

## AGENDA – MINUTES

### PLENARY

#### Welcome & Scouter's Silence

Introduction and welcome to Greg Perry, who is the Deputy Council Commissioner for Safety with the Fraser Valley Council.

#### Safety Moment: Greg Perry (DCC/Safety) [perry.greg1@gmail.com](mailto:perry.greg1@gmail.com)

- Make sure youth don't run around in stocking feet. Bare Feet or Runners are much safer.
- Set up AND PRACTICE the emergency plan for your meeting place. Talking about it is not enough – youth may interpret what is said differently, so it is important to put the procedure to the test.
- Use the Incident Report form for any incident that may require future treatment.

#### Training: Bernie

- WBII: Weekend 1: Jan 27 – 29; Weekend 2: Feb 24 – 26; Weekend 3: Mar 24 - 26
- Scouting Event Management (focusing on large scale Area, Council type events): Feb 3 – 5.
- Trainer 2: Weekend 1 combines with Event Management Course on Feb 3-5; Weekend 2 is on March 4
- Scouting Skills: March 31 – April 2
- WBI & GC/GYC: May 12 – 14
- **Organizing Section and/or Group Events** will be held before **February Scouters' Club**. Come at **7:30pm** and learn how to go about planning a section camp, Group Link Camp etc. You will find out what paperwork needs to be done, tips and tricks for avoiding pitfalls, and everything you need to know to run a successful and safe event, including **How to involve the Youth!!** Great opportunity for new Scouters who may be hesitant about planning an event/camp, as well as a great refresher for experienced Scouters.
- **Can Path Team** is available to come to your group and share ideas for implementing the Can Path, answer your questions, and help you build confidence: Pester your GC to contact the team to set up a date! Or contact us yourselves!
- **Scouts Tracker Tutorial:** Edward Martens (Area Registrar & Scouts Tracker Guru) is available for individual or group tutorials on setting up and using this program. You can also contact him by phone or email with questions. NOTE: **Groups who have purchased an Area License but who haven't yet signed in to Scouts Tracker** should contact Edward for help getting this program up and running!  
[edwardmartens@live.ca](mailto:edwardmartens@live.ca) Phil Hayes is also available for help with Scouts Tracker: [phil-hayes@telus.net](mailto:phil-hayes@telus.net)

5 Minute Training: **Resources** – We sometimes forget to reach out when we're feeling frustrated or unsure, so here is a reminder of just how much support is available for you to tap into!

#### **Real People right here in Nicomekl:**

- Area Service Team: Section Specialists for program suggestions & help; **James** (Colony); **Barb** (Pack); **Murray** (Troop); **Andrew/Julian** (Company/Crew); **Edward (& Phil)** for Sc Tr. Tutorials; **Bernie** for training workshops; **Landrie** for financial record keeping questions; **Earl** for updating info on [nicomeklscouting.ca](http://nicomeklscouting.ca); **Lesley & Reg** (programs); **George** for Ponder Park (also **Steve Dreise**);
- Can Path Team: **Barb, Phil, Viki, Bernie, Pam**
- ASM: **Viki**; Area Commissioner: **Pam** – recruitment of volunteers, membership, facilities; policy & personnel issues, and any other questions/concerns
- EVERYONE in this room and out in the Groups! All of us are each other's supports!
- To contact any of the above, or to find contact info for other groups in our Area, go to [nicomeklscouting.ca](http://nicomeklscouting.ca)

#### **Beyond our Area:**

- FV Council: [fvc.scouts.ca](http://fvc.scouts.ca)
- Online [scouts.ca](http://scouts.ca) (information + help lines); BCY Office (Dyanna – registration issues)
- Bits & Bytes Newsletter and Scouts Scene newsletters. Do READ THESE when they arrive by email each

month. Policy updates, explanations, and document links are often contained in them.

**Bob Wiebe Fund and Scouter Benevolent Fund:**

- Funds are available to assist Nicomekl youth or Scouters who would not otherwise be able to attend a large event inside the province because of lack of sufficient funds.
- Application can be made to Reg Mack, Lesley Knox, or Pam Smith outlining the need

Announcements:

- We have developed a **Generic Trail Card Template** to help youth with creating & planning adventures. It has been emailed to all Group Commissioners in Nicomekl so they can share it with their Scouters. Try it, and let us know if you found it useful.
- **MEC:** Barb will be arranging a Scout Night on an upcoming Monday or Tuesday evening. Members in uniform will receive a 10% discount on purchases. Watch for details to come.
- **Canada 150:** In honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, incorporate '150' in your activities, camps, and other events! Help your youth realize what an amazing country we live in!! Great opportunity to explore new themes relating to Canada!
- **Ponder Park Work Weekends:** March 24 – 26 and October 20 – 22. Take advantage of free camping (practice your semi wilderness skills!) and do some community service at the same time.

