

Michigan Agri-Women Annual Meeting

April 16, 2011

MSU Southwest Research and Extension Center

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by President Kimberly Schmuhl.

Members present included: Sarah Brookshire, Brittany Skibbe, Cami Leitz, Debbie Skibbe, Madalyn Pagels, Mildred Schultz, Anna Leitz, Bonnie Schultz, Melissa Stamp, Christina Gelder, Delores Totzke, Abbey Dorr, Connee Canfield, Barb Miller, Sharon Schmuhl, Susan Ginter, Donna Pierson, Kimberly Schmuhl, Cecilia Seabury, Linda Higbee, and Barb Radewald. Guest: Rep. Al Pscholka, Sheryl Smith, and Warren Seabury.

President Kimberly Schmuhl introduced State Representative, Al Pscholka from the "79th District. Representative Pscholka gave an update on what has been going on in Lansing.

President Schmuhl introduced Sheryl Smith, Financial Service Officer for GreenStone Farm Credit Service Charlotte office, as well as committee chair of the Farm Women Symposium. Sheryl talked about what Farm Women Symposium is and what a great opportunity it is for learning, networking, and making lifelong friends. Sheryl also briefly talked about Annie's Project.

Business meeting followed a catered lunch by Country Kitchen Catering of Coloma.

Introduction of new members: Melissa Stamp a grain producer from Decatur, Angela Whitford a livestock producer from Ashley, Marlene McCloud a row crops producer and Kim Clunis a dairy Farmer from the thumb area.

American Agri-Women Mid- Year Report: Meeting was held in Phoenix Arizona, 2011 Position statements were worked on and accepted. Each state president gave their state report on what each organization was doing in their state for agriculture. Also each commodity had to give an updated report on what was going on with their commodity in the U.S. right now.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September 22, 2010 meeting were read. Motion was made by Connee Canfield to accept minutes with corrections. Seconded by Anna Leitz, Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sharon Schmuhl reported that AAW dues are due June 1st. The AAW dues have increased to \$30 and the MAW dues are still \$20 you can be a member of one or both.

As of 4/8/2011 there was \$5,541.15 in checking account and \$200 on hand as petty cash for a total of \$5891.15 (see expense handout)

Motion by Barb Radewald to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Linda Higbee. Motion Carried

Old Business

Peach Festival-Christina Gelder reported that there was a meeting coming up and she would attend to see what is going on. Discussion followed. Barb Miller and Christina Gelder will help organize the event and Connee Canfield will work with them to schedule workers for the booth. Peach Festival will be August 5-7, 2011. Christina will report back from council meeting on this at the July 13th meeting.

Membership drive-We need an event to kick off membership drive like have a wine tour and have everyone bring a friend. Discussion followed on how to get ladies involved and/or increase awareness of Michigan Agri-Women. Some Ideas include but are not limited to tackle an issue and invite media, Follow-up to meetings with a press release in local papers, add more history to website, bring a friend to the next meeting.

A communication committee consisting of Melissa Stamp, Christina Gelder, and Abbey Dorr was formed to come up with ideas on how to increase participation. Christina has offered to write follow up press releases and Melissa will send it out to farm publications as well as local papers.

Sharon Schmuhl made motion to table membership drive to the July or fall meeting seconded by Bonnie Schultz motion carried. It was suggested that we send out invites to local farm wives. Each person needs to give Kim one or two names for her to invite to the next meeting.

New Business

Farm Bureau Lawnmower Race Sponsorship Request- Berrien County Young Farmers are requesting funds again this year for the lawn mower race. They are looking for \$250 for Ag in Classroom grant. Discussion followed. Connee Canfield made a motion to not support for 2011. Seconded by Cecilia Seabury. Motion carried.

Funding for Meetings and Conventions-Kimberly Schmuhl asked we revisit the topic. Discussion on the allotted \$250 to attend meetings and conventions isn't enough now to cover the cost of everything. The important ones we need to be represented at include Mid-Year and Annual Convention.

Newsletter- A newsletter will be done a couple times a year and mailed out to members as well as put on Facebook and on the website. Everyone will be asked to come up with information for newsletter. A committee of Melissa Stamp, Cristina Gelder, and Abbey Dorr will work on putting it together in newsletter format.

Collegiate Chapter at MSU and WMU- Kimberly Schmuhl stated she would like to start a collegiate chapter at MSU and at Western Michigan. Melissa Stamp stated that MSU has Sigma Alpha Sorority members are already members of American Agri-Women. She also said there is an active alumni chapter.

Hosting National Convention in 2013- American Agri-Women would like Michigan to host the National Convention in 2013. Discussion followed on options. Abbey will get info on what tour options are available in the Grand Rapids area. There is still some time and this will be discussed again at a later meeting.

Membership Cards- Discussion on if we need membership cards to show we paid membership dues. It was decided they are not necessary and we should save our money for other things.

Motion to adjourn by Connee Canfield seconded by Barb Radewald. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Abbey Dorr

Secretary

Next Meeting is July 13, 2011 at 6:30pm, Curtis Community Building