



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### Troop 146

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

February 13, 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 Committee meeting and Board of Review will take place on March 13, 2018 in the Multi Service Center.

**1. Present**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Norman Kasser
Jon Davidoff	Ken Nilsen

**2. Jason and Jacob Are Officially Eagle Scouts**

BSA National officially approved both Jason Davidoff and Jacob Grossbard as our newest Eagle Scouts, #24 and #25. Jon Davidoff responded with some possible dates for a ceremony, aware that we should not conflict with whatever dates Aaron Kurland announces for his Eagle project. Jon said that he had contacted Jacob's parents with the intention of discussing a joint ceremony, possibly in May, but had not heard back from them. Lenny advised Jon not to wait for a response and proposed a ceremony for Jason on Saturday afternoon May 12 (day before Mothers Day).

As an aside, Lenny and Norman both thought that doing one Eagle at a time is preferable. Norman recalled that the troop had a dual ceremony in 2004 for Nick Walker and Anthony Mignoli, but pointed out that the Scouts were very close friends, that their moms were also very close friends, and that all of them really wanted a dual ceremony.

**3. Eagle Status for Henry Plotka**

Speaking as Henry's Eagle Mentor, Ken Nilsen gave the status report while Henry was busy in the next room with the Scout meeting. Ken said that the Eagle project in the former YMCA was not quite complete, but needs one more "photo op" event, probably next week. Henry will invite the building's current residents to coffee and doughnuts where they will be briefed about the project and about future plans. Henry has just a bit more paperwork needed before he can schedule an Eagle Board of Review. Lenny remarked that there is no hurry, since Henry will turn 18 in August 2019, but said, "It's nice to get it done."

**4. Eagle Status for Aaron Kurland**

Aaron was not able to attend tonight's meeting, so Norman gave a summary. Aaron's Eagle project was recently approved by the District Advancement Committee. Aaron will create a meditation garden with a bench in the St. Francis rear patio to honor the memory of Father Mike Guglielmelli. After the garden is complete, Aaron would like to videotape parishioners as they sit on the bench and reminisce about Father Mike. The target date for this outdoor project is late February or early March; that is, when winter is mostly over. The project will involve cleanup and construction, as well as a bake sale fund-raiser to pay for materials. Norman said that Aaron's last remaining Eagle-required merit badge is Communication, which has nine requirements, and that Aaron had already passed three. He will turn 18 on April 27, 2018.

About the bake sale, Lenny said that we will designate March 4 as our "Scout Sunday." Scouts will attend the 9:30 Mass, and will then assist with Aaron's bake sale as it takes place on the Third Street sidewalk in front of the Church. Lenny said that the bake sale will actually begin after the Saturday 5:00 PM Mass, where Aaron can sell cream puffs for 50 cents that will be baked by one of the parishioners. Jon offered to provide items to sell on Saturday.

About the videotaped reminiscences, Lenny guessed that 20 parishioners will take turns in front of the camera. The results will likely be broadcast on Channel 18. Lenny said that Aaron will brief the Parish Council during their March meeting and will ask for their help (the February meeting was canceled due to Ash Wednesday).

#### **5. What about Girls Joining Pack 146?**

Last October, BSA National announced its willingness to allow girls to register as Cub Scouts, allowing each pack to decide for itself if it wants to do so. They recommended organizing single-gender dens instead of co-ed. Norman said that Pack 18 had already decided on Yes, saying that Rabbi Scheinberg asked for a quick decision "while the iron was hot." Norman proposed going through the same 3-step process that Pack 18 used:

1. A decision meeting by the Pack Committee plus the five Den Leaders plus local Girl Scout leaders. If they say okay, then,
2. A decision meeting by the Cub parents and also the Cubs. If they say okay, then,
3. Advertise an Open House to take place in early September, see who shows up, and take it from there. Open to girls in 1st through 4th grades.

Lenny reminded Norman that Father Chris should also be invited and kept informed.

Norman said that BSA National intends to allow girls to register with Boy Scout troops, but they are still working out the details with a target of 2019. That's why our Open House would specify an upper limit of 4th grade girls, "Since 5th graders would bridge into... What?". Norman said, "The existing Cub Scout program can easily handle girls with no change, but not so with the Boy Scout program. As one example, they'll have to redo the Scout Handbook."

About inviting local Girl Scout leaders, Norman said, "This was a request by Rabbi Scheinberg, and it made perfect sense to me." Girl Scout National had posted some negative reactions and some negative interviews, and so the question was whether or not the 12 local Girl Scout units have the same misgivings. Rabbi Scheinberg said, "I don't want the local Girl Scouts to be angry with the United Synagogue of Hoboken."

