



**Troop Committee Meeting
March 30, 2016**

7pm

Business Items

- Wreath Review and Recap
- Update from the Scoutmaster
- Successful Service Projects:
 - Scouting for Food
 - Drive-Thru Café
- Summer Camp
 - Applications trickling in, 5/10 due date
- Order of the Arrow eligibility
- NYLT Nominations
- Treasurer: Monthly Trip Cost Reconciliation
- Troop 39 Scholarship(s)
- Friday 4/8 Volunteer & Eagle Recognition Dinner
TasteBuds East Hartford
- Eagle and Spring Courts of Honor combined
Sunday, 6/12

Discussion

- ScoutBook
- Troop 39 definition of *Active*
- Troop Communication

Adjournment

➡ Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 5/25 at Loco Perro J

Thank you for your time and service to Troop 39!

Attendance: Mike Steinbrecher, John Tomanelli, Ellen Drexler, Maggie Hannon, Jan Bertelsen, Tom Bertelsen, Deb Rand, Danielle Neary. Mike Nastri, Brandon Nastri (wreath discussion only)

Wreath Fundraiser: Brandon and Mike presented areas that were good and those to improve.

Good:

- Record sales!!!
- Berries were good this year
- Younger scouts had great sales
- Good participation by entire troop (two did not sell, one did not hit quota)

Improve:

- Use blue painters tape to hold down floor covering
- Improve communication with Dietrich to avoid surprises
- Arrange for an adult to meet the truck earlier in the day
- Bow ordering (will use a meeting or two to fix the extra bows in stock)
- Use hot glue gun to reinforce pinecones
- Use meeting time to count and bag berries, pinecones and bows ahead of assembly day
- Utilize assembly line where each scout only does one job, with adult at the end of the line counting and doing quality control
- Communicate clearly on policy with sales to friends and relatives

Nomads incentive trip happening on 4/2. \$40 card for each scout selling 50+ wreaths, plus pizza lunch and choice of laser tag, mini golf, etc.

Scoutmaster Update:

Focus on advancement; current lull "Troop's responsibility to get scout to First Class."
April Campout: Whitewater Rafting on Deerfield River. Zoar Outfitters, level III rapids trip ages 7+. Boston trip used \$170 of monthly \$250 budget; leftover will be applied to April, plus troop will supplement due to wreath success. \$70 cost per person, \$35 per person will be charged.

Maggie will ask Board of Trustees about trailer purchase (insurance, storage)

Open to ideas to keep senior scouts engaged in the future Five graduating seniors will leave troop 85% age 14 and under next year. With David aging out in November, Zach G. and Brendan, juniors, will be the oldest scouts.

Successful Community Service Projects with Scouting for Food and Drive-Thru Café. Good coverage in RiverEast and positive feedback from all involved. Using scouts working toward Citizenship in the Community merit badge was a positive experience.

Summer Camp registrations are trickling in, four so far with plenty of time before 5/10 deadline.

Order of the Arrow election. David declined the opportunity; other two scout eligible by rank were just short on camping nights. Jim Bancroft told Mike that SM can override policy on cabin camping, but Troop 39 has been consistent with OA policy so a change was not made. Correction provided by Scoutmaster that Jack spent both nights in a tent during November campout, so he is actually eligible.

NYLT Nominations: Jack and Ian. Mike has not spoken to scouts or parents yet.

Treasurer Report: bank statements submitted and suggestion that monthly statement reconciliation form be developed so that Treasurer is not guessing on who paid what toward each trip. Treasurer was also given access to online sign-ups to reconcile costs.

Troop 39 Scholarships:

- Garratt family has agreed to fund the \$250 memorial scholarship again this year, and Chris and Jamie Garratt will now serve on the decision committee. Brothers are going to get back to us on their definition of eligibility, since we only have two scouts who will not have aged out by deadline. Jan and Tom Bertelsen will also serve on the decision committee, with Jan coordinating the effort as she has done for years. One other current or former leader will be recruited. Applications will be reviewed electronically. Scholarship applications will be distributed to eligible scouts as soon as Garratt family responds, with deadline set for mid-late May and scholarship awarded at June 12 Court of Honor.
- Maggie proposed that Troop 39 also fund an additional scholarship to all outgoing active seniors annually. \$150-200 per scout per year, not to exceed \$1000. Essay from Garratt Scholarship may be used for both applications. All Troop Committee members were in favor of new scholarship. Danielle will research details; scholarship may or may not be made available this year depending upon how quickly approval and all paperwork can be done.

Friday, April 8 is the CT Rivers Council Volunteer Recognition and Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner at Tastebuds in East Hartford. Invitation extended to all leaders and committee.

Spring and Sean's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be combined on Sunday, June 12. Location is still TBD due to a church function running until 1pm that day. Similar program will be used as last Eagle Court of Honor, only with scouts being called up to receive rank advancement recognition as ranks are described. Merit badges will be given out earlier in the ceremony (combined ceremony with Fall would be lengthy due to all the summer camp merit badges). Possibility of pot luck of ceremony is moved to 3pm-6pm. Maggie and Ellen will contact Annie to offer help with committee tasks.

ScoutBook subscription free to unit. Mike attended Roundtable info session; Ellen and Danielle attended info session at University of Scouting. All three will download trial and get to know the program. Troopmaster will be updated simultaneously as ScoutBook continues to roll out new accessibility.

From University of Scouting: Troop can define their own "Active," but it must be communicated very clearly, preferably in writing with signature confirmation. Discussion that Troop 39 does not need to undertake a definition at this time.

Troop Communication: SM recently polled scouts to find out that majority do not read Heads Up. Responsibility put on parents to communicate, at the same time we are encouraging scouts to take responsibility. Mike may do some random tootsie pop prizes to encourage signups and other interaction with Heads Up. ScoutBook will offer text capabilities, which we can investigate for feasibility.

Final Troop Committee meeting of the year is Wednesday, May 25 at Loco Perro.

