

Los Angeles 4-H County Council, Saturday, May 17, 2025 Online Virtual Meeting
Zoom, conference call

Attendance includes - NSG-Noel Keller, Kaitlyn Hanlon-Scardina, Pomona Valley; Judylynn Pelling, Eagle Rock-Highland Park; SFV - Amy Lockmann, Agoura 4-H; AV – Sarah Bonham, Leona Valley Racketeers, Shannon Hauptman, Kara Sparks, Canyon Coyotes, Charlene Moore, County Office.

The meeting of the County Council was called to order by President Amy Lockmann at 10:05 am. She led the Flag salute and 4H Pledge.

Adoption of Agenda - It was moved by Noel, seconded by Sarah and passed to accept the published agenda for this meeting, with the following corrections: The program today will be by SSG district Today we will vote on the 2024-25 nominations for the Friends of 4-H award, not just nominate The next county council meeting will be Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30pm via zoom, not July 19

Minutes of the March 29, 2025 meeting: Noel moved we accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Sarah. Motion voted on and passed.

Correspondence: None

Open Forum – We learned that Charlene is retiring.

Program—SSG district presentation – None

Council Officer Reports: President—Amy Lockmann- none.

Vice president's report — office needs to be filled

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

Treasurer's Report:; The report was shared on zoom. Noel moved that the treasurer's report be accepted and sent to audit. Seconded by Judylynn. Voted on and passed. A question was asked about how small clubs can have their funds kept in the county account. It requires special permission from the state and member's parents pay the fees.

County Office Report: - Charlene—1. Charlene's job has been posted, still waiting for a qualified replacement. Charlene is due to retire on May 31, but may continue a few weeks after that.

2. Leaders need to approve everyone on their membership list that needs to be approved. Leaders need everything done including a live scan and completing training videos. If they are not done by July, they will have to do everything over. Roy will send out invoices for enrollment fees. Once he does this, the list and fees cannot be changed. All records need to be corrected by the end of May. Only Roy can get into the system in June.

3. Charlene will try to get out a letter for the treasurers. Look at the report from the bank and use the bank balance. Inventory needs to be accurate, for example clippers—tell what kind of clippers and brand. Committee to review treasurer's report cannot have anyone related to the signers on the account. Reviewers have to be 2 approved adult leaders and 2 youth. It would be good to have a meeting with treasurer's record books to go over and sign, especially for small clubs that do not have enough qualified audit signers. We may need to submit our entire Treasurer's Book for an audit by the county office.

4. New year pins from state cost \$2.95 each so please use up the old pins first. Email Charlene on any missing pins.

5. Results for Regional and State Field Days will go to the county office. Hopefully Rebecca in the office can get them out.

6. No changes are expected in the enrollment fees for 205-26, The expected start of enrollment for 2025-26 is July 15 on line. Contact Roy if you need the enrollment for 2025-26 before July 15.

District Reports 1. **AV** – They had their livestock show and auction April 27 and 28. It was successful

2. **SFV**- They are wrapping up projects and getting ready for the Ventura County Fair in August.

3. **SSG** – They hosted the SGV Fair April 26th. Despite the morning rain the fair was successful. Head directors were elected for next years fair, Eisa Yaaseen is head youth director and Dee Keese is adult director. Area directors will be elected in Sept.

4. **NSG**--Noel Keller-- This year we again successfully held all our district council meetings by conference call on the first Wednesday of the month and we plan to continue with conference calls for next year. We had a Spring Party on March 30 at San Dimas Canyon Park, which was hosted by the Pomona Valley 4-H Club, and included crafts, games, an egg hunt, decorating eggs and a potluck.

With the SSG district, we helped with the planning and running of the San Gabriel Valley 4-H Fair, held on Saturday, April 26. Despite the rain and multiple events happening on the same day, the event was successful. We also held a successful NSG Monte Farmer's fair on Saturday, April 12 at the Cal Poly Pomona Visitor Center. Our event was held in conjunction with the Cal Poly Pomona "Spring on the Farm" event. For those who came into the Visitor Center, we had an exhibit of 4-H project work, crafts to make and some science experiences. We had hoped to participate in the Orange County Imaginology event at the OC Fairgrounds, but the event occurred on the same day as our Monte Farmers Fair this year. Some of our

club members now have entries in the LA County Fair this month in Building 5 at the Pomona fairplex.

Committee/ Other Reports: 1. **LA County 4-H Ambassadors**—Desere Mullen has expressed interest in being ambassador advisor. Applications are still open. Get an application from Noel or Amy.

