

**United States Personal Chef Association
Northern California Chapter of the USPCA
Meeting Minutes *January 5, 2008***

Location and Date	Eddi Quiggle's house, Saturday, January 5, 2008 at noon.
Present	Valerie Perry, Eddi Quiggle, Chris McIntyre, Sam Springs
Treasurer's Report	Currently \$471.97 in the chapter's account.
Agenda Items and Discussion	<p><u>Update on President's application:</u> USPCA home office has informed Valerie that her application has been accepted. She will be the Norcal Chapter President for 2008.</p> <p><u>Dues:</u> A reminder that dues for 2008 are due no later than January 31. Dues for 2008 will be \$110. Please send dues directly to Eddi.</p> <p><u>Update on Secretary position:</u> Nancy has agreed to be Secretary with Chris as back-up Secretary.</p> <p><u>Schedule for 2008:</u> Those present were in favor of continuing the schedule of every 6 weeks for chapter meetings. Eddi has once again graciously offered her home for a location. Anyone else interested in hosting a meeting, please inform Valerie. The proposed Schedule for 2008 is as follows:</p> <p>(All are Saturdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please note the new proposed time. Please see below "Decision Points.")</p> <p>February 9 (one week early due to the hostess's schedule) March 29 May 10 June 21 August 9 (post USPCA conference) September 13 October 25 December 6</p>

Open questions:

One big issue remains about our geographical challenges as a chapter. Most of us agree that in-person meetings are preferable. However, as our mission states that our main goal is to support each other and share information to help us all be more successful as personal chefs, we struggle to ensure that all members receive this benefit regardless of how many meetings they are able to attend. Many suggestions were discussed and more research will be done to determine feasibility/cost. Suggestions included:

- “Virtual meetings” via teleconference;
- Web conference;
- Chapter blog to make communication easier amongst all members (rather than email strings)

The idea is to be able to share information easily and cost-effectively so that any member can access things such as menu suggestions, web help, suggested magazines, information from the national conference, etc. A chef’s inability to attend meetings should not preclude them from the benefit they pay for as a member.

Chris offered to ask her husband, who works in high tech, if he would consider speaking to us about ways we may use technology to help us achieve this goal.

If anyone else has any suggestions as to how to be more connected as a whole group, please email Valerie or bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Discussion:

Chris mentioned that eBay may be an easier way to sell some of our own items (cookbooks, equipment we don’t need, etc) rather than a yard sale. She offered to look into setting up an account for the chapter so that any member could post their own items for sale.

Sam and Chris both mentioned they would like some more hands-on training with anyone who has any opportunity coming up. Accompanying a working chef at a dinner party or even a “regular” cook day is a great way of getting a feel for how things really work and learning some great tips. If anyone is interested in being “job shadowed” and getting some assistance on their cook days, please email Valerie so she can communicate to the group.

Tabled Items	<p>Some future agenda items may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the most out of the Norcal site, “My Chef” site and Hire A Chef • Menu Magic and other software – demos, best practices • How to avoid burnout • How to use the services of a licensed nutritionist • How to get the most out of the USPCA national site and resources • Sharing menu samples • Best practices • Anything else that any member is struggling with or has questions about
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris will explore setting up an eBay account for the chapter in case we decide to use that as a means to raise funds.
Decision Points	<p>Beginning in 2008, any issue requiring a decision by chapter members will be put out to vote to the entire chapter regardless of whether a member has attended the meeting at which the issue was raised.</p> <p>1) 2008 Schedule – if anyone has any objections to the schedule above, the frequency or the meeting location, please email Valerie before the next scheduled meeting of February 9th.</p>
Next Meeting Location and Date	<p>February, February 9, 2008, at 10:00 am. (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME***) It will be held again at Eddi’s house in Woodland. (Thank you Eddi!!)</p>