

**Los Angeles 4-H County Council**, Tuesday, 6:30pm, January 20, 2026 Online Virtual Meeting via Zoom and conference call

Attendance includes – NSG - Noel Keller, Pomona Valley; Judylynn Pelling, Eagle Rock-Highland Park; SSG— Johanna Stewart; SFV – Amy Lockmann, Agoura ; AV – Sarah Bonham, Heather Kock, Leona Valley Racketeers, Charlene Moore, Candice Vander Hyde, Palmdale Hills. County office Cyndi Chavez

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Amy Lockmann

The flag salute and the 4H Pledge were led by youth Charlotte Bonham. .

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Amy amended the meeting agenda by correcting the date of County Fashion Review to March 29, adding updates to the county calendar to old business and County Food Fair to committee reports. It was moved by Noel, seconded by Judylynn to accept the amended agenda for this meeting. Voted on and passed.

**Minutes** of the November 18, 2025, meeting: Noel moved we accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Sarah. Motion voted on and passed.

**Open Forum** 1) Noel, Let's make an effort to get the LA County 4-H website up-to-date with information about events for the remainder for this program year. Send event information to Roy Hillstock (rhillstock@ucanr.edu) in the county office so he can put it up on the website. Roy is also willing to put out a county 4-H newsletter, but he needs articles to be sent to him.

2) Cyndi mentioned that she has set up a survey about what information for the county website would be beneficial to 4-H clubs.

### **Program—None**

**Council Officer Reports: President—Amy Lockmann-** The Zoom link will be the same for all our county council meetings. It will be printed at the top of the meeting agenda. .

Vice President's report — office still needs to be filled

2<sup>nd</sup> vice –president's report (youth) — office still needs to be filled.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was shared on zoom. Noel moved that the treasurer's report be accepted and sent to audit. Seconded by Sarah. Voted on and passed.

**County Office – Cyndi Chavez –** She announced that the State decided that there will again be a virtual option for State Field Day this year. The in-person State Field Day will occur on May 23 in Davis. There is a flyer out about Treasurer Training on Jan. 27 and 29. There is a flyer out about the LA County 4-H Livestock Symposium occurring on Jan. 24. She has an online survey set up to find out what additional information is needed to make the LA County website more beneficial for clubs and members. She is gathering information for our conversion from a 4-H county council to a VMO structure. If reimbursements for fingerprinting is needed, send the fingerprinting receipts to her for processing.

## **District Reports**

**1. AV** – We held the 2026 Food Revue on January 10th. We had 41 total entries across all categories that brought several delicious and interesting food items to our collaborative table. We had gold medal winners and several blue ribbon winners, and some really cute Mini members earning their Participation ribbons. We also held the new Chopped Challenge contest that sent the ingredients ahead of time and was judged by the other 4-Hers in attendance. The prize for the Chopped Challenge was a cute apron! The Livestock Symposium is this weekend. It is at Palmdale HS. The FFA is helping and selling lunch. We hope to have it in October next year. Youth now have to do 8 hours of volunteer work for the AV Fair to show their animals. Barn Bash is Feb. 8.

**2. SFV-** On December 20 the club caroled through out their neighborhoods. They are making sack lunches for the homeless for February 14. They will also have a valentine fashion revue.

**3. SSG** –Di LaPlume - The PVP club had a very busy month. (1) We went Christmas Caroling. (2) We collaborated with the Wilmington Rotary Club on an event where we fed many needy families: over 1000 people served a Christmas meal of tamales, rice and beans, and then they got photos with Santa, and the children got a gift. (3) We volunteered at a Family Fun Day for community members, with snow trucked in for the kids to sled, etc. (4) We had an ice skating party. (5) We helped decorate floats for the Rose Parade. (6) And finally, we went whale watching yesterday. For more fun, visit our Instagram page, that we are trying hard to keep current, in part to raise awareness of the club to the community. So many people have never heard of 4-H and don't know what we do. I don't mean just PVP, I mean they've never heard of 4-H. Trying to change that, but it's slow going.

<https://www.instagram.com/pvp4h?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>

(Please post the link in the comments, for the others to click. Feel free to share it, or be inspired to start your own, to promote the club near and far).

**4. NSG**—Noel -The district is planning LA County Field Day for March, not February. We are planning our NSG Home Ec & Field Day, plus NSG County Food Fair for Saturday, Feb. 28. We are planning our NSG Monte Farmers Fair for Sunday, March 15 at Cal Poly Pomona, at the time of their Tomato Festival. We are also working with SSG district on the plans for our 2026 SGV 4-H Fair in April.

