DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

August 30, 2015

Present: Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Dan and Michele Donovan, Jack Martin, Lori Robinson Adkins, Deacon Charles Koressel, Emily Thompson, Jim Voelker, Matthew Kremer

Excused: Jim Schmitt

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:08 PM in a conference room at St. Philip Parish. He opened with a heart prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2015 were approved by proper motion and voice vote after a correction. Minutes should have stated that Pack 349 needs more leaders not a new Cubmaster..

Financial Report: Deacon Charlie reported nothing new and that we are basically in “good shape” with the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: The Chair of this committee is vacant. Jack Martin reported the Cub Scout Faith Day will be at St. John Daylight with other sites being offered depending on the interest, but the exact date is to be determined. Ken and Cathy Egler will be in charge. He said there is still a possibility of a small Faith Day this fall since the one scheduled in February had to be cancelled.

The Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat in scheduled for March 4-6, 2016 at the Catholic Center. It is on the Bishop’s calendar. Jack reported there has already been one planning session, and another is planned following this DCCS meeting. The Donovans have volunteered to be assistants to Jack in working on the Retreat.

Emblems: Lori Robinson Adkins reported ten scouts had completed the Ad Altare Dei (AAD), and two adults had been trained as AAD counselors. The question came up about whether another retreat other than the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat can be substituted for the AAD requirement to attend a retreat. Deacon Charlie emphasized the guidelines were written out in the past and still hold. Another question came up whether girls can earn the AAD. They can as long as they are in a Venturing Crew. Lori mentioned she is responding back to any unit from whom she receives an Intent Form (to start an emblem class) and will also notify the Scout Chaplain.

Membership: Jim Voelker reported there is a new Cubmaster at Resurrection Parish. There are no new units. The NCCS is fostering a membership initiative.

Vocations: Jack Martin said that Cameron Egler and Frank Simutis did complete the St. George Trek at Philmont, and he will ask them to give a report at the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat in March. He will begin recruitment for new members of the Order of St. Dominic Savio soon. Some have already shown interest. Although a scout can participate if they have earned the AAD, he prefers that they be 14 and in high school to earn this recognition. Members will be helping at the ordination scheduled for December. The next Vocation Day will be January 9, 2016 at St. John’s (Daylight).

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson reported that he had talked with Cris Goldbach about assuming the chair of this committee, but Cris declined but is still willing to help with the training if available. Joe said he would temporarily work toward seeing that the training happens at the March Retreat.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported that the website ([www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com)) now contains the updated map of the newly aligned deaneries. There is a new history section with a picture of Bishop Emeritus Gettelfinger with Jack Thompson. The website also now lists all recipients of the Bronze Pelican and St. George Emblems. He thanked those who had called attention to some errors and problems in the website and would welcome more suggestions.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner said work had recently been done on the drainage problem with the chapel at Old Ben. Instead of the French drain some special equipment was obtained to do some grading with a trench which should handle the problem. Some brush was also cleared.   
There is still a problem with the roof leaking and gutters filling up with leaves. Tom is going to talk to John Harding, the Council Scout Executive, about taking down the gutters and putting rocks on the ground below and maybe replacing the clear (Lexan) roof.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Noll said that there was no change in membership.

NEW BUSINESS

The recent policy change of the BSA to allow gay leaders was discussed. Bishop Thompson publically stated that he will continue to support Scouting units sponsored by parishes as long as the leaders can be chosen by the parish. This is consistent with the new policy of the BSA that religious groups can choose leaders that are consistent with their religious beliefs. There is the possibility that this may be challenged in court. One bishop has already withdrawn his support of parish sponsored units. There are several other organizations which are promoting scouting type activities and values but not allowing gay membership.

The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2015 at St. John the Baptist Parish (Newburgh).

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie thanked all for their continued support but especially thanked Matthew Kremer for showing interest in joining the DCCS. He pointed out that we need more young adults on the committee. He closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

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