

Laurel Highlands Council, Scouting America

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
12:00 p.m. – Bicentennial Room, Flag Plaza  
Pittsburgh, PA and by Zoom  
Minutes – Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

The Executive Committee of the Laurel Highlands Council, Scouting America held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in the Bicentennial Room at Flag Plaza in Pittsburgh. Zoom option was also offered. Council Commissioner Dr. Dan Zimmer called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.; Council President Paul Pigman arrived just after order was called. A quorum was present.

**Attendance:**

Boyde, Jack	Pigman, Paul	Zimmer, Dr. Dan
Breedlove, Mark	Tracy, J	

**Excused:**

Baldini, Bob	Glover, Aubrey
Flannery, Kevin	Pontius, Dean

**Guest(s):**

n /a

**Staff:**

Amrhein, Tony	Erickson, Amanda	McGregor, Todd
Burkey, Tracey	Guzik, Carolyn	Sears, Jack
Daniher, Mike	Kuritzky, Brian	

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

-NCAP Council Owned Firearms Certification

**WELCOME**

Council Commissioner Dr. Dan Zimmer began the meeting at 12:00 p.m., as Council President Paul Pigman was in traffic and arrived a few minutes later, by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. He offered the Invocation; invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance and shared the Safety Moment.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

Approval of a designee for ownership of council firearms

**DESIGNEE – OWNERSHIP OF COUNCIL FIREARMS**

-Approval of designee for ownership of council firearms

National Council, Scouting America is now requiring the appointment of a designee on council staff to serve as firearms owner. The government wants a “chain of custody” for – liability will be placed on person named as the purchaser. Tony Amrhein, who will serve as the designee, shared information about council firearms.

- all are tracked
- inventory is conducted every two months
- members of the Shooting Sports Committee have a list of all council firearms that includes ID numbers (100+ guns)
- trigger guards are used on all firearms

- all firearms are locked and secured in a climate-controlled armory area
- NRA certified; all guidelines are followed
- range and target protocols are followed

McGregor shared that he is very impressed with how the council's inventory is kept. Bottom line ... safety is always first. National Council has required a signed agreement from each council regarding firearms ownership.

A Motion was offered: the Laurel Highlands Council adopts a resolution authorizing council ownership of firearms pursuant to the NCAP-approved option for the Laurel Highlands Council to designate an agent to hold the council's firearms subject to a contractual agreement approved by its legal counsel; LHC agent – Tony Amrhein, Director Program & Properties – South.

### **FOUNDATIONS GAME PLAN**

A Foundations and Endowment Game Plan report was shared prior to today's meeting. Even though not on the Agenda, Jack Sears, Development Consultant, was asked to share a report. Work continues with 13 foundation prospects and building relationships. Visited Pittsburgh, Outreach Day Camp, Grable Foundation, and Buehl Foundation in April. May visit in June for the Annual Business Meeting and tour with folks from Edith Trees Foundation at Heritage Reservation. The Development team continues to work on smaller and family foundations. Always helpful when Board of Directors' and Leadership Council folks provide connections.

### **DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Tracey Burkey, Chief Development Officer, shared an update from the Development Team. A donor newsletter has been sent to everyone ... hope that all Executive Committee members received their copy.

Of note ...

- ▲ Hosted Be Board @ Camp Anawanna event earlier this month; "small, but mighty group" in attendance; great visit to camp; several political folks attended
  - one senator was pleasantly surprised ... "didn't know about Camp Anawanna" and immediately asked "how can I help"; meeting will be scheduled with him to discuss council needs
  - three ladies from Greene County who will assist with school access through superintendents.
- ▲ Naturalization Ceremony held at PNC Park last week welcoming 100 new citizens; 30 Scouts and volunteers assisted with the event
- ▲ Report to the Commonwealth set for June 9 in Harrisburg; Lobbyist Kim Hileman assisting with appointments to chat with senators and representatives; 15 Scouts with families, Burkey, Daniher, Seibel, and McGregor will attend
  - McGregor added that "we do a full-on charm offensive; we ask for money ... government dollars put in the pipeline"
  - Daniher added that council attendance at the event helps "put a face with the applications when submitted"; also helps to "build the relationship with elected officials see Scouts"
- ▲ Hileman continues to assist council with grant applications ... most recently, \$500,000 RCAP grant for Heritage Reservation with an equal match gift (preparation for the application process is precise and must be correct or it will be returned); considering applying for additional RCAP grant in Fayette County for Heritage also working to find a West Virginia Lobbyist to help with additional relationships
- ▲ Grant money received from Lee Initiatives; application prepped for Clearview Federal Credit Union; President Pigman has offered to contact folks at FNB

