

Troop 652 Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: December 4, 2024

Meeting Location: St. Basil Parish Center, Classroom 9

Present: Denise Weisfelder, Irene Christian, Shawna Melnykowski, Brian Christian, Craig Moore, Renee Buszta, Cristie Snyder, Jerry Blayne, Kevin Snyder, Marc Majors, Jane Mahoney

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Denise called to order the regular meeting of the Troop 652 Parent Committee at 6:35 PM.

II. Scoutmaster Open Discussion

- Klondike is January 24-26 at Beaumont. Both troops will tent camp at the event and share a campsite.
- Pack 652's crossover is scheduled for the first weekend of March. The girls' troop likes to attend Sap Camp in early March, and there may be an overlap. Sap Camp is scheduled for March 7-8, 2025.
- February's campout will probably be a polar bear, possibly at Richfield Heritage Preserve. No running water at campsites at that time of year. Both troops will attend. Leaders will need to check the drivability of the campsites in the wintertime. Check into whether a lodge is available for warming, if necessary.
- Discussion: Manatoc Summer Camp (June 15-21). Irene attended a summer camp pre-meeting. We may need to consider changing our campsite, Dan Beard, to one with larger space and accommodation for our group. Other options for larger campsites the week we are scheduled to attend. Possibly changing the week we attend for other larger, available campsites. Early bird price will be \$455/scout and \$150/adult leader. April 19 is the early bird registration deadline. Great Trail Council has a new policy to allow early bird pricing to Arrows that cross over after the April deadline.

III. Reports

Scoutmaster, Boys (Kevin)

- The boys' holiday party is on December 11 at Whirlyball in Bedford Heights.
- Congratulations to Justin who was elected as our new troop SPL (senior patrol leader). Grady and Kody will serve as ASPLs.
- The annual PLC training session, for all new youth leadership roles, was held last week.
- National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) will be held June 8-14 at Firelands. By the start of NYLT, Scouts must be at least 13, have achieved First Class rank, and need a unit leader recommendation. Scouts should speak with me if interested.

Scoutmaster, Girls (Shawna)

- The girls' holiday party date and location is TBD. They chose to go ice skating, but it has been challenging to settle the plans.
- The girls will do a white elephant gift exchange at the troop meeting on December 18. Everyone is welcome to participate.
- The girls have expressed interest in camping to earn the Horsemanship MB. As an alternative to the spring camporee, a targeted date is possibly April.
- May 3 is Lake Erie Council's Trash the Trash Day service event. The girls will participate.
- May's campout will focus on the Cooking MB or Kayaking MB.

Outdoor/Activities Chair, Boys (Craig)

- Early bird pricing for the January Klondike ends December 29. Early birds are \$35 then the price increases to \$48. Craig is doing the registrations for the Klondike.
- Whirlyball is December 11. An email will go out to the boys' troop with details.
- The boys' troop has discussed returning to Observatory Park for an April or May campout. There is also a discussion about doing something in the spring at The Meadows in Brecksville.

Secretary (Cristie)

- It seems like emails are again arriving in inboxes through our Hostmonster mailing lists. Google Groups have also been established and are working as an alternative email communication method.
- Please make sure that all troop addresses are in your Approved Contacts (in your email client, not just your phone address book) and marked as a safe sender so you receive troop emails.
 - troopmembers@troop652bsa.org
 - gtroopmembers@troop652bsa.org
 - scoutmaster@troop652bsa.org
 - committee.chair@troop652bsa.org
 - treasurer@troop652bsa.org
 - information@troop652bsa.org
 - troopcommittee@troop652bsa.org
- Cristie will send an email about membership renewals that need to be done to continue with Scouting. Many of our scouts and leaders need to renew by the end of the year.

