



Southern California Council Meeting Minutes
7:00pm, 28 January 2010
Bellflower Bethany Christian Reformed Church
17054 Bixby Avenue, Bellflower, California

The first meeting of the Southern California Cadet Council in calendar year 2010 was called to order at 7:10pm by Dave Dalton, Council President and Head Counselor Westminster OPC (Club No. 1566). The agenda, having previously been distributed, was approved by consensus.

Opening Prayer and Devotion

Devotions and opening prayer were provided by Ron Flietstra, Head Counselor for Bethany CRC (Club No. 1518). Speaking from the *Today* daily devotion series, he discussed Psalm 78:4, “*We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*” Ron noted that parents struggle to pass along good standards and values to their children in a society that is hell-bent to virtually anything immoral. The most important value, Ron highlighted, is the one that says “home is where Christ is the center of what we do”.

Our workshop was provided by Craig Doty, Head Counselor for Bayview OPC (Club No. 1585) and Council DCE. The workshop focused on fundraising for the local club and (by extension) our council events. The council members were parsed into groups of three. The goal of each group was to come up with as many fundraising ideas (no matter how unique), two advertising methods, and a financial goal. The groups came together and listed the ideas into one list. Ideas included:

Car Wash	Pancake Breakfast	Submarine Sandwiches (with delivery)
Rent-a-Cadet for household chores	Raffle Donated Items	Bowl-a-thon
Restaurant Sales	Lunch After Church	Hamburger Fry
Steak Dinner	Ebay Garage Sale	Bike-a-thon
Spaghetti Dinner	Car Rally	Begging
Letter Writing	Bake Sale	

After the group discussed each, Craig summarized the workshop by suggesting each counselor be inventive when holding fundraising events. A good fundraiser takes some organization, but it can be well worth the effort.

After a coffee break and refreshments, the Business Meeting was called to order by Dave Dalton at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call was taken with the following clubs reporting counselors attending:

Club Number	Church (or Club) Name	No. of Counselors Present
1503	Anaheim CRC	0
1508	New Ground Harvest	0
1509	Artesia 1	0
1512	Artesia Trinity CRC	1
1515	Bellflower 1	0
1517	Anaheim Christ Reformed (URC)	0
1518	Bellflower Bethany	8
1521	Bellflower Rosewood	1
<i>1547</i>	<i>El Dorado</i>	
1569	Bellflower Bethel	0
1530	Chino 1	1
1531	Crosspoint	0
<i>1532</i>	<i>Oaks Community</i>	
1536	Escondido URC	0
1539	Long Beach CRC	1
1548	The River (Redlands)	0
1557	Hope Riverside	1
1558	Oasis Moreno Valley	0
<i>1560</i>	<i>San Diego CRC</i>	
1561	San Diego New Life PCA	0
1563	Bethel Sun Valley	1
1565	San Marcos CRC	0
1566	Westminster OPC	1
1585	Bayview OPC	1

Church name in bold indicates H/C attending

Church information in italics indicates club inactive for the 2009-2010 Cadet year

Old Business

2010 Counselor Convention. Craig Doty provided the council with an update of the committee's work. He noted the speakers and entertainment, as well as outlined the women's program. He asked each subcommittee chairperson to speak briefly.

- Jim Grasmeyer (Transportation) noted that there will be three vans rented for the week at a cost of \$2,000 to shuttle people to/from the airport and on other outings during the convention. A bus (or two) will be rented to bring everyone to and from the beach for our Friday Family outing.
- Matt Gabrielse (Registration) stated that plans are moving ahead on a checking account for the committee use. The council approved the opening of a checking account, separate from the council's checking account. Signatories for the 2010 Cadet Counselors' Convention checking account were determined to be: Matt Gabrielse, Bernie Gabrielse and Dave Lewis. The council directed the 2010 Convention Committee to proceed with actions necessary to open this checking account and to make regular financial reports to the council.
- George Bell (Booklet) provided some general information about the program booklet with advertising methods for businesses and Cadet Councils. The committee will provide a tax statement to businesses or people upon request.
- Dave Dalton (Children's Program) described some of the events that make up the children's program.

Craig also highlighted the rate provided by the Crowne Plaza hotel which may appeal to guests who wish to enjoy an additional day or two: for only \$125/day, the Crowne Plaza is offering a three-day window on either side of the convention dates.

Dave Dalton mentioned a couple of incentive ideas for the club that reaches the \$2,000 goal first – a pizza party or free T-shirts for all club counselors at the convention. Also, the club that brings in the highest dollar amount for the convention gets a free counselor registration slot at the convention. One of the council members suggested a dinner in San Diego might be offered as well.

Craig asked for a show of hands from those present indicating intent to attend the convention. Of the 17 counselors present, about 12 raised their hands. Craig encouraged those present for maximum participation at the 2010 Convention. He noted that our Southern California council has more than twice as many clubs as the other two California councils *combined!* A newsletter will be sent to each counselor from all of the West Coast clubs from Canada to California. Jim mentioned several congressmen indicated intent to vacation to San Diego for the convention. He also noted that the Southern California Council is one of the largest in the Cadet organization.

West Coast Counselors' Conference

Dave Dalton reintroduced this conference. He discussed the benefits for counselors to feel "re-energized" afterwards. He clarified the conference dates at Trinity URC in Visalia to 19-20 February. He also encouraged council members to plan on attending with carpooling as an option. Craig noted that he has received an information packet from the Pacific Sierra hosts and will forward this packet to all club head counselors.

West Coast Camporee

The council discussed the camporee with the dates of 28-31 July. Dave Dalton noted this camporee is two weeks after the San Diego Convention. Some discussion followed about the location and previous camporees held at the same place.

