

**PHXDCCS QUARTERLY MEETING 2  
APRIL 24, 2013**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Kathy Polowski. Those in attendance included Steve Miller, Nancy Welton, Lynn Coomer, Terry Easley, Tom Koncel, Herb Pierpan, Gina Keating, Craig Nelson, Sandy Eubanks, Marie and Joe Maresh, Loretta Winn, and Fr. Paul Sullivan. Kathy welcomed everyone and invited Fr. Paul Sullivan to offer the opening prayer.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**SECRETARY REPORT—Loretta Winn**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as read. Loretta announced that she is unable to continue as secretary for the committee.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**NCCS Updates-Nancy Welton/Tony Madonia, Jr.**

Nancy reported that she and Tony attended the NCCS Annual meeting in St. Louis from April 11-14, 2013. The focus was on meetings of the Standing committees and the Executive Boards.

Some information to look for in the future:

- ❖ The Board approved Ad Altare Dei for Venturers. Thus, AAD will be available for young women in crews; the implementation date is TBD.
- ❖ A new patch will be available for youth to earn—the Marian patch. Launch date TBD.
- ❖ Pope Pius VI Quality Unit Award will be made available to American Heritage Girl troops.
- ❖ Spes Mundi is the new name for the Mitre Award...which involves a donation of \$2500.
- ❖ NCCS is developing an emblem for Boy Scouts in grades 5-7. This may take a few years but is in process.

Bishop Bob Gugliemone spoke about the pending May vote related to a change in BSA membership policy. NCCS will issue a statement once the vote is in.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS-Jim Moore**

Jim plans to be present at the May Religious Ceremonies and will present the K of C Honor Award to the recipients. If possible, Jim would like certain slides shown during the presentation. Kathy will follow up on AV availability.

**Please be sure to email Jim if you have a youth who has earned Eagle rank and would like a certificate presented at his Court of Honor.**

**GSUSA/ACPC-Terry Easley/Loretta Winn**

Terry reported that Margaret Spicer is the director of programs. She is trying to get the booklets for the NCCGSCF emblem programs in the GS Council Shop.

Terry announced that the Council will be setting up a new Interfaith Committee, facilitated by Amanda Martin. There will be two opportunities to attend informational meetings- one a breakfast meeting and the other a dinner meeting at the Council offices. The goal is to reach out to girls of all faiths.

**GSUSA/PHXDCCS-Loretta Winn**

Loretta reported that she and Mary worked out a process to order medals for the NCCGSCF programs (which includes emblems for AHG as well). Leaders who meet Loretta in person and pay cash will receive medals right away. Leaders who order medals and pay with a check, will be mailed their medals or may pick them up once the check is cleared. Loretta will give Mary the checks to deposit and Mary will advise Loretta when they clear. Loretta expects the shipment, 30 Family of God, 20 ILMF, 8 Marian and 4 Spirit Alive emblems to arrive this week.

**GCC IF RELIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS COMMITTEE-Tom Koncel**

Meetings have been changed to the second Wednesday of every month. Jose Rodriguez is the advisor.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE-chair needed**

Lynn Coomer reported that the website calendar has been updated and the website will be updated with new information as it is received.

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES-chair needed**

Kathy Polowski, reported that the "Reflections" retreat was very successful and that everyone appeared to have a fun and spiritual experience. Guest speaker Brad Hahn spoke about faith and the entire group learned to examine their conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Stations included a "saint" scavenger hunt in the Saints Prayer Garden, flower making and a re-enactment of OLG apparition to Juan Diego, walking the Stations of the Cross, and making a retreat banner and unleavened bread (in Dutch ovens) for mass. Participants prayed the rosary together, were offered the opportunity to attend Adoration and over 40 people went to confession. The entire group enjoyed a special Mass in the Chapel. Certificates and patches were presented during the closing ceremony. The passports were a big hit too!

The retreat did go over budget, mostly due to copying costs. In the future we need to look at reducing the administrative expenses.

Gina Keating, Tom Koncel, and Craig Nelson reported that planning for the 2014 "Walk in the Son" retreat is well underway. Possible dates were discussed and will be pursued as follows: February 7-9 (1<sup>st</sup> choice), February 15-16 (2<sup>nd</sup> choice), and February 22-23 (3<sup>rd</sup> choice).

