

Troop 957 Committee Meeting Minutes—8/11/02 Kickoff Meeting

Attendees: Rick Lisk Mike Berno Dave Wisniewski
 Chris Counts Barbara Counts Jerry Graham

The Scoutmaster (Chris Counts) and the Committee Chair (Rick Lisk) both provided agendas. After a brief discussion, we decided to use the Chairman's version.

The meeting started off with a brief explanation of the troop financial status by the treasurer (Barbara Counts). Copies of the Troop Ledger accounts summary showing the current financial status of the troop, as well as a detailed transaction list from the checking account (Acct. 100) and the only active liability account (Acct. 410) were included in the large pile of paper passed out to everyone at the meeting. Bottom line is starting a troop from scratch is expensive. The troop currently has \$783.86 in checking and approximately \$1600 remaining out of \$2200 of items already purchased by the Scoutmaster for which it still needs to reimburse him. Details of those items are given in the Acct. 410 printout. Transactions 1, 2, 10, 14, 18, 24, 28, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 have been paid. Everything else, plus about \$400 for the tents that isn't listed (no receipt) has not. Call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

The Scoutmaster then began a short discussion of the budget he had prepared based on the Pack 957 spreadsheet. This really needs to be studied in detail, but the bottom line here is that the troop has been borrowing the pack's supplies and those are going away in September. Therefore the troop needs to purchase ASAP about \$500 of cook gear. See the single page Excel file for details. Important figures to compare in the operating budget are the required capital equipment expenses of \$3445 vs. the amount the troop will be in the hole of \$3633. So essentially we can pay for the activities and events with our current monies, but need a lot of help to swing the required equipment to support both our current scouts as well as the 15 newcomers expected next March.

Given the bleak financial picture, attention turned to fundraising and other options to bring in cash. Amoco has a policy of providing donations for employees' volunteered time. Gifts to the church as the sponsoring organization could be possible for an income tax deduction. See the e-mail Chris has already sent out on that. Corporate sales of popcorn during the fall sale for client holiday gifts are another area, as are booth sales (say Wal-Mart the day after Thanksgiving when everyone is out shopping). Other troops in the area have periodic garage sales. The boys could be encouraged to donate part of their 15% cut of the popcorn sales to "sponsor" a needed camp item that would then be labeled with their name as donor. During scout fair ticket sales, one or more parents could obtain corporate advertisements for the souvenir book. When it comes time to make the purchases, bulk discounts should definitely be gone after if possible. Chris did bring up the BSA rule of "product for value received" which may make opportunities such as the studio audience option Rick talked about difficult. All committee members are highly encouraged to look into these possibilities plus any others they can think of.

The next business discussed was who would fill out the 5 remaining committee member positions as identified by Rick. These were Training Coordinator, which was assigned

directly to the Scoutmaster due to his experience gained as Pack Committee Chair, Equipment Coordinator, Outdoor Activities Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and Merit Badge Coordinator. Joel Anderson, who was unable to attend, was tentatively assigned as Outdoor Activities Coordinator. At this point Mark Mangieri joined us and the other three were discussed. We ended up with Mike Berno as Equipment Coordinator (Jerry Graham promised to help), Dave Wisniewski as Merit Badge Coordinator and Mark Mangieri as Fundraising Coordinator. Rick Lisk is of course Committee Chair, Jerry Graham is Assistant Scoutmaster, Chris Counts is Scoutmaster and Barbara Counts is Treasurer and now Secretary (following the Pack split where treasurer is supposed to perform both functions). Barbara is also officially Advancements Coordinator, but as there seems to be a lot of overlap with Dave's new position we may have to talk about what that really means.

Last topic of discussion was the calendar. Three related activities lists were passed out, including a rough draft of what will be the troop web calendar. See them for details until we get the interactive web calendar up and running. Important dates to remember are the future campout commitment nights (9/10, 10/15, 11/5), since committee meetings will be held at those since all parents will be going to the church anyway for the boards of review. This time slot will provide a natural length limiting function on meeting duration, but will mean that the Scoutmaster will not be able to attend the entire meeting. Also we really need to know who will be going to the fall and winter camps. Space fills up quickly and we need to get the reservations and deposits in.

Barbara Counts
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Coordinator
August 12, 2002