

February 2024 - General Meeting

This month's Membership meeting was held at Faith Chapel.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. CTO: 7:30 PM

Attending: Adams, Bond, Dunn, Falk, Fauber, Frankenfield, Gagnon, Gustafson, Hart, Johnson, Kibler, Logue, McKenzie, McLain, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques D, Richards, Rubright E and M, Ruth, Scott, Stanley

Welcome: Guests: Kathy Wilt, Vanessa Hart, Madison Hart, Sarah Hart, Alan Hart

Our program speaker was Vanessa Hart, who spoke about the 4H program in Loudoun County.

Program

Vanessa Hart noted at the beginning of her talk that she was presenting because the 4H Extension Leader was not available. Vanessa is the leader of the 4H Rabbit Club; her twins, Madison and Sarah, high school juniors, joined the Goat Club. When 4H started in 1902 with tomato and corn clubs, it was not necessarily a farmer based club, but a leader in community service. 4H, which refers to Head/Heart/Hands/Health, provides leadership opportunities, gives presentations, and leads trips to the U.S. Capitol to enable students to speak to Senators and to Congress for workshops and to provide a delegate to the National 4H Conference. The local Loudoun club meets monthly, led by the students according to Roberts Rules of Order. The students learn public speaking and animal care. The biggest opportunity is the volunteer-run Loudoun County Fair, where the focus is on animal health and care. Each project runs for one year; students select an animal to raise and show, and they keep meticulous records throughout the year. Students have the option to auction their animals at the fair to raise money for college or further education and training, or, they can keep their animal—for example, rabbit owners often decide to show, breed, or train their rabbits in agility.

Vanessa explained that in areas such as Eastern Loudoun, where there is less agriculture and, in some areas, HOA rules that prohibit the raising of farm animals, students can join an alternative

activity such as a shooting club, or can participate in non-(animal) ownership activities, such as a farm-share program at Temple Hall where students can work on two local farms. There is also a Chef and Stitches Club. She noted that in Eastern Loudoun the 4H Club is STEM-based, since there is less opportunity to raise animals there.

Vanessa also noted that the organization continues to address how to evolve going forward. P. Logue suggested setting up a community awareness effort to inform students about 4H and the Fair.

Business Meeting

New Member

The membership voted Kathy Wilt into the club. Congratulations, Kathy, and welcome!

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from January 2024. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of January 31st, 2024. We had \$47,907.04 in our Truist checking account; \$164,408.88 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$149,977.25 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$115,092.54 and Opportunity Fund \$34,884.71), for a total asset amount of \$362,293.17. Don noted that since we are now monitoring the Boy Scout Troop account, the addition of those assets of \$30,101.82 brings total assets to \$392,394.99. Don reported that trash receipts have rebounded, with high collections by recent teams C. Kohler/S. Reeves and M. Johnson/S. Soles. The most recent Greatest of All Time (GOAT) team is J. Frankenfield and B. Scott! Congrats to all!

Troop 1910 Update – M. Quitter

M. Quitter thanked the club for our sponsorship and reported the completion of the troop charter and several statistics that span the troop's 25 year history, such as 72 Eagle Scouts (with three more Eagles expected this year). Planned High Adventure trips for this year include the Florida Keys, Minnesota, and then to New Mexico for a hike in the Rockies. Scouts may also attend the National Jamboree. He noted that a new line item

in the troop budget is a holding account for scouts for camps and gear and other assistance.

Give Choose Campaign – J. Ruth

Give Choose has become a significant part of our club budget since the decline in parking revenue. This event is now the second biggest club fundraiser after trash. Early giving runs from March 5 to March 18, and the Day of Giving is March 19. Our goal this year is to raise \$20K. Subcommittees and Chairs are: Photos-W. Kibler; Day of Giving (to meet targets and earn prizes)-E. Rubright; Collateral (posters, postcard)-P. Gustafson; Socialization-C. Kohler; Phone/Email Contact-D. Fauber.

Jody explained that we have set up several ways to donate on our website that include PayPal and Venmo. If you donate through the Community Foundation website, only credit cards are accepted.

Lucketts News & Notes – P. Logue

The Spring issue will be distributed in mid-March.

Joint LRC/PTA Town Hall – P. Logue

Plans are ongoing for this event to meet the candidates for the fall election.

