

Committee Minutes – November 1, 2005

Attendees: Dave Wisniewski, Countses, Jody Williford, Matt Johnson, Kathleen Duncan, Melinda McNicoll, John McLain, Mike Berno, Joe Laden, Diane Brady, Max Musso, Susan Beisert

The parents' meeting began with introductions, as tonight was the night picked by Pack 956 to come visit the troop. We then followed Dave's previously published agenda.

Kathleen and Jody gave the basic fundraising numbers. Popcorn sales totaled about \$8400. After the meeting, Susan gave me the detail split at \$5507 from the troop sale, \$1543 from the ski trip sale and the rest from individual sales. The profit factor is 35%. For individual sales, the boys and the troop each get half. Greenery sales for the ski trip totaled \$1260.

There will be 6 High Adventure scouts going on the Thanksgiving BTSR trip. Commitments for that trip and the ski trip were due tonight.

Mark and Danny will be representing the troop for Webelos Woods.

From my treasurer's report, the troop is now officially in the black. As of this weekend, before I got flooded with popcorn and ski trip money, the troop had \$3733.26 in the account, about \$3400 of which is allocated to one or the other of those categories. The boys still owe over \$300 in dues. Remember they are supposed to be bringing the money to the troop meetings and turning it in through their leadership chain to give them a small dose of financial responsibility. Parents handing me cash or checks directly short-circuits this learning opportunity.

Dave then went over the calendar for the next 3 months, talked Harvest Festival feedback (good) and ops for the upcoming Court of Honor in December (at the church, bring finger foods).

The last part of the meeting was the Scoutmaster Report. Chris stated that we need to figure out where we are going for summer camp. Sid Richardson, which had been the choice, is now out based on comments received from people who had been there. He then went on to talk troop size and its impact on participation. We are a small troop at 21 active scouts. Only 6 of them managed to make the last campout. Most of the rest had other conflicting activities. We have lost several boys this year, due to lack of interest in scouting activities, or because they got into scouting for the wrong reasons. Only two of the new scouts who joined this past year are still with the troop. Chris said he could easily see several of the remaining older scouts either making Eagle and then leaving, or just resigning outright. At 3 Life Scouts and about 5 Star Scouts, we are slightly top-heavy. Even so, the boys are still relying too much on the adult leaders, when they should be pretty much running the show themselves. When this is combined with the lack of parental support, both on the committee and in the Scoutmaster Corps, the result is not a pretty picture. Chris's comment was we have three types of parents

in the troop—those who commit to doing something and actually do it, those who commit and then don't follow through and those who won't commit at all.

The final item on the agenda was the turning over of the baton to a new Scoutmaster. After 4 years as Scoutmaster, Chris has resigned, effective at the December COH. Doug Williford will be the new Scoutmaster. Chris has asked that the boys not be told this until December.

Barbara
Troop 957 Secretary and Treasurer