

Los Angeles 4-H County Council, Saturday, February 1, 2025 Online Virtual Meeting Zoom, conference call

Attendance includes - NSG-Noel Keller, Pomona Valley; Judylynn Pelling, Eagle Rock-Highland Park; SSG- Eisa Yaaseen, Di LaPlume, PVP; Johanna Stewart; SFV - Amy Lockmann, Agoura 4-H; AV – Sarah, Ava Bonham, Heather Kock, Leona Valley Racketeers, Melinda Kasperson, Heather Leanoman, Canyon Coyotes, Rachel Hofius, Westside, Charlene Moore, County office, Araceli Hernandez Regional Program Coordinator.

The meeting of the County Council was called to order by President Amy Lockmann at 10:06 am. Ava Bonham led the Flag salute and 4H Pledge. Noel moved we approve the agenda, seconded by Judylynn. The motion passed.

Minutes of the November 16, 2024 meeting: Johanna moved we accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Noel. Disappointment was expressed that the minutes went out 2 months late. There was important information on County Field Day in it. Motion voted on and passed.

Correspondence: None received.

Open Forum – We need to improve our communication in the 4-H program. In our busy world, people need to plan ahead. There are so many opportunities for people. If we want people to participate in our activities, we need to promote/advertise our activities well in advance so people can mark their calendar and plan to attend. How do we improve our communication – monthly Clover Notes, improved county website, social media, club newsletters, etc.?

Program—NSG district presentation –moved to the end of the meeting because of a special speaker.

Council Officer Reports: President—Amy Lockmann— Thank you all for being here with the change of date.

Vice president's report — office needs to be filled

2nd vice –presidents report (youth) — Eisa – no report

Treasurer's Report:; Noel moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Sarah. Voted on and passed. Johanna explained that the county office will save requests for reimbursements/funds until it has a lot and then will send them to her to process..

County Office Report: - 1 Roy will be sending out the enrollment invoices shortly. Check your enrollment on line before you get it to make sure it matches your member and leader lists. 2. The posting for Charlene's replacement should be out this week.

Report from Araceli Hernandez, Regional Program Coordinator—Here is a summary of what she reported: Youth and adult volunteers will work in partnership on

committees. The county will be run by committees. The treasurer is the only “permanent” position. The main committee will be the Oversight /Advisory Committee. All the other committees will report to it. Youth representation should be 33%. Voting will be by committee members. We don’t need a constitution and bylaws, just an operating procedure to follow using democratic rules of order. This will begin July 1st. We can keep most things the same, just changing the names and volunteering for committees to plan our events. We can keep our districts the same as now. Araceli would like to do a leaders forum to find out what leaders need.

District Reports 1. **AV** –.Food review was January 11. It was well attended and successful. They are getting ready for the April livestock show. Mandatory exhibiter meetings and fundraiser meetings are coming up.

2. **SFV**- They are getting ready for their food review, doing record books and community service for the wildfire affected families.

3. **SSG** –They went whale watching, had a practice judging day, and have a regatta coming up for the sailing project. This is a great project that only costs members \$40.

4. **NSG** --Noel Keller The district held its NSG Home Ec & Field Day, plus County Food Fair on Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Johnstone Center in San Dimas. Members entered decorated cakes for the County Food Fair. For the district event, members entered such items as baked goods, centerpieces, trash to treasures, decorate your duds and presentations. We also had a service project, crafts and a judging contest. The district is now running the County Field Day. Entry forms for the Field Day were due yesterday. Our next district event will be our NSG Monte Farmer’s Fair on March 8. We are also working with SSG district on the plans for our SGV 4-H Fair to be held in April. Today we will be offering a short program on County Field Day for the meeting.

Committee/ Other Reports: 1.**LA County 4-H Ambassadors**–Eisa Yaaseen—100 coats, (47 adult size) were delivered Dec. 22, 2024 to the LA Mission.

2. **County Incentive and Recognition Committee Report** by Noel Keller, I&R Committee Chair (nkeller91711@gmail.com)

County Service Star program According to the State 4-H, all Emerald Star projects needed to be completed by June 30, 2024. LA County 4-H liked the Emerald Star program opportunity for its members, so on July 1, 2024 LA County 4-H started a program called **Service Star**, which is much like the prior Emerald Star program. The Service Star information and application are now on the LA County website. All districts should have elected a Service Star advisor for this program year. Service Star

projects can be started at any time during the year and can carry over to the following year.

iSprout Primary program The LA County 4-H White Star and White Star Pin program for Primary members ended on June 30, 2024. This program year, Primary members can be participating in the state iSprout program for Primary members, which has been available since 2016. For the iSprout program there are four pins that can be earned by Primary members – one for each of their primary years. iSprout information and resource materials are available on the county and State 4-H websites. The State is now also offering a simple Primary member form for Primary members who aren't doing the iSprout program and want to have some record of their activities. This simple Primary record form is available on the county website.

