

**District Committee Meeting**  
**April 6, 2006**  
**Hank Gallo Community Center**  
**Lincoln Park, Jersey City**

**Attendance**

Dave Banks - Senior District Executive  
Mike Carp  
Charlie Fabyanski  
Pete Greb  
Norman Kasser  
Joe Ryan  
Ken Wagner

**Pre-Meeting**

Dave told about calls he had received from committee members apologizing for missing tonight's meeting: Greg Czerwienski is in Virginia, Fred Creswick had to work late, Rob Rodriguez had to pick up a guest at LaGuardia, and Bruce Kalogera was busy. Dave guessed that some others may have had the wrong date on their calendars, since this April meeting is taking place on the first Thursday instead of the standard second Thursday, due to the necessity to move it up a week due to Holy Thursday."

**District Dinner Canceled in Favor of a Picnic**

Dave said, "When I took over as DE last month, I noticed that there was a district dinner on the calendar. I also found out that no one had reserved a place to hold it." He said that he got a call from "Sheila... I think Whitlock... from Secaucus," who had tried, but failed, to find a suitable restaurant. Sheila said that April 23 weekend is a "big community weekend," which limited her choices, and that the prices quoted were typically \$35 per plate, which Dave called "a little too much for a district dinner."

Dave then proposed that the awards portion of the dinner might take place at a district picnic. He said, "It's not on the official calendar, but it seems to be on everyone else's informal calendar. It's a picnic over at Brazicki's in June. What do you think of that?" Dave said, "I stopped by to talk with Julie, but she didn't have any plans on it yet. I have one application for a District Award of Merit (DAM) and one application for a... Three Rivers Award... that's what we call it, isn't it?" Pete verified, saying, "We used to call it a 'Sparkplug Award.'" After some discussion, it was agreed to have an awards ceremony as part of a picnic on June 8, and that Dave would find out if Tom and Julie Brazicki would agree to host it. Dave asked about last year's dinner, about who attended and how many. Norman told him that about 40 had attended, that Tom Brazicki had arranged the location and catering, that Jose Jerez of Crew 4444 received the DAM award, and that two or three people from various units received Three Rivers certificates.

After settling on a June 8 picnic, Dave said, "I want you to know that I can't attend. They're sending me back to Boy Scout 'Boot Camp,' officially called 'PDL-1.' I did it once, but left the program, so I have to do it again. It takes place June 4-16." He joked, "You can call me, but I probably won't answer the phone."

### **Interviews for a Second District Exec**

Dave said, "We're still working on getting a second DE and I understand they had an interview this morning." He went on to tell about an earlier applicant who was all ready to start and then, two days prior to her start date, called to say she had received and accepted another offer elsewhere. Dave said, "She was too good to be true."

### **Finance - FOS Campaign**

Dave handed out a summary sheet and said, "There's a number of people I need to put the arm on. Has everyone around this table had an opportunity to give?" He pointed to the handout titled "Fundraising Report #13" and said, "We're really close to reaching our Leadership goal because we're now at 73%. The Community campaign is just getting kicked off now. We've got our guys out there asking various businesses and do-gooder organizations like the Rotary Club, and we should be able to meet that \$8,000 goal..." Dave stopped himself and said, "My gosh, that's an aggressive goal. If we match what we collected last year and then some, we still wouldn't meet it. I don't know how this number was concocted. At the staff meeting I emphatically said that we would not meet it." Turning to Family FOS, Dave described a "last ditch effort," which will be a direct mail campaign to all units that have not had an FOS presentation, with pledge cards sent to Scouting families. Dave said, "If units complain, we can go back to the charter agreement, and point out that they agreed to allow us to make a Family FOS presentation to their unit."

Dave left his seat and pointed to a large chart resting on an easel. saying, "This is the fancy new finance chart." He pointed out the Leadership, Family, Community, and special event portions, each in a different color. The chart showed that nearly \$8,000 had been raised against a goal of \$36,500. Dave said, "I expect to raise about \$9,000 in the Family campaign."

### **Finance - Popcorn and Unit Budgets**

Norman asked, "Why does the chart show a goal of \$36,500, while the goal on your handout shows \$46,100?" Dave explained that he had excluded Popcorn's \$9,600 from the chart because the 2006 drive won't begin until next September, and because popcorn works differently. He said, "We measure our success in popcorn in two ways. One is by the number of units that participate, and two is by the money we raise. So, if we get more units participating, I look at that as being successful. If we recruit more units, then obviously we're going to raise more money. Of all the fund-raisers we do, popcorn may be the most important." Dave then explained that he intends to create a strong Commissioner Staff, and that he intends to make sure that they understand that encouraging popcorn sales will be an important part of their job. He said, "I know that Unit Commissioners resist raising money."

