

Blue Grass Council Venturing VOA Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2017

Run by Rayna Weibrecht, Council Venturing President

Minutes taken by Nathan Vick

Attending Youth: Rayna Weibrecht (Council Venturing President, via phone), Olivia V. (Vice President of Program), Ryan Wharton (Crew 73 President), Maddy Krut (Crew 99 President), Nathan Vick (Past Council Venturing President)

Attending Adults: Leta Rai Davenport (Council Venturing Advisor), Linda Gilbert (Vice President of Administration Advisor), Marty Krut (Crew 99 Advisor)

VOA officer meeting opened at 3:10 PM, then transitioned to a full VOA meeting around 3:45 PM

Rayna opened the meeting by asking if GroupMe communication is still working for everyone. The consensus was yes. Nathan commented that we have 6-7 different groups currently active, which is a lot.

Rayna next brought up that Brent Johnson had asked for Venturers to help with the Scoutish Games event in May. Ryan commented that Crew 73 will be going as a service crew. Olivia mentioned that an NYLT staff training is scheduled for that weekend and asked what the VOA members who are serving on NYLT staff will do. Ryan responded that Patrick J. was intending to go to Scoutish Games and Siobhan J. would go to the NYLT staff training. Ryan asked if the VOA should open Scoutish Games up to other crews as a service opportunity. Olivia said that that would be a good idea. Leta mentioned that she had put up a message on the Elkhorn District Facebook page saying that crews should contact the VOA if they want to help.

Olivia mentioned that the VOA has a Facebook group called “Blue Grass Council Venturing Forum” and asked if the name could be changed so that the group doesn’t get mixed up with the event of the same name. Rayna responded that that was a good idea.

Rayna asked Olivia to discuss the upcoming Spring AdVenture event.

Spring AdVenture (report by Olivia)

Program: This year’s Spring AdVenture schedule is similar to last year’s, but without the high COPE course (thanks to the woodpeckers who have made holes in several posts). Camp McKee has been reserved for the weekend of June 2-4. Keeneland Lodge, the shooting ranges, the climbing tower, and Campsites 1-5 were reserved, with the intent to base out of Keeneland. Rayna mentioned that she wasn’t at Spring AdVenture in 2016 and so this is a new experience for her.

The activities planned for Spring AdVenture include shooting, climbing/rappelling, low COPE, and a service project. Last year’s service project was setting up Stamler for the Spring Cub

Campout; this year's project might involve preparing for the LDS summer camp, which starts the Monday after Spring AdVenture. Ryan asked when the LDS troops will be arriving at camp, and Olivia answered that they will be coming in on Monday.

Olivia continued to discuss the schedule, including an optional movie on Friday night and a campfire in Campsite 3 on Saturday night. Crew 73 is scheduled to conduct flag ceremonies on Saturday and Sunday. The VOA has Campsites 1-5 reserved, but may not use 1-2 if it's raining. Ryan asked if the bunk beds will still be in Keeneland, and Olivia answered that the beds will probably be put out in campsites during the Order of the Arrow's Spring Ordeal in May.

Spring AdVenture will last from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Event staff should arrive by 5 PM on Friday, and everyone else will arrive at 6 PM. There will be flag ceremonies on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Olivia offered that Crew 73 could do a flag retirement ceremony again (like last year), and Ryan accepted.

Budget: The event has been priced at \$12/person due to ammunition costs. Ryan commented that this is a very low price, and Olivia agreed, saying that they were trying to keep the costs as low as possible. Olivia will be asking Gerry Gevedon to coordinate shooting sports and Doug Johnson, Nathan Zachary, and possibly Deven Gonzalez to handle climbing and COPE.

We don't have the resources to feed everyone cafeteria-style, so crews will be responsible for bringing and cooking their own meals. They are welcome to utilize the Keeneland kitchen if they would like. Crews will also be asked to bring a sack lunch for Saturday, just like the KCA Camporee.

Merchandise: Last year, we had talked about making a t-shirt for the KCA Camporee. It didn't happen then, but might happen for Spring AdVenture. We've created a design that's non-event and non-year specific, but we could change the t-shirt color and not the design from year to year. Marlene knows a local company that can make a small number of t-shirts with a 2-color design front and back for relatively inexpensively. The intent is to charge \$12 per t-shirt and use the profit to subsidize future VOA events.



The event registration form is ready to go and includes event registration and t-shirt order. Rayna asked if we were doing online registration; Olivia said yes; and Ryan commented that online registration is a very good idea.

Olivia mentioned that she wants everyone to have a t-shirt. Linda asked about the possibility of charging a late fee if t-shirt registrations come in after the deadline. Olivia said she wants people to buy the t-shirts and would rather charge an event late fee than change the t-shirt price.

A brief discussion was held about what type of registration should have a late fee, concluding that there would only be a late fee for walk-ons (i.e. after online registration closes).

The final order date for t-shirts is May 7. Ryan asked if we could highlight this on the form, and Olivia said yes. Leta mentioned that the OA Conclave registration form had a place for optional t-shirt order and asked if we could do something similar here. Olivia liked the idea and said she'd talk with Susan at the council office about it.

