



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

December 5, 2017

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. The next meeting will take place on January 9, 2018 in the Multi Service Center.

1. Present

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Ted Mauseth
Alister Greenwood	Ken Nilsen
Norman Kasser	Terrence Richardson

Also: Life Scout Henry Plotka

2. Board of Review

Nick Facchini was reviewed and passed for Tenderfoot.

3. Jason Davidoff is (Unofficially) Our Newest Eagle Scout! (Dec 4)

Jason passed his Eagle Board of Review last night, and thus unofficially became the troop's 24th Eagle Scout. We will have to wait for paperwork to go back and forth between us and BSA National in Texas before we can make an official announcement. Lenny chaired the Board along with Troop Committee members Mike Evers, Ken Howitt, Myrna Kasser, Rich Kurland, Mimi Lavine, and David Plotka. Representing our parent Three Rivers District were Fred Creswick and Pat Stamato. Non voting participants were Norman and Gretchen Scheiman. As per the rules, Jason's dad Jon Davidoff was seated outside in a different room.

Lenny said that Fred complimented him with, "A great job by your Troop Committee," by which he meant a good turnout as well as good questions posed to Jason. Just as soon as Jason becomes "official," we will schedule a formal Court of Honor ceremony where Jason can receive his Eagle Scout badge -- Lenny proposed conducting the ceremony "right here in the Multi Service Center." Norman pointed out that, if Jason can earn two more merit badges before his 18th birthday in July, he will also receive a Bronze Palm to pin onto his Eagle badge.

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jacob Grossbard

Jacob is currently working with the Three Rivers District Advancement Committee to come up with a suitable date for his Eagle Board of Review. He requested mid-December, when he will be home from college for a winter break. Lenny said that his personal December calendar has so many obligations that it's unlikely that he will be able to attend, no matter which date is selected. He said, "I've already asked Ken Howitt and Mike Evers to be sure to attend in my place."

5. Eagle Scout Status Report for Henry Plotka

Henry's proposal for an Eagle project is currently under review by the Three Rivers District Advancement Committee. He's hoping for a green light to get started on December 9-10, otherwise the alternate dates will be January 20-21. As described during last month's Troop Committee meeting, Henry intends to make the empty office space at the former YMCA on Washington Street more presentable to potential "partners" when

they come to tour the building with an eye towards investing. Ken Nilsen will act as both the project's beneficiary and as Henry's Eagle Mentor. Henry will turn 18 in August, 2019.

Lenny told Henry and Ken that, during last night's Eagle board for Jason, two "bad news" things were discussed that will also affect Henry. He said that Fred's Advancement Committee is always suspicious of a "labor project" as being too easy, but Jason had been able to supplement his "labor project" with other tasks that added complexity. Lenny's advice to Henry and Ken was to likewise add more tasks to the proposal than just painting and sweeping and garbage removal. Ken responded that they will have no problem adding some "service" tasks, mentioning distribution of donated clothing and organizing a lending library that serves the building's residents.

The second "bad news" item concerned the Eagle project workbook that all candidates must use. Fred was disappointed that Jason had not filled in the blanks of the workbook's "Project Plan" section prior to starting work, instead filling it in after the project was completed. Henry and Ken said that they will do it the right way, and Ken asked Henry to e-mail him a copy of the workbook so he can see which information will be needed.

6. Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland

Like Henry, above, Aaron's proposal for an Eagle project is currently under review by the Three Rivers District Advancement Committee. His target date for this outdoor project is late February or early March; that is, when winter is mostly over. As described during last month's Troop Committee meeting, Aaron will create a meditation garden in the St. Francis rear patio to honor the memory of Father Mike Guglielmelli. The project will involve cleanup and construction, as well as a fund-raiser to pay for materials. Aaron's last remaining Eagle-required merit badge is Communication (see below). He will turn 18 in April 2018.