Dave said, "I want the Commissioners to help their units make up a budget for the year. Most units run without a budget and by the seat of the pants. Units should have a budget that includes summer camp, and that could include an FOS contribution out of the troop fund so that they don't have to listen to a presentation." He added, "With a budget and unit fund, they could get all their boys going to summer camp, and they could get all their boys camping year-round. And part of the budget has to be a popcorn sale, because that's the best way to raise money. It has the least amount of headaches, there's a good profit, the Council camps are improved, the DE doesn't get fired, and the DE doesn't quit because he's having a bad year -- all these good things happen."

Dave asked Pete, "Do you remember how many units participated in the popcorn sale last year?" Pete answered, "Three," then corrected himself and said, "Two years ago we had three, and this past year we had five. A lot of people signed up for it, but as for actually participating... I may call a unit leader to ask how sales are going, and he'll say that he decided to raise money for his unit some other way. There's still some bad blood over things that the Council did, and they don't want to help the Council out. I tell them, 'Forget about helping the Council. Do it because you can help yourself. It's a nice chunk of change that can go into your unit's treasury.'" Dave pointed out, "The boys know nothing about Council history. Anyone carrying a grudge against the Council because we merged -- you know what? They're only hurting the boys." Pete said that he still has one or two boys who are still angry about the sale of Rock Hill and who have not yet graduated out of the program. "Last September, when they saw that our camping calendar didn't have any weekends at Rock Hill, they lost interest in the program."

Norman said to Dave, "There's one more thing working against popcorn. When the new Council did its first drive in 2000, a number of things were botched. Items were missing when units arrived at the pickup location and people had to go home with just half of what they had come for. And it took a full month before the make-up items became available for a second pick-up. One Scoutmaster said, "No more popcorn for us. I never again want to knock on some little old lady's door and tell her that she's not getting the popcorn she paid for." Pete gave some details about the mix-up that year, saying, "There were multiple warehouses for pickup locations, so stuff had to be sorted out that way. And later, we found that it wasn't Trails End that was short, but rather that, as a car was being loaded, someone would say 'Hey, I'm going to grab an extra case of this.' The part about being Trustworthy got lost along the way. But my understanding is that Trails End came up with what we were short of and it finally went out to the units." Pete also described the problem caused by units that failed to come for their pickups, forcing all the leftovers to be gathered and taken back to the Council office, "... and no one wanted to drive all the way to Oakland to pick it up."

There was some additional discussion about the loaned warehouse space. Dave and Pete agreed that a warehouse in Teterboro was a very good location. Pete said that Grey Rolland had investigated warehouses in Kearny, but ran up against concerns that insurance might not cover "a bunch of kids running all over the place." However, the negotiations are still in progress, with another meeting scheduled for April 24. Dave concluded, "For any new unit that

I start up, I tell them that part of the program has to be selling popcorn. In the next week, I have three new units, and that's what I'll say."

### **Finance - The Comedy Cruise**

Dave said, "Mr. Wagner, tell us how nobody fell off the boat." Ken said, "Everybody had a good time, but not a lot of them were there, and the bottom line is not good." He then summarized the numbers, ending with an estimated overall loss of about \$1,600. Expenses consisted of chartering the cruise ship and hiring the comedians (they cost \$200 more than was budgeted), and printing the journal (that cost \$250 less than was budgeted because Ken did it himself). Income consisted of 48 attendees at \$125 per ticket ("but not all of them paid"), \$150 earned by the silent auction, money earned from a 50-50 raffle, and after-the-fact donations by Craig Eberle and John Hughes. About the raffle, Ken said, "It's against Scout policy, but they looked the other way. I forget who won, but unfortunately it was someone who kept his half."

There was some discussion about problems that came up. Ken noted that former DE Cleveland Glover's resignation took place just prior to the cruise and said, "It's hard to run a successful event when the manager leaves in the middle of it. There were supposed to be separate mailing lists handled by Cleveland." Joe Ryan said, "The price we had to charge turned a lot of people off; it was difficult to market to people at \$250 per couple. We were able to get some extra people by offering a last-minute discount, but at \$250 it was difficult to get people who had been to other events [similar to this one but charging less] to come to this one.'

