



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL

### Jewish Committee on Scouting

Agenda 10/26/17

In attendance: Greg Ostravich, Mike Shapiro, Hyiam Reiffman, via Skype: Shawn Connelly

#### Opening

Pledge of Allegiance  
Dvar Torah – Hyiam

Others can do the D'Var Torah too; let's schedule that for next time.

Lech lecha – Genesis 14:12 – They captured Lot, Abraham's Nephew. The Torah doesn't waste words; why do they mention that and that he lives in Sodom? The living in Sodom is to emphasize that even though he knew Sodom was immoral and evil he chose to live there anyway. That relationship with his uncle, Avraham, was the only reason he was worthy of being saved later. There is "Guilty by Association" and apparently here we have "Innocent by Association." In the scouting world we have some kids that are successful and move on in life because of Scouts. If they didn't have their troop, pack, et. al. they might have turned away from the good path. We are a guiding positive influence. We should view every one of our scouts this way.

Review Sept meeting minutes. – Everything is OK. Accepted as posted.

#### Old Business

##### Unit status

T1613 – Meetings scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>; Sundays every month. 2 Hours.

Status of effort to reactivate P1613? –

Hyiam says they haven't found a leader yet. Shawn said they are working with Council on paperwork for the pack.

##### Eagle Scout candidates –progress / status updates?

- Gavriel Asher is focusing on a technology program; stepping away from scouts.
- Mayer? Not sure.
- Sam – paused for golf; hope to restart.

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Programs – Next Kinus – Tu B'Shvat – winter 2018. Mike e-mailed Stu Zipper's Seder.

Haven't reviewed yet; need to do that. Anybody want to take point?  
February 4<sup>th</sup> is our date; 4 days after Tu B'shvat. Do we skip the seder since it's after?  
Adar is after that; should we do a Purim event instead?

### Purim

Not on Purim but that may be OK.

Purim is kind of a children's holiday too so that might be good.

Possible theme: Doing what's right; even though it's hard? Both Mordecai and Esther risked everything to do what was right instead of what might have been convenient or easy.

Tie ins to Scout law Trustworthy / Honesty / Obedience

Loyalty – Esther and Mordecai loyal to their faith and their people.

Obedient – listened to her uncle; the law

Brave – Esther was brave.

What about games?

Can they wear costumes?

Do we make hamenstaschen together? (Could we bake them in a toaster oven?) What about in a dutch oven instead?

Make a grogger? Kind of a pioneering/ craft/ woddworking project. Tie that into a cubbie belt buckle and a boy scout merit badge activity

### Other program options:

March? Could we do something with Ekar Farms to plant stuff for Service Hours?

- Greg will ask Ekar farms about opportunities there. (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> is the closest Sunday before Purim.
- Mike will talk to the Wabash Farmette about hosting too.

Publicity: No change. No marketing until we firm up our programs.

### Religious awards

Etz Chaim - Aaron Levin T645, (Laverne Poturalski Unit Chaplain)

No change

Ner Tamid (?) No change.

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Succession Planning – No change. Greg to assume Chair in Winter.

Shooting activity – @PV? MLK weekend (Sun-Mon)? – Update Shawn

Pick the weekend; Shawn makes the reservation. If it's PV Greg will invite Lawrence Atlas and his son to join us. Shawn will notify the Shooting Sports committee to ask for volunteers.

Greg will check his family calendar for availability.

Can Camp in the Eaves of the lodge if there's snow.

Ft. Laramie is the closest to the shooting range.

Also Branding Iron. Then there's three separately housed sleeping accommodations.

Plus a shower facility.

Late Saturday Night so we can get 2 nights in.

Shawn will verify with PV that this is do-able.

Shabbos ends approx 5:42 PM. Could meet up and get to PV by 8:00, set up camp and get to bed at a reasonable hour.

Female youth can come as a family member too.

Duty to God Breakfast – Wed, 11/8 @ National Western.

JCOS "Table" Status – Five for sure. Six if Greg can come, Seven if Dave Reynolds joins us.

(Mike will receive Western Region Silver Chai Award.) (7-8:30) \$40;

JCOS Publicity in IJN? – Shawn will handle this. Invite IJN to send a reporter.

New Business –

Recent Membership Changes – Females in Cub Scouting. General discussion. Shawn needs inputs.

- Greg asked Zach – his comment that scouts might be more reserved around girls. We still don't know if the units will be integrated. That will be a Charter organization decision.
- Could be like Venture – Dens could be by gender within the Pack, or gender separate Packs. Similar for Boy Scouts – gender separate patrols within a Troop, or separate Troops.
- Mike pointed out that separate Packs or Troops requires more adults for committee assignments because of duplicated positions – separate Dens/Patrols doesn't require as many adults.
- Cubs to start, then time phased to allow crossover to Boy Scouts; not sure of timing yet.
- Same program in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- Same YPT rules will apply. If you have a den or patrol that has girls; need a female leader and two tier leadership. Same with boys. If you have two patrols, 1 girl, 1 boy. 1 female and 1 male leader; but keep two tier so they're together.
- Heard positive comments from the volunteer community; parents with daughters would rather have done that instead of or in addition to Girl Scouts.

Other New Business?

JOCS at Philmont – Haven't done this for 2 or 3 years. In July.

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If Greg does it, Shawn will come too. Mike seems to recall that Council helped out last time; might this time.

Shawn will ask Dave Whitner about this.

Next Meeting? - Date / Time / Location ??

November 30<sup>th</sup> (the previous week is Thanksgiving) at DAT  
We'll do it at 6 PM because Mike will be in Florida (8 pm EST)

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Mike

From this week's parsha – Hashem said go to the new land; Abraham left his aged father and went to his new homeland. Why was it necessary to test Abraham? Practicing public speaking in front of a mirror; not the same as in front of an audience. Need a real test. Maybe this is why G-d tested Abraham. You need to really be challenged. A test brings a person to the next level. G-d knew Abraham would pass the test; but Abraham needed to pass the test for himself - for him to be greater. Lech lecha means go for yourself. View this as an opportunity for growth. Meeting and overcoming challenges makes us better persons. When you see a “problem” it's really just an opportunity to excel, an opportunity to grow.

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