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

LA County 4-H website The State 4-H website is currently under reconstruction so there may be problems getting information from their website. We hear that the new State 4-H website will be available soon and should be easier to use and have an improved search ability. Unfortunately our county 4-H website has also been unpredictable during this reconstruction period. Our county website is currently frozen and can't be updated until Roy can get some special training. Roy had been updating the county website to try to keep us current, but he will now need to redo some of that updating when the new State 4-H website goes live.

Why do I mention this? I will be mentioning items that are available on our county website, which may be gone for awhile while this re-updating is going on. If you can't find something on the county website that I talk about, please let me know and I will give you the information, until it gets back on the county website.

Deadlines for the end of 4H Program Year The end of the current 2024-2025 4-H program year is June 30, 2025. There is still a month and a half to complete your 4-H work of this program year and for a possible new rank or achievement level. 4-H work done starting July 1 should be recorded for your 2025-26 records.

As we mentioned, the LA County 4-H White Star and White Star Pin program for Primary members ended last year. This program year, Primary members are encouraged to participate in the state iSprout program for Primary members, which has been available since 2016 and has some information and resource materials on the State 4-H website. If the club decides not to follow the

iSprout program for its Primary members, there are some general Primary members record forms on the county website.

The Emerald Star program ended last year. The county Service Star replaces the prior Emerald Star program.

Achievement Programs for 2024-25 As I have been mentioning, California 4-H is now operating with two different achievement programs – the prior achievement program called the **Star Rank program** (the prior Bronze/Silver/Gold/Platinum program) and the new achievement program called the new **Achievements program** (Spark Achievement, Emerald Star I and II, and the Impact Stars of Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum).

4-H members are not required to work on 4-H achievement levels.

All 4-H member Juniors and above should be working in the new Achievements Program, if they want to work on earning 4-H achievement levels, unless the 4-H member had earned a BRONZE STAR in the prior achievement program by June 30, 2023 and wants to continue in that prior achievement program. The State has suggested a June 30, 2027 ending of this continuation option. 4-H members continuing in the option should start planning ahead to achievement their goals by this proposed date. The State 4-H is obviously trying to phase out this continuing option.

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 4-H is offering an option for members to request to continue in the star rank path, even if they did not earn their SILVER STAR by June 30, 2024. This request should be made to the I&R Committee Chair, Noel Keller, by email (nkeller91711@gmail.com) or mail (421 Juilliard Dr., Claremont, CA 91711). 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.

2024-25 Record Books The two achievement program, mentioned above, have very similar record books. 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. Be sure your club members are using the correct record book packet for filling out their record books. Unless the member is working on the Star Rank program, 4-H members 9 years old and above should use the Spark Achievement program packet information to complete a 2024-25 4-H record book.

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.

We have started 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.

The Record Book information packets are on the LA County 4-H website. We will be adding clarifying information about record books to county website, such as examples of Expression pages for an APR, examples of Emerald Star I and II completed forms and examples of Impact Star completed forms.

If you look at the State 4-H examples of completed program forms for the new Achievements program, know that the forms are completed with minimum information. You are encouraged to add more information if that would indicate more about what you did or accomplished.

If a members submits their records in the incorrect record book format, they will be given an opportunity to change their records to the correct format. Record books in the incorrect program format will not be eligible for special awards for the County Record Book competition.

Please tell your club members to look at the Record Book Judging ID packet carefully. LA County allows the original documents of the Collection of Work, which is more expanded than the state requirement. Note that there are some LDR (Leadership Development Report) relaxed requirements again for this year – **the LDR form is optional for Intermediate members and there are no word count minimums on the LDR for the Star Rank program record books.** Seniors, however, are reminded that these modified rules are only for the county level of evaluating this year.

Primary member record books are evaluated at the club level and not submitted to the County Record Book Competition.

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

Club Officer Book recognition If a club officer has done a particularly good job in club in his position, encourage them to complete an officer book and submit it for recognition. The officer books are evaluated against a standard, so all officer books could receive a Gold medal. Officer books are submitted at the same time as Record Books to the County Record Book Competition. You do not need to submit a Record Book to be able to submit an Officer Book. More information about this is available on the county website. All club officers are eligible to try for this recognition, except Primary members.

