

MSCR-VLA MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2023 at CES Office

President: Stephanie Haase Vice-President: Sarah Rodriguez

Treasurer: Jackie Kuhn Secretary: Lois Repnow Corresponding Secretary: Janice Raisanen

In attendance: CES OFFICE: Faith Stewart, Natiley Robinson, Crystal Roberts, Millie Tormey, Jessica Hay, Michele Deering, Heather Corbridge, Janice Raisanen, Sarah Rodriguez, Stephanie Haase, Lois Repnow, Quoddy Repnow, Yaquina Repnow, Bodie Repnow, Tybee Repnow, Glenna Stanely, Raylene Sinnett, Crystal Densmore, Selah Densmore, Sarah Densmore, David Densmore, Seth Densmore ONLINE: Jennifer Johnson, Mary Tryon, Sarah Schaal, Melissa Reimers, Sylvia Reimers.

Stephanie Haase called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led pledges. Attendance sheet passed around.

- I. Pledges led by Stephanie Haase
- II. An attendance sheet was passed around the room during the meeting and online attendance was noted on that page at the end of the meeting.
- III. Agenda adopted unanimously.
- IV. Announcements & Agent's Report-Kalea Hogate
 - a. 2023 Colony Christmas:
 - i. Friday, December 8, 2023: Colony Christmas Open House at UAF Extension Office from 4-6pm. The UAF/4H Extension Office will have tables and funday activities for families coming in.
 1. Volunteers needed to help kids decorate cookies, put carrot nose on an "Olaf Snowman", make Christmas cards, serve hot chocolate and cookies, and be out by the bonfire.
 2. Drawing will be held for 4H swag.
 - ii. Saturday, December 9, 2023: Colony Christmas Parade starts at 5pm. Kalea Hogate will know where the 4H float will be in the line-up by 3:15pm.
 1. Families fill out a google form to join the float.
 2. May bring your animals in the float if they are safe, behave and you clean up after them.
 - b. Youth in Governance Opportunity in Juneau, Alaska for Senior 4H members (high school) from February 11-16, 2024.
 - i. Scholarship application must be received by January 4, 2024.
 - ii. Marla is the 4H chaperone for this trip.
 - iii. Cost is \$1,500 if you wish to attend.
 - c. 4H National Congress in Atlanta, Georgia
 - i. Kalea Hogate chaperoned 5 delegates from Alaska that won a scholarship to go to the 4H National Congress as delegates. The trip was from November 24-29, 2023. Kalea reports that "by far, it is the best conference I have ever attended."
 - ii. Over 700 youth present at conference in Georgia. Many workshops and educational opportunities for our delegates.
 - d. The UAF/4H Extension office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years.

V. Persons to be Heard:

- a. Selah Densmore shared some of the things she learned at the motivational workshops she went to as a 4H delegate to the National Congress in Atlanta, Georgia and expressed gratitude for VLA funding of zoo excursion. She spoke of sharing what she has gleaned from this experience with other 4H members and clubs.
- b. Yaquina Repnow also gave feedback on some of the things she learned at the workshops in Atlanta, Georgia. She learned about teamwork and serving/supporting your community. She expressed a desire to incorporate some of the things learned at the Congress as well as fun activities and icebreaker games with club meetings and Rally Days. She thanked VLA for giving her and other 4H members the chance to go to this Congress.
 - i. Stephanie Haase asked Selah Densmore and Yaquina Repnow if she understood correctly that they are willing to go to other 4H clubs meetings and activities to share things they learned in Atlanta, Georgia. Both Selah Densmore and Yaquina Repnow confirmed and said they'd be willing to present some of the things learned.
- c. Kalea Hogate reported that she'd have the remaining 4H delegates that went on the trip with her report at next month's meeting.
- d. Sarah Rodriguez noted that VLA has no income coming into VLA. Wondering about ways we can raise money so that we can support more of our 4H members. There is a 4H Summit coming up in Fairbanks in February and there probably be many 4H kids hitting VLA up for scholarships to help be able to attend that.
 - i. One of Sarah's ideas to raise funds is:
 1. VLA speak to the new manager of the Fair, who is very pro-4H. And see if they could do sponsorship through the Fair as well as getting us the tickets? As 4H we are bringing people into the Fair. The new manager is very supportive and more than be willing to help us out.
 2. Livestock Committee Organization help with funding in some way since it receives revenue?
 3. Horse Counsel raises funds to help meet some of their expenses. Perhaps these two organizations (Fair, Livestock Committee, Horse Counsel) can help VLA get funds to help 4H members be able to do these things?
 - ii. Comments from those present:
 1. Michele Deering—We might think about talking with Alaska Airlines about sponsoring trips. They have been very generous in helping kids with the Science Fair.
 2. Heather Corbridge—How did VLA raise money before?
 3. Crystal Roberts—VLA income has come through:
 - a. Grange Dinner—has not happened since 2020
 - b. Fair Donation--\$4,000
 - c. Gaming Permit—Palmer wrestlers paid to use the gaming permit and gave us a percentage of it.

