

September 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Amy Hein. Claire Donaldson and Garret Neal lead the pledges.

Roll Call: Present were: Lin Wozniowski, Connie Brittingham, Colton Neal, Garret Neal, Anna Neal, Stephanie Neal, Julie Ziese, Rachel Bult, Christine Long, Lynette DoBord, Justine Gatlin, Lisa Bubala, Sandy Monroe, Rebekah Lamb, Linda Dillon, Kristibe Donaldson, Clare Donaldson, Jackie Gerner, Patti Nichols, Amy Hein, Ike Essary, Deanne Nagle, Debbie Nieman, Lauie Nelson, and Julie Jones

Linda Dillon moved that \$100 be made available for flowers for funeral. Amy Hein seconded. Motion passed.

The secretaries reports for August and September have been on-line. Patty Nichols moved to accept the secretaries reports. Christine Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report So far this year the County Committee has taken in \$68,360.82 and spent \$69,537.58. The balance in all accounts is \$38,268.67. A Farm Credit representative presented a check for \$500 for participation in the Stock The Trailer program at the fair. Lake County collected more than 1,000 lbs. of food. Overall the state collected over 100,000 lbs. of food that was donated to food banks around the state. 38 of Indiana's 96 counties participated in the program.

Amy Hein also reported that Farm Bureau had voted to fund the 4-H projects at the same level as last year.

Correspondence: County Committee received thank you notes from Caroline Donaldson for the Citizenship Award and McKenzie Smith for the Royal Ambassador.

Special Discussion: Amy Hein wanted to emphasize to members who are on the County Committee and project leaders and committee members that they are expected to come to meetings and events and be active.

Sub Committee Reports:

Adult Leaders: Linda Dillon – None

Auction: Julie Ziese reported that as of August 31, there were \$184,227.50 in uncashed checks out. She was urging all 4-H members to cash their auction checks. Amy Hein announced that she had extra copies of the magazine with the auction pictures in it. Contact Amy Hein if copies are needed.

Horse and Pony. Christi Long reported that the committee had met and debriefed from the fair. A few changes were being contemplated.

Junior Leaders: Clair Donaldson reported that the Junior Leaders had been quite active. The Junior Leaders went on a completion canoe trip down by Turkey Run on Sunday September 10th. They then had an officer meeting on September 18th to plan the activities for the year. The Junior leaders had a call-out meeting On September 22 at Schereringa's in Highland where they went on a hayride and watched a movie. There were quite a few new members.

By-Laws: Julie Jones indicated no report.

Finance: Julie Ziese indicated no report

Nominations: Julie Ziese reported that there would be 7 spots open for County Committee elections next meeting. Julie indicated that the following people had indicated an interest in being on the County Committee for a second term since their original 3 year term was ending December 2023: Lin Wozniowski, Debbie Nieman, and Lynette DuBord. Others interested in becoming members of the County Committee include: Patti Nichols, Amanda Woodworth, Rachael Bult, Amber Miller, and Janet Kraynik. The committee will be elected to the new by-laws structure. The new terms will begin in January 2024.

Standing Committee Reports

Achievement Night, Awards, & Ambassadors: Lin Wozniowski. Over \$6,000 was raised and distributed at the last Achievement night. Methods of increasing attendance at the Achievement Night were being considered. One idea was to enter all clubs that had over a certain % attendance, like 50% in a drawing for \$100 or a pizza party. Input is desired on ideas for increasing attendance.

A meeting of the committee is planned on Monday October 2nd at 5:30 at the Zion United Church of Christ in Dyer to review the ROA's turned in by the October 1st deadline.

Banquet/Annual Meeting. Linda Dillon reported that the cost of this year's Banquet should be about half of last year's. The Banquet will be on a regular Committee meeting night (January 25th, 2024) at the 4-H Building at the Lake County Fairgrounds. The committee is getting the facility free and may need help setting up and pulling down the tables and chairs. The committee is looking for the loan of chaffing dishes that have Sterno heaters underneath. Several were offered. That will help bring down the cost of the meal. Several members of the committee are working on decorations for the meeting. Most of them will not be distributed to banquet goers. A few will be available as door prizes.

Geranium/Fundraising: Lin Wozniowski deferred the discussion until new business.

Memory Books: Connie Brittingham: Connie reminded members to get their memory books in by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trophies: Linda Dillion indicated that there were quite a few compliments on the medals. Lorrie Nelson brought up a couple of concerns on the Thank you notes. Because of the new medal structure donors were receiving a lot more Thank you notes than they have in the past and this raised some questions. The quality of the Thank you notes was also questioned. But it was pointed out that with the new structure, there were a lot of younger 4-H members who were now receiving awards that required Thank You notes. And the quality of the Thank you note from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader really could not be compared to the quality of the thank you notes from a 12<sup>th</sup> grader. Concerns were also expressed about buyers from the auction not receiving Thank you notes from the sellers. The auction committee indicated they would look into it. Other buyers indicated that they had received Thank you notes from people they had purchased from, so hopefully it is just an isolated incident that may have had something else go wrong than the 4-H member not writing a Thank you note.

Promotion: Lynette DuBord wants all clubs to send representatives to the 4-H Kick Off from 1-4 on October 8<sup>th</sup>. She is hoping for a huge turn-out and would like the clubs on hand to answer questions about their clubs and help recruit members. There will be lots to do besides recruiting 4-H members, so a good time looms. Computers will be set up to allow people to sign-up for 4-H for the year.

