

Vermilion 4-H Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2005
1:00 p.m.

Members present were: Nancy Marceaux, Chairperson, Claudette Broussard, Gwen Broussard, Victoria LeBlanc, Diane Meaux Broussard, Leah Trahan, June Simon, Jaida Griffin, Robbin Hebert, Seth Richard, Kimble Sagrera, Barbara Griffin, Lauren Mouton, Troy Mouton, Manique LeBlanc, Brandi Hebert, Susan Roy, Rickey LeBouef, Ethel Baudin, and Stephanie Duhon. Extension staff members present were: Shannan Z. Waits, 4-H agent; Hilton Waits, 4-H agent; Andrew Granger, Parish Chairman; and Tweety Trahan, 4-H secretary.

Nancy Marceaux, Advisory Committee Chairperson, welcomed everyone and called on Lauren Mouton, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Brandi Hebert, Jr. Leader Club Secretary to lead the 4-H Pledge.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was passed around. Nancy asked everyone to read minutes from last year's meeting and submit any comments or corrections. None were given and on a motion by Manique LeBlanc and seconded by Ethel Baudin, the minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

Andrew Granger gave opening remarks. He explained the purpose of the Advisory Committee was to give agents input on how to make 4-H programs more meaningful and give ideas on how Extension can better serve the needs of Vermilion Parish. Committee members must address issues and focus on how to make 4-H a better organization. Members were asked to voice their opinions and make agents aware of their concerns.

Shannan updated the committee on actions taken on last year's recommendations. Actions included boat safety course, Leadership Project Club, incorporating clothing contest into Showcase of Talent, and training leaders and parent on the Awards scorecards. She asked for any questions or comments on the activities. None were given and the meeting continued.

Hilton went over the Vermilion Parish 4-H Annual Report. Vermilion has 1011 club members, 186 adult volunteers and 30 clubs. All club meeting programs were correlated to the health and fitness program recommendations from the 2004 meeting. He then reviewed a statistical report showing contest participation trends in the parish over the last five years.

Lauren Mouton reviewed the proposed 4-H Portfolio. Lauren and Shannan serve on the state Awards and Incentives committee. They have been working on revising the 4-H Member Record Book and looking for ways to make it easier and more user friendly, with the goal of increasing records participation on the parish level. The name was changed to "Portfolio" in hopes that kids might be more receptive to it and more would fill it out.

Lauren explained the changes to the forms. Section 1, for personal information, remained basically the same. The main change is that members will no longer have to fill out a section for each project book they turn in. All leadership information will be in Section 2, all community service in Section 3, awards and recognition for all projects in Sections 4, etc. The only sheet that would be filled out for individual projects, and at this time only for state records, would be 4-H Project Focus. Shannan asked members if they would like to be a pilot parish this year for the new record form and everyone agreed they would. Shannan & Lauren are attending an awards and incentives meeting on August 10th and the following suggestions were submitted:

- Manique LeBlanc asked that they clarify the "10 page limit" on pictures and supporting material to reflect that the 10 pages includes all projects, not 10 pages per project.
- To use an asterisk or some other bullet to denote specific project work in section 2, 3 and 4. For example, an "*" for leadership; "***" for citizenship, etc. and to include the focus page on the parish level as it replaces learning experiences.
- Troy suggested presenting the portfolio at Leader Training.
- Nancy suggested giving presentation to parents at the Personal Development Contest and Officer Training. Troy suggested also presenting to kids at these activities.

- Jaida suggested focusing on 5th graders, and Barbara suggested using Junior Leader Club members to do kids training.

Shannan reviewed the focus of last years' club meeting programs, health and fitness.

This year, programs will be health and fitness – phase 2. These are lessons with a different twist. Members were asked to vote on which 4 of the six potential programs they would like to see presented. Everyone was given 4 sticky dots and asked to vote. The programs that will be presented are: *Fruits and Vegetables*, *You Be the Judge*, *Search for Hidden Sugars*, *Grains: The Whole Picture*, *Step Up To Good Health*, and *Get the Scoop on Fat!*

Hilton made everyone aware that as of August 15th, any adult volunteer or agent who chaperones an overnight trip will have to complete the overnight chaperone training. It is a three hour class and teaches the do's and don'ts of chaperoning for the adult and student. It teaches: what to look for, safety concerns, what is considered proper behavior for adults and kids, etc. Everyone who goes through the course is subject to a background check which is good for five years, then your personal information will be updated and the background check will be repeated. The LSU AgCenter has hired a company to do background checks and will assume all costs. This will be discussed at leader training and Shannan and Hilton will provide training on the parish level at a later date. There is one on September 8th in Crowley from 9:00a.m to noon. Talk to Shannan or Hilton if you are interested in attending.

Shannan reviewed parish leader awards and recognition. The current standards of recognition: the leader banquet and years of service pins have been in effect for years. At the Leader Banquet, a survey was distributed and 23 responses were received. The top three requests were: 1st – a special dinner or banquet; 2nd – years of service pin; and 3rd – a gift certificate. Based on the survey results we will continue the banquet and years of service pins and perhaps add a door prize at the banquet.

Next Hilton reviewed parish contest structure. We have several new 4-H University contests that we have no parish contest for, therefore we have no means for members to qualify and agents are calling 4-H'ers and asking them if they are interested. The contests are: ATV Safety, Bicycle, Computer Simulation, Consumer Decision Making, Environmental Threat Resolution, Nutrition Illustrated Talk, Outdoor Skills Triathlon, and Solutions Unlimited. Manique LeBlanc made a motion to form a sub-committee to study the options and consider what is most beneficial to 4-H'ers. It was seconded by Ricky LeBouef and the motion passed. Members who volunteered to serve on the committee were: Manique LeBlanc, Robbin Hebert, Gwen Broussard, Kimble Sagrera, Barbara Griffin, Victoria LeBlanc, Jaida Griffin, Stephanie Duhon, and Brandi Hebert.

Under prioritizing programs, Shannan read an email received from Manique LeBlanc concerning the overall records achievement award. Manique felt the overall achievement award could be revised. Shannan explained that overall records achievement was based on the quality and quantity of project books submitted. For instance, if someone turned in 5 blue ribbon project books and someone else turned in 3 first place books, the person receiving 3 first places would be overall achievement winner because of the quality of the books turned in. She also explained that only 6th and 7th grade books went on to state competition. Shannan suggested discontinuing overall achievement for 9-12th grade, but continuing 6th and 7th, as those books could continue to compete on the state level. Troy made a motion to continue overall achievement awards only for 6th and 7-8th grade. It was seconded by June and the motion passed.

Victoria volunteered to organize and host a project club for members enrolled in the Discovering 4-H project. Suggestions were to have the meetings no earlier than 4:30 p.m. at the Extension Office, town libraries, or club meetings. Teachers at the meeting felt club meetings would not lend themselves to this because of time constraints.

Agents plan to continue the computer/demonstration workshop, pumpkin workshop, electric clinic, dog care clinic, and food and nutrition workshop. The fashion revue will continue to be held at Showcase of Talent in December. All garments will be turned in a week before the contest so they can be judged on construction. However, Shannan suggested making participation in the Fashion Show on Saturday night optional. She felt contest participation was limited last year because many did not want to go on stage the night of the Talent Show. The general agreement was to agree with Shannan. Jaida suggested a babysitting workshop in May and Lauren suggested making Heart Starter training a part of the workshop.

There was discussion as to whether or not Jr. Leader Club officers should be allowed to participate in reporter, CRD, and secretary book contests at Achievement Day. After some discussion, it was agreed to make this one of the points the contest structure sub-committee will review.

Under other business, Hilton explained that Vermilion had been part of a state-wide Life Skills study that targeted 4-6th grade officers. The question was whether or not skills were improved after officer training. Club president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, and CRD chairperson were judged on eye contact, clarity when speaking, grammar, whether they solicited input from members and whether they allowed members to participate in the meeting. Officers were scored at three different time during the year and in all phases, members showed a tremendous increase from the beginning to the end. The study showed the importance of Officer Training. June suggested sending the outcomes to school principals and Shannan agreed to do this.

Hilton gave statistics from the National 4-H website stating that 4-H is in all 50 states, with 57% of members from large cities, 43% from rural non-farm areas and cities with less than 10,000 people and only 10% actually live on a farm.

Hilton thanked everyone for attending and giving suggestions. He reiterated that this is the only way our program will continue to grow and get better, by input from the community.

Leah Trahan suggested agents mail the program benchmarks and GLE's with the Leader Update, or email them to leaders. That way, they could be incorporated into lesson plans. Agents agreed to do this.

Nancy requested nominations for advisory committee chairperson. Claudette nominated Troy Mouton and Barbara seconded the nomination. Troy accepted and, as no other nominations were presented, Troy Mouton was elected serve as 2005-2006 Advisory Committee chairperson.

Ricky LeBouef moved and June Simon seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Signed: _____

Sylvia Trahan, Extension Secretary (4-H)

LSU AgCenter

**** NOTE:** *A Contest Structure Sub Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at the 4-H Office.*