



18 U.S.C. 707

Portage County 4-H Courier

Bimonthly Periodical



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

February / March 2024

Letter From the President

Hello 4-H friends,

We are already a month into the new year. Many people take this time to reflect on how to improve themselves. 4-H members are fortunate to have our pledge that encourages us to always do our best.

But have you ever thought about what each part of the pledge means?

By pledging our head to clearer thinking, we can consider learning a new skill, doing our best at school or work or expanding our knowledge by reading.

By pledging our hearts to greater loyalty, we can make time for our family and friends by truly being present, listening to one another and helping each other when you can.

By pledging our hands to larger service, we can volunteer our time to a cause that is meaningful to us or we can simply help by spreading kindness wherever possible.

By pledging our hearts to better living, we can make sure we are being active and eating healthy. We can also learn about how to prepare a healthy meal to share with our family or friends.

The pledge may mean something a little different to each of us, but as we continue to follow the four H's (head, heart, hands and health) in our everyday lives, we can all make our clubs, communities, country and world a wonderful place for us all!

Sharon Cisewski

Portage County 4-H Leader's Association
President

| | |
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Meet our new team member!



BROOKLYN BUTZIN

**PORTAGE COUNTY
AMERICORPS MEMBER**

Brooklyn Butzin is a Wisconsin AmeriCorps member who joined the Portage County Extension team in January. Brooklyn will support the development of new and expanded 4-H relationships in Portage County, serving in partnership with local organizations to build capacity in communities.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FEBRUARY

- 8 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Jensen Center, Amherst
- 8 Market Animal New Member Orientation/Species Meetings, 7:00pm Jensen Center, Amherst
- 9 Market Animal Project Agreements Due to Extension Office (from back of rule book)
- 18 4-H Teen Leader Board Meeting, 7:00pm, Zoom
- 19 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Annex Rooms 1 & 2 and Online via Zoom
- 22 4-H Teen Leaders serving Meal at Place of Peace, 4:30pm

MARCH

- 7 Market Animal Project Practical Applications Mtg 7:00 PM, Jensen Center, Amherst
- 7 Market Animal Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Jensen Center, Amherst
- 9 Shooting Sports Meeting, 9:00am, American Legion Hall, Rosholt
- 9 Beginning Rock Tumbling & Polishing Workshop, 9:00-10:30am, Zoom
- 15 Portage County 4-H Scholarship Application Due
- 15 Last Day to Register for the 4-H Speaking and Demonstration Contests
- 18 4-H Leaders Association Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 23 Rock Tumbling & Polishing Q&A Follow-Up, 9:00-10:30am, Zoom
- 25 4-H Speaking & Demonstration Contests, 5:30PM, Portage County Annex, Rooms 1&2

APRIL

- 1 Last Day for Project Changes in 4-H Online
- 5 Peeps Contest Entries Due
- 13 Shooting Sports Meeting, 9:00am, American Legion Hall, Rosholt
- 15 Managerial Agreements Due to Extension Office
- 15 4-H Leaders Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Annex Rooms 1 & 2 and Online via Zoom



Beginning Rock Tumbling and Polishing with Portage County 4-H

**Saturday, March 9th, 9:00-10:30am
Online via Zoom**

What this workshop covers:

- Different methods of polishing rock
- Rotary Tumblers: How they work
- Vibratory Polishers: How they work
- Supplies needed to be successful
- How to choose the rock to polish
- How to load a barrel tumbler
- How to judge if your rocks are ready to move onto the next stage

An optional Follow-up Zoom is offered March 23rd from 9:00-10:00am to answer questions and to check-in on how your tumbling is going.

To Register: <https://bit.ly/4-HRockTumbling>

The deadline to register is February 29th.

All 4-H Members, Families, and Friends are invited to attend!

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.



This class is offered by a self-taught rock hobbyist with the intention of encouraging others to explore rock collection & polishing as a hobby.



April 1st Project Change Deadline

**The last day to update your project list in
4-H Online is APRIL 1, 2024**

Please take some time before April 1st to review your project list and make any changes necessary.

- 4-H exhibitors at the 2024 Portage County Fairs of Amherst and Rosholt will only be able to enter exhibits for which they are enrolled in related projects.
- Please keep in mind that Explorers (3rd-graders and first-year 4th-graders) are allowed to enroll in only **two** additional projects besides Exploring, only one of which can be a large animal project.
- Kindergarteners, 1st-graders, and 2nd-graders can enroll only in the Cloverbud project.

For click-by-click instructions on updating your project list in 4-H Online [click here](#).

Please contact the Extension office at 715-346-1462 or email lisa.henriksen@wisc.edu if you have any questions.





PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H

2024 Speaking & Demonstration Contests



*Do you like to give speeches, read a book aloud, demonstrate a skill or tell a story?
Then join us for the 4-H Speaking & Demonstration Contests!*

Monday, March 25th—5:30PM

Portage County Annex, Conference Room 1&2

Please note: depending on the number of entries the Demonstration Contest may be moved to Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00pm. Participants will be notified after registration closes if that is the case.

Contest Rules

- Members may submit up to 2 entries in any speaking category. Please make topics appropriate for all ages.
- Groups (2-6) are allowed for any category, but compete as individuals. The grade of the oldest person in the group will decide in what division the group competes.
- Judging will use the Danish system. Awards are ribbons, and Rosholt Fair premiums. A Best of Show will be selected for each age division. Cloverbuds receive participation ribbon.
- Demonstrations may be done individually or by a team of two youth.

Original Speech

A speech written by the speaker on any topic, possibly pertaining to 4-H, such as his/her projects or activities. An introduction and closing are required and included in the time limit. Speaker may use notes. Use of a podium is optional.

Prose Reading

An interpretive reading of a short story or a cutting from a novel, play or essay. A series of prose readings or cuttings from readings on the same subject or theme may also be used. Original material is acceptable. An introduction is required and included in the time limit. Reader must read prose from the printed page and stands during presentation. Use of a podium is optional.

Poetry Reading

Poetry Reading - An interpretive reading of a poem or a cutting from a poem. A series of poems or cuttings from poems on the same subject or theme may also be used. Original material is acceptable. An introduction is required and included in the time limit. Reader must read the poetry from the printed page and stands during presentation. Use of a podium is optional.

Storytelling

A telling of a story, such as a folk tale or fairy tale, without memorizing exact words. Original material is acceptable. An introduction is required and included in the time limit. Notes are not allowed. Storyteller sits during presentation.

4-H Pledge Recitation

Individual for Cloverbuds Only (K-2nd Grade) - Participants will recite the 4-H Pledge with actions. No Time Limit

Play Acting

An acting out of a play or a cutting from a play performed by an individual or group (2-6). Original material is acceptable. An introduction is required and included in the time limit. Must be memorized. Actors may sit or stand. No costumes, sound effects, or props (other than chairs). Emphasis is on character development through voice, movement, facial expressions, and gestures.

Speaking Contest Entries Are Judged On the Following:

- Did the presentation grasp interest from the start?
- Were important points stressed with emphasis/gestures/facial expressions?
- Did it fit the time limit?
- Did the speaker show enthusiasm for the topic?
- Did the speaker make eye contact with the audience?

Speaking Contest Time Limits Per Division

| Divisions | Time Limit |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Grades K - 2 & 3-5 | 2 - 4 Minutes |
| Grades 6 - 8 | 3 - 5 Minutes |
| Grades 9 & Up | 6 - 8 Minutes |

Demonstrations

Enter your demonstration in one of these categories:

- Family, Home & Health / Cultural Arts
- Animal, Plant, or Soil Science
- Mechanical or Natural Science

Demonstration Contest Time Limits Per Division

| Divisions | Time Limit |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Grades K - 2 & 3-5 | 5 - 10 Minutes |
| Grades 6 - 8 and 9 & Up | 8 - 12 Minutes |

Deadline for Registration is March 15th

To Register go to:

<https://bit.ly/4-HSpeakingDemo>



Portage County 4-H Peeps Diorama Contest

This contest is open to all Portage County 4-H members, Cloverbuds, immediate family members of 4-H members, parents and leaders.

To enter the contest submit a picture of your family-friendly diorama made of Peeps. Your submission photo of the diorama must have at least one of the builders in the photo. Make sure you list the Division and your 4-H Club or the 4-H family you are a member of when you email your photo submission.

Diorama Guidelines

All diorama entries must be based on a 4-H Project and be "Family Friendly" (suitable for all audiences)



- All entries should be around the size of a standard shoe-box, with maximum size of 12" x 18" by 12". Sides may be removed.
- All characters in your scene should be made using Peeps. Dioramas can use any type of Peep.
- Limit one entry per person.
- Limit one entry per family.
- Each entry needs to be titled and related to a 4-H project.



Divisions

Cloverbud:
Kindergarten - 2nd grade

Junior:
3rd - 5th grade

Intermediate:
6th - 8th grade

Senior:
9th grade or older

Family

**For Registration and Photo
Submission details go to:**

<https://bit.ly/20244-HPeepsContest>

**Judging Results will be announced
as soon as possible.**

Awesome Prizes Will be Awarded!

Entries are due by April 5th



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
PORTAGE COUNTY

New and Returning Volunteer Trainings

Attention adult volunteers: If your 4-H enrollment has not been approved then you are still in need of completing a required training(s) or background check. If you aren't sure what you need, please reach out! Until you are fully trained, you are not considered a volunteer nor covered under 4-H insurance. Below is an overview of all required 4-H volunteer trainings.

