

**Ventura County 4-H Council**  
**January 23, 2019 - General Meeting**  
**UC Cooperative Extension Office - California Room**

Sue Poland called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with Valerie Zeko recording.

In attendance were:

Sue Poland, Council President  
Leslie Belmore, Council Treasurer  
Valerie Zeko, Staff, Recording  
Susana Bruzzone-Miller, Staff  
Deborah Meyer-Morris, County Ambassador Chair

Youth (19):

**Briggs:** Logan Sylvester, Kaitlyn Prado, Sabrina and Isabella Westrich, Ashley Payne, Aubrey and Jack Barnard, Layla McLemore.

**Conejo Simi:** Sammy Belik

**Loma Vista:** Reyna Lane, Adeline & Livia Vertucci, Ashley Pylar

**Santa Rosa Valley:** Scarlett James, Olivia Willoughby, Courtney Nunes, Claire Boone, Julia Cook

**Somis:** Shelby Wright

Adult Volunteers/Parents (19):

**Briggs:** Virginia Reyes and Andrea Pedone; Ellen Payne (parent)

**Chief Peak:** Jackie Larson, Deion Gerhard

**Conejo Simi:** Debbie McNelly, Robin Tan, Amylynn Robinson, Mary Belik

**Loma Vista:** Rachel McClanahan, Elaine Pylar, Rick Lane

**Piru:** Bobby Cruz

**Santa Rosa Valley:** Jennie Willoughby, Monika James, Tiffany & Brad Cook, Michele Nunes, Jennifer Boone

- 1) **Flag salute and 4-H pledges:** Logan Sylvester, Briggs, led the Flag Salute. Olivia Willoughby, SRV, led the 4-H Pledge.
- 2) **Club Spotlights: Briggs and Santa Rosa Valley** 4-H'ers in attendance introduced themselves and shared their clubs' accomplishments.
- 3) **Council Minutes** from October 24, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Rachel McClanahan moved to approve, Virginia Reyes seconded. Sue asked for discussion. None brought up, but Sue mentioned that only 4-H members 14 years and older and approved 4-H volunteers are eligible voting members and others should abstain from voting. Vote taken and minutes approved.
- 4) **Announcement re: board changes:** Sue explained that there are only 2 board members present because Heidi couldn't attend and Kitty, Heather, and Jenean are no longer on the board. Staff has appointed Sue as President and Heidi as Secretary, but these appointments will need to be ratified under New Business.
- 5) **Treasurer's Report – Leslie:** Current balance \$37,849.37 with an available balance of \$7,883.20. Two clubs have still not paid council, but first installment was paid to state.
- 6) **4-H Office Staff:** Valerie Zeko thanked everyone who took the Communications Survey. 28 people took the survey. 20 people said they read the newsletter and 8 claim they don't get it, but if they got the link to take the survey, they must get the newsletter.
- 7) **Committee Reports:**

- a) **County Ambassador Chair – Deborah Meyer-Morris:** Our first County Ambassadors are Emily Santos and Shelby Wright, both of Somis 4-H. Shelby Wright introduced herself.
- b) **Family & Consumer Science – Rachel McClanahan:**
- **Food Faire** will be Saturday, 2/2 at 9am-noon at Will Rogers School in Ventura. Participants are not required to be in a cooking project, as long as they pass a food safety quiz as qualifier. Activities include honey or oil tasting/judging (Looking for local companies to donate). Judges will be from Oxnard College Cooking Academy. Appointment times will be emailed to entrants for judging.
  - **Fashion Revue** will be Friday, 3/8 at 5pm at Will Rogers School in Ventura.
- c) **Large Livestock PDC—Virginia Reyes:**
- **“Dr. Mike”** (veterinarian Dr. Giacopuzzi) will be speaking at UC HAREC on February 13 at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend.
  - **Super Field Day** will combine small and large animals and take place on May 11 at the Santa Rosa Clubhouse.
  - **Needed: Herdsmanship Leader.** Needs to be a registered project leader; this job—guiding the youth volunteers in judging the pens during the fair--takes only about two hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the second week of fair. Another two hours for the Awards ceremony on Sunday.
- d) **Small Animal PDC – Amylynn Robinson:**
- The small and large animals will combine for **Super Field Day** and take place on May 11 at the Santa Rosa Clubhouse.
  - Needed: Species chairs for cavies and rabbits for fair.
- e) **STEAM PDC:** Valerie reported that the STEAM PDC needs a new chair to help plan the Rock, Paper Scissors event in the spring. Kitty Beckmann has resigned but is working to fill the position.
- f) **Skills PDC – Heidi Marshall’s report (read by Sue)**
- Presentation Day will be on Saturday, March 23, 2019. Melissa Lalum needs volunteers to help in a variety of ways. This is a wonderful event! It gives members the opportunity to practice public speaking and share their project knowledge. It’s also extremely rewarding for volunteers! They get to hear fabulous speeches while helping youth learn important life skills. Please consider volunteering! Contact Melissa at [melissa.lalum@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.lalum@gmail.com). (Sue asks for volunteers; Amylynn raises her hand to volunteer!)
  - State Record Book evaluations concluded on January 11, 2019. The State Record Book Coordinator will be finalizing the results soon and will send those results to the County Office.
  - The County Record Book Coordinator position is open and needs to be filled. The job entails planning, organizing, and implementing County Record Book evaluations. Please contact Heidi at [marshfam6@gmail.com](mailto:marshfam6@gmail.com) if you’re interested!
- g) **Southern Area—**
- **Livia and Adeline Vertucci** reported on the Southern Area Youth Summit they attended last weekend at Pathfinder Ranch. Theme was “Be the Change” and the subject was

social awareness. Livia had a positive experience helping with planning and learning about mindfulness at the summit. Adeline reported that they had six participants from Ventura County: she and Livia, Adler Striegel, Nadja Klem, Claire Boone, and Olivia Willoughby.

- **Edith submitted a report via email:** The Committee's next meeting isn't until late January. Mt SAC has generously offered space for many great 4-H Area events in recent years, but they have announced that they will start charging us to use their facility. Time will tell what that does to Area events and/or fees related to them.

#### 8) New Business

- **Ratification of new council officers:** A motion is made by Tiffany Cook, seconded by Livia Vertucci and passed for the ratification of Sue Poland as Council President and Heidi Marshall as Council Secretary.
- **4-H Awards Protocol:** Sue stated that there has been a suggestion to amend the 4-H Awards Protocol which was approved in March 2018. Much discussion ensued: policy wording is "vague" and awards need better definitions. Rachel suggested having each PDC put forth a volunteer representative to form a committee that would work on it. Sue will email PDC chairs seeking a nominee from each for this committee. The committee is to meet, select a chairperson, consider the current policy and propose amendments to it, keeping in mind: the desire that our kids should be rewarded appropriately for their hard work, that levels of awards should be consistent across projects/PDCs, that other types of awards items (besides or in addition to belt buckles, plaques, rosettes, ribbons, and 4-H hat-pin/medals) may be considered, and that 4-H funds may only be spent on awards given to 4-H members. The committee should submit their proposal prior to the March Council meeting, early enough so that it can be shared with and reviewed by all in the county so that no one is left out.
- **Fee waivers:** After explanation of what the fee waivers were and how they worked, a motion is made and passed to approve payment of \$684 more than was originally budgeted to cover fee waivers, coming from the general fund.

#### 9) Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.