



TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 27, 2009

Present: Phil Reece, Belinda Cowdrey, Terry Nichols, Eric Schmidt, Sandy Schwartz, Tim Mason, Lori Mason, Craig Louthain, Matthew Louthain, Greg Poulisse, Paul Dandrea, Edmund Lopez, Adriana Lopez, Paul Stankiewicz, and Alex Reece.

Meeting started at 8:25 PM

Treasurer's Report: See Report from Greg, done for tonight. Greg was given a "thank-you" for his hard work.

Next Committee Meeting: We won't be at the building on February 24, 2009. So the next meeting will be March 3rd, instead.

Past Events

Lake Ripley (Jan 9-11): There was lower attendance. It was a nice outing: 10 scouts and 3 adults attended.

Future Events

Continuous Fire (Feb. 7-14): *Are we staffing it again? Yes. Check with our newest Adults to check on their class schedules. Don Reis will continue to schedule us on Wednesday's, unless we request a change. It will now be at Harlem United Methodist Church, the same as last year. It will no longer be at the river. (11/25) We have a shift on Wednesday the 11th, 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The church is on Alpine Road. (12/23) Harlem United Methodist Church at 8411 North Alpine. (1/27) Just a reminder -- need workers.*

Scout Sunday CVUMC (Feb. 8): *Pastor Nancy hasn't answered Terry's email yet as to when it will be. Bobby will be doing Scout Sunday on Feb. 8th at the Catholic Church to receive his religious award, and needs 2 color guards for American and Troop flags. (10/21) No date yet from CVUMC. (11/25) No date yet from Pastor Nancy. (12/23) [Post-meeting note: It will be February 8, at 10:00 am] (1/27) It is not the same weekend as Russell Woods this year. The church has another presentation that day – Jaycee's Breakfast for Camp New Hope. We are invited also. We want everyone here in uniform as a "thank-you" for making the Troop feel so welcomed. Please arrive 15-minutes, or more, early.*

FOS (Feb. 10): *(12/23) Behrensmeyers have been told when we are having our Family Night. (1/27) We have not heard back for a confirmation.*

Re-charter (by Feb. 28th): (12/23) Terry has the packet. (1/27) 4 – 429, 6 – 400, 2 – 600 are planning on crossing over. Phil asked if we have people going to the Blue and Gold Banquets. Pack 429 is February 21st, 400 is February 22nd. [Post meeting note: Pack 600 is 2/22 and Pack 121 is 2/22 also.]

Scouting for Food (Feb. 28 and Mar. 7): *Who is going to run it this year? It's suggested Ryan and Derek do it. (10/21) Motioned and carried, even though they opposed. (11/25) They did not disagree tonight either. (12/23) They did not disagree tonight either. Maybe Tim can do it for his Woodbadge ticket. (1/27) Do we have anyone officially running it? Phil was signed-up to help.*

Kiwanis Annual Pancake Day (Mar. 14): (12/23) MaryAnn Bushaw has handled it recently. (1/27) MaryAnn did not stay to discuss it.

District Awards Nominations (due Mar. 13): (12/23) Unit Spirit Award, Outstanding SM/ASM (one per district, Outstanding Committee member (CC, MC, CO; one per district), District Awards of Merit (5 for our district). (1/27) Need to vote on it tonight. One cannot receive the award more than once. Terry read the qualifications. Terry suggests that we do it next month so that we have a list of who has received the awards so we know who we can vote for. Terry will send out an email.

Wanchanagi Recognition Dinner (Apr. 5): (12/23) Deadline to sign-up is Mar. 21 (not the 25th). (1/27) It was mentioned again.

Swimming (2009): (08/26) Belinda has contacted Jefferson and spoke to the Athletic Director. We should be able to use the pool this year all during our normal meeting times. (Belvidere HS is going to use Harlem's pool instead.) The request has been submitted to the School Board. We should be getting the approval letter and contract within the next week. (Post meeting note: Belinda received a phone call from the Assistant Principal on Wednesday telling us that the Administrator denied our request due to conflicts with the locker rooms. Rockford College is still available for Sundays.) (09/30) We got a contract from Jefferson. The first night is the first Tuesday in January and the other ones are Mondays. We have had problems getting pools and are looking for suggestions of other places. The Millennium Center was suggested, but we could not get it last year. We need to recruit a lifeguard soon, Terry will call Marcus Tryggestad. Mary Nedland worked really hard to help us out this year -- THANKS MARY!!! (10/21) Contract mailed-in. Belinda will call to make sure they received it. We need to submit a Local Tour Permit; Belinda will take care of this also. Terry sent an email to Marcus about being a lifeguard for this next year. We will be inviting the Webelos to join us. (11/25) Paul Dandrea is a certified lifeguard. He needs to update his CPR. Marcus has not responded yet. Wayne Martin from Troop 418 is certified, and attended last year; home: 815/623-6424, cell: 815/494-7190. We need to push aquatic advancements during the next couple months! (12/23) Belinda has filled-out and handed-in the tour permit for swimming. (1/27) We had a good turn-out. All got wet. No guests. Pack 400, 429 and 600 Webelos dens were invited for next month.

