

**Western Shore District Committee Meeting Minutes
26 October 2011**

Attendees:

Wes Haynes	Nick Adams	Paul Sikorski
Phil Menthe	Christine McDanal	Steve McDanal
Bob Kelly	Bill Caplins	Linda Kelley
Mike McKinney	John Herbig	Sherry Mervine
Robin McAlister	Charlene Eacho	Bruce Evartt
David Nelsen	Kathleen Berry	Terry Wilt
Wayne LaFleur	Jon Baake	Melanie Anthony

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by the District Chairman, Nick Adams. Members began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the September meeting were voted on and approved.

District Commissioner's Comments – Paul Sikorski

- Unit recharter packets and access codes were distributed at the recharter training session before the October RT. The online recharter system will go live on 1 November.
- The Unit Commissioners are currently reviewing rosters with their units – this task should be completed by early next week.

Breakout sessions were held among the various groups – meeting reconvened at 8:05 pm.

Finance – Bob Kelly

- Bob gave an overview of the WSD FOS goals for this coming year in the three categories – Family (\$55K), Scouter (\$11K), and Special Events/Community (\$7500)
- The Family Friends of Scouting campaign will be starting soon.
 - There will be training for presenters and unit coordinators next month.
 - The focus is on the number of people, not the dollar amount. Follow-up is very important; WSD was #1 in the Council on following up with families during the last campaign. The goal is 100% participation, even if some forms are returned with a zero – as long as everyone is given the opportunity to donate.
- Scouter FOS is off to a good start – Wes is still collecting pledge forms.
- Linda Kelley suggested several possible corporate donors. Bill Caplins commented that it is more successful if two or more people visit a business as this increases the chances of a positive response.

Program – John Herbig

- The new Eagle Scout workbook is out and will go into effect 1 January 2012. Scouts may use the old book until then. The new Advancement guide has been released – please pay attention to the wording as it has very specific rules governing advancement (“musts and shalls”).
- BSLST is scheduled for 3 December and IOLS is scheduled for 9-10 December. Venturing Leader Specific Training will be offered on 5 November. All Cub Scout training, with the exception of BALOO, is available online. Jon Baake would like the training team to contact all untrained leaders and encourage participation in the District's training events. He has been watching the training totals for the various levels: Cubmaster training totals are down, but there has been a large amount of turnover in this position; Scoutmaster training totals are up; Venturing Advisor training totals are down; and there has been zero Varsity training. The training update forms are improving the numbers as folks get their corrected information to Jon. He will be sending out an email with the updated training information and statistics.
- Awards – Silver Beaver nominations are due by 30 November. There was some confusion as to the due date for the District Award of Merit – possibly 30 November as well.

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- Advancement Report – Charlene Eacho provided a report on the current status of the District’s Eagle projects, both ongoing and complete.
- Steve McDanal gave a report on the Fall Camporee/Cuboree. He talked to all units and received feedback – there were some complaints about pre-event communication on the Cub side. Scouts were involved in the activities and seemed to be having a good time. Steve suggested arranging for police assistance with traffic control in the future during departure time to prevent long backups at the exit. The owners of Long Farm were very pleased with the event and are looking forward to hosting more unit-camping and District events in the future.
- WSD now has a 5’x14’ utility trailer for hauling water to the site.

Marketing – Linda Kelley

- Linda has begun a campaign using both print and online ads. These ads direct folks to the www.BeAScout.org website. She displayed several samples. She is also in the process of compiling a press packet to be used by unit leaders so that they can promote their activities, and has set up a meeting with someone from smnewsnet.com.
- There was a discussion on the effectiveness of the www.BeAScout.org website and how to ensure that a timely response is sent to prospective families. The unit leaders need to take the lead on this and can designate another person in the unit to handle the inquiries, but response time must be improved. Bill Caplins suggested that this might be a good RT topic.
- Mike McKinney is working on updating the website with the 2011 WSD award winners. He has posted a link to the new Advancement guide.

Membership – Phil Menthe (updates given by Wes Haynes)

- WSD is currently 109 scouts short of last year, but our retention rate is 73% which is above the norm. To date, the WSD has 68 units.
- All elementary schools have seen some recruiting activity this year. Wes is working on tracking exactly which schools the scouts attend as a way to target recruiting activities.
- Robin McAlister asked if there have been any recruiting events at the middle school level. Wes stated that this is one area that has not been very successful. Kathleen Berry suggested trying a recruiting activity on a book fair or similar night because of the tight scheduling during back-to-school nights.
- Russ Bonner has contacted all the District Committee Vice-Chairs and all have agreed to continue in their present positions. The next step is to contact the members-at-large. At this point, the district is in good shape, but will need a new Nominating Committee Chair for 2012.

Order of the Arrow – Kathleen Berry

- The Fall Ordeal was held 7-9 October at Mattapanay – there were seven Ordeal candidates and two Brotherhood.
- The dance team did an excellent job at Camp Snyder on 22 October as part of the NCAC 100th Anniversary celebration. The team plans to work with the team from Catocin Mountain in the future – they are the only other dance team in the Lodge.
- Kathleen volunteered the OA youth for District functions if needed. Paul suggested that they perform at a RT – Kathleen has this in the works.
- The District-wide Arrow of Light ceremony is scheduled for 3 March 2012. Packs may also schedule the dance team for their Blue & Gold dinners, but they do not perform Arrow of Light ceremonies (different from the ceremonies team).
- OA elections are coming up – the youth will be handling the camp promotions.
- The OA will be hosting the Spring Camporee on 13-15 April at Kings Landing Park. The annual callout will take place at the evening campfire. Kathleen has been in contact with the vice-chiefs and has begun planning for registration, traffic, campsites, and first aid.

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District Chairman's Comments – Nick Adams

- The December meeting will be a holiday social at Mama Lucia's in Prince Frederick on 21 December. It will be a plated dinner; spouses are invited; cost to be around \$20/person. This will be a non-uniformed event with a cash bar.

District Director's Comments – Wes Haynes

- Wes received a box of promotional materials for the Summit. Final details are still vague.
- The District's J2E status was discussed and handouts were distributed to members.
 - Internet Advancement – please remind units that once advancement information is entered into TroopMaster or PackMaster, it must be uploaded to Council to finish the process – many units are not taking this final step.
- Wes asked all members to keep an open ear in the community and to use their contacts for the benefit of the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Next District Committee Meeting will be 30 November 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Anthony on 30 October 2011.