Grow Green (Replaces VIP Training)

Wisconsin 4-H has updated their VIP Leader Training to Grow Green! This is an online course that you can take when it best fits your schedule. If you have completed VIP you are still considered trained and don't need to take Grow Green.

Building Safe Spaces Training

This training includes information about the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch, prohibited behaviors (including sexual misconduct), best practices when working with youth, and reporting procedures.

Supporting You, Supporting Youth (Title IX Reporting)

All Wisconsin 4-H volunteers are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct that take place in Extension programs and complete training on how to report concerns. The questions and answers contain more information about this requirement.

Mandated Reporter

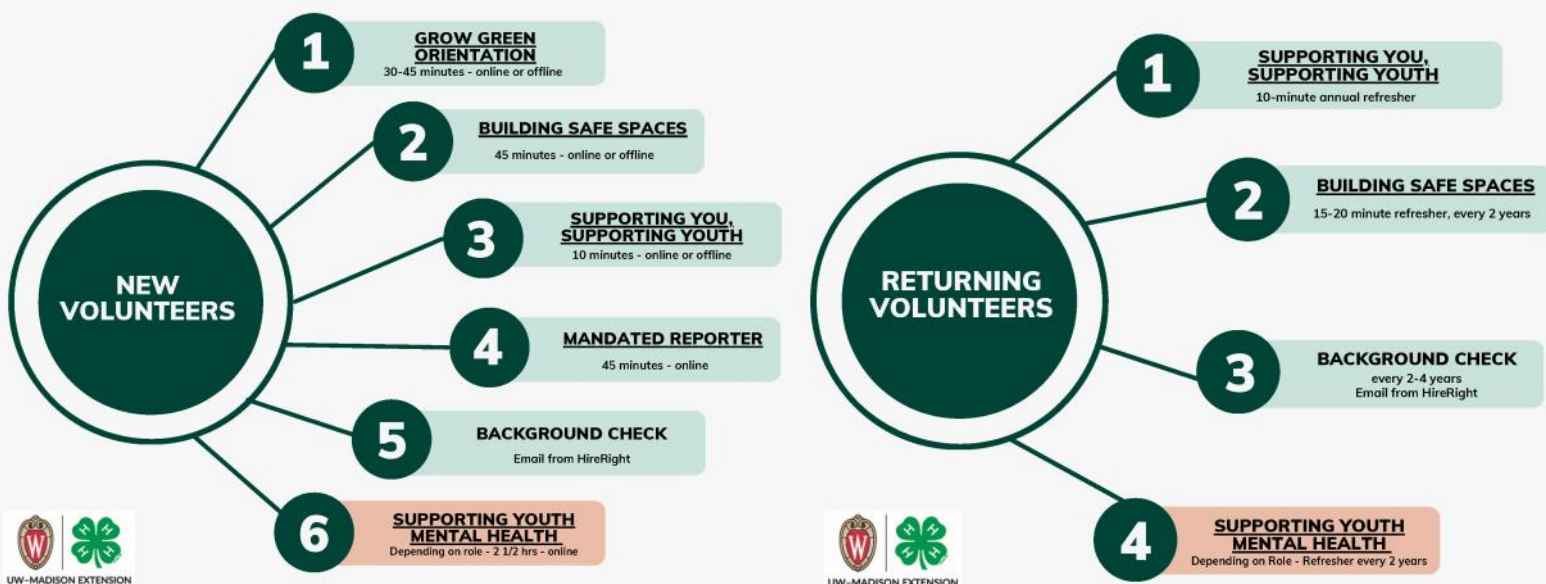
All Wisconsin 4-H volunteers are required to immediately report any incident of child abuse or neglect to law enforcement or human services. This training provides information on when and how to report.

Supporting Youth Mental Health

Adults who volunteer with young people, care about young people. One way to show we care is to give help and support when someone is feeling down. That's what the Supporting Youth Mental Health for Volunteers Training—Supporting YMH, for short—is all about. Knowing how to support youth when they're down, whether it's simply a bad day or it's more than that.

Background Check

All volunteers are required to have an initial background check and then a recheck every 4 years thereafter. The State 4-H Office uses a company called HireRight to complete their background checks online. Volunteers will receive an email from HireRight with instructions to complete their background check.



COME AND JOIN US

IOWA, PORTAGE, & WAUPACA

4-H SUMMER CAMP

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 25-27

2024



**UPHAM WOODS
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI**



**STAY TUNED FOR MORE
INFO ABOUT REGISTRATION**

OPEN TO 4-H MEMBERS CURRENTLY IN GRADES 3-8



Portage County 4-H

SHOOTING SPORTS

Back by popular demand, Portage County 4-H will once again be offering the Shooting Sports Project in the Air Rifle Discipline.

The Shooting Sports program will be meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month, starting on March 9th at 9:00am and running through October.

The meeting place will be the American Legion Hall in Rosholt, (290 E Grand Ave.) Any variation of this will be decided the month before and the changes will be announced.

