

ST. CLAIR COUNTY 4-H LEADERS' COUNCIL
Monday, September 21, 2009
Goodells County Park

Present: Jessie Aguinaga, Steve Aguinaga, Dale Avery, Jackie Avery, Denise Czostkowski, Jenny Fox, Jolee Gregg, Peggy Gregg, Raemi Kunath (presiding), Sheri McColman, Kim Newberry, Linda Pakulski, Jenn Putney, Chris Ruemenapp, Ashley Sebastian, LaDonna Shier, Donna Sill, Betty Stephens, Linda Thueme, Rob Usakowski, Lori Warchuck, Tim Warchuck and Tom Whitenight.

Excused: Al Leone, Cindy Leone and Connie Murray

Absent: Rosemary Aguinaga, Sarah Anderson

- I. Call to Order – Raemi Kunath called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda – Jackie Avery moved the agenda be accepted, Jessie Aguinaga seconded, motion carried.
- III. Secretary's Report/Correspondence – The minutes were distributed from the July 20, 2009 meeting. Chris Rumenapp moved the minutes be approved, Jenny Fox seconded, motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Denise distributed the June Treasurer's Reports. The beginning balance was \$18,802.95. Income for the month was \$1.59 from bank interests. Expenditures were \$4,027.64 for parade fee, Exploration Days bus, clover sprouts workshop, tires for the float, candy for the Fair, Capes for Court members, PHASD (Spring Achievement expense), scholarships, stamps, Spring Achievement & state award expenses, Exploration Days scholarships and deposit for Fore Lakes Banquet Facilities for the Leaders' Banquet. Ending balance for April was \$14,776.90. Chris Ruemenapp moved the Treasurer's Reports be approved, Linda Pakulski seconded, motion carried. Denise stated she has a list of outstanding checks from clubs and individuals that have not been cashed. Lori will check into these to find out if there is a problem. Denise also paid for a bill for reenrollment forms. That is an expense that should have been paid by the Extension office. Denise and Lori will make sure we are reimbursed for that expense. Denise also stated the CD is maturing October 4th and asked if we want to roll over the CD or have it deposited into the checking account. Dale Avery moved that we roll over the CD, but we will leave it to Denise's discretion depending on the interest amount available for the CD vs. interest from a regular account, Steve Aguinaga seconded, motion carried.
- V. Staff Report – Lori Warchuck distributed copies of the MSU Extension Partner Report from July 2009. This issue was focused on all 4H activities such as Spring Achievement, State Awards, State Horse shows and the Livestock Day Camp. Joe Whitenight asked Lori about insurance for 4H property for the county and club property. Lori spoke with the Extension office Risk Management Department and was told that the county and clubs can purchase insurance policies to cover their 4H property. Lori will check with K & K Insurance Company and Liberty Insurance Company. The MSU Extension office has a policy with a \$5,000 deductible. Lori will check the cost for a blanket policy to cover all clubs and charge clubs according to their list of inventory. Chris Ruemenapp congratulated Lori on the terrific job she has done to get this information since we have been working on this issue for the last two years.

Reenrollment is coming up and Lori has had business size cards made as a membership card for each 4H member and will have them made for 4H Leaders. Each club will get the cards and will distribute them to their members. The Leader will sign them with each child's name on each card. These will be used to identify kids as 4H members if asked for identification at various businesses or events. These cards can be handed out with reenrollment packets.

Lori also distributed an informational sheet regarding how to apply for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and information on the 2009 St. Clair County Fall Farm Tour. She also has laminated signs to help market 4H. The sign is titled "Join St. Clair County 4H" and has great color photos, a list of activities and programs and contact information if anyone is interested in joining 4H. Lori suggested these be hung in libraries or other public places where people will see them and hopefully will be encouraged to join St. Clair County 4H. She is also planning to make flyers with a map of St. Clair County and show spots on the map where 4H clubs are located and how to contact the various clubs if anyone is interested in joining a certain club. Lori will need to get permission from the Leaders before posting their phone numbers on the flyer.

