



POLARIS STAR

Welcome to the Polaris Star, the monthly Roundtable minutes and Polaris newsletter. You will be able to find out what the Polaris district committee is doing as well as upcoming events in your area!

Annual District Business Meeting

The annual Polaris District business meeting was held on Wednesday, 2 December 2020, via zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order by our outgoing District Chairman, Dave Holt at 7:30 PM. Dave Holt presented:

- A Brief description of the purpose of the annual meeting,
- Summary of the district's 2020 accomplishments,
- Recognition of the outgoing 2020 district committee, and
- Introduction of the Nominating Committee.

Dave then turned the meeting over to Mike Malone, chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Karen Dillon presented the proposed slate for the 2021 Polaris District Committee. The slate consisted of: Kevin Barlow, Hersh Bhargava, Terry Bohlen, Stephanie Bownas, Ken Bower, Benson Chan, Alvin Chen, Sue Chen, Wesley Chen, Sandy Cheng, Peter Chiu, Betty Chou, Cindy Chock, Karen Dillon, Sally Erickson, Rebecca Feng, Mark Fisher, Wendy Glasser, Larry Grace, Mike Graff, Wayne Ho, Dave Holt, Eric Hsu, Robertsen Ku, Daniel Lee, Beth Leonard, Stephanie Li, John Lin, ChienLing Lo, Dave Lomasney, Dave Low, John Lucas, Kathi Lucas, Cliff Ludwig, Robert Lupfer, Angela Maszy, Harry May, Dave McIntyre, Izzy Morrish, Robert Nessler, Steve Nguyen, Frank Oei, David Overhauser, Deep Patel, H. C. Peng, Peter Peng, Michelle Ray, Anthony Rodrigues, Charles Schrey, Junaid Shabbeer, Som Sista, Sheng Song, Greg Spears, Rena Takahashi, Bobby Toda, Wei Wang, Yvonne Wang, Bob Wedig, William Wegner, and Jo Young. There being a quorum present for the meeting, the slate was elected unanimously. Mike Malone then introduced the candidates for district chairman, Sheng Song, and District Vice Chairs Alison Inafuku Edge (Finance), David Ma (Membership), and Laurie Hecker (Program). There being a quorum present for the meeting, all were elected unanimously. While the district does not elect the District Commissioner, Robert Lupfer was recommended to the Council Executive Board to continue to fill this post.

Mike Malone swore in the 2021 Polaris District Chairman, Sheng Song. Then, Sheng Song swore in the 2021 District Committee.

The last item of business for the Annual Meeting was kickoff of the 2021 Friends of Scouting campaign with the appeal for the Leadership Gift. Bob Wedig made the 2021 Friends of Scouting (FoS) Leadership Gift presentation. Contributions and pledges at the meeting to the Leadership Gift totaled \$7452 from 18 donations.

Having conducted all business, the annual business meeting was adjourned by the District Chairman, Sheng Song, at 8:10 PM.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars with these district and council events:

Date	Event
February 6	Spring WeST Fair
February 13	Council Recognition Event (online)
April 23-30	District Pinewood Derby

Note from the Editor

Hi – I'm your new Polaris District Communications Chair. I want to learn – from you! – how best to deliver relevant scouting information to you. Please complete this survey to help me better understand what information you seek, how frequently, and in what format:

<https://forms.gle/Rj3yPbNGLNfEtmUt5>

Thank you for reading this issue of the Polaris Star. We hope that you have found it helpful and interesting. Please send items for inclusion in future issues of the Polaris Star to Dave Holt at scouterholt@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for the January issue is 3 January. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

OA Unit Elections

Our chapter of the Order of the Arrow (OA) is starting to schedule the annual unit visitations for electing candidates for membership in OA. When the OA representative contacts you, please cooperate in scheduling a date for your unit's visitation. The OA chapter hope to complete elections prior to April.

2021 – Thrive on Change!

Dear Polaris Scouters,

The theme for 2021 is Thrive on Change

- Towards the end of 2020, our district was able to deliver many critical results in a harsh environment through our committee's hard work. Our district is blessed to meet the financial goal set at the beginning of the year. Our popcorn sales plan was hit hard, but we managed to pull in over 58k in sales.
- Entering 2021, we will be prepared for hard situations, and we need to adapt ourselves for new mixed in-person/online programs. Many hi-tech companies have shifted to full/mixed remote workplaces. We, the district in the center of hi-tech, can lead the transformation of BSA programs.
- Here is my ask for Polaris District in 2021, let's "Thrive on Change". As we collectively serve the youth in our district, we already incorporated social distancing, online communication into various programs (from FoS campaign, to Camp Fires). If we look back closely in each area, we see new opportunities surfacing for us to provide BSA programs to youth in a period of time even the youth are looking for opportunities to detach from screen time.
- In 2021, there will be a golden opportunity window for more youth to know about BSA programs and activities. Both parents and youths are looking for opportunities for safe in-person activities, and we can be their top choices. Recruiting will be our key focus.
- COVID and 2020 added a lot of stress to each of us, and it also helps each of us to realize what kind of values endure. I find the scout oath is more than ever relevant, it guides us to be physically strong, mental awake, and morale straight citizens. Scout me in

In 2021, we will continue to align our efforts behind SMART objectives. Each position will base on the 2020 plan to develop a **realistic** 2021 plan, and I do plan to go through them with you. At Polaris district level, here is a proposal SMART Goals:

- Grow youth membership to 2850 by year end 2021 (#scouts)
 - Pack growth
 - Venture growth
 - Increase OA active membership by xx% by year end (from 50)
- Train the leaders (#scouters)
 - All direct contact leader training stats to > 70% (from 60%)
- Serve the community (#services)
 - Advocate community service projects
- Develop programs supporting mixed mode (#programs)

Thank you for what you do for our community's youth,
Sheng Song, Polaris District Chair

Polaris District Pinewood Derby

Come join us virtually for the 2021 Polaris District Pinewood Derby Final Races. The race will be held on April 24, 2021. Cheer on the Scouts and see all the hard work they have done to make the fastest and the most stylish cars in the district. Besides winners for time, we will also be judging based on appearance, so get out that graphite and detail that car, we are all going to "Do Our Best" and have a great time in the process.

