

Pennington County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting
March 9, 2021 – 6:00PM Via Zoom

- I. **Call to Order** – Vice President Lloyd Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:16pm MDT, due to poor connectivity for Rausch.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge** - Morgan led both pledges for the group.
- III. **Introductions – Roll Call** – Melanie Rausch (President; also Leader of Folsom Pioneers), Lloyd Morgan (Vice President; co-leader of Black Hills Home Explorers), Stephanie Wellman (Treasurer; Rushmore Riders & Explorers parent), Trisha Miller (Secretary; also leader of Rushmore Riders & Explorers), Kim Suckow (Pennington County 4-H Office Assistant; also Rushmore Riders & Explorers parent), Mary Williams (leader of the Cedar Butte Challengers), Jacob Rausch (Folsom Pioneers Leader), Kim McCarty (leader of Paws in Motion), Patty Brunner (co-leader of Shamrock Riders), Tom Allen (leader of Busy as a Bee Club), and Regina Bakley (Pennington County 4-H Youth Program Advisor).
- IV. **Secretary's Report** – Minutes of Last Meeting – Allen motioned and Wellman seconded to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as read. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote, with Secretary Miller abstaining (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – abstain; Williams – aye; Brunner – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Allen – aye; McCarty – aye; Morgan - aye).
- V. **Treasurer's Report** - Wellman reviewed individual fundraiser balances as well as overall budget, with current overall balance as of January 31, 2021 at \$86, 065.14 and the Leader's Association subaccount individually (General Fund, which included our budgeted amount for this year) with a balance of \$38,674.58 and a remaining 2020-2021 budgeted amount of \$12,426.35. Wellman provided an updated financial report format and was given positive feedback in response.
 - **Western Junior Food Booth Results** – Wellman pointed out that the profit for the food booth was \$5,070.22 this year.
 - **BHSS 50/50 Results** – Wellman made the group aware that profit was \$1,985.96 this year.
- VI. **Endowment Report** - Wellman explained that our endowment is up to \$27, 108.67 total, with \$2,679.54 made between October 2020 and December 2020. The maximum percent distribution available for us, then, is \$787.30 (4.5%). Suckow made the group aware a decision needs to be made about whether the Leader's Association is going to take the distribution out or not. She explained that a certain percentage must go to the Archery Scholarship and Brunner Perseverance Award. Brunner voiced to the group that the more we leave in the endowment, the more money it will continue to make. Morgan agreed, stating that if we are not needing that additional money, it should be left to accrue more funds. Brunner motioned to put the distribution amount into the Endowment Fund; Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; Williams – aye; Brunner – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Allen – aye; McCarty – aye; Morgan - aye). Suckow agreed to ensure Rausch completes the paperwork stating we have decided to leave the distribution in the Endowment Fund and get it turned in.
- VII. **Committee Reports**
 - 50/50
 - **BHSS Followup** – Suckow reported that all of the kids who volunteered to assist with the 50/50 at BHSS events earned money. Central States Fair and 4-H Leaders Association earned a little over \$2000 total, which was better earnings overall than last year. Suckow made the group aware she had created mini instruction cards on how to check ticket numbers and claim awards, which was successful in leading to an increased number of claimed winnings. Suckow explained that decisions must be made for upcoming 50/50 sales. She stated that for us to be able to use machines and printouts for purchased tickets, we would need to make \$20,000 just to break even on the fundraiser. McCarty voiced that the advantage of the machines was that a running total of the dollar amount to be won was readily displayed, which then

created a draw for more sales. Morgan suggested a committee be created and then a decision be made in May; Morgan volunteered to help on the committee.

- CSF Committee Assignments – Bakley and Suckow spoke on the importance of going back to the fair system we had used in the past wherein individual parents/leaders/etc. were in charge of individual 4-H events at the CSF (e.g, lining up judges, setting up the events, etc.). Leaders are to put out a call for volunteers amongst parents in the clubs, but this call for volunteers will also be put in the 4-H Friday newsletters.
- Workshops – Bakley reported that three workshops are set at this time:
 - Scrapbooking – This workshop is tentatively set for this Saturday, though there is only one individual signed up at this time. Morgan inquired about how long this workshop has been advertised; Regina stated it was in the last two Friday newsletters at least. Wellman inquired into what project area this could fall under for fair exhibition; Suckow and Bakley explained it could go under Hobbies & Collections or Visual Arts-Paper. Bakley explained Pennington County 4-H can have any particular exhibit category for our county fair, so exhibiting locally will not be an issue. State Fair exhibition would require that it fit in a project area and that can be examined once the 2021 State Fair Book is released, hopefully in early April. Group consensus was to see if perhaps this could get pushed back to a later time (April 17th?) to allow more advertising and leader encouragement for participation. Bakley agreed to look into this.
 - Cupcake Decorating – Because of Mom bakery has been slated to provide this workshop at the beginning of April (date to be announced soon), wherein four cupcakes will be supplied to each participant. The workshop will be limited to 15 participants at the Junior/Senior membership level. Miller inquired about use of the gingerbread house decorating supplies purchased in Fall 2020 but not used; Miller also inquired about lack of approval for the funds for those supplies, as there had been no discussion in the meeting in Fall 2020. Bakley stated all supplies are already being supplied by the workshop leader, but that the gingerbread house supplies can be used at a later date. Bakley also stated workshops and the supplies used for them do not have to be approved by the Leader's Association.
 - Advanced Wood Burning – This workshop will be limited to those who attended the Beginner Wood Burning workshop. It is set for April 17 from 10a-Noon.
- Horse – No Pennington County update. Bakley made the group aware that discussion has been occurring about the possibility of Custer and Fall River counties combining for a horse show. Brunner stated perceptions that this concept has been generally well-received. Brunner asked if Bakley was aware if other counties combine for their horse shows; Bakley stated uncertainty about this. Brunner stated perception it would be do-able and is hopeful it will occur.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- Gardening Grant – Shed
 - Bakley stated she has a Live Well Black Hills grant ready to submit this week, as we our application was not selected for a State Leaders Association Grant.
- YMHFA – There has been little interest in doing the training. Bakley stated a date for the training will be chosen soon and perhaps this will then help people decide if they would like to attend the training.
- Gun Club Purchase Update - Suckow reported she ended up contacting the online companies and she was able to write checks to both places and submit an online order (as they knew she was sending them checks).
- Finance Audit Update – Wellman stated this was completed last week and there were no big issues to correct. At this time, Morgan inquired about the status of the group's discussion in a previous meeting about correcting our

tax status. Wellman explained that the first draft of our tax form has been submitted and our Articles of Incorporation have been submitted to the State, so we are a legit business now. Wellman made the group aware that legally, all clubs should be filing Bylaws and get Articles of Incorporation with the State of SD.

- Rush Game Update – The Rush assigned 4-H Night to Friday, April 30th. Suckow stated disappointment that none of the Rush’s marketing info has cited 4-H Night, despite citing many of the other specific promotion nights.

IX. New Business

- Leaders Scholarship
 - Bakley made the group aware the office would like to see two \$500 scholarships vs the current one \$500 scholarship.
 - Goal is to choose and announce by May 1st of the Seniors high school graduation year so youth can add it to their Scholarship Awards list.
 - In discussion, Miller stated agreement to awarding more. Morgan agreed. Wellman inquired why so few (3 of 30 Seniors last year) apply each year and inquired if it has something to do with perception of who will win and that they do not have a chance. McCarty stated perception this is true. Williams explained she is on the RC Chamber for Agriculture Committee and they, too, have had low numbers of applicants; Williams perceives some of this has to do with less guidance by school counselors than in the past. In discussion, Suckow and Bakley stated only email announcements are sent to Seniors, but they could begin mailing info about the scholarship; there was a general agreement this would be a good decision. Morgan motioned, Wellman seconded for three scholarships to be offered this year, with award amounts being \$750, \$500, and \$250. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; Williams – aye; Brunner – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Allen – aye; McCarty – aye; Morgan - aye).
- Western Youth in Action Day and Wall Youth in Action Day
 - Bakley made the committee aware she feels having these youth in action days takes away from Achievement Days and that numbers are so low she feels only one or the other is necessary. She stated the preparation time, payment for judges, etc. does not seem worth doing. Bakley also stated if the group does decide to continue to hold these youth in action events in the Spring, that they should not be able to be counted toward going to State Fair.
 - Miller expressed not having spring youth in action events then piles on more stress and preparation work for members during an already-stressful back-to-school and start of Fall athletics time. Wellman agreed, stating spring youth in action events also allow youth a chance to participate who may not be able to during fair time. Morgan inquired about how much the payment for judges is; Bakley made the group aware that approximately \$140 or so is used for judges. Williams pointed out that the Wall Youth in Action used to have many members attend (in years prior to COVID) and it only held Consumer Science Judging and Public Presentations. Bakley told the group she will take all of the discussion items into consideration and she and Suckow would make a decision as to what to do with the spring youth in action events.
- Achievement Days Committee – Bakley and Suckow stated a group of show chairs that help organize and run the event are needed. Each of the following chairs are those needed; chair duties include helping organize their particular show and being present at the show to make sure contestants are checked in and the judge has everything needed:
 - Rabbit Show Chair
 - Companion Animal Show Chair

