

Troop 652 Parent Committee
Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 23, 2025

Meeting Location: St. Basil Parish Center, Classroom 9

Present: Denise Weisfelder, Cristie Snyder, Kevin Snyder, Allie Botros, Robb Metyk, Craig Moore, Renee Buszta, Shawna Melnykowski, Irene Christian, Sal Caruso, Jane Mahoney, Brian Christian

Special Guest: Cliff Bellmore

A small, independent committee will review the scholarship applications in Classroom 10 this evening. Applications will be read, and the winners (one boy, one girl) will be chosen through a blind selection process. Winners will be announced at the troop court of honor on May 7.

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 (Shawna, Kevin, and Robb)

- The girls' and boys' troops will have a joint campout in May at Geauga Park District's Observatory Park.
- The girls will work on the Horsemanship merit badge on August 23 at Angel Haven Horse Rescue. TBD if it will be a day event or a camping opportunity. Shawna will confirm the number that can attend and possibly open the merit badge activity to the boys.
- First Aid, Scouting Heritage, and Cooking merit badges will be started tonight for any scout that needs it or would like to begin working on it.
- To earn conservation service hours, the girls are participating in Trash the Trash Day on May 3. Boys are invited to join and should register ASAP. See the emails from Mrs. Christian.
- The April campout at Richfield Heritage Park was a good event with nice weather. Seventeen scouts and six leaders attended. We also had a good number of families show up to visit for the day. Scouts should log campouts, and nights in tents, in their handbooks.
- Swim tests were administered at Brecksville's indoor pool on April 16. About 90% of our troop members attended. The city pool said we could come back any time.
- For Manatoc Summer Camp, our campsite (Dan Beard) is over capacity for the number of platform tents available. We'll need to have an internal discussion to map out the campsite and determine who will buddy in platform tents and who will bring their own tent. Currently, 30 boys, 6 girls, and 6 adults are registered to attend Manatoc.
- Discussion: Considering a bigger campsite in future years and what is available at Manatoc. Placing a deposit for next year's summer camp and potential site selection. Does the option of a second week of summer camp somewhere other than Manatoc lower the potential number of attendees? No, because many scouts choose to attend both weeks/options.
- Robb will complete the training for the Roman Catholic religious emblem (Ad Altare Dei). He plans to offer the class to scouts beginning in June or July, possibly before or after Wednesday evening troop meetings.
- Discussion: Changes to opening ceremony for troop meetings. Discussed in PLC but not shared with scoutmaster. A request to make sure everyone is well-informed of any ceremonial changes.
- Discussion: Rank advancement BOR process and a scout's recent experience during a BOR with troop committee members. Review of questions and conversation during a BOR and how it should be handled. The goal of the BOR should be to encourage the scout as well as review their accomplishments.

Outdoor/Activities Chair, Boys (Craig)

- The collection of paperwork for the April campout went smoothly. Camper fees and forms for the May campout should be turned in by May 7.

- The Observatory Park campout is May 9-11 in Montville (Geauga County). There will be a special program for our campers at the Planetarium at 6:00 PM followed by a dark sky program - open to the public - at 8:00 PM. There may be a \$5 entry fee charged by the Geauga Park District. TBA.
- Please be aware that medical forms need to be completed annually by a physician. Some forms are expired. Craig will contact those families separately to request updated forms.

Secretary (Cristie)

- The troops received an email invitation to 'Meet the Troops Night' at Ridgewood United Methodist Church in Parma on Wednesday, May 14. Scouting units in the Parma area have been invited to an open house-type event for fourth grade Webelos that will cross over next year. It's an opportunity to be visible, show and tell our units, and meet potential scouts. The email invitation was forwarded to our committee chair and scoutmasters. But, it's uncertain if we can attend since its regular troop meeting night and our number of weeks to prepare for summer camp are limited.
 - Cristie to share the announcement about the event with all 652 leaders.
- The troop received an invitation to a merit badge workshop at Lakeview Church of God in Parma for CPR/First Aid and Emergency Preparedness. Cristie will forward it to troop members.
- If you take photos on campouts or during activities, please share them in our Facebook group!
- The website domain renewal will be paid in May.

