



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

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

November 27, 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. There will not be a meeting in December, so the next Committee meeting will take place on January 15, 2019 in the Multi Service Center.

1. Present

Lenny Luizzi (presiding)	Tom Muldowney
Francis Howitt	Ken Nilsen
Ken Howitt	David Plotka
Norman Kasser	

2. Board of Review

Alex Cando was conditionally reviewed for Tenderfoot. He still has two more requirements to complete, but the Troop Committee looked at the calendar and found it convenient to do the review now rather than wait. Alex said he expected to have the last two requirements done during next week's Scout meeting, at which point his review will become official.

3. Popcorn Sales

10 Scouts sold popcorn, earning \$694.65, all of it using "take order" forms and none using the online method. Our top seller was Aidan Ward with \$353.

25 Cubs from Pack 146 sold popcorn, earning \$1832.46, using a mix of "take order," online sales, and in-person sales at the PATH station. Brothers Hayden and Ethan Faricelli teamed up to sell \$843. Michael Noto on his own sold \$560.

4. New Boy Scouts since September

The Troop typically relies on the two Hoboken "feeder" Cub packs to provide new Boy Scouts, but this year was unique in that 11 boys joined since September, some recruited, some walk-ins, and one transfer: Devon Dehghani, Jovani Lugo, Sam Ornstein, Liam Sandino, Pascal Vino, Andy Hernandez, Frank Castro, Jack Halligan, Ryan Halligan, Ivan Radoslavov, and (transfer from Weehawken) Rhys Wylie. Norman said that Ivan was the first to register in September and had thus been in the troop for 3 months, which means the John Facchini will receive a "Recruiter" award patch.

5. Upcoming December Court of Honor (Dec 11)

Since the last Court of Honor in October, we have a new 1st Class Scout (Aidan Ward), a new 2nd Class Scout (Tige Mauseth), and two new Tenderfoot Scouts (Jayden Altamura and Jeremy Warren). Six merit badges will also be awarded, four for Cycling and two for Forestry. After this short ceremony ends, everyone will walk to the St. Francis Community center to rehearse for Aaron Kurland's upcoming Eagle ceremony (see below).

6. First Aid Rally Anticlimax (was Nov 14)

We were disappointed when the host troop, Kearny Troop 302, canceled their annual First Aid Rally, since we spent a fair amount of time preparing with the expectation of winning back the trophy. The event organizer suffered a bad injury and decided to postpone until sometime in spring 2019.

As part of our preparations, Assistant Scoutmaster Gretchen Scheiman set up four teaching stations, with patrols rotating from one to another. She pointed out that this method became possible thanks to the adults who are now attending Scout meetings and are willing to lend their expertise. Norman said that we will continue using stations, including tonight.

7. The New Troop 146 Website

Our new website went live in June, and Gretchen sent an e-mail to the Troop Committee in which she said, "The website is providing value and it is being used." She recently queried the site's "metrics" and found that the site is active with lots of hits, lots of traffic, and lots of return visitors. She said, "We have about 100-120 visitors a month. About 28% of these are return visitors from a prior month. Most of our site visitors come back to see us again even within the month." Gretchen added, "Nearly a third of our traffic is on a mobile device. Our new site looks and works great on mobile."

Ken Nilsen said that he had been working with Scout Webmaster John Facchini on preparing press release statements to promote the troop, and that one had appeared on Hoboken Patch about a service project we ran for St. Francis Academy in Union City, where John goes to school. Francis offered to work with Marilyn Baer, who handles local news for the Hoboken Reporter, saying, "We went to high school together."

8. A Busy November 11 - Food Drive

Our annual pre-Thanksgiving food drive delivered 1420 pounds of food to the St. Francis "Father Michael Food Pantry," along with \$158 in cash donations. Eleven Scouts participated along with a bunch of Cubs. Note that the ShopRite home office gave us just one day to collect instead of two days as in the past. Lenny said that the results appeared in the church bulletin and said, "Everybody was delighted. The Church secretary said that it was a good thing we only worked one day, because there wasn't enough space to store two day's worth of donations."