Treasurer, Boys (Sal)

- Sal will assume the treasurer role for the girl's troop. He will meet with Gail about the transition.
- Moving forward, any receipt submitted for reimbursement must also indicate what troop it is for so it can be applied to the proper account and budget.
- Today is Sal's last report as only the boys' treasurer!
- There is possibly an outstanding bill for Hostmonster. Cristie to research.
- Monthly financial report provided for inclusion with committee notes. Available to all troop members on request.
- Forward all receipts and finance questions to the treasurer so he can log purchases and answer questions. Please indicate what troop it's for. Send to treasurer@troop652bsa.org

Treasurer, Girls (Gail – no report)

Advancement (Brian)

- There have been a handful of advancements but it tends to be slower this time of year.
- The boys had their Court of Honor in November. The next COH will be held on May 7, 2025.

Membership & Training (Robby)

- Adult leaders should do their YPT (it must be retaken every two years) and pay attention to their required VIRTUS training bulletins.

Equipment Coordinator (Jim – no report)

- Kevin has a list of consumables for Jim to purchase.

- Cristie reported that we received an inquiry about the donation of a mummy sleeping bag to the troop. She will respond and let them know we will accept it for inclusion in our troop gear.

Fundraising

- Discussion: Combining fundraising efforts for both troops. What fundraisers are allowed by the parish? What types of fundraisers are approved by Lake Erie Council? What alternative fundraisers (jointly or separately) could we have? Can we do something after Scout Sunday mass? If hosting combined fundraisers, how to divide funds equitably amongst the troops or all parish Scouting units?
 - Boys: Janet Summers will coordinate the annual pop & water sale.
 - Girls: Maher Family to discuss taking on coordination of spaghetti dinner.
 - Venture Crew runs a pancake breakfast.
- Discussion tabled for a separate meeting focused on unit fundraising.

Service Projects (no report)

- Pack 652 will be caroling at Oaks of Brecksville on December 18. All are invited to attend to sing standard holiday songs. A song sheet will be provided in advance to print out and bring with you. Arrive at Oaks at 5:50 PM in class A uniform with festive extras. The caroling will take about an hour. Contact Robby Maher for any questions.

IV. Old business

- 652B Campership Program: The boys' troop will institute a scholarship program for troop scouts. Annually, there will be two camperships available for scouts to apply for. One campership will be awarded by the program leaders and one campership will be awarded by the committee. Camperships are intended to award outstanding scouts for their participation in Scouting and to help defray the cost of attending summer camps or high adventure activities. Applications will be created and made available to all troop members. The committee will recruit outside reviewers to read applications and recommend awards. Potential to announce campership awardees at a spring troop Court of Honor before summer camp season. Details will be announced to the troop as they are available.
- 652G Campership Program (The Ella Fund): 652G will adopt an application process for girls' troop members interested in attending high adventure camps.
- A joint planning meeting will be held with all troop leaders (SMs, ASMs) to align both troop calendars.

V. New business

- Units must complete the charter renewal (\$100) by December 13. If using a credit card, there is a 3% fee. No fee for cash or check.
- Jerry offered to take all four of the unit renewals, including forms and fees, to council's office in Downtown Cleveland before the deadline.
- Discussion: Marc inquired about earning the Catholic religious emblem Ad Altare Dei and who to contact. Who at the parish is trained for this award? Denise said Lake Erie Council just had this at the monthly Roundtable and will track down the contact information from Roundtable or through council.

VI. Announcements

- Membership renewal emails were issued by Lake Erie Council. Most of our troop members have a January 1-December 31 membership unless you joined recently at a different time of year. If you intend to stay in Scouts BSA, please don't ignore the renewal email. If you do not renew your membership in BSA, you cannot attend troop meetings and activities.
 - Note: Troop dues are separate from BSA membership fees and are collected mid-year in June.

VII. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM. The next committee meeting is January 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

See a full calendar of meetings and activities at www.troop652bsa.org/events

Draft notes submitted by Cristie on December 11, 2024. Reviewed and approved by Denise on December 13, 2024.