

**PHXDCCS QUARTERLY MEETING  
JULY 31, 2013**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by Kathy Polowski. Those in attendance included Ralph Sheldon, Tom Koncel, Gina Keating, Terry Easley, Norma Partida, Nancy Welton, Sandy Eubanks, Joe and Marie Maresh, Larry Becker, Loretta Winn, Scott Impecoven, Dorene and Mark Healy, Tony Madonia and Steve Miller.

Steve Miller offered the opening prayer. Kathy welcomed everyone and brief introductions were made.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**SECRETARY-Ann Colvin-Smith**

Kathy reviewed the minutes from the last quarterly meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

**TREASURER-Mary Madonia**

Mary emailed the quarterly financial report. The balance forward was \$1992.98 with deposits over the quarter of \$449.82. Checks were paid out to NFCYM for emblems, NCCS for a stole and some reimbursements for retreat expenses in the amount of \$1081.62. Additional expenses of \$64.52 leave the adjusted balance, as related to the bank statement, at \$1296.66.

**CHAIR-Kathy Polowski**

Kathy presented information about the following:

- Anza Trek flier, Saturday, October 12, 2013.
- Ten Commandment Hike flier, Friday, November 29, 2013 from 8am-4pm.
- An application for the NCCS Award for Excellence for the “NCIS retreat” was submitted in April by Kathy. This included a write up of the planning process and details of the retreat. Results pending.
- A write up on the “Reflections on Faith and Forgiveness” retreat is pending.
- ACPC-GSUSA created two fliers recently--one promoting Catholic religious emblems and other programs available for Girl Scouts and the other is a Catholic prayer. Both are in English and Spanish and will be posted on our website.
- Kathy has reviewed the application form for the 2013 Quality Diocesan Committee Award. The committee is close to completing the requirements for this reward. It will be discussed in more detail at our October quarterly meeting. The new patch logo incorporates the national “Year of Faith” symbol and can be seen on the application form.

- If you would like a 2012 Quality Diocese patch, please let Kathy know by August 30. The patches will be \$3.50 each and will be delivered at the October quarterly meeting.
- Kathy attended Mass at St. Philip's Parish in Payson on June 23 and presented Fr. William Gyure with the NCCS stole and a gift card to thank him for his 7 years of service to the scouts and scouters at our GCC camps-Camp Geronimo and R-C. He ensured that communion was available every week during the summer camp season thus bringing the Eucharist to thousands of Catholics during that time period. His efforts are most appreciated!!!
- Last year BSA approved new adult volunteer positions promoting religious emblems of all faiths--that of Religious Emblems Coordinator. This position should be found at the unit, district and council levels. A position patch is now available to wear on the uniform for leaders filling those positions. For more information, please visit the PRAY website at [http://www.praypub.org/main\\_frameset.htm](http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm).
- Diocesan Safe Environment Training (SET) is required for Catholic volunteers who are religious emblems counselors or leaders in Catholic chartered units, whether as an ASM, committee member or merit badge counselor. The Safe Environment office requires a preliminary foundation course and then in subsequent years renewal is completed online. Technically the date to comply every year is July 1.

Course information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php?show=setOffice>

There is a question related to non-Catholic leaders in Catholic chartered units and whether they are required to take SET or if BSA YPT will suffice.

For Girl Scout leaders, SET must be completed for anyone who is a REC or if the troop happens to be chartered by a Catholic organization.

**Kathy** will check to see if the SET foundations course can be offered for Catholic leaders the same day as our REC training.

Kathy presented an outline for the tentative calendar for 2013-2014. A discussion ensued and several dates were changed or added. The brochure will be updated and forwarded during the next couple of weeks and the calendar items will be posted on the website.

Key dates are as follows:

September 7, 2013 Religious Emblems Counselor training at the DPC, 8:30 am.

October 12, 2013 Anza trek sponsored by Diocese of Tucson CCS.

October 23, 2013 Quarterly meeting at the DPC, 6:30 pm.

November 29, 2013 10 Commandment Hike, 8 am- 4 pm, begins at St. Theresa Parish.

January 11, 2014 Scouter Development retreat, time and location tbd.