Due to the current COVID situation, this will not be an in-person event. Cars need to be dropped off on April 23 and can be picked up on April 30. The race will be held on April 24. Only the race officials and a few volunteers will be present physically to run the race. The race will be recorded and the video will be made available later in the week for everybody to view at their own leisure. The winners will be announced in the video and the awards will be given to the scouts when they come to pick up their car.

When: Drop Off: April 23, 2021, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Pick Up: April 30, 2021, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Where: West Valley Presbyterian Church
6191 Bollinger Rd, Cupertino

Participants: Three Scouts from each Pack race,
Two from each Pack entered as Design only

Details: A fee of \$5.00 per Scout will be charged on drop off day to cover the costs of materials and awards. Each car that races in the district competition must conform to the accepted district building guidelines as explained in the Polaris District Pinewood Derby Rules. For the final word on the speed competition please see The Official Polaris District Pinewood Derby Rules. The design competition will include awards for cars in the following categories: Fastest Looking, Most Realistic Looking, Best Paint Job, Best Car that is not a Car and Best example of Scout Spirit.

Each car should also be accompanied by a scout information form. The form provides details about the scout, a contact number and a waiver that allows the organizers to make minor adjustments to the car to ensure that it conforms to the pinewood derby rules. Scouts can choose not to allow any adjustments. However, they may be disqualified if the car doesn't conform to the rules.

Registration Link Coming Soon!

Questions? Please contact:

Som Sista

Polaris District Pinewood Derby Chairman

425-979-6860

sushmasomu@gmail.com

[SVMBC Guide to Running Safe Unit Pinewood Derbies](#)

Prepare for WeST Fair

WeST Fair 2021 - Save the Date for the Polaris District's WeST Fair 2021. WeST Fair is our District's twice a year event held each February and October to assist with the Webelos to Scout Transition. These events are a great opportunity for families of Webelos and Arrow of Light Cub Scouts to get a glimpse of the many BSA Troops in our District. Like so many other things, our February WeST Fair event will be virtual. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, February 6th for the WeST Fair 2021 launch. More details will soon be announced. If you have any questions, please contact Angel Maszy (angelamaszy@gmail.com).

Camping Resources

This time of year, most Boy Scout troops are trying to figure out where they are going to go camping this year. Troop 582 has created a new online google sheet format showing lots of outing destinations from car camping to high adventure. Check it out: <https://bit.ly/ViewBSATreks>

Friends of Scouting Unit Coordinator and FOS Presenter Trainings (Save the Date and Zoom info):

This year we will be holding two FOS trainings, so you can pick the date that best fits your schedule: **Tuesday January 12, 7:00pm-8:00pm** and **Thursday January 14, 7:00pm-8:00pm**. Both meetings are identical.

At these meetings, we will be going over: changes to Friends of Scouting this year Tips and Tricks for Virtual Presentations and much more. Please share the links below with your unit coordinators:

Time: **Jan 12, 2021 07:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85201867140?pwd=TEZTaFNSLzJKQXJsS1drWU4vNUZUQT09>

Time: **Jan 14, 2021 07:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81202214245?pwd=aVZUblBnbVpGb2U0cCtnSUltNGFRZz09>

Polaris District Committee

Position	Name
District Chairman	Sheng Song
District Executive	Anthony Pulliam
District Commissioner	Robert Lupfer
Cub Scout RT Commissioner	Eric Hsu
Boy Scout RT Commissioner	Greg Spears & Robertsen Ku
ADC Sunnyvale	Benson Chan
ADC CASA	Wesley Chen
ADC Cupertino & Saratoga	Rebecca Feng
Finance Chair	Alison Inafuku Edge
FoS Leadership Chair	Bob Wedig
FoS Family Chair	Betty Chou
FoS CASA Chair	Yvonne Wang
FoS Community Breakfast Chair	
Popcorn Kernel	Kevin Barlow
Membership Chair	David Ma
Scouts BSA Recruiting Chair	Rena Takahashi
Family Scouting Chair	Cindy Chock
Cub Recruiting Chair	
New Unit Chair	Peter Peng
WeST Chair	Angel Maszy
Program Chair	Laurie Hecker
Advancement Chair	Hersh Bhargava
Activities Chair	Laurie Hecker
Pinewood Derby Chair	Som Sista
Scout O Rama Chair	Sandy Cheng
District Dinner Chair	Troops 466 & 2466
Scouting for Food Chair	Alvin Chen
OA Chapter Advisor	Dave Low
Camping Chair	Sue Chen
Community Service Chair	Junaid Shabbeer
Cub Day Camp Chair	
Cub Day Camp Program Chair	
Training Chair	Dave McIntyre
Communications/Public Relations / Social Media Chair	Dave Holt

All e-mail addresses can be found through the Council by contacting Anthony Pulliam at 408-638-8321.