

VAN BUREN COUNTY 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

March 18, 2024

Attendance: Mary Darling, Janice Zerbe, Denise Noble, Alex deFinta, Carisa Hostetler, Amy Mortimore, Lori Alexander, Kelsey Driscoll, Emmeline Towne, Makayla King, Latisha Tomsa, Tod Kubiszak, Cari Copi, Annette Ayotte, Raylinn Ayotte, Kenna Copi, Julia Copi

The regular meeting of the Van Buren County 4-H Leaders Association was called to order by President, Alex deFinta at 7:73 pm with all officers present and nine clubs represented.

Secretary Report: Amy Mortimore moved to accept the secretary report with a second from Denise Noble. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented with income of \$4803.01, no disbursements, and a total in the checking account of \$23469.23 which includes no outstanding checks and outstanding deposits of \$4803.01. Sub accounts included Differently Abled (\$656.51), Capital Experience (\$0.00), Teen Club (\$940.02), Efting Memorial (\$575.00), Domestic Animal (\$567.39), and Bea Funk Memorial Fund (\$500 in savings bonds). Report will be placed on file for audit.

Tod Kubiszak questioned the total income from the auction. There was some discussion. The correct total should be \$4754.43.

Bills / Correspondence: A State Awards donation letter was read. The Leaders Association will donate as per the budget.

Club Sharing: *South Haven Jay Dees* – They collected a total of \$140.00. *West Valley Livestock* – had tin punch taught at their last meeting and will hold their spring online popcorn fund raiser soon. *Shamrock Shakers* – will hold their annual Goat / Sheep Show on June 1, 2024, at the Van Buren Fairgrounds. *Van Buren Voyagers* – had a speaker for fish and will be donating a tank set-up. *Young Explorers* – had a large turnout for their meeting where leaders spoke about projects.

Committee Reports: *Auction* – The committee met tonight. The auction made a profit of \$424.52 from the breakfast, \$429.96 from the silent auction and \$3129.85 from the online auction. The committee received lots of gift cards from different businesses. They are considering a new location for the breakfast and plan to make more fliers available. More advertising is needed. Lots of discussion. Janice Zerbe will send a thank you to businesses who made donations. *Tractor, Truck or Treat* – will be held at the Van Buren Youth Fairgrounds on the first Saturday in October. Groups are currently signing up to participate.

Outstanding 4-Her Report – Makayla King stated that she attended two rabbit shows. There will be a rabbit show at the Kalamazoo Kennel Club on April 20th. She also assisted with the 4-H Leaders Association breakfast.

4-H Educator Report: *Debit Cards* – If a club plans to use a debit card please notify Janice Zerbe as she needs to track its use. *Exploration Days* – will be held June 19- 21, 2024, at MSU. Van Buren County has a female chaperone. We may need a male chaperone if male youth register to attend. Please encourage participation. Only pay the \$50.00 required deposit. Leaders Association scholarships will apply. *State Awards / Mark of Excellence* – Entries are due by April 1, 2024. *YQCA* – Any exhibitor who plans to show an animal at the 2024 Van Buren Youth Fair must complete this course. Key Leaders were sent a list of completed exhibitors. Some discussion.

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Unfinished Business: *Award 2024* – Scholarship applications are due April 15th; all others are due June 1st. Encourage members to apply. *Fundraising Outcomes and Expectations* – Please continue to provide ideas of how we can include communities. Less than ten families not associated with the 4-H program were reached during the online auction. Some discussion. Janice Zerbe will research if businesses can be tagged. *Enrollment Incentives* -- We are waiting for a receipt from Tina Loomis. *Shooting Sports Training* – April 27-28, 2024, in Charlevoix at a cost of \$150.00. Please contact Denise Noble if interested.

New Business: *County wide project / event* – The Leaders Association does not plan to hold an additional county wide project / event. More people are needed to help or plan. Some discussion. Latisha Tomsa mentioned there is a group looking for blankets for seniors. More discussion to follow. *Outdoor Adventure Challenge* – Denise Noble read a letter from the State 4-H office listing activities that are no longer supported. This is very disappointing, as few people were contacted for input, etc. Some discussion. There seemed to be a lack of communication.

Expansion Review: No update.

Fair Board Update: Thank you notes are now required. They must be turned in to the 4-H office at the fairgrounds by 10:00 p.m. on Saturday of fair week. A discussion took place regarding the quality of a thank you if written at the end of fair week. The Extension Office will accept thank you cards at the office in Paw Paw following the fair. Exhibitor premiums and auction checks will be held until the exhibitor turns in the required Thank you. Lots of discussion. More details to come.

Announcements: *Next meeting* – April 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center.

Adjournment: Carissa Hostetler moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Amy Mortimore. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Darling
LA Secretary