VII. Fair Board Report

Chris Ruemenapp stated that Livestock checks were mailed out and premium checks will be mailed out within the next two weeks. Premiums will be paid at 100% of what was listed in the fair book - \$167,147.00 will be paid out in livestock monies this year. Chris also explained the changes for the 2010 Swine Department. The board will be placing by-law amendments on the ballot in November. The King & Queen Superintendents commented that they had a great fair court this year and everyone seemed to do everything that was required and more. The website will be updated as project changes are turned in and will be marked as being updated for 2010. Shelving will be purchased for the adult exhibit barn and plans are to replace the photo boards for hanging photography in the still exhibit barn. The 2009 attendance was 98,000 and seemed to be a big success. The Fair Board is making several requests of parks and recreation for 2010 – more parking spaces, improved water pressure and electrical services for the north side of the road and improved water pressure on the west side of the beef barn and lighting for ring two. Daily tokens will be sold again next year since that seemed to work well and preferred by the gate workers. Fair dates for 2010 are July 26-31 and in 2011 July 25-30.

Sheri McColman asked about the article in the Voice. Chris and Raemi stated that some of the information in the article was not true and the Voice has been contacted regarding their false reports. The voting for the Fair Board directors will be done according to their by-laws. Fair Board directors will be voted into office by current directors, the Council members and the superintendents. Ballots will be mailed out. People are nominated at the Fair Board meeting on the second Monday in September. This information has always been in the Fair Book and it states how to become a director.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Auction: no report. Kim Newberry asked if we can bring stuff from the Extension office basement to sell at the Auction. It was suggested we put the items into boxes and we sell the boxes in the "coat room" similar to items in the silent auction. The auction will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 so mark your calendar!

- B. Awards: The committee met and has the nominations for the Friend of 4H awards that will be given at the Leaders' Banquet. Peggy Gregg asked if we would like the wooden circle plaque or the plaques we have been giving out in the past. Lori stated the plaques we have been giving out are now costing \$60 per plaque and the wooden circle plaque are \$30 each and can be made with whatever wording we want. Tim Warchuck moved we go with the wooden circle plaque with the year of the award and Friend of 4H on the top of the circle and the name/names on the bottom, Tom Usakowski seconded, motion carried. These will be purchased from Laser Lectric. The Committee also wanted to know who should be invited to the banquet. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the nominees that have been nominated to receive the award be invited to the dinner, but not told they have won the award. The others that were nominated but not chosen to win the award will receive a certificate after the banquet stating they were nominated with a note explaining that more information was needed on their application and that they can be nominated again.
- C. Fair Fun Night: Jackie stated she needs more money for candy next year. It was determined that we should budget \$125 for candy next year. There were three bus loads of kids brought in this year on the day for Fair Fun Night. Chris stated the Fair Board will be looking at busses entering for free.
- D. Spring Achievement: Lori stated the school has been booked for April 24th next year for Spring Achievement. It was determined that more judges will be brought in for the Foods projects. Discussion ensued about how to cut more time and to be able to get out earlier. It was suggested that a questionnaire be sent out with reenrollment about Spring Achievement as to what we can do to make it better. It was suggested we get new project areas in science and that Mr. Fountain will take charge for Science Fair type projects and we could possibly get more projects in welding and electrical. Lori has a suggestion box that we can bring to Spring Achievement. Safety projects were also discussed regarding being shown at Spring Achievement and the Fair. The kids that show at Spring Achievement can make another poster for the Fair so they are not showing the same poster for both. It was suggested that the larger project areas hand out numbers to help move along the judging. It was also suggested that flyers be made regarding Spring Achievement and put into the reenrollment packets. It was determined that judging will begin at 9:00 am instead of 10:00 am and the awards will be at 1:00 pm. There will be a one hour time span for lunch. We will have cosmetology students come in to do braids, the library will come into do something, the balloons and face painting will all be available to entertain the kids that are waiting. Judging will take place at the same time as viewing for Style Review. When asked, Kim said she was happy!
- E. Court: Kim Newberry announced they just did "Roof, Sit, Walk" and everyone had a great time. They didn't make a donation this year because they weren't sure how much money was left in the budget for this. Last year we had budgeted \$150 for this and memorials and we had already spent money for a memorial for Bev Jamison this year. Chris Ruemenapp moved we donate \$50 to the "Roof, Sit, Walk", Linda Theume seconded, motion carried. The Court will also be working the Farm Tour and the Yale Christmas Parade this year.
- F. Leaders' Banquet: Raemi Kunath will email or call the members of the committee regarding setting up a meeting. It was suggested that we have the older kids from the

Court help with the banquet. We will have either the King or Queen or a member of their court if they are not available to help at the banquet.

G. Participation Fee: no report

H. Budget – no report

I. Nominating Committee: Raemi stated we need to reinstitute this committee. LaDonna Shier volunteered to be the Chairperson. The committee will be given the names of new people who have stated they are interested in joining the Council. The Committee will need to establish a policy and procedure to establish a screening process for new Council members. We will have a questionnaire asking what they will bring to the Council and stating what they have done in 4H. It was also suggested that the prospective nominees attend a year of meetings before their names are placed on the ballot so they know if they really want to make the commitment to be on the Council and the Council will be able to determine their future obligation to being on Council. The committee will be the first screening process for future Council members. The people volunteering for this Committee are: LaDonna Shier (chairperson), Chris Ruemenapp, Sheri McColman, Jenny Fox, Jenn Putney, Ashley Sebastian, Rob Usakowski, Raemi Kunath, Donna Sill, JoLee Gregg, Peggy Gregg, Linda Pakulski, Jessie Aguinaga. Cindy Leone and Jackie Avery. Tim moved the Committee get done what they can by November to get the ballot together, if it is necessary, for the banquet, Chris Ruemenapp seconded. The guidelines and application for future Council members will be drafted and brought back to the Council for final approval. The meeting will be Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 at the Fair Board Office. There are nine current members whose terms expire this year. Those members are: Raemi Kunath, Allen Leone, Cindy Leone, Sheri McColman, Ashley Sebastian, Kim Newberry Jennifer Putney, Sarah Anderson and Rosemary Aguinaga. Sarah Anderson was not at the meeting and will be called to find out if she wishes to continue. Jessie Aguinaga stated that Rosemary Aguinaga stated she does not wish to continue on Council.

VIII. Old Business. No report

IX. New Business

- A. Council meeting dates and November Pot Luck Dinner: The next meeting will be November 16th at the MSU Extension office at 6:30 pm and will be the pot luck dinner.
- B. Scholarship Requests: The Council thanked Lori for itemizing the scholarship requests which makes it much easier to discuss and vote on the requests.
 1. Joe Whitenight, Theresa Whitenight, Ashley Sebastian and Bryant Sebastian are all requesting scholarship money for a Wilderness First Aid workshop which is a requirement for the Challenge Club. Each is requesting \$50 from Council and getting \$20 from other funding. The total cost of the training registration is \$100, Cost of camping for 3 nights is \$22.50.
 2. Katherine Anderson and Lucy Anderson are requesting scholarship funds for a Tri-County Camp. Total cost for training for Katherine is \$75, amount providing is

\$56.25 and she is requesting \$18.75. Lori's total cost of training is \$30, Amount providing \$22.50 and she is requesting \$7.50.
Chris Ruemenapp moved we approve all scholarship requests, Denise Czostkowski seconded, motion carried.

XI. Announcements/Adjournment –

The Council wanted to thank Lori for an excellent job she is doing since taking over Gilda's job and doing her job. Lori stated there are discussions taking place at the Extension Office regarding the possibility of shared Directors and shared Agent jobs. She will keep us informed as to any changes that happen.

Linda Theume moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 pm, Chris Ruemenapp seconded, motion carried.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the MSU Extension Office for our annual Pot Luck meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Raemi Kunath
Council President

Donna Sill
Secretary