4. Heather Corbridge—Perhaps we can work with the Grange to help do a fund-raising dinner, hold a dessert auction, or do something like this ourselves?
 5. Kalea Hogate—Contacted Grange and they said they were no longer doing the fund-raising dinner but are open to other ideas. Kalea has a contact card. When was meal usually held?
 6. Crystal Robert—Dinner was usually held around harvest time in October, the Fall. 4H and FFA kids helped prep and serve dinner. Money was then split between the two organizations. During the meal, a variety of things were auctioned off that had been donated (could be a bag of potatoes, or a piece of art). There was usually some sort of dessert competition going on as well.
 7. Stephanie Haase—Perhaps we could do a 4H Harvest Festival ourselves?
 8. Michele Deering—Wondering if Rebarchek farm would house something like that for us?
 9. Millie Tormey—Does the Rebarchek farm have a commercial kitchen? The Grange Dinner used to be held it at the Senior Center in Palmer and that was just perfect.
 10. Lois Repnow—Colony Clovers kids went to the Senior Center in November and handed out Thanksgiving club cards. Perhaps we could ask them if they'd be willing to let us use their facilities?
 11. Stephanie Haase asked Lois to check into that via contacts there.
 12. Heather Corbridge—Gaming permit? We would allow other non-profits to use it... We charged 5%. We were limited on the number of folks that could use it. Perhaps this would be a way for VLA to raise funds.
 13. Crystal Roberts—at this point Gaming Permit is not an option, Cathy is going to close it out. We may need to form a subcommittee. There is a lot involved.
 14. Sarah Rodriguez—could livestock, horse and other clubs use the gaming permit if VLA got it and get charged a 5%? It is a good opportunity for VLA and allow other clubs to use the gaming permit.
- iii. Kate Deering submitted a report on 4H National Congress in Atlanta that she attended, and Kalea Hogate read it to the meeting. Kate learned a lot from the Speed Meeting workshop (chat for 3 minutes and then switch partners). Kate would like to share what she learned, along with the other delegates, to other clubs and at Rally Days. One thing that stood out to Kate in the Speed Meeting workshop was that a lot of the other 4H kids attending the Congress that she encountered didn't do livestock, but food sciences.
1. Kalea Hogate reported that over 700 4H delegates were present at the Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. She also reported that the State VLA (Friends of 4H) did not fund the educational tour requested last month for the delegates. 5 4H members attended the National Congress from our district.

2. Kalea reported The State Volunteer Leaders did not fund our educational tour. Kalea asked Stephanie Haase if she got the email on that.
Confirmed.
- iv. Stephanie Haase moving on to budget approval. Last meeting, we talked about helping with funding with money for the Alaska 4H National Summit in Fairbanks. Stephanie anticipates we will be having people come and ask us for help with that. Considering the \$1,200 in clinic/workshops/activities line in the budget. She is concerned about passing a budget that exceeds its income. Plus, more there will be more workshops throughout the year.
 1. Crystal Roberts—noted that the travel scholarship line is missing in the budget. Stephanie will check with Treasurer, Jackie Kuhn about that. Last year “travel grants” were \$250 per family maximum with \$1000 total.
 - a. Millie Tormey asked if travel scholarships were given to the 5 delegates that went to Atlanta?
 - b. Kalea Hogate—yes, \$64/delegate (\$320 total for the 5 delegates) was given to be able to attend an educational tour.
 - c. Stephanie Haase—there should still be funds left to apply for that.
 - d. Sarah Rodriguez—is there an application form for that? Many kids will want to attend the 4H Summit in February in Fairbanks and will be asking in the January meeting to get the travel scholarship.
 - e. Stephanie stated that we need to look for a revenue stream to support our clubs. Look at our mission statement.
 - f. Michele Deering—kids can be responsible for some of these things. Perhaps we can help them out with 50% and they raise the rest?
 - g. Crystal Roberts—Traditionally the scholarships were for kids that had financial difficulties and wouldn’t go otherwise.
 - h. Millie Tormey—Opportunities to raise money: she did Friday Flings with her kids.
 - i. Kalea Hogate—the delegate kids from Atlanta came back on fire with a dream list to go to schools to recruit kids into 4H, attend public speaking events, go to statewide organizations, create a state and district council, youth in governance, do a lot of recruiting even outside of livestock to encourage kids to join to learn life skills.
 - j. Millie Tormey—Commented that it used to be that 4H youth came and gave a presentation in the AG classroom. There was no curriculum, they just taught what was of interest to them (i.e. how to do a worm farm, showing sheep, etc.)
 1. Stephanie Haase teaches at Colony High School.
Any kids interested in presenting there to write

the principal directly if interested to be put on the schedule.

