

Report from Council meeting Saturday, June 14 2003

The Scouting organization is continuing to respond to reduced membership by reorganizing itself to remove unnecessary structure and reduce costs.

Voyageur council will shortly be one of only 20 councils remaining in Canada, down from the current 35. The provincial level is being eliminated. Ontario no longer has an office and Brian More (famous for camp actions) is the last remaining staffer. This implies we have significant influence on where the organization is going in future as voting will be based on population. At the National Board of Governors meeting in November, we will have 3 votes.

Organizationally reporting to the Chief Scout are the Chief Commissioner (Mike Scott) and Deputy National commissioners (Program is Jeff Smith), all of whom are volunteers. None of the senior positions are paid positions.

There are significant reductions in the number of staff and committees. A list of cost cutting actions already in place will be distributed shortly and we should have it for our next meeting.

The Scout Shop is cutting prices to be more competitive and will try to be profitable by selling to the public as well as Scouters.

An online rechartering tool is being developed and should be ready for the fall. The Membership Management System is supposed to now have all the bugs out and is ready now for registering folks for the 2003-2004 year. Anyone registered now will not be billed until September. Inactive names should have been moved to history. Group Chairs are asked to verify everything is correct and report anomalies to Lynn.

It is recommended that an Area Communications coordinator should exist – we agree and are looking for volunteers

Chief Scout awards next year will be in Kingston first weekend in June.

Council Commissioner for next year is John Boyce. Marilyn Johnston moves to Honours & Awards, Warren McMeekin has revenue development, Bob Hickson has Program, and Peter Goddard joins as property. Others not yet appointed.

Council is putting together a community advisory committee composed of folks familiar with the communities, but not a Scouting person. We will be looking for a volunteer. The objective is to figure out how to enhance the communities' views of Scouting.

There is a movement to link programs to camps: the addition of a marked nature trail, etc. would be considered very positive.

BP&P is no longer being updated and is considered obsolete. Replaced by bylaws 1 & 2.
Bylaw 1 covers incorporation.
Bylaw 2 covers how we operate (National, Council, Area only)

There is a revised alcohol policy:
No alcohol if you have a “duty of care”
No alcohol at any youth activity
No alcohol on any Scouts Canada property
No organizational entity may get a liquor license

There is a revised smoking policy:
No smoking where youth can see adults, includes senior youth.
Possession of tobacco 16 – 18 youth are not charged but providers can be
Possession of tobacco under 16 youth can be charged

Area service team flashes are coming in the fall
A linking activity camp is being planned for senior sections (Scouts, Venturers, Rovers)
Apr 30, May 1, 2 2004. Details to follow.

Charlie Gale
June 16, 2003