Door Prizes

**REFRESHMENT BREAK & HEAD TO SECTION MEETINGS**

**GROUP COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

Group Committee Meeting schedule:

Membership: Viki –

- Growth: Nic. Area membership is up 2.2% Way to go Nicomekl!!! Viki has issued a challenge to show greater growth than Coho Area (2<sup>nd</sup> largest Area in FVC) over the rest of this year.
- *myscouts.ca* - Please check and make sure the meeting info for all your sections is accurate. FVC is creating a 'Heat Map' to determine where our members live, and where our meeting locations are, to help with determining growth potential.
- Pending Lists: please check, and encourage these members to complete their outstanding requirements.
- Non-returning members survey – please get this in to me asap if you haven't already done so
- Bring A Friend Weeks: **January 15 - 21, and March 4 - 10, 2017 - but can be done ANYTIME!**
  - o What special activities have your group done/planned?
- mid-year registration price discount has now kicked in (now \$150)
- looking ahead to online registration in May:
  - o returning members have a 2 week window (beginning of May?) for registering before new registrations will be accepted
  - o Following that period, the Group can also lower their threshold (numbers) for accepting new members, then open it again at a specific date so that siblings have an opportunity to register
- Groups requested **translation services** for some documents to help with communication with parents. It is especially important if we consider Scouting a multi-cultural organization. In a separate email to GC's, is the Code of Conduct for Chinese speaking members. NOTE: the English version must be signed. Viki is going to see if she can have a document created that outlines the registration process in Chinese. Are there any other specific things you would find it helpful to have in other languages? Please let Viki or Pam know.

Program:

- - New PQS Guide coming out in February – doesn't change the process but (hopefully) should provide more clarification of the process
- **Seasonal Assessments:** Be sure to go to *myscouts/PQA* tab and enter that your end of season (cycle) discussion has taken place with each section. This is important as it helps Council and Area see where we need to put resources. Only 9 out of 92 sections in Nicomekl have been entered!! Make sure to put in the approximate date the discussion took place. Do NOW for Fall Season. After midway point for future seasons.
- Queen's Venturer Award Application

- o Deadline to have application in to the BCY Service Centre is February, 15, 2017
- Chief Scout Award Ceremonies: Council will continue to plan a Council wide ceremony for all youth who have met the requirements. NOTE: It is important for Scouters to ensure that the Troop Leadership understands the requirements, and mentors the youth in determining whether individuals have met those requirements to the best of their ability, and in a way that provides personal challenge. It is important they realize it is not an automatic award to everyone who applies. Help with this is available from the Service Team. Details about the time/place of the ceremony will be announced later.
- Rovent: major event for Venturers and Rovers is coming up February 10-13, 2017. Links for information on that are in Bits & Bytes (Dec 19)
- December 19th **Bits & Bytes Newsletter** had a lot of helpful links to various aspects of the Can Path
- Coming soon: Venturer/Rover handbooks (& Apps) possibly mid February. Also a Scouter Manual App.; Top Section Award certificates should be ready mid March

#### Canadian Path Implementation:

- Share the planning template (generic Trail Card)! It can be a useful tool for helping youth learn how to plan, do, review an activity or event. Let us know if you've tried it!
- Contact the Can Path Team for a workshop to help volunteers feel more confident, and have their questions answered.

Finances: CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) has made a change to GST rebates. These must now be submitted monthly

Group Time: questions/concerns: There was some discussion around the RESPECT training. Tom (1<sup>st</sup> Fort Langley) shared his experience with writing a letter to the National Commissioner (John Estrella), the National Youth Commissioner (Caitlyn Piton), and the National Executive Commissioner & CEO (Andrew Price). He did receive a response from John Estrella that reiterated the reasoning behind our switch to the RESPECT course, but did not really address the concerns around the timing of the introduction of this requirement, or the cost to the groups. **\*\*\*UPDATE:** Since Scouters' Club, Tom has had further correspondence from John Estrella, which addressed (in part) these issues. I will forward it to GC's and they can share it with their groups if they so choose.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 8:15pm. Remember to share with your volunteers the opportunity to come at **7:30pm** for tips and strategies for planning section or group events (especially camps).