

**Greater Pittsburgh Council Boy Scouts of America  
JAPEECHEN DISTRICT  
MINUTES**

Comfort Inn  
Banquet Room (Second Floor)  
Joey D's  
Harmar, PA

March 10, 2011  
Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Presiding: C. Arthur West III, District Chairman

Attended:

William A. Ammer, District Commissioner  
Ronna Cullen Doyle  
Rick Fellers  
Denny Haramic

Steve Kubicko  
Stephen Kuniak  
Frank Perman  
Jack Sanford

Staff Attended:

Darla DiGiovanni, Development Executive

ACTIONS TAKEN

Art West called the meeting to order at 7:10PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

District Chair Report-Art West:

Calendar Issue: Discussions were held on moving the day for the Japeechen District monthly business meeting, due to a conflict with Tecusma District monthly business meeting.

Decision was made not to move the Japeechen District business meeting, because there was no other evening that would allow all District Committees to attend.

Eagle Court of Honor:

Art West attended an Eagle Court of Honor for Casey Brienza Troop 195. The Court of Honor pulls together the scouting accomplishments for young men that have achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Book presented to Mr. Brienza included photos, letters from senators, congressman, church officials and other public dignitaries. All volunteers, including Greater Pittsburgh Council Executive Board Members, should attend an Eagle Court of Honor. This ceremony celebrates the scouting experience, and is a wonderful reminder of how the scout experience positively impacts a young person's life.

Commissioner's Report-Bill Ammer:

Unit Health: Bill informed the District Board Members that Pack 965 was not rechartered yet do to their Charter being dropped by the Intermediate Unit at the school. Some remarks expressed through Bill from Amy Stewart were that West Deer, although interested, is out on the fringe for her and for her Scouts.

NOTE: After the breakout sessions, Bill Ammer reported that the Membership group under Frank Perman's leadership, was able to call the priest at Transfiguration Church and he had accepted to take on the charter for Pack 965.

Commissioners Staff:

Bill Ammer reported that one new Unit Commissioner was added to his staff. The new Unit Commissioner will be helping Pack 390.

Scoutmaster training to take place at Anavanna. Questions to be directed to Mark Eberhardt, 724-449-6354.

Woodbadge Scholarship:

There were three (3) candidates for the Woodbadge Scholarship from Units 173, 194, and 556. One person was selected and will be told he has been awarded the scholarship with a second candidate named as an alternate.

**BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS**

A. Development Vice Chair- Eric Okunewick:

Friends of Scouting community goal of \$32,000.00 is the primary task of Darla DiGiovanni, Greater Pittsburgh Council Development Executive. Darla asked the district to identify business contacts for her to introduce the good work being done by Scouts in the community. Darla reported that many business owners, who are potential Friends of Scouting candidates, have no information about scouting in our community. Help Darla, the Greater Pittsburgh Council Development Executive, with the task of engaging the business community located in the Japechen District. She can be reached at 412-325-7973 or cell 724-797-4104.

B. Unit Service Vice Chair-Open:

Scouting for Food-Sorena Ostlund, 412-963-1404, is the chair for Scouting for Food.

## Family Friends of Scouting:

Eric Okunewick reported on the Family Friends of Scouting Campaign that all but a few units have scheduled their presentations. Eric would be following up on the other units.

Art West also remarked that Japechen was on mark for making the Family Goal for this year, which is \$40,000.00. The units have been very generous. If your unit has not scheduled a FOS presentation, please call Art West or his assistant Meghan Colonello, 412-486-2800, to schedule your presentation. Unit Service Executive Chris Edmonds will also be contacting units to schedule FOS family presentations.

Eagle Alumni-Joe Salvucci is working on a long term program to engage Eagle Scouts that reside in our district. We hope to have a report from Joe next month.

### C. Programs-Steve Kuniak:

#### Merit Badge Counselors List:

The Advancement Committee said that their Merit Badge Counselor was sending in applications to Flag Plaza and Cliff McCalmont was not getting their names back.

Darla DiGiovanni informed them that the process is that no Merit Badge Counselor can receive status unless the District Advancement Chair Andy Rodgers signature is on the application. The application would be directed to two places. One, sent back to the applicant or given to a professional to be returned to that person, or two, give to the District Advancement Chair Andy Rodgers for their signature.

#### Eagle Boards-Dennis Haramic:

Four (4) Eagle Boards have been completed and there are twenty-three (23) more in line for Eagle reviews coming through the ranks.

#### Camp Chair:

#### Council Camping Report:

- a. Order of the Arrow NO report
- b. Health & Safety- NO report
- c. Camp Promotion: Camp promotions are doing well

#### Activities-Ronna Cullen-Doyle:

#### Cub Activities:

- a. Pinewood Derby
- b. Winter Webelos Klondike
- c. Cubmobile

- d. Day Camp: June 1, 2011 at Fireman's Park, Aspinwall, 6:00pm day camp meeting, 6:30pm picnic.
- e. Program kickoff: August 24, 2011 at Fireman's Park, Aspinwall, 7:00pm
- f. Picnic: September 7, 2011 at Fireman's Park, Aspinwall, 6:30pm.

**\*Mark your calendars\*** district recognition dinner will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 5:00pm at Joey D's in Harmar.

Other Items with Program:

Belt Loop Program may happen  
Cub Fun Feast

Boy Scouts Activities:

Fall Camporee may be a Civil War reenactment for all three (3) districts under the new organization structure.

Relation/Religious Committee – no report

D. Membership-Rick Fellers:

A list was given to the Membership Committee of about 200 names from Jim Douglas. The report was incomplete in as the 200 names of leaders (adults) did not have units they were registered in or the addresses of some of the names. Jim Douglas is aware of the list not being correct and is going to look into it and get a corrected list.

Also, there are only 15 Chartering Representatives listed. The Membership Committee explained that this affects how many Members at Large will be allowed when voting is needed.

They reported that three (3) of the Chartering Organizations also have two (2) or three (3) Charter Representatives listed, which they are not allowed to have.

The Membership Committee also explained that there is a misconception about Shaler Schools not allowing recruiting. This is not true. Shaler is allowing recruiting in their schools just not during teaching hours.

New Units-Frank Perman is working with all units to have a program in place to recruit new members. Units should grow at a rate not less than one member per year.

Report of Special Committees & Charter Organization Representatives:

The nominating committee met prior to the regular district meeting. Any volunteers interested in serving the district board should contact the Nominating Committee Chair Dennis Haramic.

Good of the District:

- See attached organization chart.
- Units to pay attention to requirements of Journey to Excellence.

*The next Japeechen District meeting is Thursday, April 14, 2011  
at 7:00pm at Joey D's in Harmar.*

Adjournment: 9:15 PM

Yours in Scouting,  
Art West,  
District Chairman