Summer Camp at Lowden (July 5–11): Summer camp at Camp Lowden has been reserved. The Council needs \$100 deposit to hold the date. (10/21) Sandy needs another \$100; it is a \$200 deposit. (1/27) Sandy needs to pay by April 5th, youth \$225, adults \$150. We would like to know how much points will be worth this year. In the past we had to pay \$25, and sometimes \$50. Terry proposes \$50 per Scout. Then full points are worth \$175.00. Craig seconds it. Voted on and approved. Approximately \$6,000 will be spent on summer camp, based on 30 scouts and 2 or 3 adults.

High adventure camp (2009): (5/20) Paul brought the information on High Adventure Camps in Maine. The Boy Scout High Adventure one has 3 levels of Kayaking. You get to pick your own trek anywhere from calm waters to whitewater trails. The cost is about \$900 without travel fee. This covers everything they need. The

duration of the trip is 6-days minimum, up to 8-days. If both boys and girls will be going we would need one adult of each sex to attend. The crew size should be 6 to 8. Maine High Adventure is the name. Deposit would be due by March 1st for reservation. Balance would be due upon arrival. The other ones he has are not Boy Scout run, but are private outfitters and the costs are similar. Ed suggests put options to boys and let them choose. Paul gave Belinda the brochure on it. (6/10) Tabling until it can be presented to the boys and they chose one. (07/22) Still tabled. (08/26) We talked a little about Sea Base, also about canoeing. Sandy suggested putting a person in charge of taking ideas. Sandy said she will do it. Ed will announce it at next meeting. Hopefully, there will be some planning at the September meeting. (09/30) Ed announced that we need to come up with ideas. Send them to Ed via email. They need to be to him before the November Court of Honor so we can present it that night to the boys. (10/21) Sandy suggested Washington DC; maybe tie it into a Jamboree 2010 visit. (1/27) Ed is not here to talk about it.

The Tall Ship, Windy (Aug. 22): The cost is \$750 -- 50 people would make it \$15 per person. There will be a campout with it. Terry says we should consider inviting other troops or packs to fill-out our minimum costs, like we did last time. A \$250 deposit is needed. (10/21) Sandy paid the deposit and suggested we invite Webelos to come for the day also. (11/25) Concentrate on Webelos I and II of associated packs; take fliers to their Blue and Gold Banquets. We may offer it to other troops also. (1/27) Nothing new.

National Scout Jamboree (2010) – It's something for us to consider! (08/26) The internet Courier gives the following information that is being passed around. Greg mentioned that he picked-up some brochures at summer camp and they were back with our paperwork in the back room. We discussed it and there was a suggestion that we could possibly just go as visitors. Nothing was decided, just discussed. Terry said he thought this was the last time that it would be in Virginia. (09/30) Nothing new. (10/21) The council is still looking for people to attend. They want to fill two troops (72-scouts and 8-adults at \$2000 each), and aren't half way there yet. If they don't get enough in a couple of weeks they will be dropping one of the troops. We believe any scout troop can visit on one day. (11/25) Sign-up ends in January. (1/27) We believe they were only able to fill one troop along with a couple alternates.

Training:

Gene Barney is the District Training Chairman.

Youth Protection: Do it online then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Training is good for two years. Make sure **you** do it through the **District website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=YouthProtect>

(10/21) Phil is planning this for next month during the Tree Lot schedule. There was a blank spot on the Troop calendar, so Terry put the videos on the schedule that night, November 18. It will be the last meeting before the tree lot. Phil would like to do the Adult video on a different date. (11/25) Both levels of the youth video were presented to the youth. A Time to Tell was broken. The church had two TV's, our DVD player and one other. Phil will put the Facilitator's Guides on the website. There is at least one DVD with all three training guides. Eric has it. (12/23) Nineteen adults attended the youth protection presentations. Phil will get the cards. (1/27) There were fifteen adults, not nineteen.

Fast Start: Do it online, and then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make sure **you** do it through the **District website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=FastStart>

New Leader Essentials: Will be offered at the Roundtables for Jan. 8 and Feb. 12. (1/27) Starts at 6:30 at Christ United Methodist Church. Pete asked what it was. It can only be done in a group session, not online. Edmund is interested in that also.

Leader Specific: <http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=ldrSpec> (1/27) A new course starts April 22nd. Phil said all of us have it. Edmund inquired, he is interested in doing this training.