Open to 4-H members grade 3 and up. All experience levels welcome! If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.



**2nd Saturday of
the Month**
March-October



Time
9:00am



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR 4-H YOUTH

WI 4-H Foundation Scholarships

DEADLINE: MARCH 1ST

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation offers over \$15,000 in scholarships annually to outstanding students pursuing higher education in 2022.

Applications include a resume, cover letter, list of 4-H projects, and a recent photo of the applicant.

For application instructions, visit:

<http://wis4hfoundation.org/scholarships/>



2024 AG SOURCE DHI FOUNDATION PORTAGE COUNTY FUND GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships awarded for:

- College students having already completed a college semester and evidence of continued college enrollment
- Adults seeking continuing education
- Those wanting to attend professional ag related seminars, conferences, or courses

Scholarship requirements include:

- Applicant, Parents, or Grandparents must have been a DHI member from Portage County
- No application will be accepted if applicant applied for other DHI Fund Groups
- College students must maintain 2.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Include two letters of recommendation or ag related seminar/course brochure
- Application must be postmarked by May 1, 2024.

Application can be found on page 10 of this newsletter. Send completed scholarship application to:

ATTN: Ag Source Scholarship Portage County Extension 1462 Strong's Avenue Stevens Point, WI 54481

Portage County 4-H Scholarships!

Deadline: March 15th | Award: \$250

The Wayne Schroeder Portage County 4-H Leaders Scholarships and the Pinkerton-Burns-Noble-Portage County 4-H Leaders Scholarships are available for eligible Portage County 4-H members and leaders pursuing higher education!

Please see the next page of the Courier for the application or an application can be found at <http://portage.extension.wisc.edu> (Under the 4-H Youth Forms & Applications).

The scholarship requires a letter of recommendation and a recommendation & signature from your General Leader. Please start soon to give your mentors time to write a thoughtful letter!

Qualifications:

- Must be a present or former Portage County 4-H member or leader
- May study in any field at an accredited school
- Must be used within 1 year from time of award
- Minimum of 2 years as club project/youth leader
- Minimum of 3 years of participation in 4-H
- Scholarship can be received only once
- A member needs their general leader's signature & recommendation
- A leader's form must be signed by their general leader or the county agent.

2024 Wayne Schroeder Portage County 4-H Scholarship & 2024 Pinkerton-Burns-Noble Portage County 4-H Scholarship Application

QUALIFICATIONS

- ☘ Must be a present or former Portage County 4-H Member or Leader.
- ☘ May apply to any field of study (post high school) at any accredited school.
- ☘ Must be used within one year from the time of scholarship award or money must be returned to the 4-H Leaders Association
- ☘ Minimum of 2 years as a project or youth leader at the club level. Provide detailed list of experiences where projects are listed on this application.
- ☘ Minimum of 3 years participation in 4-H.
- ☘ Scholarship can be received only once.
- ☘ A leader's form must be co-signed by a general leader or county agent.
- ☘ A member's form must be signed by their general leader.



DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

NAME: _____ PARENTS NAMES: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

PRESENT ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): _____

PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN PORTAGE COUNTY (CHECK ONE):

____ FARM

____ RURAL AREA

____ VILLAGE OR TOWN

____ CITY

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF HIGH SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION YOU ARE OR WILL BE ATTENDING:

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN THE FIELD OF STUDY YOU ARE PURSUING? FOR WHAT REASON DID YOU CHOOSE THE SCHOOL YOU WILL ATTEND?

PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR INTERESTS, ACTIVITIES, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OUTSIDE OF 4-H
(YOU WILL HIGHLIGHT YOUR 4-H BACKGROUND ON THE NEXT PAGE).

(over)

4-H BACKGROUND

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY. **BE CONCISE BUT THOROUGH.**

YEARS ENROLLED IN PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H: _____
YEARS ENROLLED IN ANOTHER COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM: _____
TOTAL YEARS IN 4-H: _____

ALL CLUB OFFICES HELD

ALL COUNTY OFFICES HELD:

ALL HONORS WON IN 4-H:

ALL 4-H PROJECTS:

ALL SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

PROJECT LEADERSHIP (INCLUDE NUMBER OF YEARS IN YOUTH AND/OR PROJECT LEADERSHIP):

WRITE A PARAGRAPH ON ANY OTHER THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO ADD.

FURNISH AT LEAST ONE (1) LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

RETURN FORM TO: PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION, 1462 STRONGS AVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2024

University of Wisconsin, United States Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties Cooperating.
UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and ADA requirements.

GENERAL LEADER RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL LEADERS: PLEASE PROVIDE A SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION FOR YOUR CLUB MEMBER IN THE SPACE BELOW.

