

BSA - Troop 444

Committee Meeting Report



January 4, 2010
Farragut Presbyterian Church, Farragut, TN

Attendees:

Anurag Agarwal
Tom Bosse
Scott Buckman
Angel Burgess
Fred Carden
Laura Culotta
Jan Farr
Lisa Grimes, Treasurer
Sandra Hipster

Robin Jenness
George Keough, Scoutmaster
Melanie Marley, Secretary
Tim McCord
LaQuita Misner
Mark Misner
Bryan Nunley
Edward Primka
Ted Primka

Jeff Smith
Darrell Sparks
Lew Stoner
Mike Taylor
Joe Wolfe, Chair

Dates/Events/Activities:

For the most current calendar of events, please visit the Troop's website at: www.troop444.org

Treasurer's Report:

Lisa Grimes, treasurer, presented the committee with documentation of the troop's financial status as of January 4, 2010. Troop 444 liabilities and equity totals 11,750.60 as of January 4, 2010. Notes to total include: (1) have not paid council for popcorn. To date, \$858 has been deposited; (2) includes \$4,074.43 for ski trip; and (3) includes \$240 deposited for Roane State Merit College. Discussed Eagle money received from church-Walt Haskin Memorial – received a check. Discussion on disbursement ensued.

Merit Badges:

Buffalo (Farr) – to finish up Citizenship in the Community; start on Leatherworking
Phoenix (Smith) – to finish up Citizenship in the Community; start on Leatherworking
American Eagles (Bosse/Shedden) – finish up Electronics with race; start on camping
Flaming Arrows/Wolverines (Primka/Buckman) – Citizenship of the World finishing; Prsnal Management
Road Runners (Weil) – finish Citizenship of the World; undecided on next project?
Panthers (Taylor/Carden) – Anurag commented on the need to involve the older scouts into the younger scout's projects or to have a curriculum diverse for the scouts to remain active within the troop.
LaQuita Misner commented on the fact that many are focused on the Eagle badge and once attained, they show no more interest in additional badges/activities. She stated there was a GREAT need to keep the older boys involved as examples for the younger scouts. It was suggested that maybe the Eagle merit badge work could be spread out more evenly throughout the life of the scout within the troop instead of the major push for Eagle merit badges early. Dr. Keough suggested that the leadership should look into older campouts just for the older scouts (above the 14 yr. old age). Suggestions were made that Chris Patterson maybe coordinator and discussing with Paul Lear about tougher camping/backpacking outings just for the older scouts.

New Business:

Relocation of Troop 444/Growth Issues: Lew Stoner distributed a flyer to open up discussion regarding relocation of the troop and the shrinking numbers within the troop (see attached). The flyer listed six major reasons for relocating the troop and subsequently smaller numbers of Webelo visitations. Mr. Stoner emphasized the fact that since September, he has seen no Webelo packs request visiting our troop meetings. Mr. Stoner pointed out that Farragut Presbyterian's (aka...FPC) Webelo pack was our main source of new scouts, and the pack had very little support within the church. He also stated that our troop only has two active adults that are members of the church. Secondly, listed on the flyer were six lesser reasons for relocating the troop which involve the church personnel, logistics, equipment problems using the church as the meeting area. Discussion ensued as to the relationship between the troop and the church. Representing the church was Brian Nunley and Darrell Sparks. Mr. Stoner pointed out several situations in the past where the church was not as receptive to the scout's activities and the attitude from church personnel effecting the situation. Mr. Nunley and Mr. Sparks explained that most of the problems had been resolved with new personnel. All commented that some miscommunication existed between both. After much discussion, Mike Taylor made the motion that the troop forms a committee to act as a liaison with the church. Robin Jenness seconded and the motion carried. It was further agreed that this committee would be chaired by Dr. Keough and Joe Wolfe. The primary objective of the committee would be to make the church aware of the troop's activities and promote scouting to younger boys coming to the age of Webelos. It was suggested by Anurag that the troop attend Scout Sunday at FPC thus promoting our troop and scouting to the congregation. Also suggested by Mark Misner, maybe a system of communicating with the church personnel when scheduling rooms and events using the church facilities would be in order (i.e.....meeting being placed on the permanent calendar for reserving rooms). The motion to table discussion until the committee could meet and discuss a form of communication was made by Mike Taylor, Ted Primka seconded, all in agreement with two abstaining.

Rewards Trip 2010: Joe Wolfe pointed out that the event doesn't have a coordinator and without an adult coordinator, the event would be in jeopardy of cancellation. Laura Culotta reported that she had already talked with the Corvette Museum and Mammoth Cave regarding pricing and dates. She also stated that there had not been any money commitments made for this trip to date. Mr. Wolfe stated that reservations needed to be made and money retrieved from scouts going. No work had been done so far on this event, without a coordinator, the event would be removed from the calendar. Mr. Wolfe stated that a coordinator should be a parent of a scout that is going. It was agreed that if a coordinator could not be found, the event would be removed from the calendar on January 11, 2010. He stated there would be an announcement made at the troop meeting.

Yorktowne/Chickamauga Trip 2010: No coordinator for this May event. Mr. Wolfe stated that it was imperative that a coordinator be found ASAP in order to start the paperwork on this trip and the necessary phone calls. He also stated that the collection of money would have to begin in March at the latest. Mr. Primka made a motion to cancel the Yorktowne trip IF a coordinator was not found by the end of the month and Wolfe seconded. All were in agreement. Robin Jenness volunteered to call officials at Yorktowne to see if the date was still available.

Calendar Changes: Laquita Misner pointed out several conflicts with the Board of Review schedule on the calendar. She made the motion to change the following dates for Board of Reviews (BOR).

January 26 – to February 2

May 18 – to May 11

July 27 – to July 20

August – needed to be scheduled – August 31

November 23 – to November 30

Lisa Grimes seconded the motion and all agreed.

Meeting Minutes Availability: Anurag Agarwal raised the question as to why the meeting minutes were not being posted to the website like in the past. Joe Wolfe commented that there had been a delay in posting the last several meeting minutes but that with a new secretary, he was positive that the minutes would be back on schedule. Mr. Wolfe introduced Melanie Marley as the new troop secretary for the FY 2010.

Family Campout 2010: Mr. Bosse made the motion that the Family Campout event be the Virginia Creeper Trail. He discussed the accommodations, the trail, the activities that are available and the conduciveness for families. All members were in agreement that the Virginia Creeper Trail would be an excellent choice for the event. Robin Jenness seconded the motion, all agreed.

Scoutmaster Report: Dr. Keough reviewed what was discussed during the meeting, emphasizing the need for better communication between the troop and the church plus respect for the church and their equipment may be in order. He stated that the scouts needed to be reminded that they were borrowing the facility, not owning it. He also stated the need for more volunteers to step up out of the parent pool of scouts to be coordinators of the events planned for the scouts for this year. Without parent involvement, events could not take place. He also stated that the lack of interest from other Webelo packs in troop 444 was an issue that needed to be improved even if it meant we went and advertised our troop to the packs...dens. Dr. Keough made the statement that from Den 59 we were gaining a good contact for other packs in Michelle Anderson.

Old Business: No comments were addressed

There being no further business, Mike Taylor made a motion to adjourn, Lisa Grimes seconded, all agreed, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Cannon-Marley, Secretary