

Council Commissioner Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

7:08 PM

Rick Bausher opened Meeting at 7:01 PM

Attendees:

Don Land, John Neuhaus, Dan Urban, Ken Volle, Scott Harding, Bill Milliron, Michael Marks, Joe Milharcic, Rick Bausher, Mike Surbaugh, Ryan Geraghty, Ray Holmes, Kurt Ellenberger, Naudain Radcliff, Bill Koller, Jack Boyde, Len Whiteford, Rich Palaski, Mick Bolvin, Sam McClure, Dave Lauer, Heath Manbeck, Myke Morrell

Kurt Ellenberger led us in the pledge of allegiance

Team Building Exercise - Led by Michael Marks
Magic Stick

Training Feature

Dan Urban suggested that we add a commissioner Basic training on October 12th at Flag Plaza. He noted that the DLC had been moved/merged, so there would have been a gap in the bimonthly training schedule.

Mike Marks asked for feedback on the Commissioner Barbecue/Pirates Outing

It was cancelled due to low registration.

The intention was to provide a fun, social event to include spouses and families.

Kurt Ellenberger suggested that a Christmas party might be a good addition

District Leadership Conference

Has morphed into a combined Scout Leader Training Conference, targeted to Unit Leaders, Commissioners, District Committee members.

MyScouting Tools

A new set of online tools for District and Unit leaders including the ability to print membership cards, update training records, send emails to families, and much more.

It was decided to add a working session on My.Scouting Tools 30 minutes before the November Commissioner meeting

Membership Standards Review

Information is available on Scouting.org including FAQ's for all Scouting audiences. District commissioners are asked to review this information to be prepared to answer questions from unit leaders, chartered organizations and parents.

Charter Renewal

This is a key commissioner function that is a critical opportunity to verify and reconnect with our members and chartered partners.

The charter renewal process is already underway, and will ramp up over the next 90 days until charter renewal.

The process steps were reviewed and discussed, see tonight's powerpoint presentation for details

Internet Rechartering allows a unit renewal processor to load roster information, and make changes to each member's personal data and position, and update fees. This year, internet rechartering will open on October 1st, providing 90 days to log in and complete the charter renewal. It is appropriate for a unit commissioner to sit next to the unit renewal processor while completing internet rechartering to help with any questions or problems.

A key part of charter renewal is to find out why a member is not renewing. As commissioners we need to ensure that every member is invited to rejoin Scouting. In some cases, we can offer solutions to their problem, such as offering a nearby unit that meets on a different night.

- **Membership Fee Increase**

Commissioners reviewed a fact sheet to explain why a fee increase was necessary. Mike Surbaugh explained that it is highly unlikely that any change in this decision would be forthcoming. We still believe that the value proposition of Scouting is still strong, and that \$24 for membership is a great value compared to other youth development organizations.

Mike asked for feedback from Commissioners, on adjusting the council accident and sickness insurance by raising the charter renewal recapture fee by \$1, and eliminating the \$1 fee that is currently charged at every district or council event. This would more fairly distribute the cost of insurance across the council, and help to improve and promote district and council events.

- Bill Koller offered his concern that units may not see the fair trade, because the charter renewal fee is clearly separate, but the event fee is always built into the cost of the event. He was not aware that such a fee was charged.
- Don Land and John Neuhaus said that we need to be careful how we explain this change, because there will still be a fee for district events, they will not be completely free.

Joe Milharic reminded everyone that the ScoutParent designation has been eliminated, to reduce confusion about this position (which was simply a designation, not a registered position)

Mike Morrell reviewed the contents of the charter renewal packet

John Neuhaus asked that each District Commissioner receive a copy of the packet and their district's access codes, to reference when speaking to unit leaders.

Rick Bausher asked for feedback on having each District Commissioner be responsible for their District's Charter (i.e. commissioners, district members-at-large, and merit badge counselors) There have been issues in the past, and this would ensure that no commissioner is locked out of UVTS due to a lapsed district charter. He asked for it to be considered and a decision made at the October meeting

Venturing

We have distributed the Crews into their respective geographic districts, so that those commissioners can begin serving and recording UVTS visits for those crews.

Bill Milliron reviewed some changes in Venturing:

- Venturing Officers Associations (VOA), rather than a single council VOA, will be divided into Districts/Service Areas to organize Venturing in that territory: VOA includes: President, VP-Program, VP-Administration, VP-Communication
- There are new tools available to promote venturing online, contact Bill Milliron for more information.

Unit Commissioner Recruitment

Rick Bausher reminded us that in May he asked each district to identify an Assistant District Commissioner solely for recruitment. He noted that we are 4 commissioners behind last year, and suggested that we need to tap former unit leaders to fill this important role.

Michael Marks suggested that Eagle Scouts and their parents are good candidates for recruitment.

NEW!!! ADC for Recruitment Training - Tuesday, November 12th 7:00PM at Flag Plaza!

UVTS

Rick Bausher indicated that we have 20% increase over last year in UVTS, and we have continued to show and increase each month. However, the first half of the year has historically been much higher than the second half, so we need to be vigilant.

He asked that if there are any units in danger of dropping, that the unit commissioner documents that in UVTS so that Rick can be made aware of it.

DFS Minute - Joe Milharcic

Voice of the Scout counts this year, so any opportunity we have to collect email addresses is important. Charter renewal is a great time to enter a visit in UVTS visits when a commissioner picks up that charter.

Mountainfest is 2 days away, and Joe hopes that all will attend.
October holds Haunted Camps at Guyasuta, Anderson, and Seph Mack

Joe requested that each District Commissioner asks for a Cub Scout leader training in October to train our new leaders

Popcorn sales are underway, Show-and-Sell distribution was last weekend. Each of those units received a sample pack to open and share at sales events or unit kickoffs

Open Forum

Dan Urban - reminded everyone of Commissioner basic training at Flag Plaza on October 12th. He also reminds us that in June the OA will be at Camp Twin Echo, and each chapter will have a role.

Rick Bausher closed the meeting at 8:32

