

4-H State Advisory Board Summary
January 24-25, 2015
Ellensburg, WA

Treasurer's Report

The investments are at \$33,937.73. Income for 2014 was \$55,124.43. Expenses for 2014 totaled \$43,186.45. The total income for the 2014 forum was \$44,914.50. Minus expenses, the profit from the 2014 Forum was \$6,265. This will come close to covering the cost of the 2015 board meetings.

Director's Report

- State Management Fee – In the McClary decision the State Supreme Court ruled that the legislature failed to fund K-12 as required and found them in contempt of court. This has to be dealt with by the legislature during this session. Last November an initiative about reducing the number of youth in a classroom was passed. No funding source was provided for this initiative whose cost may be \$6-8 billion. This could affect the money received to support 4-H in this state. In 2008 4-H took a permanent baseline budget cut of 50%. Many counties charge a fee of some kind from \$1 to \$20. It may become necessary to have a state management fee depending on what happens. If necessary, it would go into affect in October at the beginning of the 2015/2016 4-H year. There will be a waiver for low income families which will be at the leader's discretion. The fee would be \$20 per youth with no fee for leaders. The window for implementation may be very short between the time the budget is passed by the legislature and the beginning of the 4-H year in October 2014. More and more states have had to implement a state management fee.
- Military Grant Funding – There are currently only four military grants. The technology grant goes away the end of March 2015. This grant supports robotics. There will be a lag time between the end of this funding and the beginning of new funding. The needs of military youth are not going away. There are some families that are on their 5th and 6th deployment. Washington State also has a large National Guard deployment which is now 555 days. Military youth are 2-1/2 times more likely to commit suicide compared to most youth.
- Know Your Government (KYG) – There are always 50-70 out of the 149 legislators that come to KYG to meet with the 4-H'ers. The event takes place at the Red Lion in Olympia. This year the curriculum will be Politics and the Social Media.
- State 4-H Conference – It will take place June 28-30 for 7-12 graders, most of the attendees are not involved in 4-H.
- National 4-H Conference – Washington State has had a low participation in this event so participation is being de-emphasized at this time. Any interested youth will be referred to other states that are sending a delegation. We do not currently have a donor for this event, so the cost per individual is about \$1,400. Since youth cannot attend an event with a chaperone, there is an additional cost to send a chaperone.
- IRS & EIN Status and Handling Funds in 4-H – Washington State 4-H as of February 2014 has their own non-profit status. In the initial filing there were over 1800 different 4-H units with EIN numbers. This year there are 1100 4-H units. There are criminal penalties for Pat BoyEs if the IRS requirements are not met. The list is updated only once a year. If a club does not meet the requirements, they cannot receive tax exempt money as a non-profit unit

and will be removed from the state list for the remainder of the year. Every 4-H unit is still required to file a 990. If this is not done, they will become out of compliance and will be dropped. Unfortunately, the IRS does not let Pat's office know that a particular 4-H unit is no longer in compliance.

- Peer Reviews and Internal Audit of Financial Reports – Pat BoyEs has an 18 page finding report for one of the major groups in a Washington State county for fraud and theft. The investigation has been going on since 2011 and has just been concluded. The investigation went back eight years. Pat was allowed to rebut some of the report findings. There was a failure to follow policy and procedures. The minutes of this group were not detailed enough to show their actions and approval of expenditures. The Treasurer's Report was not presented at the meetings. It can be proved that \$21,000 (possibly as much as \$60,000-\$80,000) was stolen from this group. Every 4-H Forum will include at least one financial training workshop. Staff failure to oversee this and ensure procedure was followed will result in that staff person being fired. This theft was possible because of the level of trust everyone had in the thief. The theft was discovered because of two bounced checks. The State 4-H Advisory Board members were asked to inquire during their district meetings about any problems attendees have had meeting the IRS requirements for peer review, audits, etc. This is the worst case in Pat's 35 years. It is also the most blatant. The previous fraud and theft cases involved someone who had a crisis in their life and took advantage of their access to funds.

Northwest District Meeting

In 2016 the State Fair in Puyallup will open the Friday before Labor Day. Some fairs do not end until Labor Day. This will make it difficult to get some exhibits to the state fair. The State Fair Board needed to add an additional weekend to the fair. When it rains on a weekend, attendance dramatically drops. The addition of a holiday weekend will help to increase attendance. Tuesday of every week the fairgrounds will be closed for public access. This will facilitate the transition of livestock into and out of the fairgrounds.

Northeast District Meeting

Chelan/Douglas County is planning a teen rally for April 18 at the fairgrounds. The 4-H council is having a concert as their fundraiser. The district is trying to send more kids to state for horse knowledge events.

Southwest District Meeting

Wahkiakum County is starting a shooting sports program. They are also looking for a horse superintendent at this time. It has been proposed that their fairgrounds be turned over to the port. A strengthening families program and fun/fitness program is taking place in this district.

Southeast District Meeting

An e-newsletter was started for Southeast District. In Kittitas County a shooting invitational took place. Grant/Adams County just concluded a Super Saturday that was attended by 60 people. Benton-Franklin County will have a leadership day on January 10 and a Super Saturday on March 7. The Extension Educator for Yakima/Klickitat Counties is on maternity leave. Asotin County will coordinate the teen rally in 2015.

2014 Forum Review

The Forum was attended for the first time by two people from the peninsula. As a result of their attendance at the Forum's robotics workshop, a robotics workshop was scheduled in Island County that had an attendance of 70 people. The Forum and visits to county councils by Advisory Board members bring new information to the county, which causes workshops to take place in new locations. Participation numbers at the 2014 Forum increased.

2015 Forum Report

Robin Minaker asked the board to consider including a food drive as a part of the 2015 Forum. It could be a competition between the four districts. After a discussion by the State 4-H Advisory Board, Robin agreed to chair the committee that will organize this event. The winning district could get a special desert or something on Saturday evening. We could also donate some of the My Champion books to a local charity. "Feeding Bodies and Feeding Brains" was suggested as a possible title.

Fund Development Committee

There was a discussion about the 4-H license plate and other ways to get information out about it, especially now that the 4-H Foundation will return funds to the counties where 4-H license plates are purchased (\$28 per plate till the end of June for every new plate sold). The committee talked about other 4-H sites that could be used to advertise the 4-H license plate (Tuesday e-news, press releases, social media, and hashtag).

2015 State Fair

Pat BoyEs reported that all Washington State government agencies were asked to prepare for a 15% cut. The fair fund and food/nutrition for women and infants is slated by the Washington State Department of Agriculture for a 15% cut which would eliminate the fair fund in 2016. Washington State has created a special fund for fairs across the state. The largest single fund recipient is the State 4-H Fair which receives \$118,000. Without this money it will be very difficult to operate the 4-H fair which takes place during the state fair at Puyallup. This would affect the 2016 State 4-H Fair and could cause some fairs to close.

4-H Enrollment System

The old enrollment system is going away in March of 2015. The new enrollment system will be a very simplified system because of the complexity of the core program. State wide training on this system will be via video conference and will take place in February and March. This is the only program available nation-wide.