

Minutes of the Livingston Parish 4-H Advisory Council Meeting
March 26, 2009
Livingston Parish Courthouse—Livingston, LA

Members present: Richard LaBranche, Bronwynn Cobb, Bobby Bingham, Christy Sorenson, Sara Martin, Tommy Dunn, Matthew Dunn, Maranda Dunn, Sarah Scott, Donald Gill

Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Bobby Bingham. Council members were welcomed and thanked for attending the meeting.

Christy Sorenson gave an overview of the primary functions and responsibilities of the Advisory Council. Bobby Bingham discussed growth in membership from 1502 to approximately 1602 members showing a growth of about 100 members. 40 clubs are currently being serviced around the parish. Members at large number about 34 members. Favorite projects throughout the grade levels were also discussed briefly. Participation in the food festival increased this year from 47 to 73 participants.

Bobby Bingham discussed the increase in participation at 4H Camp. There is currently a waiting list and they will try to gain more beds to accommodate more members.

Economic discussion to advise of a 15% AgCenter cut reduction for upcoming year. This is in comparison to a 4.6% cut at midyear. We may need to make adjustments in some areas to decrease the effect of these cuts.

Bronwynn Cobb read minutes from the last meeting meeting.

Discussion Focus:

Lesson Modules: Christy and Bobby led discussion about lesson modules that would be used at club meetings for 2009-2010. Possible subjects were reviewed by council members and it was decided that the following modules would be used for all grade levels:

Financial Management will be the focus in response to economic status we are currently facing today.

Food Festival: Members worked together to see how participation could be increased in the food festival this year. Suggestions were made to possibly tie in the festival to the Livingston Parish Fair. Another suggestion was made to use celebrity judges from the area.

Other Topics: There may have to be a possible limit to the number of project books issued due to economic cuts. Another alternative mentioned was to allow students to trade in for another book after their first one is finished.

To peak membership in jr. high and high school population, people need to be aware of the member at large option to allow for more club participation where club limitations are placed in schools.

Sponsors need to be interested in 4-H. Some that are forced to work as a sponsor seem to have a lack of interest and club membership and morale suffers.

Changes are being made with junior leaders. Use younger member input to draw in new members. Some ideas for this that were presented were:

1. state goals and expectations at first meeting
2. make club goals competitive and give members something to work for
3. ask alumni back

Conclusion:

Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. All members were thanked for their attendance and input in this meeting.