Plotka will run a new set of outdoor sessions for the Personal Fitness merit badge, starting in October and ending in January. Scouts are expected to attend an outdoor session at the beginning of each month, and perform and log exercises during the 30 days between each outdoor session.

David Plotka has proposed another round for Theater merit badge, starting with attendance at a local live performance, with tickets to be heavily discounted for Scouts.

22. Selling Popcorn in 2017

The 2017 popcorn sale has begun, with order forms handed out to Scouts. However, last year we had more success with online sales, and so that is how we will push the 2017 sale. Our online stars last year were Tige Mauseth, Gabriel Weaver, and Will Sytsma, who earned a combined \$165 for the troop.

23. Cub Scout Pack 146 Now Meeting at the Elks Lodge

After two years meeting at the Hoboken Jubilee Center, the new Executive Director informed us that we would have to start paying to use their space. After Lenny was unable to convince her otherwise, he found an alternate space for us to use in the Elks Lodge lower grill room. The meeting day was changed from Monday to Wednesday.

As of this writing the Tiger Den has 2 registered Cubs with as many as 4 not yet signed up. The Wolf Den has 6 registered Cubs with as many as 5 not yet signed up. The Bear Den has 10 registered Cubs. The Webelos Den has 4 registered Cubs with one more possible sign-up. The Arrow of Light Den has 9 registered Cubs with one more possible sign-up.

24. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$1237.74

Current Scout balance: \$2023.32

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from delayed 2016 popcorn sales.

Money came in from a donation from Muller Insurance.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

Money went out to reimburse Bob for 2nd qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse the Morgan family using money parked in our account.

Prior Cub balance: \$1729.52

Current Cub balance: \$1774.25

Money came in from delayed 2016 popcorn sales.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster