

Minutes of Troop 697 Committee meeting March 6, 2008.

Attendance: Mike Mikac, David Pendleton, Mary Axelson, Michael Frantz, Betty Frantz, Dave Hutchins, Greg Kotsovolos, Deb Moreash, James Willett, Tom Keifer, Michelle Kittredge, Leann Rickert.

**Call to order: Mike Mikac**

Volunteer needed to record minutes. Greg K. volunteered.

**Scoutmasters Report: Dave Pendleton**

If Blaze Baggs has met his leadership requirements, the troop should elect a new SPL to give another scout the leadership experience. Michael Frantz will check the records and let David know.

Suggest we move the PLC to another day/time other than Tuesday's before the troop meeting. Greg K. suggested Sunday afternoon as that had worked well in the past for Greg and before him, Bill Hoddy.

An Asst. Scoutmaster is needed to assist David more closely during troop meetings and to fill in as Scoutmaster when David is absent. Please contact David if you can help directly or have a suggestion for a candidate.

The troop needs the involvement of more of the parents in outing and trip planning. If parents volunteered to lead just one trip per year each our needs will be met.

Outreach to Life Scouts needed to help keep the Scouts involved and motivated. Recent Eagle Scouts will be asked to help plan and present an Eagle packet workshop for the Life Scouts.

The committee reviewed the "Scouts not advancing" report. Asst. Scoutmasters are asked to review the progress of each of the Scouts in their respective Patrols and meet with the individual Scouts to discuss their progress.

Attendance – we have 54 boys registered but Troop meeting attendance is generally under half that number. Twenty-eight Scouts attended last Tuesday night, which was higher than normal. The committee reviewed attendance records for the last 4 weeks and 'missing' Scouts were identified. Many adults in attendance volunteered to contact Scouts they knew and follow up. The secretary did not record specific details.

**Treasurer's Report: James Willett**

Statement passed out to committee. Troop ledger shows there is currently \$7535.87 in Troop general funds and Scout specific summer camp funds. (Troop 75 summer camp funds are maintained separately and are not included in this figure.)

Monies collected from the recent flag service are being tracked in case the committee decides to allocate them to the summer camp accounts for those Scouts who participated.

Summer camp adult trip leaders are requested to keep their own accounting records for Scout payments and expenses.

Actual Bank balance is \$7601.73. James will reconcile the statements to find the error and report at the next committee meeting.

**Advancement Report: Michael Frantz**

Previously handed out “Scouts not advancing” report discussed earlier.

Mike Mikac asked Michael to add a “Months to 18” column to the Life Scouts report.

Michael needs to get a copy of the Eagle paperwork from the parents of recent Eagle Scouts in order to update the Troop records. Parents – please provide Michael with a copy of the Eagle paperwork from Council.

A parent volunteer is needed to coordinate Advancement Day in June. Heidi Hutchins who has volunteered for this in the past will be out of town. The deadline for Scout signups May 26 so we need someone to step forward soon.

**Chairperson’s Report: Mike Mikac**

No Troop meeting next week due to spring break.

Eagle C.O.H. for Tim Banano and Ryan Sands April 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church.

Eagle C.O.H. for Matt and Drew West April 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church.

Adult leaders are asked to update their Youth Protection Training on-line and provide record to Michael Frantz for our records. Mike Mikac will send a notice to all troop families.

Adults attending water based outings such as the upcoming canoe trip and Boundary Waters are asked to take the on-line Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training. Scout outings on or in the water require trained adults.

CPR training for troop adult leaders and parents is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>. Tom Keifer is coordinating and will be providing details soon.

**Outdoor Chair: Deb Moreash**

Recent last minute trip cancellations with requests for refunds have caused havoc for adult trip leaders and Scouts shopping for food. The committee needs to re-communicate the trip cancellation policy to the Troop. The committee decided to include the trip cancellation and refund policy on the trip permission slip template.

The Troop needs 18 canoe's for the upcoming canoe trip March 28th. So far, Tom Keifer has arranged for 7. Bill McGinn is trying to arrange 6 more. 5 more are still needed. Scouts attending Boundary Waters will be given priority for canoe's on the trip. Anyone having canoe's or kayak's the troop could borrow, please contact the trip captains Tom Keifer or Mike Mikac.

Deposit has been made for the Canyon de Chelly Backpack April 18. Question about the difficulty was asked. James said the hike was mostly flat once in the canyon. The trail drops quickly from the parking area into the canyon, making the last part of the hike back out steep. Suggestion to pack light. James will obtain a topo map soon and relay the details.

Adult leaders needed for camp Geronimo. Due to family illness the current trip leader needs someone to take over. Two adults are needed. Deb Moreash will send out a request to the troop membership. At least one parent from each group of Webelos bridging into the Troop and attending Geronimo will be required to attend the camp. Past experience proves that new Scouts to the Troop need a familiar adult at camp to fully enjoy the experience.

Second Geronimo payment is due to council March 7. James Willett will stop by the council office and make the minimum payment required to maintain our campsite.

Mary Axelson will contact a few past T75 leaders to ask if they could participate as an adult leader at Camp Geronimo.

Roosevelt fishing trip May 2-4. Boats are needed so all the Scouts attending can get out on the water. If you have a boat and can attend, or are willing to loan your boat to a competent adult who is attending, please contact the trip leaders Mike Mikac or Gary Weber.

Cherry Valley July 6-12. We still have openings for 2 Scouts and 2 adults. Please contact Dave Hutchins for more information.

Greg commented that the adult trip leaders for upcoming trips, especially summer camps should do their best to attend committee meetings. Mike commented that with the late notice for this meeting some might not have known about tonight's meeting or not been able to attend.

David Pendleton suggested that the Troop have specific adult meetings in Tuesday nights in the adjacent classroom to where the Scouts meet.

**District Roundtable update: Dave Hutchins**

Advancement Day discussed previously during advancement report by Michael Frantz. An adult leader is needed to step forward and coordinate.

### **New and Old Business**

Mary Axelson – Setting up a service project with the Lutheran church in Ahwatukee for Feed the Starving Children April 8. Scouts are needed to pack donated food going overseas. Monies are also needed which will be raised by holding a car wash at St. James on April 5th. Mary will send more information out to the troop membership.

Michelle Kittredge – Recruitment update.

(Lively discussion with many committee members providing updates. Secretary was unable to record all details.)

It looks like P118 Webelos are going to Desert Cross Lutheran. Dave Hutchins confirmed.

No update on P275. Gary Weber is working with that pack. Michelle will contact Gary for an update.

The Brisas Webelos are bridging in April but word is they have chosen a different Troop. A suggestion was made that we stay connected with the Packs throughout the year by visiting the Packs.

A suggestion was made for the committee to recruit a new adult recruitment chair, someone with younger Scouts who is closer to other adults in the packs.

### **Meeting Adjourn: Mike Mikac**

Mike thanked everyone for their time and commitment to the Troop and adjourned the meeting.