Norman concluded, "We can plan on a chunk of our March 13 Committee meeting to be devoted to this question. I'll let Father Chris know what's going on." Ken offered to provide whatever Girl Scout leader contacts he had. Lenny added that we must be sure to include the leader of Girl Scout Troop 12001 sponsored by St. Francis.

#### **6. Jan Troop Committee Meeting Postponed then Canceled (was Jan 9 then Jan 23)**

After the January postponement, Norman e-mailed everyone a copy of the agenda. Copies were also passed around tonight. Because there were no pressing issues, it was decided to simply cancel.

#### **7. Assisting the Vets Prior to Their Fundraiser (Jan 11)**

At the last minute, American Legion Commander John Carey lost the volunteers that were supposed to assist in setting up the Biergarten meeting room prior to a fundraiser. Scouts Charlie Greenwood and Ethan Zhang were able to fill in, along with Ethan's dad Nai. In addition to moving furniture around and hanging decorations, Scouts set up a display of about 100 "Heaven, Hell, or Hoboken" souvenir T-shirts.

**8. A Successful Blood Drive (Jan 13)**

Liam Richardson volunteered to organize this year's blood drive, arranging for publicity and encouraging online registration by potential donors. He also supervised the other Scouts on the day of the drive: Henry Plotka, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, Kyle Valenzuela, and Aidan Ward. Our Red Cross contact, Julia Lee, sent a thank-you note along with these figures: "41 donors registered + 5 deferred/not completed + 38 productive pints collected. This means 114 lives were positively impacted and/or saved by today's drive!" Julia promised to assign two more staff in 2019 so we don't have to turn anyone away. Jon said that he was one of those turned away, and that was in spite of registering online. He was amazed that they had five beds but only one bed seemed to be active. Norman said that we had three successful donors from Troop 146: Terrence Richardson, Matt Groo, and Mimi Lavine.

**9. A Talk by Judge Lisa Sokoloff (Jan 23)**

Judge Lisa Sokoloff of the New York Supreme Court came to Hoboken and gave our Scouts some good free legal advice titled, "Things you should know about the law to protect yourself." She said, "If an offer comes along that sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true," especially if the offer comes from the friend of a friend. She said, "If you ever receive a 'sexting' message, never forward it," since that will be crossing the line into sending illegal pornography. The Judge was accompanied by two defense attorneys, who each had their own stories and more good advice.

**10. Klondike Derby Camping Trip (Jan 26-28)**

Five Scouts, two Webelos Cubs, and 5 adults camped in a cabin at Camp Bullowa, driving down to Alpine Scout Camp on Saturday to compete in the Klondike Derby. The Scouts were Tige Mauseth, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, and Ryan Womack. Niklas Tseng also attended the Klondike, but just for the day. The Cubs were Victor Mauseth and Noah Scheiman. The Scouts received pretty good scores at the four competition stations they attended before running out of time. But other Scout troops were much faster and managed to rack up more points by competing at all six stations. As a result, our sled was ranked only 26 out of 31. Tige was the crew chief.

Aidan was the steady cook. In addition to feeding Scouts for the entire weekend, he also had to prepare a hot lunch for both the Scouts and for an additional 14 Cubs and parent day-trippers. Aidan got so much praise for his meals that he will receive the troop's "Chef Extraordinaire" award at the March Court of Honor, only the fourth to ever receive that award.

**11. Scout Meeting Canceled at the Multi Service Center (Jan 30)**

This was a last-minute cancellation of our Tuesday Scout meeting. As an experiment, we scheduled a make-up meeting on the following Thursday, Feb 1. Only seven Scouts showed up, indicating that Thursday make-ups probably won't work in the future. This was verified during the following Tuesday meeting, when Henry asked Scouts for feedback: "Who can come on a Thursday and who has conflicts?" When the weather gets better, we should be able to cope with Tuesday cancellations by meeting in the playground directly behind the Multi Service Center.

**12. Scout Sunday: Four Chaplains and Bagging (Feb 4)**

Tige Mauseth, Liam Richardson, and Aidan Ward attended the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Four Chaplains monument, and Tige and Aidan were given the honor of actually laying the wreath. Hoboken took pride in being the only outdoor monument to the chaplains, but recently another monument was dedicated in Kearny at St. Stephen's, which one of the chaplains had served at.