## **Committee/ Other Reports:**

- 1. LA County 4-H Ambassadors**– Ambassador applications for this year are still being accepted. Get an application from Noel or Amy. Eisa Yaaseen is still our current LA County 4-H Ambassador. Ambassador applications for the next program year will be added to the county website with a probable deadline of April. Encourage your senior experienced 4-H members to consider applying for this county honor and advanced leadership experience.
- 2. County Incentive and Recognition Committee Report** by Noel Keller, I&R Committee Chair ([nkeller91711@gmail.com](mailto:nkeller91711@gmail.com))

### **4-H Achievement Programs for 2025-26**

For members, 9 years old and above, 4-H is still 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). iSprout is the achievement program for Primary members. Information about these achievement programs is on the county website. Participation in a 4-H achievement program is not required for membership in 4-H.

**Reminder:** For a 4-H member to earn a year pin and stripe at the end of the 4-H program year, the member needs to complete an Annual Project Report (APR) for at least one 4-H project with at least 6 hours of project participation.

### **2025-2026 LA County Record Book Competition**

The 2025-2026 LA County Record Book Competition will be run much the same as last year. This competition is only for 4-H members 9 years old and above. The record books for our two achievement programs are very similar. The LA County website has a comparison chart of the two types of record books. A record book information packet for each program is on the county website and will be sent out to clubs. You do not need to be working in a 4-H achievement program to complete a 4-H record book.

The dates for the county record books competition are:

Aug. 18 – record books & officer books due the LA county 4-H office by 4pm

Aug 19 – record books & officer books due an I&R committee member by 9pm

Aug. 22 – record book judging

Sept. 5 – County Awards Ceremony via zoom at 9pm

We have a record book FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) available on the county website. If you don't find the answer to your record book question, please send your questions to Noel ([nkeller91711@gmail.com](mailto:nkeller91711@gmail.com)) to include with answers in the continuing record book FAQ on the county website.

We are offering a Record Book workshop on **Tuesday, Jan. 27** via zoom from 6:30-7:30pm. A RSVP for the workshop is due by Friday, Jan. 23 to Noel ([nkeller91711@gmail.com](mailto:nkeller91711@gmail.com)). The zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP. Leaders, parents and members are welcome to attend.

We will be updating the I&R information on the county website. How fast it will get done will depend upon Roy's work schedule. In the meantime, if any data that you need on the website seems out of date or unclear, please contact Noel ([nkeller91711@gmail.com](mailto:nkeller91711@gmail.com)). Our goal is to have fillable, expandable forms for record books on the county website, but at first we may only have a printable form. Roy will be working on this.

### **Reminder: Junior/Teen Leader recognition**

Remind your Junior and Teen Leaders that if they want to be considered for a Junior or Teen Leader Merit Awards at the end of the program year, they need to participate in a Leadership Project during the year. So now would be the time to enroll in a Leadership Project in their club. This would also be the time to complete the first part of the Leadership Development Report where leadership goals for the year are reported.

### **Awards for county events**

We have several county events coming up this Spring. Event planners should let Noel know about award needs well before the event, so the awards can be arranged.

### **District Representation on the County I&R Committee**

The current 2025-2026 county I&R Committee members are Noel Keller and Judylynn Pelling from NSG, Dee Keese and Di LaPlume from SSG, Heather Kock and Charlene Moore from AV, and Amy Lockmann and Nicole Darway from SFV. The committee usually meets by conference call or zoom. The next scheduled committee meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30pm via zoom.

3. **Healthy Living— No report**

4. **Science Committee—**Sarah Bonham Next event has not been planned yet.

**5. Summer Camp—Sun. June 21 – Saturday June 27, 2026** has been confirmed at Camp Seely information at [4Hcamp.com](http://4Hcamp.com)

A. Camp committee meeting Sunday, March 1, 2026, via zoom –3:00pm

B. Deadline to Apply for Camp Staff, Friday March 20, 2026 (Must be 14 or older by 1/1/2026 )

C. Staff interviews via Zoom,-- Sunday, March 22, 2026

D. Staff Training weekend, April 11-12, 2026, 10am, at Seaborn Ranch in Moreno Valley.

**6. Livestock Symposium—** January 24, 2026, Palmdale HS. The flyer is out.

**7. County Judging Day—AV— March 7 at Palmdale HS** A committee meeting about all Club's assignments of judging rooms will coming from Charlene soon. Watch for an email about it. Cyndi in the 4-H office will print the judging forms.

8. County Field Day-- NSG district is planning County Field Day for March this year. We are planning 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. An event packet will go out to clubs later this week and be put on the county website. Encourage your members to participate. Members can participate in the usual categories of Demonstrations, Speeches, Interpretative Readings, Educational Displays, Skits, Cultural Arts performances, Impromptu Speeches, Extemporaneous Speeches and the Interview Contest. We will need judges for this event. There will be an optional Evaluators Orientation on Wednesday, March 11 via zoom.