Ken said, "This was our third time out. At past events, everybody said, 'Wow, what a fun time, let me know when you do it again, I'm all over it.' Two previous times we squeaked by, but this time we didn't squeak by. I strongly suggest that we don't do it again. I firmly confess that I won't do it again. We're better off hiring a hall and finding an honoree." Dave agreed, saying, "Which is what we'll be doing again. That's the next move because we have to make up this deficit, so it's incumbent upon me to organize the new Event Committee." Dave said that he would omit Ken from the new committee, saying, "If I put Ken's name out there again -- we've had two events this spring already, and his name is tapped out. People will say, we're never looking at Wagner again." To Ken he said, "I appreciate your efforts."

### **Finance - Guidelines for Future Events**

Dave said, "We have to put something together for the end of September or early October. I'll invite some politicians, but they won't be the honorees -- not in an election year like this." He continued: "I don't know how much this was spoken about at District Committee meetings before, but when we run a special event like this, our target market is not guys in uniform. We don't go to the troops and packs and say, 'We're having a special event and you're Scoutmasters so you must come.' Our target market is local business leaders. We want people who say, '\$1,000 to buy a table? We're on!' That's the market we're looking at, not the market that says, '\$50? I don't know if I can spend \$50.' The people who have to carve money out of the family budget are not the people we invite to a fund-raising dinner."

Using himself as an example, Dave said, "I paid \$50 to go to a fund-raiser lunch today for the Red Cross. I can afford to go to only one or two of these per year, because the money comes out of my pocket and I don't get to put it on my expense report. That kind of event is costly for me, but, as DE, I need to meet a lot of people, and I met some key people today. I walked in with the Mayor and said to him, 'Hey Mayor, do you remember me? Dave Banks from the Boy Scouts? We met on the cruise.'" And then we had our picture taken together. I got to meet a couple of other key players who came because the Mayor came. So this was \$50 invested in my career and \$50 well used by the Red Cross. But it came out of my family's budget. So if the cruise cost \$125 each for me and my wife to go, we'd rather get some burgers and sit at home and watch a movie. When we talk about a special event, we talk about companies -- not about the people around this table."

Dave said, "One of the units is running an event and charging \$50, but if I ran a district event for just \$50, my boss would put the kabosh on it. I can't charge anything less than \$100. I have to play on a certain level."

### **Membership - Status**

Dave said, "I tried to recruit Diane Vasquez as Membership Chairman this week, but she turned me down. However, she did give me insight into Jersey City schools." In response to Charlie's concern about being allowed to recruit in schools, Dave said, "She seems to think that I'll be able to get it -- I'm hoping I can." He explained that Diane is the liaison between the community and the schools, and that she was very receptive about bringing Scouting into the schools. Dave said he will start with summer school, then try to extend his efforts to year-round.

Charlie continued, saying, "Because I can't get into the public schools in Bayonne, I have to be creative. I went into two parochial schools and to CCD classes. I spoke to 33 boys and got two to join. I got no responses from the letters I sent to their parents." Dave picked up on "creative" and said, "Charlie did exactly what my new Field Director, Bryan Sartin, said the first time I met him. He said in that silly South Carolina accent -- you can put that into the minutes -- he said, 'We-all gotta get into them Sunday Schools and tell the boys there!' and I'm thinking, 'Oh man! If I have to work on Sundays too, what's my pastor going to think if I'm not showing up in church? But that's the truth. We've got to get into Sunday schools.'"

Charlie said, "The superintendent doesn't let anybody in. He locks the doors so tight you'd think it was Fort Knox." Dave agreed, saying, "It's that way across the country. In some schools we can still get flyers in. They've got the curriculum so locked up and planned down to the minute that teachers are pulling their hair out over what they have to squeeze in." Charlie recalled how it was previously; that is, when he and Bob Dawson would go into schools to recruit, sometimes accompanied by a Scout or two who were "playing hooky." Norman asked, "What changed?" Joe said, "There was a particular situation where another group was trying to come in that the school didn't want to come in. The school's lawyers advised them to make a ban that applied to all religiously-affiliated groups for consistency's sake. It had to be all or nothing. So it applies to any group with the vaguest religious affiliation. That means if you're from Saint So-and-So's

Scout troop, then: Sorry, you can't come in." Charlie said, "Maybe we should be sponsored by the American Legion or VFW." Norman said, "Then they'll probably quote the ACLU that says that Scouts are inherently a religious group due to 'A Scout is Reverent' and 'On my honor I will do my duty to God.'" Charlie asked others present if they can recruit in schools. Pete said that Kearny does not allow it. Norman said that he can recruit in Hoboken, and Mike was pretty sure that it could be done in Secaucus "because some teachers are in the Scouting program."