- ▲ upcoming events include the Sporting Clays Classic in June at Coal Ridge (new location this year) and the Scouting Golf Classic in August; registrations for both events going well
- ▲ working on billboards to assist with membership recruiting

### **YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING (YPT)**

Jack Boyde reported that a new Youth Protection Training will be introduced in the coming weeks ... “Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT)”. The course will be required every two years to keep a safe environment for all. There are currently 4,893 adults registered with YPT maintaining at 96.1% (still working toward 98%). To date, 63 folks are showing as “not trained”; expired folks need updated as well as recent 18 year-old members (some are also TrailBlazer District adult Scouts). It is an ongoing process; awareness is there, but the expiration message is not consistent (by auto-email at 90/60/30 day expirations).

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Brian Kuritzky, Chief Financial Officer, began his report by sharing that the council is in a “really, really good financial position right now”. A draft of the 2024 Audited Financial Statement is in hand; Audit Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss and review.

Work continues to improve council processes; Cindy Hoffer, hired last year from Bucktail Council, continues to learn and assist with financial projects. Financial statements for January 31, 2025 and February 28, 2025 are published; statements for March 31, 2025, April 30, 2025, and May 31, 2025 will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting on June 24. There are no “red” flags ... compensation is down; expenses are in-line; lag with new hires for now; revenue for camps and events to come; always watching the market and investments ... cash is in a “strong position”.

### **PROGRAM & PROPERTIES UPDATE**

In the absence of Kevin Flannery, Tony Amrhein, Director of Heritage Reservation and Amanda Erickson, Director of Cub Scout Camping shared an update on Program and Properties.

Amrhein reported that camps are “rockin’ and rollin’” with preparations for summer programming. At Heritage Reservation, the staff model looks great; some struggles with hiring 21-year old staff members for Aquatics. Current registrations are just below 200 less than 2024. Creation of promo materials for the 2026 season has already begun; materials will be shared with all visits in 2025. Group of 500 to 800 individuals will visit during Memorial Day weekend. Very excited with new food service provider Gill’s Grilling – recently “practiced” by cooking for group of 150 school students during their annual field trip to Heritage who shared “best food and customer service”. Gill’s typically serves fraternities and sororities at West Virginia University. Pricing per meal is about \$5.80; Eat’n Park’s parent company Parkhurst Dining came in at \$13.00 per meal. In the end, despite lots of prep work ... Gill’s is a good choice.

Erickson reported that the first Day Camp session is three weeks away and begins on June 11. Registrations to date are tracking just ahead of last year with 785 attendees (number includes staff and volunteers). She was happy to report that Day Camp near the airport at Settlers Cabin had to be cancelled last year; set to happen this year. Comment for the record ... “it is good to be at public parks for Day Camp sessions to promote Scouting and our programs”.

To date, 18 Scouts have not signed yet to claim and receive their campership awards. Eight additional “needs-based” awards were added. Funds are not released until check-in at camp; unused funds will go back into the pool one week after not claimed.

### **DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**

McGregor reported that Kevin Flannery and Scott Hardy continue to work on keeping the relationship door open with the Catholic Diocese. There is a meeting of priests on June 11 to

discuss COR agreements; council will follow-up on June 12. An update will be provided at the Annual Business Meeting.

### **ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER (EIC)**

J Tracy shared that progress is “glacial” and like the movie Frozen with hopes for a “thaw”. Currently at the mercy of the slow pace of the courts.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Mark Breedlove had to exit early; nothing new was available to report regarding Governance.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

No Membership Report was shared in the absence of Assistant Scout Executive Keith Walton. President Pigman did inquire about membership – it was mentioned that 12 new units have recently been posted.

### **FLAG PLAZA UPDATE**

Mike Daniher provided an update on all projects at Flag Plaza during the last month ... known as “Extreme Makeover – Flag Plaza Edition”.

- ▲ hosted two clean-up days; no junk in first floor hallway; Print Shop is clean and reorganized
- ▲ Landscaping work completed in multiple visits with weeds removed, overgrown plants cut, fresh shrubs planted
- ▲ replacement of brass coating on railing from Lobby to second floor (no maintenance required)
- ▲ carpets will be scrubbed
- ▲ relocating personnel to new office locations throughout the building
- ▲ window washing
- ▲ parking lot repairs complete; sealer and freshly painted lines to come
- ▲ strategic plan in the works with architect to determine space needs now and in the future (Flag Plaza has several thousand feet of closet space)
- ▲ consulting with The Wilson Group for IT needs; plans for scan/document shredding projects
- ▲ discussion with cleaning service for “clear plan” of building maintenance
- ▲ Eagle Book has moved to Lobby; allows Saturday visitors to view; will work with NESAs folks on a plan to digitize in the coming months
- ▲ Flag Plaza looks “loved”

### **DOC DAN’S DIALOGUE**

Dr. Dan shared that Commissioners are preparing for the summer season with visits to Summer Camp. Commissioner Service to all units continues with plans to begin the renewal process in June. Challenges continue with securing accurate membership reports. The council will host Commissioner College in October; other councils in the territory have been invited to participate.

### **TODD’S TALK**

Todd McGregor’s report included information on many topics (including that his rap name is “Vitamin T”):

- ▲ due to recent storm damage (includes floods and downed trees), reservations at Camp Potomac are on hold through July
- ▲ Cumberland – bid received to buy the office building (roof inspection requested) with closing by June 30 (philanthropist buyer wanted to close by May 31); planned Coffee House for homeless folks
- ▲ Flags Across PA – working with Committee of four Scout Executives for event in 2026 across the state of Pennsylvania from Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to Liberty Bell at Flag

Plaza; 200 days from February 8 through June 14 (Flag Day) with official hand-off to the National Flag Foundation; all councils are on board ... 67 counties/courthouses with all very excited to participate; building relationships with all Sheriffs

- ▲ Bucktail Council continues to struggle; won't be allowed to host resident camp program this summer; LHC will be there for Bucktail and intervene when tapped
- ▲ Nominating Committee is ahead of the game with renewal commitments and will meet prior to the Annual Business Meeting to review and discuss membership plan for Board of Directors and Leadership Council; will leave several Board seats vacant in anticipation of folks from Bucktail joining
- ▲ Staffing – have lost three Assistant Scout Executives in five months; considering talent for positions; planning to migrate back to the model that includes Director of Field Services and Director of Support Services positions; path will be clearer in 21 to 30 days
  - Zimmer asked if there is any lumber value at Potomac ... Amrhein commented that most of the trees were rotted with no value, but trying to source to “burn”. It was shared that the council has exhausted our timber/logging projects.
- ▲ Next Be Board @ Camp event set for Camp Baker in the fall

### **PRESIDENT PAUL'S PONDERINGS**

President Pigman shared pieces of a recent conversation with an Eagle Scout who is a race car driver (Daniher recommended he be invited to this year's Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner as Mr. Pigman's guest). He also shared concerns about membership challenges – lack of “parental attention span”, getting parents “engaged”. Laurel Highlands Council does have a great reputation around the region.

He requested that a one-page info document be created... select the top 15 most powerful items to share our story – for example, number of Eagle service hours, number of meals served at Summer Camp. Mentioned that he would also like to see a list of the dates for Day Camps and STEM Camps, Summer Camp, as well as events. “We must keep Board folks engaged ... very important or we will lose them.”

The meeting ended with President Pigman thanking everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

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Todd R. McGregor  
Scout Executive/CEO

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Paul R. Pigman, Jr.  
Council President

Date: May 20, 2025