Club Officer Book recognition Encourage your club officers to keep records about their officer work. At the end of the program year, an officer can submit an Officer Book for their club officer position to receive recognition for their officer work. Information about this recognition opportunity is available and on the LA County 4-H website. All club officers 9 years and older are eligible to try for this recognition.

2025-2026 LA County 4-H Ambassador applications are due by Feb. 21, 2025. County 4-H Ambassador is the highest rank that a 4-H member can achieve at the county level. The County Ambassador award affords 4-H members the opportunity to further develop their leadership skills on a county-wide basis. It is working honor. Each year LA County can select several 4-H members who have applied and are deserving of this rank to become County 4-H Ambassadors. The LA County 4-H Program expects its LA County 4-H Ambassadors to contribute to the 4-H Program during the next program year. Once a member becomes a LA County 4-H Ambassador, the member remains on the LA County 4-H Ambassador team as long as they are a 4-H member.

Achievement Programs for 2024-25 4-H is now operating with two different achievement programs - the **Star Rank program** (the prior

Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum program) and the new **Achievements program** (Spark Achievement, Emerald Star I and II, and the Impact Stars of Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum). All Juniors, new members to 4-H and Intermediate and Senior members who did not earn a Bronze Star by June 30, 2023 should be presenting their 4-H work in a new Achievement record book.

Only returning Intermediates and Senior members who already earned at least a Bronze Star by June 30, 2023 have the option to continue working on their Silver/Gold/Platinum star rank.

The two program record books are very similar. Both have the same Title Page, Table of Contents, My Story, Collection of Work, Projects, Resume and Past Years sections. However, the Leadership reports are different. The new Achievements record book has an optional new Achievement Report section and an Activity Summary Report, where as the Star Rank record book has a PDR. The LA County 4-H website has a comparison chart of the two types of record books. We have a separate packet for the two achievement programs, as we did last year.

Currently, a new Star Rank program 2024-25 record book manual and forms, which basically just have a date change, has been put on the State website and on the county website. The manual and forms for the new Achievements program, however, still remain the same as last year with dates of 2023-24.

One change that we want clubs to be aware of is that the State is now saying that only returning Intermediates and Seniors who have earned their Silver Star by June 30, 2024 can continue in the Star Rank path program this year. LA County feels that this should have been announced for the 2023-24 program year. LA County 4-H members were not told they needed to complete their Silver Star by June 30, 2024. So, LA County is offering an option for members to request to continue in the star rank path so they can work on completing their Silver Star. This request should be made to the I&R Committee Chair, Noel Keller, by email (nkeller91711@gmail.com). There is a form on our county website for this request. This request should be submitted so that the request can be approved and returned to the member to include in their record book before entering the book in the county record book competition.

The State also mentioned recently that the Star Rank path program will sunset on June 30, 1927. This was also not mentioned to members. The I&R Committee will be discussing how LA County will handle this restriction.

We are considering starting a FAQ (frequently asked questions) on record books on the LA County 4-H website. Email your questions to Noel and we will put the answers in the FAQ option. For a starter, there has been a question “If you are not working on a Spark Achievement level, can you create a record book and optionally submit it to the county record book competition that year?” The answer is “YES”. The new Achievements program and the record book program are considered separate programs now. If you are not working on a new Achievements level during that year, that section of your record book should be left empty.

With the release of our information packets on record books for 2024-25, the LA County 4-H guidelines are set for our 2024-25 record books. We will keep clubs informed if any major changes by the State occur and we need to update our county record book guidelines.

The Record Book information packets are on the LA County 4-H website. The Star Rank program will continue as it has been in the past. Returning Intermediates and Seniors, who have earned their Bronze Star rank by June 30, 2023 can still be working on their next star rank. We will be adding clarifying information about record books to county website, such as examples of Expression pages for an APR, the FAQ option, examples of Emerald Star I and II completed forms and examples of Impact Star completed forms..

Contact a member of the county I&R committee if you have questions about 4-H records and record books this year

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 2024-2025 county I&R Committee members are Noel Keller and Judylynn Pelling from NSG, Dee Keese and Di LaPlume from SSG, no representatives from AV, and Amy Lockmann and Nicole Darway from SFV. We thank Sarah Bonham for temporarily participating on the committee until two AV representatives can be elected. The

committee usually meets by conference call during the year on the fourth Tuesday. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7:00pm by conference call.

3. Shooting Sports Report – Alexa Rose Ryan Shirley There will be a mandatory meeting for shooting sports leaders March 29-30. Chuck Sparks has been certified as a training leader. He has the information.

4. Science Committee—Sarah Bonham Making goat soap was very successful. Members really enjoyed it.

5. District Rotation Chart Committee— Amy Lockmann Committee meeting is Feb. 19 at 7pm. The committee will discuss the upcoming changes to the 4-H organization. Please let Amy know if you would like to be on this committee.