Junior/Teen Leader recognition Junior and Teen Leaders have an opportunity to be recognized for good work as a Junior or Teen Leader. To earn a Junior Leader Merit Award, the member must have been an active Junior Leader, enter their record book in the County Record Book Competition for that year and indicate that they want their 4-H records to be reviewed for a possible Leader Merit award. The record book must include an APR (Annual Project Report) with an Expression Page for a

Leadership Project and a leadership report for that year. On the leadership report, the Project Leader has an opportunity to comment on the work of their Junior/Teen Leader. The member must have done exemplary work as Junior/Teen Leader to earn a Leader Merit Award.

A member can only earn the Junior Leader Merit Award once and the Senior Leader Merit Award once. Once the Merit Award is earned, the Junior or Teen Leader patch (or pin) remains on the 4-H hat with a gold felt patch behind it indicating the Leader Merit Award.

2024-2025 County Record Book Competition and Awards Day The forms and information for the 2024 LA County Record Book Competition are available on the county website. County Record Book Evaluating will be done much the same as it has been in past year. Remember that record books for the County Record Book Evaluating will be due again in late August. Record Books and Officer's Books are due to LA by 4pm on Tuesday, Aug. 19 or on Wednesday, Aug. 20 to a member of the county I&R committee by 9pm. Record Book evaluating will occur on Saturday, Aug. 23. If a club has at least one record book submitted for the county record book competition, the club must provide at least one evaluator on Aug. 23. Please notify Noel Keller (nkeller91711@gmail.com) by Aug. 21 who will be the evaluator from your club. Be sure all record book forms are signed properly. Be sure to use the correct forms and follow the current guidelines. Late record books are not accepted for the competition.

We are planning to have the LA County Awards Program held Saturday, September 6 at 9am via zoom.

2025 State Record Book Competition The state record book competition information is not yet posted on the State 4-H website.

4-H 2025 Graduate Certificate and Pins As 4-H members graduate out of the LA County 4-H program each year, they are usually recognized at their district Achievement Day programs. Club leaders should notify the county 4-H Office with the names and years of 4-H experience of their 4-H graduate so that certificates and pins can be prepared in time for their district achievement events. If you need the graduate pins/certificates for an end-of-the-program-year event,

contact the county 4-H office as soon as possible with 4-H graduate information. If you need the graduate pins/certificates for a fall event, then contact the 4-H office during the summer when clubs are asked for year pin and new rank information. 2025 4-H Graduates who have been in 4-H three years or more will receive engraved 4-H graduate pins and 4-H graduates with less than three years of 4-H participation receive certificates.

Leader Appreciation Event Reminder- No Leader Appreciation Event is being planned by the county 4-H office. This year again, Leader Appreciation should be done by district or club.

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 March council meeting. 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. A recipient is only honored with this award one time.

2025-2026 State Incentives and Recognition Advisory Committee The State 4-H Office is now accepting applications for the state 4-H Advisory Committees, including the State Incentives and Recognition Advisory Committee, for the 2025-2026 program year. All 4-H senior members, adult volunteers, and staff are encouraged to apply. The committees offer insight, review and input for the operation and management of the state 4-H program. Applications are due to the CA State 4-H Office postmarked by May 31, 2025 or entered online.

There are 12 other state advisory committees as follows. Our LA County 4-H voice should be heard on some of these committees. Considering applying to be on one of these committees. The Application deadline is May 31, 2025.

Animal Science Camping Civic Engagement Clothing and Textiles

Healthy Living Volunteer Development Shooting Sports

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Policy

Public Speaking and Communications Record Book Competition Volunteer Coordinator

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education

For more information, see the state 4-H website

4-H Higher Education Scholarships – Information about this opportunity for 4-H senior members is available in the state April 2025 4-H Newsletter. There are several different scholarships available. Applications are due by September 7, 2025.

Special 4-H recognition - Information on two opportunities for 4-H recognition are available in the state April 2025 4-H Newsletter.

Golden Clover awards recognize outstanding achievements of members, volunteers and staff. There are several categories for these awards. Nominations are open until September 7, 2025.

Diamond Clover award is the highest achievement for a youth member or an emerging adult volunteer (ages 17-25). Applications are now open until June 15, 2025 for the 2024-25 Diamond Clover Award. All youth members who achieve the 13 requirements are eligible to receive this award. Awardees will be recognized at the State Leadership Conference ceremonies on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

District Representation on the County I&R Committee This is the time when district councils are electing their new officers for the next program year. All districts should have two elected representatives on the county Incentives and Recognition Committee. The representatives should come from different clubs in the district, but if there are not representatives from two different clubs available, the district council can vote to have their I&R representatives from the same club. Please arrange to have your district represented on this important county committee. The committee usually meets by conference call or zoom for next year on the 2nd Thursday of the months of September through May, except not in December.

