

November Commissioner Cabinet

Thursday, November 21, 2013

7:02 PM

Subject	Commissioner Cabinet Meeting
Date and Location	Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Flag Plaza--Bicentennial Room
Attendees	Rick Bausher, presiding Mick Bolvin, Area 6 Michael Marks, ACC Don Land, Area 1 Vern Smith, Frontier Dan Urban, ACC Kim Krapp, Steel City Bill Koller, Seneca Joe Milharcic, DFS Jake Kraus, FD Dan Stover, USE Clay Shumway, USE
Message	

[Link to Outlook item](#)

Notes

OPENING

- Began with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Rick gave a quick overview of what occurred at the previous meeting
 - Training given by Scott Harding about Webelos to Scout Transition
 - Loss is really found between first and second year of Webelos
- Last Tuesday (November 12th) the cabinet held a recruiters training for commissioners
 - Went over the Commissioner Recruitment Strategy
 - Created a "suspect list" of 50-100 people for commissioner recruitment
 - Need to follow up and work the list. First vetting and then contacting the people themselves to ask them to join the commissioner corps.
- Proposed merger with the Potomac Council was voted for unanimously by both Executive Boards. Will be up for a vote on December 14th at the full council meeting.
 - The Potomac Council has 40 units and approximately 800 boys
 - Camp Potomac will be a weekend type of camp rather than a summer camp
 - Vern Smith brought up the point that we need to begin including people on the staffs for council level events such as Twin Arrow, Wood Badge, University of Scouting, etc.

TRAINING

- Opened with a "historic" view of Lord Baden Powell
- Followed with a video of Mike Surbaugh from the 2010 Jamboree for the Shining Light Across America stage show
- Next trainings December 14th, 2013 8:30am at Flag Plaza; February 14th 8:30am in Cranberry
- December 14th will also be the charter turn in day
- A survey went out to 25 commissioners from the council
 - 7 responses, and most were good
 - Newsletter good
 - Commissioner-bsa.org website good as well
- New "Stuff"

- The National Council is partnering with Lynda, who is the #1 provider of online training in the country. Called Scouting University
- All one Scout Oath will take place for Venturing in May 2014, and Cub Scouts May 2015.
- There is a new Commissioner Toolkit in myscouting
- Middle School Explorer Clubs are growing in our council and nationally. Be prepared to cover those as they pop up.
- NEWS You Can USE
- New website for membership chairmen: tinyurl.com/bsa-member-chair
- 3 Key Components to Membership Growth
- 1. Strong, vibrant program
- 2. Engaged volunteers
- 3. Committee member responsible for membership
- 2014 Volunteer Training Conferences at Florida Sea Base
- March 15, 2014 @ IUP
- Leadership School of Scouting
- Includes DLC and University of Scouting
- Early Warning Signs, Kim Krapp, Steel City District Commissioner
- Commissioners have a built in radar to get advanced signals of bad conditions in every unit
- Head off disasters if signals are bad
- Commend unit people if everything is good
- Look for these warning signs all of the time
- Unit Meetings
- Roundtables
- District Camporees
- Review Reports (advancement, charters)
- What are the warning signs?
- Irregular meetings
- No written program
- Little to no advancement
- Few in uniform
- Seldom seen outside their unit
- Do they come to district activities?
- Do they attend summer camp?
- Little outdoor program, no camping
- *Especially* Boy Scouts
- Packs too
- No FOS participation
- Never attend roundtables
- No new members
- Unit leaders work alone
- No parent involvement
- Unit charter lapses
- Unit leader does all the leading (not boy led/no den leaders)
- Mistrust between CO and unit Scouters
- Only one active leader
- Lack of discipline
- Unit leader hard to find
- Very little leader training

- Danger Signals--Comments to listen for when evaluating our Unit Commissioners
- What's a commissioner?
- They always want something
- They interrupt my meetings
- They are never there when you need them
- I can't depend on them
- All they do is wear red jackets and drink coffee
- "I wish that guy'd get off my back..."
- Journey to Excellence
- Lists all of the unit performance criteria
- Great tool for evaluating the unit
- Discussion
- Be wary of taking off the summers. Need to have contact of some sort with the Scouts. Especially with Cub Scouts, may have them fill out new applications every year.
- Commissioners should sit back and observe, and then guide and advise after the meeting. Certainly don't take over the meeting. Don Land will be covering the purpose and role of a commissioner at the Leadership School of Scouting.

STATUS REPORT

- At the last meeting, suggested recruitment goals were handed out to each district. Need to finalize those goals and begin working toward them.
- Charter Renewals are coming slow, but coming. We need to have more coming in. Especially because of the merger process, we need to be sure the charters all get in on time.

BREAKOUTS

- Don Land worked with Vern Smith
- Dan Urban worked with Bill Koller and Kim Krapp

COUNCIL UPDATE

- Leadership School of Scouting on March 15th. Registration will go live in January.
- Eagle Dinner part one was on Tuesday. Great event. Remy Clark was honoree. GT Thompson was the speaker.
- Friends of Scouting 2014
- Our participation rates are abysmal. That will be the focus.
- Districts will set their own goals. \$20 per boy is the goal for the goal. This will not be the ask amount. This is a guide as to how to set the goal.
- Do something different. We will make a plan with each unit as to how to ask the families in the unit. Maybe we invite them to the council FOS breakfast or sit down with individuals from the unit instead of doing the traditional presentations
- Stewardship of donors will be key to the campaign
- December 14th will be a huge day. Lots of charters turned in, commissioner training, vote on a merger, and saying goodbye to a Scout Executive.
- Meeting on December 17th will be a holiday get together.
- Rick closed the meeting with a thank you for allowing him to patch in from Ebensburg.
- Have a nice holiday!!