

Laurel Highlands Council

Scouting America

**MINUTES**

Board of Directors’ Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

Flag Plaza Scout Center with Zoom option, Pittsburgh, PA

The Board of Directors of the Laurel Highlands Council, Scouting America held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Council President Paul Pigman called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and officially welcomed everyone. A quorum was present.

**PRESIDING:** Paul Pigman, Council President

**Attending:**

**Board of Directors**

|                  |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Baldini, Bob     | McKay, Mike    | Seibel, Dan     |
| Belt, Buck       | McManus, Kevin | Tracy, J        |
| Boyde, Jack      | Newman, Eric   | Turzai, Mike    |
| Breedlove, Mark  | Pigman, Paul   | Zimmer, Dr. Dan |
| Catanese, Nathan | Pontius, Dean  |                 |
| Flannery, Kevin  | Rogers, Ted    |                 |

**Board of Directors – excused**

|                     |                       |                  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Berquist, Katherine | Harkobusic, Kim       | Ondek, Heidi     |
| Cunningham, Scott   | Herring, Ron          | Robinson, George |
| Dickhans, Roger     | Hillenbrand, Rick     | Santoshi, Rupesh |
| Down, David         | Kelly, Pat            | Schwab, Doug     |
| Fuller, Todd        | Koller, Dan           | Thomas, Rob      |
| Glover, Aubrey      | Lewis, Mark           |                  |
| Hardy, Scott        | Maksakova, Anastasiya |                  |

**Leadership Board**

|                  |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Anderson, Dave   | Hyziak, Diane  | Tedeschi, Brian |
| Andreychek, Nick | Lawrence, Ron  | Thompson, David |
| Beozzo, Sy       | Lusk, Tom      | Vockley, Jerry  |
| Elwell, Joe      | Malaney, Jim   | Zender, Craig   |
| Glaneman, John   | Pannone, Jason |                 |
| Halliday, Ken    | Smith, Vern    |                 |

**Guests**

n/a

**Staff**

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Amrhein, Tony    | Guzik, Carolyn  | Sears, Jack       |
| Burkey, Tracey   | Kuritzky, Brian | Schmiedel, Justin |
| Daniher, Mike    | Mackert, Andy   |                   |
| Erickson, Amanda | McGregor, Todd  |                   |

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS:**

- Minutes – February 11, 2025, Board of Directors' Meeting
- Minutes – March 11, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Paul Pigman opened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. Council Commissioner Dr. Dan Zimmer offered the Invocation; everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance; he also presented the “Safety Moment”.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Consent Agenda items included acceptance of Minutes from February 11, 2025 Board of Directors' Meeting; and Minutes from March 11, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion with second was offered to accept Minutes; all approved; motion passed.

**FINANCIAL POSITION and 2024 AUDIT UPDATE**

Brian Kuritzky, Chief Financial Officer, began by sharing an update on 2024 Audit progress. Auditors will be at Flag Plaza this week for on-site field work; going smoothly; will be completed for Audit Committee to review and present for acceptance at Annual Business Meeting on June 24.

Council is currently showing a surplus while booking first quarter arrivals. In advance of today's meeting and shared in the materials packet were the unaudited December 31, 2024 Financial Statement, the Financial Statement for January 31, 2025, and the Financial Statement for February 28, 2025 ... an approval acceptance will be requested shortly. There are no major red flags with first quarter finances; the quarter will be closed soon. Budget reviews are held regularly to assist with predicting spikes and valleys.

Cash position of the council is strong, despite the current market decrease. The market decrease is affecting the council's investments, but we will continue to “ride it out”. Capital projects budget is also reviewed regularly with property managers to monitor completion and finances. Council is in a good financial position with a likely “break even” year.

Action Items

Action items included acceptance of Financial Statement from December 31, 2024, Financial Statement from January 31, 2025, and Financial Statement from February 28, 2025. President Pigman asked for a motion with second to accept as presented all Financial Statements; motion offered; all approved; motion passed.

**CUMBERLAND OFFICE**

Andy Mackert, Sr. Growth Manager and Ranger, Camp Potomac, was invited to participate in today's meeting to share information regarding “Project Grow” in Maryland. The project includes selling the building that currently houses the Cumberland Scout Shop and office

space, then using the assets to build a new multipurpose building at Camp Potomac. Old building could sell at approximately \$250,000; new building cost is approximately \$500,000. Support for the new project has already been secured from council Board members and several local businesses.

