

Kansas Committee of Farm Bureau Women
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 6, 2008

Call to Order – Helen Norris called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in the Private Dining Conference Room of the Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan, Kansas. Members in attendance were: Helen Norris, Donna Bates, Lois Moss, Susan Long, Marilyn Martin, Brenda Dooley, Marjorie Cartmill, Signe Barnes, Gay Beth Moore and Sue May. KFB Staff members Holly Higgins and Serita Blankenship were also present.

Invocation - Sue May gave the invocation.

Minutes – Minutes from the August 12, 2008 meeting were reviewed. *Marjorie moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Sue and unanimously approved by the committee.*

Communications – Committee members requested their e-mail address be added to the County Connection distribution list.

Helen informed the committee that she will be in Bangkok Thailand from January 13 through early March 2009.

Reports -

Resolutions: Gay Beth gave a Resolutions Committee update. She mentioned the many listening posts that have been held around the state and noted that the committee had re-worded the resolution book in an attempt to make it more concise.

CWC/ACWW Conf.: Helen and Marjorie attended the County Women of the World meeting in Hot Springs AR. Marjorie explained to the committee that this organization helps the underprivileged of the world, they are not just feeding people, and they want to help the poor sustain solutions to hunger and to help them move towards self-reliance.

Helen passed out a handbook about the County Women's Council. The Associated Country Women of the World Triennial Conference is scheduled for April 21-28, 2010. Arkansas Farm Bureau has been asked to provide the welcome, which will highlight agriculture in the states being represented. Helen would like Kansas to be represented and is looking for ideas and ways to highlight Kansas products. Some states are doing tasting booths, others are doing displays. Registration is \$600 for the week-long conference.

Gay Beth made a motion to collect dollars for friendship during the women's luncheon on Friday. The motion was seconded by Sue and unanimously approved by the committee.

2010 Women's Regional Conference: Helen reported that approximately 200 women from the Southern and Mid West regions will be attending this conference. Organizers are considering Wichita and Kansas City as possible locations. The committee decided to focus on this

conference in 2010 and to not participate in a joint coordinator/women's leadership conference that year.

Carbon Credits - Steve Swaffar joined the meeting at 1:30 to explain carbon credits to the committee. He passed out several pieces of information that helped explain how farmers, ranchers and landowners could tap into new revenue by selling carbon credits.

Basically, big companies agree to reduce their greenhouse emissions but if they can't meet their "quota" they buy credits from others. Committee members asked several questions and thanked Steve for the information.

The committee took a break at 2:10 and reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

KFB Annual Meeting – Most committee members are voting delegates but Donna Bates and Helen will run the Skin Analyzer from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8.

KFB President Steve Baccus and CEO Dan Yunk addressed the committee at 2:45. They challenged the women to consider efforts KFB lobbies on (Animal Welfare and Prop 2) as part of their Plan of Action. Women could be vital to this effort as they are more involved in animal production –vs – crop production

Dan thanked the committee for hosting the leadership conference and for attempting to draw more women into ag leadership roles.

Food Check-Out Week – Helen passed out new promotional materials for FCOW such as bookmarks, placemats and reusable shopping bags for the committee to see. Helen challenged committee members to brainstorm promotional activities the committee could promote since the National focus regarding Food Check-Out Week has changed. Surfaced ideas include: fun w/ food, recipes for children, recommended portion size information, animal welfare, food sanitation, food safety and buying locally.

Committee members liked the idea of creating a "Fun with Food" book that could include simple recipes and lots of information about the issues listed above. Committee members would be responsible for collecting the information. Due to the short time frame for next year, the committee recommended one set of the AFBF FCOW info cards sent to each county.

Ronald McDonald House, Susan and Gay Beth will work with Sedgwick County and Donna (or her replacement) will work with Shawnee County to plan 2009 FCOW activities. However, Holly will contact Sedgwick/Shawnee Counties to see if they would like to take over the RMDH food donation activities in their areas after 2009.

The committee took a break at 4:00 and reconvened at 4:05 p.m.

AFBF Annual Meeting – Committee members representing the odd district are scheduled to attend in 09. Gay Beth, Helen, Brenda, Marjorie, Marilyn, Signe and Sue will serve as voting delegates at the Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Women. Lois Moss and Holly Higgins will serve as alternates.

The Woman Managing the Farm Conference is scheduled for February 13-14, 2009. Several KFB staff members are scheduled to present: Mike Irvin – current issues, Terry Arthur – transition planning, Nancy Brown – BVS and Holly Higgins – Safety.

Committee members interested in attending this conference include: Sue, Marjorie, Jennifer and Karma.

The KFB Women's Leadership Conference is scheduled for April 8-9, 2009. This conference will be open to all women in Kansas Farm Bureau although registration will be limited to 100 due to space considerations. Committee members broke into their sub-committees to brainstorm workshop ideas for the women's sessions. Their ideas are as follows:

Communicating the Ag Story

1. Colleen Church McDowall "Conversations on Animal Care"
2. Extension FACs Agent present a Nutrition and Exercise program
3. Have a pre-planned Committee member district dinner

Networking

1. How to navigate YouTube, MySpace and Facebook and the value to ag by doing so
2. computer basics (email, web pages, internet)

Advocacy

1. Spokesperson training
2. Animal Care – Chris Chin or Kelly Ludlum
3. Carbon Credits 101 – Steve Swaffar

Leadership Development

1. Leadership styles – Dr. Donita Whitney Bamerlin
2. Enough time to talk about how to use personality results
3. Map to stick where people come from
4. Networking time

The next Women's Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the County Women's Leadership Conference on April 7, 1:00 p.m. in Manhattan.

The meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m.

The committee met for a wrap-up session at noon on Saturday, November 8. The two new members of the committee were present: Karma Michaels and Jennifer Brunkow. Lois Moss and Donna Bates were not in attendance.

AFBF Voting Delegates will be: Gay Beth, Helen, Brenda, Marjorie, Marilyn, Signe and Sue. Lois will be an alternate.

Committee members interested in attending the Women Managing the Farm conference are: Sue, Marjorie, Jennifer and Karma.

It was announced that the Skin Analyzer was not conducted during this annual meeting since all of the committee were involved as voting delegates. The committee will discuss alternative times in future years.