

**Los Angeles 4-H County Council**, Saturday, January 27, 2024 Online Virtual Meeting Zoom, conference call

Attendance includes - NSG-Noel Keller, Pomona Valley; Judylynn Pelling, Fredrick Young, Eagle Rock-Highland Park ; SSG- Johanna Stewart; SFV - Amy & Maddy Lockmann, Agoura 4-H. AV - Sarah Bonham, Little Rockers, Amber Boeker. Canyon Coyotes, Sarah Monaco, Quartz Hill; Charlene Moore, county 4-H office.

The meeting of the Leaders Council was called to order by Vice President Amy Lockmann at 10:05 am. Maddy led the Flag salute and 4H Pledge. Noel moved we approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah. The motion passed.

**Minutes** of the September 23, 2023 meeting. Noel Keller moved we accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Johanna Stewart. Voted on and passed.

**Correspondence:** None received.

**Open Forum** – 1) Saturday can be a busy day 4-H families, with sports events, classes, etc.. To get more leaders to attend, we might want to consider changing the day for the county council meeting to a different day of the week. Other 4-H committees do not necessarily meet on Saturday. The Camp Committee, district council meetings, the I&R committee, SGV Fair planning committee and the county council executive meeting all are held on days other than Saturday. Perhaps the council could consider trying a different day of the week for each of its four meetings.

2) Apparently there is a regional group, called the SoCal Collaborative, planning or coordinating events for Southern California 4-H members to meet each other and have fun. Charlene reported about this group Here is their information: Thanks to all who could attend the SoCal Collaborative Meeting last night – another great idea exchange among some very enthusiastic folks! We are lucky to have excited volunteers and staff to develop these great upcoming events.

Here is a link to the meeting notes: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xy-pwWpy2ndzU7YKXj9AuU6ge6huvx6wL/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=107190827073045338829&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xy-pwWpy2ndzU7YKXj9AuU6ge6huvx6wL/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=107190827073045338829&rtpof=true&sd=true)

As requested, a contact list is now available. Please add your info to it. Here is the link: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13G-JGPUPC14KFIVg-buJDMRuXjDB8UIYc/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=107190827073045338829&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13G-JGPUPC14KFIVg-buJDMRuXjDB8UIYc/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=107190827073045338829&rtpof=true&sd=true)

The next SoCal Collaborative meeting will be Tues Feb 20 at 6:30pm. Watch for a calendar invite.

Please begin marketing the following:

1. 125<sup>th</sup> Golden Dragon Parade & Festival – Downtown LA/Chinatown Lunar New Year Celebration – Sat Feb 17
2. Regional Ice Skating Event – Sun Mar 3
3. Imaginology – April 13-14
4. Regional Leadership Summit(s) – Planning Team – volunteers needed
5. Super-Project – ag education focused on 4 crops – strawberries, cherries, apples & pumpkins – volunteers needed to develop this project

And more great stuff to follow!

**Program—SSG district presentation** - there was none.

**Council Officer Reports:**

**No President, Vice-President or 2nd Vice-President reports.**

**Treasurer's Report:**; Noel moved it be approved as submitted. Seconded by Sarah Bonham. Voted on and passed.

**County Office Report:** - 1. Names on club rosters sent from Roy need to be correct. Please check and save copies for your club. Send your check to Roy. 2. Charlene's job ends at the end of June. They have approval to hire a replacement by the end of the program year. Charlene may do a few months of training the new person. They could be in the North or South of the county. Job postings should be up in March. Interviews will be in April/May. 3. There is no information out on Regional field day yet. Charlene will ask about it. Should be March/April. She will check on the state fashion revue. 4. Charlene is still working out of her home..

**District Reports**  
**1. AV** –Amber Boeker reported-- The Livestock Symposium was at the end of October. They had a lot of members attend. The change in the dates of the livestock shows is causing a lot of health problems with the livestock. They had a successful Christmas party. **2. SFV**- No report. **3. SSG** - They are working on the SGV Fair. **4. NSG** - report by Noel Keller We had a successful and fun NSG district Fall Festival and Awards event on Saturday, October 21. We presented awards, had a spooky cake contest, a cake walk, a couple of science activities, craft project and games. We are hoping to have some NSG district parties, but none have been planned yet. The district is now planning the Monte Farmer's Fair for Feb. 10 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and helping to plan the San Gabriel Valley 4-H Fair which will occur in April. Our NSG Home Ec & Field, plus NSG County Food Fair is being planned for March 9.