Hazardous Weather Training:

<http://www.scouting.org/my scouting/elearning.aspx>

Do it online, then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make **sure you** do it through the **National website**. It is available through the Council website. (1/27) MaryAnn asked for those who did it before she left. One trained adult is required for each campout.

Wood Badge Training C-23-07 (Aug. 24-26 & Sept. 21-23, 2007): (07/22) State adopt-a-highway (08/26) has moved to County Adopt-A-Road. We're looking at dates in Sept. (maybe part of Troop JLT), and again in Nov. (maybe part of Tree Lot Set-up). Phil is hoping to finish his ticket, sometime in November. (09/30) JLT did first cleanup. Phil is hoping to complete them by the end of November or early December. (11/25) The 4th one is completed. Still needs to do the 5th one. (12/23) DONE. (1/27) 2 B Awarded 2/10/09.

Wood Badge For the 21st Century C-25-08 (Aug. 22-24 and Sep. 19-21, 2008): (5/20) Tim is all set to go. Belinda signed-up and paid today. (6/10) Nothing new to report. (07/22) Ideas for tickets are; make up schedules for Roundtable, see MaryAnn. Sandy said you can volunteer at Day Camp also. (08/26) Belinda and Tim attended their first session this last weekend. Sandy is on staff as a Troop Guide. (09/30) Belinda had to tell what her ticket items were; we will get Tim's next month. (10/21) Tim is working his ticket. He is doing Woodcutters Ball, Baloo training, New Scout orientation, Community Pinewood Derby, and one other item. Belinda has 1 done. (1/27) Tim had a problem with one item, but he will be back on track. He has one done. Belinda has 2 done, 1 more this weekend, and 2 waiting for events to occur.

Wood Badge For the 21st Century C-54-09 (Aug. 21-23 and Sept. 18-20, 2009):

2009 announcements are out. Tom Siefken will be the course director. (11/25) Dates are now set. (1/27) Phil encourages people to attend for this year. Our troop pays for it. You pay \$50 deposit up front and get reimbursed when you complete it. Phil will be on staff for this course.

Miscellaneous Business

A garage at the fire station: (08/26) Building permit! Contractor! And groundbreaking this week!! (09/30) We saw the framing up for the garage at the Fire Station. They are working on it. When theirs is complete, we will get 2/3 of their old building. (1/27) Nothing new.

Trees: (08/26) Terry got a call from Dan McClusky, who has a tree farm up in Northern Wisconsin. He is trying to sell us trees. Prices are very high. He is charging \$16 for 6-8' Scotch pines; we paid \$10.00 for the same from our supplier. Terry told him "no." Terry would like to compare our wreath prices to his wreath prices. Adriana will show him the packet she received. Terry heard that Cherry Vale Mall wants a tree retailer at the Mall this year. Terry called the assistant manager about us possibly doing it and is awaiting a call back. Competition could be a problem this year. Cherry Valley will be selling trees in town this year at the local nursery. Terry also got a call from Harold Kingma Tree Farm and he is going out of business for wholesale. Kingman gave Terry the name and number of another vendor; however, when he called the number it was an invalid number. Terry called Harold back and is waiting for another person to contact. We are officially looking for a tree grower. (09/30) We bought (260) trees at \$10.00 per tree with 50 cents to deliver from Kingman. \$16.00 per tree and 2.00 for delivery from McClusky is a comparison. \$11.50 per tree (6/7' Scotch pine) and unknown delivery cost is a quote from Hensler; they're #1 trees. About a \$6 spread on the Fraser