Later in the meeting, Lenny said that we have a standing offer to run a food drive or a bagging fund-raiser in the Newport A&P. He said that he spoke with store manager John Bincoletto, who lives in Hoboken and is very Scout-friendly.

9. A Busy November 11 - 9:30 Mass at St. Francis

In honor of Veterans Day, Father Chris asked the troop to provide a Color Guard to march in flags as part of the opening procession. Scouts were Charlie Greenwood, Leo Burnett, and Liam Sandino. Also present at the Mass were Ethan Zhang, Jeremy Warren, and Nate Warren. Norman said that a photograph of the procession was posted on the Church's Facebook page, and Lenny proposed that the troop should work directly with Theresa Howard, who makes the postings.

10. A Busy November 11 - World War I Memorial Service at Elysian Park

This service marked the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, and was held in front of the WW I memorial statue in Elysian Park. Scouts attending were Jack Nilsen, Hudson Tseng, Niklas Tseng, Jeremy Warren, Nate Warren, accompanied by Assistant Scoutmaster Francis Howitt. Norman assured Francis that American Legion Commander John Carey keeps the troop informed about events like this one.

Summarizing the busy morning, Norman said that a number of Cub Scouts showed up for the food drive, which released the Scouts that Lenny took to the Mass and that Francis took to Elysian Park.

11. Clergy Coalition Interfaith Service (Nov 19)

Hoboken Shelter Director Jaclyn Cherubini asked the troop to provide a Color Guard for the service's opening ceremony, and Aidan Ward and Frank Castro responded.

12. October Camping Trip at Six Flags Great Adventure (Oct 19-21)

Six Scouts and four adults camped at Quail Hill Scout Reservation and then spent all day Saturday at the nearby theme park while the October "Fright Fest" was in progress. Campers were Jovani Lugo, Tige Mauseth, Victor Mauseth, Teddy Muldowney, Ivan Radoslavov, and Aidan Ward. Joining them as Saturday day-trippers were Frankie Sanchez and Zack Scheiman.

Three more Scouts said they would attend but dropped out at the last minute. Tige was the steady cook and had the unusual task of preparing a late afternoon snack in the parking lot, thus allowing Scouts to re-enter the park and get in a few more rides without going hungry. Tom Muldowney agreed that Tige's "tailgate snack" in the parking lot went well.

Tom suggested returning to Quail Hill for our annual historical camping trip in June 2020 in order to see a recreation of the 1778 Battle of Monmouth Courthouse. Tom proposed adding a 5-mile hike along a historic trail that runs from Quail Hill to the courthouse by way of the battlefield state park. Note that Tom attended Quail Hill many years ago when he was a Webelos Cub. In response to Ken Howitt's question, Norman said that the May 2019 historical trip will be tent camping at Camp Bullowa with a tour of West Point in a chartered bus with a professional guide, a repeat of a tour we did in 2014.