Hikes will be developed in South Mountain. A stone labyrinth will be laid by the youth as a service project and can be used as a religious area for all faiths. Ranger Bobby Ochoa found a good spot for the labyrinth on the west side of the Heard Scout Pueblo camp. Mass will be celebrated, followed by an evening campfire.

Retreat meetings will be starting up soon and volunteers will be needed to facilitate various events at the retreat.

### **RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS**-Nancy Welton, Chair

#### Boards of Review

Nancy reported that the April Boards of Review went very well but that registration was difficult since so many youth arrived early, before the staff.

Several Ad Altare Dei youth were not prepared and their books were unfinished. Most worked during the evening to finish them. 4 additional BOR were held prior to our meeting tonight.

The sign in sheet needs to include the name of the counselor/facilitator and email contact information for each youth.

Some Board members felt that the Ad Altare Dei questions were too much like a test and that we need to revisit these questions and perhaps make some adjustments.

A directory of trained religious emblems counselors needs to be created and maintained.

Thank you to ALL of you who served as counselors for Ad Altare Dei or facilitators for Pope Pius XII---these youth would not have earned these emblems without your guidance. Thanks also to those who assisted in the Boards of Review, creating a special evening for our youth and helped things flow smoothly.

#### May 5 Awards Ceremony

Kathy will prepare a presentation for the families of RoseMary Kloft and Joe Bartlett, recently deceased members of our committee. It was unanimously agreed to make a plaque for each family, budgeted at about \$50 each.

Adult awards will also be presented at the ceremony. There will be one St. George and 3 Bronze Pelican medals awarded.

Nancy also explained the mix up with presenting the Bronze Pelican to Fr. William Gyure, Pastor of St. Phillips in Payson. The Tucson Diocese presented it to him in March based on the recommendation of our committee. The PhxDCCS would like to thank Fr. Bill for his seven years of providing mass or a communion service at Camp Geronimo and R-C for our Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, their leaders and families. After a discussion about an appropriate gift...plaque or NCCS stole, it was voted to present him with an NCCS stole. Kathy will present the stole, card etc. to Fr. Bill at an appropriate mass this summer.

#### June REC Training

Religious Emblems Counselor training will be offered on Saturday, June 8 at the DPC at 8:30 am. Nancy Welton, Terry Easley and Kathy Polowski will facilitate this training.

A reminder that counselors need to be recertified every 5 years and assisting with the training will count as recertification.

### **TRAINING/SCOUTER DEVELOPMENT**-*chair needed*

This is a retreat for Catholic leaders. Kathy will learn more about this at the “Scouting in the Catholic Church” course and would like to see the committee offer this in the near future.

### **VOCATIONS**- *chair needed*

- Fr. Paul reported that he visited with youth working on Ad Altare Dei at Mt. Claret and enjoyed the interaction.
- He encouraged everyone to attend the priestly ordination of Eagle Scout, Deacon Chris Axline at Sts. Simon and Jude Cathedral on Saturday, June 1 at 10 am. Please you’re your field/dress uniform if you attend. There will be a reception following and a pizza lunch for those interested in learning more about priestly vocations.
- Deacon Chris will celebrate his first Mass at the 5:30 pm Mass at St. Andrew’s parish in Chandler on Sunday, June 2.

### **VENTURING CREW 2009**-Steve Miller

Steve reported that the Crew has been having monthly activities, will carry out the Seminarian picnic in August and is always looking to recruit new members.

### **BUSINESS**

**UNFINISHED**-Nancy further explained the relations between the various groups and NCCS. NCCS sponsors the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and other groups are invited to join in at the pleasure of the Bishop.

The PhxDCCS, as part of NCCS, provides information about the religious emblems and patch programs available to our Catholic scouts, provides training for parents, counselors and facilitators to earn these emblems and patches, and provides spiritual retreats and events—not only to help the scouts satisfy requirements for the emblems but to encourage participation in faith filled, spiritual activities in an effort to touch their lives and impact them in a positive way.

**NEW** -Kathy passed out information on the St. Tarcisius program...a medal awarded to participants in a special retreat that involves learning about and experiencing the Eucharist. She also passed out information about the “Pillars of Faith” program which is based on the four pillars of the Catholic faith and is a pin awarded to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who earn all 4 religious emblems. Kathy asked that everyone consider these for possible implementation.

Closing prayer was offered by Nancy Welton. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

**Next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2013 but will most likely be changed.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Kathy Polowski.

***“No matter what is happening in your life, know that God is waiting for you with open arms.”***

