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**Valley Highlands Area Group Chair Forum**  
**Voyageur Region - Scouts Canada**  
**Friday, June 14, 2002    7:00 p.m.**  
**Drummond Township Hall, Drummond Centre**

Present: Wayne Harris, President VHD; Frank Larabie, Vice-President VHD; 2<sup>nd</sup> Almonte; Scott Cox, 1<sup>st</sup> Arden; Ray Johnston, 1<sup>st</sup> Beckwith; Terry Luneburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carleton Place; Joe Young, 3<sup>rd</sup> Carleton Place; Bonnie King, 1<sup>st</sup> Drummond; Grant DeSalvo, Heather McBride, 1<sup>st</sup> Elmsley; Allen Yates, 1<sup>st</sup> Merrickville; Sandy Thomson, 4<sup>th</sup> Perth;

Regrets: Kim Comstock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Smiths Falls; Peter Joynt, 1<sup>st</sup> Lombardy; John Armstrong, 1<sup>st</sup> Lanark Highlands; Neil Looby, 6<sup>th</sup> Rideau Lakes.

Absent: 1<sup>st</sup> Portland; 1<sup>st</sup> Pakenham; 1<sup>st</sup> Montague

**Welcome**

Both Wayne Harris and Frank Larabie welcomed everyone to the Group Committee Chairs (GCC) meeting. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and then all were given a chance to express their feelings with regards to the forth coming changes.

Some of the concerns that were expressed:

- Do not want people coming in and telling them how to run the local groups. National should be providing an exciting programme for the local people to give to the youth. The local Area should be providing support and guidance.
- Number of people wanting to volunteer, in general, is declining and now each group has to find two more volunteers - Group Scouter & Youth Rep.
- How can we ask people to do a job when we have not been given a job description - Group Scouter & Youth Rep.
- Communications -why is information not coming from the National office (ie. Self insurance, we read about it in the newspapers first).
- National should be talking to all levels of the organization before making major changes.
- Why not lower Registration Fees and try to attract more involvement therefore more income.
- People are having less and less time for training. There should be a way to accept training from other bodies.
- Training for the programme Scouters should be aimed more at content of the programme rather than administration. Examples of content; how to run a formal campfire and flag breaking.
- Promoting of Scouting in a more realistic form. Do not over glorify the programme to the point were the local Scouters will never meet the expectations of the youth. At the same time do not give the impression that Scouting is boring.

☐ How are the local events being run.

**Communications**

With the okay from Michelle Niefer, Area Commissioner(AC), Wayne announced that he will be the Deputy Area Commissioner for Group Support (DAC-GS). All questions are to be sent to Wayne and not to Michelle. If Wayne can not answer the questions then he will get an answer.

*Communications are a two way street*, we realize that information in the past did not always get to the Group Committees or Scouters. As the DAC-GS, my role is to pass on the concerns of the GCC to the other levels of Scouting, through the AC & the other DACs and to pass information from the other levels to the GCC.

The AC has had GCC complain to her about the lack of communications from the Region and Area. Just remember this is a two way street you as GCC have to communicate the other way, also. The AC has requested from each GCC that the names of a Group Scouter, Youth Rep.& the GCC for next year be sent to the her, at this point there has only been two groups respond. Even if you DO NOT have the names respond to that fact, if you are having trouble finding a Group Scouter maybe the Area Team can give some suggestions.

Another complaint the AC has had is from some programme Scouters and that is that they were never given a list of other Scouters in the District or a list of events. These lists and calendars were sent to ALL GCC, in future please pass these on to the GC members and any programme Scouters that have not received them.

**Financial Reporting**

☐ GC bank accounts MUST include the group name and Scouts Canada (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> Arden Scouts Canada or Scouts Canada 1<sup>st</sup> Arden, depending on the bank).

☐ All Sections that handle their own money must have their own bank account in the same name only with the addition of the section, group name, section, Scouts Canada (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> Arden Beavers Scouts Canada or Scouts Canada 1<sup>st</sup> Arden, depending on the bank).

☐ The accounts must have at least two signatures and the signing officers should not be related. Insist that the second person not pre-sign cheques, this is a protection on the accounts.

☐ All sections must submit a monthly report to GC.

☐ GC must submit the monthly reports to the VHA, AC has agreed that these reports should be handed in at the GCC Forum

☐ Registration in the fall will not be accepted until the previous year's financial statement is submitted, this is a National Policy.

**Area Events**

In the new structure area events will be sponsored by the different groups, if no group comes forward to sponsor an event, it will be cancelled. There will be a float from the Area budget to help

DRAFT      DRAFT      DRAFT

get the event going outside of this the Groups will be responsible for funding the event on a cost recovery basis. That is the Group puts money out to run the event and then charges the participants a fee to break even. Events are not to be a money maker for the Groups.

The Area Calendar is in the process of being put together hopefully it will be sent to all GCC by the middle of July.

**Group Committee Training**

GC Training was discussed and it was decided that it should be (on a weeknight and between two and three hours in length) or (on a Saturday with maybe two workshops, one in the morning and another in the afternoon).

**Group Constitution**

The GCC agreed that a basic constitution should be written for the guidance of a GC. Each GC will then be able to alter it to their situation. The basic constitution will stay within the parameters of the By-laws and policies of Scouts Canada and each Groups changes will stay within the parameters of the basic constitution.

**Meeting Dates**

**DRAFT      DRAFT      DRAFT**

It was agreed by the GC representatives that the GC Forums would be held in October, December, February and April. The group also expressed their desire to have the meetings moved around the Area. The group suggested that the October meeting will be held in Arden. Scott Cox, GCC for 1<sup>st</sup> Arden is checking on a date in early October. All GCC will be advised as soon as it is known.

**Bingo**

- Arrival times MUST be on time the runners are to be at the hall by 1430, counter staff are to be earlier.
- Counter staff should have with them a cheque to be used to pay for shortages on the day, if necessary.

**Camp**

Stan Lasenba, Roger Nuttall, Michelle Niefer, Wayne Harris, and Gary Thompson will have the combination if a Scouter forgets the combination when they get to camp contact one of above DO NOT BREAK THE LOCK. Rideau Valley Conservation are not please when the lock is broken, as it was in the month or two.

Next Meeting - 7:30 pm Monday, October 7, 2002, Arden ( To be confirmed).