7. Troop 146 Now Meets in the Hoboken Multi Service Center

Our first meeting in the Multi Service Center on Grand Street took place on November 28, a week earlier than planned, when we received a last-minute notice from the HOPES/Rue School that neither the gym nor the conference room was available for our use. Tom Foley kindly worked it out so that we could start a week early. Just prior to the Scout meeting, Bob and his Quartermasters emptied all our troop gear from the gym cupboards and transported it to the Multi Center, stowing it in a small storeroom that Tom told us we can use. Norman passed around a floor plan design that Dan Weaver had created, showing how we can rearrange the existing cabinets and shelves in such a way as to make much better use of the floor space.

Also present at the November Scout meeting were 9 Cub Scouts from the Pack 146 Arrow of Light den of 5th graders. For our opening ceremony, the Cubs formed themselves into two patrols standing next to the other three patrols of Boy Scouts. This made quite a crowd, and gave a preview of what we can expect when the Cubs graduate into the Scout troop this March. Lenny recalled that, when Troop 146 first started at Sts. Peter and Paul, we could easily recruit new Boy Scouts from the Church's middle school. But now we have to rely on the Cub pack to be our "feeder."

8. Upcoming December Court of Honor (Dec 12)

After Nick Facchini receives his Tenderfoot badge, the star of the show will be Henry Plotka, who will receive 6 more merit badges, bringing his current total to 42. Henry will also receive an award for being only the third Scout in the troop to pass the "Knot Ladder Challenge." There will also be a formal presentation to local businessman Roger Muller, thanking him for supporting our troop. Note that Aaron Kurland volunteered to write the script and to act as M.C. as part of the Communication merit badge he is working on.

9. Upcoming Blood Drive (Jan 13)

Lenny asked Terrence if Liam might be available to organize our annual blood drive next month. Norman explained that Liam would work directly with whomever the Red Cross assigns as our liaison. She will provide posters that Liam and other Scouts will post around town, and she will also provide a website with information where potential donors can sign up. Norman said that Liam will receive a gift card and will also have his name entered into a lottery for a college scholarship, saying "The odds of winning are pretty good for a lottery, about 1,000-to-1."

10. Proposal for a Judge to Address the Scouts in January

Norman has a family friend, Lisa Sokoloff, who is a judge with the New York State Supreme Court. She offered to come to Hoboken to talk to the Scouts on the topic of "Things you should know about the law to protect yourself." Norman said that he will try for a session in mid-January.

11. No Three-Peat for Troop 146 at the First Aid Rally (Nov 15)

Oh well... Norman called in sick and tried to work out a Plan-B that would get our Scouts to Kearny with the gear they needed and in time to participate. Due to a series of snafus, only Henry Plotka and Will Sytsma arrived with just a few items of gear and with only enough time to compete in the third and final scenario. Henry said, "We got 39 out of a possible 40 points for that one scenario. We could have won the rally easily if we had arrived on time." Instead, the winners were Weehawken Troop 223.

12. A Very Successful Pre-Thanksgiving Food Drive (Nov 18-19)

This was a very successful food drive! April Harris at the In Jesus' Name food pantry said that the food we collected exceeded her shelf space, and she was hard pressed to handle the overflow. In addition, cash donations totaling \$440 far exceeded any amount that we had ever collected in the past. Norman passed around a photo of a donor who arrived at our table with an entire shopping cart full of donated food. With Norman out sick, Ken said that Dan Weaver and Colum Ward had filled in nicely, and that Scouts Gabriel Weaver and Aidan Ward were especially helpful.

Lenny asked Norman to make a calendar change for next year. Instead of donations going to In Jesus' Name in November and to St. Francis in March, the Parish Council asked us to swap the dates. Norman joked that we'll need Dan Weaver to work out a floor plan for the St. Francis pantry store room if next year's November turns out to be as successful as this year's.

13. Scouts attended the Hoboken Clergy Coalition Interfaith Service (Nov 19)

Ken Nilsen organized our participation at this year's Interfaith Service at the All Saints Church on Washington Street. Scouts who provided the Color Guard were Jack Nilsen, Will Sytsma, and Aidan Ward. Ken said that about 75 people had attended, including the Mayor, the Mayor-elect, and several council people. He called the ceremony, "very simple and very nice."

