



## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### Troop 146

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

October 16, 2018

**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 Hoboken Multi Service Center. The next Committee meeting will take place on November 20, 2018 in the Multi Service Center.

**1. Present**

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Ken Howitt
Norman Kasser	Ken Nilsen
Terrence Richardson	

**2. Board of Review**

Aidan Ward for First Class  
Tige Mauseth for Second Class  
Jeremy Warren for Tenderfoot.  
Jayden Altamura for Tenderfoot.

**3. Kickoff Planning Meeting (Sep 11)**

Our annual September kick-off meeting was devoted to planning out the upcoming year, starting with a review of the entire 2018-19 calendar. Part-2 was to plan the monthly camping trips, and Part-3 was to block out the program for the next 3 months. As often happens, some dates were shuffled later, including camping trip dates and Troop Committee meeting dates. Ken Nilsen said that the local Gravity Vault now has a merit badge counselor on its staff, so we should consider adding Climbing merit badge to the program.

**4. Election of New Junior Leaders (Oct 2 and 9)**

Aidan Ward was elected as SPL and selected Tige Mauseth and Gabriel Weaver as his assistants. (He also named Rhys Wylie but later changed his mind.) The SPL election took so much time that the Patrol Leader election was postponed by a week, resulting in the election of Christian Englehardt, Charlie Greenwood, Victor Mauseth, and Jack Nilsen. Christian selected Ethan Zhang as his assistant, and Charlie selected Erick Cando. Later this evening, Victor announced that he had selected Zack Scheiman, and Jack announced Alex Cando.

Henry Plotka was promoted to Junior Assistant Scoutmaster (JASM), Liam Richardson was promoted to Troop Guide, and Nick Facchini was promoted to Chief Quartermaster.

**5. Seven New Boy Scouts with More Expected**

During tonight's Court of Honor, we'll induct seven new Scouts, some recruited and others who heard about us by word-of-mouth. They are Devon Dehgahni, Andy Hernandez, Jovani Lugo, Sam Ornstein, Ivan-Asen Radoslavov, Liam Sandino, and Pascal Vino. We have two more who look very possible but who have not yet handed in a Youth Application form.

## **6. Our Meeting Room in the Multi Service Center**

As we were starting up for 2018-19, we were advised that the City will ask us to give up our meeting space on various Cub Mondays and Scout Tuesdays. The first will be Oct 30 for a planning meeting called by the Hoboken City Council, followed by Nov 6 Election Day. Shortly after tonight's Troop Committee meeting ended, Ken Nilsen arranged for Scouts to meet in the St. Matthew Church parish hall on both those evenings. Lenny recalled that St. Matthew used to sponsor its own Scout troop and asked Ken to research the date when that troop folded, saying, "That will be the last time there was a Scout meeting there."

We have run into problems with Violeta who maintains the Multi Center. She has complained about Cub Scouts running around too close to the video equipment in the rear of the room, about Boy Scout meetings running too late past 9:00 PM, and about how Scouts made tears in paper table cloths intended to decorate a Wednesday banquet for seniors. Our compromise for late Tuesday meetings was to ensure that we have completely vacated the meeting room by 9:10 PM.

## **7. Two New Assistant Scoutmasters**

Brendon Wilder started in September, and David Plotka will start as soon as we can get him registered. Lenny pointed out that David has been doing all the work without having the rank.

Due to a new policy by the Archdiocese, we did not automatically promote Aaron Kurland and Jason Davidoff to Assistant Scoutmasters when each turned 18. They must first obtain Catholic youth protection certification by attending a session of "Protecting God's Children" training. This policy will apply to David Plotka and to all future adult registrations: Every registered adult MUST be certified with "Protecting God's Children" and MUST be certified with Boy Scout "Youth Protection Training" (YPT). Ken Nilsen said that he had just sat through a session and had received a certificate, and Lenny added that a Parish Council review verified that all Troop and pack adults will be okay when someone from the Archdiocese comes to check up on St. Francis.

