



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

April 10, 2018

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 will take place on May 8, 2018 in the Multi Service Center.

1. Present

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Tom Muldowney
Jon Davidoff	Ken Nilsen
Matt Groo	Dan Weaver
Norman Kasser	Colum Ward
Bob Manzari	

Also Life Scout Aaron Kurland

2. Please Don't Counter-Schedule

Lenny asked the troop leaders not to schedule two events on the same day or at the same time, giving as an example a Philmont planning meeting scheduled for this evening at the same time as this Troop Committee meeting. He said, "If you have to do it, get advance permission from the Committee."

3. Upcoming Scout Summer Camp (Jul 8-14 and Jul 15-21)

Bob told the Committee that the troop should encourage Scouts to sign up for two weeks of camp instead of just one, saying, "If you don't push two weeks, they won't do it." He cited the advantage of earning lots of merit badges while young so as to avoid a last-minute rush just prior to a Scout's 18th birthday. Bob also said that the troop should encourage Scouts to attend more camping trips so as to reach the 20-night requirement for the Camping merit badge.

4. Catholic Religious Award Ceremony in 2019

Bob said that four Scouts were currently working on the Ad Altare Dei award, and should easily finish in time for the next award ceremony in Newark in February, 2019. He also said that the Catholic Committee on Scouting will shortly run a session for Emblem Coordinators. Lenny expressed interest.

5. Eagle Status for Jason Davidoff (May 12)

Jason's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will take place at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on May 12 at 2:00 PM, with Scouts arriving at 1:00 to set up. Norman said that invitations will be mailed shortly, both in letter form and as formal RSVPs. Ken Nilsen pointed out that we should also invite people from St. Matthew and said he will provide names.

6. Eagle Status for Henry Plotka

Henry will shortly submit his completed Eagle Application form to the council for a final double-check after which we can schedule an Eagle Board of Review. Henry will turn 18 in August 2019.

- 7. Eagle Status for Aaron Kurland**
Aaron's Eagle project at St. Francis Church is nearly done, with just the installation of a metal bench needed to complete the memorial meditation garden he created. His project plan originally included inviting parishioners to sit on the bench and tell videotaped stories about Father Mike Guglielmelli, in whose memory the garden is dedicated. However Aaron explained that he had to delete that part from his project because he ran out of time due to postponements caused by late March and early April snow storms. Instead, Aaron will write up how he thinks the videotaping should go, and turn the write-up over to local filmmaker John Bredin for implementation. Aaron said that he had just completed the Communication merit badge, the last one he needed. He will turn 18 on April 27, 2018.
- 8. Spring Food Drive (Mar 18)**
The St. Francis Food Pantry was the beneficiary of our spring food drive, with sizable donations of food and \$110 that will go toward the Church's sandwich program. One unexpected donation were two 5-packs of Manischewitz matzos for Passover!
- 9. March Court of Honor (Mar 27)**
Several of our 14 newest Boy Scouts were away on spring break, but the others were formally inducted into the troop and given new black neckerchiefs and "Scout" badges of rank, an automatic promotion given to any Cub Scout who earned a Arrow of Light badge. Position patches were presented to the new Patrol Leaders and their assistants, and also to Tige Mauseth and Will Sytsma, our new Troop Guides. Aidan Ward received the troop's "Chef Extraordinaire" award for a feast he prepared last January. Merit badges were earned by Henry Plotka, Tige Mauseth, and new Scouts Victor Mauseth and Daniel Nemeth.
- 10. Upcoming District Recognition Dinner (Apr 22)**
Colum Ward and Joe Facchini will each receive formal recognition for the terrific job they did as co-Den Leaders of the Pack 146 Arrow of Light Den. They will each receive a "Service to Scouting" award, presented to them by the District Commissioner during a dinner held by our parent Three Rivers District. The dinner will be held at the Paramus Elks Lodge, starting at 2:00 PM.
- 11. Upcoming Whitewater Rafting Camping Trip (Apr 20-22)**
Last year's whitewater trip was so successful that we added it to this year's camping calendar. The price per rafter will be \$90, needed to cover the fee plus lunch plus wet suit rental. Luckily, we won't have to pay for a campsite, since we'll be pitching tents in Lenny and Marie's vacation home back yard, a short drive from the rafting headquarters. We will need an early departure on Sunday to allow time to get to the District Recognition Dinner (above).
- 12. Upcoming Trip to the Naval Academy (May 18-20)**
We will be toured around Annapolis by Midshipman Nate Knueven, who was the Venture Patrol's guide last summer at the Northern Tier Scout high adventure base. Our campsite will be the Akridge Scout Reservation in nearby Delaware. Joe Facchini volunteered to contact a friend in Annapolis whom we may need as a Plan-B, since it will be graduation weekend, and Nate's parents will also need his attention.
- 13. Upcoming Cub Scout Weboree (Apr 27-29)**
Seven Webelos Cubs from the two Hoboken packs will attend this annual council-sponsored event. Also attending as staff will be Norman, Terrence and Liam Richardson, and Paul and Gretchen and Zack Scheiman.

14. Enhancing the Troop 146 Website

Norman said that Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman volunteered to form a troop "Webmaster Committee," whose job it will be to update and modernize our old-fashioned Troop146.org website. Gretchen laid out some of her ideas in the form of a site map that shows both existing web pages and proposed new pages and features.

Norman said that one of the new proposed features would be a site for "parent communications among each other." Jon recalled something similar he did in 2015-16 using Google Sheets, which was intended to organize parents willing to attend Tuesday meetings in order to assist with the Scouts. Jon said that he had set up three slots to be filled for each Tuesday meeting. Dan recalled that many times parents would arrive only to find they were not needed, because the night's program might call for the entire troop to work on a merit badge. Jon's opinion was that nowadays such as signup site would be best handled as a smartphone app. Norman replied that Gretchen had proposed using WordPress for the troop website, and that WordPress might be able to provide such an app.

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

The 16 members of the Philmont crew have already run a few conditioning hikes with another 10-miler planned for this weekend. An unexpected expense recently came up when Philmont insisted that each 8-man crew must have two members certified for "Wilderness First Aid." They are currently looking for an organization offering such training and certification. Ken noted that Philmont is the only Scout high adventure camp insisting on two, while the others, such as Sea Base, only require one.

Matt said that a 2-day session will take place at nearby Alpine Scout Camp later in April that will cost \$150 per person, which triggered a discussion about how to cover the cost. Proposals included a fund-raiser bake sale, assessing the other crew members, and asking the participant to pay for a portion himself, since he will benefit personally from the training. Norman said that the troop bank account actually has a chunk of money specifically earmarked to help cover and subsidize "unexpected expenses associated with high adventure trips." Lenny asked the Philmont crew to decide quickly which four crew members will attend.

16. The Future of our Multi Service Center Meeting Place (Apr 25 at 6:00 PM)

Lenny said that he and Ken Howitt intend to attend a meeting called by the Mayor to discuss the future of the "under-utilized" Multi Service Center, where we meet each Tuesday. There may be a redesign called for and even construction. Lenny said that he had planned some time in the future to ask for permission to move Pack 146 into the Multi Service Center on Mondays, but he will have to move quickly and make the request now. He said he will speak with Leo Pellegrini, Director of Health and Human Services, who is in charge of the building. He said, "I don't want people to be surprised that we meet here. The former Mayor knew, but I don't know if the current Mayor does." There was discussion about finding an alternative meeting space if construction causes us to move out.

17. Pack 146 Had a Pinewood Derby Champion

Levi Marsh of the Pack 146 Bear Den won the first place trophy at the recent District Invitational Pinewood Derby in Secaucus. Also competing was Pack 18 Wolf Cub Alex Lefkowitz, who finished in the middle of the Wolf standings.

18. What about Girls Joining Pack 146?

Virtually all of last month's Troop/Pack Committee meeting was devoted to this issue. All five Pack 146 Den Leaders attended, as well as three local Girl Scout leaders who accepted our invitation to participate. There were two major topics to be discussed:

1. Is the Pack Committee okay with the idea of girls registering as Cubs this September? "Yes."
2. The Girl Scout national organization is very unhappy with this development. The question was whether or not the local Girl Scout troops would be equally unhappy. Lenny said that this was the primary concern of Father Chris. The Girl Scout leaders predicted "Not to worry. No pushback."

The next step will be to present the choice to the Pack 146 parents and also to the P146 Cubs. Norman said that BSA National wants packs to have single-gender dens, such that there will be an all-boy Wolf den, and an all-girl Wolf den. However, he added that National is aware that "some packs will cheat and will have co-ed dens, and that P146 will very likely do exactly that." There was general agreement that co-ed dens is the way to go. Colum and Matt pointed out that P146 already has experience with co-ed dens, recalling when little sisters Megan Groo and Sofia Zhang attended meetings and were treated exactly as if they were registered Cub Scouts. Colum added, "... And no one batted an eyelid. It was never an issue."

During last month's discussion, one unknown was how BSA National plans to handle girl Cubs who reach Boy Scout age. Since then, National decided that they want all-girl Boy Scout troops -- no co-ed troops. However, they gave the option of having an all-girl troop be closely linked to an all-boy troop, with a shared sponsor and a shared Troop Committee. Norman said, "It's my opinion that we will seriously consider a third option, which will be to have a co-ed troop in spite of what National says. Later on, when we have a critical mass of girls, we'll ask them if they want to split off and form an all-girl Boy Scout troop."

Lenny said that he had also raised the issue at the last Parish Council meeting he had attended and said, "I was surprised at some of the questions they raised and at some of the men's hesitancy." However, the tone was set by Father Chris who said he was comfortable with the change and was willing to let our Troop Committee handle everything.

19. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$1519.16

Current Scout balance: \$2220.16

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from a Philmont-related donation.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$3545.41

Current Cub balance: \$2052.91

Money went out to subsidize a Liberty Science Center overnight

Money went out for the Blue-and-Gold banquet.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster