



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

Jewish Committee on Scouting

Committee Meeting – May 24, 2012

In attendance: Mike Shapiro, Hyiam Reiffman, Scott Markowitz, Stuart Zipper (via Skype)

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

D'var Torah by Rabbi Reiffman on Parsha BaMidbar. Well Done!

Scott Markowitz agreed to take minutes in Greg's absence.

Reviewed Minutes from last meeting: Minutes reflected an incorrect total. There was only one new Tenderfoot in T1613, for a total of 5 scouts. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Old business:

Israeli Scout Visit July 4-5.

- After we submitted a signed contract, they came back confessing an omission of a fee reference and asking for \$1200. Shawn told them we had no budget for \$1200, but would consider it for next year. They then asked for \$400. Anonymous donors will cover \$200, but the committee saw no likelihood of raising the other \$200.
- Troop 1613 cannot reconcile active involvement after discussion with Rabbi Alter due to halachic restrictions regarding hearing women singing in public.
- There was discussion of those observant of Kol Isha opting out, but JCOS' stated position has been that we will support programs that can be attended by all Jewish Scouts and Scouters. After discussion, we agreed to not compromise the standards we had set.
- Also due to July 4th timing we will not be likely to even schedule a performance.

For all these reasons, we decided to not pursue the Israeli Scouts for this year. Additionally, we will plan to revisit and further refine/define our committee policy on observance standards for events we sponsor.

Bronco's Day for \$1000 sellers – Hyiam presented a slideshow of today's trip/tour. Four of his Scouts from T & P 1613 got a guided tour of the stadium complex, including locker rooms and the "press conference" stage. He offered special thanks to Shawn Connelly and JCOS for their roles in making this trip possible after so many years of frustration. Even if it was still a

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different program than for the non-Shomer Shabbas group Scouts, it was good that they got their reward and recognition for their sales prowess.

Jamboree 2013

- Discussed fundraising for jamboree through troop 92 – Scott/Greg will place Hyiam on the email mailing list for the Jamboree Troop and connect the first aid kit fundraiser to Hyiam and his troop.
- DAT already does King Sooper cards, so T1613 would not want to compete with that
- A Scout from 1613 is very interested and planning for attendance with the Boston Shomer Shabbas Contingent.

Council Camporee (9/21-23/12)– No new info. Possibly 7 or 8 known to attend who could help make minyan.

LA Kinnus – no report at this time.

Contact Database update: Mike has submitted his contacts to Shawn. (Post meeting update – Rabbi telRav @ Temple Sinai has requested to be removed from our contacts list. Mike learned on Friday evening, May 25th, that the Rabbi will be leaving town to become the Rabbi of a congregation in Connecticut.

DAC JCOS Status Report:

- Mike has presented a report summarizing our committee’s beginnings, goals, accomplishments, and prognosis.
- After discussion, and some minor proposed corrections and updates, Mike agreed to revise the report and send it out to the Committee.
- Overall the committee has done well (the list of accomplishments is impressive) and is showing steady progress in meeting its stated goals and mission, but there is more to do:
 - o Future Meetings -readdress our perceived needs and issues. In view of the success the committee has seen, some tabled items may be ready to be addressed, new item may be appropriate to consider.
 - o Really need to capture in print or (e-format) Stuart’s lessons learned as a Shomer Shabbas Troop Scoutmaster.

New Business

Summer Camp: Troop 1613 will bring 3 scouts to Dietler this Summer starting June 10. And return on Friday. Mike Shapiro will relieve their 2nd adult in camp at midweek.

Fall Kinus: Agreed that we will begin planning Fall Kinnus at July DJCoS meeting at DAT.

Next meeting scheduled for July 26th 6:30 pm at DAT. June meeting is cancelled – too many schedule conflicts.

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Closing - SM Minute: Mike read a message relating to Yizkor and Memorial Day coinciding this year to remember our departed loved ones and to remember our soldiers who have fallen in service to our Nation. (See attached)

1 Atch – Yiskor 2012

Yiskor

Memorial Day, 2012

by

Marvin L. Meyers & Michael N. Shapiro

Past Commanders, JWV Post 344, Denver, CO

Yiskor – Remember. Four times a year in the Hebrew calendar, as the Jewish people, on the Holy days of Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret (8th day of Sukkot), last day of Passover, and 2nd day of Shavuot, we remember our departed.

In the secular calendar, we have three national holidays – Veterans Day in November, when we, as a freedom-loving nation, honor those who have served in defense of the nation; Armed Forces Day in May (Saturday, last week), when we honor those who currently serve, and Memorial Day; when we remember and honor those who have fallen in service to the nation.

This year is special because Shavuot Yiskor and Memorial Day coincide, and we are privileged to honor and remember, on the very same day, not only our loved ones, and the heroes and martyrs of our faith, but also our fallen – not just those who died in service, but also those who fell, permanently maimed physically, mentally, and psychologically.

Freedom is NOT free! The freedoms and liberties we so enjoy, and often take for granted, have been bought with the blood and sacrifice of our fallen heroes. Just since 9/11/2001, we have lost over 8000 troops in Iraq, and 1800 in Afghanistan, 3 dozen of these were Jews. We have suffered some 1.5 million wounded. As we remember these defenders of our liberty, we should also remember the sacrifice of their families – mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and children - who must deal with the loss of a loved one, or, on a daily basis, must deal with the challenges of those who have returned from war dismembered, disfigured, permanently disabled, physically, mentally, and psychologically.

Our country has been at war for almost 11 years. For many it is no longer newsworthy. But we must remember. 144 years ago, in 1868, in the aftermath of the great Civil War, a holiday was established to remember the dead of that terrible war. It was inspired by the southern custom of Decoration Day, when the ladies of the towns would go out and decorate the graves of their war dead. Later Memorial Day was expanded to honor all who had died in military service. In more recent times, Memorial Day has lost some of its sense of sober solemnity and has become a more celebratory day of picnics, barbeques, and sporting events.

In the current news there is talk about drawing down our involvement in Afghanistan. Make no mistake – the war on terror will not be over when our troops come home. As we enjoy our freedom and liberty, know that they will continue to be challenged. There will be more sacrifice.

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On this Memorial Day and Yiskor, we remember and honor all of our fallen soldiers, and our loved ones, and our martyrs. We remember their commitment to our country and to our faith, and we remember their legacy of patriotism and sacrifice. We remember that freedom is not free, and that we continue to buy it with the blood and sacrifice of our heroes.

So long as we live and remember, so, too, will our loved ones and fallen heroes live on.

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