DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 6, 2016

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

Excused: Jim Schmitt, Lori Adkins, Rose Luebbehusen, Ken and Cathy Egler

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 12:00 Noon in a meeting room at the Catholic Center. He opened with a heart prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2015 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Joe Keith volunteered to become the new chair of this committee. Dan and Michele Donovan will remain as head of the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat sub-committee. The Retreat just concluded was discussed. Numbers were down from 138 last year to 106 this year. No clear reason was apparent other than some Troops have decreased in size and other things were going on. Michele will look over the appraisals by those present and give a report next time. In general it was thought the Retreat went well. The Stations of the Eucharist were well received. There was some concern that the pudding for Cracker Barrel the last night led to problems getting the boys to sleep. Instructions for the Angeles and Liturgy of the Hours can be improved slightly. It would have been good to have had those Scouts/Venturers who participated in the last St. George Trek to share their experience. It was recommended that the address of the Catholic Center be put on the Retreat Registration Form. Members of the Order of St. Dominic Savio were praised for all of their help including the music ministry. Next year the Retreat is again scheduled for the first weekend in March.

While the following items were not discussed in the meeting, Deacon Charlie has asked that the following comments about the Retreat be added to the minutes: (1) One of the confessors after the Retreat told me how impressed he was with those who went to Reconciliation in that they were “all good confessions” that he heard. (2) Another confessor expressed his appreciation for the DCCS and what “wonderful work” we were doing for our youth in presenting this retreat. (3) A long time scouter, who has been to every retreat since my involvement ten years ago , and I would imagine at every retreat ten years prior, expressed that he was “truly moved” by this year’s Adoration and Exposition service. When I asked what was different this year from years past, he couldn’t explain it other than it “really touched me”. (4) NCCS Eagle Scout Certificates that we hand out every year at the Retreat no longer require the Bishop’s signature.

The Cub Scout Faith Day was held on February 20, 2016 at St. John’s (Daylight). There were 17 Cub Scouts present. Bill Noll, who was there, thought that the program went very well and was well received. The weather was perfect so we were able to have some of the exercises outside. The Cub Scouts had fun. Several changes were made on-the-run during the Day and he felt that some of the presentations were above the grade level of the Cubs. He will work with Cathy to make improvements to the program for next year. Members of St. Dominic Savio were also praised in helping with this event. Ken and Cathy Egler will be continuing to lead Faith Day next year.

Emblems: There was no formal report in the absence of the chair, Lori Adkins, but it was noted that there were four adult emblems given in the awards ceremony after the closing Mass including a Bronze Pelican to Bishop Thompson. Some concern was expressed about trying to get applications in sooner next year. The Bronze Pelican application needs to more clearly indicate the Spiritual Formation course should be completed.

Membership: Jim Voelker reported there are 47 Catholic units having lost the Troop at St. Theresa with that parish merging with Good Shepherd where there is an existing troop. The overall number of scouts and adult leaders is down, but several units have been late in re-registering with the council. At the recent awards ceremony he presented six Helping Hands and six Pope Paul VI awards. He announced that the Pope Paul VI requirements have been some changed for 2016. The new requirements are available on the NCCS website.

Vocations: Joe Keith announced that he will also be volunteering to head this committee which primarily works with St. Dominic Savio. He reported that there were eight new members inducted this year. Eighteen members helped with the Retreat. They will also be helping at the priest ordination on June 11th. Joe said that for next year he is thinking about moving the Vocations Day (a requirement for St. Dominic Savio) from January to November to give more time to work on the retreat.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson said he would be willing to assume the chair of this committee. He was pleased with the recently completed Spiritual Formation with the help of Deacon Tony Schapker. Six scouters attended (two more than last year), and the comments from the participants were quite favorable.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported that the website ([www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com)) is generally up-to-date. It now includes the updated Emblem Certification and Intent Forms. If there are any problems, please contact Joe. Michele Donovan brought up the idea of the youth, especially St. Dominic Savio members, starting something on Facebook or Twitter. She will talk to Steve Dabrowski about any diocesan regulations regarding this idea.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner said he had talked with John Harding, council scout executive, who gave approval to take down the gutters on the chapel. Tom said this will be done this spring and rock put on the ground below the edge of the roof. He would also like to remove the skylights which have caused problems. He will try to determine the effect on the lighting in the chapel if they are removed and replaced with roofing. He said there is still some money left from the donation given last year. He also asked if anybody knows of somebody that can move trailers to Old Ben from Holy Rosary Parish. Holy Rosary is willing to donate them if a mover can be found. The trailers at Old Ben are beyond repair.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Noll reported that he filled out the paperwork and our DCCS again fulfilled the requirements for the Quality Unit Award for 2015,

NEW BUSINESS

Deacon Charlie mentioned an upcoming program put on by the Diocese which should be useful for scout leaders. It is the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training and will be offered at the Catholic Center on April 19, April 26, May 17 or June 7. The program is designed to help adults working with adolescents to assist those who are experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or in crisis. You must preregister. For further information contact Mary Kay Falcony at mkfalcony@evdio.org.

Deacon Charlie also pointed out that the annual Catechist Formation Day on August 27th at the Catholic Center would be useful to scouters as teachers or youth ministers to our scouts. Further information can be found on the Bulletin Board at [www.evdio.org](http://www.evdio.org).

In order to show gratitude to the Catholic Center for cooperation the past three years in support of the Retreat, the idea of a service project for the Center was discussed. Scheduling it outside of the Retreat would probably be better. Further discussion will continue in future meetings. While things have gone well with the Retreat at the Catholic Center, it was agreed we should try to maintain a relationship with St. Meinrad in hopes that something could be worked out to have the Retreat there again sometime.

The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2016 at 1:00 at St. Philip Parish in St. Phillips, IN.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie thanked everybody on the committee for the “tremendous” amount of work that had been done in preparing for and putting on the Retreat. He said the Bishop was pleased. He closed the meeting at 1:45 with a prayer and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

THESE MINUTES MAY BE COPIED AND DISTRIBUTED FREELY TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.