

**Los Angeles 4-H County Council**, Saturday, March 29, 2025 Online Virtual Meeting  
Zoom, conference call

Attendance includes - NSG-Noel Keller, Pomona Valley; Judylynn Pelling, Eagle Rock-Highland Park; SSG- Di LaPlume, PVP; Johanna Stewart; SFV - Amy Lockmann, Agoura 4-H; AV – Sarah, Ava Bonham, Leona Valley Racketteers, Melinda Kasperson, Heather Leonoides, Benjamin, Canyon Coyotes, Bee, Charlene Moore, County office,

The meeting of the County Council was called to order by President Amy Lockmann at 10:02 am. Ava Bonham led the Flag salute and 4H Pledge. Noel moved we approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah. The motion passed.

**Minutes** of the February 1, 2024 meeting: Noel moved we accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Sarah. Motion voted on and passed.

**Correspondence:** Emails were sent out about AV's request for help sponsoring awards for their fair.

**Open Forum** – We have started a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on record books on the county 4-H website. If this FAQ on record books appears to be helpful, perhaps we should consider having a FAQ on LA County 4-H. With so many new members and 4-H volunteers perhaps it might be helpful to have a place to answer questions about our LA County 4-H program.

**Program—AV district presentation** –Ava Bonham from Leona Valley Racketteers gave a presentation on how to make a lamb leg wrap, using her sewing machine. She is hoping to make more and sell them. Benjamin from Canyon Coyotes played his guitar and sang Amanillo by Morning. Thank you. Both presentations were very good..

**Council Officer Reports: President—Amy Lockmann—** Any information should be Emailed to Roy or Charlene so it can go out to the county in email form. A new web site is being planned. It needs to be cleaned up and the calendar needs to be updated.

Vice president's report — office needs to be filled

2<sup>nd</sup> vice –presidents report (youth) — no report

**Treasurer's Report:**; Judylynn moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Noel. Voted on and passed. Johanna explained that she is waiting for Roy to send her all the enrollments ( insurance) turned in to the county office

**County Office Report:** - Charlene--1 Charlene is still waiting for a replacement . Roy and Charlene are still the contacts for information. A new regional person is going to be appointed. 2. The AV District Storage Container has been moved to Charlene's front yard. It has AV materials and a lot of County materials in it., including judging day materials. County should consider if they want a storage unit in the southern area of the county. The County should share the cost of moving the unit..

**District Reports** 1. **AV** –.County Judging Day went well. Many did it who had never been to one or run a room. Next year they would like a little more help with the planning. Two clubs participated in their Fashion Review. They are getting ready for their livestock show on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

3. **SSG** –Their district Fashion Review and Food Fair was March 8. They are hosting the County Fashion Review on March 30. They are working on SGV Fair which is April 26<sup>th</sup>.

4. **NSG**--Noel Keller-- The district ran successful County Field Day activities in February, which will be reported on during event reports. Tomorrow, March 30, NSG district clubs will have a Spring Party in San Dimas Canyon Park which will include an egg hunt, games, crafts, service project and a potluck meal. We are also now planning our NSG Monte Farmer's Fair for Saturday, April 12 to be held at Cal Poly Pomona in conjunction with their big "Spring on the Farm Event", which will include egg hunts, hayrides, tractor rides, a petting zoo and exhibits. Our district fair will be in the Visitor's Center near the Farm Store. We will be hosting various craft activities, science demonstrations, games, etc., plus we will have a display of our 4-H fair entries. Since 4-H will not be having a 4-H booth at the LA County Fair this year, this event will give us a chance to promote 4-H opportunities in the area. We are also now continuing to help plan the San Gabriel Valley 4-H Fair, which will be held on Saturday, April 26. April is going to be a very busy month for us.

**Committee/ Other Reports:** 1.**LA County 4-H Ambassadors** - Applications are still open for LA County 4H Ambassadors..

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

**2025 County Field Day awards** The County Field Day events were held in February. The results of the competition were announced via an Awards Ceremony held on Feb. 22 via zoom and then emails to the participants. The medals, certificates, ribbons and score sheets were distributed at the County Judging Day on March 15.