Announcements

1. The Board determined that our current practices to safeguard trash funds on Saturdays are sufficient.
2. We have received our first Opportunity Fund request.
3. We need readers at LES on February 29th.
4. The MOU with the LCC has been finalized. This agreement enables our club to assist needy families with summer camp fees. We have budgeted \$5K.
5. Board approved C. Kohler as Club Rep to the newly formed Friends of LCC.
6. Environment Committee has applied for an Environmental Excellence Award.
7. The trial of E. Vaughn is postponed until after Labor Day.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

February 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Dunn, Hart, Logue, Kibler, Penaranda, Roques, Rubright, Ruth, Stanley

Minutes: Sec. Penaranda summarized the February General Membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report as of February 23rd, 2024. We have \$48,596.07 in our Truist checking account; \$171,032.78 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$155,489.36 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$119,322.53 and Opportunity Fund \$36,166.83), for a total asset amount of \$375,118.21. Don reported that we made a \$1,500 donation to the Boy Scouts and received a \$5K donation from AutoNation.

Update on MOU with County – M. Dunn

This agreement has been finalized and we can proceed with funding initiatives to assist LCC in covering summer camp fees for needy families. The BOD moved to approve the MOU.

Faith Chapel Grant Requests – M.Dunn

We have received two grant requests from Faith Chapel, one for \$5K to fund the concert series and one for an estimated \$27,477 to pave the parking lot and upgrade the outside lighting. D. Stanley noted that we have enough in the Opportunity Fund to cover these requests. P. Logue stated that we should obtain approval by a professional for grading and drainage. The BOD also discussed whether we need to work with Brian Clark of Riverside Church about the need for an engineering study to identify karst locations and any requirement to obtain permits for the work. Pat will contact Clark about a study, site plan, and permits. The Board approved funding \$27,500, subject to membership approval and satisfactory answers to our questions and concerns. The Board also approved funding the Faith Chapel concerts.

Scholarship Update – D. Stanley

Don stated that we should require first semester reports from the scholarship winners. This issue became relevant because of the recent notification that one winner from last year did not attend the designated college, which resulted in the return of our funds for that student. The Board will refer this action to the Scholarship Committee.

Membership Committee Update – P. Logue

Pat reported that five committee members met and discussed the following actions:

- Review and update the process for onboarding new members
- Invite new members to attend a BOD meeting
- Assign a member mentor to every new member
- Develop a membership directory that includes photos and an information sheet. The committee asked for \$500 to develop this directory. BOD approved.
- Develop a process for attracting new members
- Develop alliances with community groups, such as 4H
- Review our requirements for membership
- Hold a dinner for new members once a quarter or as appropriate

Pat noted that she called District Governor, Aaron Gilmore, to meet with Carly Wright to discuss forging alliances.

Boy Scout Leadership – P. Logue

The troop leadership is still in transition.

Give Choose Update – J. Ruth

J. Ruth reviewed the Give Choose initiative for this year, noting that funds from this campaign (about 10% of our club income) are critical to achieving our 2024 financial goals. Early giving is March 5-18th; the 24 hours of giving begin at midnight on March 19th and end at 11:59 p.m. \$40K in prizes is being offered by corporate sponsors, with 78 chances to win. Matching gifts are being offered

by a donor or group of donors for donations to an organization and Challenge gifts by a donor or group of donors on the condition that the gift will stimulate other gifts. The Board encourages all Club members to donate to Give Choose and to tell others about this campaign.

Jody has set up an expanded team for outreach via phone calls and mailers. When we approach businesses, we need to tell them what they will get for various donation levels (ads, signage?) The first mailout will be March 3rd. At the March membership meeting, we will ask members to donate during certain hours.

Website Update – P. Logue

We have expanded the Donation button on the site to enable acceptance of donations via several payment methods. We still need a technical person to serve as webmaster; one possibility is a technically savvy Boy Scout. Our hosting company is still Gallup Design, and Mary Gustafson manages site maintenance. The BOD agreed that we need to simplify our website.

Christmas Banquet – D. Stanley

Two dates are available: Tuesday Dec. 10th and Saturday, Dec. 14th. Don will poll members about their preferred date.

Baseball at Lawson Field – M. Dunn

M. Polkey initiated a meeting with Steve Torpy from Parks and Recreation for March 19th at 10 a.m. to discuss renovation of this field behind the LCC and LES. Club members M. Rohrbach and J. Richards will attend. Discussion may also include use of the field by handicapped individuals, club teams, and the Pony League.

New Business – M. Dunn

1. D. Stanley will send a letter to Ruritan National asking to rescind the increase in national dues to balance the national organization's budget. The BOD agreed to send this letter to Pearl Underwood or to the National President.
2. P. Logue reported that we will soon move our records from Faith Chapel to the old Firehouse.

Adjourned 8:15 p.m.