January 22, 2014 Quarterly meeting at the DPC, 6:30 pm.  
February 2, 2014 Scout Sunday  
February 7-9, 2014 "A Walk in the Son" Catholic scout retreat at Heard Scout Pueblo.  
February 22, 2014 World Thinking Day  
April 9, 2014 Quarterly meeting at the DPC, 6:30 pm.  
April 16, 2014 Religious Emblems Boards of Review (BoR) at the DPC, 6:30 pm.  
April 24-27, 2014 NCCS Biennial Conference, Irvine, CA  
May 4, 2014 Annual Religious Emblems ceremony, time and location tbd.  
May 31, 2014 Religious Emblems Counselor (REC) training, DPC, 8:30 am.  
June 28, 2014 Priestly Ordination  
July 30, 2014 Annual planning meeting at the DPC, 6:30 pm.  
August 3-9, 2014 Scouting in the Catholic Church course, Philmont Training Center, NM  
August 2014 Seminarian Picnic at Mt. Claret Retreat Center hosted by Venturing Crew/Serra

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**-Jim Moore/Larry Becker

Larry affirmed that the Knights of Columbus still stand strong to support BSA and GSUSA despite the membership policy change for BSA and issues in the media for Girl Scouts.

Larry presented the Diocesan committee with a check from the Arizona State Council in the amount of \$500 and asked that the funds go towards helping youth earn their religious emblems. *Sincere thanks to the Knights for their continued support and generosity!*

#### **VENTURING CREW 2009**-Steve Miller/Macreena Cress

Kathy reported that the crew is assisting the Serra Club in hosting the annual Seminarian Picnic Sunday, August 4 at the Mt. Claret Retreat Center in the south conference center. This "picnic" is a dinner for seminarians and their families and is an opportunity to relax and enjoy fellowship with family and brother seminarians before they return to their respective seminaries. Serra Club members, priests and Bishop Olmsted also attend. The crew will be shopping for the food on Saturday, August 3 at 10 am. and then, on Sunday starting at about 1:30 pm, the crew will set up and decorate the facility, prepare, cook, and serve the food, and clean up after dinner.

The crew has reserved 10 spaces at Feed My Starving Children for Thursday, August 8 from 8-9:30 pm. Crew members, friends and adults are welcome to join in the fun and help prepare food that is shipped to the Philippines and other countries around the world. Contact Andrew at [computerboy2020@yahoo.com](mailto:computerboy2020@yahoo.com) to RSVP.

Crew 2009 is seeking new members and announcements about upcoming events open to guests and new members will be forthcoming. The crew provides service to the Diocese, including carrying out the Seminarian picnic and helping at the annual scout retreat but they are also a scouting unit and plan and carry out activities and outings. Youth enjoy some great experiences, develop friendships and gain leadership skills during their involvement in Venturing. Venturing is open to youth--both boys and girls--ages 13 (and completed 8th grade)

to age 21. Youth can be “dually registered” as a member of another troop or crew, registered in the crew only or Venturing can be their first scouting experience. Please spread the word about the “Bishop’s Crew”. Contact information can be found under the “Venturing” tab at [www.phxdccs.org](http://www.phxdccs.org).

#### **NCCS UPDATE--Nancy Welton/Tony Madonia**

Kathy reported that the St. George Trek was held this summer at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, NM and had the largest number of participants ever--- 70 from 42 different parishes. Anthony Garcia from St. Gabriel’s Parish was one of the participants and had a great experience. The St. George Trek is a 12 day backpacking trek in the wilderness of Philmont’s backcountry, accompanied by priests, seminarians and religious sisters. The event includes a two day retreat in Albuquerque before the trek and a final day in Albuquerque after the trek before returning home. The trek is open to young men and women registered in Boy Scouts or Venturing who are approximately 15-18 years old (sophomores in high school through graduation, but not yet in college) and is scheduled every other year. The next trek is in 2015.

Kathy attended the “Scouting in the Catholic Church” course and thoroughly enjoyed the course and the venue. Philmont truly is “God’s country”. She returned with renewed enthusiasm and a vision of how this committee can move forward and continue to bring Jesus into the lives of our youth. Please check the calendar for course dates for next year.

The NCCS Biennial Conference will be in Irvine, CA next spring from April 24-27, 2014..

Nancy presented a request from from Ed Martin, the NCCS National Chairman asking for suggestions for FAQ’s relating to the change in the BSA youth membership standard. NCCS plans to post the questions with their responses on the NCCS Facebook page and they are attempting to develop guidelines for diocesan committees and units. **Please send any FAQ’s or comments to Kathy Polowski by August 11, 2013.**

During this discussion a question came up about Fr. Dennis’ blog concerning the BSA membership policy change and since it was approved by Bishop Olmsted, does it directly represent the Bishop’s opinion? The individual took offense to the statement in the blog pertaining to other organizations partnering with Planned Parenthood. A recommendation was made to reply directly to Fr. Dennis on the blog site or to email him with questions and concerns.

