

**Troop 53 Parent Committee Meeting  
McFarland Lutheran Church  
January 8, 2006**

Present: Tom Hovel, Greg Francis, Cheryl Francis, Jackie Hickey, Christine Weidner, Janis Lugo, Michael Fay, Joan Hare, Mark Birrenkott

**1. Call to order and opening comments.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Tom Hovel. Tom thanked Greg for continuing on to help in any way that he could, and also to Christine continuing as High Adventure Coordinator. Tom indicated that he would try to get the meeting agenda out by the Friday or Saturday before the meeting.

**2. Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl distributed Treasurer's Report as of 1/8/07.

Bernie's Account:	\$10,451.52
Troop Checking Account:	\$ 5, 759.98
Scout Accounts:	\$ 3, 439.11

Tom made motion for approval Treasurer's Report. Christine approved and seconded by Jackie.

**3. Previous December 11, 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tom made motion for approval of previous meeting minutes. Greg approved and seconded by Janis.

**4. Reports**

Senior Patrol Leader: Evan Chalmers reported that the Mirror Lake campout is January 26-28, 2007. He has not, as yet, e-mailed all of the announcements to parents. Tightening up on scout behavior at meetings, and will be following what is in the Troop 53 Parents Handbook (page 18). Scott is working on the planning of winter Court of Honor which will be February 5, 2007. If all paperwork is in, time will be set aside for recognition of Brock's Wood Badge at this Court of Honor.

Scoutmaster: Brock Chalmers reported that the Newsletter for Troop 53's activities for 2006 is now on the Troop website. Focus for January is winter camping.

Scott Jacobus is heading the Woodworking Merit Badge, which will start next week. He arranged to get the high school woodshop for a special session later in February.

Parent volunteers are needed for the February 23-25 EBSR Cabin Campout with skiing at Cascade Mt. Brock would like parents to oversee the Cascade Mt. skiing portion, while he handles the camp portion.

Scouting for Food Drive starts April 14 with bag drop off. Parent volunteers are needed for this. Brock appreciates parents who have done this in the past. Duties include getting routes and collection points, set up headquarters at McFarland Lutheran Church, and talking to Food Pantry. Scouts will stuff the bags. Greg and Jackie indicated they would be willing to do if can't find any other parents.

Order of Arrow (OA) election will be at January 15 meeting. There are 14 Scout candidates on list who qualify. Eligibility includes at least 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout Rank, 15 nights of camping, show scout spirit. Scouts can vote for any or all of the 14 candidates on list who are eligible. Scouts are coached to vote for worthy scout. And, every year we are allowed to nominate one adult to OA. No takers in the last three years. Let Brock know if you are interested. Adults get to undergo ordeal just like scouts. Brock is only active adult member. Scott Jacobus is also member but not active.

Visited with Pastor Jeff Tomberlin, who is head of charter organization here at McFarland Lutheran Church. Will be expecting visit sometime in next month on charter renewal. Mentioned new Venture Crew, and Brock suspects the church will accept this new program.

Wood Badge recognition at Court of Honor on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Five goals that Brock achieved:

- 1) Empowering boys in leadership. Scouts are brainstorming ideas for the campouts, while keeping them within the guides of safe scouting.
- 2) Beef up Junior Leadership Training. Held biennial leadership training campouts and lock-ins.
- 3) Build a better relationship with sponsoring organization--McFarland Lutheran Church. Though the weather did not cooperate last fall to get the painting of the shed done.
- 4) Diversity goal. 17 boys earned the Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge which included the field trip to FocusCorp.
- 5) Venture Program for the older scouts.

High Adventure Coordinator: Christine reported that payments are slowly being made for the Northern Tier High Adventure. Payments should now be sent to Joan Hare, new Treasurer. Will be meeting with group once per month or more frequently. Younger boys requested nice, easy route. Older boys will need to pick another exciting, but not as long of a route. Physical exam forms will be due about one month before we go. We are on waiting list for Philmont 2008.

Roundtable: Christine reported that the Madison Scout Service Office has now moved to the temporary location at 717 Post Road. Ground has been broken at new site on the northeast side of Madison.

The Scout Leaders Powwow is this weekend. The Klondike Derby is on February 3 this year. Another Dog Care Merit Badge Clinic will be held at the Dane County Humane Society in February. One was held in October last year.

The Reveille newspaper will not be mailed out in the future; planning on downloading this on website. Estimate savings of about \$25,000 per year.

The Centennial Unit Quality Award application/paperwork needs to be completed and turned in by February 15. Jim Newlun is our contact. The Centennial Quality Unit Award is now separate from the re-charter and is on a calendar year.

Margaret Williams has new position for Yahara District as district executive. Another group has merged with Yahara, so now Yahara is the biggest district.

Discussion on Venture Crew: Once a scout became Eagle, they soared off, so this is a way to keep boys in scouting. Six scouts have signed up; chaired by Mark and Tom. Scouts are minimum 14 years of age and up to age 21, and are out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Crews are coed.

Advancement Chair: Tom reported that Michael Jagers advanced to Tenderfoot, and Brant Birrenkott advanced to Life.

Outdoor Activity Coordinator: Tom reported that Jeanne Sterken couldn't make the meeting.

Equipment Coordinator/Quartermaster: Mark reported that we will take ownership of the canoe donated by the Straub family. Mark brought the plaque to the meeting and this will be mounted on canoe this spring. Try to get quartermasters together and organize tents before next campout.

Fundraising Chair: We might have a parent interested in helping with pancake breakfast. Jackie is interested in the popcorn sales and will contact Steve Quinn.

Toni Hovel volunteered to be liaison with new scouts. One issue that was brought up is paying for food on campouts. This continues to be a problem and who buys. Christine brought this issue up at Roundtable and some other troops use their troop funds. Steve Weinberger had suggested coming up with some standard menus. Maybe this will help.

## **5. Old Business**

Make sure we have two-deep leadership at all scout activities.

Centennial Quality Unit: Discussion on whether we should continue to do this. Troop is in transition, kids moving to venture crew, more special needs kids in group, some scouts are dropping out. Is the Troop focusing more on getting the ribbons for quality? We should not lose site of goal that kids have fun. We have not been successful in getting assistant scoutmasters. After much discussion, it was agreed that it is not a big deal if we do this or not.

Charter renewal: Tom will have questions for Greg.

Cheryl to inform Tom of who all has paid scout dues. Boy's life is part of dues.

Jackie to call Tom or Brock with information on the February ski outing.

Michael interested in creating a list for e-mails.

## **6. New Business**

Tom indicated we will have additional discussion on scout behavior.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janis Lugo, Secretary