Dave asked, "If we ran a recruiting program that gave a boy a T-shirt as a reward instead of a patch, would that be more attractive to boys?" Charlie thought it might help a bit. Dave continued, "We're also looking at the flyers for recruiting Boy Scouts -- they're terrible. Cub Scout flyers are fun, but Boy Scout flyers are black-and-white and the reproduction quality is poor. It looks like we're running a second-rate program, so we're going to shift to a full-color flyer. Our hottest market right now is fifth grade boys looking for something to do this summer. Get them on board, get them camping right away, get them into summer camp, and you've got them hooked. They come back having advanced a rank and they say, 'Man, this is cool. I already have my first badge.'"

Charlie said, "One other thing. We're working with a young adult who has his own TV show, 'Up and Adam,' and we're trying to brainstorm with him how to bring Scouting into his show." This signaled the start of a lengthy discussion about using public media to promote Scouting. Here are some points that were made:

Dave spoke about putting photos of Scouts onto a TV spot. He told Charlie to contact Camp Lewis Caretaker Paul Lopes, who will let him go up there any time for a photo shoot, and advised him to get a release note from parents.

Pete said that the State Police camporee and the recent Jamboree both had excellent videos that could be used in a TV spot. Dave said that the Scouts have several other public service announcement spots that they can provide.

Pete said that he had seen some Scout spots on TV at 3:00 in the morning and asked, "Who are we trying to recruit at this time of the night?" He suggested it would mostly be drunks going home from a local bar.

Joe wanted to make sure that we understood the difference between public service announcements and public access programming. About the announcements, he said, "Some of the shows do have slots for public service announcements, but they are typically shown during the graveyard shift. They can say 'Yes, we did our bit,' knowing that it's a low-rating time, so they're not going to lose any money." Dave added that the New York metropolitan market is "the number one market in the world with the most expensive TV time anywhere." He made the point that even second-rate stations don't want to lose the money associated with giving time away for public service announcements.

Joe said that stations covering the local news for North Hudson and Bayonne are always looking for people to interview, particularly if it's a slow news night. He told Dave that he would pass on names and contacts.

Charlie said that the Bayonne Community News recently changed their format and now had a section with entire pages devoted to just education-related stories, and another to just sports-related stories. He said, "As Scoutmasters we should be dumping stuff into that, or at least ask for a page of our own."

### **Membership - A Display Chart**

Dave placed a bar-chart on his easel with one bar per month. He pointed to March and said, "We're down in boys from where we were a year ago. Last year we were up here in the 900's. We've lost some units over the past year. But now it's time to kick in and start renewing with Tiger Cubs." He added, "I'll have two new Scout troops starting next week and a new Cub pack up in Union City. We're going for 748 boys in the program to match or do a little bit better than last year." Dave pointed out that numbers will stay flat during the summer and then "we'll get a big kick from new Cub Scouts in September and October." Norman asked Dave to explain what the horizontal black lines are that appear in each month's bar. Dave said that they are targets for this year's membership, and that each is a bit higher than their 2005 equivalents. As an example, he said, "Last year in June we were at 745, so if we can get to about 750, we'll be just ahead of last year." He then pointed to the top of each bar and said, "Ideally, we should be up here in the 1,000 boy and young lady range -- actually, in this district we should be at 2,000, but we're not going to be there yet."

### **Membership - New Units**

Dave said, "We're trying to bring in a second DE who can speak Spanish fluently so that we can make a better impact on the Spanish community in North Hudson." He told about his experience last night working with a Spanish-speaking group ready to start a new pack and troop to be chartered by the Latter Day Saints church in Union City. Because his Spanish was so bad ("my Spanish stinks!"), he couldn't convey that he needed the Bishop to write a check, and that the check should have been ready and waiting for him when he arrived. It took two hours to convey that he will return on Wednesday and that a check will be needed at that time. "They're wonderful people, but I don't have two hours to spend on a Wednesday night dancing around up there."