**2025 County Judging Day awards** The County Judging Day was held on Saturday, March 15. After the judging sessions, an in-person Awards Ceremony was held at the event. All participants received a County Judging Day participation certificates. Gold, Silver and Bronze judging medals were presented to the top three participants in each age level in each judging category. Top 20% certificates were given to participants who didn't medal but were in the top 20% scores of those who participated in that age level and category.

It has been suggested that it would be helpful if there written instructions on how to set up a judging room for County Judging Day and perhaps an optional orientation session a month before the event for those who will be setting up and running a judging room. Since it has been awhile since we have had a County Judging Day, we have 4-H volunteers who have never participated in or run this event.

**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 be unpredictable during this reconstruction period. Hopefully when the new State website is released, our county website will also operate better. I heard that when the new State Website is released, our county website will be reset to what it was in mid-February, so there may be a period of bringing the county website up to the current date. Roy has been updating the county website to try to keep us current, but he will 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.

**2025-2026 LA County 4-H Ambassador applications** 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.

The LA County 4-H Ambassador program is currently being reviewed to see if it can be made more workable for our busy Senior members.

Let Amy Lockmann or Charlene Moore know if you would be interested in being a County 4-H Ambassador Advisor.

The deadline for 2025-26 LA County 4-H Ambassador is currently being extended.

**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](mailto: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.

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** 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.

**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 LDR (Leadership Development Report) for that year. The member must have done exemplary work as Junior Leader. To earn a Senior Leader Merit Award, you do the same thing as a Junior Leader but as a Senior Leader.

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.

**Leader recognition**    Reminder- No Leader Appreciation Event is being planned by the county 4-H office and no leader year pins are being provided by the county 4-H office. This year again, Leader Appreciation should be done by district or club

Question – should a county-level leader appreciation event be planned? Years ago the county 4-H office held annual county leader recognition luncheons, but there was unpredictable attendance. The county office stopped planning the luncheons. Would our current 4-H volunteers appreciate a county-level recognition event? If so, should it be organized by the 4-H office or 4-H volunteers? After some discussion, it was decided that a county level leader appreciation event is not needed. Leader recognition will continue to be at the club or district level.

Question – Clubs can currently give their first year 4-H volunteers a Leader pin. Should we ask the County office to start providing 5-year increment leader year pins again? For a while the 4-H Shop was not selling our usual 5-year increment leader recognition pins, but now they seem to be available for years 5, 10, 15, up to 60 years. Would our current 4-H volunteers appreciate receiving a leader recognition pin? After some discussion, it was decided that 5-year incremental leader pins were not needed. Again, leader recognition will continue to be at the club or district level.

**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 Charlene Moore in the AV

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 Charlene by **May 1** with 4-G graduate information. If you need the graduate pins/certificates for a fall event, then contact Charlene during the summer when she asks for year pin and new rank information. Please contact Charlene if you have any questions about this.

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.

**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.

**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 (or via zoom) during the year on the fourth Tuesday. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00pm by conference call.

**3. Shooting Sports Report** – Alexa Rose Ryan Shirley - No new report

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

**5. New County Format** — Amy Lockmann -- The State decided that we have a delay for our county. It is being implemented in the other counties..

**6. Summer Camp—June 14-21** –Sign up on line at 4-H Camp. Don't miss this event.



## **Old Business**

**1. Los Angeles County 2025 4-H Field Day** was held virtually this year in February. Members from five 4-H clubs participated with three districts represented. We had 27 entries. We thank all the volunteers who evaluated the County Field Day entries. We couldn't run the event without them. An awards ceremony was held on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 9am via zoom. We thank Eisa Yaaseen and Maddy Lockmann, our two LA County 4-H Ambassadors, for MC-ing the award ceremony. Blue Seal and Gold Medal winners are now eligible to enter Regional Presentation Day, has a virtual option or an in-person option.