#### **GRAND CANYON COUNCIL-Scott Impecoven**

Scott explained that he and other Council liaisons are in the process of meeting with the institutional heads of all chartered organizations. This year there are more questions due to the BSA membership standards vote. Scott said that there are task forces discussing various topics related to the BSA membership vote. Can a youth who is gay or lesbian still be a member when a Venturer scout? In Boy Scouts youth “age out” at 18 and are considered adults but in Venturing they don’t age out until they are 21. Girls and young women are part of the Venturing program so will a youth aged 18-20 be considered adult or youth and how will the

membership standard apply? A question was asked whether or not the BSA registration form will be changed to ask a question related to sexual orientation?

Scott reiterated that an “inclination” is acceptable, acting on it is not.

The new policy goes into effect on January 1, 2014 so BSA is trying to get feedback and consider the implications and implementation of the new membership standards.

Scott informed us that Cub Scout Leader Powwow and Baden-Powell University (formerly the University of Scouting) have been combined on the same date and location and will be on November 22-23, 2013 at Gilbert High School in Gilbert. Registration is online at <http://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/event/1351759>.

Scoutorama will be held at the University of Phoenix stadium on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

#### **GSUSA/ACPC-Loretta Winn**

Loretta reported that the new process for ordering the NCCGSCF emblems seems to be going well.

#### **AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS-open**

AHG dissolved the “agreement of mutual support” with BSA soon after the new membership policy vote.

Kathy was in correspondence with the local AHG liaison and was told that AHG would still be represented on our committee and that the girls would be encouraged to earn the NCCGSCF emblems. AHG leaders should continue to promote the emblems.

The liaisons have moved out of state and there is not yet a new liaison to our committee.

#### **GCC INTERFAITH COMMITTEE-open**

The 10 Commandment hike will be on **Friday, November 29** from 8-4 in the Arcadia area. The flier is now available and posted on our website.

Meetings are now the second Wednesday of the month at the Council Service Center, 7:15 pm.

#### **ACPC IF COMMITTEE---Terry Easley**

No regular monthly meeting date set as of yet but the committee is meeting each month. A purpose statement and objectives have been delineated. A main goal is to make girls aware of religious badges and activities that are available. The committee has come up with ideas for religious activities for Girl Scouts and will be further discussed. New fliers outlining activities at each level of scouting for various faith traditions are also being developed. The fliers for Catholic Girl Scouts will be posted on the website.

There will be an Interfaith Prayer Breakfast in the East Valley to promote GS religious emblems on September 10, from 7-9am at the Chandler/Gilbert YMCA at 1655 W Frye Rd. in Chandler. Please contact Amanda Martin if you would like to attend.

The committee is hoping to have the religious emblem workbooks of different faiths in the GS-ACP Council Shop. PRAY is one resource for these. Margaret Spicer has been working on making the Catholic religious emblem program books available for purchase there.

World Thinking Day on February 22 is a day when Girl Scouts learn about different countries through neighborhood international festivals. The ACPC-IF committee is hoping to develop activities for girls to learn about different religions from around the world.

International Catholic Awareness patch activities could be a possible activity.

The next committee meeting will be August 20 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the ACPC offices, 119 E. Coronado, Phoenix.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Kathy mentioned that chairpersons are needed for many of these subcommittees. Please contact her for more information about the responsibilities of the respective chairs.**

### **COMMUNICATION--*chair needed***

A brief discussion concerning outreach to Girl Scouts and the problem with the "leader filter" occurred and ideas to get around that in general were proposed:

- get youth ministers in the parish to assist with event promotion
- invite youth ministers and priests to come to the event
- establish liaisons within each district and neighborhood
- promote events through the Interfaith committees

Kathy reported that the subcommittee met on July 18 and brainstormed on outreach and methods to improve communication. Those minutes will be posted separately.

The website is a work in progress. Please check it soon to see new updates. Thanks to Lynn Coomer for working on this!

If you follow Facebook, please check out our Facebook page listed under the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Committee on Scouting.

### **MEMBERSHIP--*chair needed***

Kathy reported that this membership committee will be forming and will have two goals---to provide support for existing Catholic chartered units and to work with GCC to develop new units. Personal visits to parishes, schools etc. and phone calls and email contacts will be important. Girl Scout members are needed to reach out to MSE's in the valley.

“Selling” points for starting new packs and troops:

- enhance the youth program--scouting *is* a form of youth ministry
- scouts assist with activities and events within the parish
- Eagle projects can be carried out to benefit the parish
- promote the Venturing Crew 2009 and service to the Diocese

#### **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**-*chair needed*

Spring Retreat 2014-Craig Nelson, Gina Keating, Tom Koncel

Gina Keating reported that the date has been set for **“A Walk in the Son” retreat and is February 7-9 at the Heard Scout Pueblo**. The flier is being developed and once approved will be available for distribution.

Facilitators and volunteers are needed for the various events during the retreat.

Monthly retreat committee meetings will be scheduled. Please watch for the dates.

The retreat committee met on July 18 to discuss details and the minutes will be posted to the website.

#### **RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS**-Nancy Welton

Nancy reported that the Annual Religious Emblems Ceremony held at St. Theresa Parish on May 5 went very well and was well attended. Thanks to Gina Keating and the parish for making the arrangements and hosting the event!

Religious Emblems Counselor (REC) training was held at the DPC on June 8 and was very successful with 12 participants in attendance.

A new training format was created and seemed to work well. All participants were together for an overview of all programs and their delivery, then the group divided into Cub/Boy Scout and Girl Scout/AHG emblem groups to discuss strategies on how to successfully implement the programs. Terry Easley provided training specific to the NCCGSCF emblems and Nancy Welton and Kathy Polowski provided training specific to the NCCS Emblems. The groups then reconvened for a presentation about NCCS patch programs and other programs available for Catholic scouts.

The next REC training will be Saturday, September 7 at 8:30 am at the DPC. **Nancy** will update the flier and registration form and begin recruitment.

New Religious Emblems groups will be forming and counselors will be needed. **Please advise Nancy and Kathy ASAP if you intend to counsel Ad Altare Dei or facilitate a Pope Pius XII group**. We will be sending emails to promote the emblems programs and should start to hear from interested youth as well.

Kathy has heard from Ron Henry with T869, St. Patrick's parish in Scottsdale about counseling an Ad Altare Dei group and Eric Robidoux with P555 in Mesa would like to facilitate a PPXII group.

We need chairpersons for some of the subsections of the Religious Emblems committee as follows:

- Annual BoR's in April
- Annual May Religious Recognition Ceremony
- REC training coordinator

Please let Nancy or Kathy know if you need more information and/or would like to learn about coordinating these events.

In addition, Nancy explained that her role as the chairperson of this committee and direct involvement will diminish in the new year due to the need to change focus..she has been invited to be a Wood Badge course director in the Fall 2014. This is quite an honor but very time consuming. *We wish Nancy the best in all her endeavors!*

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

Kathy expressed her desire that the PhxDCCS hold a retreat for committee members and Catholic scout leaders from across the valley. After discussion, the date of January 11, 2014 was agreed upon. Kathy will explore possible retreat venues including Mt. Claret and work on getting facilitators for this special event. *If you are interested in helping, please contact Kathy.*

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

Vocations talks are included in the retreats and Venturing Crew events.

#### **BUSINESS**

**UNFINISHED**-Information on the Chi-Rho patch, Pillars of Faith recognition program and St. Tarcisius medal were presented at the last meeting. These are programs that would recognize scouts who earn all four religious emblems or participate in a special retreat. Discussion as to whether any of these recognitions should be adopted will be deferred to the next quarterly meeting.

**NEW**-In an effort to reach out to the scouts in northern Arizona, an attempt will be made to offer a day of reflection, pilgrimage, or a mini- retreat this fall. Kathy has contacted Michael Vollmer, the COR for the Flagstaff units and will see if something can be worked out.

Kathy mentioned that the committee should eventually provide more outreach to Eastern rite Catholics in an effort to promote religious emblems to those scouts. They may earn Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Light is Life and Pope Pius XII. More information will be forthcoming.



**OPEN DISCUSSION**-During the talk about the St. George trek and possibly having the committee raise funds to support future candidates, a brief fundraising discussion ensued. A question was asked if letters requesting donations can be sent to Catholic parishes and organizations such as the Knights, Serra Club etc. A letter and a follow up phone call or visit would give a personal touch and explain how the donated funds would be used. It was recommended that in the event we want to do this, we would need to check with the Diocese and NCCS before proceeding. Fundraising and related topics will be deferred to the next quarterly meeting.

- Marie Maresh reported that Fr. Darrin is hoping to be a facilitator for PPXII.
- A Venturing crew may be started at Sacred Heart in Prescott.
- Happy Birthday Sandy Eubanks! Thanks for spending your birthday with us!

**CLOSING-**

Nancy offered a closing prayer..for us to have the vision of Lord Baden-Powell... to recognize that the future of the world is in the hands of our youth...for our youth to bring peace to the world...to love one another... welcome all youth into the scouting movement... leaders influence and inspire each other... safe travels.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Kathy Polowski.

Next quarterly meeting is October 23, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the DPC.

***“The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.”***