



JLA minutes for November 14, 2022

Members: Ashley Countryman, Brian Lopez, Kori Wittinger, Mike Clader, Joani Utterback, Sami Macon, Lara Lopez, Jack Pchelkin, Pat Clader, Heidi Headington, Julie Hernandez, Regina Dvorak, Mark Karthaus, Mike Pahl,

Guests: Sonia Del Toro, Don Ales, Liza Stefani, Jonathan Stefani, Karen Davidson, Ray Smith, Tammy Warmuth, Shannon Lomas

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm by Ashley Countryman

The September minutes were reviewed and approved. Jack P. made a motion to approve, second by Heidi H., minutes approved.

Old Business

- Financial Update – Mike C. stated he didn't have a full accounting of the auction yet. It brought in approximately \$525,000 between the total purchases and add-ons. It didn't include processing fees. He stated that he would send around a full accounting once he received it via email sometime next week.
- Scholarship Update - None
- Fair Recap
 - JLA Sponsorships:
 - Heidi donated \$2500 towards the breakfast
 - New Gen Energy donated \$4000 towards the dinner
 - River Valley Community Bank donated \$4000, a portion of this, approximately \$2500 went towards Live Auction TV
 - Joani U. stated that Live Auctions didn't work and that she received complaints that buyers couldn't get on and if they did get on, they were kicked off.
 - Mike C. said this may have happened because of the manual rewriting of the catalog was not synched up with the Live Auction computer. However, if the catalog would have been sent electronically this may have been avoided.
 - Mark K. said that if Live Auctions works then it is worth the value. Joani U. agreed.
 - Mike C. stated the command to move the catalog was done by people who didn't understand there were two databases that needed to be fixed, so when it was done manually it wasn't done correctly.
 - Jack P. – requested that schedule be changed so nothing is scheduled at the Walker stage at the same time the auction is scheduled.
 - Mike C. stated the declarations were not signed and said this was the main problem this year. Many people stated they want the responsibility of that requirement to go back to the leader/advisor. Regina D. suggested a sign up for the role of collecting the

declarations. Mike C. stated we need to have two people assigned to the photo area to collect the declarations. Heidi H. said she will head up the declarations and getting volunteers to staff the picture booth. Don A. stated it is too bad for the kids but that they will learn a lesson if they are not able to sell if the declaration isn't signed.

- Lara L. stated the Fair just didn't start right.
- Don A. stated the communication needs to be better which will help "the ability to turn dollars. He proposed that the new executive team meet monthly with he and Sonia D. He stated that the auction planning needs to start early and often. He wants people to come to the office with solutions not whining. He stated we can't "show our errors to the public," that is why we can't wait until May to plan we need to start now. Don A. also stated he would like to bring a JLA representative with him to local presentations and to do outreach.
- Regina D. mentioned we need more attendance and membership.
- Mike C. began to speak about the sale catalog and then began banging on the table, to be heard about the processing fees.
- Brian L. stated we need to fix the problems and will can hire someone to do it and do it better.
- Heidi H. asked about the auction set up and if we needed more volunteers or equipment. Ashley C. answered no, but it would help if all the equipment were placed in one area. This year some of the equipment operators were called away because of the fire.
- Liza S. spoke and thanked all. She stated they had a group meeting and looked at what we could do different. She looked at 28 fairs and stated we are the only fair that has a short window between the shows and auction. She recommended moving the shows out one day to have one extra day. She also stated that there is a large discrepancy around the pre-weigh in process and that only three fairs do a pre-weigh in. She requested no pre-weigh in. Her third point was to have a live sale of animals and not a terminal sale. She stated there would be a higher financial gain for the auction and fair.

New Business

- Goat weights/processing places – Sonia stated this was at the top of her list at the September meeting and that it can't be the way it was this year. Sonia stated that Superior Farms resale goat's top payout weight will be 100lbs. They will take all of them, but the paperwork must be done by 1pm on Sunday. This year that was not well understood per Sonia. We currently pay to 105 lbs. Christy spoke with Sienna in Orland for a new processing place for the goats. This will be tabled until Christy is available at the next meeting. There was discussion around the carcass contest and picking a processing facility. It was noted that there needs to be 4J/FFA leaders to step up and do this. Dan Macon has the data. Joani U. stated she will talk to the sheep leaders. Beef is already handled through TCA. Sonia D. stated Los Banos and Olson will remain for next year.
- Show Works Consultant- the JLA would like to have an expert available for next year's Fair.
- Elections- will be delayed until December since we are a meeting behind due to the cancellation of the October meeting.
- Livestock Advisory Meeting will be held Monday, November 21st @ 6pm in the Auburn Host Lions Building.

Projects for the year

- Pig Barn – the pig barn has been torn down as stated by Don A. He stated there are some complications with the grading and water issues but anticipates they will be resolved soon. He

just met with Casey Long the contractor. The building should be around \$300K; \$30-40 K will be spent on the electrical. The building will be 40x180 and 14 feet tall, it will have a data line, electrical and LED lighting. It will be staged in the JLA Overlook area in December and should be finished in January. Don will be sending out sponsorship letters to people for the stalls. Mike P. stated he has a lot of steel if it is needed for the building at all. It is stacked at the Lincoln Farm.

- Hog Highway – Don A. would like to take down the hog highway and make a new show/auction ring at the new barn. We will need to wait until it is built to determine if that will work.
- New refrigerator – per Don A. the one that the JLA got last year will be replaced since it didn't work.

Open Discussion

- Mike P. clarified that we will need one more sweep and three more chutes for the auction set up.
- Don A. asked to explain the upcoming election. Ashley C. explained the election of officers.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi H. second by Brian L. Meeting adjourned by Ashley Countryman at 1928.

Next Meeting January 9, 2022 @ 6:00pm @ the Gold Country Fairgrounds