

Ventura County 4-H Council Meeting March 27, 2019

UCCE Office – 669 County Square Dr. Ventura CA

Names of Attendees:

Susana Bruzzone-Miller, Valerie Zeko, Sue Poland, Leslie Bellmore, Shelby Wright, Emily Santos, Becky McCormick, Heidi Marshall, Brianna Martinez, Audrey Knight, Sally McCormick, Clara Knight, Kieran McCormick, Jackie Larson, Deion Gerhard, Ashley Pyle, Deborah Meyer-Morris, Sammy Belik, Olivia Willoughby, Scarlett James, Samantha Robinson, Mary Belik, Jennie Willoughby, Monika James, Tiffany Cook, Brad Cook, Melissa Lalum, Amylynn Robinson, and Rachel McClanahan

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Board President, Sue Poland, at 7:09 p.m.

Pledges

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kieran McCormick.
- The 4-H Pledge was led by Ashley Pyle.

Club Spotlight

Las Posas 4-H member Audrey Knight shared the following information about her club:

- Las Posas 4-H is located in Camarillo.
- The club focus is on large market animals, but they are developing some other types of projects as well, such as home arts.
- Members are also passionate about helping out in the local community and volunteer for several community service projects each year.
- Their club is fortunate to have many fantastic adult leaders, and the members are appreciative of the leaders and their hard work.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Board Reports

1. Secretary –
 - Deion Gerhard made a motion to approve the January minutes.
 - Second was made by Emily Santos.
 - Motion passed.
2. Treasurer –
 - Leslie Bellmore shared the Treasurer's report.
 - Discretionary funds total \$8,814.16
 - Annabel will be sending out second enrollment bills to clubs very soon.
3. Other Board Officers –
 - Sue Poland stated that the Travel Stipend form has been updated and it will be on the Ventura County 4-H website soon.

4. 4-H Office Staff –

- 4-H Program Representative, Valerie Zeko, explained that our county will have a Volunteer Management Organization (VMO) structure next year instead of a Council. The 4-H Office Staff feels the VMO is a better structure for our county.
- The VMO consists of two boards: the PDC Board and the Management Board. The PDC chairs and committees form the PDC Board. The Management Board consists of positions such as Chair, Treasurer, etc... and various committees (such as Fundraising, Budget, Marketing, Awards, etc...). Each committee has a director.
- The 4-H Office Staff will transition our county to the VMO model by:
 1. forming a Futures Task Force to decide what committees we need
 2. accepting and reviewing applications for VMO positions
 3. interviewing applicants
 4. making the final selection of those who will fill the VMO positions
- The general 4-H membership does not vote on issues for Ventura County 4-H. Only the directors vote.
- Some questions raised were:
 1. What happens if all the positions are not filled? Answer: Valerie stated that most likely she would handle any unfilled positions until they are filled.
 2. If the general membership does not vote, how are their voices heard? Answer: Valerie stated that each director has a committee and the general membership can be on those committees.
- However, the 4-H Office Staff has a lot of information to sort through since they met only just yesterday with the State representatives to learn about the new structure. Staff will gather more details about the VMO and share that information at the next council meeting.

Committee/PDC Reports

1. County Ambassador -

- County Ambassador Advisor, Deborah Meyer-Morris, explained that applications for next year's ambassadors are due May 1st, interviews will take place in May, and the new ambassador terms will begin on July 1st.
- Ambassador Emily Santos stated they have been visiting clubs in order to explain the role of county ambassadors to members and also to promote the upcoming Public Speaking Workshop being held on April 27th, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Farm (Hansen Agricultural Research and Extension Center).
- The ambassadors set up an Instagram account (VC4HAmbassadors) as part of their outreach.
- Ambassador Shelby Wright explained that ambassadors go out into the 4-H community and help at events, present awards, and generally do their best to nurture interest in other 4-Hers to become ambassadors.
- Shelby also explained that the ambassadors are planning the Fair 4-H Booth. Members who attend the Public Speaking Workshop on April 27th will be able to help at the Fair Booth and receive a community service pin for their hat. The booth will have a large map of all the 4-H Clubs in Ventura County and photos from their projects. Flyers with information about each club will be available at the booth. The ambassadors will be gathering information from each club to include in the flyer.

2. Equine – no report
3. Family and Consumer Science (FCS) –
 - FCS PDC Chair, Rachel McClanahan, reported that Fashion Revue was a great success.
 - 10 members participated and there was also a photo contest and a plant ID contest.
 - Fashion Revue was combined with Presentation Day to model after State Field Day.
 - Presentation Day Chair, Melissa Lalum, reported that 36 members attended and the event was a lot of fun.
 - In addition to traditional presentations, there was a community service activity and some games for the members to enjoy as well.
4. Large Livestock – no report
5. Skills –
 - A record book chair is still needed to coordinate, plan, and implement County Record Book Evaluations. Contact Valerie if you are interested or have questions.
6. Small Livestock –
 - Small Animal PDC Chair, Amylynn Robinson, reported that Small and Large Animal Field Days will be combined this year as one event (not back to back events). The event will be on May 11th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Santa Rosa Valley Clubhouse.
 - There will be showmanship, crafts, community service activities, and guest speakers.
7. Southern Area – no report
8. STEAM – no report

Old Business

Awards Protocol -

- Amylynn reported on the progress of the awards protocol revision. Two PDC chairs and some parents met and developed a draft for the revised awards protocol for 4-H events. Not all PDC chairs attended the meeting and it has been difficult to get feedback about the revision from all the PDCs.
- Much discussion ensued regarding several topics such as the difficulty of getting the PDC chairs together to work on the revision, Equine PDC's unique awards structure, and the importance of including dairy in large livestock awards.
- The following decisions were made:
 1. The word "medal" will be changed to "award" in a few places in the revised awards protocol draft.
 2. Amylynn will email the draft to Valerie.
 3. Valerie will email the draft to all 4-H members and leaders, explaining that it will be voted on at the May council meeting.
 4. Valerie will allow 2 weeks for members and leaders to email her comments and/or suggestions for changes.
 5. If there are any ideas for significant changes, Valerie will give the information to the PDC chairs so they can discuss it further. If the PDC chairs then make any major

changes to the draft, Valerie will email the new version to all 4-H members and leaders, again indicating it will be voted on at the May council meeting.

New business

1. Emerald Star Advisor -
 - Rachel McClanahan made a motion to approve Melissa Lalum as the Emerald Star Advisor.
 - Second was made by Deion Gerhard.
 - Motion passed.

2. California Women for Agriculture (CWA) Scholarships –
 - Sue Poland explained that CWA has ag related scholarships available. Information can be found on the CWA website.
 - Young Farmers and Ranchers also have a scholarship available.

3. Upcoming Events
 - Public Speaking Workshop – April 27, 2019
 - Equine PDC meeting – April 28, 2019
 - Large Livestock PDC meeting – May 8, 2019
 - Small and Large Animal Field Day – May 11, 2019
 - Small Animal PDC meeting – May 15, 2019
 - Council meeting – May 22, 2019
 - Disney Lab & 4-H – May 26, 2019
 - This event is being done with San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.
 - 10 people must sign up or it will be canceled.
 - The cost (including admission) is \$110.
 - Small Animal PDC meeting – June 19, 2019
 - Council meeting – June 26, 2019

4. The question was raised: How do members sign up to help in the youth building at Fair?
Answer: Contact the Youth Building Superintendent or the Fair Office.

Meeting Adjourned

- The meeting was adjourned by Sue Poland at 8:20 p.m.