6. Summer Camp Staff applications are available on the summer camp website, 4Hcamp.com. They are due March 21. Interviews will be March 22..

Old Business 1. Healthy Living Hike was Dec. 7 in Griffith park at the site of the old zoo. Weather was beautiful, A good time was had by all.

New Business 1. Wild fire community service—topic tabled

2. County Field Day. LA County Field Day is occurring this year in February, a month earlier than usual, to try to spread out more of the county events. This can also be an advantage to our members who will be able to register, if eligible, for Regional Field earlier so they can get better time slots for the regional competition.

We are planing to run County Field Day much like last year, with YouTube videos for most of the event categories, with the exception of the Interview, Impromptu and Extemporaneous contests being done via zoom. The event dates are as follows: Jan. 31 – entry forms due Feb. 9 – Impromptu, Extemporaneous and Job Interviews via zoom Feb. 10 – entry URLs due Feb. 22 – Field Day awards announced via zoom at 9am

after Feb. 22 – score sheets and awards will be mailed out districts for distribution

We will try to work out the presentation appointments on Feb. 9 so they don't conflict with the Super Bowl game being played that day. We had the event packet ready by Dec. 16 and available on the county website. We emailed out a reminder about the event to clubs on Jan. 21 and included a copy of the event packet. The descriptions of the interview jobs are now available and were sent to the clubs.

At this time we have 32 entries with 5 clubs participating.

Those Junior, Intermediate and Senior members who earn a blue or gold award at County Field Day will have the opportunity to compete in the Regional Field Day activities, which occur April 14 - April 24. To ensure an appropriate evaluator-to-presenter ratio, the state is modifying their presenter registration process. They will open Evaluator registrations in February. Presenter registration will be contingent on the number of evaluators already registered. Starting on March 5, 2025, and continuing every Wednesday through April 16 at 6pm, they will release presenter slots for youth participants based on the number of evaluators that are registered. Registration for presenter slots will operate on a first-come, first served basis. We are hoping that our current county field day evaluators will be willing to be regional field day evaluators, but we may need additional evaluators for the regional competition since our county ratio is 1-5 and the state ratio is 1-3. Please contact Noel Keller if you would be willing to be an online regional evaluator for our county. The evaluating is done via zoom. In fact, you might want to volunteer to evaluate at our county level so you are more experienced for the regional level.

3. 2025-26 County 4H Ambassador Applications - due on Feb. 21. Be sure to arrange for the three needed recommendation letters.

4. County Judging Day in AV will be March 15 at Palmdale HS (NEW INFORMATION, DATE CHANGED TO MARCH 15 BY THE SCHOOL WE ARE USING) Judging will start at 9am. There will be a healthy living event after judging, before awards.

5. Updates to LA County 4-H 2024-25 Calendar – revision 1/25/25

The new 2024-25 LA County 4-H calendar was approved at our county council meeting on May 18, 2024. An effort has been made to keep the 2024-25 calendar up-to-date on the county 4-H website. Clubs, districts and committees should now be aware of these approved 2024-25 activity dates and additional activities should be planned around these approved dates. We expect that during the 2024-25 program year that some of these approved activity dates may need to be changed with the approval of the County Council. Additional dates or changes for the 2024-25 calendar should be sent to Amy Lockmann.

Although not reviewed at this meeting in detail, the following are recent updates to the 2024-25 LA County 4-H Calendar:

2025

Move County Judging Day & Healthy Living event from Jan. 18 to March 15

Move the County Council mtg from Jan. 25 to Feb 1.

Move County Council mtg (AV) from March 15 to March 29

Move I&R mtg from May 27 to May 14

Add So Cal Collaborative mtg to Feb. 26, March 26, April 23, May 28 and June 25

Add (SFV) to County Council mtg. on July 19

Correct the time for record books due on Aug. 19 from 5pm to 4pm

Add (NSG) to County Council mtg. on Sept. 6, 2025

6. So. Cal Collaborative. Next meeting 2/26 6:30pm via Zoom. Hi 4H Bonfire and Beach Party @ Bolsa Chica SB on Feb. 16. Treasurer Training will occur Feb. 13 and 18. More information will come out about this.

7. Open council positions. They are Vice President, Reporter/historian; Open Chairman positions are Home Ec., Leader Support, Technology, Fundraising, I&R Co-Chairman, Healthy Living and Parliamentarian.

Program—NSG district presentation – not given due to lack of meeting time

General Announcements **1.** State Field Day May 17, 2025 UC Davis Campus **a.** award Ceremony Live on Youtube, May 18, 6-8pm
b. virtual State Presentations from May 4-14
c. virtual State Interview Contest on May 8,9,10

2. Citizenship Washington Focus—June 21-27, Washington DC. Check the state website for information

3. Next Council meeting-- Saturday, March 29 10:00am on Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 am.

Respectfully submitted, Judylynn Pelling, Secretary