DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 6, 2020

Present: Bill Noll, Francis Brickey, Deacon Charles Koressel, Matthew Kremer. Present Virtually: Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Jim Voelker, Jack Martin

Excused: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:05 PM in the Parish Center at St. Benedict Cathedral Parish. He opened with a heart prayer which included a remembrance of a recently deceased DCCS member, Tom Dieter.

The minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2020 were approved by proper motion and voice vote after a correction was made noting that under Chapel Maintenance the phrase “stained the new roofing” should read “stained the new boards that had to be replaced in the roof.”

Financial Report: Deacon Charlie said that there was nothing of note to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Francis Brickey said he had been working on Saint names for the discussion groups and on the schedule for the March retreat, but Chairman Noll pointed out that in light of the current pandemic we need to first discuss whether we should have the Retreat or not. Deacon Charlie reported that the Catholic Center is available, but we would have to reduce the numbers to comply with social distancing in the big meeting room. It was pointed out that sleeping in the gym would be next to impossible to maintain social distancing. Meals would an additional challenge. The idea of doing a virtual retreat was introduced and discussed at length. Possibilities included a live one-day session with talks by the seminarians or a pre-recorded session with the talks that could then be provided to the units to show at their discretion to their units and/or be made available to individuals. Some liturgy might be included. Participants would submit answers to questions about the talks and in return would receive a Retreat patch. Ultimately it was decided that the in-person Retreat would be cancelled, but we will work toward some sort of virtual Retreat. There was some concern about the technical knowledge required to put on such a presentation. To that end Francis Brickey said he would contact a staff member at St. Ben’s who has had experience in similar events. Deacon Charlie will approach Fr. Tyler Tenbarge who also has had a similar experience in doing talks with seminarians. Some of those recorded talks by the seminarians might be appropriate for the Retreat. Chairman Noll will also contact Abby Roberts at the Buffalo Trace Council who has done complex virtual meetings. Hopefully in two weeks we will have a better idea of what can be done.

Chairman Noll said the Cub Scout Faith Day in February might still be possible with the small numbers and a large area to have it in which was the case last year.

Emblems: Jack Martin had sent a written report by email which he gave during the meeting. In summary 87 emblems (Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, and Ad Altare Dei) will have been completed by the end of 2020. Currently 13 are in progress for next year. To date in this fiscal year, he has spent $541.56, mostly on emblems. That does not include an order for manuals which has not been received. Six new Adult Facilitators/Counselors have been trained this year. Jack said he had done a several virtual Boards of Reviews for Ad Altare Dei which have gone well. He has been promoting Cub emblems by an email to leaders and will follow up with phone calls. He asked for a brief meeting after this meeting of those involved with adult emblems.

Membership: Jim Voelker said there was nothing new to report for membership except that he would like any applications for the Helping Hands and Pope Paul VI award by January 31st.

Vocations: Matthew Kremer said he has been contacting recent recipients of the Ad Alare Dei to encourage them to become members of the Knights of St. Dominic Savio. He has found some interest but feels that many are reluctant to admit to working on it because they are concerned about the pandemic especially in attending a Retreat. He will continue to make calls. They should still be able to fulfill their Retreat participation requirement by assisting with the planning and implementation of the virtual Retreat.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson said that since the Retreat has been cancelled, there will be no scheduled Spiritual Development course. However, he is willing to explore the possibility of a reduced virtual one especially if there are adults who need such training to qualify for an adult emblem.

Communications: Joe Dickinson mentioned that the website ([www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com)) is generally up-to-date. He is open to any suggestions for improvements or corrections. He obtained an updated list of Pack, Troop, and Crew leaders from the Council at the end of September. He used it to announce the possibility of the upcoming Scout/Venturing Retreat and the Cub Scout Faith Day. He will send out an announcement about the virtual Retreat after the first of the year after the details have been decided.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner said there was nothing new to report. He has not been able to get to Old Ben recently but will go up in early spring to clean off the leaves, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Noll said that he was reviewing the Active membership status of the Committee.

Bill mentioned that there has been no new applications for the Fr. Kreilein award for Eagle projects. The word needs to be spread to all Scouts in the Diocese.

Deacon Charlie reported that another youth group sponsored by some parishes is the Knights of St. George. They should be invited to attend our youth functions.

Chairman Noll announced that he had reviewed the comments of others for changes to update the DCCS Charter and By-laws. He has revised the document and will be sending a draft to all members for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Noll indicated he had completed the application for the 2020 Quality Diocese Committee award.

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2021 at 1:00 PM at St. Benedict Parish Center.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie expressed his appreciation that members were still working to achieve the objectives of the committee despite the Pandemic. He closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing at approximately 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr

DCCS Secretary.