

Transatlantic Council
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2011

Wiesbaden, Germany

Attendance:

Scott Eversman	Gene Behrends	Vince Cozzone
Dr. John Rose	Bill Kavanaugh	Dr. Robert Schloesser
Shel Dick	Josh Dick	Andy Brown
Brad Corson	John Scott	Nick Airey
Al Johnson	Patrick Giles	Peter Gunau
John Cass	Jo Anne Baker	Ivonne Santanna
Carlos Lopez	John Paul Meier	Mark DuBois

Guests:

Monica Scott	Patrick Sterret	Matt Myers
Bob Myers	James Beatty	

Staff:

Karen Meier	Holly Strout	Tony Dvorak
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1. Motion made by Bill Kavanaugh, second by Brad Corson to accept minutes from last meeting. Motion passed.
2. Motion by John Rose to accept the final copy of the 2010 Audit, second by John Scott. Motion passed.
3. Motion by John Paul Meier to accept the 2010 Annual Report, second by Gene Behrends. Motion passed.
4. Motion by Bob Schloesser to accept Rear Admiral Andy Brown, Rear Admiral John Messerschmidt, and Ivonne Santana to serve on the Executive Board. Second by Brad Corson, motion passed.
5. Motion by Bob Schloesser to name Al Johnson as the 2011 Audit Committee Chairman. Second by Shel Dick. Motion passed.
6. Motion by Patrick Giles to raise 2012 camp fees (see appendix). Second by Bill Kavanaugh. Motion passed.
7. Motion by J.P. Meier to appoint a sub-committee to present an incentive plan to lower camp fees. Second by Bob Schloesser. Motion passed.
8. Motion by Bob Schloesser to accept September 30, 2011 Statement of Operations. Second by Al Johnson. Motion passed.
9. Motion by John Paul Meier to approve the 2012 Council Budget as presented. Second by Al Johnson. Motion passed.
10. Motion by Patrick Giles to place \$225,000 in a 12 month CD at the best rate as determined by the Investment Committee. Second by Nick Airey. Motion passed.

Dr. Rose called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. John Scott led us in the Invocation. Dr. Rose introduced special guests Patrick Sterret (Area Director); Matt Myers (National Council STEM/Nova Director); Bob Myers (National Council Finance Division); General Mark Schissler (J5 Directorate EUCOM); and Rear Admiral Andy Brown (Logistics Director for EUCOM).

A briefing on the 2010 Audit was presented at the May meeting along with a draft of the final copy. Bob Schloesser reminded the Board that repeat findings were not found, we have established our presence at Camp Darby, and all issues were fixed from the 2009 audit.

Bob Schloesser, Nominating Committee Chairman, briefed the Board on Rear Admiral Andy Brown and Rear Admiral John Messerschmidt. Ivonne Santanna was inadvertently left off the list of nominees for the Board at the last meeting. Bob requested all three be approved to serve for the coming year. Bob went on to announce his resignation as the Audit Committee Chairman and proposed Al Johnson serve as the new Audit Committee Chairman. John Rose re-affirmed that Bob Schloesser will continue in his role as the Nominating Committee Chairman.

In his report, Council Commissioner Bill Kavanaugh, reported there has been a lot of recruiting. Mediterranean has added 15 new unit commissioners, Rheingold has added 1, and Charlemagne has added one. Journey to Excellence (JTE) has been instituted by National to measure quality of program in units, districts, and councils. TAC has earned enough points to be Gold in Fiscal Management, Fundraising, Membership Impact, Boy Scout Advancement, Cub Scout Camping, Commissioner Service, and District Leadership. The result is that we are on track to achieve Gold status in 2011. By JTE measurements we would have been Bronze in 2008, Bronze in 2009, and Silver in 2010.

Vince Cozzone reported Holly Strout has been hired to serve as the District Field Executive for Rheingold and the editor of the new TAC Family News e-publication. TAC Family News has over 500 subscribers and provides a direct link to parents and community members. Luis Gonzalez has been hired as the District Field Executive in Edelweiss. With regret Vince announced Eric Vincent, District Executive has resigned. Until someone is hired Vince will be the Executive for Charlemagne and Tony Dvorak will serve Barbarossa. In areas that the budget cannot support a full time District Executive a part-time District Field Executive will be hired. The goal is to have one person in each district.