GENERAL LEADER'S SIGNATURE: _____

2024 AG SOURCE DHI FOUNDATION PORTAGE COUNTY FUND GROUP SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships awarded for:

- College students having already completed a college semester and evidence of continued college enrollment
- Adults seeking continuing education
- Those wanting to attend professional ag related seminars, conferences, or courses

Scholarship requirements include:

- Applicant, Parents, or Grandparents must have been a DHI member from Portage County
- No application will be accepted if applicant applied for other DHI Fund Groups
- College students must maintain 2.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Include two letters of recommendation or ag related seminar/course brochure
- Application must be postmarked by May 1, 2024

Send completed scholarship application to:

ATTN: Ag Source Scholarship
Portage County Extension
1462 Strong's Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Major _____ GPA _____

Applying under herd number and farm name _____

Name and address of school attending or seminar, conference, or course wishing to attend _____

Using additional pages, please respond to the following:

1. Activities – school (students only)
2. Activities – community
3. Family Farm History
4. List employment in agribusiness
5. List goals and plans for the next five years

Limiting yourself to one page, please describe the following

How will your educational experiences help meet these goals?

What challenges do you foresee and how will you overcome them?

I certify that all information given on this application is true, correct, and completed to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Scholarship's amount may differ based on availability and need. Preference may be given to students in agriculture related field. Portage County Fund Group reserves the right to make the final decision.

Managerial Agreements

DUE: APRIL 15th

If the animal you are bringing to the Amherst or Rosholt Fair is not owned by the exhibitor or the persons who live at the exhibitor's primary place of residence, you must send a Managerial Agreement to the Portage County Extension office no later than April 15!

This applies to Cattle, Horses, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Dogs, Cats, and Alpacas. Please note: Market Animal Project Beef, Swine and Sheep cannot be managerial animals. Copies available at <https://portage.extension.wisc.edu/> (4-H Youth—Forms and Applications).

Share-a-Kid Application Information

Each year, the Wisconsin Dairy Goat Association promotes interest in dairy goats in our state. One of the ways we encourage our young people in this aspect of agriculture is through our Share-a-Kid Program. We award an average of 4 to 6 dairy goat kids to young people across the state each year.

This is a competitive statewide contest. The youth applicant will write an essay of 100 words or more about why they would like to have a dairy goat, how they are going to take care of her (food, shelter, and medical care), and if they have ever raised a goat.

The deadline to submit your application/essay is by no later than April 1, 2024.

Visit <https://www.wdga.org/out-and-about/> for more information and to download an application.



4-H ArtBEAT! is the introductory program for Wisconsin 4-H expressive arts and was created for 4-H members in grades 3-5, their parents and leaders.

ArtBEAT! provides an opportunity for youth and their parents to experience different art forms in a camping environment at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells.

The event offers a taste of several arts projects including music, visual arts, communication, and more! Youth participants will rotate through a variety of hands-on sessions held at various sites throughout camp, including outdoors

Come join our most enthusiastic and creative 4-H members! [Register in 4H Online](#)



Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Association - October 2023

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association Board meeting, held on 10-16-23, via Zoom and in person at the Annex conference rooms 1 & 2, was called to order by President Malayna Polum at 6:34 p.m. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Marilyn Pederson (Carson Climbers), Malayna Polum (Nelsonville Zippy Zees), Betty Pionek (Casimer Boosters), Kathy Glodowski (County-Wide), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Agnes Mallek and Mary Ann Kuklinski (Junction City Golden Stars) and Lisa Henriksen (4-H Support Staff)

MINUTES: Minutes were approved as presented

OFFICER REPORTS: Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills: Checking \$29,651.96 Savings \$ 617.67 (\$117.67 quarterly interest) Treasurer's report was placed on file. | Secretary's Report and Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS: Club Charters & Financial Reports -All club charters have been completed except River Valley Riders. Charters are due November 1st. Lisa will submit same goals for Leader Association that were submitted last year. | Re-Enrollment in 4-H Online- September 1st through November 15th. Families need to log in to their 4-H Online accounts. | Fall Forum – Two youth attending: Juniper Ryberg and Marie Keck. The Leaders Association will pay the entire registration fee for them to attend.