As an aside, Norman said that after the last Troop Committee meeting in June, Aaron and Jason were both informed that their Eagle Scout badges had been officially approved by BSA National.

As for Boy Scout Youth Protection Training, BSA National recently revised their online training module and told all adults that they MUST log in and sit through the new YPT training. All existing YPT certifications were forced to expire on September 30. As of this writing, we still need to recertify two adults in Troop 146 and two in Pack 146.

## **8. Two Weeks at Camp Turrell**

Our first week had 11 Scouts (plus Jayden Altamura who visited for two days). Aidan Ward was the SPL and led us to earn the Baden-Powell Honor Unit award. We earned second place in the Water Carnival, and a total of 40 merit badges (plus 10 partials). Henry Plotka worked as staff and also earned 4 more merit badges toward his Eagle Palms.

Our second week had 13 Scouts plus 5 guests from Weehawken Troop 223. Tige Mauseth was the SPL and led us to earn the Baden-Powell Honor Unit Award. We won the Water Carnival and were the only troop to show up to compete in the Iron Man competition -- did we win by default? Tige won the Robin Hood archery contest. We earned a total of 43 merit badges (plus 16 partials)

One of the T223 guests was Rhys Wylie, who said he intended to transfer from T223 and join our troop instead. This is currently in progress.

- 9. Our Scouts Worked as Staff at the Cub Camp (Aug 20-24)**  
 Staff members were Jack Nilsen, Liam Richardson, and Zack Scheiman. Working as CITs were Jayden Altamura and Frankie Sanchez. This was a 1-week Cub day camp in Pershing Field in Jersey City, and 23 Cubs signed up, including 6 from Pack 146 and 6 from Pack 18. Jayden and Frankie were given time to work on Boy Scout merit badges. They completed Geocaching and got very close to completing Forestry.
- 10. The Philmont Trek and Other Venture Patrol Summer Plans**  
**Philmont 2018:** We were informed on July 5 that Philmont had to close due to fire hazard. They offered to give us priority for a 2020 application, which must be submitted on October 30. This was clearly a great disappointment, especially after shakedown hikes, stair-step climbing, wilderness first aid training, and fundraiser bake sales.
- Summit 2018:** The Venture Patrol salvaged 2018 by scheduling a week at the Scout's Summit High Adventure camp for whitewater rafting and kayaking. Attending were Christian Englehardt, Henry Plotka, Aidan Ward, and Gabriel Weaver. Adults were Gregg Englehardt, Aaron Kurland, David Plotka, Colum Ward, and Dan Weaver.
- Scout Sea Base 2019:** Adult Advisor Francis Howitt signed us up for a sailboat cruise out of St. Thomas in the Caribbean, restricted to just 2 adults and 6 Scouts. Planning to attend are Christian Englehardt, Aidan Ward, Gabriel Weaver, Tige Mauseth, Xavier Aniello, and Henry Plotka. Adults will be Francis and Ted Mauseth.
- Philmont 2020:** A decision will be made prior to the October 30 application date.
- 11. Three Advancement Sessions Over the Summer Plus One More**  
 An orienteering event was held on June 9 on Randall's Island with Jayden Altamura and Gabriel Weaver attending.
- The Troop's annual "Map-and-Compass" day hike was held on July 1 with Veer Agarwal and Zack Schieman attending. Adults were Norman and Gretchen along with Veer's mom and dad and little sister. We also had a guest Scouter named Bob Rycharski, who joined us in order to see how our troop handles the 2nd Class map-and-compass requirement. Rycharski then offered to set us up with opportunities to pass the 1st Class orienteering requirement that he runs for his Scout troop.
- For Scouts who wanted to pass the First Class GPS requirement, Colum Ward organized an event on September 8 based around finding caches that have been hidden around Hoboken by an organization of geocaching enthusiasts. 21 Scouts showed up, so Colum divided them into three patrols, each supervised by one or more adults.
- David Plotka organized a 20-mile day hike on October 7 in Staten Island for Scouts working on the Hiking merit badge. Hikers were Alex Cando, Henry Plotka, and Aidan Ward. Adults were Dave and Assistant Scoutmaster Brendon Wilder. Henry completed the merit badge, bringing his total to 54.
- 12. The Annual Scout/Cub Joint Camping Trip (Sep 28-30)**  
 This event gets bigger and bigger each year since we started doing them in 2013, with 80 participants this year. Most of the families camped overnight Saturday, with only a half dozen day-trippers. Christian Englehardt was the steady cook and luckily got a lot of help in the kitchen. Gabriel Weaver was the SPL whose job was to ensure that our Boy Scout contingent was put to best use. Nick Facchini led a very successful nature hike. and Will Sytsma ran a Whittling Chip class. Norman was unhappy that one of our Scouts decided not to attend knowing that he would be called on to do a lot of work in the kitchen.