John Rose introduced Matt Myers who briefed us on the STEM/Nova project. STEM/Nova is being piloted in TAC and 21 other Councils. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is designed to inspire youth to choose one of those fields. Fewer youth are interested in these areas of study than ever before. Another side benefit is building BSA relationships in classrooms. Awards, Nova, are presented to each youth at every level of scouting. Super Nova, involves a project, mentoring other scouts, and is an option for NESAs scholarships. Many activities we do already could be incorporated into the STEM/Nova project (e.g. Scout camp). Specific requirements are outlined in the Nova Requirements Book available on a special website available to units involved with the pilot. Our units are asked to provide feedback before February so the final guidelines will be ready to roll out to all the BSA membership in May. It is important to understand Nova is an award, not an advancement. Merit badges will be used to encourage scouts to start on the path of Nova. A recommendation was made to provide recognition to employers that are involved in STEM/Nova.

Karen Meier shared with the Board the final camping report. Vince Cozzone briefed the Board on the plan for 2012. In short, Camp Freedom subsidized the other three camp programs. Factoring in Camp Freedom we have a shortfall of \$2,700, without Camp Freedom we have a shortfall of \$25,000. The camp fees were \$235 per scout in 2011. Comments from Board members ranged from "we need to

raise camp fees” to “we need to increase participation”. Vince suggested a plan tied to Friends of Scouting dollars. If a district FOS averaged \$30 per family everybody in that district would receive a discount to attend camp. There was much discussion of the plan but there was an agreement that tying summer camp fees and FOS probably would not work. The camping program has fixed costs and the issue is with the exchange rate and increased costs of conducting camps. It was decided to raise camp fees and promote scholarships.

Dr. Rose appointed a sub-committee to investigate incentives to lower camp fees. Members agreeing to serve are Shel Dick, Patrick Giles, Andy Brown, Brad Corson, Bill Kavanaugh, and Josh Dick. Staff advisor will be Karen Meier. A report will be presented at the January, 2012 Executive Board Meeting.

Scott Eversman, Development Enhancement Chairman, briefed the Board on the Major Gifts plan. The goal is to raise a large amount of funds to place TAC into a strong financial position for the next 20-30 years. It is not an effort to replace FOS or any other fundraising currently being conducted. The committee met for the first time on October 21, 2011. Bob Myers and Patrick Sterret were of great assistance guiding this committee. Contacts will be made to American corporations, high worth individuals, foundations, and people that wish to support activities like Normandy. Vince stressed this is relationship based and give TAC the ability to provide top quality program to youth in the future. Bob Myers pointed out this is “friendraising” not just “fundraising”. Estate planning and wills is a big part of the campaign. Members of the committee are

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2011 where three different companies will be making presentations. One of those companies will be offered a contract to serve as consultants.

Council Treasurer Hugh Klei presented the Financials. As of September 30 we have a surplus of \$143,000. The fall is the worst time for cash flow but we anticipating balancing the budget again in 2011. The 2012 proposed budget will include the major gifts that we had in 2011. The total budget is \$1.7 million meaning we will have to raise more FOS and corporate gifts. Employee costs are the largest single expense. The Bowl-a-thon and NFL sales are budgeted to raise more in 2012. Dollars from grant request increase due to the anticipation of receiving funding for our Multi-Cultural efforts. Increased travel costs are a result of the move to Italy. The CFC and MWR dollars will remain the same in 2012 as 2011. Those dollars will require a closer look as the military reduces the forces in Europe. Activity revenue is down because we will not have Normandy again until 2014. Vince pointed out that employee costs increased because of the Board decision to add a District Field Executive in Mayflower. In addition we hired two District Field Executives to replace one District Executive. In addition, following a recommendation from our auditor, we are replacing housing allowances with a total salary for employees that qualify. Our salaries follow the national guideline for a G5 area. That means based on the area we live, costs are 20% over the American average. Vince also pointed out we have budgeted \$8,000 to send volunteers to the far reaches of the council to conduct training. Another \$200 per district has been budgeted to fund volunteer recognition.

Paul Ostling sent his Finance Report. See appendix.

Al Johnson, Investment Committee Chairman, shared we have a cash surplus of \$225,000 in our “checking account”. Since all investments have disappointing returns we place those funds in a 12 month CD. After some research Al has found Citibank had a rate of 1.15% compared to an industry wide average of .90%. Vince explained this would be a Board restricted contribution to the Endowment Fund.

Ivonne Santana is chairman of the new Multi-Cultural Committee. Our goal is to have scouting membership reflect the population we serve. From a DoD report we know the ethnic composition of the families in Europe. Currently our focus is on the Latino communities of Grafenfoer-Vilseck, KMC, and Bamberg/Schweinfurt. Our goal is to identify youth and leaders that traditionally have not joined a scouting program.

In other items, Bob Schloesser and Josh Dick are working on the Long-Range plan. Peter Gunau is chairing the 2012 Intercamp. A location has been identified but not yet secured. Patrick Sterret reviewed the results of a recent survey sent to Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:45.