NEW BUSINESS: Nomination & Election of Board Members – Tabled until the November meeting. | Nomination & Selection of Volunteer of the Year – Malayna Polum was selected for 4-H Volunteer of the Year. Sharon will prepare the write-up. | Nomination & Selection of Friend of 4-H - Feltz's Dairy Store was selected for the Friend of 4-H Award. Jan will provide Lisa with information about Plat Book and Cookbook sales and discounted gift certificates for the gingerbread contest. | Nomination & Selection of 4-H Alumni – Jordin Rekowski was selected for the 4-H Alumni Award. Dr Barb will prepare the write-up. | 2023 Awards Program and Leader's Banquet – November 11th and 12th – Price of meal for banquet will be \$16.50. Jan recommended that we decrease the amount of money spent on table decoration to \$30.00 and keep the meal price for adults at \$10.00 each. Agnes Mallek's club will be providing the table decorations. Motion by Jan and second by Betty to charge adults \$10.00, children \$5.00 and to provide free meals for first year leaders and award winners. Motion passed. Leaders will provide the desserts. Ambassadors will be helping with the banquet so their meals will also be free. Karen is looking for volunteers to help clean-up after the banquet. Need teens who attended trips to provide presentations at the Leaders Banquet and the Awards program. Lisa will contact them. Juniper will be the MC for the awards program and the ambassadors will help with presenting awards and prizes. | Record Books & Record Book Committee – Bonnie and Betty met prior to tonight's meeting to select award recipients. Lisa has all the awards ordered from the 4-H Mall. She also ordered \$150 worth of items from Oriental Trading to be used for award program prizes and virtual contests. Two camp certificates with a value of \$40 each, will be given away as door prizes. | Funding for State and National 4-H Events – Information about applications for State and National 4-H Events has been posted on the State 4-H website. American Spirit Trip applications opened October 15th and Space Camp applications will open November 15th. Portage County youth interested in applying for State and National 4-H Events need to know if they will be receiving funding from the Leaders Association. Jan is willing to design an application form for youth to use to apply for the county 4-H funding that was included in the Leaders Association budget. She recommends that the form includes a parent/guardian signature and the signature of the youth's General Leader confirming active club membership of the applicant. Amount of funding per youth will be based on number of applicants. Per the information included in the letter sent to 4-H clubs about working in the 4-H Food Stand, youth who work in the 4-H Food Stand may also be eligible for financial assistance from the Teen Leaders Association. | County-Wide workshops/project meetings – A virtual pumpkin contest is being offered in October and the virtual gingerbread contest will be held in December. A recording of the Record Book workshop is also available. | December Meeting Cancelled | Other – A joint multi-county 4-H Camp at CWES will be held this summer. | Five teens attended the Teen Leader's movie night.

Agent Report– Connie has started physical therapy. Her injury is high on her shoulder so she is not able to drive yet. One of her sisters will stay with her in September and another sister will stay with her in October. Connie's next doctor appointment is November 1st. That is the earliest date that she could be cleared to return to work.

Next Meeting Date – February 15, 2024 | **Adjourn –** Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Yours in 4-H,
Marilyn Pederson, Secretary

Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Association - November 2023

The Portage County 4-H Leaders Association meeting, held on 11-20-23, via Zoom and in person at the Annex conference rooms 1 & 2, was called to order by President Malayna Polum at 6:34 p.m. Pledges were recited and roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Malayna Polum (Nelsonville Zippy Zees), Sharon Cisewski and Amanda Jordan (Plover Clovers), Betty Pionek and Christine Keck (Casimer Boosters), Kathy Glodowski (County-Wide), Jan Miller (Rosholt Pioneers), Dr. Barb Kasproicz (Almond Busy Bees), Louise Skornia (Sunnyside Climbers), Karen Jastromski (Tomorrow River Voyagers), Agnes Mallek (Junction City Golden Stars) and Connie Creighton, 4-H Youth Development Agent.

| ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Thrive Survey, Roller Skating and Ceramics

MINUTES: Minutes were approved as read. **| OFFICER REPORTS:** Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills: Checking \$29,747.76 Savings \$ 617.67 Treasurer's report was placed on file. **| Secretary's Report and Correspondence:** None

OLD BUSINESS: Club Charters & Financial Reports – Per Connie, all are in. Thank you. **| Re-Enrollment in 4-H Online-** All 4-H leaders and members need to re-enroll. If re-enrollment is not completed by November 15th, 4-H correspondence will no longer be sent. **| Fall Forum –** Two Portage County youth, Juniper Rydberg and Jennifer Keck, attended the 4-H Fall Forum. Juniper led a watercraft interactive station on Saturday morning. Per her mom, Jennifer enjoyed the event and would like to attend again. Jennifer missed out on applying to be on the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council this year and will be too old to serve a two-year term next year. Jan shared that she served a one-year term on the Council when an adult Council member was not able to complete their second year. Connie will check to see if this is a possibility. **| Pumpkin Contest Update –** Had great participation. Awards have been posted. Next event will be the Gingerbread Contest. **| 2023 Awards Program and Leader's Banquet –** Great turn-out for the event. Committee received lots of help from Lisa. Suggestions: Keep program length less than 2 hours, do a better job of pronouncing award winner names, shorten time for prize drawings by continuing to draw next name while previous recipient is picking up their prize. Statement made that having two 4-H events to attend on the same weekend is difficult. Can the awards program and leader awards (no meal) be done on the same day? Connie prefers to keep them separate. She wants the youth to do as much as possible in the planning and presentations at the 4-H Awards Program. Comment was shared that the Amherst Community Spirit is willing to publish club reports for all the Portage County 4-H clubs. **| AmeriCorps –** 4-H Leaders Association received \$3,500 in grant money from the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin to employ a 4-H AmeriCorps Volunteer in 2024. Money will be kept in a separate ledger. 4-H AmeriCorps volunteers work 900 hours (20 hours/week) from January to August and are paid \$2,500 by the University of Wisconsin. The Leaders Association will be billed by the University. Other program expenses could include mileage, computer and phone access and cost of supplies used to work with youth. The goal of this position is to expand the number of youths involved in the 4-H program in Portage County by initiating activities such as library programs, after school programs and partnerships with other youth groups such as the Boys and Girls Club. Only one person applied for the Portage County 4-H AmeriCorps Volunteer position. Connie will be setting up a zoom interview for either Tuesday, November 28th or Thursday, November 30th. Jan volunteered to represent the Leaders Association at the interview.