Firs. The last 2 years our profit was \$7,500, suspect it will be only \$4,000 this year. Terry is going to cut back tree order to 400. We will reject the Cherry Vale Mall offer, but they will be selling trees. Our competition is up, but the economy is down. Troop 57 locked in with McClusky but lost their spot for selling. Other troops are having problems also. Mall wanted a tree retailer outside of Bergner's. Terry thinks our business would go down; need to match times of mall (more labor for us), and they'll charge us to be there. Dr. Swanson remains delighted that we will use his corner. It's suggested we lock in to the \$11.50 cost and raise our prices. Terry said we need to be careful on raising it too much since our competition sells them for lower prices. Don't know if the construction will be done before we get there or not. Has anyone checked in to a trailer yet? Ed will call. Start with Lon Tryggestad. We need to get someone to organize the tree lot, with Ed as their advisor. We need to get new adults involved. (10/21) Trees are ordered. We're getting them from Hensler Nursery in Hamlet, IN. John's price for the smallest tree is \$11.50 (not the \$10.00 cost charged last year). We're buying 150 of them. His prices are better than the other 5 quotes we got; better than any tree price we could get in IL or WI. They are "firsts." He does not go with the conventional 3-level grading system. We have to send a 25% deposit when we send back the contract. Dean Pick was suggested for delivering our trees. He needs \$1.35 per tree to deliver, verses 50 cents last year. We are buying 400 trees instead of 410. We're getting 140 Fraser (20 more than last year) and 260 pines; that's 10 trees less and \$2300 more. We will need two checks; one for delivery and another for trees. Motioned and seconded that we get these trees. We need to get our license from the Department of Agriculture; Terry told Greg to get it when it comes available. We sold pines for \$4.50 a foot in previous years, but we'll have to raise it for this year. Terry will take care of re-doing our price board. Terry will run the new prices by some key people before setting them. We're hoping to cover 50% of the margin. Trees will be here November 22nd at 9:00 AM. We are still going to offer a discount to Scout families. (11/25) Trees delivered. We got 257 SP out of 260 and 147 Fraser fir's out of 140. We paid \$50 more for delivery than quoted (Dean Pick 574/780-2121 misquoted and forgot to include tolls). He originally wanted \$100 extra. Very good turn out from our scouts and three WEBELOS from Pack 429 attended. All trees looked very good; green and full. One tree was taller than our sign. (12/23) There are 2 Fraser firs and 16 Scotch pines, 18 trees left as of today. Trees are free as of today. We have collected \$25,530 that has been deposited through today. Looks like 5 trees went missing. Profit is \$7,356, this is \$50 less than last year with selling 38 less trees. 2007 cost was \$7576, while 2008 is \$10,007. Extra money is due to extra firs' profit margin. We purchased 10 swags and sold none. We need to have better training of tree and wreath sales; scouts and adults need to attend and pay attention. Menard's sold out; Pepper Creek sells for close to our prices. We sold only 11 tree stands. (1/27) We need to clean-up the lot. The 18 leftover trees were hauled to recycling by Eric & Kevin Schmidt.

Rotary Sign: (09/30) Rev. Richard Wang, former minister at CVUMC, said the Rotary sign needs to be repaired. He suggested a scout take it as a project. It's a sign with a case that takes announcements; it belongs to the Rotary Club. Resources could be provided. They would really like a scout or the troop to take on the project. Ed showed an interest and got his phone number. They would like to have it done before the winter sets in. (10/21) It's a small sign. Who's going to do it? (11/25) Nick Horan is looking for an Eagle project. Ed will look at it and see if it is big enough for an Eagle project. Ed will contact Rev. Wang. (12/23) Terry will look at it. We need to get back to Reverend Wang and do this as soon as the weather gets warmer. (1/27) Terry looked at pictures from Ed, and drove past it. It is not big enough for an Eagle project, but the Troop should do it anyway.

Need to look at limiting or preventing scouts from drinking energy drinks during or traveling to outings. We have banned drinks before.

Our insurance number is PTP N00327414.

New Business

Merit Badge Sampler (Feb 7 & 21): February 7th and 21st.

Popcorn: We need to recruit a new Popcorn Kernel. Jessica wants out.

Adult Trainer Conference (Mar 7): Sandy said it is train-the-trainer. Set for March 7th, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and usually at a local church.

Wilderness First Aid Training (Mar 28 & Apr 4): It's required for Philmont and suggested for all High Adventure. It is March 28th and April 4th at Camp Lowden. The cost is \$90.

No overnighter in March (Mar): We could not get Eagle Cave until April 4th weekend. The cost is \$35.75 each. Includes Saturday Lunch, Supper, and Sunday Breakfast. Someone suggested ½ the cost for adults. Sandy had to pay \$5 per person; she reserved 20 spots. Terry will come up with a flyer. Our new scouts (Webelos) will not be able to go because we have to have the deposit in 2 months in advance. Scouts will pay \$18, adults will pay \$12 with the troop picking up the rest. It was voted on and approved. We will re-address inviting new scouts (Webelos) if we have room available, but charge them \$30 since they have not contributed to the troop yet. It was suggested that they would have to bring an adult since it is their first campout. The cost would be the same for their adult. The vote resulted in one objection, and the others approved.

100 Year Celebration: Sandy heard new information at Pow Wow. We need to add these to our calendar. One is a biking trip, 100 miles. There is an Arbor Day event, a geocaching event, and more. Hall of Leadership award is also available, nominations February 8th through August 31st of 2009.

Alex Reece's Senior project for graduation: It must include 50 hours. He would like to use his Scout account money to pay for this project. He does not have a specific plan yet and was told he needed to have a plan on paper before it would even be considered.

Ice Hogs (Feb. 13): Adriana asked about this event. It was suggested that we present it to the boys. However, it is the same weekend as Russell Woods.

Pluto Patrol: Tim asks exactly how many are in the Pluto patrol now and why it has become so big. All new boys seem to go to this patrol. Terry said we want to wait until our new Scouts come in and patrols will be reorganized. Terry will email a new Roster to Tim, Sandy, and Eric.

We thanked Pete and Edmund for coming to their first committee meeting.

Adjourned 9:35 p.m.