The LA County Field Day event dates are as follows:

March 4 – entry forms due and evaluator/judge contact information due

March 9 – entry URLs due

March 11 – cover letter and resumes due for Interview Contest

March 18 – Impromptu, Extemporaneous and Interviews via zoom

Participants will be informed about their award level as soon as possible, so those who earned a Blue or Gold award level, can register for Regional Field Day as early as possible to get their best performance time. There will be no County Field Day Awards Ceremony on March 21 via zoom.

There will be an in-person Regional Field Day on April 18 at Summit Intermediate School in Rancho Cucamonga with virtual options on April 15, 16, 19, 20 and 21. Regional Field Day will open on Feb. 20 and close on April 3. To be eligible to go on to the regional competition you need to earn a Blue or Gold award level at county field day. Let Noel know if you would be willing to help with this regional opportunity.

The State has now decided that they will again offer a field day virtual option for State Field Day. The in-person State Field Day is Saturday, May 23 in Davis. We have not yet heard the details for the virtual options. We have heard that the State Interview Contest will be run as it was last year.

**9. County Fashion Revue** —SSG—March 29 A copy of the event packet needs to go to all the districts. Members need a blue ribbon at the district level to go to the County Fashion Revue.

**10. Regional Field Day/Southern California 4-H Field Day**

- A. April 18, Summit Intermediate School, Rancho Cucamonga
- B. Virtual Dates—April 15, 16, 19, 20, 21.
- C. Judges and help are needed. Counties need to volunteer for jobs.

**Old Business**

**1. Jr. Leadership Conference** –Chair person is needed

**2. Updates to LA County 4-H 2025-26 Calendar – version 12/9/26** The 2025-26 LA County 4-H calendar was approved at our county council meeting on May 17, 2025. An effort is being 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. Although not reviewed at this meeting in detail, the following are recent updates to the 2025-26 LA County 4-H Calendar (version 1/9/25):

## **January 2026**

Jan. 11 – SoCal Collab. Nixon Presidential Library event moved to Feb. 8

**February 2026** Feb. 12 – I&R meeting moved to Feb. 17

Feb. 22 – add AV Fashion Revue

**March 2026** March 21 – delete County Field Day awards

The calendar will be marked updated on 1/20/26.

## **New Business**

**1. Committee to convert our county council to VMO** A VMO template is supposed to be sent to us. We would like a person from each club and each district on the committee. Cyndi will provide a draft of Orange County's plan as an example. Cyndi will set up a meeting with Claudia Carlos (our regional coordinator) to discuss the details of a VMO before our county committee starts working on the conversion task. Cyndi indicated that the goal is to have our LA County 4-H VMO structure set up by Dec. 31, 2026.

**2. Call for Friends of 4-H Awards Nominations** (person, organization, business, etc. that helps 4H but not a member or enrolled) Nominations are made by district. A nomination form is on the county website. Nominations should be sent to Amy Lockmann by our March county council meeting when the nominations will be voted upon.

**3. Call for 2026-27 Calendar dates** (dates to be discussed at our March county council meeting and voted on at our May county council meeting) Send Amy your 2026-27 dates before the March 17 council meeting so a starting draft of the calendar can be ready for discussion.

**4. Call for 2026-27 Budget input** (budget items to be discussed at our March county council meeting and voted on at our May county council meeting) Send your 2026-27 suggested budget changes to Johanna Stewart before the March 17 council meeting so a starting draft of the budget can be ready for discussion.

**5. Call for 2026-27 Officer nominations for our council/VMO** to be voted on in May

## **Announcements**

**A. So Cal Collaborative-** Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Sun. Feb. 8 at 1:00 pm, Yorba Linda use this link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe0ESASqkTeFLBWJcO6085wp\\_MZlqFCITaR1XxY\\_OrL-55QQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe0ESASqkTeFLBWJcO6085wp_MZlqFCITaR1XxY_OrL-55QQ/viewform) to RSVP by Feb. 2.

**B. So Cal Collaborative - Nature Day—**understanding Water sheds—guided hike, learning activities, etc.—Whitewater preserve ( Riverside County, closer to Palm Springs)—weather permitting—OK to plan camping on your own there—visit website:

<https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/nQJUHyDih2VwY>

C. Next So Cal Collaborative meeting, Jan. 28 via Zoom 6:30-8pm Featured speaker is Eve Dowdell—state student intern/social media—student at CSUF-sharing her 4-H experience and best practices for social media communication. <https://uca.r.zoom.us/j/99312499885?pwd=a8JIsXOJOYYVOgadTtjUEjlpTHzbGm.1>

Meeting ID:993 1249 9885 Passcode: 987585

D. Next Council meetings—Tuesday, March 17,SFV (program); May 19, NSG (program); at 6:30pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judylynn Pelling, Secretary