NEW BUSINESS: Nomination & Election of Board Members – Nominations: Sharon Cisewski, President; Christine Keck, Vice-President; Marilyn Pederson, Secretary; Agnes Mallek, Kathy Glodowski, Mary Ann Kuklinski, Louise Skornia, Amanda Jordan and Betty Pionek, Directors. Motion by Jan, second by Betty to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominated officers. Motion passed. Induction of new officers followed and Sharon Cisewski assumed the duties of President. **| Awards & Ambassador Applications Due –** December 15th **| Funding for State and National 4-H Events –** Applications due December 15th. Amount of funding per youth is dependent on the number of applications received. In the future we may want to set up a maximum amount of funding provided, such as up to 40% of cost of event. Then this maximum could be included on next year's application. **| Awards & Ambassador Interviews –** Will be interviewing for Key Award, Leader of Tomorrow Award and 4-H Ambassadors on Wednesday, January 17th. Jan Miller and Karen Jastromski volunteered to help during interviews. **| County-Wide workshops/project meetings –** Louise is planning another ceramics workshop on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd at the Boston School Forest. The bisque ceramics that were donated last spring, and the brushes and paints will be provided or youth can bring their own. Enrolling 30 participants in the last workshop proved to be too large a group. Participation at the upcoming workshop will be limited to 12-15 participants. Staining and dry brushing will be the focus of the next workshop. Future workshops will cover antiquing and other techniques. Louise is also willing to do ceramics workshops at club meetings. Plover Clovers expressed an interest. Connie's sister Sandy could do a virtual session about rock polishing. She could also do a follow-up workshop about rock tumblers. Sharon is considering another barn quilt workshop and would enlist the help of youth with previous experience making barn quilts. Participants must be Explorers or older to participate, unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Leader's Board Minutes



Portage County 4-H Leaders Association - November 2023 Continued

Winter Camp/Summer Camp - 4-H Winter camp is scheduled for February 9th-through the 11th at the Spencer Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca. Camp will include youth from 6 counties. Summer Camp is scheduled for June 25th through the 27th at the Upham Woods State 4-H Camp in Wisconsin Dells. Camp will include youth from Portage, Waupaca and Iowa counties. | Other: Thrive Survey –A State 4-H program evaluation done every three years. Sent to 4-H youth in grades 7 through 13 to help determine the benefits of the 4-H program. Does 4-H make a difference? | Roller Skating – Jan asked if she should schedule a County 4-H Roller Skating party between Christmas and New Years again this year. Yes, there has been good attendance in the past. | Style Review – Christine would like to re-energize the 4-H Style Review. Amanda is also interested. Items could be modeled at the county fair. Purchased garments could also be exhibited. Per Connie, State Fair no longer requires qualification at the county level to participate in the State Style Review. | Agent Report– Connie appreciated everyone's support during her absence. Due to being on workman's compensation, she was not able to work from home. Back full time now but still have some weight restrictions and PT appointments. | Next Meeting Date – January 15, 2024 | Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

4-H Club Reports

Carson Climbers Club Report - December 2023

The meeting was held on 12/10/23 at 1pm. The club met at Pizza Ranch for the club Christmas party and gift exchange. Since the meeting was informal, we did not go over all the reports and we ate while we covered old / new business.

Old business: Officer elections, pumpkin contest winners (handed out prizes). Reminded members of the gingerbread contest. | T-shirt order for 2024 was discussed. The winning T-shirt logo was revealed from the November meetings vote.

