North Carolina 4-H Honor Club

Honor Club Conference 2025

General Member Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, May 31st, 2025
Prepared by: Anna Marie Morra, Secretary

Attendees

1. Adrian Gaskins
2. Alex Evans
3. Anna Marie Morra
4. Blake Garber
5. Bonnie Cahall
6. Cassandra Suedbeck
7. Cecilia Tadt
8. Chloe Allen
9. Chris Ayers
10. Christian Stebe
11. Christine Garber *(Guest)*
12. Colleen Cassell
13. D. Weston McCorkle
14. Daniel McAuley
15. Dorothy Shutt
16. Dr. Jim Clark
17. Dr. Shannon Bellamy McCollum
18. Elizabeth Merrill
19. Emily Pennell
20. Emma Haynes
21. Emmett LaHay
22. Gene Shutt *(Guest)*
23. H. Mack Haywood
24. Hannah Vagnozzi
25. Holly Gillespie
26. J. Vernon Furr
27. Jacob Hanlon
28. Joe Freeman
29. Jolyna Sundbom
30. Jonie Stumbo
31. Katie Haynes
32. Keynon Settle
33. Larry Hancock
34. Laura Pennell
35. Lauren Hoesli
36. Leah Joyner
37. Lindsey Golden Furr *(Guest)*
38. Luke Arrowood
39. Marisa Suedbeck
40. Michael Hopkins
41. Nelson McCaskill
42. Nick Thompson
43. Nikki Tuttle
44. Phan Morrow *(Guest)*
45. Rebecca Byrd Caison
46. Ruth Perkins
47. Sarah Dietrich
48. Scott McCollum
49. Sharon Rowland
50. Sinead Morrow
51. Susan McCaskill-Morgan
52. Valerie Suedbeck
53. Victoria Child
54. Vivian Rowe *(Guest)*
55. Willie Earl Wilson

Approved on Monday, July 21st, 2025

Introduction and Welcome

Emmett LaHay, President
10:02 AM

Introduction to Camp

Dorothy Shutt, President-Elect and Keith Russell, Millstone Camp Director

- 86th summer of operating camp!
- Full camp counselor staff for the first time since 2019
- Service projects this week organized by Jessica Wiles, Millstone Program Director
    - Writing letters, stories, and encouraging notes to new camp staff about how coming to camp impacted you
    - Writing encouraging notes to campers

North Carolina 4-H Updates

Dr. Mike Yoder, Associate Director and State 4-H Program Leader

- NC State University Updates
    - New Chancellor at NCSU, Kevin Howell, a friend of 4-H
- Broken ground on new 4-H and FFA building on NC State's campus
- North Carolina 4-H numbers
    - 2019: 259,000 youth lives touched
    - 2020: 140,000 youth lives touched, impacted by COVID
    - 2024: participation in 4-H has now surpassed pre-COVID levels at 276,000
    - Expect the number of adult volunteers to increase in 2025
        - 10,621 adult volunteers in 2024
        - Previously 20,000 adult volunteers, some records lost with the introduction of 4-H Online
    - Largest portion of 276,000 is through school enrichment programs (176,000)
- Camp Updates
    - Swannanoa 4-H Camp rebuilding from landslide during Hurricane Helene
- Staff Changes
    - Stacy Burns, former Betsy-Jeff Penn Camp Director, now County Extension Director in Warren County
    - Sarah Phelps, formerly at Eastern 4-H Center, now at NCDA&CS
    - Kitchen managers at BJP and Easter 4-H Centers
    - Retirements: Peggie Lewis Joyce and April Dillon, former Area 4-H Agents
        - Current Area 4-H Agent: Lori McBryde
- National 4-H Council's new program: **Beyond Ready**
    - Council's initiative to grow 4-H from 6.5 million to 10 million youth by 2030
    - Work/life readiness for work, military, or college
    - **Focus Themes in NC:** Communication, Critical Thinking, and Confidence
        - Same focus of 4-H, but more intentional with programming!
    - Increased efforts to measure and evaluate life skill development
- North Carolina 4-H Events

- 4-H Congress 2025
    - Opportunity for youth who are too young to attend 4-H Congress to come for the first day and get a taste of it to encourage future participation
- Dinah Gore Healthy Food Challenge
    - Growing event, third year, 29 regional teams
    - Collaboration between 4-H, Extension, and NCDA&CS
- Residential Camping
- District Activity Days
    - South Central DAD: Iredell County, June 18
    - Southeast DAD: Lenoir County, June 20
    - North Central DAD: NC A&T, June 21
    - West DAD: Buncombe County, June 21
    - Northeast DAD: Martin County, June 24
- Electric Congress, July 15-17
- 4-H Congress, July 21-25

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Business Meeting

(Members Only)

Call to Order

Emmett LaHay, President
10:48 AM

- American Pledge led by Nikki Tuttle
- 4-H Pledge led by Cecilia Tadt
- Nelson McCaskill appointed as Parliamentarian

Secretary's Report

Anna Marie Morra, Secretary

- Minutes reviewed from 4-H Congress member meeting:
  6/22/2024 Meeting Minutes: Congress Member Meeting

Vote: Jim Clark made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Katie Haynes seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

- Future Note: To expedite the review of meeting minutes in future member meetings, Anna Marie will be sending out an email following the meeting (after Conference) with a request for review and opportunity to leave comments.

Communications Coordinator Report

Hannah Vagnozzi, Communications Coordinator

- Honor Club now has an Instagram account!
- When you follow the account, message them the name, year, and county you were tapped so we can verify your status as an Honor Club member
- **Action Item:** Follow the Instagram account @nc4hhonorclub!