The registration form needs to be on council website very soon (preferably by early April) in order to make promotions possible. Most promotions will happen via word of mouth, social media, email, and website. Rayna asked who was handling promotions; Olivia responded that Bryan S. (Vice President of Communications) will handle those and that she will contact him.

Calendar Planning

The VOA's calendar for 2018 needs to be planned now because the council needs the dates to put in the printed calendar that they distribute.

Rayna asked if we were keeping the Venturing Forum. Olivia said she was in favor of keeping it because the event helped the new crews in Berea and Versailles. Ryan said that, depending on who registers, we could shift it to more fellowship and less training, which might be good. The resolution was to have the Venturing Forum on February 10, 2018.

The dates for Ranger Week (the fourth week of summer camp) and the KCA Camporee are set by the council, so the VOA doesn't have to worry about those.

The Spring AdVENTURE 2018 date was set for June 1-3. Ryan asked if we should change the event name to "Summer AdVENTURE" because it's in the summer. Leta commented that summer technically starts on June 21... Rayna suggested "Outdoor AdVenture." Olivia said she didn't see a problem with keeping the Spring AdVenture name. Everyone agreed.

Ryan asked if the KCA Camporee is typically in October. Olivia said yes.

Venturing Leadership Award Timeline

Rayna said that the timeline for selecting recipients for the Venturing Leadership Awards was scrunched last year. The council banquet, where the awards are presented, is usually held in February. Ryan asked how early the nomination forms needed to be sent in; Nathan responded that the council sends the nomination forms to National for them to approve the nominations and send the awards back, a process which can take about 4-6 weeks.

Nathan mentioned that, last year, online nominations were due on December 20 and the awards committee meeting was held on December 28-29. Ryan commented that this timeline didn't seem scrunched to him and asked how many online nominations were received. Nathan answered that 8-12 nominations were received, four of them from the same person. Rayna added that only a few crews had people submitting nominations; there wasn't a lot of variety.

A brief discussion about online nominations and timeline was held, resulting in a decision to open online nominations at the KCA Camporee.

University of Scouting

The VOA needs to start working on University of Scouting (UofS) classes now, as Judy Price and the UofS committee are already working on the course list.

Last year, the VOA held the following classes: What is Venturing, Understanding Venturing Awards, How to Start a Crew, and Venturing Advisor Specific Training. Ryan asked how long classes lasted; Nathan answered that they are usually scheduled in hour-long blocks, but that classes could span multiple blocks.

Olivia asked the meeting attendees to suggest potential classes for the 2017 UofS. Marty suggested first aid. Ryan recommended holding upper-level Venturing youth trainings (like Project Management and Mentoring) and stated that the OA is pulling their trainings from UofS because they didn't work (background information: in 2016, the OA had tried to greatly increase the number of youth-oriented classes at UofS; for various reasons, this didn't work and turnout was very low). Linda mentioned fundraising, and Ryan added recruiting and suggested that both fundraising and recruiting could be combined into one class. Ryan further commented that he doesn't like cramming trainings into a small amount of time.

A brief discussion was held about which officer is responsible for UofS; the resolution was that the Key places it under the Vice President of Program, but that the VP of Program could appoint an event coordinator to handle the event. It was further mentioned that youth trainings could be done at UofS if youth show up, but that most youth don't come to UofS. Accordingly, youth trainings are usually more efficacious at merit badge fairs.

Linda commented that Crew 73 might be able to handle the fundraising/recruiting class. Olivia asked Ryan to take charge of those trainings.

Website

Ryan asked if the calendar could be put on the VOA website as a menu item. Nathan responded that there isn't any room in the top-level links of the main menu, but that we could highlight it somewhere else.

Officer Concerns

Olivia (VP of Program) referred to the previous discussion about Spring AdVenture and stated that we're still sorting everything out regarding officer responsibilities and attendance. A brief discussion was held about officer responsibilities, including crew contacts and touching base with crews. Ryan mentioned that it would be good to develop a quick reference list of who manages each event.

Crew Updates

Maddy (Crew 99 President) said that her crew was trying to hold a crew meeting on the 21st.

Olivia (for Crew 204) said that her crew and Crew 99 went hiking on March 11 with 10 people in attendance.

Ryan (Crew 73 President) said that his crew just went on a trip to the Adirondack Shelters at Camp McKee, were holding a bake sale at the same time as this meeting (for which they had baked the day before), and had done a lock-in with Crew 51 (a new crew in Berea) and helped train them in how to run a Venturing crew.

Next VOA Meeting

The next VOA meeting was scheduled for April 7, but this overlapped with an NYLT training event. Olivia said that holding an in-person meeting in April wasn't necessary for Spring AdVenture preparations, she just needed to get in touch with Calvin and Bryan.

A conference call was scheduled for April 5 at 7:00 PM.

In the future, responsibility for meetings may be delegated to the Vice President of Administration.

Advisor Minute

In her advisor minute, Leta made the point that a different world cannot be built by indifferent people.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM