

Pennington County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting  
September 22, 2020 – 6:00PM MDT  
Conference Call Meeting via Zoom (per COVID-19)

- I. **Call to Order** President Melanie Rausch called the meeting to order at 6:02pm MDT
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge** – led by Miller
- III. **Introductions & Roll Call:** Melanie Rausch (President; also Leader of Folsom Pioneers), 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), Kim McCarty (leader of Paws in Motion), Mary Williams (leader of the Cedar Butte Challengers), Jacob Rausch (Folsom Pioneers Leader), and Regina Bakley (Pennington County 4-H Youth Program Advisor). [Vice President Christina Dehn joined the meeting at 6:28pm MDT]
- IV. **Secretary's Report – Minutes of Last Meeting** - J. Rausch motioned to approve the July 14, 2020 meeting minutes as read. Wellman seconded; motion carried unanimously via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – abstain; McCarty – aye; Williams – aye; J. Rausch – aye).
- V. **Treasurer's Report** Wellman reviewed account balances across all subaccounts, with current overall balance at \$71,392.52 and the Leader's Association subaccount individually with a balance of \$33,871.70 and a remaining 2019-2020 budgeted amount remaining of \$7,657.49. Miller motioned, McCarty seconded, to accept the Treasurer's report as read. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – abstain; Miller – aye; McCarty – aye; Williams – aye; J. Rausch – aye).
- VI. **Endowment Report** – No update.
- VII. **Committee Reports**
  - 50/50
    - Bakley reported that the overall amount brought in was \$4,216.42, so once this amount is split with Central States Fair, our earnings should be approximately \$2,108.21.
  - BHSS Plans/Committee
    - Group began discussion on whether to hold 50/50 sales during the Black Hills Stock Show. Suckow made the group aware \$1,900 was earned through 50/50 sales at the more consistently well-attended events at the Kjerstad Event Center on Central States Fairgrounds (10 shifts over 4-5 days). With uncertainty of COVID and what events would be occurring and on what dates/days of the week, discussion was tabled until next meeting. Bakley will look further into the dates/events that are set and bring this to next meeting for the discussion.
  - Workshops
    - No workshops are currently scheduled or planned, given current COVID-19/mask-wearing requirement. Bakley invited anyone with desire to plan or lead a workshop to contact her with ideas, however.
  - 4-H Horse Show
    - State Horse Show was held, with three Pennington County 4-H'ers participating and all three secured top awards. Bakley made the group aware there was no stalling allowed in Huron for the event so participants had to make their own arrangements and a Huron family was found who allowed our county's participants to stall their horses for free. Overall, Bakley reported the State Horse Show was a success, despite the changes and barriers.
- VIII. **Unfinished Business**
  - Changes to bank account – Lytle has been removed and Miller has been added. M. Rausch has not yet been added but will go to the bank in the coming week and do so.
  - Table top easel purchase – Miller did purchase 48 easels, as approved in a prior meeting, and Suckow confirmed they were delivered this week.
  - Gardening Grant – Shed - No shed has yet been found or purchased. Bakley brought up the extreme weed overgrowth in the current garden plot and voiced concern about clearing out those weeds and who will do so. Miller inquired about what the overall future plan is regarding the garden remodel and whether or not

Jane Amiotte will be involved given her past involvement. Suckow expressed that no definite plan has been identified, particularly given there is no current Garden Club leader, but that the 4-H garden in Sturgis could be a definite model to go by – big walkways, tall raised beds, beautiful aesthetically, etc. All agreed, in discussion, to hold off on purchase of a shed until a further plan is set and until Bakley has been able to obtain quotes for professional weed removal, installation of raised beds, etc., and bring this information back to the group.

[Dehn joined the meeting – 6:28pm MDT]

- SD 4-H Leader's Association Member Dues –
  - Suckow made group aware there are approximately 30 leaders and dues would be \$3 each
  - Dehn stated she had thought the group had decided we would go ahead and pay for leaders only (not volunteers), but hold off until next club year at this point. Group agreed with this recollection.
    - Miller motioned, J. Rausch seconded, for Pennington County Leader's Association to pay for 30 leaders' State 4-H Leader's Association dues for the coming 4-H year. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; McCarty – aye; Williams – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Dehn - aye).
  - Miller also made the group aware she did go forward with becoming a representative for Pennington County 4-H in the State 4-H Leader's Association.
- Premium Checks for Achievement Days (given at Recognition Event)
  - Significant discussion occurred about whether to continue writing checks for very small amounts or whether some alternative can be done to circumvent this. One idea surfaced through brainstorm discussion to potentially have a single lump sum check written to each club leader in the total amount earned across the club's members, wherein the club leader would then disperse the individual amounts. Leaders would be provided a list with each member's individual earned amount to do so. Wellman questioned whether leaders would all be on board with being responsible for getting the money divided out to do so and whether or not this is allowable under the current state policy. Other ideas such as providing alternatives to cash premiums or allowing members to apply low amount cash premiums toward their following year's membership dues were also brought up. Bakley agreed to contact Dr. Tim Tanner and find out what is allowable or what is being done in other counties and get back to the group quickly for an electronic vote on this issue yet this week.

## **IX. New Business**

- Achievement Days Review
  - Suckow stated carrying exhibits from judges stations to ribbon station was too cumbersome. Suckow also made the group aware some judges liked how 4-H'ers had individual shifts to come in to be judged, but Suckow is not certain how practical this would be without the restricted amount of interviewing that was in place this year due to COVID-19 guidelines.
  - Recognition Event Plans – Tentatively November 1st (Regina – Covid-19 Items)
    - Bakley made the group aware of the current State restriction in place that limits any 4-H indoor event to 60 or fewer people, even with masking. Bakley questioned the group on whether it was desired to still try to have a Recognition Event or to instead have club leaders hand out the awards within their individual clubs. Group consensus was to still try to have a Recognition Event, but to look into alternative locations to allow for more spacing. Bakley brought up the

possibility of checking into using the Soule Building on CSF and spacing families out or other options locally. Bakley agreed to send out a request for input from 4-H families through the 4-H Friday email this week to get an idea of how many attendees we might be looking at, to help guide what kind of space would be needed. The group agreed members' immediate family members only would be allowed to attend, to limit attendance.

○ Wreath Fundraiser

- Update – Suckow made the group aware that she recently found out that Cheryl, the past area coordinator for this, is currently home on hospice care due to cancer. A former 4-H leader, Teresa Derr, is currently trying to find out from Cheryl's husband (Jim) whether or not someone is taking coordination of the wreath sales over this year, but Derr has not yet heard back about this. Depending on when Derr receives this information, wreath sales window may be very brief this year.
- Profits to Clubs process – Suckow reminded the group that last year, the group had voted to allow any sales to new individuals to go to the 4-H Club of the member the wreath was sold by. Suckow questioned about continuing to do this, as the amount of new persons to acquire sales from will undoubtedly shrink over time. McCarty expressed being in favor of giving a percentage of the overall sales income each club's members brought in to that individual club. Miller agreed and inquired if there was a certain amount of income the Leader's Association desired to be able to clear for themselves from wreath sales, so as to look at past amounts and determine what percentage might be reasonable. Bakley reminded the group that any decision made this year could simply be tried for this year and then revote on what to do with sales for next year. Suckow provided financial input, stating last year's new wreath sales brought in \$1,700 of income and repeat customer sales accounted for \$3,500 income, for a total income of approximately \$5,200 from wreath sales. As \$1,700 is about 33% of the overall sales from last year, Miller brought 30% up as a ballpark conservative percentage suggestion to allow clubs to keep to allow for slightly lower sales possible due to COVID-19. McCarty brought up a desire for clubs to retain 40-50% of sales. After discussion waned, Miller introduced a motion for clubs to retain 35% of wreath sales this year. Dehn seconded this motion. Motion carried via roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; McCarty – nay; Williams – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Dehn - aye). After the vote, Miller stated to McCarty that while she agreed with McCarty that more should go to the kids for selling the wreaths, making that big of a change in a year when overall sales are highly uncertain and the window for sales may be brief seems unwise, but that raising the percentage amount should be revisited next year.

○ Trophies Awarded to Blue Ribbons

- Wellman brought up concern regarding inconsistency in determinations for trophies awarded at county fair, citing examples wherein individuals who received a blue ribbon on an exhibit were awarded the trophy over individuals who had received a purple ribbon. Miller agreed the process seems unpredictable to 4-H members because of this. Bakley explained that because there is an uncontrollable difference in how some judges judge versus others, those receiving blue ribbons and those receiving purple ribbons are both considered by judges who determine the trophy awards. Miller expressed examples wherein it did not seem judges were consistently taking into account what the State Fair book said about certain exhibits, about 4-H'ers ages, etc. when awarding ribbons in the last several years. Bakley and Suckow explained that time is taken each year to educate judges about taking into account members' ages, 4-H division, etc. and

judges are provided with a packet of what the criteria from the State Fair book is in the area they are judging, even prior to interview day.

#### **X. Announcements**

- Open House October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Event will be held from 6-8pm; all clubs are strongly encouraged to have a booth set up for this event to welcome prospective new members.
- Record Books Due by Leaders to Office October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm
  - Suckow reminded leaders it was decided in a prior meeting that leaders will determine at the club level whether to provide sticker ribbons for each book turned in by members in their club
- Record Book Judging Meeting - October 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm
  - Will be important to have many leaders at this meeting to help judge books to get this done in a timely manner
- Recognition Event November 1<sup>st</sup> – tentative based on discussion noted above
- Christmas Ornaments – Green with Club Name or Logo. Need one per club turned in.
  - Bakley explained that ornaments will be hung on the Pennington County 4-H tree to be displayed at the old Governor's Mansion locally at their annual tree viewing event. The tree the county has is white, so ornaments are requested to be green or white, preferably green, and it is preferred for the ornaments to be turned in by November 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4-H office.

#### **XI. Other Business**

- Western Jr. Food Booth = Miller inquired about whether this is occurring and whether clubs are needing to bring pies again this year. Suckow made group aware the WJ food booth is still going to occur on October 8-11. M. Rausch stated she is able to head up the food booth on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, but she will not be available on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. McCarty brought up possibility of covering shifts by not requiring that two youth members must be in attendance for a shift to be filled. Rausch reported that Bakley, Suckow, and herself are meeting next week to determine if there are enough volunteers this year to successfully run the food booth. Information will be sent out after that meeting occurs.
- Wellman commented that she did get our financial data started in Quickbooks this week.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

- Miller motioned, J. Rausch seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45p MDT, per unanimous roll call vote (M. Rausch – aye; Wellman – aye; Miller – aye; McCarty – aye; Williams – aye; J. Rausch – aye; Dehn - aye).

#### **XIII. Next Meeting(s):**

- **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Record Book Judging at 6pm MDT**
- **November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6pm at MDT, likely via ZOOM**