

Polaris District Committee Meeting 4 November 2009 Minutes

1.0 Location

Meeting was held at the Brenner Group, 19200 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino.

2.0 Attendees

In attendance at the meeting were: Ken Bower, Greg Buchanan, Tad Davis, Tracey Devereux, Mark Ellson, Wendy Glasser, Larry Grace, Debbie Jancis, Paul Jancis, Jonathan Leder, John Lucas, Kathi Lucas, Jerry McMillan, Steve Nguyen, Debbie Ward, and Robert Wedig.

3.0 Discussion

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM by Kathi Lucas.

3.1 Council/District News

The nominating committee is making excellent progress in assembling a slate for the 2010 Polaris District Committee.

Assuming that the district committee grows as anticipated in 2010, our current meeting place at The Brenner Group may be too small. Alternative locations are being explored that offer a larger room and might be able to accommodate sub-committee breakouts.

Les Schreiber has stepped down from his job with Camp Chesebrough.

Upcoming dates:

Event	Date
Polaris District Dinner	6 November
Popcorn pickup	14 November
Council Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner	19 November
Annual Polaris District Business Meeting	2 December
Popcorn money due to council office	3 December
Polaris District Training Retreat	12 December
Council Management Team Seminar	9 January
BSA Strategic Planning Retreat	30 January
Northern California Jamboree	16-18 April

3.2 Finance

Debbie Jancis reported that our district popcorn campaign has raised \$129,430 so far. This is approximately a \$10,000 improvement over last year.

The Friends of Scouting campaign is at \$164,381 for the year.

Ken Bower discussed the major campaign that the council has on the endowment gifts during the centennial year. The council objective is at least 100 gifts of \$1000 or more. A key feature of the campaign is to encourage gifts from groups (such as packs and troops) in honor of someone. The council has a special series of patches available for people that reach certain endowment gift thresholds.

3.3 Public Relations

Mark Ellson reminded the group that Polaris Star inputs were due on Saturday, 7 November. He also mentioned that November was a month for Santa Clarion inputs. (Santa Clarion items due to Mark by 13 November.)

Mark also brought up that there had been email traffic earlier in the month regarding the district's Yahoo! Groups and the moderators. His suggestion was that communications might be a topic for the district retreat in December.

3.4 Membership

Our membership growth continues. The district is currently up 5.2% from the low point. Three new units have been formed in the last month: T528, T522, and P409. This gives us a total of 68 units in the district.

3.5 Program

Camping. No one was present representing the Camping Committee.

Activity. Approximately 125 people signed up for the district dinner on Friday night. Preparations are nearly complete. Mark Ellson requested that a list of the major awardees be made available so that they may be recognized in the Polaris Star. Discussion ensued regarding trying to deconflict the annual dinner and the regional Trainers Conference in future years.

A candidate may have been identified for the Activities Chairman position. More on this next month at the Annual Business Meeting.

Several Polaris units participated in the recent Cupertino Emergency Preparedness event.

Scouting for Food door hangers were distributed at the October Roundtable. More are available at the council office.

Advancement. For 2009, we have 40 Eagles. Thirteen more are awaiting boards of review. So far this year, 62 Eagle projects have been approved. Wendy observed that a large fraction of our Eagles are earning the award in their last six months of eligibility. This is depriving our units of a major youth leadership resource.

Wendy is conducting merit badge counselor training at the Boy Scout Roundtable this month.

Order of the Arrow. John Lucas reported that the OA chapter is waiting to hear from Gary Varano regarding potential service projects that could be held in lieu of the camporee in 2010.

Training. At the Cubmaster Specifics training on 26 October, 33 new leaders were trained.

Wendy Glasser brought up her concern about nearly all training being held on Saturdays. This is a significant impediment to participation by Jewish Scouts and Scouters. The suggestion was that there needs to be alternative arrangements for each major class at least once each year.

University of Scouting/PowWow is coming up on 23 January.

Upcoming training classes:

- Scoutmaster Specifics – 21 November
- Venturing Leader Specifics – 10 October and 5 December

3.6 Roundtable

Tad Davis reported that the Cub Scout Roundtable theme is “Works of Art”. A guest speaker is going to discuss opportunities for Cub Scouts to be involved in the Northern California Jamboree.

Larry Grace reported that the Boy Scout Roundtable was having merit badge counselor training this month. The Boy Scouts are also having a discussion regarding the process for completing and processing Eagle applications

Ken Bower reported that the Venturing Roundtable had been held the previous night. The presentation was on the latest and greatest outdoors gear.

3.7 Commissioner

The top priority for commissioners this month is re-chartering.

3.8 District Executive

The council still has a few National Jamboree openings. Tracey distributed a letter from the council regarding the openings.

Nominations for Silver Beaver are due to the council by 1 December.

Tracey is going to training at national headquarters for the next two weeks. For professional staff support during this period, contact the council office.

3.9 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM. The next meeting is the annual Polaris District Business Meeting. Details regarding time and location to be distributed as soon as a site is confirmed.

4.0 Agreements and Actions

Agreements and actions are as documented above.