

VAN BUREN COUNTY 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

November 18, 2024

Attendance: Mary Darling, Janice Zerbe, Denise Noble, Nancy Wheatley, Wendy Fisher, Alex deFinta, Latisha Tomsa, Amy Mortimore, Cari Copi, Tod Kubiszak, Shelby Bilyk, Kerri Damm-Bilyk, Lori Alexander, Annette Ayotte

The regular meeting of the Van Buren County 4-H Leaders Association was called to order by President, Alex deFinta at 7:05 pm with all officers present, except the Treasurer and nine clubs represented.

Secretary Report: Amy Mortimore moved to accept the secretary report as presented with a second from Denise Noble. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented with income of \$250.00, disbursements of \$595.71, and a total in the checking account of \$16197.66 which includes outstanding checks of \$276.99 and outstanding deposits of \$250.00. Sub accounts included Differently Abled (\$656.51), Capital Experience (\$0.00), Teen Club (\$940.02), Efting Memorial (\$575.00), Domestic Animal (\$492.39), and Bea Funk Memorial Fund (\$500 in savings bonds). Report will be placed on file for audit.

Bills / Correspondence: None reported.

Club Sharing: *Silver Spurs* – Janice Zerbe attended their meeting to present awards. They have new officers. *Young Explorers & Van Buren Voyagers* – created 118 cards for Troops for Veterans. They held a dinner for veterans that went great. *West Valley Livestock* – signed Thanksgiving cards for adult homes in Decatur. They made armpit fudge. *Almena Happy Helpers* – are collecting warm items for elementary students. *Dream Chasers* – have young officers that are excited to begin this leadership role. *South Haven JayDees* – have five new families and are collecting officer nominations.

Committee Reports: *Auction* – The committee met on November 6 to discuss a location for the breakfast. The location will be a church in Decatur. Letters to businesses and 4-H families have been drafted and will be mailed soon. Janice Zerbe will print fliers and make available to all 4-H clubs and a Facebook event will be created. *Tractor, Truck or Treat* – Nothing to report.

4-H Educator Report: *4-H Enrollments* – Members are encouraged to enroll before January 1 to be eligible for scholarships. Leaders may enroll on MI4H ONLINE, otherwise Janice will enroll them beside the scene, however, they are opt out only. *TSC Paper Clover – November 29 – December 15* – Clubs are encouraged to hold events at TSC during this time. *Market Steer tagging* – Tags will be available after December 2nd. Market Steer must be tagged by December 31. *Essential Elements* – Information was available. Michigan will use Essential Elements instead of the previous Guiding Principles. *State Awards / Mark of Excellence* – Age requirements have been updated beginning in 2025 as follows: Mark of Excellence is for 4-H member 10-11 years old (as of January 1), State Awards if for 4-H members 12-19 years old (as of January 1). A new award will be available beginning in 2025 called Versatility. All applications are due by April 1st.

Unfinished Business: *Fundraising Outcomes and Expectations* – Continue to provide ideas of how we can include communities. *Awards 2024* – Janice Zerbe has three club meetings to still attend. She is enjoying attending the club meetings. *Fair Book Cover Contest* – Porsha Tomsa won the contest but so far has not received the award.

New Business: *Enrollment Incentive Drawing* – Ten winners were drawn that will receive a \$20.00 gift card /
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certificate each from a Van Buren County business. The names that were drawn included: Avery Matej (Young Explorers), Lincoln Reagan (Silver Spurs), Chase Pillar (Almena Happy Helpers), Grace DeLille (Almena Happy Helpers), Ashlyn Walls (Porter Busy Fingers), Chase Salmon (Farm, Friends & Family), Owen Murphy-DuBay (West Valley Livestock), Addison Vaughn (Almena Happy Helpers), Timothy Reidenbach (Almena Happy Helpers) and Hayden Bigelow (Porter Busy Fingers). *Fundraising Suggestion* – Tod Kubiszak suggested to hold a Teen Lock-in. He will check on details for 2026.

Expansion Review: Janice Zerbe is working on the MSU website page to include more information / links.

Fair Board Update: They have formed a committee to work on suggested fair book changes, additions, and corrections. They will be meeting again soon. YQCA dates will be available soon. There may be a place on online enrollment to ask about YQCA knowledge.

Announcements: *Next meeting* – January 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. On Zoom.

MSU Extension Office Hours – The office will not open on Fridays. The new office hours are Monday-Wednesday from 7:30 to 5:30 and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments can be made on Friday, but no walk-ins will be accepted.

Van Buren Youth Fair -- Fair week will be July 14-19, 2025.

Adjournment: Amy Mortimore moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Denise Noble. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Darling
LA Secretary