Regional and State Presentation Day activities will be run with Zoom and in-person options and be much the same as last year and are set as follows:

Regional Presentation – County Blue and Gold award winners can compete virtually or in-person      Virtual Regional Registration – March 5– April 17

Virtual Regional Competition – April 14 – April 24

In-person Regional Competitions – there are locations.

See the Regional Field Day information on the state website.

State Presentation – Regional Blue and Gold award winners can compete at State

Virtual state competition option – May 4-14

Virtual State Interview Contest on May 8, 9, 10

In-person state competition option – May 17 in Davis Award ceremony – Sunday, May 18 via zoom

So that our LA 4-H members can compete at Regional and State Field Day, we need to provide a proportional number of evaluators for the event. We need volunteers to be evaluators. If you are able to volunteer to be an evaluator at the regional and/or the state presentation competition, you can apply online on the state website.

**2. County Judging Day**—It went well in AV at Palmdale HS. For next year we need someone to retype the information on how to put a judging room together. This needs to be put out to the clubs well in advance of the event. Di LaPloma volunteered to type if she can be given the information. Judylynn has some information on running a judging room.

**3. County Ambassador Applications** are still open. Check County web site.

**New Business 1.** Wild fire community service—topic tabled

**2 Regional Field Day**—check I&R report

**3. State field Day**—check I&R report.

**4. Dates for 2025-2026 Calendar** –Turn your dates in. The calendar will be voted on at the May Council meeting. We discussed the dates for July 2025 through September 2026. Council meeting times were discussed. Judylynn moved and Sarah seconded that beginning in July County Council meetings will be held on Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Voted on and passed. This will free up Saturdays for events. The proposed 2025-26 LA County 4-H calendar will be posted on the LA County 4-H website for everyone to review before it is voted upon at our May 17 county council meeting. Send any additional dates to Amy so they can be added to the calendar for review.

**5. Nominations for council positions--Tabled**

**6. Proposed Budget updates for 2025-26—tabled**

**7. Nominations for Friends of 4H--** Are there any nominations to be made for a Friend of 4-H award this year? Charlene mentioned that she thought the person who has been helping LA County 4-H run County Judging Day in AV for several years should be considered for a Friend of 4-H award this year. The AV district council will discuss this and may submit a nomination form for consideration at our next county council meeting in May. Send to Amy Lockmann

**8. So. Cal Collaborative meeting 3/26/25** The SoCal Collaborative is group made up of staff and 4-H volunteers from California 4-H Regions 11 and 12, which includes Ventura, Orange and LA ( Region 11) and Riverside, San Diego, Imperial and San Bernardino (Region 12). The group shares what is happening in their counties and encourages counties to share their activities with other counties when possible. The Fall San Bernardino apple picking is an example. Our LA County Livestock Symposium is another example. We could be thinking about other activities that we could share with these other counties.

Some of the activities they are thinking about are having a Primary camping experience in the Fall, a strawberry picking event and some shared above-county projects, such as career exploration. They are also considering organizing a bus option for getting 4-H members from Southern California to go up to SLC and

back in July. They would like the counties to determine if there would be interest in such an option by their next meeting in April. The bus would probably start in San Diego and make designated stops picking up people ,along the way, who want to go to Davis for SLC. We need to poll our members to determine the interest. There is also a subgroup of the Collaborative made up of County Ambassadors who will be planning events for the counties in the SoCal Collaborative. The SoCal Collaborative group currently meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm via zoom. 4-H volunteers are welcome to attend these meetings.

**OC Imaginology – April 12-13** The OC Imaginology is an opportunity that is coming up this coming month on the weekend of April 12 and 13 at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Orange County 4-H would welcome our LA members to participate with fair entries. The OC Fairgrounds is holding a special free family weekend event of S.T.E.A.M. activities. Orange County 4-H will be offering some activities in one of the event’s buildings. Come and have fun with science. For more information, check their event website.

**9. Bus for State Leadership Conference**—We hope to get enough from our Region to get a bus. Keith has offered this.

**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, May 17 10:00am on Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 am.

Respectfully submitted, Judylynn Pelling, Secretary