## **Committee/ Other Reports:**

1. **All Star Ambassador Team** – Matty Lockmann will be collecting blankets for Project Linus. She would like each club to make 5 blankets, for a total of 70 for the county. Communicate with the team at [lacountyambassador4h@gmail.com](mailto:lacountyambassador4h@gmail.com)
2. **Jr. Leader Conference** on October 7, was fun with 3 speakers. One was a firefighter talking about safety and responsibility.
3. **County Healthy Living Event** needs to be rescheduled.
4. **County Judging Day** is Feb. 24, 2024 We are still waiting for final approval from Little Rock High School. Charlene will send out Emails as soon as this is conformed. All clubs need to volunteer to organize and run a judging room. They will need 3 people to run a room. They need to have at least 5 classes for each age group. If you are bringing primary members, please RSVP. Letting Charlene know how many are coming from your club is very helpful, but not necessary. We will not turn anyone away.
5. **Livestock** Symposium – For fall 2024, it will be in late October or early November. It depends on other livestock events that are attended by the people we want as speakers.
6. **County Field Day** - This year SFV with Amy Lockmann is planning it. Entries are due March 1, Interview, impromptu, extemporaneous are on Zoom March 10. Videos are due March 11. Blue and Gold winners can go to Regional competition. We will need judges and room monitors for Regional and State. The California 4-H Presentation Manual (Jan. 28, 2021) should be followed for presentation competitions this year. Our county field day dates are as follows:  
  
**Mar 1** – entry forms due, **Mar 10** Impromptu/Extemporaneous /State Format Impromptu Evaluation on zoom, **Mar 11**– YouTube videos due, **Mar 10** – Interview Contest on zoom. Awards announced – **April 6**.  
  
Look for more information about all of this to come out soon. See Regional Field Day and State Field Day on the state 4-H website for further details.
7. **County Fashion Revue** – we need a chairman for this event. District events are: NSG and SSG March 9, AV March 15. Date is not set for county Fashion Revue.
8. **County Food Fair** -- the Food Fair will be done by districts as was done the last 2 years. Packets will be sent to the districts.
9. **County Science Event** --Scheduled for June 1. We have no chairman.
10. **Summer Camp** –June 16 to 22, 2024 Tentative. We are still working on a location. It looks like Camp Seely may be possible the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. Co-head youth directors are Ally Mullen and Ashley Arana. If it is Camp Seely we will need volunteers for kitchen staff. Contact Dennis DeYoung.

**11. Shooting Sports Report** – none Shoot is just being done at club level.

**12. I&R County Incentive and Recognition Committee Report** by Noel Keller, County I&R Committee Chair [nkeller91711@gmail.com](mailto:nkeller91711@gmail.com), 909-621-2373 – home, 909-957-6498 – cell **2023 County Awards event -** The 2023 County Awards program was held on Zoom after the September County Council meeting on Saturday, Sept. 23. LA County 4-H Ambassador Maddy Lockmann MC'ed the program. The program went well.

**2023 4-H Graduates** 2023 4-H Graduate pins and certificates were given out at district Achievement events in the fall. A 4-H graduate who was in 4-H for at least three years is eligible to receive an engraved 4-H graduate pin. Please contact Charlene Moore if one of your 2023 4-H graduates did not receive an engraved pin.

**2024-2025 LA County 4-H Ambassador applications** are due by Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 to Ambassador Advisor Amy Lockmann. LA County 4-H Ambassador is the highest county honor for a member. Experienced, accomplished senior members should be encouraged to apply for this working honor. It is an opportunity to expand their leadership skills and experiences. Once you are a LA County 4-H Ambassador, you are always a LA County 4-H Ambassador. A county 4-H Ambassador continues as a county 4-H Ambassador as long as they are enrolled as a 4-H member. It is the new county Ambassadors each year who take the lead for the Ambassador team that year. There is no term limit.

**Spark Achievement Program** As I have been mentioning this year, change has come to the 4-H star rank achievement program and record book program. The State 4-H announced the new Spark Achievement Program last Fall, with its three phases – Spark Achievement, Emerald Star I and II, and Impact Stars – Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Using the new Spark Achievement Program last year was optional, but the State is making it mandatory this year for Junior members, new 4-H members and returning members who have never completed a 4-H record book. The new Spark Achievement Manual and recording forms are now on the State 4-H website, and on the county website. You can now go to these sources if you want more information now about what is happening.

We will be offering an informational, training question-and-answer session via zoom on the Spark Achievement Program on **Feb. 22 7-8pm** and again on **Feb. 28 7-8pm**. Watch for more information to come out about this session.

To help differentiate the two achievement programs will be calling the Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum program the STAR RANK program and the new program will be called the SPARK ACHIEVEMENT program.

So, how does this change affect us now? There does not need to be a change in record keeping this year for Primary members. Junior members should all be doing the Spark Achievement program. New members (all ages) should be doing the Spark Achievement program. Those members who have never done a record book should do the Spark Achievement program. Intermediates and Senior members who have earned their Bronze Star and are working on their Silver/Gold/Platinum star rank can continue in that program or start the Spark Achievement program.

The Spark Achievement program has specific goals for members to achievement in learning about 4-H and their individual spark areas. Clubs will want to offer opportunities during the year for their members to achieve these goals, so look at the Sparks, Emerald Star and Impact Star Achievements Program Manual to learn about these goals.

At this time, we expect that the County Record Book Competition will be run much like last year. Encourage your members to keep their records up-to-date during the year and not wait until summer to start their records.

**Record Books for 2023-24** Information about 2023-24 record books is now on the county 4-H website. There two different Record Book ID packets – one for the Star Rank program and one for the Spark Achievement program. Be careful to use the correct ID packet and read it carefully. Note which sections are optional, but if you want your records to show all your 4-H achievements you might want to include the optional sections.

If members will be continuing the Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum program, their record books will be much the same as last year.

If members will be doing the new Spark Achievement program, their record book will a little different and include the Spark Achievement Report form. For

this year, we require that for this new program, only written My Story sections will be accepted, not the other media options mentioned in the Spark Achievement Program manual.

4-H Record Books are optional in the 4-H program. Record Books are considered separate from 4-H achievement in the Spark Achievement Program. You can earn Spark level of achievement without during a record book, but the Spark Achievement Report Form must be completed to earn the Spark levels of achievement.

For some fairs, however, keeping 4-H records is required for entry of livestock. 4-H records can be kept, without entering them in the County Record Competition at the end of the 4-H program year.

**County Record Book Evaluation to be done in August** The I&R Committee is recommending that the County Record Book Evaluation be moved from early September to late August, with the following dates:

2023-24 Record Books due – Aug. 20 by 4pm to 4H Office & Aug. 21 by 9pm to I&R Committee

Record Book “sorting” – Aug. 22, 2024 Record Book judging – Aug. 24, 2024

County Awards event – via Zoom after the county council meeting on Sept. 7 (which is moved from Sept. 21)

**Junior/Teen Leader Merit Award** - Reminder - If a member wants to apply for a Junior or Teen Leader Merit Award, they need to be in Leadership project during the 4-H program year to be eligible for the award. All clubs should consider offering a Leadership project. Also, the member needs to complete a Leadership Development Report (LDR) to be considered for the award. The Star Rank system and the Spark Achievement system have different LDR forms.

**Emerald Star Program** The State has mandated that the current Emerald Star program ends on June 30, 2024. All Emerald Star projects must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> and not carried over into the next 4-H program year. Emerald Star projects may still be started this year, but need to be completed by June 30.

The second phase of the new 4-H Achievement system is called Emerald Star, which has two parts called Emerald Star I and II. That new Emerald Star

phase is not the same as the current Emerald Star program. We like what the current Emerald Star program offers our 4-H members, so the I&R Committee is considering the creation of a county level version of the current Emerald Star program, which would be available with a new name in the next 4-H program year, starting July 2024.

**Friends of 4-H** Each program year the County Council considers honoring an individual and/or organization that have been particularly helpful to the LA County 4-H program. Each district is encouraged to submit Friend of 4-H nominations to the County council at its next council meeting in April. Up to five such awards can be made for a year by the county council. The awards are presented at a special occasion arranged by the district nominating the recipient. Friend of 4-H nomination forms are available on the county website and should be submitted to the council Vice-President Amy Lockmann by April 5.

