

TROOP 117  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2009

Doc called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and determined a quorum (minimum four voting members) was present. Others in attendance were: Alice K., Julie D., John M., Ryan M., Judith E., John C., Les C., Vickie M.

Ryan M. presented his Eagle Project proposal. He has already met with Ed O. and Doc D. His project will help the Freedom Service Dogs organization. They rescue puppies and dogs from local shelters and train them to be service dogs for the disabled. The project will be building doghouses for the dogs to use during the winter. Currently, the dogs are housed in covered pens. The project will be to build at least six dog houses – hopefully many more. This will bring comfort to dogs, and help the community by supporting the disabled with service dogs. He will use EDGE (Explain Demonstrate Guide Enable) method for leadership. Ryan is working with Karen O., the manager of dog care at organization, who has given him specifications of what they need for each doghouse. His target is to have the project completed by May or early June, but it can be put off until the fall. He needs to coordinate with the Troop calendar to avoid conflicts.

**Les C. moved that we approve Ryan's project to build doghouses for Freedom Service Dogs. John C. seconded. Motion was approved.**

Financial Report: Vickie clarified adult dues with the committee. The first adult is \$20 (\$10 for National dues, \$10 for Adult Training fund). Additional adults, or adults registered with another Scout unit are \$10.

Vickie did not have a prepared financial report but she was available to answer questions. Doc turned in some receipts for reimbursement. Doc is continuing to follow-up on outstanding dues and has some checks to turn in for deposit. Julie D. needs the scout account to be resupplied to about \$800 for the scout shop.

Scoutmaster Report:

Doc presented briefly.

PLC was held on Sunday, March 8. Justin H. is SPL.

March 14 – Junior Leadership Training

March 16 – Scout Show prep– Super Hero theme

March 23 – No Troop meeting - LPS Spring Break

March 30 - Merit Badge night

April 5 - PLC

Older scout report - Robbie L. completed his Eagle BOR on March 4, 2009. He turned 18 in January so he is invited to join the Troop as an adult. Jordan L. may be having his Eagle BOR on March 18. Josh C. and Evan C. are still working on Merit Badges but have their projects completed. Les W. is working on his Eagle Project but

only has 32 days to bring it from start to finish, plus finish three Merit badges. He has Committee approval for his project.

Minutes:

The December 10, 2008 minutes were presented. **Judith E. moved that we approve, John M. seconded. Motion passed.** There was no meeting in January because we failed to meet quorum. The February 11, 2009 minutes were presented. **Judith E. moved that we approve, Julie D. seconded. Motion passed.**

Old Business

Philmont – John M. – Two adults and six scouts are confirmed with four open spots. Three have paid in full, others have made deposits. Final payment is past due to Philmont but the check will be sent by Vickie soon and Philmont is good with the situation. Council has a list of 20 names requesting spots to go to Philmont and John has a contact with another Troop who may have scouts wanting to go. John will work with Doc to fill these slots, hopefully by early April. There is a scout in the Troop who might be able to go on scholarship – John and Doc will follow up. John is planning to incorporate the Hiking Merit Badge requirements in the training sessions, but does not expect to complete all of the requirements.

John and Doc will present a plan to fill the final four slots at the April 8 Committee meeting.

Climbing Equipment – Doc has a report from Jim L. showing what equipment we have that has expired per the BSA requirements for scout climbing equipment by age, not use:

Three – 50m dynamic kernmantle ropes

Six harnesses, XS to Large

Several hundred feet of 1" tubular webbing for slings and runners

We also have equipment that does not expire:

Helmets

Carabineers

Belay/rappelling devices

Jim recommends that we sell the equipment and put the proceeds into the current climbing line item for future use. Doc will confirm that we have protection from future liability. **Judith moved that we sell all the equipment listed in Jim's report. John M seconded.** Hopefully, Jim will coordinate the sale since he is most familiar with the quality of the equipment. **Motion passed.**

FOS Progress – Doc reported that we have not met goal but we have until April and he expects we will meet the goal by then. Total pledged: \$1386. Goal: \$1800.

The projector cable has been purchased. Doc is still searching for a replacement light bulb.

## New Business

John C. is applying to become Scoutmaster when Ed O. retires in May, 2009. John expressed that he enjoys being with the scouts and he enjoys seeing how the program works. He thinks the Boy Scouts offer a lot of opportunities for leadership and a good program. He fully supports having a Boy Led Troop. He likes to camp and do outdoor activities. He has completed all necessary training including ASM training (which includes Scoutmaster) and Outdoor training as well as additional training at Chautauqua. He believes strongly in recruiting and is open to looking beyond the "feeder packs" and possibly outside LPS. Recruitment goes beyond the boys to also include the parents, and should be ongoing during the year. We discussed how to get the boys more involved in the ongoing recruitment to the Packs.

John C. acknowledged that recruitment also involves getting adults to fill roles as ASMs, leaders, and Committee members. We encouraged John to have more contact with adults who aren't involved. His only official obligation is to recruit ASMs and his own replacement. His personal travel schedule has been reduced with his recent job change. He expressed that he has the support of his family to undertake this role. He understands that this job will go beyond an "hour a week." He expects to reduce his soccer coaching obligations after this season.

John's goals are to continue the boy led concept, and continue recruitment. He would like to see the camping be planned more in advance, without losing the boy led element. He likes the program we have and wants to see it continue. He expects to remain as Scoutmaster for three years (but not 25 years).

John is the only candidate who has volunteered after Doc advertised the position to the Troop. Ed is intending to step out of the Scoutmaster role in May but will not be leaving the Troop so he will be available to help with the transition.

John already has a good rapport with the Scouts and the scouts have expressed support for him taking over as Scoutmaster.

John's plan to develop leadership in the boys includes the JLC training and the PLC meetings. He is open to the boys failing as part of the learning experience but that they will need direction and support. He tries to not answer questions from scouts but redirects the scouts to their PLs and SPL if possible. He recognizes that other than Justin H., most of the new leadership is very young.

John acknowledged that part of having a volunteer organization is that not all volunteers will follow through on their obligations but the goal will be to have more than one adult to support each activity to reduce the impact if that happens.

Doc asked John to leave the room and summarized his observations. He commented on John's commitment to training and his intention to stay with the position for three years as positive aspects. Les C. expressed his willingness as an ASM to work with John. John D., the Charter Organization Rep, interviewed and approves John C. as Scoutmaster. **Les C. moved that we recommend to the Charter Organization that John C. be elevated to role of Scoutmaster at the end of May, 2009, John M. seconded. Motion passed.** The PLC still needs to approve at their April meeting and the Charter Organization Head has final approval.

**Edith moved to adjourn at 9:00 PM. Julie D. seconded. Motion passed.**