The next scheduled county I & R committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30pm via zoom. Call your I & R district representatives with your incentives, recognition and awards comments, suggestions and concerns.

For more information about LA County 4-H record keeping and awards, consult the county website, the state website, the California 4-H Record Book Manual 2024-2025, the new Achievement Manual 2023-24, the LA County 4-H

Clover Notes newsletter, the county office, the state CA 4-H Newsletter, and/or members of the County Incentives and Recognition (I&R) Committee (Noel Keller, Judylynn Pelling, Amy Lockmann, Nicole Darway, Sarah Bonham, Dee Keese and Di LaPlume).

3. Shooting Sports Committee—Alexa Rose Ryan-Shirley-- No new report

4. **Science Committee**—Sarah Bonham No report

5. **Summer Camp—June 14-21** –Sign up on line at 4-H Camp. Deadline is June 1. Don't miss this event. Staff had a great training April 26, despite morning rain.

Old Business 1. **Updates to LA County 4-H 2024-25 Calendar – to be marked as revision 5/17/25** Today we are looking to see if there are any updates for future dates that are needed for the current 2024-25 LA County calendar on the website. It was moved by Noel, seconded by Kara and passed to make the following updates to the 2024-25 LA County 4-H Calendar.

1) Move I&R committee mtg from May 27 to May 14

2) Add I&R mtg to July 10, 2025

3) Move County Council mtg from July 19 to July 15, 2025

4) Move County Council mtg from Sept 6 to Sept 16, 2025

5) Move I&R mtg from Sept 23 to Sept 11, 2025

New Business 1. County Council meetings are moved to week nights. Next meeting is Tuesday July 15 at 6:30pm.

2 Regional Field Day—Regional Field Day presentations were held in April. The results were sent out to participants directly so they could register for State Field Day, if eligible. The awards and certificates will be sent out to the county 4-H offices to be distributed after State Field Day with the State Field Day certificates, etc..

3. State field Day— State Field Day virtual presentations were held in early May. The in-person State Field Day is being held in Davis today. The awards ceremony for virtual and in-person participation will be held via zoom, etc. on Sunday, May 18 at 6pm.

4. **Discussion/Vote on the 2025-2026 LA County 4-H program calendar**

After some discussion, it was moved by Noel, seconded by Sarah and passed to approve the 2025-2026 LA County 4-H Calendar as recorded by Amy Lockmann at the meeting. Amy will forward the calendar information to Roy in the 4-H office so this new 2025-26 calendar can be put on the county 4-H website as soon as possible with an approval date of 5-17-2025 and a version number of 1. Please look at the county website for the details of this new 2025-26 calendar. An effort will be made to keep the 2025-26 calendar up-to-date on the county 4-H website. Clubs, districts and committees should now be aware of these approved 2025-26 activity dates and additional activities should be planned around these approved dates. We expect that during the 2025-26 program year that some of these approved activity dates may need to be changed with the approval of the County Council. Additional dates for the 2025-26 calendar should be sent to Amy Lockmann.

The approved 2025-2026 LA County 4-H Calendar contains some significant date changes from prior years. An effort was made to spread out the county activities more over the program year. This resulted in the following dates:

County Council meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30pm via zoom, starting with July 15, 2025 and continuing every other month – July, Sept., Nov., etc.

August – County Record Book judging – Aug. 23, 2025

September – County Record Book awards – Sept. 6

September – County Science event – Sept. 14

September – Junior Leadership Conference – Sept. 27

October – County Livestock Symposium – Oct. 18 or 25

November - Healthy Living event – Nov. 8

January – County Judging Day – January 31, 2026

February – County Field Day activities – entry forms due Jan. 30, URL's due Feb. 9

March – County Food Fair held by district – date set by district

March – County Fashion Revue – March 21 tentative

May – LA County Fair – May 1-25

May – State Field Day – May 23, 2026

5. Nominations and voting for council positions--Tabled

6. Proposed County Council Budget updates for 2025-26—tabled

7. Nominations for Friends of 4H-- Tabled

8. So. Cal Collaborative-- They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month on Zoom.

Bus for State Leadership Conference—We hope to get enough from our Region to get a bus. Keith has offered this. Sr. members start 7/24 and intermediate members start 7/25.

General Announcements **1.** Next Council meeting—Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judylynn Pelling, Secretary