

PHXDCCS QUARTERLY MEETING 1
January 22, 2014

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Polowski at 6:37 pm. Those in attendance included Eric Robidoux, Herb Pierpan, Sandy Eubanks, Steve Miller, Dave Girona, Tony Madonia and Kathy. Steve Miller offered an inspirational opening prayer asking God to guide us in our planning and program for our Catholic scouts. Kathy welcomed everyone and the meeting proceeded.

OFFICER REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT--Ann Colvin-Smith (absent)

No report available.

FINANCE REPORT-Mary Madonia (absent)

Kathy reviewed the Treasury report that Mary emailed. Adjusted balance of \$712.20. This reflects a deposit of \$500 from the AZ State Council of the Knights of Columbus, an expenditure of \$755 for the use of Heard Scout Pueblo for the retreat, \$250 for the purchase of Bibles for the emblems programs and \$225 for the Franciscan Renewal Center reservation for the Scouter Development retreat.

CHAIR REPORT-Kathy Polowski

Kathy explained her plans to change the meeting format a bit and start inviting "guest speakers" or have special activities for each quarterly meeting. In between quarterly meetings there will be sub-committee meetings and notes from those meetings can be submitted and posted on the website as well. The goal is to have excellent attendance at the quarterly meetings so that we can use our meetings to not only be updated on committee activities but to have input related to future activities and events that will benefit our youth. If a committee member cannot avoid absence, it would be appreciated if a report can be submitted to the Secretary or Chair *prior* to the meeting.

Congratulations to our very own Herb Pierpan, an active member of our Catholic Committee for many years. Herb was honored as the recipient of the NESAs National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the Grand Canyon Council at the 2013 Service Leadership Award Dinner in December. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to our committee and Scouting!

LIAISON REPORTS

Crew 2009 "Bishop's Crew"--Steve Miller, Crew Advisor

Steve reported that the crew size is down again due to several youth going to college. There are 5 youth registered with only 2 currently active. Andrew Polowski just completed two years as the Crew president but is now attending NAU. For 2013, the crew qualified for the Pope Paul VI National Catholic Quality Unit award and Andrew submitted the paperwork. Additionally, the crew earned the JTE "Gold" status.

The biggest dilemma is recruitment. Two recruitment activities were conducted this past October and November with poor attendance. It was suggested that the crew reach out to other Catholic chartered crews and Catholic youth in other units and try to “dually” register youth so that they can be included in service to the diocese. Joint activities between crews could prove to be very effective.

The Venturing program will be changing somewhat in May and although this crew will continue to have service to the Diocese and Serra Club as a focal point, other activities including camping and high adventure need to be part of the program. Many of the changes relate to the “awards” portion of the program. The awards and their requirements have been revamped although it is recognized that many youth in Venturing are there for the adVENTURE!

It was recommended that the Crew Committee meet soon to formulate a plan of action for the near future.

NCCS Updates--Tony Madonia, Jr.

Tony presented information about the “Mitre Society Recognition” which is a \$1000 donation made by an individual for support of the St. George Trek (which is related to vocations and the discernment process). Details can be found at: <http://nccs-bsa.org/awards/MiterSociety.php>

The NCCS 43rd Biennial conference is being held in Irvine, CA from April 24-27, 2014 at the Hilton John Wayne-Orange County Airport. For more information go to the following link: <http://nccs-bsa.org/national/AnnualMeeting2014.php>

Applications for the Doerr Scholarships are due March 1. Five scholarships of \$2000 each are awarded annually to high school seniors. Qualifications include: Eagle Scout, active in a unit and earned either Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII The application and detailed information can be found at this link: <http://nccs-bsa.org/national/EJDoerrScholarship.php>

Kathy Polowski has been invited to be on faculty for the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference at the Philmont Training Center this summer. The conference runs from August 3-9, 2014 and is an excellent way to learn about the programs and activities that NCCS has to offer, to realize the relationship between God’s calling for us and our Catholic youth ministry within scouting, to meet other great scouters from around the country, and of course, to explore Philmont and the area—truly God’s country! Kathy has fliers available or you can visit the Philmont website for conference descriptions.