- Fashion Review Show Chair
- Special Foods Contest Chair
- Poultry Show Chair
- Robotics Challenge Chair

Wellman inquired when the 2021 SD State Fair Book will be released; Suckow stated it should be provided on April 1st or early in April.

- Achievement Days Theme
 - Bakley made the group aware there is no SD State Fair Theme this year; Suckow had contacted the SDSF manager and confirmed this. If we do choose a theme for our 4-H building during CSF, the decorations can be taken and used at our State Fair 4-H exhibits area for decoration.
 - Bakley stated a \$50 cash prize could be awarded in a theme submission contest if we would like to do so.
 - Miller motioned for a 4-H theme submission contest to be held wherein county 4-H members will submit themes by next meeting and those present at the next Leader's Association meeting will select the winning theme and \$50 cash will be awarded to the winner. Wellman seconded. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; Williams – aye; Brunner – absent; J. Rausch – aye; Allen – absent; McCarty – aye; Morgan - aye).
- Achievement Day Trophies/Awards
 - Review Trophy List – Suckow and Bakley provided a list of the 4-H trophies currently being awarded at Central States Fair Achievement Days and the project areas grouped for each trophy category. They also provided statistics on the number of exhibits in each category, by project area. As the Visual Arts project area consistently brings in the most exhibits, some discussion was held on perhaps separating Visual Arts out on its own or doing something different with the grouping of project areas to account for the number of exhibits in each award grouping. Voting on this item was tabled; Suckow and Bakley will examine this further and bring other options to next meeting to be voted upon. Bakley would also like to choose a different design for the trophies this year.
- List of Important Pennington County 4-H Event Dates
 - Bakley and Suckow provided a year-long list of events and dates and ask that leaders and parents review the list and make the office aware if there are other events that have been left off.

X. Announcements

- Measuring Contest at Western Family Consumer Science Show is looking for a new chair. Joyce Bowman & Mary Lunders would like to step down. Joyce is willing to help and train the new person. Please contact the 4-H Office if you are interested. Easiest event at the show! It will be held October 11th this year.
- Next Meeting – May 4th (instead of May 11th, due to Bakley's schedule)

XI. Other Business

- Flags for Fallen Vets – Miller made the group aware of a citizenship/community service opportunity for all clubs and community members in which individuals place flags on the headstones at the Black Hills National Cemetery. Miller will get the information to Bakley to be put in the Friday newsletters sent out to all members.
- 4-H Friday Newsletter format – Miller inquired what others think about the current 4-H Friday format. Miller stated the current format has so many attachments and some do not open on all electronic mediums (phones, especially), so some families have voiced it is difficult to view everything or to find time to open all attachments. Bakley responded, explaining that the current format is a lot easier for herself and Suckow to prepare and that

the previous format utilized was a lot more work, hence the reason for the change this year. In discussing, others also voiced the number of attachments prohibiting viewing of the information. Bakley stated she will look into changing the word documents into .pdf attachments for easier viewing.

- Morgan inquired about the group's response to previous medical issues for county members. Miller made Morgan aware Rushmore Riders & Explorers did something as a club for a member. Wellman stated the Leaders Association did do something for a leader who had died.

XII. Adjournment

- Wellman motioned to adjourn the meeting as of 7:56pm MDT, J. Rausch seconded. Unanimous vote of approval was reached; Morgan adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

XIII. Next Meeting(s):

- **Tuesday, March 4th, 2021 6pm**

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