

VAN BUREN COUNTY 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

February 19, 2024

Attendance: Nancy Wheatley, Mary Darling, Janice Zerbe, Denise Noble, Alex deFinta, Carisa Hostetler, Wendy Fisher, Amy Mortimore, Lori Alexander, Kelsey Driscoll, Emmeline Towne, Makayla King, Kerri Damm-Bilyk, Leslie D.

The regular meeting of the Van Buren County 4-H Leaders Association was called to order by President, Alex deFinta at 7:03 pm with all officers present and eight 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 no income, disbursements of \$180.50, and a total in the checking account of \$18666.22 which includes outstanding checks of \$180.50 and no outstanding deposits. 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.

Bills / Correspondence: A thank you was received from Victoria for the enrollment incentive. A donation of \$48.55 was received from online giving from a Stryker employee.

Club Sharing: *Silver Spurs* – Their rabbit members met, and the club made flowers. They will be attending the Tack Swap in March. *Van Buren Voyagers* – did an indoor climb. They still have not heard from the Outdoor Adventure contact from campus. *Almena Happy Helpers* – are taking donations for their rummage sale to be held the 2nd Saturday in March.

Committee Reports: *Auction* – The committee met tonight. Set up for the breakfast will be Friday, March 1, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. Auction items need to be dropped off on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. Thank you to all the volunteers, there are enough signed up. The committee will need start up money, including change. Alex deFinta, Denise Noble and Janice Zerbe will be unavailable to attend on March 2nd. *Tractor, Truck or Treat* – No update available.

Outstanding 4-Her Report – Makayla King stated that she went to the State Rabbit Show, received a scholarship and will be attending the upcoming Veterinarian project at MSU.

4-H Educator Report: *Debit Cards* – can be used by 4-H clubs with some restrictions. More discussion at the March meeting. *Exploration Days* – will be held June 19- 21, 2024, at MSU. Registration will open in March. There will be a \$50.00 deposit required at the time of registration. *State Awards* – 4-H Achievement Award is new. There are new cash award values – Senior winners will receive \$300.00; Junior winners will receive \$100.00; Group winners will receive \$400.00 and Achievement winners will receive \$500.00. Video submissions may be allowed in the future. *YQCA* – Any exhibitor who plans to show an animal at the 2024 Van Buren Youth Fair must attend a class or take the class online. *Capitol Experience* – Amanda Towne will participate on the stirring committee. *4-H Club Officer Training* – Fifteen attendees have registered representing four clubs.

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. *Enrollment Incentives* -- We are waiting for a receipt from Tina Loomis.

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New Business: *Fair Book Cover Contest* – Seven entries were received. The winner was chosen as Porsha Tomsa (South Haven Jay Dees) with the runner-up chosen as Owen Hamre (Almena Happy Helpers).

Expansion Review: Janice will try to schedule time to attend schools.

Fair Board Update: Free Grandstands – There will be no charge to attend events hillside. Gate admission has increased to – Exhibitor passes \$15; Weekly passes are as follows: Adult \$35; Child \$25; Senior \$30; Draft Horse and Leaders \$20; Leader spouses are \$25; Daily admission will be as follows: Adult \$10; child \$5 and Seniors \$8.

Announcements: *Next meeting* – March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center.

Adjournment: Amy Mortimore moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Nancy Wheatley. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Darling
LA Secretary