About the LDS church, Dave said, "These guys are great. They run their own summer camp program. They've got their applications in for the boys. A guy from their "Region" said that this is what we do: we sign them up and take them right to camp. All I had to do was agree with them. It's the easiest unit I ever started."

Dave told about a second unit ready to start, sponsored by the Muslim-American Society in Jersey City. Dave told about a Muslim friend who went to the last Scout Jamboree and was amazed at how many Muslim Scouts had attended. "He thought he was the only Muslim in all of

Scouts because he was the only one in Totowa." Norman remarked that there were enough Muslims at the Jamboree to merit an article by Time Magazine.

Mike asked Dave if he would consider looking into starting a troop among the Indian community in Secaucus. Norman offered to send Dave contact information that might help him get started.

Joe told Dave about a Coptic Christian community in Bayonne big enough to have two congregations. He warned Dave, "You may want to be careful with the Muslim versus Coptic issue. They left Egypt to get away from Muslim persecution and are happy to be here -- thank you very much. They want to be active in the community while keeping their traditions." Joe said that he met them during the 2000 census campaign. Dave said that he is already familiar with Copts and that one attends his church.

### **Program - Advancement**

Dave said, "Rolling out this summer is on-line advancement. I should have a presentation for you at next month's meeting. You won't have to run to Newark or Oakland to submit your advancement forms. However they will give unit leaders a new code to use, which will be different from the rechartering code and different from the Good Turn for America code."

### **Program - Spring Camporee**

Mike said, "We have so far one unit registered but verbal commitments from close to a dozen units, which means that it will be crowded at Lewis if all of them show up. Campsites will be first-come-first-served, if they ask for a site, and we'll assign the rest. We might place two small units into one site." About the program, Mike said, "We have a commitment from Homeland Security. They will send an officer to talk about emergency situations. We're waiting for a confirmation from the Search-and-Rescue unit. I'm now working on getting someone to do the McGruff presentation. We may have to go to some kind of Plan-B." Mike said that he has volunteers to cover two of the four Cub breakout sessions, but Paul Lopes is not one of them. Mike said, "I want Paul to go from den to den to make sure that everything's going okay and to help out wherever he's needed."

### **Program - Klondike Derby in 2007**

Dave said, "The only thing I have is that it will take place at No-Be-Bo-Sco." Charlie asked how many cabins will be available, but no one knew the number. Norman told Dave that two years ago the reservation at Lewis fell through and we reluctantly shifted to No-Be as a poor second choice. He explained that the problem is the open air dining hall, which means that there is no place to gather all the kids together and keep them warm. Norman said, "Luckily, the weather was mild, so things worked out. But we were very happy to get Lewis last January, and we'll be unhappy to go back to No-Be again."

### **Program - Tiger/Cub Fun Day**

Dave noted a "Tiger/Cub Fun Day" event for June 17 on the Council calendar. He thought it was a good idea, but he will have to delegate it to the new DE that he hopes will be hired soon, saying, "I'll throw it onto his lap, because that's the day I return from [my PDL-1 Boot Camp] in Texas." Pete pointed out that the day conflicts with a Scout campout sponsored by the Jersey Jackals. Dave said that he was not worried about the conflict "because the target audience for the Fun Day is new recruits. We should be able to pull off an event like this with the minimal amount of volunteers, and we won't need Boy Scouts or Webelos Scouts."

### **Program - Camping**

Dave said, "Rob Rodriguez called me earlier and we shared information. The good news about Cub Scouts is that we've already signed up 36 boys for resident camp, so we're only four short of our goal. But applications are still coming in, and it's possible that we've already hit our goal. I asked Grey where the boys are coming from, but the data wasn't readily available -- he had only counted up the checks."

Pete said, "As of a couple weeks ago, not many people in my unit received information about Cub resident camp." Dave answered, "Yes, I know. I have a stack of flyers." Pete continued, "The problem is that there is a deadline coming up for camperships. I told my parents to go on-line to get the application form. The other problem is that someone from Bayonne had volunteered to give a promotion and I want him at my Awards dinner, but I haven't heard anything. Who do I contact to get someone to talk to my parents about Cub camp?" Dave suggested that Rob or even Frank Pedone would be good substitutes, and noted that Rob's contact information is in the draft newsletter that Pete was holding.

Dave said, "Right now we have six Boy Scout troops signed up to go to in-Council camps (I know that many others go out-of-Council). So we're a little ahead of where we expected to be, since we had five troops last summer and six this summer." Norman said that his troop is the sixth and will go to Turrell. He added, "I would have gone to Turrell last year when Treasure Island closed, but when I called the Council office to make a reservation, Elaine Miller looked at the calendar and told me that all three Scout camps were fully booked for all camp weeks, so I went to Resica Falls instead. Later I found out that the Director of Camping was angry at her for not double-checking, since they would have been happy to squeeze me in someplace."

### **Program - Summer Camp at Sea Base**

Dave said, "If you know any Boy Scout who is into boating and snorkeling and all that stuff, they've reduced the price for the Florida Sea Base trip to \$1,200. They'll take Scouts, adults, Venturers..." Charlie said, "I inquired about Sea Base way back when I was planning my 2005-06 calendar, but no one seemed to know anything about it. I called this number and that number and no one ever got back to me. I would have jumped on it if it had been offered, but instead we made other plans." Charlie continued, "Maybe they found it tough to put together Sea Base because this is a Jamboree year." While on the subject, Dave pointed out that the next Jamboree will coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scout movement.

### **Program - Summer Camp at Philmont**

Dave said, "What I'm gathering with all the information I'm getting, is that somehow we managed to get locked out of Philmont, so planning is starting for a contingent to go next year instead."

### **Training**

Dave said, "I don't think we have anything planned for Cub leaders, but on May 13, Al Hacker and Mary Kay Tokar will do Scoutmaster and Assistant Training." Norman showed Dave his copy of the Council Calendar and said, "Cleveland scheduled Cub Leader-Specific training for August 26." Dave said, "Training in summer? Maybe he wants to come and do it himself. I can't imagine that anybody will sign up. If he wanted to have a summer event, take a look at this one that I set up for Black Bear while I was still there. It's a Commissioner's meeting on August 29. This will give them a chance to get all their Commissioner work done before Labor Day and before school reopens. After that, nobody wants to come to a meeting because they're all running around with their kids. It's a good kick-off meeting, and I'll talk to Isabel about doing something similar for our district. Black Bear did it for three years running."

### **Commissioner Service**

Dave said, "Isabel is coming along. She attended the Council Key-3 meeting last week and got a 'booster shot.'" She knows that the focus is on recruiting, recruiting, and recruiting some more, because that's what we need."

### **Memorial Day Grave Decoration**

Charlie said, "Every year I invite Scouts to join my troop and the Bayonne Veterans at Bayview Cemetery to decorate graves as part of Memorial Day. The Vets love to see the boys. They say, 'It used to take us all day to do this, but with all these kids, we can get it done in two hours.'" Charlie added, "It's an education too. They'll say, 'Did you see that gravestone? That kid was, like, 10 years old, and he died.' It gets them to thinking. I'll ask Norman to broadcast something for me this year." Pete said, "We do grave decorating too. We'll tell the kids to find a headstone from the Civil War..." Charlie said, "Bayview is a very old cemetery. They have Civil War, and Spanish American War, and they have a couple Congressional Medal of Honor winners with a special medallion carved into the stone." Norman said that Hoboken Vets seem to always schedule their grave decoration for a school day.

Pete told a story about taking his Cubs to a grave decoration. "First I give them three 'don'ts': Don't use the pointed tip to poke into the ground to start a hole, don't wave the flags around, and don't use the flags for sword fighting. Vets hate to see these things. Anyway, I had one mother whose sons kept waving their flags and having sword fights, and one of the Vets walked over and said, 'Come here' and took them to where the cars were parked and started to explain to them what we're there for. I walked over to make sure there were two adults present, and Mom came over to see what was going on, and she politely said, 'That's not our flag.'" Pete smiled and said, "I took that as my cue to leave." He went on, "This guy's face got cherry red,

and he just took off with, 'What do you mean? This is the flag of this country! You're honoring the people who fought to give you the right to come to this country...' and so on. She came to the next meeting and wanted to know how come I didn't stop him. I said, 'You just don't go on Memorial Day and tell a veteran that you're not honoring that flag.' She said, 'I think my boys are going home now.' The fact is they didn't want to be there in the first place. She just did it as a way of dumping her kids off on a Friday night so she could go out."

### **Dave's Conclusion**

Dave said, "I could say more, but that's all the talking I should do tonight. As I told Norman after I read the minutes from last month's meeting, Wow! Do I talk a lot! I appreciate all that you do. Without you guys, this would be a really tough job."