Bagging at the Acme raised close to \$500, with Xavier Aniello, Patrick Groo, Henry Plotka, Liam Richardson, Aidan Ward, and Ethan Zhang manning the check-out aisles. Adults supervising were Norman, Terrence Richardson, and Nai Zhang. Ken Howitt

stopped by to speak with store manager John Bincoletto, and reported that the Acme district manager was pleased to see Bincoletto's good relations with the community and with the Scouts in particular.

Lenny said that Bincoletto had accepted a promotion, and will shortly take over as the manager of the much larger store in Newport Plaza. He said, "We don't know who the new manager in Hoboken will be, but Jeff will stay on as the assistant. Jeff told me, 'Expect nothing to change.'" Lenny added that we'll have to introduce ourselves to the new manager when he comes, and we should also congratulate Bincoletto. Ken wondered if we might run a food drive in Newport, to which Norman recalled that we had done so once many years ago.

**13. Troop 146 History-CD for 2017 Available for Purchase (Feb 6)**

The History-CD for 2017 has 217 pages of captioned photos. Each Scout has his own page of activities and accomplishments along with a "Search" button that shows every place in the CD where he has a photo or some other mention. New this year is an offer to provide a copy on a flash drive, but you have to provide a blank flash drive of about 2 gigabytes. Jon bought a CD, which has lots of photos of Jason on it, and Lenny proposed setting up a slide show to run during Jason's Eagle ceremony.

**14. Upcoming Ski Weekend at Belleayre Mountain (Feb 16-18)**

So far it looks like 7 Scouts and 2 Cubs will take up Dan Weaver's offer to bunk in his vacation home (the 6 adults will need motel reservations.) Dan also offered to feed the Scouts from Friday snack through Sunday breakfast. A recent e-mail gave some details, and a second e-mail will go out later with additional details.

**15. Two Upcoming Cub Bridge Ceremonies (Mar 4 and Mar 7)**

Scouts will be needed to participate on Sunday and again on Wednesday to welcome each new Scout into the troop as he crosses a wooden bridge from the Cub side to the Scout side. Three Cubs from Pack 18 will cross on Sunday, and 11 Cubs from Pack 146 will cross on Wednesday. The Sunday March 4 Cub ceremony at USH will take place in the evening, while the "Scout Sunday" Mass at St. Francis will take place in the morning.

Both ceremonies will feature a catered banquet. Lenny verified that Pack 18 will serve the kosher deli sandwiches that he likes, and then verified that the Elks Lodge will be given the first offer to cater for Pack 146. Ken volunteered to check with Eddie Madigan, and Norman said that our second choice should be Margherita's, owned by former Cub dad Mike Fasciano, and located just across the street from the Elks. Norman said to plan to feed about 120; that is, three times the 39 registered Cubs.

Hopefully all 14 Cubs will turn into active Scouts. The Pack 146 boys are a familiar sight, since they have been sharing our Multi Service Center meeting space every Tuesday since we moved, and in fact are present right now in the next room. This was due to various calendar conflicts that made Tuesdays better for them than Wednesdays.

**16. Planning for the Philmont Trek (Aug 10-18)**

The 9 Scouts and 7 adults planning to go to Philmont in August have made good progress with airline flights and van rentals and pre-trek and post-trek itineraries. They also intend to schedule rigorous conditioning sessions, such as climbing stairs up the palisades with full backpacks plus actual backpacking treks. Also discussed was training, such as attending a Wilderness First Aid session.

Norman said that he had just received an e-mail this morning from a 15-year old Scout and his dad in North Carolina, asking if they could become part of our crew. The family promised the boy a trip to Philmont if he could reach Eagle, and now they have to deliver on that promise. Norman said that he will pass the request on to our 16 attendees.

