



Coastal Sage District Committee Meeting – May 13, 2020

- 1) District Chair Comments:
 - a) Strange and difficult times confront the District, with many Units not meeting, advancement challenges, and membership challenges. This meeting and the next few will be examining different ways to get the program out to scouts and potential scouts.
 - b) There is not much to report on summer camps, as the Council is focusing on things based on a rolling 30 day window. It makes it hard to plan, but keeps the focus on immediate needs.
 - c) Now is the time to start focusing on what we can plan in the near future as the economy and society start to open.
- 2) District Exec Comments:
 - a) Rob has been reaching out to units to see what they are doing. Many have no meetings, as they are not familiar with the technology for virtual meetings. Some are doing pretty good virtual programs.
 - b) FOS is a significant challenge. We have a chair, but he is presently overwhelmed with pandemic related issues. The council has a video that they intend to use as part of Zoom meetings for units to try to solicit funds for FOS. This is a new plan, and the council is working on a letter to be sent to the units to try to generate interest. A test of the system with a texting function on smartphones for making contributions seemed to work. However, getting buyin from the units may be difficult.
- 3) Commissioner's Comments:
 - a) Mike reported that he had a virtual meeting with his Commissioners that went well. There are still some problems getting all Commissioners registered so they can use Commissioner Tools. They did make unit assignments, and are working on getting everyone onto Tools. The focus is to reach out to Units and find out what they are doing for meetings, and what help they may need.
- 4) Membership
 - a) Claire noted that the primary membership drive for Cubs is Spring Roundup at schools, which cannot happen now. So she thinking outside the box. As youth are allowed to get outside more and socialize, they will be looking for activities. So she is thinking about community activity recruiting. She is working with one Pack as they plan a Rocket Academy, where Cubs and other interested youths will be able to create and experiment with air or liquid propelled rockets. Getting new youths involved will hopefully prove to be a good segue to scouting. Also looking at ways Troops could team up with Packs to promote their units. Another idea is some version of Scout Expo. Claire is looking for other ideas. If you have any, please let Claire know.
 - b) This type of community activity can be promoted to Packs by an email through our Google Group for Cubs, and at Roundtable.



- c) The other side of membership is adult volunteers. Mark is still looking for names to contact as the shutdown gets relaxed. He has a few names, but asks everyone who knows someone with a scouting background, or someone outside scouting who would be good with youth to send him contact information so he can build a list for recruiting.
- 5) Advancement
 - a) Greg reported there is not much on the advancement front. Some Troops are working on merit badges through Zoom or similar platforms, but there is no organized effort. That needs to be looked at and promoted more.
 - b) Cubs are harder to get a handle on unless there is direct contact. Vanessa discussed that her Pack did a virtual campout where kids earned arrow points and loops that were then given out by the parents. They put together packages for each scout so they could work on their project, with the award in the package for the parents to present. This apparently worked well.
 - c) A lot of Eagle candidates are quickly approaching, or have already attained, that magical age of 18, without the ability to complete projects or get their Boards of Review. BSA is accepting requests for extensions. They have processed 13 so far, and expect more.
 - d) Also, advancement requirements for Cubs has been extended to July. We need to get word of this out to our Packs so they know to keep working with kids on their requirements for advancing to the next level.
 - 6) Outdoors
 - a) Keith acknowledged that with camps shutting down, there is not much on the outdoor front. The discussion then turned to alternatives.
 - b) Camp Wingit was a recent virtual campout put together by San Luis Rey. They had 400 participants, including Scouts, Cubs and parents. We have materials on how they put that together. Deb Olson is going to look at putting together something like this for Cubs, and from there we can see if we can generate a combined program for Cubs and Scouts. If anyone has any ideas, please contact Deb. Mark will be contacting Bill Greer & Michael Szuch to see if they have some interest in working on the BSA side of this, since Camporee is postponed.
 - 7) Eagle Board of Review
 - a) Ken has been conducting Boards of Review by Skype. He is still working out the process for getting binders scanned and circulated, and arranging the meetings, but it has been working out thus far. He has had a good pool of volunteers to sit on the boards. He is hoping to up the number he can accommodate in the next couple weeks.
 - 8) Community Service
 - a) Vanessa reports that they are looking at ideas for recognizing veterans on Memorial Day. Perhaps virtual flags, or flags in their lawns. Deb reported that Scouts and Cubs in San Luis Rey are being encouraged to decorate doors, windows or lawns with patriotic themes.
 - b) Unfortunately, Scouting for Food has wound down. Those items collected before the outbreak have been donated to food kitchens. To the extent Scouts can organize food drop-offs in their areas, those products should be delivered to the Food Bank or similar



charitable organization. Be sure that scouts track their time and efforts to be recorded as community service.

9) Roundtable

- a) Dan has been having good success with virtual Roundtables, thanks to his team including Josh, Vanessa and Kimberly. Next Roundtable is May 14 at 6:30. Kimberly reported on how they are setting up the meeting to control noise, and using breakout rooms. Fortunately, we have some tech savvy folks on this Committee to use this new technology.
- b) Atonement Lutheran, where we hold Roundtable and OA, is closing. Dan is looking at new locations. He has one possible location at Clairemont Lutheran.

10) Order of the Arrow

- a) Susan gave a report of recent OA activities. They are now doing Arrow of Light ceremonies virtually. Packs should contact sabernet@sbcglobal.net if they want an Arrow of Light and/or Crossover. They are also sending Election Teams for OA Elections, virtually of course. Contact Scott Gruby at scott@gruby.com
- b) The new OA website is at <https://oa.sdicsa.org/>

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE WORK YOU DO ON BEHALF OF OUR SCOUTS