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGE.pdf>

Applications for the St. George Trek are now being accepted. The trek is open to youth who will be at least 15 years old by July 1, 2015 and not yet graduated from high school. If you know of a scout who is interested, please have them contact kpolo55@gmail.com for further information. We are allowed to send two candidates maximum. There will be some financial aid available. Learn more at: <http://nccs-bsa.org/ScoutUnits/StGeorgeTrek.php>

Knights of Columbus-James Moore (KP)

Jim and Kathy Polowski met in December and discussed the Knights' involvement in developing new units. The Knights are still very supportive of Boy Scouts and our Catholic Committee and will continue to charter units.

The Arizona State Council made a \$500 donation to our committee to be used towards religious retreats. Thank you Knights for your generous support of our Catholic scouts!

GSUSA AZ Cactus-Pine Council—Loretta Winn (absent)

No report available.

GCC Interfaith Recognitions Committee—Tom Koncel (absent)

Dave Gironda reported that the annual Interfaith Religious Recognitions ceremony for those scouts who earned their faith's religious emblem in 2013 will be Sunday, February 9 at the Dove of the Desert Church at 73rd Avenue and Beardsley. Check in is at 1:30 with the ceremony from 2:00-3:00 pm and a reception to follow. Invitations have been sent out. If you know of a Boy Scout or Girl Scout who did not received an invitation, please advise Dave Gironda at gironda@live.com.

The GCC IF Committee has been asked to have an area—the “Interfaith Village” at Scoutorama this year. Scoutorama is Saturday, February 22 at the University of Phoenix stadium. Our committee is asked to have a table representing our Catholic scouting programs.

The committee banner, display of Catholic emblems for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, brochures about our committee and the calendar are needed. An activity should be available for scouts to do that come to the booth. Kathy will look into activities and crafts. This would also be a good opportunity to have members from Venturing Crew 2009 present to talk about the Crew and hand out their brochures. **Volunteers to help during the day are needed.**

ACPC Interfaith Committee—Terry Easley/Norma Partida (absent)

The committee is participating in Thinking Day events at Margaret T. Hance Park on Saturday, February 22. **We need a volunteer** to attend this event and provide information about the Catholic religious emblems for Girl Scouts and our committee.

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE (CHAIR NEEDED)

The next St. George Trek is scheduled July 8-23, 2015. Applications for the trek will start soon. Open to young men and women ages 15-17. Includes a vocations retreat before and after the Philmont trek. More info can be found at <http://nccs-bsa.org/ScoutUnits/StGeorgeTrek.php>. Anyone interested in applying should contact Kathy at kpolo55@gmail.com for more information.

When a candidate attends the trek, they agree to assist with the Catholic committee as part of their future service and commitment. Thus, we will be inviting Anthony Garcia, a participant

from St. Gabriel Parish and a student at Bourgade Catholic High School who attended the 2013 trek, to speak about the trek at an upcoming meetings and events.

A discussion ensued about our committee financially supporting candidates. The trek fee is \$750 per youth. Transportation costs would depend on the mode used but airfare is about \$200. It was agreed that we should be sponsoring all or a portion of the fee and that we should institute some fundraisers to help support these efforts. The Knights of Columbus will be asked to contribute some as well. Further discussion needed as we need to decide how much support to provide and which fundraisers to take on. More about that under "Old Business".

Dave G. reported that the Serra Club of Phoenix hosted a Day of Discernment at Mt. Claret Retreat Center on January 5, 2014 and it was very well attended.

Serra Club of Phoenix meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 12:10 pm. Anyone interested in learning more about the club is welcome to attend. Please contact Dave Gironda at gironda@live.com for more information.

TRAINING COMMITTEE-SCOUTER DEVELOPMENT (CHAIR NEEDED)

The **Scouter Development retreat** scheduled for January 11 was rescheduled to **March 29, 2014**. Flyers with the details are available. This is open to leaders in all areas of Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls etc. Please spread the word and encourage fellow leaders to come to this inspirational day at the Franciscan Renewal Center celebrating our faith and scouting!!! The flyer and schedule can be found at www.phxdccs.org.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS COMMITTEE (CHAIR NEEDED)

Religious Emblems classes in session—

Boy Scout Emblems--

† Ad Altare Dei---Toni Smolinski (W. Phx/Surprise area)~ 5 youth; Craig Nelson (Central Phx)~4 youth; Steve Miller (N. Scottsdale)-9 youth; Debbie Sakauye/Kathy Polowski/Madonia/Healy (East Valley) -11 youth; Sabine G. (Flagstaff) ~12 youth.

