DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 7, 2014

Present: Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Deacon Charles Koressel, Chad Sergesketter, Jim Schmitt, Jim Voelker, Lori Robinson, Tom Elsner, Tom Dieter. Emily Thompson, Michele Donovan

Excused: Rose Luebbehusen, Matthew Kremer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 2:00 PM in a meeting room on the Holy Spirit campus of Annunciation Parish. He opened with a heart prayer.

There were no new members to report.

The minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2014 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

Financial Report: Deacon Charlie reported nothing new with respect to the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Emblems: Mike Harris was not present. He is continuing to do training as needed. Bill has given him several names of people requesting emblem counselor training. Lori Robinson reported she is working with those packs that are doing the Cub emblems. Jim Voelker reported there has been an increase in emblems from the previous year. He distributes information on emblems when he does presentations and he has a display at Scouting functions. The council is promoting adult emblems.

Membership: Jim Voelker reported nothing new since the last meeting except that the packs at St. Theresa and Good Shepherd have joined together since those two parishes will merge by July 2016. However, each campus still maintains a troop, and no change is foreseen until at least after the official merger.

Vocations: Jack Martin was not present to give a report. The next Vocations Day is scheduled for January 10, 2015.

Activities: The Activities chair is still vacant. Cathy and Ken Egler will chair the next Cub Scout Faith Day on February 21, 2015 at the Catholic Center. Chad Sergesketter said he was planning the initial planning meeting of the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat (March 6-8, 2015) committee on September 29, 2014 at 6:30 at St. Theresa Parish. The theme this year is “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Mt 5:8). It was announced that Fr. Christopher Droste will offer Mass at the Toyota STEM Camporee next weekend.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Tom Dieter said he has recruited Cris Goldbach to help him with the work of this committee as he transitions out of the chairmanship. Next training will be during the Boy Scout/Venturing Retreat. It was announced that the NCCS has changed the name of this committee function from Spiritual Formation to National Catholic Leadership Development so we will change the name of our committee.

Communications: Joe Dickinson reported he had developed a new website for the DCCS with help of Steve Dabrowski and one of the interns at the Catholic Center. Those that had looked at it felt it was easy to navigate and served the purpose well. Since we now have control of the website (the Diocese still maintains the oversight) and can easily make changes, Joe and several others made some suggestions for possible additions. Joe said he was going to contact Steve Dabrowski to make an easy link to our website from his part of the Youth and Young Adult section of the Diocesan website. The new website can be found at [www.evdccs.com](http://www.evdccs.com). Joe reported the cost will be about $40.00 a year.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner reported the podium at the chapel had a new cover. The French drain project had to be postponed and probably won’t be done until next spring. He plans to go up this fall and do some clean-up.

OLD BUSINESS

It was reported there were three scouts interested in the St. George Trek at Philmont which had been discussed in the last meeting. The diocese will be approached on whether they would support three rather than the usual two.

Chad Sergesketter said he had given the idea and design of the DCCS/Council shoulder patch to John Harding, the Scout Executive for the Buffalo Trace Council, but he as yet has not heard anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill commented on information he had received from the NCCS on a new national membership initiative. It has been promoted by the Bishop of Charleston, the current USCCB liaison to the NCCS, with the goal of 300 new units. There has been some loss of units following the decision last year by the BSA to allow youth with a same-sex orientation. After some discussion it was not clear what our DCCS should do at this point. We face the possible loss of some units when parishes merge. More information can be obtained at nccs.membership@verizon.net. Bill will continue to learn more about the initiative and keep the committee informed.

The diocese has asked our help, including ideas and participation, in the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life (2015). There will be a kick-off Mass on November 23rd. There has been a request for ushers which can hopefully be done by members of St. Dominic Savio who have done to same for similar events in the past.

It was reported that there is a new Prayer Trail at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL, sponsored by the DCCS of the Diocese of Belleville. Further information can be obtained from Robert417@charter.net.

The next meeting will be held in the basement meeting room of St. Philip Parish on November 16, 2014 at 1:30 PM.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie thanked members for their work on the committee and closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing about 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Dickinson, Jr.

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