14. Venture Patrol Urban Day Hike (Nov 25)

David Plotka organized this 13 mile hike as a two-fer: Scouts can both work towards the Hiking merit badge and also get some conditioning for this summer's trip to Philmont. Hiking from the PATH station at Christopher Street all the way north to 238th Street in the Bronx were Xavier Aniello, Christian Englehardt, Patrick Groo, Tige Mauseth, Henry Plotka, and Aidan Ward. Adults were David, Gregg Englehardt, Colum Ward, Vincent Aniello, Matt and Liz Groo plus sister Megan.

15. Deciding on Dates for Scout Summer Camp in 2018

A broadcast was sent two days ago to see if we should repeat what we did last summer; that is, should we schedule the troop for a week of camp in August? Last summer 6 families said "Yes," either due to summer school or due to family vacation plans. For this

summer, so far just Jack and Liam have replied "Yes," and everyone agreed that two was too few, with Lenny saying that the minimum number must be six. Ken pointed out that Jack and Liam have the option of hooking up with the Week-5 "provisional" troop. However, if we do get six, we will tell the camp that we are coming for their camp weeks 3 and 5, with Bob volunteering to remain at camp during camp week 4 along with Weehawken Troop 223.

- 16. Upcoming December Camping Trip - Quartermaster Invitational (Dec 15-17)**
Bob runs this trip every year as a reward for the troop's Quartermasters: Nick Facchini, Gabriel Weaver, Patrick Groo, and Aidan Ward. Bob's tradition is to allow each QM to invite a friend. Scouts will bunk in a cabin in Camp Bullowa in Stony Point, NY, and Bob will prepare all the gourmet meals. The second adult will be Joe Facchini.
- 17. Theater Merit Badge - A Local Production (Dec 3)**
Scouts and parents who attended a local production of "The 39 Steps" found the play to be excellent, with Al saying, "It was one of the best shows I've seen in a long time." Attendees were Xavier Aniello, Charlie Greenwood, Patrick Groo, Henry Plotka, and Will Sytsma, plus lots of family members. The event was organized by David Plotka as part of his Theater merit badge offering.
- 18. Buying a Trailer for Troop 146**
Ken said that he and Dan Weaver took time during the food drive to visit Bob and to see how much troop gear is currently being stored in his garage. They expected to see a huge amount and were pleasantly surprised to find that everything can easily fit into an 8-foot trailer. He proposed installing shelves on either side with a center aisle, and pointed out that Bob has most of the gear neatly stowed in ready-to-go tubs. The intent is to park the trailer in the St. Francis back parking lot (entrance on Madison Street). Ken said, "The next question is, does anyone have access to a tow hitch."
- 19. Pack 146 Was Briefed by Mayor Zimmer (Nov 20)**
Pack 146 took up Mayor Zimmer's invitation to hear about Hoboken's plan to get through another Hurricane Sandy with far less damage and far more resilience. She presented a video showing steps already taken and more steps planned for the future. The Mayor also urged the Cubs to stick with the program right into Boy Scouts, and told how much she enjoyed our Venture canoe trip last August. She told how the Scouts hooked some fish into their canoes and how she was certain that a bald eagle circling overhead was about to dive down in order to snatch one of the fish (it didn't happen).
- 20. Pack 146 Was Briefed by the Hudson County Prosecutor's CSI Squad (Nov 27)**
As part of their work on the Forensics belt loop award, the pack's Bear den invited the CSI team from the County Prosecutor's office to explain how they did their crime scene work. The talk was fascinating, and kept the Cubs' full attention. The talk started with, "Our job is to go into a crime scene and see what other people can't see."

21. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$3084.67

Current Scout balance: \$2694.03

Money came in from troop dues.

Money went out to reimburse the Plotka family from a Scout summer camp refund.

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

Money went out to cover popcorn costs, leaving behind \$351.36 as "commission".

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Recharter the troop in January for 2018 at \$42 per Scout.

Prior Cub balance: \$5313.25

Current Cub balance: \$4240.47

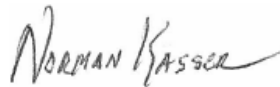
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.

Money went out to cover popcorn costs, leaving behind \$2496.64 as "commission".

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

Expected expense: Renew each Cub's subscription to Boys' Life at \$12 per family.

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