Ken Nilsen proposed running sessions next year where Boy Scouts would show Cub parents some of the skills they learned as a taste of what their Cub Scout sons can look forward to.

Scouts attending were Christian Englehardt, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Jovani Lugo, Tige Mauseth, Victor Mauseth, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, Aidan Ward, Gabriel Weaver, and Ryan Womack. Adults were Norman, Bob, Joe Facchini, Gretchen Scheiman, and Dave Sytsma.

The event ended with the fees we charged exceeding our expenses by about \$650. Norman said that the 2017 Joint Trip surplus was way bigger at about \$800, so he reduced this year's fee by \$5 per person to \$25 per camper and \$15 per day-tripper. Lenny advised using the same fee structure next year.

**13. Backpacking Trek in Harriman State Park (Jun 16-17)**

Six Scouts and one Cub backpacked within Harriman State Park from Lake Tiorati to Island Pond to camp overnight, and then to Route 17 for a pick-up. The route was planned by Zack Scheiman, with Zack, Christian Englehardt, Nick Facchini, Jack Nilsen, Joe Scalzo, Will Sytsma, plus Cub Noah Scheiman. Adults were Paul and Gretchen Scheiman, Ken Nilsen, and Dave Sytsma. Norman hiked partway, then backtracked to get his car and drive it to the hike's end-point. By coincidence, our group ended at exactly the same time and place as did a Philmont training hike that took place that weekend.

**14. A New "Service Patrol"**

Nick and John Facchini asked for volunteers to join a Service Patrol they had started. Their first project took place on June 20 on the roof of the St. Francis Academy in Union City, where they cleaned up the solar panels, followed by a litter pickup in the school playground. Attending were Veer Agarwal, Jayden Altamura, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Andrés Rodriguez, and Joe Scalzo.

The second project will be a clothing drive to benefit Hoboken's food pantry. Clothing is needed for school age children. (The pantry already has lots of clothing for toddlers and adults.)

**15. The Annual Elks Lodge Celebration for Flag Day (Jun 14)**

The Elks asked for seven Scouts to act as a color guard for their collection of seven historical flags. Eight Scouts attended: Jayden Altamura, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Teddy Muldowney, Joe Scalzo, Zack Scheiman, Will Sytsma, and Ethan Zhang. Also present was John Carey, Commander of the local American Legion Lodge 107. Norman thanked Exalted Ruler Christina Cushing for housing P146 over the winter.

**16. Upcoming Pre-Thanksgiving Food Drive (Nov 11)**

ShopRite delegated their huge number of food drive requests to a lady named Kaitlin Dillon. For some reason Kaitlin blocked out our usual weekend just prior to Thanksgiving, and instead offered us an earlier Sunday, November 11. The donated food will go to the St. Francis food pantry, and any cash we collect will go towards St. Francis' Sandwiches-for-the-Homeless program.

Also on Nov 11, Lenny said that St. Francis will dedicate a portion of the 9:30 Mass to veterans complete with a guest lecturer, and that Father Chris had asked for Scout participation and possibly an Honor Guard to display the American and Troop flags. Lenny pointed out that the troop flag will be present during the food drive, and he wondered aloud how the troop will be able to get everything done that day. Lenny himself will be away on vacation until just prior to Nov 11 and so will not be available to help with the planning.