† Pope Pius XII—Eric Robidoux (E. Valley)- 4 scouts, Michael Vollmer (Flagstaff)- 5 scouts

Girl Scout Emblems—unreported

Upcoming events:

- Religious Emblems Boards of Review—**April 16, 2014 at the DPC in Phoenix, 6:30 pm.** Make-up date TBD. Additionally, Kathy will schedule Boards of Review in Flagstaff. Date TBD. Steve Miller, Sandy Eubanks and Joe and Marie Maresh may be able to assist.
- Annual Religious Recognition Ceremony—**May 4, 2014**
Time and location to be confirmed.

- Religious Emblems Counselor (REC) Training—May 31, 2014 at the DPC, 8:30 am.

Nancy Welton is stepping down as the chair for this committee due to other obligations but will remain an “at-large” member. Thanks for her service to our committee!!

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (CHAIR NEEDED)

“Walk in the Son” Retreat-Craig Nelson, Gina Keating (absent)

Plans are coming together. Hike plans for the Saturday morning “faith hikes” are being finalized and the scripts for the presenters are complete. Crafts are being designed and the materials secured. Midway events—such as presentations/talks by the AZ Hiking Shack, South Mountain Park Ranger, World Wildlife Zoo, and Adobe Mountain are scheduled. Gina is working on securing some additional presenters as well. The Little Church Store will sell some religious items and our committee will have a Camp Store and display table. Staff t-shirts have been ordered. The menu has been planned and food is being secured. The Labyrinth area has been staked out and rocks moved to the vicinity. Registrations are coming in slowly. The “early bird deadline” was moved back again...to January 31 to give units more time to get their rosters and payments together. Payments can be made online through PayPal at www.phxdccs.org under the RETREATS tab.

Needs—

PARTICIPANTS!!! Please spread the word about the retreat!! Sign up TODAY!!

VOLUNTEERS for Food Crew, Craft Crew, Camping Staff, Midway Staff, Faith Hike presenters, Photographer, First Aider.

The last two **RETREAT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 AND WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (CHAIR NEEDED)

- ◆ Two membership committee meetings have been held in the past several months. Fr. Arthur, Scott Impecoven and Kathy Polowski met at the GCC and discussed needs in various districts within the Council. Kathy and Jim Moore also met and discussed the Knights involvement in membership endeavors. Plans to develop new BSA units will be formulated at the next committee meeting in February; date and location TBD.
- ◆ As a committee we also need to support existing Catholic chartered units and develop an outreach plan to accomplish that.
- ◆ A meeting with the Diocesan Office of Youth and Adult Ministry is planned.
- ◆ Discussion with Girl Scout liaisons is also necessary to see what can be done to support Catholic scouts in the Arizona Cactus-Pine Council.

- ♦ Sandy Eubanks reported that a new Venturing Crew was just started through Sacred Heart Parish in Prescott. Scouts from the Chino Valley and Prescott Valley area will also be included. Thanks and congratulations to Sandy, Joe and Marie Maresh—our liaisons in Prescott---for a job well done!

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (CHAIR NEEDED)

- ❖ Lynn Coomer has updated the calendar and events on the website. A tab was added for RETREATS and PayPal was made accessible for retreat registration! Thank you!
- ❖ Additional changes to the EMBLEMS & AWARDS tab are forthcoming.
- ❖ Problems were encountered with Host Monster and Lynn was unable to access it for several weeks. If this continues we may need to consider an alternative.

BUSINESS—Unfinished

Kathy revisited the idea of ordering and presenting the “Chi Rho” Award as a recognition by our committee for scouts who earn all 4 of their religious emblems. The committee voted to award this patch and certificate at the annual Religious Emblems ceremonies. Kathy will contact the appropriate person to learn more about pricing and ordering the patch.