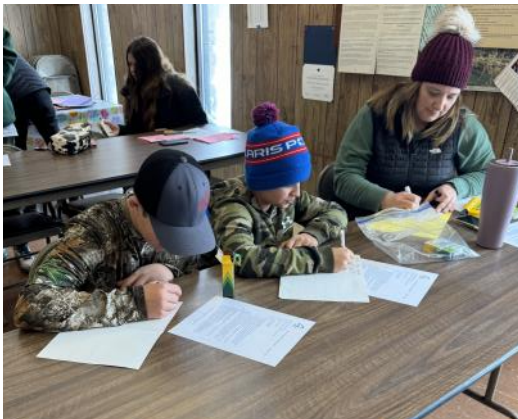
New Business: At the January meeting we will be making winter cards for Renaissance assisted living as our holiday community service project. Members were asked to bring craft supplies. | The club decided to also participate in a donation drive for the Portage County Humane Society in January. We will obtain a wish list and schedule a time for members to drop items off after collection. | For February's meeting the club discussed having someone come in to do a painting class. The paintings could be entered at the fair. Costs were discussed and final voting will be held at the next meeting. | The little food pantry in front of the fire station in Junction City has been restocked and cleaned up for December. The club leader met with Kennedy school to discuss where we can put our second little food pantry. Moving forward the club is looking for families to sign up for a monthly check (check for expired items, keep the club updated on stock). Sign up sheet will be at the next meeting. | A monthly volunteer for club snacks was also discussed. | The meeting was adjourned around 1:30pm and then we had a gift exchange with a Christmas reading (left/right game).

Tomorrow River Voyagers Club Report - December 2023

Tomorrow River Voyagers participated in the Amherst Christmas Parade on a warm winter night. At our December meeting we had demonstrations on Cake Decorating and Arts and Crafts. Members had tons of fun doing both events. Isaac Spoelstra | Tomorrow River Voyagers Reporter



The meeting was held at the Junction City town hall (temporary location until April) on January 14th and called to order at 1pm. | Reports were given for secretary / treasurer reports. | Old business: We discussed getting t-shirt quotes and voted on colors (black/dark gray shirts with lime green logo), costs for a painting project upcoming in February, monthly sign up sheets for snacks/little food pantry maintenance and our two winter community service projects. We are making cards for Renaissance assisted living and we are collecting items for the Portage County Humane Society. | New business: Members voted that the next meeting will be held on February 18th at 1pm (due to the Super Bowl). This meeting will be a short meeting. Immediately following will be our club painting project day. The highland cow painting won, and it was a unanimous vote. Cost for youth is \$20 and cost for adults is \$30. Since this is a project that will be able to be entered in the fair, we are asking that members/adults assume the cost. Sign up and payment is due February 1st. No late sign ups will be accepted due to the deposit we have to put down. | The new t-shirt quote was discussed. Due to rising costs members voted unanimously that we are going to have to charge \$5 per youth member for a t-shirt (the club will absorb the other half). Parent shirts can be purchased for \$11. Hoodies are available at full member/parent cost, but we'd need a minimum order of 6. | Our March meeting will be a field trip meeting. If we can get into the Food & Farm Exploration center at no cost, we will go there. If there is a cost, we will instead deliver and tour the Portage County Humane Society (will have to be on a Saturday). | The Market Sale Project meeting was held last Saturday. Stephanie attended and was able to get funding for fuel and entry fees for all Portage County youth interested in attending the meat judging contest in Madison on February 3rd. We have a full Jr team going from our club (Amber, Ace, Lezlee, Florah) and one Sr team member from Junction City Golden Stars club. Anyone else interested? Practice will be held within the next two weekends. We have transportation options and study materials. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm. Immediately following we had snacks and members made cards.



Tomorrow River Voyagers Club Report - January 2024

The Tomorrow River Voyagers continued to do service in the cold days of winter. Stockings were delivered to residents in the Amherst area and the Mitten Tree at the International Bank of Amherst was an overwhelming success! Thank you to our community for all the support!

Isaac Spoelstra | Tomorrow River Voyagers Reporter





PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H PROGRAM CANCELLATION POLICY

All Portage County 4-H Programs are automatically cancelled if:

- The local school districts close due to inclement weather.
- We are under a Winter Storm Warning.
- Travel is not advised due to snow, wind or ice storms.

The Extension Office will notify you, if possible, by:

- Sending out an e-mail and Facebook post if program is cancelled during work hours.

Unsure if something is cancelled?

Call the 4-H Office at 715-346-1316 or 715-346-1462.

Just a reminder we have a Portage County 4-H group on Facebook! Members can get program updates, share updates from their clubs and connect with other Portage County 4-Hers! Search "Portage County 4-H, WI" to join!



EXTENSION STAFF

JEREMY SOLIN, AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR

CONNIE CREIGHTON, 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

SHERRY DANIELS, FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR

KEN SCHROEDER, AGRICULTURE AGENT

KATIE LIVERNASH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENT

MALLORY MCGIVERN, FOODWISE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

PENNY SCHMITT, NUTRITION EDUCATOR, FOODWISE

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4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: SHARON CISEWSKI

VICE PRESIDENT: CHRISTINE KECK

SECRETARY: MARILYN PEDERSON

TREASURER: JAN MILLER

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