2. Sarah Rodriguez teaches 7th grade biology and welcomes anyone interested in presenting as well.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jackie Kuhn reports online (see her emailed report for further details

\$6,622.86

+ \$5,405.96

\$12, 028.82 Total

With \$98.22 earned in dividends

VII. Old Business

- a. Gaming Account Chair—Cathy Glasser not present, but still scheduled to close the gaming account.
- b. 2023-2024 Budget Approval;
 - i. Crystal Roberts—we are set to take our budget down to \$0, unless we get a source of revenue.
 - ii. Millie Tormey—Dinner and a Fundraiser is a great idea but have to get the commitment from folks. Crystal and Millie commented that there were over 100 people served for dinner fundraiser with only about 15 volunteers in the past. It is a lot of work. Volunteers would need to commit to helping.
 - iii. Faith Stewart—Career Tech just opened an FFA chapter and are always looking for service projects.
 - iv. Crystal Roberts—regarding scholarships: unless the scholarship application is revised, kids aren't going to apply.
 - v. Stephanie Haase—Anyone want to make an amendment to the budget?
 1. Crystal Roberts— We need to add a travel grant line in for \$1000 total (\$250 max per family).
 2. Heather Corbridge made a motion to amend budget to the projected budget of
 - a. \$1,000 towards clinics/workshops/activities
 - b. \$2,500 towards Fair premiums
 - c. \$500 towards competitions
 - d. \$200 towards the Lindeke/Clabo/Tull Scholarships (50/100/50)
 - e. \$100 towards miscellaneous/stamps & Ink
 3. Heather Corbridge stated that it would be nice to do senior scholarships (seniors in 4H not just high school seniors) if there is anything extra, but at this point it is \$0 to everything else unless we do some fundraising.
 4. Sarah Rodriguez stated that we need to consider all the kids wanting to go to the National 4H Summit in February in Fairbanks.
 5. Millie Tormey concurs. The National 4H Summit doesn't happen very often locally.

6. Stephanie Haase called for a vote on the amendment to take the VLA travel scholarship out of the budget.
 - a. 4 votes for it
 - b. 1 vote against it
 - c. Add/remove signers to the bank account tabled due to lack of having account information available at the meeting.
- VIII. New Business: Proposed changed to by-laws to be voted on at January 2024 meeting.
- a. Changes to by-laws to align with Alaska 4H procedure Handbook 2023
 - i. Proposed change Name of State VLA to Current Name
 1. Article VI, 3. The State Council Representative and alternate will represent Mat-Su/copper River District on the ~~Alaska State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Council~~. Alaska State Friends of 4-H.
 - ii. Proposed change of terms of office
 1. Article VI, 4. The term of Office shall be one year. An officer may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms ~~for the same office~~ as officer. The executive committee may appoint members of the council to fill vacancies in the offices.
 - a. Michele Deering commented that making this change may really narrow down the pool of experience.
 - b. Heather Corbridge agrees with Michele. At the very beginning of the 4H year, there are often many people present. As the year progresses, sometimes there are only 4-6 people present. Concern for what would happen to VLA if we restricted the terms of office.
 - c. Millie Tormey agrees, stating “we need as much help as we can get.”
 - d. Mary Tryon stated that the reason it wasn’t restricted in the past was because there was a lack of volunteers.
 - e. Crystal Roberts reminded the group that we would be voting on this the next meeting in January.
- IX. Comments/Questions
- a. Crystal Roberts –Thank you to VLA for funding November’s clinic and Craft at Pyrah’s Farm. Power went out during the craft due to blizzard, but kids were still able to complete it. Extra craft supplies went home with the kids so they could continue to work on their crafts at home. She stated that she currently has 40 youth signed up for the December 11, 2023, workshop and craft. She and Millie Tormey plan on hosting a workshop/craft every second Monday of the month through April 2024. She is looking forward to having the 4H delegates that went to Atlanta help lead the kids in a fun activity in January clinic.
- X. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm