

PROJECT 31
MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE
CoChairs: Joe Kelleher, Westchester Putnam Council (WPC)
Christopher W. Eachus, Hudson Valley Council (HVC)

Committee Members:

WPC

Dina Bochnik
David Talbot
Mark Shivley
Dan Conniff

HVC

Kristen Huss
Neal Townsend
Jim Jones
David Horton
Jon Whitaker
Christian Miller

***** Recommendation *****

THE MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE HAS COME TO A COMBINED CONCLUSION, WPC AND HVC, BY CONSENSUS AND WITH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT THAT THERE IS NOTHING HAVING TO DO WITH MEMBERSHIP ISSUES THAT WOULD PROHIBIT OR IN ANY WAY NEGATIVELY AFFECT A COMBINING OF THE TWO COUNCILS, WPC AND HVC.

*The Membership Subcommittee had a distinct advantage in evaluating this decision as one of the WPC members was an active and former volunteer for many years in the HVC, and is a Region 2 volunteer. And a member of the HVC subcommittee was a prior volunteer and member of the WPC.

Positives Brought to the floor during combined discussion:

- There are many similarities between the two councils including balanced programs, council histories, sizes and assets that mesh nicely together.
- There are similar struggles that the councils have encountered and can overcome together.
- The increased resources from the combination of the two councils will only enhance the membership drives of both councils.
- The combination will open up new frontiers for the councils with combined resources and efforts.
- The combination of the two councils will help to overcome the Hudson River as a physical or social barrier for the councils.

- It was noted that both councils tend to have similar demographics.
- The combination will be a good 'cultural' fit for both.
- The councils already share some activities in scouting.
- There appear to be 'no' insurmountable hurdles to overcome with membership for either council.
- That the current or future council physical borders are not necessarily a concern for many participating families.
- That adult retention, current scout retention and new recruits are a primary concern for membership of both councils.
- That even the professionals on the Membership Subcommittee were in support of the possible combination of the two councils.

Issues brought up of concern that need to be addressed in a possible combination:

- That a grassroots membership must be maintained by both councils even after a combination.
- That identity concerns must be addressed carefully in the possible combination of the councils.
- That the physical size of a combined council does not present new or unsurmountable hurdles that might need to be overcome.

Final Comments:

- That National is currently promoting the 'clustering' of councils and their combined resources.
- That every member of the Membership Subcommittee expressed expectations of a combination of the two councils as being 'extremely successful'.

Approved by the CoChairs: Joe Kelleher, WPC and Christopher Eachus, HVC