

MS/CR-VLA Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2024 at MEFEC Mess Hall

President: Stephanie Haase Vice President: Sarah Rodriguez
Treasurer: Jackie Kuhn Secretary: Lois Repnow Cor.Sec.: Janice Raisanen

In attendance: Charlene Christiansen, Stephanie Haase, Sonna Hanson, Jessica Hay, Jackie Kuhn, Sabrieta Holland, Millie Tormey, Crystal Roberts

Online: Crystal Densmore, Kalea Hogate (Agent) in Room 208 to run Zoom, Jennifer Johnson, Janice Raisanen, Leslie Tompkins,

- I. Stephanie Haase called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
- II. Pledges led by Stephanie Haase.
- III. Attendance taken verbally; recorded by K. Hogate.
- IV. Motion to adopt minutes by Sarah R.; second by C. Christiansen. Motion carries: unanimous.
- V. Announcement and Agent Report-K. Hogate:
 - A. Selah Densmore, Bodie Repnow, Yaquina Repnow, and Quoddy Repnow were selected along with seven other senior 4-H members from around the state to attend Youth in Governance 2024. They will travel to Juneau February 11-16. YIG is an opportunity for youth to gain a better understanding of the legislative process. They will visit the legislative office, meet senators and representatives, watch legislative sessions and committee members, and select the roles of a committee member for a mock session.
 - B. Kate Deering, Sylvia Reimers, Bodie Repnow, and Tybee Repnow were selected with two other senior 4-H youth from around the state to travel to Washington D.C. on March 13 and attend the Ignite by 4-H Conference. Ignite is four days of inspiring speakers, workshop sessions, activities, and entertainment. This is an opportunity to discover exciting career paths, make connections, and create an action plan to ignite change in our community.
 - C. There are still some adults who have not completed all training components. Anyone volunteering with 4-H must complete all leader training prior to interacting with youth.
 - D. Leaders training will take place the first week in March; date to be announced next week.
- VI. Secretary's Report: Lois R. out of state for family emergency.
- VII. Treasurer's Report:
 - A. Account contains \$17,374.24
 - B. Had to reorder checks; shipped to CES Office.

- C. Jackie inquires if S. Densmore received Travel Grant check; confirmed by M. Tormey.
- VIII. Gaming Account Report/Update
 - A. Stephanie knows process; plans to get squared away this month
 - B. M. Tormey inquires about past information (amount applied for, charge to livestock for raffle permission, etc.); Stephanie informs past gaming commissioner (Cathy Glaser) has not provided information.
- IX. Persons to be Heard: none
- X. Old Business
 - A. Add/remove signers to bank account
 - 1. C. Roberts motion to remove herself from Volunteer Leaders Association Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union account 770000093437 and add Stephanie Haase; second S. Hanson. Motion carries: unanimous.
 - B. Fundraising Update
 - 1. AK Airlines Donation? K. Hogate updates that AK Airlines Foundation provides grants to 501(c) (3) organizations supporting young people between ages 10-20 with a focus on Career exploration, Career learning, Mentorship, Soft skills, Critical thinking, leadership development. Application submitted by program; reviewed March 31 and July 31. K. Hogate began application process; must have meeting with Tim Thompson or Ale Jenkins before applying. On to-do list for next week.
 - 2. Fall fundraising ideas: Dinner/Auction in the fall
 - C. Motions to change bylaws
 - 1. Sarah R. motions to change bylaws to match Alaska 4-H Procedural Handbook, "Upon dissolution, any remaining net proceeds from gaming activity under AS 05.15 will be distributed to Mat-Su/Copper River 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association, in accordance with 15 ACC 160.020(a)(5). Jackie K. seconds. Motion carries: unanimous.
- XI. New Business
 - A. Member Activities
 - 1. C. Roberts lists past VLA activities: cooking/recipe contest, Iron Chef contest with given ingredients, science
 - 2. Sarah R. suggests Activities should be a subcommittee like Small stock for Livestock and District contest for Horse.
 - 3. C. Roberts mentions not much happens October-December; suggests swimming pool or ice rink rental.

4. C. Roberts suggests start with snack competition at two remaining Jr. Market Livestock Auction (JMLA) mandatory meetings. Ideas narrowed to cookie contest and cupcake decorating contest. C. Christiansen suggests spring theme for cupcake decorating. C. Roberts suggests prizes for winners (1st \$20, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5 each for Division: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Division) totalling \$105. K. Hogate volunteers to make certificates (will modify pie to read cookie or cupcake) and will report if there are remaining baking contest ribbons. C. Roberts requests they are on yellow paper instead of white. K. Hogate agrees.
 5. Sarah R. asks if anyone wants to form an Activities committee. C. Roberts doesn't want to be on an activities committee because in the past when there was an activities committee and she brought her program ideas everyone had to vote on them and they would change them. She wants to do the activities she designs.
 6. C. Roberts Pioneer Peak 4-H Club will host monthly activities and invite all District members to attend the first Monday of each month through April. They will personally fund them and ask VLA to supplement. Sarah R. says if subcommittee wants to form they could devote a line-item for activities and set their budget accurately.
 7. Stephanie H. wants to get to a point where VLA is solvent and can provide monetary support for multiple activities per month. S. Holland suggests asking participants to bring supplies. C. Christeansen suggests ask kids participating to pay a fee.
 8. C. Roberts informs Pioneer Peak 4-H Club operates without a bank account. She doesn't want to limit attendance to those who can afford to pay.
 9. S. Holland asks if they have \$1,000 they could set aside for educational events. Jackie K. responds it is not a part of the current budget.
 10. Sarah R. motions VLA sponsors and funds (at \$105 each) baking contests at March and April JMLA mandatory meetings. S. Hanson seconds. Motion carries: unanimous.
- B. Procedures for requesting money from VLA
1. Stephanie H. says VLA should offer this for kids as a venue to come to and feel supported. She also wants to make certain we can actually fund.
 2. Sarah R. recapped for Jackie K. (absent past two meetings): 12/07/23 C. Roberts brings up missing "Travel Grant" item from

budget (\$12,028.82). Discussion: C. Roberts says without revenue source, budget will be \$0. Stephanie H. says gaming check hadn't arrived. Sarah R. brings up Alaska 4-H Summit travel. H. Corbridge made motion to amend budget to remove Travel Grant. Stephanie H. calls question. Motion passes: 4 for, 1 against. 01/04/2024 Selah Densmore applied for Travel Grant in persons to be heard b/c YIG. Budget didn't currently include Travel Grant. C. Roberts suggests one-time expenditure. Stephanie gave \$12,028 balance from Jackie K. C. Roberts motions to give Selah Densmore \$250 towards travel scholarship to attend YIG in Juneau in February. Sarah R. concerned about equity. C. Roberts one-on-one basis. S. Hanson asks about having a special meeting to review application b/f YIG. C. Roberts opposed to Executive committee. H. Corbridge suggests from \$1,000 clinic/workshop. Stephanie H. called the question. Motion carried: unanimous.

3. M. Tormey says they gave travel rants prior to remote learning/working. Process was to submit application, then ask in person.
4. Sarah R. remembers a group attending the Horse contest came into room 205 to present to VLA. She would like to go back to doing it that way where board members and scholarship committee review.
5. C. Roberts clarifies: they would turn-in the application and speak to the committee. M. Tormey reminds of requirement to return and report to the VLA.
6. C. Roberts says after the persons to be heard presentation the youth would exit the room so VLA could discuss. Then if someone knew a reason why they shouldn't receive grant. Stephanie H. concerned about confidentiality; other parents and youth in the room when reviewing. C. Roberts says they have never denied a grant.
7. Jackie K. thinks it should be the Executive board that decided. C. Roberts disagrees.
8. S. Hanson asks if prior to remote learning/working they informed youth afterwards. Jackie K. says they have always signed-up as a person to be heard, the youth would step out of the meeting (room 208), and the group would discuss.
9. K. Hogate says this process is inappropriate, doesn't align with 4-H Positive Youth Development and the Thriving Model. This doesn't foster belonging or positive, safe relationships, nor does it allow for

growth. An appropriate approach that would encourage youth to continue to set goals and apply in the future is to review what was done well and which components of the application need improvement. Sarah R. says she would never single a student out in her classroom.

10. S. Holland asks if this is the same as the VLA and Livestock scholarship. It is not; S. Holland suggests tabling Travel Grant until next meeting.

C. Updating VLA Scholarships so they are ready for distribution in District Scholarship Spotlight

1. C. Christiansen requests clarification: is the scholarship for higher education? Does that include vocational and technical training or future plans?
2. C. Roberts says it shouldn't be dependent on going to college. No one applied last year because they didn't think they would be awarded; requirements were too prohibitive. Ann Kowenstrot made changes to the scholarship without VLA knowledge or approval.

D. Meeting time/date

1. Stephanie H. introduces meeting time conflict with JMLA mandatory meeting.
2. C. Roberts prohibits parents attending JMLA mandatory meeting from participation.
3. Sarah R. MS/CR HC always moves their meeting to the MEFEC Mess Hall. She's sure Livestock Committee didn't intend to overlap.
4. Jackie K. informs past VLA has decided not to meet or meet at a different time.
5. Stephanie H. says perhaps we should consult Kalea on her availability and that of the space.
6. K. Hogate says this will be an unpopular statement, but it is not the responsibility of VLA to meet the schedules of every individual. Meetings must be open to the public and times/locations must be published. The meetings have been on the calendar set for the year. If an individual needs to make a request of VLA they can do so in writing. Agendas and minutes are posted on the website and emailed out each month. Changing the time shows preference to livestock projects. There are four presenters each meeting date. Only one person is presenting all three meetings. JMLA participants and their parents need only attend one mandatory meeting and will only miss one VLA meeting.

7. C. Roberts asks why this meeting time is being mandated because this is a chartered club like others.
8. J. Johnson asks (via chat) what about single mothers.
9. C. Roberts concerned she is being forced to miss the April VLA meeting. Last year important issues were voted on at every meeting and volunteers need to be able to attend.
10. Sarah R. says sounds like Kalea says it needs to stay this time. Stephanie H. asks if they can skip months so that no one will miss voting. K. Hogate says the meeting requirements from VLA bylaws (constitution and program of operations) states you only have to have six meetings per year.
11. Stephanie H. asks K. Hogate when VLA Scholarship must be reviewed by in order to get it out to applicants. K. Hogate says it would be nice to have it by the March meeting so approval can be voted on. Deadline is April 15.
12. Sarah R. suggests a committee meeting to review the scholarship. Stephanie H. asks if that is allowed. K. Hogate says that follows the bylaws (constitution and program of operations) because special meetings may be called by the president, as long as there is a quorum.
13. Members present compare calendars. S. Hanson says there will always be a day that someone cannot be present.
14. Meeting is set for Thursday 22 February 6:00 pm at the Palmer Carrs Starbucks to review the VLA scholarship. Kalea will send invitation via email next week.

XII. Comments/Questions

- A. S. Holland says time is up; next meeting is about to begin.

XIII. Adjourn 7:17 pm.

- A. Motion Jackie K. Second Sarah R. Motion carries: unanimous.