

4-H Youth Council Meeting Minutes MSUE Office, January 31, 2007

Present: Sue Archambault, Denise Lotan, Kathy Jamieson, Christine Bingham, Jean Bingham, Bee Brown, Christine Miller, Mike DeFour, Jim Kaltz, Tina Fleming, Sue Kutchev

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Christine Bingham

Secretary's Report: Accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Currently there is \$3598.37 in the checking account. Report approved as presented.

Also at this time there was discussion about the King & Queen banquet, the cost, taking youth away from the grounds and other issues. Kathy indicated that these issues would be addressed. Sue said the King & Queen contest was under budget for 2006 Fair.

Old Business:

Participation Fee Update: There has been \$4500 collected so far for membership fees. Some clubs have over paid by \$10-\$20 dollars due to payments made for youth being too old to participate in 4-H. Those clubs will receive refunds. Kathy is anticipating about \$500 more in fees and currently staff is reviewing all records for accuracy. Kathy indicated that there would be approximately \$2250 for educational use in the county 4-H program. Several suggestions were made for purchases such as educational kits, skill-a-thon, mini grants, AED (defibrillator) machine. It was decided to look into using the funds for educational games and kits.

Entrepreneurship Grant: MSUE received a \$750 grant to promote financial literacy in high school youth. Kathy and Bee approached Chippewa Valley HS to recruit 9-11 grade youth for this new 4-H program. A press release was also sent out in the county to recruit more youth. The first meeting was held January 3rd and there were five participants. Currently there are 9 participants countywide and more phone calls have been received from youth and parents wanting to get involved. The second meeting will be February 7th at the MSUE office. Kathy said about half of the youth have no 4-H experience. The goal of the program is to open up and run a business. This business will be showcased at the 2008 Exploration Days program. Kathy mentioned that there were other 'perks' that included free workshops at Kett for participants and free registration to Exploration days in 2008. Kathy said that financial literacy/entrepreneurship is the focus priority area identified by the state as a need. Denise Lotan talked about Citizen's Bank having an Admiral Eagle program that promotes financial literacy and may be of some help to the program.

Communications Improvement: The communication from the 4-H office to members has improved over the last year with many more e-mails announcing upcoming programs, improved timing and the Family Notes articles. Some of the suggestions were: take the "other department information" out of Family Notes and make them separate items. There are concerns that it's too bulky for people to open, especially since many

have dial-up networks. Kathy suggested that each club have someone disseminate information to the rest of the club. Kathy also let the committee know that Christine is leaving the 4-H office soon and her responsibilities are being redistributed to remaining staff.

New Business:

Officer Elections: Christine Bingham, Chair; Bee Brown – 4-H Mentoring, Vice-Chair; Sue Kutchev, Treasurer; Secretary, rotating basis.

Scholarships: Kathy handed out scholarship forms. She discussed National Congress and how other counties have a selection process for applicants and counties pay the full amount for Congress but only sent two kids. She asked if there should be criteria and/or limits for youth wanting to attend Congress. Denise felt that there should not be limitations placed on Congress Delegates and others agreed that they did not want to discourage kids from attending. However, the concern is that there will be more applicants than slots available. There was some discussion about how to limit with six slots; possibly reserve for 11th-12th grade youth, being involved on county and/or state committees. By consensus it was decided to **use age as the deciding factor** if there are more than six applicants.

The committee agreed to add this statement to the scholarship form: **“In order to be eligible to attend 4-H National Congress, youth must participate on a county or state committee and have at least 50% participation on that committee.”**

There was discussion about when the scholarships for workshops and programs are paid out. Sue said they are paid out at the end of the program year.

Age Policy: Discussions about the age policy continue with the Armada Fair Board and it is unclear at this time what they will do. Kathy has asked the fair board to change just the 4-H age in the 4-H classes. If the board is unwilling to comply with the 4-H age, Kathy will ask them to remove the 4-H name from all classes and barns. She would be willing to discuss with the board keeping the 4-H name for the livestock sale and King & Queen contest pending the outcome of the February fair board meeting. At this time, the age policy only affects 25 youth, most of whom are not participating in livestock projects. Denise explained that many fairs in other counties are taking the 4-H name out because MDA is paying 75% of the premiums. Committee members asked if Kathy could write up facts, data, details and figures to present at the fair board meeting. Mike and Jim also felt this could be a strong point in helping the fair board understand what 4-H contributes to the whole. Kathy will write up the points and Mike will present at the fair board meeting.

Program Committees: See Committee update page

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.