- 17. Upcoming STEM Merit Badges at Liberty Science Center (Mar 11)**  
An e-mail announcement was broadcast recently, in which our parent Three Rivers District is offering Scouts a chance to earn a merit badge during a morning session, and a second badge during an afternoon session. "Nuclear Science" is also being offered as an all-day session. However, note that March 11 conflicts with our upcoming March ski weekend.
- 18. Merit Badge: Personal Fitness Outdoor Sessions Done (Oct-Feb)**  
Eight Scouts signed up for the monthly Personal Fitness outdoor sessions that started in October and just ended last week. The merit badge also has an indoor classroom component needed to get a full completion; those sessions will likely take place in April led by David Plotka. Of the eight, only Tige Mauseth got a completion based on an earlier set of indoor classes. The other seven are Xavier Aniello, Christian Englehardt, Nick Facchini, Zack Scheiman, Niklas Tseng, Aidan Ward, and Ethan Zhang.
- 19. Merit Badge: Cycling in Progress**  
Merit badge counselor Paul Scheiman started with a 15-mile ride last August, with four Scouts participating: Charlie Greenwood, Nick Facchini, Andrew Lopez, and Zack Scheiman. They are getting close to completion with a 25-miler planned for March 24, biking from New Brunswick to Princeton. A fifth Scout was Henry Plotka, who set up his own itinerary and completed the merit badge in October by doing the 50-mile "Tour de Bronx" with his dad David Plotka.
- 20. Merit Badge: Climbing Planned**  
The staff at the newly-opened Hoboken Gravity Vault will shortly offer sessions for the Climbing merit badge. Ken Nilsen volunteered to organize and has already collected names of nine interested Scouts. Ken said he will be informed when the facility gets a registered merit badge counselor. He said that Hoboken can borrow a counselor from one of the other Gravity Vault sites, but they would much rather have one of their own. Ken thought that he will be able to decide on and broadcast a date in about two weeks.
- 21. Merit Badge: Sustainability Planned**  
Nick Walker (Eagle Scout 2003) agreed to come to a few Tuesday meetings to run sessions towards earning the Eagle-required Sustainability merit badge. The sessions will likely take place in March, with details to be announced. Norman said that he had not yet followed up.
- 22. Merit Badge: Theater plus a Service Project (Feb 25)**  
Merit badge counselor David Plotka is hoping to form a partnership with the "Nutley Little Theater." As a starter, David would like to get a few Scouts to head to Nutley on February 25 to assist with set construction as a service project. The bonus is that attendance will pass one of the merit badge's requirements.
- 23. Pack 146 and Pack 18 Overnight at Liberty Science Center (Feb 3-4)**  
Nine Cubs from Pack 146 and 12 more from Pack 18 attended a "Mystery Overnight" at the Liberty Science Center, where they were challenged to solve a crime using forensic techniques. 19 parents also attended, bringing the total to 40. The outing was made more attractive by the offer to subsidize the fee using popcorn sale money: Instead of \$60, each attendee paid only \$40. Pack 146 had 16 attendees plus three no-shows, so popcorn money will cover  $19 \times \$20 = \$380$  (see below).
- 26. Three Catholic Religious Awards for Pack 18 (Feb 11)**  
In September, Bob Manzari, in his role as the Hoboken representative for the Catholic Committee on Scouting, told Scouts and Cubs and parents about the opportunity to earn Scout religious awards. Three from Pack 18 took up the offer and received their medals during an impressive ceremony at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica in Newark. Bob

said that he will shortly start sessions for Boy Scouts interested in earning the Ad Altare Dei award in time for the 2019 ceremony, and three raised their hands.

Norman said that one of the Pack 18 medal recipients belongs to Sts. Peter and Paul, and that the new Pastor, Msgr. Michael Andreano got very enthused about the medal and congratulated the boy and made announcements. Norman said, "This Pastor is clearly Scout-friendly, and so I passed the word on to a Girl Scout leader." Norman explained that the girls used to meet in Sts. Peter and Paul until they were asked to leave and now are struggling. He said, "Maybe Msgr. Mike will let them back in again," to which Lenny added, "Maybe they'll let us back in again."

Jon said that he discovered that scholarship money is available to Eagle Scouts who also earn the Jewish Ner Tamid award, and wondered if Catholic Eagles have similar opportunities. Ken replied that lots of scholarships are available for Eagle Scouts that have no religious requirement.

**27. Finances (1)**

Lenny was surprised to see the Boy Scout balance of \$946, below. Recalling the money we just raised at Acme, Lenny said, "If we hadn't earned that \$500, we'd be down to just \$400." Norman explained that the current troop dues we charge of \$2 per meeting used to easily cover our expenses, but BSA National just raised their Scout registration fee from \$33 to \$42, which made this year \$216 more expensive than last year. Similarly, everything else we purchase has gradually become more expensive. Norman said, "I really want to keep our troop dues at \$2," and Lenny agreed. Jon offered to run another bake sale in May, predicting about \$500.

**28. Finances (2)**

Prior Scout balance: \$2734.56  
Current Scout balance: \$946.43  
Money came in from troop dues.  
Money came in from History-CD sales.  
Money came in from bagging at Acme.  
Money came in from three donations.  
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.  
Money went out to Recharter the troop in January for 2018 at \$42 per Scout.  
Expected expense: Reimburse Bob for 4th qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$4240.47  
Current Cub balance: \$3545.41  
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.  
Money went out to renew each Cub's 2018 subscription to Boys' Life at \$12 per family.  
Expected expense: Subsidize Liberty Science Center 19 overnights at \$20 per person.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser  
Scoutmaster