

TROOP 700 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2011

The monthly committee meeting of Troop 700 was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Jennifer Tidmore who was sitting in for Chair Bill Deters.

Attendees:

Bryan Abron	Daniel Luce
Cheryl Bischof	Paul Lynch
Robin Carson	Chad Miller
Laurie Clower	Pam Morrison
Eric Davis	Lowell Morris
Millie Ferri	Lisa Nester
Fred Follis	Catriona Taylor
Helen Hallaron	Jennifer Tidmore
Robin Hammesfahr	Robert Williams

REPORTS

Secretary. October committee meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed. Pam Morrison made a motion to approve minutes as presented; Fred Follis seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer. Millie Ferri, Troop Treasurer, reported \$7,379 in the troop's account and an additional \$5,135 in Scout Accounts. Paul Lynch made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Lowell Morrison seconded. Motion carried.

Quartermaster. Fred Follis reported trailer tires are planned to be changed out by Chris Bischof by Friday on the large trailer so it is ready to go for the Highland Games campout this weekend.

Advancement Chair. Robin Carson noted that at this time she has 56 boys for re-charter (it is early). (Adult registration number was not known; however, she stated it is usually 1 ½ times that). Robin also advised the committee about the "BSA *Journey to Excellence*" program which replaces the Quality Unit award. There are 13 criteria for the award and several will require research.

Robin looked at the group of Scouts that came over last year—48—and found that the retention rate was 39% for this group. Normal retention rate is 75%. Although the committee recognizes that the troop was ill prepared for this sudden growth spurt and are better so at this time, Robin requests more adult leadership in the Advancement area. *See New Business.*

A new link on the troop website will be for "Scoutlander" so the troop scribe, librarian and/or historian can post information about troop meetings and events.

Outdoor Activities Coordinator. Cheryl Bischof updated the committee on the following events:

- Highland Games—November 11-13 (Tahuaya). Trent Tidmore is assigned Scout Master; Fred Follis is coordinator and Jennifer Tidmore is grub master for the adults. Twenty-five Scouts and five adults will attend (T Hallaron, R Bacon, P Lynch, T Tidmore, L Clower) and at least one more driver is needed. Jennifer Tidmore and Paul Lynch will drive to cover shortfall.
- Shooting Sports Campout—December 9-11 (Worth Ranch/Todd Camp). The committee unanimously agreed not to charge for this event; however, everyone should be aware that this is an event the troop does pay for. Fred Follis made a motion for the troop to pay up to \$125 for the range masters' grub fees; Cheryl Bischof seconded. Motion carried. (Range masters are

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from Troop 168 and 2483 as Troop 700 does not have any certified range masters.) Thirty-five to forty Scouts are expected for this event and 500 clay pigeons and two cases of ammunition will be needed. Chad Miller will work with Cheryl Bischof on purchasing these supplies at best cost. Helen Hallaron volunteered to be adult grub master (in place of Bill Deters).

- Winter Camp—December 27-31 (Camp Pirtle). Fourteen from Troop 700 will attend Winter Camp and Trent Tidmore is the assigned Scout Master. Bill Deters will coordinate. (No grub master is required). Registration fee is \$145 by November 13th and \$165 thereafter. Adult registration fee is \$45.

Chartered Organization Representative—Robert Williams. Bob thanked the troop for their participation in UMC's Fall into Mission project. He also will advise when the bicycle assembly date will be—some time first of December. Second Sunday in February will be observance of Scout Sunday. The church would also recognize any Scout who has gone “above and beyond” in the area of community service with a “Good Samaritan Award” at this time. If you know of any deserving Scouts, please speak with Bob.

Bob also advised the troop the he has been to several Eagle COH's where there was a “roast” of the Eagle Scout. This has to be done carefully.

Another troop has an elite patrol—the Panther Patrol—that is for First Class Scouts and above. They put on a special Panther Camp for one week to assist Scouts earn their First Class rank. It is an honor to be in the Panther Patrol and this has helped their troop retain older boys.

OLD BUSINESS

Popcorn. Popcorn sales were remarkable with a total of \$13,609 (Show'N Sell and Take Order combined) up from \$7,135 in 2010. The scouts earned 53% total commissions and \$6,135 was deposited in Scout Accounts. In 2010, that amount was 46% or \$2,964.

SCORE-O. Four groups from Troop 700 competed at SCORE-O and ranked as follows out of 129 teams competing: Falcons #21, Rainbow Trolls #23, Team Azome #108 and Flaming Eagles #109.

Webelos-Ree. Helen Hallaron reported that three packs camped and dined with Troop 700—Pack 507 (5 Scouts/5 Adults), Pack 905 (5 Scouts/5 Adults) and Pack 300 (14 Scouts/11 Adults). Pam Morrison added that 1 Scout and 1 Adult from Pack 928 was also there. Tom Hallaron and Jim Patterson built a nice troop welcome structure. Out of the 24 Scouts the troop visited with, 15 were Webelos II; however, none officially committed to Troop 700.

NEW BUSINESS

Court of Honor—November 14, 2011. Lisa Nester volunteered to coordinate reception following Court of Honor ceremony.

New Parent Orientation. Jennifer Tidmore presented the committee with 10 folders for use in presenting the pack to new parents. This information is also available on the troop website.

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Adult Leadership. The troop committee recognizes that adult leadership has not grown at the same pace as the number of boys in the troop; therefore, additional positions and ideas were discussed to address certain issues:

Assistant Advancement Chair. Helen Hallaron volunteered to be Assistant Advancement Chair and work with Robin. A Re-charter Coordinator may be named in addition next year or Helen may assist with this function as well.

Recruitment/Retention Statistician. Jennifer Tidmore volunteered to work numbers and help determine such things as what percentage of boys are advancing a rank and at what rate as well as those who are actively completing merit badges. She will work with the Scout Master, Assistant Scout Masters and PLC to develop a thorough process to target and assist Scouts that are not advancing or working on merit badges as well as to follow up with Scouts who have or may plan to leave the troop. Information about why a boy leaves the troop is crucial for future troop planning. One idea was to assign each patrol an Assistant Scout Master who would review each Scout's record and assist accordingly.

Parent Liaison. Although Tom Hallaron did parent presentations at Webelos-ree, Todd Hintze did the new parent orientation last year and he will be asked whether or not he wants to fill this role at this time. The troop committee felt strongly that ASM's should work with the boys and the adults should work with the committee. This parent liaison would email new parents for the first year with detailed information about each upcoming event as well as answer their questions about Boy Scouts and troop processes. With more communication aimed at new parents, the retention may be higher. Fred Follis and Bill Deters will serve as committee liaisons to the SM and ASM's.

Next committee meeting will be **January 9, 2012.**

Fred Follis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Helen Hallaron seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laurie Clower, Troop Secretary.