We also discussed the “Bishop’s Dinner”. It was decided to try for August or early September. This will be an event where we will invite the bishops and a pastor or priest from every parish to join us for dinner when we will “showcase” our scouts and what our committee and Scouting has to offer our youth. Eagle scouts and Gold Award recipients who completed Eagle projects benefitting a parish, Catholic school, the diocese or other outstanding projects benefitting the community, Honor scouts, priests who are Eagle scouts, St. George Trek participant etc...could all be present and honored. Presentation of our annual Adult Recognitions—the Bronze Pelican and St. George medals could be done at this time. There is discussion that the Knights would be asked to sponsor a priest from their parish so that the dinner would be complimentary to them. Much more needs to be done to plan this event and **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FORM A PLANNING COMMITTEE. Please contact Kathy ASAP if you are interested.**

Fundraising ideas were discussed again.

- We could create and sell a “Candidate patch” for anyone working on their religious emblem. Could be a patch for youth of any faith or just for Catholic emblems. Could have one patch for each level...border could be different color or the patch could be designed differently for each. Could have a series for boys and girls emblems. This can be used as a recruiting tool to get youth to work on their emblems. Then when they earn all 4 emblems they would be awarded the “Chi Rho”. Input needed. We would want to launch this for our emblems program in the fall of 2014.

- Mother's pins used to be offered for each emblem. Not sure if they still are but will look into it.
- Buy inventory for a Trading Post- selling water bottles, chapstick, flying disks, pens etc. at retreats and other events with our Catholic Committee logo on them. This would also raise funds and awareness about the committee and our efforts with Catholic scouts. Kathy will look into this for the upcoming retreat but it may be too short notice.
- Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting patches—for committee members and other interested parties to purchase. The Orange County CCS has created 3 beautiful patches each with a different color border that features the CCS and also mentions that the committee is home to the current National Chaplain. These patches are being sold as a set of 3 for \$50 and the sale is their committee fundraiser for the St. George Trek. We could design a patch for our committee to sell.

We are creating a budget and will determine the funds needed to provide for our programs and then make some decisions accordingly. Other ideas are welcome as well.

PROGRAM—2013 YEAR IN REVIEW/GOAL SETTING FOR 2014—All

A review of the goals for the past year was conducted with the following comments:

- ◆ Outreach to our Catholic youth has increased through an improved and updated email list.
 - Improvements needed—timely dissemination of meeting minutes and posting to the website, publicity in other media including the *Catholic Sun*, timely communication with GCC, GSUSA-ACPC, AHG about our programs, personal visits to units.
- ◆ The committee gained several dynamic new members and will continue to recruit new members to be part of our team.
- ◆ Two Religious Emblems Counselor training courses were offered in 2013 and as a result the number of trained counselors increased. A list of REC's and their geographical area of service will be posted on the website.
- ◆ The number of Catholic Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who earned their religious emblems did increase in 2013. There was no report for Girl Scouts.
 - Based on attendance at the annual ceremony, improvement in outreach and promotion of the emblems to Catholic Girl Scouts is needed.
- ◆ The number of Catholic chartered BSA units in 2013 did not change; although one unit was dropped, another one was added.

- A greater emphasis on developing new units and providing support for current units through personal outreach is urgently needed, especially in light of some reaction to the recent BSA membership vote. .and the recent development of “alternate” scouting programs.
- ◆ The Bishop’s Venturing Crew 2009 met their goals of achieving the JTE Gold level and the Pope Paul VI award but membership decreased at the end of 2013.
 - The Crew committee and remaining youth need to plan recruitment activities with the support of our committee.
- ◆ Recordkeeping for the treasury, religious emblems counselors, and youth earning the awards has improved.
- ◆ Scouter Development was not offered in 2013 but is scheduled for March 2014. This retreat is an opportunity for leaders in various roles to come together to enjoy an inspirational day as Catholic scouters.
- ◆ The committee continues to offer inspirational religious retreats. The retreat offered in March 2013—“Reflections on Faith and Forgiveness” received high praise from the participants according to their evaluations. Our next retreat, “Walk in the Son” is February 7-9, 2014.
- ◆ Scout Sunday activities have been promoted via the “eblast Committee News”.
 - Improvement in promoting this annual event is needed.
- ◆ The committee earned the Quality Diocese Award. Kathy will be submitting a report to the Region 13 chair in the next few weeks.

Goals for 2014 were developed and will be published in another document and posted to the website for your perusal and comment.

CLOSING—

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with prayer.

The next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 6:30 pm at the DPC, Room 104.

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Kathy Polowski.