



**Concordia Parish 4-H Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes
March 28, 2006 – 5:30 p.m.
Delta Bank Meeting Room – Vidalia**

The Concordia Parish 4-H Advisory Council held its 2006 meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at the Delta Bank Meeting Room in Vidalia. Twenty-one members were in attendance, along with three LSU AgCenter extension staff.

A 4-H Jr. Leader, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and other Jr. Leaders led the American Pledge and the 4-H pledge. The group was then asked to make introductions and tell their association with 4-H. Next, the group had refreshments.

The first item on the agenda was an overview of the parish 4-H program by 4-H Agent, Shevawn James. Ms. James discussed the parish focus area and contests that have been conducted in the parish since the last meeting. New program updates were then given by Debbie Bairnsfather, Northeast Regional 4-H Coordinator. Ms. Debbie shared guidelines that must be met with Overnight Chaperone Training and 4-H Camp Counselor Training. Both of these require specific training hours before volunteers can assist with overnight events. Two other new programs were then discussed by Mr. Joe P. Bairnsfather, County Agent (4-H). He informed the group that the parish 4-H program is in the process of starting a 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Mr. George Loomis with the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, has been trained as the parish coordinator. Mr. Joe also updated the group about the changes that have been made in preparation for this year's 4-H Camping Program. Campers will be allowed to choose one of the five tracks being taught and will remain in that track throughout the week at 4-H Camp.

Mr. Joe and Ms. Shevawn provided the group with a handout on the different educational modules available to parishes to incorporate as parish focus areas. It was reported that for the past two years Concordia has focused on the Health/Fitness module. Members were surveyed on educational module topics that would be possible for implementing for the 2006-07 school year.

The group was then divided into three smaller groups with each group having a combination of both youth and adults. Each group was given the following five (5) questions to discuss and report their responses back to the overall group. Combined responses from each group follow individual questions.

1. What role do you see the 4-H Program playing to reach out to the youth of Concordia Parish?

Responses:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Group 1 | Positive influence – more activities/events for all age groups. |
| Group 2 | Using the current 4-H module to incorporate into everyday life (Tybo, Healthy Snacks)
Role models to other children in the parish (Jr. Leaders) |
| Group 3 | 4-H has provided opportunities for students to become more outspoken leaders in the community |

2. Adult volunteers are a key to a successful program. What are some marketing efforts that can be taken to secure more leaders to assist with our 4-H program?

Responses:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Group 1 | Need to be asked and more communication with agents |
| Group 2 | Inviting different community members to meetings to expose them to activities available. Young couples, college students, community leaders to get more involved |
| Group 3 | Get more youth involved
Try to play towards former 4-Hers
More advertising/awareness – get the word out that there is a web site |

3. If you had the opportunity to make any changes to the parish 4-H program, what would it be?

Responses:

- Group 1 Publicize more at schools about upcoming events
More leader/parent involvement
After school workshops
- Group 2 Better educational tours at 4-H U
Sponsor students unable to pay
Presentations to Rotary Club
Provide opportunities (activities) for adults to participate
- Group 3 Advertising
Find some way to segregate 4-H from other clubs
Leader Training and some type of follow up to insure the leaders are doing their jobs (too late to participate, never find out at all)
Times for events

4. Counselors are vital to our 4-H camping program/TEAM Camp. What are other ways they could be utilized to make our parish 4-H program stronger?

Responses:

- Group 1 Mentoring younger 4-Hers (helping with officer positions)
Different teams at different places
4-H Junior Leaders being spokes people for 4-H
- Group 2 Instead of just counselors at the camp, have them help during meetings
- Group 3 Get the word out regarding upcoming events
Buddy program
Help host events on weekends

5. With the rising cost of fuel, do you see a possible solution to reducing travel to individual contests by having a 4-H Contest Day with several contests on one day? Which 4-H events or activities would you recommend combining?

Responses:

- Group 1 Contests while food is being judged. (at cookery contests)
"Speak Up" night
Service Learning Projects
- Group 2 Yes -
Food Day
Demonstration/Public Speaking
Bicycle Rodeo/Pet Show
- Group 3 Activities all at one time.
4-H Fun Day – invite outsiders (adults, prospective members) to expose them to 4-H.

Members attending turned in their signed 4-H Advisory Committee Member Volunteer Position Description as they left the meeting. Through the signing of this description, members have agreed to serve for a specific number of years and have given their permission to the parish 4-H program to place their name on the Concordia Parish 4-H web site as a member of the Parish 4-H Advisory Council. Twenty-three members were in attendance.

The next meeting has tentatively been planned for September, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.