

*Committee Reports*SU Committee

* Chair – Michelle Sager – At Roundtable meeting (Meeting of regional Service Unit Chairs) we discussed Parent Engagement strategies. One option is a parent Open House; asking troops to put together a display of some sort of what the girls did the past year. This would be a large event to encourage parents to be more involved in their troops. Our Service Unit did not volunteer to do this, because we are already very good at the parent communication and involvement and we are jam-packed through May.

- Discussion about “troop-hopping” if parents like what another troop did better, and too much pressure on troop leaders to make their troop exactly like another troop, even though each troop is unique and has their own dynamics, goals and interests.

- Discussion about spending more effort and energy figuring out why and helping leaders develop parent engagement in their own troops. Perhaps create a workshop or resource where leaders can get guidance for their particular situation regarding parent engagement.

- Some parent engagement issues came about because of the background check requirement for drivers. Background check and application/references and also leader training is required to allow GSUSA to tell their insurances and supporters that the girls are safe with leaders and drivers.

* Family Partnership – Michelle for Kelly Thompson – We discussed what it is and what it does as it is much more than I was aware of. It pays for financial assistance for girls and troops in need. GSWO \$ stays in GSWO, Leader Training materials, background checks, Council Website, informational mailings for camp and other events, and camp maintenance and updates. We had discussed at Roundtable how GSWO should place plaques at camp sites to let girls know what their cookie money and Family Partnership does. Many leaders and girls are not aware of this, all they know is the cost of a campsite just went up. Many people also do not know the \$15 membership goes directly to GSUSA, Council does not keep any of that money.

- In 2013, the Cincinnati region (old Great Rivers Council) brought in \$18,184. The entire GSWO Council brought in \$38,457. So we did almost as much as the other 3 regions put together.

- We were one of the 8 Service Units out of 40 in our region met or surpassed their goal

- Our 2014 goal is 1200 for 9 months, Jan 1 – Sept 30. Council is moving Family Partnership year to match the membership year, so our goal was pro-rated to match. So far for 2014, our events for Family Partnership are Thinking Day in Feb, Father/Daughter Dance in May, Camporee in Sept. We have about \$50 collected so far.

GSLE Committee

* Mother/Daughter Valentines for Troops Recap – Completed over 1000 cards! Lyn Rettos' Senior troop helped Rachel organize and execute the event, so Lyn was looking for feedback about it. She and her girls are going to meet and evaluate the event to make it even better next year. Feedback was positive, with some additional suggestions for next year. Michelle will type up and send to Lyn & Rachel.

* CSA Lock-in Recap – Bobbie Jo Bomkamp - Fantastic, 60 girls attended, weather held out. Great time with the Lock-In Olympics that Elizabeth organized. The girls participated in swimming, running, tennis, basketball, some fun scooter games and competed for medals. The girls all loved it, especially the older girls. The girls made about 56 blankets which went to the Butler County Children's Services. It has been nearly a year since they have received a donation, so they welcome more. They try to give every child who comes through their services a stuffed animal and a blanket.

They also completed a few Valentines to add to the supply. No one went to the hospital, no vomiting, no injuries. Looking for pictures, Angela wants to send story to the media.

*Brownie Event – Julie Perrino – Boonshoft Museum lock-in on Feb 28, 70 people signed up.

*Thinking Day –Michelle Sager – Theme is education. Still on Saturday, February 22, at Butler Tech's Public Safety Education Complex from 10-1. We have 17 troops participating, 17 countries represented, approximately 158 girls. Patches have been ordered. Troops are still welcome to come, please bring \$1 per person to drop in the Family Partnership bucket if you did not pre-register and pay the \$3 per person to get a patch. Also, please bring a new or gently used book or new school supplies. These will be donated to the Back2School Ministry at Cornerstone Church. Please do not bring SWAPs if you did not pre-register, it will throw off everyone's numbers.

- There was some confusion, as we had considered moving it to another location, but it STILL AT BUTLER TECH.

* Girl Scout Sunday – Bethany Wright – Sunday, March 9th, 9:00 am at Cornerstone Church. Will take place in the Teen Area. Family Partnership will be there. Parents can hang out with the girls or go to "big church". Focus will be on how Girl Scouts can help people. There will be a craft, not sewing, probably jewelry. Sermon will be different one than last year. Bethany will be putting together a new flier to send out to parents and extending the deadline for signups.

- We discussed how the weather has affected the troops meeting and sign-ups and we are inundated with emails and the weather caused people's lives to be backed up, so we will re-send information.

*2014 Camporee - Michelle Sager – Probably last weekend in September. Putting a Committee together in Feb, to begin meeting in March. We have to reserve the campground April 1. Service Units can now pay \$10 per site as a deposit, with the money being transferable to another site if changes are made more than 30 days out.

- Suggestion to do a Survey Monkey or Doodle Poll to determine the number of troops interested in attending.

* Adult Development – Bobbie Jo Bomkamp – Adult recognitions are in - we had several people nominated for awards and we have some fun ideas for the adult recognition event. Anyone interested in being on that committee, please contact Bobbie Jo Bomkamp, Michelle Sager or Julie Perrino. We have not set a date in May yet.

- Adult Volunteer Enrichment Weekend, April 11-13, registration opens soon. Workshops include cooking, camping, survival skills, archery, canoeing, Inventuring; "Old School" Girl Scouting. Can stay whole weekend or come just for Saturday. Adults only. 2 sessions in morning, then 2 sessions in afternoon. At Whip-Poor-Will. Food is good, some crafty things, stay up late playing games. \$60 approx for weekend.

- Discussion of changes being made in Camp Certification. Volunteers have reported they are not feeling they have learned enough to take their troops camping by themselves, so Council is working on re-vamping the program.

- Enrichment weekend is open to any registered volunteer, not just leaders.

* Junior Event – there was a discussion about different venues and prices; Lock-in at Dayton Girl Scout Center, Bingo, Rock Climbing & RockQuest, Ice Skating. Bobbie Jo is getting together with Annette Cosgrove, Angela Grimm, Krista Haubner and Keitha Fish to get the Junior event off the ground. Julie Hanley and Bobbie Jo said their troops of Ambassadors would be able to help the Juniors plan an event to take some of the pressure off of the adults.

- Dayton Girl Scout Center has a pottery kiln, sewing machines, and a tree house available for use by Girl Scouts.

* Service Unit Bridging Ceremony? - Because there was discussion last year about having Service Unit level Bridging Ceremony, Nancy Ward had volunteered to be Chair of the Committee to plan it...so is anyone still interested?

- Suggestion to have a central place for troops (like on the website) who are bridging able to ask older troops to assist with different aspects of the process, from doing the discussion parts to helping with the actual ceremony.

- Survey Monkey or Doodle Poll, or use the list, which will be on the site soon.

Data & Compliance Team

* Treasurer – Kelly Thompson – will be at March meeting to discuss financial reporting.

* Compliance Communication – Michelle Sager – Thank You to everyone who is in compliance, and everyone who has responded to Bobbie Jo and are working towards compliance so they can sell cookies. This is a big deal because we are going to go for the President's Award next year. This award is for the Service Units who are effective in financial reporting, training,

Recruitment Committee

* Nancy is looking for some troops who want to do some Service to Girl Scouting hours or a Bronze Project to create some Recruiting-To-Go boxes and some age level specific display boards ("What Do _____ Girl Scouts Do?" – Daisy, Brownie, Junior, CSAs...) with pictures, fliers, different events from Council, SU events, Troop level events, and how parents can help. So that no matter who is at available to be at a school or run an event, we all have the same information. Everything needed is in the box for the event, read the paper, what to pass out to the girls & parents, registration forms, craft included...something that can be completed over the summer. Keitha Fish has volunteered to work on this with other people, please contact Nancy or Keitha.

* Nancy is also looking for individuals who are willing to each do a very small part to help with recruiting next year. For example, a volunteer would be responsible for contacting 1 new leader 5 times at the beginning of the year to ensure troop has been formed, number received, bank account opened, parent meeting completed, etc. Questions would be written down for the volunteers so you would know what to ask. Many volunteers doing small items will help with recruiting next year.

* Michelle is meeting with Julie Koebel & Natalie Goforth on Tuesday to discuss a plan of action for recruiting adult volunteers from the Stepping Forward Program at Faith United Methodist Church. Meeting is at 4:00 pm at Coffee Beans & Brew. We're hoping to recruit individuals to lead troops for girls most in need in West Chester, including both East & West Lakota schools. The Stepping Forward Program is on Tuesday evening, feeds families and teaches life skills.

Announcements

Leader Coffee – Saturday, February 15th 9:00-10:30 am @ Coffee Beans & Brew

Next meeting Thursday, March 6th 7:00-8:15 pm @ Royal Redeemer

Topic: Service Projects – we will be picking dates and asking for volunteers to do the sign-up for Matthew:25. We will decide how many times we want to go, when we will go, what the theme will be, and who is in charge each time.

Breakout Session

We did not have a breakout session due to the meeting being super long. We had a lot of stuff to cover this time since there was no meeting in January.

Camping / Summer Camp / Field Trips & Songs / Games / Crafts