

Troop 511 Committee Meeting

October 21st, 2019

Attendees:

Kevin Rechenberg, Scott Armstrong, Brian Williams, Kim Scimeca, Tracy Rabon, Steve Kerlin, Dave Prichard, Chris Stark, Jonathan Rector.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm, no new members present.

Last month's meeting minutes were sent to Kevin for review, but have yet to be approved or posted on the website.

Scoutmaster Report: (Jonathan Rector)

Paul Kerlin is the new SPL; Matthew Rabon is the new scribe.

PLC meetings are moving forward with a new focus since the planning meeting that was held at the beginning of the year has allowed for most of the long term planning to be accomplished. This leaves the PLC the ability to focus on the current outings and how the meetings relate to those outings. The BSA Resource guide is being used by the SPL to plan the meetings.

It was discussed how meetings are continuing to not start at 7, and are starting 5-10 minutes late. A plan by the SPL should be created and sent to the Scoutmaster and possibly the ASPLs in the event that the SPL is not present in order for the leadership to understand what the plan for the meeting is and how the meeting will be running. In addition outing plans should be created by the SPL in charge of the outing to help with organization and to help keep the youth leadership and the outing running smoothly.

We have 2 new Eagle Scouts this month; Sam Tillman, and Danny Hayes.

It was brought up that the 1st year program at the Powatan summer camp was lacking in a lot of areas and as a result our first year scouts may be lacking some of the needed skills to progress past Scout and Tenderfoot. The committee discussed ways to continue to get ASMs involved at the Patrol level and having the Troop Guides review the scout handbooks of the first year scouts to identify skills that are missing. In addition the question was raised if the new scouts understand the difference between being in Cub Scouts and being in Boy Scouts with respect to needing to start to champion their own advancement.

As a result Mr. Prichard will be holding the Troop Guides to their responsibilities. Mr. Armstrong will be holding the youth leadership to the requirements of Ethics and reviewing the youth leadership positions on the website and determining a means of holding scouts accountable to those positions. Mr. Stark will be holding the Scribe to the requirements.

Troop Secretary Update:

Absent from the meeting: Notes taken by Chris Stark

Outdoor Activities Update: (Dave Prichard)

Attendance for the Wilderness outing was down, but notes that the quality of the skills and the outing was up.

November outing currently has 12 scouts, and 5 Webelos; it was discussed that we need to continue to push this outing as it is very important to the troop as a recruiting outing for incoming Webelos scouts. Dinner for this outing has been secured and will be mostly cooked by Mr. Rollins.

December Outing is currently unplanned.

January is a lock in at the church with an eye towards Community Service. A Brief discussion was held about possibly doing a donation for military overseas as we have done a few years prior.

February is a Railroad outing.

Treasurer Update: (Scott Armstrong)

Outing prices are more accurate and we are generally breaking even on cost. Popcorn money has started to be deposited into the account. The troop is in a position to make the first payment for popcorn, and is in good standing regarding funds to operate the troop and maintain scout accounts.

Fundraising Update: (Kim Scimeca)

Popcorn numbers currently: \$2500 at booth sales; \$2600 in face to face sales; \$1000 in online sales. These numbers are not final as sales are currently ongoing. Forms are to be handed in at the next meeting.

Christmas Ornaments are being finalized and we need to meet with Sue Gammon to finalize design and numbers to order for sales. Weekends in December will be target to sell the ornaments, and the scouts will be asked to stain and complete the ornaments in the coming weeks. The ornaments will be sold after masses for a price of \$5.00 and 10% of the profits will be donated to either the church or a church approved charity.

A question about the timing of the spring fundraiser and if the car wash cards ran too close to the camp cards used for summer camp. It was discussed we may be able to put together a spaghetti dinner after mass one Saturday.

Merit Badge Update: (Tracy Rabon)

Several sessions are ongoing for merit badges in the coming weeks including LDS Merit Badge weekend; and are being attended by quite a few scouts.

Equipment Update: (Brian Williams)

Several tents have not been returned from the past 2 outings and Brian will reach out to those scouts and families requiring that they be sent back.

Several of the rain fly tent poles have been broken during the past 2 outings, and this is due to how the tents are being assembled. The issue has been identified and we need to ensure that all scouts are aware of how to assemble the tents in a way that the poles will not break. Replacement poles will be ordered.

Other business for the good of the troop:

Pack 511: Enrollment is way down and the pack is considering folding. Parents are not stepping up and are leaving the pack. Cub leadership is few to non-existent with the Committee chair shouldering much of the responsibility of running the pack. It was discussed if the troop leadership should show up and try to help recruit parents into helping the pack.

The communication app "Band" was discussed and determined that the evaluation will continue until December. A social media guide for the troop will be created and roles on Band will be expanded to show how it would look and feel if deployed throughout the troop. Leaders are concerned about how this app is more of a social media outlet than a communication forum. There are many potential benefits to using the tool: Topic based conversations, Image Albums, file sharing/storage; multiple chat rooms; current push technology rather than email.

Occoneechee council has introduced a monthly bill per scout to be rolled out in March of 2020. The fee per scout will be \$19 a month and will be billed directly to the families.

The Website Manager (Chris Stark) was approved to buy a tool to integrate into the website in order to show the Facebook posts/images from the private Camping 511 Facebook page for a onetime fee of \$50

Meeting Adjourned – 9pm.