**Reminder** – The county is not planning a county-level Leader Appreciation event again this year. Districts are encouraged to plan their own Leader Appreciation event. If any of your leaders are due a special leader pin (for years 1, 5, 10, 15, etc.), contact the county office at least a month before you need the pins for your event.

**iSprout Program for Primary Members** Our current Primary record keeping and star rank program does not lead well into the new Spark Achievement Program. It was created to lead into the Bronze/Silver/Gold Platinum star program. Now that we are moving to the Spark Achievement Program, we need to change the LA County Primary achievement program. We are recommending that the Primary members be allowed to complete their White and/or White star pin ranks in this 23-24 4-H program year, or optionally start working on the iSprout program this year. Next year (24-25) all Primaries should be doing the iSprout program.

**District Representation on the County I&R Committee** All districts should have two elected representatives on the county Incentives and Recognition Committee. The term for a representative is one year. The current 2023-2024 county I&R Committee members are Noel Keller and Judylynn Pelling from NSG, Dee Keese and Rick Herbert from SSG, Annette Hillman and Alexis Joyner from AV, and Amy Lockmann and Nicole Darway from SFV. The committee usually

meets by conference call during the year. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7:00pm by conference call.

**13. State 4-H Ambassador Report – no report**

**14. Los Angeles County Fair—4H Info booth** It will be Saturdays and Sundays in May. Members and their families get parking and admission free for working in the booth, doing simple crafts with families at the fair. ER-HP and Pomona Valley are organizing the booth.

**Old Business 1. – Update to Council's Constitution/By Laws—no report yet.**

**2. 2023-24 Calendar updates—** Noel moved we accept the updates to the calendar. Seconded by Judylynn. Voted on and passed.. The updates are as follows:

- 1) Remove the county Healthy Living from Jan. 20 – a new date has not been set
- 2) Move NSG Monte Farmers Fair from Feb. 3 to Feb. 10
- 3) Add Spark Achievement Info session to Feb. 22 and 28 at 7-8pm via zoom
- 4) Remove County Field Day from March 23
- 5) Move NSG Home Ec & Field Day, plus County Food Fair from March 2 to March 9
- 6) Add County Field Day entry forms due March 1
- 7) Add County Field Day videos due to March 11
- 8) Add County Imp/Exp Speaking Contest and Interview Contest to March 10
- 9) Move SGV 4-H Fair Entries Due from April 18 to April 20
- 10) Remove AV Food Fair from April 4 – no new date is set yet
- 11) Move Club Audit Due from Aug. 9 to Aug. 1
- 12) Move “Record Books Due .....by 5pm” from Sept 3 to Aug 20
- 13) Move “Record Books due to ..... by 9pm” from Sept 4 to Aug 21
- 14) Move “I&R Meeting - .....7 pm” from Sept 5 to Aug 22
- 15) Move LA County Record Book Judging from Sept 7 to Aug 24
- 16) Move County Council Mtg. from Sept 21 to Sept 7
- 17) Move County Awards Day from Sept 21 to Sept 7



18) No county Shooting Sports dates have been added to the calendar, since none are anticipated for this program year

**3. Vacant positions of LA County Council for 2023-24** Officers: Historian and Reporter Chairs: Agriculture Chair, Science Chair, Home Economics Chair, Shooting Sports Chair, Technology Chair, Leader Support Chair, Parliamentarian/Policy secretary, Fund Raising Chair

**New Business** 1. **District Rotation Chart Committee**—need a meeting on how events will be handled.

2. **Hi-4H Activities** It is hard to get teens to go to events. Maybe new regional events will help. We ask our Ambassadors to help with this.

3. **Call for information for our next meeting:**

Nominations for Friends of 4H, (voting at April Council mtg.)

Dates for 2024-2025 LA County 4-H Calendar (discussion in April, voting in May)

Nominations for County Council officers for 2024-25 (voting in May)

Input for LA County Council 2024-25 budget (voting in May)

**Baking Project meeting by Agoura 4-H** – Agoura 4-H will be having a Baking project meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10 10am-noon via zoom and are inviting other clubs to participate.

**General Announcements** 1. Next LA County 4H Council Meeting –April 6, 2024, (SFV hosting) via Zoom

We adjourned at 12:29pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judylynn Pelling, Secretary