

# Scouting America

## Laurel Highlands Council

Laurel Highlands Council, Scouting America  
**OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.**  
Bicentennial Room at Flag Plaza Scout Center with Zoom Option;

The Officers of the Laurel Highlands Council, Scouting America held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the Bicentennial Room at Flag Plaza in Pittsburgh. Zoom option was also offered. Council President Paul Pigman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. A quorum was present.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Breedlove	Vern Smith	Collery, Brian
Jack Boyde	Paul Pigman	J Tracy
Dr. Dan Zimmer		

### **Excused:**

Kevin Flannery	Pontius, Dean	Aubrey Glover
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### **Guest(s):**

Jack Sears

### **Staff:**

Tony Amrhein	Tracey Burkey	Mike Daniher
Brian Kuritzky	Todd McGregor	Lyndsay Seibel

### **Welcome**

Council President Paul Pigman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Council Commissioner Dr. Dan Zimmer offered the Invocation; invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance and then shared the safety moment.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

N/A

### **Sticky Wickets (EIC and JRM Contracting)**

J Tracy provided an update on both EIC and JRM Contractors. J explained that LHC has filed notice of demand from JRM Contracting for failure to properly complete a construction project at Camp Guyasuta. JRM has failed to respond timely and will now be give a legal 10 day grace period before LHC peruses asset collection procedures.

EIC issue is in the hands of Chad Wissenger, (Dentons) (LHC Counsel) to respond with a parking arrangement with Energy Innovation Center. Their parking license to use our parking lot expired in

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April of 2020 and they have been unwilling to renegotiate. As a result, LHC has taken the slow legal path. We anticipate that we will counter their inappropriate offer with a more reasonable market-based offer. The legal process is slow, but we remain confident that we will be adjudicated.

### **Safeguarding Youth**

Jack updated us on our safeguarding youth training practices and protocols. He shared that as of today, we are 99.4% effective. There are only 29 people that currently need the training of 4280 in the pool. We will have another 1900 expire in the next 30 days, highlighting the on-going energy needed to meet the demanding needs of our SYT protocols. Mark Breedlove gently shared frustration with the new training in terms of being easily accessible and user friendly.

### **Membership & Field Service**

- On Wednesday, May 6, the Field Service Team hosted our third Fireside Chat in St. Mary's, Pennsylvania for the Bucktail District. Approximately 25 attendees participated, and all questions and concerns presented during the evening were addressed. The team also presented an "LHC Commercial" highlighting upcoming council opportunities, programs, trainings, and events available to our membership.
- All membership recruiting kits have been updated with new Laurel Highlands Council branded tablecloths and promotional materials to strengthen visibility and consistency at summer and fall community outreach events. Districts are actively working with local units to coordinate recruiting opportunities at festivals, fairs, and community events throughout the council territory.
- New Leader Guidebooks, fall recruiting signs, and promotional flyers are currently in production and will soon be distributed to districts and units in preparation for the upcoming fall recruiting season.
- Congratulations to the Lackawanna District for reaching 92% of its Friends of Scouting goal — a milestone achievement and reportedly the highest level reached in recent memory. Their efforts and commitment to supporting Scouting are greatly appreciated.
- Letters regarding expired Youth Protection and SYT training were distributed last week. Individuals with expired certifications have been suspended from participation until all required training has been completed in accordance with Scouting America policies and council standards.
- The council continues active discussions with both UPMC and AHN regarding the development of new Exploring Posts focused on healthcare careers. Initial feasibility and partnership meetings are scheduled for June.
- On Sunday, June 14, Laurel Highlands Council will once again host the Flag Plaza Ceremony at 9:00 AM. This marks the first formal Flag Day service conducted at Flag Plaza since the pandemic and represents an important return to one of the council's longstanding traditions.
- The Flags Across the Commonwealth initiative continues at full speed throughout the council and statewide effort and will culminate on June 14, Flag Day.
- Two weeks ago, a podcast episode was recorded featuring representatives from Laurel Highlands Council and Kevin Kraus discussing the partnership between the Pennsylvania

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State Sheriffs' Association and Scouting America. The discussion highlighted the opportunities Scouting provides for youth and communities across Pennsylvania.

- From April 27 through May 1, the council conducted the Spring Trailblazer Special Needs Scout Day Camp. Hundreds of Scouts participated in adaptive programming including archery, ziplining, hiking, games, and other outdoor experiences designed to ensure all youth have access to Scouting adventures.
- On May 14<sup>th</sup> Jack Sears led our Field Service Team in a fundraising workshop. Teaching the value of talking someone to lunch and developing relations.
- The Field Service Team will support the Outdoor Adventure Team this summer through Friday evening check-ins at Heritage Reservation as well as conducting weekly campsites and unit visits to support leaders, Scouts, and summer camp operations.
- The LHC is going to hold on joining in the new national cub scout program called Chip Munks for 4-5 year olds until we see the success rate and matrix in other councils.

### **Financial Report**

Brian Kuritzky, CFO, shared that the council currently maintains a strong financial position.

YTD Support currently behind budget due to phasing/timings of Foundations. Total Support slightly ahead of last year at this time. YTD Total Revenue above budget but slightly behind last year. Anticipated closing of gaps after Q2 with summer program and foundations closing. Compensation & Expenses lower than budget expectations. Cash position continues to remain strong. Total Investments had a decrease in market value at end of Q1 due to market conditions, however they have improved since. Market value increase will be reflected in Mays Financials. Continued capital investment in properties with major projects going on at multiple properties.

The audit committee will be meeting after the conclusion of the officers' meeting with the auditors from Sisterson. The April 2026 and May 2026 financials will be presented for acceptance along with the 2025 audited financial at the June Annual Business Meeting.

### **Marketing & Media**

- Lyndsay Seibel reported the following regarding Marketing & Media
- Troop 150 recognition: Back-to-Back Pennsylvania American Legion Troop of the Year (unprecedented); Simon Wynn named PA Eagle Scout of the Year, competing for the National award.
- Community Partnerships: Pittsburgh Pirates, Penguins, Robert Morris University
- -Pittsburgh Zoo, Riverhounds providing monetary and in-kind support: Scout Day June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Riverhounds.
- Social Media growth: Facebook followers +81.2%, views +18.4%; Instagram content interactions +100%, reach +9%; LinkedIn +130 followers year-over-year- all organic growth
- NACD Event- Strong Networking results: multiple high-caliber contacts secured for follow-up tours and engagement.

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### **Governance – Bucktail update**

It was shared by Mark Breedlove. Pleased to hear that an offer had been given and accepted to purchase and accepted by the BTC Board of Directors. The offer is \$2.5M in cash with few contingencies. Closing date is June 8, the buyer is from Connecticut. Mark shared that our posture remains arm's length. BTC Corporate records will need to be harvested, there is some Scout curiosities that we would like to migrate (trading post, program equipment, etc.) and that the BTC Board carved out some memorabilia that they will need to deal with. We are being as corporative as we can. There was an attorney's meeting after our April 6<sup>th</sup> Merger meeting and Brian Kuritzky reported that it was mostly trying to understand and properly place assets in LHC when the time comes. Mark shared that there is a spread sheet summarizing our exposure. The Board of Directors will have an opportunity in the future to give direction to the assets transferring over. The Articles listed in the Memorandum of Agreement are reviewed monthly by the LHC Merger Committee and we seem to be at a pace that makes sense.

### **Development Report**

Brian Collyer Reports the following regarding development

- New Grant: Nicely Ridge Foundation(\$5K), Shear Foundation (10K), Pittsburgh Pirates (2.5K cash donation-first monetary contribution).
- EITC contributions: MSA contributed \$10K
- The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation invited Scouting to present for a review of last year's grant and discuss a potential renewal for 2026.
- Board Giving: Below Target; a direct outreach campaign launching to non-contributing board members.
- Sporting Clays: June 26<sup>th</sup> at Coal Ridge Shooting Range with currently 80 Shooters: Eaton Corporation secured \$10K Title sponsorship to invite three foursomes. Thank you, Paul, for securing this sponsor.
- Report to the State: June 8<sup>th</sup> event with 30 Scouts registered: Max Miller (Troop 150) serving as Master of Ceremonies.
- McCune Foundation: Active Solicitation for \$250K for a Challenge grant for Heritage Trading Post improvements; decision expected this month.

### **Camps/Program**

The following information was shared with the Officers

#### **Camp Registrations**

- Updates were shared regarding:
  - Camp Liberty and Freedom Summer Camp registration numbers 2,945
  - Camp Independence Summer Camp registration numbers 1,154

#### **Retail & Customer Service Updates** **America 250 Merchandise**

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- Additional America 250 merchandise has been added to the store as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary celebration.
- A limited-edition America 250 Flag Plaza shirt is being released.
- Staff are encouraged to promote merchandise early due to limited availability.

### **New Product Releases**

- New Scouting America vests introduced
- New Heritage Swag released

### **Camp Seph Mack — Facilities Update**

#### **Water System**

- Minor water system issue identified and resolved during the spring season.
- Corrective action was completed quickly without major excavation or repairs.
- Council staff are coordinating the spring water system restart.
- Operations are expected to resume on schedule.

#### **Rifle Range Improvements**

- Drainage improvements are completed to address erosion and water management.
- Project progress is being documented for council records.
- Improvements are expected to enhance long-term facility conditions.

#### **Volunteer Support**

- Camp continues to benefit from a strong volunteer base.
- Volunteers assisted with:
  - Fall winterization
  - Water system response
  - Rifle range improvement project
- Camp Seph Mack hats distributed to key volunteers.
- Hats will soon be available for purchase at Scout Shops.

### **Camp Potomac — Facilities Update**

#### **Construction & Maintenance**

- Wall construction has begun and is progressing steadily.
- General maintenance efforts continue across camp property.
- Storage shed recently received a fresh coat of paint to improve camp appearance.

#### **LHC Program Updates**

##### **National Jamboree**

- Council will send:
  - 4.5 boy troops
  - 1 girl troop
- Total participants: 220
- Registration is currently full.
- Waiting list has been established due to high interest.
- Patch set will feature Kraft-Heinz branding.

##### **Order of the Arrow (OA) Merger**

- OA merger is progressing ahead of schedule.

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- Youth from both lodges are working effectively together as one lodge.
- Meetings continue with the National Merger Committee.
- Notes are being compiled for a formal presentation to the Council Board of Directors.

### **Dr. Dan's Dialogue**

The Commissioner force gearing up in June for Charter Renewal and asked for coordination with the field staff team. And that he will be handing off the reins of Council Commissioner to Vern Smith and we will be in very capable hands.

### **Todd Talk**

Todd thanked everyone for their time, talent and treasure. He shared the positive energy and excitement that May brings before the opening of Summer Camp Season. We anticipate a season that will camp more Scouts than in the last 15 years.

### **President's Musing & Closing**

Paul thanked everybody and shared it has been an honor to be the President and Leader of the Board of Directors.

A motion to adjourn was made to adjourn. With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 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 19, 2026