

Diocese of Owensboro
Rural Life Committee
Minutes
1-29-19

Present were: Logan Beyke, Bill Brey, Lucas Brey, Ronnie Edge, Don Cecil, Sissy Baker Thompson, Paul Scherm, Mike Mullican, Jeff Rice, Jerry Knott, and Richard Murphy.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes from the 11-28-18 meeting were approved as published.

Old Business

1. RLC 8-11-19 Planning: The Committee selected Mr. Charles Krampe to honor with the Life Time Achievement Award in 2019. He is from Henderson Kentucky area. Billy agreed to discuss this with Mr. Krampe. Assuming that Mr. Krampe would accept the award, it may require more than one table to accommodate the family of the honoree; they have 12 children.

The Committee selected Mr. Mike Horn as this year's "Be Like Rick" Award nominee. Billy agreed to approach Mr. Horn to see if he would accept the award.

With Gene Schadler's resignation from the Committee, it was necessary to find a person or persons that would assume his duties of advocating for donation of funds for the gathering. Assisting Paul Scherm in this role will be Mike Mullican, Jerry Knott and Donnie Cecil. Together they will divide up the overall number of organizations to reach and proceed to ask for assistance. All four will receive a list of our sponsors.

In a similar way, Richard Murphy and Sissy Thompson will inventory the number of plates, cups, eating utensils, napkins and salt and pepper on hand and stored at the McRaith Catholic Center Basement and order new supplies as needed.

The venue for the upcoming 2019 RLC is at the Owensboro Convention Center. The committee agreed to examine other potential venues for 2020.

The Committee recommended that Fr. Brian Roby be approached to ask if he would consider offering the opening Benediction. It was hoped that a Protestant minister would agree to offer the Closing Prayer.

Mike Mullican will ask Candace Brake if she will again serve in the role of Masters of Ceremony for the event. The Committee recommended that all public office holders would be recognized as in the past, but none would be asked to speak.

The Committee believed a speaker during dinner was once again a good possibility, but it was not decided just who that might be in 2019. A representative from the O.Z. Taylor Distillery might be a possibility.

The Committee settled on a menu including pork chops again in 2019 and would be working with Jimmy Gilles on this. More cooks were needed.

Recognition of those farmers that died in the area will likely be spotlighted, including John McCormick, and Guy Hardy.

2. Farm Labor Report/ Immigration Reform Update: The government shutdown has stalled some efforts at getting started on H2-b laborers. There are some labor issues for tobacco and there were questions about the process of growing hemp in the area.
3. 2018 Farm Bill: the Bill included many priorities that are important to Kentucky's agricultural and rural communities.

Specifically, the bill protects farm safety net programs; enhances trade assistance programs; reauthorizes food safety and education initiatives; preserves access to nutrition assistance programs for those who truly need the assistance, while attempting to reduce fraud and abuse in the program; and provides continued support to rural communities through the reauthorization of various rural development programs.

It also included language derived from Senator McConnell's bill – the Hemp Farming Act of 2018 – to legalize industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity by removing it from the federal list of controlled substances. This language builds upon my efforts in the 2014 Farm Bill (P.L. 113-79) that authorized state industrial hemp pilot programs that allowed farmers and universities to research hemp and its potential market applications. Specifically, the 2018 Farm Bill authorizes states to be the primary regulators of hemp; authorizes grant opportunities for hemp research; and makes hemp an eligible commodity for the development of crop insurance products.

There was discussion about caps on farm subsidies, or lack thereof, beyond the one manager (or managing couple) per farm that is actively engaged in farm operations and the possible disadvantage to small and medium size farms.

New Business:

1. Issues Members May Wish to Raise: The Committee discussed the history of awards at the Rural Life Celebration. In 2010 the Committee remembered that the award winners for that year of the Lifetime Achievement Award were: William Kuegal Sr. & William and Virginia Miles. The winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2014 was Rod Kuegel Jr.

2. Other Business was tabled.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

The next scheduled meeting is for 3-20-19 at 6:00 PM at the McRaith Catholic Center.