

## **Vermilion 4-H Advisory Leadership Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**July 24, 2008**

**1:00 p.m.**

Troy Mouton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Members present were: Troy Mouton, Chairperson; Jamieson Dill; Sedra Marceaux; Nicholas Broussard; Richard Hebert; ; June Simon; Charles E. Dill, Jr.; Judy Schexnayder; Manique LeBlanc; Dana Luquette; Mike Dartez; Vickie Patout; Gwen Broussard; Coy Prejean; Alex LeBlanc; Mary Beth Bourque; Laura Couvillon; Chelsie Luquette; Hillarie Hebert; Diane Meaux Broussard; Lanette Hebert, Regional 4-H Coordinator; Agents: Shannan Waits, Hilton Waits, and Andrew Granger; and Sylvia Trahan, 4-H Secretary.

June Simon led the American Pledge and Laura Couvillon led the 4-H Pledge.

Introductions were made and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Andrew Granger gave opening remarks. He explained to members that they were here to express their opinions of the 4-H program and encouraged everyone to speak up and let the agents know how they felt about the 4-H program in Vermilion parish; what is right about the program and needs to continue and how to make the current programs better. Committee members are here to tell agents what they think is needed to improve and better the programs in the parish and what the 4-H program can do to meet the needs of members and the community.

Hilton reviewed the roles and responsibilities of 4-H Leadership Advisory Council members and reminded members that their role as a council member was to get the word out to the community about what 4-H does and why.

Troy reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and gave a report on how each suggestion was implemented.

- It was decided that there would be no club meetings during the month of LEAP testing. The meetings were moved to December. The feedback from this was positive from all leaders and teachers, so agents will continue this. LEAP testing is in April this year, so there will be no April club meetings.
- The decision to move Demonstration Day to February worked well. Participation was up, despite some concern that because it was the Saturday before Mardi Gras, participation may be down. Because of events in February, Demonstration Day will be held January 31, 2009.

- One of the initiatives voted on last year was to focus on peer pressure. This issue was addressed by programming at Challenge Camp.
- Another area was to focus on children with disabilities. Hilton has been contacted by Ms. Ellen Arceneaux about help with the Special Olympics Equestrian team. Efforts will be made to partner with this group in the coming year.
- The issue of Internet Safety was addressed at the computer workshop for 4-H members and a presentation was given to parents at the Personal Development contest. Agents have also written a club meeting program which will be presented this year in the series of safety lessons.
- At the Dog and Pet Show it was voted that the *Most Unusual Dog* category be deleted and the *Best Tail Wagger* category be added in its place. This worked well and will be continued.

On a motion by Richard Hebert, and seconded by Charles Dill, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Next Shannan gave an overview of the parish program, reviewed the 4-H Annual Report and presented the yearly calendar for 2008-2009. Except for 2005, the year Hurricane Rita hit, our enrollment numbers, contest participation and Junior Leader club membership has continued to increase. Our participation at 4-H University was up significantly this year and many volunteer leaders were utilized to assist agents in training and while in Baton Rouge. The educational programs presented last year to 4-H clubs at monthly meetings was on Coastal Creatures.

The 4-H calendar for the 2008-2009 year was presented and Shannan highlighted dates for the upcoming year.

The Junior Leader Service Learning focus last year was meningitis awareness. Everyone received a review of the activities the members participated in. An evaluation report completed by the Junior Leaders on their experience was presented and reviewed. About 50 of the members completed the formal evaluation which came back with positive results.

Hillarie Hebert, Junior Leader Club Co-Service Learning Chairperson presented the topic for this year's service learning focus, citizenship. They will begin by studying local, state, and federal government. Plans are to: inform young people about government issues and how they relate to the public; hold a "remember to vote" campaign; voter registration drive for high

school students; raise money to fund a scholarship to send a delegate to Citizenship Washington Focus.

Chelsie Luquette, Junior Leader Club Co-Service Learning Chairperson, talked about some of the planned projects: a field trip to the State Capitol; invite elected officials to serve as guest speakers; participate in Citizenship Louisiana Focus; and end with a trip to Washington, D. C. to participate in the “Wonders of Washington” program sponsored by the National 4-H Council. Again this year, the project will be done in conjunction with Calcasieu and Jeff Davis Junior Leader Club members. Diane Broussard, Vermilion Parish Clerk of Court, agreed to meet with the group and help plan activities.

The club meeting program focus this year will be on safety. Lesson outlines were reviewed and will include lots of fun games and activities for members.

Hilton continued with program prioritization. Everyone had three blank sheets of paper and was asked to write down their thoughts on issues facing youth today. Ideas were posted, discussed and then voted on. The top three selected were:

1. Children with special needs
2. Nutrition, with emphasis on childhood obesity
3. Manners, respect for authority

Other suggestions were: organizing a SET board for the parish (this is currently being developed); communication; technology; bullying & cyberbullying; drug awareness; copyright laws; recycling; photography & videography; child predator awareness; getting teenagers ready for the real world; opportunities provided by the 4-H program; conservation; teen pregnancy; literacy; peer pressure; appearance; importance of livestock to people; and riding arena for 4-H Horse project.

Hilton mentioned that he had been contacted by Ms. Ellen Arceneaux for assistance with the Special Olympics Equestrian team, so this would help in implementing the request for assisting children with special needs through 4-H. Other ideas were given by members and will be considered by agents.

Manique LeBlanc suggested contacting Andrea Noegel, who teaches a class on manners for assistance.

In other business, Shannan addressed a problem with the Food for Families Drive. It is a good problem; we are collecting more food than we have the ability to handle and deliver. Last year the trailer was so loaded with food, Hilton was afraid the axle might bend or break. While agents don't want to stop doing it, they want to ask leaders to collect, weigh and deliver the food themselves to the drop off point in their town and wondered how this would affect the

outcome of the food drive. A contest would still be held, with the club collecting the most food receiving a pizza party and the second place will receive a donut party.

Diane Broussard will talk to the pastor at St. Theresa's and ask if we could make the hall there a drop off point for Abbeville. Everyone agreed that the clubs will be responsible for dropping off and weighing their own food and turning in the numbers to the 4-H office. Other suggestions were made and will be considered in implementing this change.

Elections for chairperson and secretary were held and Troy was re-elected chairperson and Tweety as secretary by acclamation.

On a motion by Judy Schexnayder and seconded by Vickie Patout, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_

Sylvia Trahan

4-H Secretary, Vermilion Parish

LSU AgCenter