**17. The New Troop 146 Website**

During the last Troop Committee meeting in June, Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman demoed a prototype for a newly designed and modernized website for the troop. Since then, the website has gone live and has received several complements from outside viewers. The youth Webmaster is John Facchini, who posts photos of events as they occur.

The service that hosts our new website charges the troop a monthly fee. Our former simple website that started in 2004 needed so few resources that hosting was virtually free. On the other hand, our new website is far more elaborate and needs far more resources to run well. Gretchen shopped around for the best bargain and selected "InMotion Hosting."

**18. Upcoming Eagle Ceremony for Aaron Kurland (Dec 15)**

Aaron's dad Rich Kurland has already begun planning and has already e-mailed invitations to his family and friends. Rich has also already consulted with Lenny, who arranged for the ceremony to take place in the St. Francis Parish Hall.

In the past, Bob has treated his Quartermasters to a camping trip that same December weekend, so this year Bob selected a date two weeks earlier, Nov 30-Dec 2.

**19. We Missed Participating in the Hoboken 9/11 Memorial Ceremony**

This year we forgot to add the City's annual 9/11 ceremony to our calendar, and so there was no Scout participation. Lenny asked Norman to ensure that we participate in 2019 and onward. Because of the 100th anniversary of WW I, Lenny guessed that the Vets will hold their ceremony at Elysian Park in front of the WW I memorial.

**20. A New Storage Site**

Troop Committee member Ken Howitt had some free space available in a property in Jersey City that he owns. During the summer, Bob mostly emptied his garage in North Bergen and moved almost all our troop gear to Ken's space. We had our first usage of the new site as we got ready to depart for the September Joint Camping Trip. Things did not go well at all, with Bob departing at 7:30 PM instead of our usual 6:30. Ken said that he intends to install better lighting, which should assist Bob in the future.

**21. A Fundraiser Dinner at St. Francis (Oct 19)**

Lenny is hoping that some of the troop adults will attend a fundraiser dinner sponsored by the Church's Holy Name Society, and Bob said he will go. Ken Howitt is one of the event co-chairs and broadcast a call for additional volunteer participants.

**22. Connecting with the Stevens Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity**

Ken Nilsen said that he hopes that Francis Howitt will agree to be the liaison between the troop and the APO service fraternity, many of whose members are Eagle Scouts. Ken was thinking in terms of merit badge counseling and STEM-related events.

**23. Cub Scout Growth**

Cub Scouting appears to have become popular in Hoboken. Currently Pack 146 has 39 Cubs with two more expected. Pack 18 has 31 Cubs with 8 more expected. Of the 31, two are girls, and one more girl is in the "expected" group.

**24. A New Cub Scout Subcommittee**

A group of five Cub dads volunteered to form a subcommittee that will plan and organize and run all Cub outings for both Cub packs. Their first task was to ensure a good turnout for the September Joint Camping Trip, and to ensure that attending Den Leaders had a good plan for their Cubs. Upcoming events include a tour of the Lakota Wolf Preserve, a trip to Ellis Island, and an overnight on the Battleship New Jersey.

**25. Finances**

Prior Scout balance: \$1634.58

Current Scout balance: \$9147.20

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in from the Philmont crew after they were canceled.

Money came in from the Joint Camping Trip overage.

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

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

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd and 3rd qtr expenses.

Expected expense in January: Renew registrations for all Troop 146 Scouts at \$42 per person. Note that adults pay for their own registration.

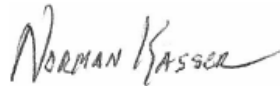
Prior Cub balance: \$1234.94

Current Cub balance: \$1234.94 (no change)

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd and 3rd qtr expenses.

The last statement from the bank showed an extra \$2730 that was parked temporarily and then transferred electronically to Scout Sea Base for this summer's Venture Patrol trip to the Caribbean.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "NORMAN KASSER".

Norman Kasser  
Scoutmaster