Treasurer (Sal)

- Monthly financial reports for both troops were provided for inclusion with committee notes. Available to all troop members on request.
- The boys troop PayPal account has been established.
- The girls troop Pay Pal account is TBA soon.
- 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

Fundraising (Janet, Robby)

- The Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser was a very good event and generated needed funds for the girls' troop.
- Janet to contact city and decline a booth for girls at Brecksville Home Days.
- The boys' annual Pop & Water Sale will be during Brecksville Home Days from June 20-22.

Advancement (Brian, Pennilane)

- Brian stated that lots and lots of blue cards are being turned in. Many merit badges are being earned.
- An Eagle Rank Board of Review for Samantha Martin will be conducted on April 24.
- Two scouts are currently working on their Eagle Projects.
- The next troop court of honor is May 7. It is a joint event with both troops participating. The SPLs will be encouraged to discuss how to combine their respective COH scripts – each unit uses something different for the awards celebration – and create a joint event that works for all scouts.
- Any merit badges or rank advancements must be reported to Mr. Christian by April 30 to be recognized at the COH on May 7.
- Mrs. Carlisle will take over the role of Advancement Chair after May 7.
- To request a board of review or ask questions about advancement, send an email to advancement@troop652bsa.org

Membership & Training (no report)

Equipment Coordinator (Jim – no report)

- The boys SPL made a wish list of equipment for the boys' troop. An additional patrol box with items is needed.
- Propane fuel needs to be purchased before the next campout.

Service Projects

- There will not be a Capes for Kids service project. The program seems to be shut down.
- Manatoc Scout Reservation will have a tree planting and spring clean-up event on April 26 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Scouts can earn conservation hours. Info was shared in our troop Facebook group.
- The troops will participate in Lake Erie Council's Trash the Trash Day on May 3. Council partners with CanalWay Partners for Riversweep to help clean up parks and public spaces. Scouts will earn conservation hours. See the emails from Mrs. Christian is coordinating.
- St. Basil requested volunteers for Mother's Day Brunch on May 11. It will be difficult to provide volunteers since we'll be returning from a campout.
- Manatoc will host a camp clean-up on May 31 in preparation for summer camp. Info will be shared in our troop Facebook group.
- 4-6 volunteers are needed on June 5 to help from 6:30-7:30 PM at the parish food truck event. Scouts will be collecting trash and keeping areas clean. Speak with Mrs. Weisfelder if you can help.
- The St. Basil Parish Picnic is scheduled for June 8. Troop members will help before, during, and after the event. A shift sign-up will be shared in early May.
- Scouts should be noting their completed service hours in the appropriate place in their handbooks.

III. Old business

IV. New business

V. Announcements

- Venture Crew 652 must find two people to fill their Northern Tier high adventure trip in July. Two crew members dropped out of the trip and a deposit has already been paid. The crew can accept up to four more spots for the trip. The trip is open to scouts ages 14-20 that can pass the BSA swim test. Cost is \$1,500-\$1,900 per person; cost varies depending on the number of people on the trip.
- The Venture Crew Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 18. Crew members earn funds to offset their cost of a high adventure. Additional volunteers are needed, and a sign-up will be shared.
- Troop members are invited to the Eagle Court of Honor on June 7 for Sarah Christian, Joanna Alrabady, and Samantha Martin. Info to come.
- The troop committee seeks an adult volunteer that can find and coordinate service projects for troop members.

VI. Adjournment

Denise adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM. The next committee meeting will be held on May 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

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

Draft notes submitted by Cristie on April 24, 2025. Reviewed and approved by Denise on April 26, 2025.