- 13. November Camping Trip and Cook-Off at Glen Gray (Nov 2-4)**
Eight Scouts and five adults attended and spent most of Saturday competing in a cook-off competition. Gabriel Weaver and Aidan Ward were our lead chefs, preparing rice pilaf and a Dutch oven peach cobbler that earned third place. Helping out were Frank Castro, John Facchini, Nick Facchini, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, and Ryan Womack. Competing against other adults were Dan Weaver and Carla Weinpahl, who cooked up a fancy chili con carne stew accompanied by cornmeal flatbread "Johnnycakes." The adult winner was not announced, but we assume that we were the clear winners.
- 14. Upcoming December Quartermaster Invitational Camping Trip (Nov 30-Dec 2)**
Bob runs this no-work-all-play every year for his Quartermasters in appreciation of the extra work they have to do. Each QM is allowed to invite a guest. Other adult helpers will likely be Francis Howitt and Joe Facchini. This year's trip will occur earlier than usual in order to make room for Aaron Kurland's December 15 Eagle ceremony (see below).
- 15. Upcoming December Overnight on the Battleship New Jersey (Dec 1-2)**
This overnight is a pretty cool trip that we add to the schedule every few years, with the last one taking place in 2013. Scouts will tour the ship led by a docent. They will sleep in the bunks that sailors used and eat in the chow lines that sailors used. At night one lucky camper will get to fire a cannon on the main deck -- one year it was one of our Scouts. One of the attendees will be Tom Muldowney, who is very tall, and Norman warned him that he will be a tight fit in the ship's bunk beds. Norman said that he plans to have drivers meet up at the St. Francis lot on Saturday at 3:00 PM, drive to Camden, park in a public garage close to the ship, and take a shuttle bus to the dock.
- 16. Upcoming Eagle Ceremony for Aaron Kurland (Dec 15)**
Aaron passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review last May, but asked to delay his ceremony until the winter break from his college in Pennsylvania. Lenny said that Bob will start rehearsing Scouts for their part in the ceremony, using portions of the next two Tuesday meetings. Everyone will walk over to the nearby St. Francis Community Center, where Aaron's ceremony will take place. Ken Howitt asked Norman to get started on the formal program, which he will format, and which Ken Nilsen will print.
- 17. A New Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM)**
Norman said that he will shortly arrange for David Plotka to change from "Committee Member" to "Assistant Scoutmaster." Lenny recalled his prior remark that "David has been doing all the work of an ASM without having the rank." Lenny reviewed the joining requirements for adult leaders, which include mandatory certification with Boy Scout "Youth Protection Training" and Catholic "Protecting God's Children," explaining that the latter was mandated by the Archdiocese of Newark. Lenny told how he had worked with Eileen Carvalho to ensure that all the troop and pack adults are indeed certified. He said that Eileen will monitor expiration dates and will schedule a session when a majority of our leaders will have to renew, at which time Lenny will ask everyone to attend, explaining that this will greatly simplify Eileen's paperwork. Lenny said that he will shortly meet with two new Pack 146 Den Leaders and will explain the policy to them.

18. Displaced Scout and Cub Meetings in the Multi Service Center

When meetings restarted in September, we were warned that we may have to give up our room in the Multi Service Center to higher priority City meetings and presentations. Since then, the Troop was displaced three times: Sep 26 was canceled, but Oct 30 and Nov 6 were salvaged when St. Matthew Trinity Church let us meet in their Social Hall. Norman thanked Ken Nilsen for making the arrangements, and Ken said that using St. Matthew in the future should work, "As long as it's not the third Tuesday of the month." The Committee agreed to make a thank-you donation to St. Matthew some time in December. Displaced Cub meetings of Oct 29, Nov 12, and Nov 26 were each salvaged by Den Leaders working out alternate meeting spaces, such as homes, the Gravity Vault, and an archery range.

19. Cub Outings Good and Bad

In September several Cub dads from the two Hoboken packs formed a new subcommittee in order to schedule, organize, and run Cub outings. Two successes were a September 16 day hike and a November 11 outing to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Upcoming will be a Cub December 1-2 overnight on the Battleship New Jersey. On the other hand, a proposal to visit the Lakota Wolf Preserve in October failed because the group waited too long to make a reservation, and a tent camping trip in early November was canceled when heavy rain was predicted. Francis liked visiting the Statue of Liberty and said he will propose it to the troop's Venture Patrol, adding that he will try to arrange for them to climb to the statue's crown.

20. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$3348.26
Current Scout balance: \$2559.35
Money came in from troop dues.
Money came in from donations.
Money came in from popcorn sales.
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.
Money went out to reimburse Bob, Ken Howitt, and Francis.
Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th 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: \$2233.39
Money came in from a donation.
Money came in from popcorn sales.
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.
Money went out to reimburse Norman for 3rd qtr expenses.
Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 4th qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster