

## Leaders Council Minutes 1/9/08

**Call to Order:** President Jill Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Was led by Kyle Baldwin.

**4-H Pledge:** Was led by Brady Baldwin.

**Communications:** Correspondence was received and announced.

### Reports:

**Secretary:** Motion to approve the minutes by Sandy Means, seconded by Andrea ....

**Treasurer:** Sheila Bakke Treasurer's Report. Checking account opening balance as of 9/30/07 of \$1025.49 + income \$9,490.75 – expenses \$9,589.89 = ending balance of \$926.35 as of 12/31/07. Savings account opening balance as of 9/30/07 of \$20,317.90 + income \$51.51 – expenses \$1,800.00 = ending balance of \$18,569.41 as of 12/31/07. Report was accepted as submitted.

**Vice President:** Sheila Bakke thanked Golden Hills and Roving Clovers for the refreshments at tonight's meeting.

### Area Reports:

#### Dixon: Laura Peron/Will Simmons

**Dixon Ridge:** This month our club was very busy.

October – Our club participated in Harvest Fair. We had a fishing booth. It was very popular and all our members had a great time. Our community service project for this month was a canned food drive for Dixon Family Services. We have a lot of new members so at each meeting our Vice President, Will Simmons has an ice breaker for the members to do. The members had fun and a lot of them are starting to feel more comfortable talking in front of the group.

November – This month our members once again provided the snack bar for the Corgi Associations annual Corgi Faire. In the morning we had doughnuts and coffee. In the afternoon we sold hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers alone or as a meal. We were very busy. The Corgi Association invited us back for next year. At our meeting we held a canned food drive for Dixon Family Services. Once again our club sold the Baldwin Christmas wreaths. It was a great fundraiser. Everyone was impressed with the quality of the wreaths and we look forward to doing it again next year. At our meeting, we talked about Project Skills Day and had several past display boards for members to look at and get ideas.

December – This month our club was very busy. Every member donated \$5 to the Dixon Family Services Adopt-A-Family program. Then a committee shopped, wrapped and delivered the gifts to the family. We also had several members wrap presents for Dixon's Toys for Tots program. Our leadership project helped the 2 chair people plan our Christmas party. The members all had a great time.

**Maine Prairie:** These last three months our club, Maine Prairie, was very busy. In October we participated in the 4-H Harvest Fair in Vallejo with a ping pong ball drop game. The following day, Maine Prairie set up an 4-H informational table at the Tremont Elementary School Fall Festival. Several members were on hand to answer questions. We were able to use the National 4-H Week window display board for this event. We had a decorated pumpkin contest and collected canned food for the local food closet. The Holiday Wreath sale was a fantastic fundraiser for Maine Prairie. We sold 59 Noble

wreaths and 14 holly wreaths. Everyone who bought a wreath loved them. Several of our officers participated in the Solano County 4-H Leadership retreat. They had a fun Saturday in November, and learned a lot.

At our November club meeting we had a special presentation from our fishing project members, a pumpkin pie eating contest and collected coats. We set up a table at the Dixon Tree Lighting Night on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite the miserable weather, members took turns manning the table and selling glow necklaces. Funds from the sale of the necklaces were used to purchase gift items for the family the club adopted for Christmas.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-H members got together to have a Christmas party. We played games and had treats. Attendees brought gifts for the “adopted” family. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, several club members and their families came to help wrap presents for two hours for the Toys for Tots program for Dixon area families. Club officers and leaders arrived early to help set up and prepare for the “wrapping party” and stayed late to help sort presents for the children.

**Tremont:** no report

**Roving Clovers:** Since the last Leader’s Council meeting; in November the Roving Clovers sewing project group members created felt Christmas stockings and the members brought goodies to put inside and filled them at the club meeting to send to soldiers stationed in Iraq.

In December we held our annual Christmas Party during the regular club meeting with a gift exchange and a dessert pot-luck.

We held a fund raiser in the fall selling wreaths – we ended up with a profit of over \$600.

All of our projects are now in full swing. Most of our members will be participating in the Dixon May Fair.

Several members are planning to attend Project Skills Day.

#### **Fairfield/Suisun: Kiersten Bakke**

**Suisun Valley:** At its November general meeting, the Suisun Valley 4-H club collected supplies for the S.P.C.A. in Vacaville. Members who participated in Project Skills Day in prior years brought their boards to display for the rest of the club. The club’s recreation officer made a turkey with feathers and the members who were closest at guessing the correct amount of feathers won a prize. Following the meeting, the members enjoyed homemade pumpkin pies and cider provided by the refreshments officer.

In December, the club collected toys and games for North Bay Hospital to use in the Pediatric waiting area. Brady Baldwin sponsored this community service activity and reported that the hospital staff very much appreciated our donations. The club also purchased a gift card with funds raised in September and presented it to the family from Vaca Valley 4-H club who lost their home in a fire. Finally, the club also held its annual Holiday Party, complete with festive music, games (like pin the star on the Christmas Tree and Christmas limbo). We even had a karaoke machine so members could show off their varied singing talents. Members enjoyed pizza and soda and the recreation officer served freshly baked sugar cookies for dessert. This month, members will be collecting coats for the homeless and needy in our community. Many members are preparing for Project Skills Day – whether as participants or

judges. Some members have made chili to enter in the Chili Cook-Off competition at Project Skills Day.

**Westwind:** In October Westwind officers and leadership project really enjoyed putting together the maze for the Harvest Fair. And we had a fun Cinema night!

In December Westwind had a great holiday party, it was a Christmas around the World theme. All of the members really enjoyed the Santa, the Piñata, and the gift exchange. Our community service project was to collect money and gifts for the Heather House. We have just received new members and are really excited.

**Rio Vista: Lilly/Lisa Wohn**

**Rio Vista:** Our member who went to the Harvest Fair enjoyed the ball shooting booth they set up as much as the party goers. Members were excited that 12 jars of peanut butter were donated. Although there were no community service events in November, it was a busy month. All of our project leaders started their meetings and the beef project members all bought their steers for the upcoming 2008 fairs. We have some new exciting projects such as photography and rocketry that are creating enthusiasm.

In December the club began a record book incentive program in which the club provided record book covers and portfolios to keep all of the 4-H project related materials for easier future reference. The club is also making it a club effort to familiarize and fill in record book pages as we go. For fun the members organized a dessert party on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> with games and of course, desserts. Considering the hub-bub of the season they had a good turn out. Rio Vista 4-H also adopted a needy family of 4 through the Christmas 94571 organization. Our members had fun shopping, wrapping and delivering the gifts to the project. Club members have voted to donate money to the rebuilding of the public pool and look forward to the new season.

**Vacaville: Deb Galway/Meryl Glass/John Nickerson**

**Elmira:** no report

**Golden Hills:** no report

**Vaca Valley:** no report

**Vallejo: Eileen Cleveland/Hope Rodriguez**

**Sherwood Forest:** In October, Sherwood Forest was able to do outreach at the Benicia Farmers Market as well as a display case at the Benicia library. Our club also provided docents for the Loma Vista Farm's fall festival and conducted a bake sale raising \$166.00. In October, we hosted Harvest Fair in Vallejo where 118.5 lbs of peanut butter was collected and dropped off at the Christian Health Center in Vallejo.

In November, our leadership project put together a display board judging contest for our club, as well as a project display board workshop. We were also able to participate in America Recycles Day at the Valcor Recycling Center huge yard sale.

In December, we held our annual Christmas Party where we exchanged gifts, made Christmas cards and enjoyed holiday goodies.

**Staff Report:**

**Sheila Bakke:** Leader orientation is beginning at Travis AFB. Project based training with leaders at Travis Air Force Base to enhance the project strengths that meet their needs. Additional grant for Sheila for next year. Yeah!!

**Valerie Williams:** Tomorrow state record book survey due. There is a photocopy of survey in club mailboxes. Cluster state record book workshop Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. All clubs but 2 have signed up to attend, there is a waiting list to attend. Club rosters are ready please see Valerie. The rosters are due back at the Feb leaders council meeting, check the info is all updated and correct. Club directories will be mailed when available. Club leaders and officers need to do on-line training. Club enrollment is coming in. Young Civic Leaders conference coming and scholarships are available. Pilot of Healthy rewards training starting and Animal Science survey at UCD article in next newsletter, needs participants.

**Carole Paterson:** Life in general is a struggle and how 4-H values families and children. Everyone pulls together during good and bad times to work together and 4-H is very caring and helpful.

**Special Presentation:** Draft Horse Project

Robert Boardman, Cathy O'Shea project leaders – Access Adventure - Wheelchair accessible horse drawn carriage rides at Rush Ranch. 270 total acres, horse corrals have been rebuilt, wildlife viewing, blacksmithing, solar powered, and new visitor center. Possible opportunities available for future 4-H projects. Rush ranch needs community service help and donations. Wild trips to nature areas such as Yosemite and Modoc are available. Help kids and people with disabilities. June 14<sup>th</sup> scheduled 4-H horse show. Rush Ranch open Tuesday – Saturday 8 – 5. Free public carriage rides on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

**Committee Reports:**

**Project Skills Day: Deb Galway** Vacaville area responsible this year. Held at Orchard Avenue Baptist Church. Similar format as last year - main hall for display boards, chili cook-off in the room with kitchen also where food booth will be, community service activity, silent auction, some down time activities. Silent auction benefit Kara Payne trip to Washington, attendees will make dog toys for Guide Dogs for the Blind, cards for vets, hearty soup donation. Judging contest – haven't heard from person doing that.

**Presentation Day: Lisa & Lily Wohn** Forms for judges handed out, need name and phone# from key person. Judging not scary and assure people to volunteer to judge. Solano notes discusses presentation day questions. Each club needs 3 judges/room coordinators which must be returned by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Need club to do food booth as a fundraiser.

**Incentives & Recognition Committee: Jill Simmons** Met in early December, reviewed the emerald star applications and sent letters to applicants with response by January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Send response to Valerie. There were 4 applicants.

**Audit Committee:** Audits are due Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at the next leaders council meeting. Forms are on line and on treasurer flash drive. Only turn in mid-year audit form.

**Old Business:**

**Sectional Leaders Council Youth & Leaders Report: Kathy Brown/Will Simmons**  
No one present that went to meeting.

**Harvest Fair** – need info - 77 adults, 115 youth participants. Collected 118.5 lbs of peanut butter.

**National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference – Will Simmons** Great presentation and slide show from Will about conference.

**Leaders survey** handed out to fill out at meeting

**Officer's Workshop:** 29<sup>th</sup>, Broke up into groups for each officer position and trained all attendees for each position, then put everyone together for a fake meeting

**State Leaders Forum: November** – Lots of fun, and a large variety of topics to attend. Including how to be good leaders and have fun in your project meetings. Met lots of people from other counties and network.

**Leaders Council Goals:** Goals decided on were older youth member opportunities, leader training, inter club efforts. More clubs working together to interact and offer more opportunities for members. Ideas include movie night, leader training and reviving High 4-H. Leader interested in heading it but needs help. High 4-H is an opportunity for 9 – 12 grades to get together and do activities and do community service. Up to group to decide how they want to set it up

**New Business:**

**Emerald Star: Will Simmons** Solano County AG Day. Get together a group to help at Ag Day and create projects for kids to do there. **Alison Elder** Will create a web site for Roving Clovers and put together a booklet on how to build website and train others to do same.

**McDougal Livestock loans** – applications are available online. Repeat applicants turn in records etc, interviews. Sheep, goat, swine raisers receive low interest loans with payback due after they sell the animal. It is a good learning experience for members.

**Club Contributions due tonight** – Sheila will give receipts

**CVR Cluster Event – Brady Baldwin, Will Simmons** – pilot project consisting of 4 counties to build connections and share resources between counties. Attended a retreat at the end of October and talked about things to do. Retreat was overnight and shared ideas and learned a lot. 4-H FESTIVAL Sat April 5<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. Will have both 4-H members and the public. Will consist of games activities, to present projects. Interested in booth, contact Valerie, Brady or Will. Leadership opportunities. Will be visiting clubs to present the event and sign up help.

**Council Meeting Drawing: Jill Simmons** Winner is Linda Talken.

**Announcements:**

**Thanks to Golden Hills and Roving Clovers for snacks**

**Council Refreshments:** February 13: Suisun Valley (snacks & napkins)  
Golden Hills (drinks & cups)

**Next Leaders Council Meeting:** February 13, 2008.

**Motion made to adjourn the meeting:** at 8:31 p.m. by Sarah Elder, seconded by Brady Baldwin. M/S/A.