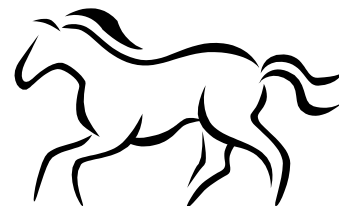




*St. Joseph County, MI*  
**4-H HORSE COUNCIL**



**Meeting Minutes**

January 6, 2026

Attendance: Julie Bruce, Jagger Bruce, Scott Miracle, Connie Miracle, Teresa Howl, Katlyn McCullough, Michelle Goshorn, Cindy Mingus, Katie Staples, Andrea Littlefield, Danielle Sackrider, Racheal Hartman, Lexi Hartman, Shirel Hart, Irwin Family.

Zoom: Sara R., Shajnett, Tereasa Hufstedler,

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by Vice President Julie Bruce.

Pledge of Allegiance and 4H pledges

Introduction of visitors: Introduction of Lily Irwin and parents Dawn and Jimmy Irwin from the Desperados 4-H Club

Motion by Katie to approve the current agenda. Second by Julie. Motion passes

Nothing presented for Public Comment.

Minutes and Secretary's Report for December 2025 were tabled until the February meeting,

No correspondence was received.

Treasurer Report read. Received 0.65 in interest. Expenses: \$46.80 Postage Reimbursement to Julie Bruce for Christmas Cards. Motion to approve treasurers report by Racheal and seconded by Lexi. Passed.

Unfinished Business:

Constitution & Rules Committee ~ Presented by Racheal and Shirel. Discussion was had on clarification of verbiage for Bylaws vs. Constitution as presented by Janelle at December Meeting.

Discussion of Specialties: Horse Judging and Hippology should combine into one Specialty, and it was suggested that Cloverbud not be a Specialty. We suggested adding a County Wide Pleasure as a Specialty. Dressage should be required to meet the same practice requirements as other specialties.

It was decided that Bylaws would be tabled until further changes can be made and presented at the February Meeting.

Katlyn asked about Horse Council President being the Superintendent too and if this is a good idea. Kayla explained why it is but agreed that we should probably discuss a protocol for the situation and how we handle in the future.

Fair book – Will be completed and return in February for presentation.

Rules: Review of Horse Rules was presented to the Horse Council. Changes to run off were discussed for Grand Champion in the Gymkhana Section. It was decided that the Rules would be tabled and go back to committee until further changes can be made and presented at the February Meeting.

Judge Update: Hiring of judges continues. Gymkhana judge hired. Taylor Cunningham-Jordan is hired for Monday.

Awards ~ Changes were discussed including Pleasure High Point. They recommend Removing D. which states awards will change each year.

It was discussed that the older kids would like certificates and would be offered a few options to purchase the value of the certificate would be \$100. It requires four donors, 2 age division (1 Grand and 1 Reserve in each).

Changes to the Walk/Trot Awards will include the Top 6 High Point Placings and recommend the rail class be added.

Western High Point Changed the tie breaker to Ranchmanship and added that walk/trot not eligible.

English High Point: Jagger Bruce and Lily Irwin both offered their insight into how they feel about the way the awards are given and the ability to only win them once in a lifetime or only win it because the riders in front of you have won it before. Nora stated that she would be for winning the award more than once as well.

No change to other awards.

Horse with the most heart was discussed. Katlyn stated that she was concerned that Ponies do not do well and get left in the dust. Julie recommended that Katlyn meet with the gymkhana group to try and resolve this.

The next awards committee meeting will be held in March at this point.

Motion was made by Danielle that the Horse Leaders pay \$100 for snacks for the next Awards Committee Meeting. Second by Andrea. Motion Passed.

Fundraising – Nothing major to report. Please continue to work on Large Vendor donations. Kayla will need to complete forms for some donations so just let her know and allow time to get those completed.

Pattern – Patterns will be discussed in February.

Budget – The Budget will be discussed in February when Joy returns.

Cloverbuds Committee: Katlyn presented Rules and information to the Council. Danielle would like to change that an adult must be in the cart. Kayla presented that there was a Cloverbud Corner on the 4-H website that already has guidelines for all species. Katlyn will review the guidelines listed and make necessary changes so the Guidelines listed on the website match up and bring back for presentation. Andrea also recommended that all cloverbuds have a halter on under the bridle and reins.

Level Program – A Handout was provided and significant amount of discussion was had in regard to the level program. Sara spoke on the Level program proposal as it was presented last month. Shajnett questioned what do we have for a walk only rider under this program? Motion was made by Shirel to table for further discussion and research until 2027. Seconded by Racheal. Motion passes. Leveling program will also be left on agenda for monthly discussion.

Costume Class - Discussion was had to divide the costume class into ages 8-10 and 11-19 to try and break up the class a little more. Some themes were suggested

- Happy Birthday America
- America 250
- Year of the Horse

It was decided that leaders will go back to clubs and bring back one theme idea from each club to the February Meeting. Suggestion was also made that we could break up the class by having multiple themes and break up the class by which theme the members choose to enroll in.

New Business:

Election – Presidential Election was held. Rebecca Houk sent in her request to run. Michelle Goshorn presented her request, and Julie Bruce also made her request to run. Lexi nominated Racheal as well. Vote was held and Rebecca Houk was elected new President.

Kayla's Corner-

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4-H Online enrollment (478 Enrolled – 83 Cloverbuds)

Youth Council Update was given. County Awards are now available online and are due January 30th. Awards will be presented at an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, March 15th

There are Event Scholarship forms available now to members and leaders to attend 4-H workshops/events. These must be completed by the member/youth being requested for.(i.e. each state horse show youth participant will have to complete one form to receive their scholarship)

Motion to adjourn at 9:30pm by Racheal. Second by Sara. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Goshorn