Pinewood Derby

Craig mentioned a potential conflict with the date at Bellflower One. He attempted to contact the head counselor during the meeting for resolution, or at least more information. Dave expressed some disappointment that the council could not finish preparations for the Pinewood Derby at tonight's meeting. He noted that many volunteers will be needed for the events taking place at the race. Ron Flietstra volunteered the use of their club's track if Bellflower One does not have one.

Dave Lewis outlined the history of the types of trophies awarded at recent Pinewood Derby races and attempts to reduce the overall cost. He suggested that "pedestal" type trophies be awarded for "Best Design", i.e., craftsmanship and for "Originality", i.e., unique or unusual design. The council discussed various size options and determined the S&W design (7 inch) model was sufficient for all speed awards. It was suggested that a participation ribbon, similar to that given at Field Day be awarded to all cadets that submit derby entries to the race. The council approved this by voice acclamation. The council also agreed to a Blue Ribbon for the overall winner of the race. Dave noted that this awards scheme will cost the council about \$200.00.

The council discussed various items as a second attraction but did not come to a decision.

Dave Dalton closed discussion by noting that several final decisions will need to be decided via phone conversations or email.

- Date
- Location
- Volunteers

Camping Certification (for all Cadets)

Dave Dalton confirmed the location (Westminster OPC) and the date (May 15th). He asked if volunteers to help run the certification course could contact him offline to work out the details. Dave noted that the Camping Certification is required for all Cadets and Counselors to attend the West Coast Camporee as well as the Cadet International Camporee 2011 in upstate Michigan.

Reports

Congressman Report by Jim Grasmeyer, Head Counselor for Long Beach CRC (Club No. 1539).

Jim noted that 70 congressman attended the Cadet Congress held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There were few program changes proposed. A new Junior Cadet Counselor Certification course was discussed and approved. The Bible Study merit badge has been revised and was approved.

Center to most discussions at Congress was the downward trend in Cadet enrollment and clubs. Jim offered his opinion as to one cause of this trend – a rejection of the name "Calvin" in the **Calvinist Cadet Corps**, and the perceived orthodoxy of the ministry as a whole. He noted that next to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the CCC is the highest rated boy's club in America. However, when churches are looking for a boys' program, they often view the Cadets as perhaps too dogmatic and narrow, given our Reformed heritage denoted by the program's name. Jim also noted that a proposal (at last year's congress) was narrowly defeated which would have changed our organization's name to "Christian Cadet Corps". This is the second time that this proposal has been defeated at congress. It cannot be represented for another year.

Jim noted that the companion ministry for girls – GEMS – has seen an 8% increase in registrations in the past year. He offered that the reason for the “uptick” in registrations was the change in name several years ago from “Calvinettes” to GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior). This made the GEMS more “generic” and less daunting when presented as a girls’ program to the wider evangelical community.

Jim also noted an inconsistency in the thought processes made by some at Congress. Several years ago, our organization decided to change the name of the magazine from *Crusader* to *Quest* based on a single complaint from a young Muslim child (as opposed to the hundreds of boys registered in Cadets at the time). Now here we have a clear digression in the numbers of both Cadets and clubs that can be attributed to a perception that our organization is dogmatic and rigid; however some members of Congress are unwilling to consider the validity of the argument.

Ron Glass, Head Counselor Riverside (Club No. 1557) asked if a proposal could be made to remove (or modify) the citizenship requirements in the Builder program. He notes that some of the requirements make it almost impossible for any Cadet to achieve this rank. Jim suggested that the council, if we agree with Ron’s assessment, submit a proposal to the next congress for consideration.

DCE Report by Craig Doty, Head Counselor of Bayview OPC (Club No. 1585).

Counselor and Head Counselor certification courses should be mailed to Craig or Bernie Gabrielse, Head Counselor for First URC of Chino (Club No. 1530) for grading and submission to Corps. George noted that counselor and head counselor’s stripes are not available without approval of the council’s DCE.

Quartermaster Report by George Bell.

Pinewood derby car sets are still available. Requests should be submitted to George via email or phone call.

Treasurer Report by Dave Lewis.

The council checking balance is around \$600.00. Clubs are encouraged to pay bills in a timely manner.

New Business

Due to the lateness of the hour, Dave deferred all new items to the Executive Board and our next regularly scheduled council meeting.

- Archery Equipment/Standardization
- Council Projects/Community Involvement
- Counselor Training/Recruitment
- Council Events – Fishing, Hikes, Water Park
- 2011 International Camporee at Camp Whitetail, Michigan

Review Council Calendar

Dave reviewed upcoming events on the Council Calendar:

- West Coast Counselor Conference, February 19-20 at Trinity URC in Visalia

- 2010 Convention Committee, February 27th at Westminster OPC
- Pinewood Derby, (presumably) March 27th at First Bellflower CRC
- Council Meeting, April 29th at Escondido URC.
- Camporee Certification, May 15th at Westminster OPC
- Cadet Counselors' Convention, July 15-17 in San Diego
- West Coast Camporee, July 28-31 in North Fork, CA

Next Council Meeting by Dave Dalton. This meeting will be held on April 29th at Escondido URC beginning at 7:00pm.

After thanking the counselors from Bethany CRC for hosting our meeting, Dave Dalton closed with prayer for the ministry to the boys in our clubs, the decisions and plans made tonight, and traveling mercies at 9:22pm. The council concluded the meeting by singing the Cadet Hymn.

In Christ's Service,

Craig P. Doty
Council Secretary
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