

Minutes of the Council Executive Committee**August 26, 2025**

The meeting was opened at 5:30 pm at the Council Service Center and on zoom by Steve Odenkirk, Council President. A quorum was present.

Present: David Alvarez, Tom Kittle, Rebecca Lester, Steve Odenkirk, Fred Petersen Joel Stoltz, John Will, Lisa Wylie

Guests: Phillip Shipley (Territory 8 Director); Tom Curzon (Grand Canyon Council Rep)

Excused: Jeff Brunet

Staff: Shannon Roberts, Mike Korcheck

Summary of Action:

- **Safety Minute:** Stoltz provides a safety moment on AED maintenance, emphasizing the importance of regular inspections and proper battery replacement.
- **Membership Report:** Please see the report for additional details...
 - a. Wylie discusses the Cub Scout recruiting season, focusing on the challenges of engaging Generation Z parents.
 - b. She mentions issues with packs not wanting to hold joint nights and the impact of monsoon season on outdoor events. We keep reiterating to our units how important these joint nights are!
 - c. Wylie discussed the incentive program using Dave & Buster's certificates was not as effective as we hoped, with only a few packs actively engaged.
 - d. Wylie highlights the overall decline in recruiting numbers and the lack of interest in incentives.
- **Will presented the June Treasurer's report. The Committee reviewed this report and the May 2025 financials & June 2025 Finance Committee Report** that were provided prior to the meeting.
 - a. YTD results through May: Actuals compared to the Budget show the Council deficit is nearly \$100k more than the budgeted deficit.
 - b. **Income/Revenue falling short of budget:** Council revenue is \$150k short of the budgeted plan YTD.
 - c. **Expense accounts tracking favorably to budget:** Expenses for the year are about \$55k under the YTD budget.
 - d. Will summarizes the financial situation, including the potential use of a \$70,000 one-time gift and \$40,000 from a \$200,000 gift. The council is looking at a six-month runway for financial stability, with the gala event as a potential source of additional funds.
 - e. The council is exploring various financial strategies, including reducing staff and leveraging endowment funds to extend our financial stability, but the committee discussed the possibility of merging with another Council to ensure Scouting remains viable in Southern Arizona.
 - f. Wylie motioned that the Committee approve the Treasurer's Report, the July 2025 financials and the August 2025 Finance Committee notes. Kittle seconded and **the motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Commissioner's Report:**
 - a. Stoltz provided the Performance Standards report and this was provided in the read-ahead packet. He noted that this was the Council's worst month in a while for Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT). He also noted the challenges of the recent staffing changes.

- **Scout Executive Report: Roberts presented the following:**

- a. Reminded everyone the Council is taking our precarious financial situation seriously and managing our expenses very carefully.
- b. We had a major water leak at Camp Lawton during the recent OA event. The Staff and OA youth were very helpful in getting this repaired quickly. But there are more issues to contend with along with the associated costs.
- c. Noted that Katie Robinson, Program Director, has resigned her position, effective September 3rd. We will work to backfill this critical position as soon as possible.
- d. We continue to look for a way to relocate the Council office as cheaply as possible, however, it appears that we will not be able to break the lease without significant penalty. We're still working with the Landlord on this. We are also exploring options for relocating to a more cost-effective space, including potential partnerships with other organizations.

- **Other Strategic Discussion Items:**

- a. **Council Merger:**

1. The Council is exploring various merger options, with Grand Canyon Council being a likely partner due to geographic and operational similarities. Shipley suggests that merging with larger councils could help address financial distress by increasing volunteer manpower. We want to reduce duplicate functions and leveraging the finite number of volunteers.
2. Shipley emphasizes the need for board members to have open conversations about the reality of the situation and the need for change. The biggest obstacles to mergers are often camp properties and the arrow, but he believes these can be addressed by having detailed discussions and plans.
3. Curzon, former Grand Canyon Council President, noted that Grand Canyon has been focusing on investing in the future and leaning into the future, with a strategic vision to grow to 40,000 kids again.
4. Some on the Committee raised concerns about cultural differences between the Grand Canyon and Tucson councils, including the lack of districts and commissioners in the Grand Canyon Council. Shipley suggests that the cultural differences can be addressed by having open conversations and understanding the needs of both councils.
5. The implementation of a merger must involve detailed planning and addressing differences in structure and operations. Shipley emphasizes the importance of listening to the concerns of volunteers and addressing their questions directly.
6. The way forward, whatever that is, must focus on what is best for our Scouts!

- b. **Reclassification of Endowment Funds:**

1. The council is also considering the reclassification of endowment funds to support operational expenses. We've done research and asked Kevin Kinghorn to confirm documentation that would allow Council to reclassify just over \$389k in restricted funds to unrestricted so they could be used for general operations.
2. The council is working to ensure that the financial records accurately reflect the status of endowment funds and discusses the need for clear definitions of donor-restricted vs. board-designated funds.
3. Petersen raises concerns about the reconciliation of the council's financial records with the audit report. The differences are minor, but we want to ensure that everything is above board.
4. A resolution has been drafted to allow the Council to reclaim \$389k in restriction funds to unrestricted that can be used for operations. Chambers noted that \$25k of the proposed

\$389k is actually restricted for Philmont Scholarships. The Committee agreed and the resolution will be revised to state that approximately \$364k can be unrestricted for operational use.

- **Consent items, and submitted reports included in the packet:**
 - a. The committee reviewed the July 22nd, 2024, Board of Directors meeting minutes, the Performance Standards, the Properties Report and the FOS report. Odenkirk asked for a vote to accept the reports as presented. **There were no objections, and the vote passed unanimously.**
 - b. The Programs Update was not provided.

- **Highlights & Upcoming events**

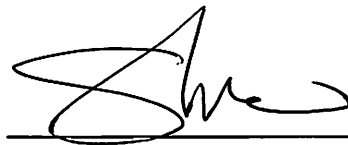
September 6	College of Commissioner Science-Christ the King Episcopal Church
September 11	Council Roundtable
September 12-14	OA Fall Fellowship
September 18	Sky Islands Eagle Board of Review
September 19-21	Wood Badge – Week 1
September 23	Board of Directors Meeting, Council Office
September 24	Council Commissioner Cabinet
October 28	Executive Committee Meeting, Council Office

- At 7:55pm Odenkirk closed the meeting.

**Our next meeting will be:
Board of Directors Meeting
September 23, 2025
Council Office and Zoom**



Steve Odenkirk
Council President



Shannon Roberts
Scout Executive/Secretary