

Cardinal District Committee Monthly Meeting

May 18, 2023

The meeting began by Zoom at 7:00 pm. There were 20 participants.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the April 2023 monthly meeting. The minutes were approved.

District Chairman Tim Forrest advised that Activities & Civic Service Chair Courtney Trujillo needs help with the summer Cub Scout events, starting with the Shooting Sports Day on June 10, 2023. Courtney is expecting 80 Cub Scouts for the Shooting Sports Day and 75 Cub Scouts for the Fishing Derby on June 24, 2023 at Harris Lake Fishing Pond. The District Twilight Camp is scheduled for July 13-16, 2023. Help is needed at all three events. A suggestion was made to reach out through the council 421 Shooting Sports group for assistance with the Shooting Sports Day.

District Commissioner Patrick Sperlein provided the following report. Cardinal District has 72 units with a Unit Health Score of 4.19. The units are 27 packs, 37 troops, 7 crews, and 1 Ship. A new unit in May was Pack 373 in Apex. Two additional units are potentially to register in the next three months: Pack 23 in Apex, and Troop 210G in Cary. Troop 391G is presently a unit of concern; its membership is under five Scouts.

In the area of unit service, commissioners have recorded 472 contacts with 62 units having been contacted at least three times (86.11%). Sixteen of twenty-three commissioners have recorded contacts. The goal is for all units to have at least six recorded contacts and for all commissioners to have a recorded contact. Twenty-four detailed assessments have been completed (33.33%). The goal is for all units to have completed one detailed assessment per year.

Commissioners will be collecting the following information on unit health between now and August for the Council Commissioner:

- Is the primary Unit Leader trained in position?
- Did the unit attend Day/Summer Camp last year?
- Did the unit have any advancements in the last six (6) months
- Did the unit have any new members in the last six (6) months?
- Does the unit have more than 10 active youth participants?

These metrics have been used in other councils to provide an at-a-glance indication of units in danger of not rechartering.

As for commissioner strength, the district presently has 23 registered commissioners:

DC – 1

ADC – 5

UC – 11

RTC – 6

Recommended Staffing Levels indicate the district should have 18 to 24 Unit Commissioners (3-4 units/commissioner) and 5 Assistant District Commissioners.

For the May 2023 Roundtable, there were 65 Participants from 39 Units. During the General Session, Patrick discussed the Special Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Toolbox. During the breakouts, Cub Scouts discussed Annual Planning, Scouts BSA discussed Streamlining Boards of Review, and Venturing/Sea Scouts discussed Program Planning Possibilities. The next roundtable is on June 1, 2023. During the general session, there will be a presentation on Supporting Muslim Scouts in Your Unit. During the breakouts, Cub Scouts will discuss Cub Scout Recruiting and Scouts BSA will discuss Effective Use of the Patrol Method.

The operating committees broke out for individual meetings for approximately twenty minutes. Upon reconvening, the operating committees provided the following reports.

Finance – Tyler Perkinson advised that council will be pushing Friends of Scouting in the next few weeks. Cardinal District is lagging a bit in FOS. The big FOS fundraising luncheon will be in late September or early October this year. The fundraising event will move back to the spring in 2024 with plans for the event to be at the Raleigh Convention Center. Discussions on the council budget for next year are on-going, and Tyler and Erin will be reaching out to folks in the district for input.

Membership – Neil Smith passed along the report from Erin that Cardinal has had 4.1% growth year-to-year with 2,088 youth. The highest rate of growth is in Cub Scouts, and Cardinal has had the steadiest growth of all the districts. Cardinal has had the greatest growth among districts in the first months of 2023, and growth for the year is expected to exceed 5%.

Communications & Marketing – no report.

Camping & Outdoor Programs – Donna Dragon acknowledged the discussions about having more Cub Scout events and hope to poll participants at roundtable Cub Scout breakouts to get input on the events Cub Scouts would like to see. The District Camporee date is being moved from April 14, 2024 to April 18, 2024 to accommodate our Muslim Scouts.

Activities & Civic Service – Chris Harmon restated the need for help with all the Cub Scout events: Shooting Sports Day and Fishing Derby in June, Twilight Camp in July, and NOVA Days in August.

Training – Eddie Wilson advised he hoped to poll unit leaders at the next roundtable to assess training needs. The council is planning a super training event in October at Camp Durant. The district plans to conduct IOLS and BALOO in August.

Advancement & Recognition – Tom Allen noted that there was one pack with no advancements reported this year, but the pack is a new unit. Troops 391G and 392B were not showing a lot of advancement. Gantt Edmiston advised that council will be looking at units that do not have any registered Merit Badge Counselors but are still reporting merit badges earned. Gantt also noted that although the big registration for MBCs is in April, a new MBC can register at any time during the year.

Order of the Arrow – Brian Lehrschall noted that Spring Inductions would be this coming weekend and there was still a need for Elangomats.

Old business - None

New business – None

Open forum – Neil Smith, district YPT Champion, reminded everyone of the council policy concerning current YPT certifications and suspension from registration for those with expired certifications.

Field Director/District Executive – DE Erin Shiflett advised that Popcorn Kickoff would be Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Cary Chamber of Commerce. Erin will be sending out an End of School Year Survey (Troop Specific) with one response per unit requested. The brief survey will look for information on how units recruiting and their training needs. Erin will be working with packs to develop Individual Membership Plans to gather information on how the packs plan to recruit. Erin asked that units let her know of their summer plans as well as any information on community events where Scouts could be involved. Erin also asked for our district Scouters to pass along to her any information on possible contacts at schools in the district to aid in fall recruiting. Gantt noted that the Town of Cary is planning to conduct a Citizenship in the Community event sometime later this year.

The next district committee meeting will be on June 15, 2023. The meeting adjourned upon motion.