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| Mat-Su District 4-H Horse Council  11/07/2024  Meeting Minutes  Location: CES Office |

**Present:**

President, Sarah Rodriguez; Vice President, Templar Wilson; Secretary, Stephanie Haase; Treasurer, Sonna Hanson (via zoom); Agent, Samantha Russell;

Members: Bobbi Walrath, Kabella Tubbs, Lydia Hanson, Colette Cook, Kyrie Cook, Natiley Robinson, Jason Bakk, Stpehanie Bakk, Marianne Bakk, Ayla Bakk, Alana Naatz, Lexi Malone, Sabrietta Holland, Tarin Thomas, Sierra Dorman

**Call to Order:** 5:47PM

**Pledges**

**Agenda:** Sierra moved to approve agenda, Lydia seconded, none opposed, agenda adopted as written.

**Announcements:** Bobbi Walrath announced interest from Pony Club to partner with 4-H for some activities. Stephanie suggested that the two groups may work well together for their Equine Science classes as many of the topics overlap. Stpehanie and Bobbi will work together to build the relationship with PC and see what we can come up with.

**Persons to be heard:** Sierra Dorman has reached out to A Stitch in Time and they are willing to help with a sewing project. Sierra suggested that we tie the project into the Chuckwagon which is in need of aprons. Cost per member would be $50 for material and machine rental/time. It would be limited to 6 members with the machines there or up to 8 members if a few could provide their own machines. Samantha mentioned that the CES office has lots of 4-H fabric and thread and additional sewing machines. Sarah mentioned that the Horse Council could pay for some of the cost if aprons were used for the Chuckwagon. Colette moved that Horse Council pay for aprons being used for Chuckwagon, Lexi seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**Secretary Report:** Templar moved to accept Octoberminutes as written, Colette seconded, none opposed, minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer Report:**  As of 10/31/24: Checking $8,748.68; Savings $219.47, MM $18,079.88 ($5000 of this is designated for scholarships) and paypal $0.00.

There is $1478.57 in outstanding checks.

Senior girls have raised $1300.10 so far for nationals.

**Agent Report:**

1. We now have a functioning VLA! Samantha is excited to share a new board was elected this evening and she is excited and hopeful about the direction of the new board.
2. Samantha is also now the State Shooting sports Coordinator, she is looking forward to hosting a shooting sports quiz bowl in mid-December and hosting hunting classes in the spring (which will incorporate general outdoor skills and should be applicable to our backcountry horsemanship).
3. December 13th is the CES Holiday open House, volunteers are needed to run fun and engaging activities with the public.
4. There is a $5k Alaska Mill and Feed scholarship available for post-secondary education (vocational included).
5. Fair premiums for last year are on hold because it is unclear if a valid budget had been passed. It still may be on the table and should be up and available for next year.
6. Samantha will be out on Maternity leave from the 2nd week of January through March.

**Club Reports:**

**S&S**: Natiley Robinson reported they had their meeting last Friday with officer nominations, they are having a Sunday on the Farm this coming Sunday to work on a parade float, and they are looking forward to running the food booth at the upcoming tack sale.

**KRR:** Lydia Hanson reported they also had their club meeting and nominations last Friday. And spent time planning upcoming events. They plan to have a spring and fall club ride and would like to invite the S&S club to their Christmas party tentatively scheduled for Dec. 6th at the local ice rink.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Finalize Dates for 2024/2025 Calendar
   1. Rough draft presented looks good, and will send out the finalized copy tomorrow.
   2. Show needs to be confirmed on the 26th and 27th there may be a Pony Club conflict.
2. Treasurer Stipend
   1. The concern was brought up that the treasurer position entails far more than would normally be expected for a volunteer position, with the amount of money that flows through Horse Council the amount of work with the Chuckwagon which is it’s own business, and the bookkeeping knowledge Sonna has, could we offer a stipend for the position? Stephanie brought up the concern about the appearance of impropriety, perhaps it would be better to hire an accountant than to pay the treasurer. Sonna agreed and said she has put in the legwork this year to hopefully streamline it for future treasurers. The subject will be tabled until the end of this year when we can reassess the need.
3. Tack Sale
   1. Set up time 10AM
   2. Pricing will go by suggested donations to avoid awkward exchanges

**New Business:**

1. Equine Science Classes
   1. Possibly combine with Pony Club?
   2. Alana volunteered to teach some.
   3. Should we teach to the highest denominator or split the groups into two? Determined to teach to the highest denominator and the younger ones will get what they get. The contest is based on highest denominator anyway.
   4. Dates: 4:40-6PM @ CHS Library (concerns with air quality @ Silver Legacy) Jan.7th, 21st, Feb.4th, 11th, and 18th. Sabrietta will possibly run the Livestock classes beforehand (starting at 3?)
   5. FYI 2nd and 4th Mondays tend to be good for evenings at the CES office. Already a club meeting from 4:30-6 on those days.
2. Winter Clinic Series
   1. Cost for Flying Horse is $50/hour + $15/horse. Horse Council would pick up the hourly fee and if we charge $40/participant we would still be able to pay Alana for her time. Silver Legacy would be $150/hour + $25/horse (or $50 for a lesson horse). Possible that Debbie would sponsor the arena fee if we work with her on future clinics (Nathan etc.)
   2. Dates? Every other week on Sundays?May depend on the final venue.
3. Comments/Questions?
   1. Silver Legacy has their Christmas party for the Knik tribe on December 7th Time TBD but they will need lots of volunteers for the event.
   2. Is there going to be a 4-H float for the parade?
      1. Samantha will check and see what the parameters are for a float entry. We would like to be able to have separate vehicle/trailers for each club type or club, but would love to also keep 4-H represented together.
   3. Bobbi brought up wanting to do some possible square dancing lessons with a culminating barn dance at the end of the year. Alana suggested Stride as a possible location for a barn dance.
   4. Alana also suggested Stride as a possible volunteer opportunity as they have lots of animals needing care and a caretaker who just broke her arm.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:44PM**

**Next Meeting December 5th @ CES**