

Minutes of the SCOUT eh! Annual General Meeting,
2nd . December, 2007
Vancouver, B.C.

In attendance: Ted Claxton, Treasurer, Kitchener, ON (acting Chairman)

Clare Ford, Oshawa, On
Dave Upham, New Westminster, BC
Pierre Michiels, Waterloo, ON
John Wilkinson, BC
Bill Simmons, BC
Jim Lanphier, BC
Graham Ballantyne, BC
Liam Morland, Kitchener, ON
Dave Shaw, Glenwood, NL (acting Sec'ty)

Regrets: Lon Gasperon – N. Vancouver BC, Eleanor Oakley – N. Vancouver BC, John Pickering – Toronto ON,
Don Connors [Sec'ty] – Halifax NS, Mike Reid [Chairman] – Ste. Lazare, QC

1. The meeting was called to order by Ted Claxton, at 1105 PST.
2. Following introductions, during an open discussion the following topics were put forward:
 - Scouts Canada AGM
 - Implementation of policy 1014
 - SCOUT eh! Strategies
 - SCOUT eh! website
 - Communications
 - Interference by senior members at local events
 - Presentations

3. Scouts Canada AGM.

Those in attendance shared their views and feeling with regard to the SC AGM. While there were some positive reactions to some aspects of the AGM, the general consensus was that the meeting does not truly reflect the current status of SC with regard to growth, sustainability, finance or democracy.

4. Policy 1014.

Acting Chairman Ted Claxton explained Policy 1014 and advised that all sections of SCOUT eh! be prepared to move forward with candidates if and when the policy is implemented in their area. It was obvious from the reaction of some Scouters at the table that information regarding Policy 1014 is not filtering down to the grass roots level of Scouting. Some knew nothing about it. There has been little uniformity with regard to the implementation of Policy 1014 across the country. Some areas have held elections. Some areas have held elections and Scouters in the area were not notified that the process was taking place and as a result, Scouters missed the nomination process [but did get to vote]. Some councils have not even started the process even though it was supposed to be completed prior to the AGM that was held yesterday. Strategies were discussed with regard to support for candidates, monitoring the process and making sure that it actually happens in 2008.

5. Communications.

It was felt that communication was the key to keeping SCOUT eh! as the primary watchdog for national policy, financial accountability and a return to democracy. While the fundamental issues that led to the formation of SCOUT eh! may have changed, the need to stay vigilant and offer assistance is still great.

Communications [continued]

Policy 1014 may be the best opportunity that SC has provided in some time for SCOUT eh! to keep up the pressure. Our website may be the best venue to pursue this opportunity. We should promote the elections as a key feature of the site with PDF formatted information for *all Scouters* and stress the need for *all Scouters* to get involved in the process. There should be communications from the National level for all members about 1014. A discussion group will be established with council representatives regarding 1014. There was some discussion about our involvement in the establishment of Policy 1014, a return to the democratic process and the timing of Policy 1014.

6. Strategies

It was felt that a National, united policy be established to promote Policy 1014 through SCOUT eh! An implementation team will be established and democracy-minded Scouters will be encouraged to run for positions at all levels. Local organizations will be key players in this process with regard to candidates and resources. An "election chairman", nominating committees and support teams at Council levels must also be considered. Provincially and by Council we must monitor the election process to ensure that SC adheres to its own policies.

7. The Website.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the SCOUT eh! website. A link to the Forum is needed and the possibility of allowing non-members access to the Forum was discussed. Non-members may be allowed access for reading purposes but would be denied the opportunity to post responses or initiate topics. This is standard policy on many websites. The establishment of a "Swap Shop" or "Trading Post" and an "Ideas Page" (for program ideas, crafts, etc.) will be checked out. SCOUT eh! has a wealth of resources available and we should share our experience and knowledge through the website. The inclusion of a page to post information regarding local newspaper articles, victory stories and achievements of SCOUT eh! members across the country will be investigated. With all the concern about obesity, early childhood diabetes and the "Last Child" we have an opportunity to link and promote a healthy lifestyle, outdoor activities and Scouting on the website.

8. Some members expressed concern about the involvement (interference?) at local events by members of the next level, or higher, of governance. At times, this involvement is causing extra work and disrupting events. It was the consensus that they be allowed access to the events and that *they* be allowed to carry out the extra duties themselves, thus allowing the Scouters who are actually running the event to get on with their jobs.

9. It was suggested that consideration be given to renting hotel rooms for the next SCOUT eh! meeting. An on-site venue for displays, hospitality and meetings would be more advantageous and effective.

10. There was some discussion regarding increasing our membership. It was felt that Joe Grattani was a vital asset in this area. His deciphering of the financial reports has been a key factor in maintaining the interest of our members and as a drawing card for non-members. We need to advertise, nationally, for the services of people with experience in law, accounting, political campaigning and lobbying.

11. Presentations

Dave (west) presented Dave (east) with the first "Coast To Coast" award on behalf of Chairman Mike Reid and SCOUT eh!

Dave (west) also presented Dave (east) with a truly wonderful, old and decrepit, official Boy Scouts of Canada hat. There is a good possibility that the hat is older than Dave (east) but in much better shape. It is doubtful that it has as many miles on it.

12. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1440.

D. Shaw, acting Secretary

T. Claxton, acting Chairman

[Originals signed by:

D. Shaw, acting Secretary & T. Claxton, acting Chairman for the meeting.]