Action Item

Action item included acceptance of to sell the Cumberland, Maryland Scout Shop building and reinvest assets into Camp Potomac. President Pigman asked for a motion with second to accept “Project Grow”; motion offered; all approved; motion passed.

**FLAG PLAZA**

Mike Daniher, Director, Program & Properties – North, is now overseeing operations at Flag Plaza. He shared that in recent years, capital dollars were used for property updates with Flag Plaza needs lower on the priority list. Two “clean-up” days are scheduled this week; already looking at current vendors used for Flag Plaza work and determining future needs, changes, etc. Additionally, he requested an approval from the Board to spend \$75,000 for improvements at Flag Plaza that will include new signage for “Scouting America”; parking lot maintenance, landscaping, other projects, future projects as needed.

Flag Plaza Action Item

An action item was presented to accept an improvement plan for Flag Plaza building upgrades and projects, requesting \$75,000. Motion with second was offered; all approved; motion passed.

**CAMPS AND PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Kevin Flannery introduced Tony Amrhein, Director of Heritage Reservation and Amanda Erickson, Program Director who shared information on camping and programming.

Amrhein reported that Summer Camp planning is full steam ahead. Reservations have been received for 2,600 Scouts to date; week #1 is already overbooked. Struggling for the last several years to “fill” last few weeks for reservations; discussing a new plan for those weeks in 2026. Camp Independence reservations are currently at 1,200 Cub Scouts. Dylan McKenna, Summer Camp Director, has been working hard and doing a great job filling seasonal staff positions. Many Capital projects are in the works at Heritage Reservation in anticipation of the summer season including the COPE course and several pavilions.

Erickson reported that Day Camp registrations are currently at 573 Cub Scouts. Promotions continue to increase reservations; nine options are available during the months of June, July, and August; also offering a single-day option at Camp Anawanna to “revive” the experience in the council’s southern counties.

It was reported that funds have been dispersed for this year’s Campership program. This year had the most applications received with 236 – 123 Scouts met the minimum

requirements; 104 Scouts received a campership credit toward their camp experience. Points are awarded based on minimum program participation requirements met such as selling popcorn, unit rechartering on time, and single parents with multiple Scouts; minimum points to participate equals 6; maximum points available to earn equals 14. Maximum campership award is half the cost to attend chosen camp experience.

During the discussion that followed, several questions were posed about participation, total available funds, and finding Scouts with a need. In closing, Amrhein stated that “we will find a way to get everyone to camp”.

### **YOUTH PROTECTION POSTURE**

Jack Boyde reported that Youth Protection numbers have improved with management of the National Council system ... 4,697 registered adults at 97% effective rate. There are 76 adults expiring (25 in the next two weeks); and 63 adults who have never taken YPT. The process is continuous and there is always “clean-up”.

### **DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Tracey Burkey, Chief Development Officer reported that the Development team is “busy raising dollars”.

Development highlights ...

- EITC – council will again qualify for EITC funds; there is an annual application process to complete
- Lobbyist Kim Hileman continues working to obtain state funds for the council; it can be a long process to receive money; good start this year with Senator Stefano; RCAP grant secured for Heritage Reservation in the amount of \$500,000
- Foundations and Grants – relationships are building; applications submissions continue; funds are arriving
- Preparing to attend State of the Commonwealth in Harrisburg on June 9
- Judge Hardy is leading a Naturalization Ceremony at PNC Park next month; folks from the media have been invited ... look for coverage
- 68 units have already signed up to participate in the Popcorn Sale (20 are new units); selling corn helps send Scouts to camp
- Special Events
  - Sporting Clays Classic – Coal Ridge Sporting Clays on June 20
  - Scouting Golf Classic – Wildwood Golf Club on August 9
- Patrick Kelly – due to new work responsibilities, Pat is stepping away from service as Development Committee Chair; pending Board approval, Brian Collery has been asked and has accepted to serve in the role of Development Committee Chair

### **Development Action Item**

An action item was presented to approve Brian Collery as Development Chair (has been serving as an active member of the Development Committee) and member of the council’s

Board of Directors. Biography information was shared in the materials packet prior to the meeting. Motion with second was offered; all approved; motion passed.