Old Business:

4-H Camp and trips. Jennifer is considering changing the dates and location of 4-H camp this summer. The opportunity has arisen to join several other counties at Camp Mack toward the beginning of June. The advantages would be that our Lake County 4-H members would meet members from other counties so they know other people when they meet them at Roundup and other State Events. The Junior Leaders would actually lead the activities. The biggest disadvantage would be that the camp would be a little more expensive than the Dunes is. The news of the new format being considered was met with great enthusiasm by a number of the adults who fondly remember Camp Mack and the multi-county format. It was also noted that going to this format will require that the ages for camp will be from 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade as opposed to 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade as it has been at the Dunes Learning Center. Jennifer had been considering this change even before the opportunity to partner with the other counties presented itself.

New Business:

Geranium Bid: Hennings will be increasing the price of Geraniums by 5% (\$0.05/plant). They are also requesting that we only increase or decrease our numbers by 5% instead of 10% to keep those prices. It was pointed out that other counties are using a grower from Michigan at a much lower price. Hennings has also intimated that the price might be able to be lowered if the quality could be lowered. After looking at the orders and sales from the last several years, it was recommended that the County Committee place orders for Red 325 plants, Pink-200 plants, White-250 plants, and Salmon 275 plants. Formal bids are to be solicited from Hennings and the company from Michigan that the other counties use. It was pointed out that if we go with a Michigan grower that deliver of the Geraniums will have to be much different from what it has been the last several years. Debbie Neiman moved that we place the order presented out for bid. Lori Nelson seconded. Motion passed. It was also pointed out that the present structure of clubs getting \$0.12/plant has been in effect for quite a while and clubs are unhappy with the amount. In setting the price of the geraniums, after the formal bids are received, it was suggested that clubs receive \$0.25/plant

New meeting time/schedule for next year. It was decided to move the County Committee meeting to 6:00-7:30 instead of 7-8:30. This idea was met with overwhelming support. Food will continue to be made available at the meeting for those who are unable to get anything between work and the meeting. While the original proposal was for the change to be made for the new year starting in January, it was proposed that the change be made starting with the next meeting.

It was also decided that an April meeting should be added to the schedule and that the July meeting be moved to after 4-H building set-up, thus eliminating a second meeting in July. The September meeting was also formally moved to Wednesday instead of Thursday. So the formal meeting schedule for 2024 is: January 25<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup> Geranium pick-up, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup> Achievement night, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Connie Brittingham moved to accept the schedule and change the meeting time to 6:00. Pattie Nickels seconded. Motion Carried

4-H Projects for the 2023/2024 year. A list of the projects that were exhibited at the 2023 Fair was distributed. There were a few projects that had fairly low enrollment including Computer Science and Consumer Clothing. A debate ensued about dropping the projects. Consumer Clothing needs to be updated by the state, and there are plans to update it, but nothing has been finalized on that yet. It was decided that since we had superintendents who were trying to get more participation, that we were going to keep the projects. The tractor project however, not only has low enrollment, but no one to take over the project. One possibility is to partner with other counties and have the county contests in the morning and the area in the afternoon. It is not yet clear if that will be possible or not. Linda Dillon moved to drop tractor and that it should be able to be reviewed if the option to partner with other counties presented itself. Patti Nickels seconded. Motion passed.

Julie Jones also noted that our county's record sheet/manual requirements may not be in compliance with state 4-H policy going forward. These requirements are under review as we work to increase consistency throughout the program.

Educator Comments:

Enrollment is open. It seems to be going better than in previous years. New state requirements are in effect that require volunteers to be signed up for the next year before they participate in any 4-H event or run for any office or be able to vote. Volunteers are therefore encouraged to sign-up ASAP.

The state is setting new deadlines for exhibits, but animal and non-animal to get some consistency across counties. Animal identification will be due May 15 for all species that require it (not required for poultry and rabbits). FairEntry registration will be due July 1. While corrections will still be allowed after that, there will be penalties for late entries.

Horse and Pony will not be required to do YQCA.

The 2024 pre-fair judging schedule will be required to change because of competition for fair ground space. A tentative schedule was passed out, which is still under review. We will not be able to use the 4-H building for pre-fair judging during the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend that we are used to using it. It is proposed that foods, floriculture, and a lot of the poster only project judging be moved to the 4-H extension office. Pictures will be taken of the foods, as normal and the projects released. Pictures will be taken of the Floriculture projects and members will be allowed to bring fresh exhibits to the fair. Posters will be transported from the office to the fair. A morning and afternoon schedule is proposed. This will mean a hugely different schedule for the rest of the fair also. Mini judging will be moved to the second weekend.

Julie Jones called everyone's attention to the Lake County 4-H Volunteer Development Opportunities. The first one will be from 6:30-8:0 at the Extension office on Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup> on welcoming and keeping new 4-H families. All volunteers are invited (read encouraged) to attend.

Lynette brought up the problem of having to combine Achievement, Awards, and Ambassador committees this year due to the problems of resignations earlier in the year. She felt that the three committees should again be separated. Since the committees work at the discretion of the President, no motion was necessary, but the consensus was that separating the 3 committees would be best for the organization. Amy indicated that she would separate the three committees for the new year.

The next County Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Extension Office. It is slated to be the election of superintendents, general superintendents, and County Committee members.

Judy Dawson made a motion to adjourn: It was seconded by Patti Nickels. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Wozniowski