DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 11, 2017

Present: Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Deacon Charles Koressel, Emily Thompson, Jim Voelker, Dan and Michele Donovan, John Harding

Excused: Lori Adkins

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:00 in a meeting room in the Lower Level of St. John the Baptist Church (Newburgh). He opened with a heart prayer.

John Harding, Scout Executive of the Buffalo Trace Council (BTC), was introduced as a new member of the committee. He mentioned that Matt Stratman was no longer the BTC Liaison to the DCCS, but it is now Jennifer Whitaker. He also suggested that he would like all of his staff to become informational members.

The minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2017 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

Financial Report: Deacon Charlie said there was nothing new to report, i.e. there are no problems with the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: The next Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat is scheduled for March 2-4, 2018. The Catholic Center is reserved, but a discussion ensued about whether it should be moved around and we should consider other locations such as returning to Rivet High School in Vincennes or St. Meinrad. People generally agreed returning to St. Meinrad occasionally would be ideal, but it would entail some discussions with the administration there. John Harding said he would be willing to be involved in that endeavor.

Joe Dickinson gave a report on the attendance by troops at the Retreat just completed in March. Total attendance was 103 compared to 104 in 2016. Fourteen troops were represented this year compared to thirteen the previous year. It was decided that next year a “hat’s off” policy (in reverence to the crucifixes in each room) as well as wearing appropriate tee-shirts would be encouraged from the beginning with a flyer in the registration packet.

There was lot of concern about the fact that no packs were found to attend the Cub Scout Faith Day, so it was not held. It was also noted that the number of Cub Scout religious emblems are down. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting on a date (possibly a week after the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat) and how to promote and advertise the religious aspect to Cub Scouting. Bill will contact Cathy Egler and discuss before next meeting.

Emblems: No formal report was given in the absence of Lori Adkins.

Membership: Jim Voelker said nothing had changed with membership since the last meeting.

Vocations: There was no formal report in the absence of Joe Keith, but Joe Dickinson reported that the two scouts from his troop were preparing for the St. George Trek next month.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson reiterated that eight adults completed the training in March—the most in a long time. The course will be repeated at the next Retreat.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported that the website ([www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com)) is generally up-to-date. He is open to any suggestions and has recently added some more pictures.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner reported he had not yet been able to get to Old Ben to find out what is needed for the chapel but plans to go in the next couple of weeks. John Harding pointed out that the benches need some cleaning.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill noted that he had received the Quality Committee Award for 2016 for our DCCS. Members wanting recognition badges should see Bill.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill mentioned that no longer are the adult religious knots for the uniform included with the Bronze Pelican emblem so that we will have to include the knots for those receiving that emblem.

Bill referred to an article recently published in “Bryan on Scouting” concerning an Eagle Scout in the US that is being considered for Sainthood. Bill said he would send out the article to those who attended the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2017 at St. Philip Parish at 1:00 o’clock.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie mentioned that he had received some information from Steve Dabrowski that Trail Life is not currently formally recognized by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He will forward that information to members of the committee.

At 2:35 he closed the meeting with and prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

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