President Pigman requested an update on Flag Plaza Auction/Sale project. Burkey reported that 50 guests attended the “Sale” on Saturday, April 5 and “poked” through the treasures. Sales yielded monies to send about 20 Scouts to camp. Pigman added that it was a good event with lots of cool stuff that helped to “clean out the closets at Flag Plaza”.

## **PENDING ISSUES**

### Energy Innovation Center

J Tracy reported that there is some “fresh” activity with Energy Innovation Center folks with through conversations between both counsels; however, still no movement to correct the situation.

### Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

Kevin Flannery shared that the Diocese is very slow to respond, so there is nothing new to share. Next meeting likely to happen following the Easter holiday.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

In the absence of Keith Walton, Assistant Scout Executive, Justin Schmiedel, Growth Director, provided a Membership update. The Field staff is using a grass roots effort recruitment campaign in the spring (running mid-March through May) for their districts. Building relationships is a continuing theme throughout the council with 20 recruitment events to date and 97 new Scouts. Plans are in the works for new Scout events at the zoo and a wildlife conservation in the coming months.

President Pigman asked what resources are still needed to assist with recruitment efforts. Rebranding updates and replacement of Boy Scouts of America materials to Scouting America materials continues.

Terry Kennedy, former District Executive for Lackawanna District, has assumed a new Growth Manager role for all of Allegheny County. She is serving as a liaison to start new units throughout the county. McGregor shared that kids join Scouting “because they are asked”; we must continue to share our message and “keep asking”. It was requested that a comparison showing goals from last year to this year is shared as part of the Membership reports. Of note, it was suggested that a list of school district folks be circulated to Board and Leadership folks to assist with connections. Worth mentioning ... council has gained entry into 14 schools on the “not in” list.

## **GOVERNANCE**

Mark Breedlove reported there is no new information regarding Governance or an update from National Council on fresh ByLaws. He also shared that he and McGregor are working on a plan to streamline meeting prep.

## **DOC DAN’S DIALOGUE**

Dr. Dan Zimmer, Council Commissioner, shared that the council is not yet finished with posting unit renewals (are only a handful left though). There are still issues from National Council, Catholic units, and ScoutBook. The official membership drop date was April 1 (folks were given 90 days ... notification will become 60 days next year). A new membership renewal process for units is on the way following the many recent issues. There will be two processes ... one for individual memberships and one for units (from 7 clicks to 3 clicks for completion).

The council’s Scouting Update Series sessions are gaining traction.

Four other councils have been invited to participate in our upcoming Commissioner College. New Unit Commissioners have been recruited ... many are “younger”. Rick Bausher, Leadership Council member, has been added to the council’s Commissioner Cabinet and will serve as an Assistant Council Commissioner – Youth Programs. His forte is Venturing and helping to bring in new units ... includes Venturing Crews, Exploring Posts, and Sea Scouting Ships.

Council Service Territory Director Ian Lilien was invited to a recent Council Key 4 meeting. He is currently managing operations for the Bucktail Council; LHC has been helping since late last year; an update on the situation was shared; LHC Board members may be asked for a merger vote soon. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

## **TODD’S TALK**

Todd McGregor shared the following:

- ▲ great job on yesterday’s Mon Valley Breakfast
- ▲ come to the council’s Annual Business Meeting on June 24 at Heritage Reservation; it will be doubly alive as it is the first week of Summer Camp ... with triple booking of guests
- ▲ Mike Turzai will serve again this year as Council Nominating Committee Chair ... aka “Chief Hugging Officer” (he was honored to accept)

Additional thought ... “there is a great Scout out there; an important child to us; eager ... waiting for us to find him/her; child may cure cancer; our job is to help them ... Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent ... we always ask the busy ones; our job is to fund and find those youth who need us; he/she is waiting for you and me ... God bless and thank you!”

## **PRESIDENT PAUL’S PONDERINGS**

President Pigman shared a thank you to McGregor for his “powerful words”. Some simple thoughts ... “we’ve built an incredible team ... have the resources to do what we need to do;

piece of the puzzle ... laser focus on membership ... let the world know that we’re open for business; we’re here to help; join us”.

He thanked everyone for their time and attendance, then mentioned that he was heading to the beach. With no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Todd R. McGregor  
Scout Executive & CEO

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Paul R. Pigman, Jr.  
Council President

Date: April 8, 2025