

Troop 53 Parent Committee Meeting
McFarland Lutheran Churn
December 10, 2007

Present: Tom Hovel, Janis Lugo, Greg Sparks, Tara Potter, Michael Fay, Heather Oliva, Joan Hare

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Approval of previous November 12, 2007 Minutes: Approved by Mike; seconded by Tom.

Reports

Senior Patrol Leader: Glenn Sparks reported meetings are going really well; scouts paying more attention.

Scoutmaster Report: The following is from Brock Chalmers:

We have had a busy and exciting month of successful Scouting activities. I am grateful to the Committee and the supportive parents who have been encouraging in the uninterrupted continuation of our program during the recent difficulties. Although the judicial system will continue to generate news in the coming months, it appears to me that the Troop can stay on its schedule, and continue to deliver the promise of Scouting to the boys.

I believe that the meeting with Council Executive Steve Heck and the Dane County Sherriff Deputies was helpful and instructive. A lot of good information was distributed, and I still have some handouts available for parents who want a copy. The boys were very receptive to the new "Time To Tell" DVD on child protection. The situation we live in requires that we discuss child protection with our sons. This information is in the front cover of every Scout Handbook. Recent events have demonstrated that we are not immune to predatory behavior in our little community. The words "Be Prepared" take on a different significance in this regard.

Since we last met, the troop has held its bi-annual elections for junior leaders. I acknowledge Brant B. and Joseph H. for their excellent example and leadership ability as Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader during the last six months. These are not easy positions of responsibility. The boys carried out their duties very well.

Our newly elected Senior Patrol Leader is Glenn S. and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader is Scott C. All three patrols have renamed themselves and are developing new patrol flags.

Troop Junior Leadership Training was held at the church November 16 and 17 as a lock-in. We dug out the old curriculum reckoning that it would be new to most of the Scouts since we had not used it in over two years. Attendance for the JLT was low, with a maximum of seven boys Friday night, and a minimum of three at one point during the morning due to other engagements and scheduling conflicts. The new Patrol Leaders Council held its first meeting at the end of the training and scheduled activities for the month of December. It would be good to have a better attended JLT with two full patrols of Scouts. The curricula that I use calls for two patrols that frequently compete with each other during the course of the training. More Scouts provides for more discussion, more gamesmanship, and a better learning environment. I think we put together a neat program for JLT twice a year. I would like more boys to take advantage of it.

The pancake breakfast went extremely well from my vantage point on the sidelines. The boys were attentive and considerate. I never saw a situation that I felt I needed to intervene in. The adult organizers did a fantastic job, and the snow was a very nice extra atmospheric touch. Well done. The training with the boys the week before paid off handsomely during the breakfast. I believe the majority of registered Scouts participated. That was very nice to see.

We had 8 Webelos II's from Pack 53 visit our Troop Meeting last Monday. It seemed to me that they were happy with what they heard and did. They were engaged in the Safe Swim Defense offered by Joe H. and participated successfully in the life line toss game at the end of the meeting. I expect to see many of the Webelos II's at our upcoming campout.

Our next campout is this weekend at the Montello Scout Cabin. Many of the Webelos will stay with us, at least through Saturday afternoon. We will need drivers and adult help, as usual. Our Saturday activity is 5-mile hike around Roche A Cri State Park. It is a 30 minute drive to the Park from Montello. The Park requires a State Park Sticker. It appears that we will do the hike this year in significant snow. We will ensure proper footwear and clothing for this outing. The long range forecast is for clear and cold. This is a fun outing with plenty of opportunity for advancement, exploration, campfire cooking, and fellowship around the big fireplace.

The troop will not meet during the McFarland Schools' Winter Break. Next Monday will be our last meeting of 2007, and feature our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange. The boys are asking for holiday treats and for each scout to bring a wrapped gift in the \$15 to \$20 value range. Scout-related gifts are good.

We will meet again on January 7, and start a monthly theme of "Winter Camping" skills that will point us to our Freeze-out campout at Governor Dodge State Park on January 25 – 27, and the Klondike Derby on February 2. I have placed a deposit on the troop's reservation for the Klondike Derby, which is a Council-wide affair this time. It will be held at Camp Indian Trails. Training for the Derby will take place at the Freeze-out.

There are two adult leader training events that I highly recommend to parent leaders and interested parents. The first is the Glacier's Edge Council PowWow, which will be held Saturday, January 19 at Deerfield High School. It's a day of fun and learning with other Scouters from all over the council. The bigger event is Saturday, January 26, the 5-Star University of Scouting, involving participants from 5 Councils, held at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. Kim Lambert will be attending this event. It would be great if she had some company from Troop 53. If you attend 5-Star, we will not be able to freeze with me at Governor Dodge State Park. Tradeoffs.

There are three events coming up that I will need parent assistance with. We will be cabin camping at the Ed Bryant Scout Reservation February 8 – 10. The big activity is a day of skiing at Cascade Mountain. I can ramrod the camping and EBSR activities, but I need another adult to take charge of the ski activity: reservations, money, release forms, rentals, and other stuff that I can't think of.

The second event is the March outing to the Chicago Field Museum. The boys would like to redo the 2004 trip in which we rode the train from Harvard, IL to Union Station, and hiked into the Museum. I need an adult volunteer to firm up a date in March for the troop to go on this trip. March 7 or 14 appear to be the two best options. Also to ramrod the train tickets. Larry Grenzow did an outstanding job with this trip 3 years ago, and he would be good to contact with questions.

Lastly, Scouting for Food will be upon us soon, (April 12 and 19). Now would be a good time to begin organizing routes, and strategies for the 2008 campaign. Mary Brister organized this activity last year. We should try to broaden our reach into the new areas of Madison, and the

Tower Road neighborhoods. We should also seek to get more Cub Scout involvement in this project.

Please feel free to talk to me about any questions or concerns.

Brock Chalmers
Scoutmaster

District Roundtable Representative: Tara Potter reported. We ranked 8th for popcorn sales this year.

Upcoming events: Trainer Development Conference at Camp Indian Trails 3/1/08; All Scouter Pow Wow at Deerfield High School 1/19/08; Five Star University of Scouting at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield 1/26/08; Klondike Derby 2/2/08; Arbor Day at Woodman Center 4/26/08. Venturing Crew 314 invites interested young men and women who have completed the 8th grade and who are between 14-21 years old to learn to handle tools and use basic carpentry skills. Contact 608-241-0960 if interested.

Fundraising Chair: Michael Fay reported the preliminary income from the Pancake Breakfast at \$1289. Income then at \$968 after reimbursements, but before payment to Scouts. We need to take a look at the list of businesses; who contributed and who didn't over the years, and maybe this will cut down on the amount of letters being sent for next year.

Treasurer's Report: Joan still waiting to hear from Jackie Hickey on the Popcorn Sales; also, from Christine Weidner on close out of High Adventure. Tom will contact Christine regarding High Adventure.

Old Business

As Brock indicated in his message, looking for adult volunteers for the day of skiing at Cascade Mountain during the February 8-10 camp out at EBSR. Also, need adult volunteers for the March outing to the Field Museum in Chicago. And, we should incorporate the Cub Scouts for Scouting for Food. This involvement would lead to more help, and cover a greater area.

We still are in need of two Committee Leadership Positions: Quartermaster and Advancement Chair. Tom will send out e-mail message to all regarding the descriptions of these two positions.

Joan reported (for Pat Hare) that the Pack has decided to review all safety rules that are currently on the books due to the recent situation with Mr. Francis. Pat would like Troop to do the same, and wanted a safety subcommittee formed. Parent Committee discussed--rules governing Pack and Troop are different. The Troop follows the guidelines from the Council. We have a number of safety rules in place already. Tom is open to forming a subcommittee which may also need Council and Scoutmaster involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Caruso Lugo