Treasurer's Report

Sarah Dietrich, Financial Officer

- Merchandise available for purchase at Conference
- Staring balance for June 1, 2024 - May 30, 2025: $12,392.66
- Ending balance: $19,424.63
- Conference registrations brought in $3,447 this year
- Honor Club received $4,350 for Hurricane Helene Relief
  - $200 sent to Buncombe County to assist a 4-H'er with attending camp
  - $4,150 remaining for additional relief efforts
- Deficit of approximately $700 currently

Vote: Becky Caison made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Luke Arrowood seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

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New Business

Honor Club Database

Scott McCollum, Honor Club Member

- The new Honor Club database is beginning to connect with Honor Club members and is going to be very important moving forward!
    - Allows us to maintain the database, distribute member documents, maintain email lists, accept Conference registration online, and more!
    - Future opportunities to do things like sell merchandise on the site
- Brought a printed directory to Conference for review
    - Member lists are separated by county
    - Opportunity to review the list of people we do not have contact information for
- Database maintenance costs approximately $100/month
- **Action Item:** Set up your account at nc4hhonorclub.org if you haven't already!
    - Go to nc4hhonorclub.org
    - Click **LOGIN**
    - Click **Reset Password**
    - Enter your Email Address
        - For this to connect to your account, it must be the email address that Honor Club has on file.
        - Aren't sure which email address you used when tapped? Email nc4hhc@gmail.com to ask!

Discussion: Raising Dues

Sarah Dietrich, Financial Officer

- Context
    - Fewer Honor Club inductees/applicants in the last several years
    - Honor Club has operated on a deficit for the last few years (approximately $600 in 2025)
    - We do have a reserve, but we've been barely breaking even
    - About two-thirds of 4-H counties pay for the dues on behalf of 4-H members.
        - Most county budgets are set a year in advance, so we would need to educate agents/counties ahead of time.
- Question from Sharon Runion Rowland: We used $1,500 from the endowment to initially set up the database. Have we requested anything else from the endowment?
    - We have not requested anything else since then.
- Question from Becky Caison: How much projected to be brought in by the endowment this coming year?
    - We can take out approximately $900 per year.
    - Recommended to refer this discussion to the board for consideration: Should we utilize the $900/year from the endowment to maintain yearly database fees?
    - Total database fees: $100/month // $1200/year
    - The additional $300 would be easier to generate in revenue
- Question from Becky Caison: When would a dues increase go into effect?

    - This would NOT affect the applicants inducted in 2025.
    - Lifetime dues amounts are designated in the **By-Laws** and do not require a one-year waiting period for the vote.
    - When it comes to a vote, make sure that the proposal includes that this would go into effect for applicants in **2026** and applicants will know about it.
- Dues were last increased on January 1, 2019 from $50 to $55 for lifetime dues, and from $75 to $85 for late-paid dues.
    - See Membership Requirements page on the website
    - Also see By-Laws update on July 21, 2018
- Proposed amounts: $75 lifetime dues for new members, $100 for late-paid dues (after December 31st of the year inducted)
    - Becky Caison proposed $70 instead of $75, stating that this proposed increase seems high compared to the last increase
- To be discussed further by the Finance Committee

Screening

Chloe Allen, Vice President

- Anna Marie shared screening procedures: Introduction to Application Screening
- Chloe walked through the voting process described in By-Laws Article IV, Section 4
- Anna Marie shared some of the guidelines used by the Screening Committee and rubric used to assess the full applications that Conference attendees can use to score the application thumbnails
- The Screening Committee (Vice President & District Directors) performed the initial applicant review in April 2025
- 24 applications were submitted, 21 moved past screening and are presented here at Conference for the final vote
- For applicants who do not pass the second vote, anonymous feedback on areas for improvement will be shared with these 4-H members

First Vote

- Feedback shared during voting process
    - A few people wanted to see a copy of the application template used
    - One thumbnail was highlighted as an example of an excellent thumbnail; this format can be shared in 4-H applicant education materials
    - Concerns about a word/page limit for 4-H summaries was shared to consider as a guideline for future applicants

Break for Lunch

12:05 PM

Business Meeting Resumes

12:23 PM

During service activities, Honor Club members helped Hannah Vagnozzi and Jonie Stumbo with updates to the Honor Club tapping video

Interactive Community Service Project #1

Adrian Gaskins, Honor Club Member

- Works with the History and Learning Center to catalog historical 4-H artifacts
- Shares pictures of artifacts and historical photos on the North Carolina 4-H History and Learning Center's Instagram page
- Shared photos of boxes of artifacts that have not been identified
- Adrian has notebooks and photographs where members can share what they know about the pictures! (identifying people, events, dates, etc.)
- **Action Items:**
    - If you have items that pertain to the history of North Carolina 4-H, please reach out to Adrian to share them!
    - Follow @nc4hmuseum and @adrian_4h on Instagram

Interactive Community Service Project #2

Dorothy Shutt, President-Elect

- Honor Club members made encouraging cards for staff and campers at this year's Millstone 4-H summer camps!

Breakout into Committee Meetings

2:00 PM

Understanding Endowments

Dr. Shannon McCollum, State 4-H Office Liaison

- Which accounts are available for Honor Club?
- There are three accounts with the Honor Club name on them, but Honor Club only has control over one of them.
- Citizenship Endowment
    - Interest from this endowment is used for 4-H Citizenship Awards (project records, portfolios, etc.)
- Earmarked Money
    - Separate account for which the interest is put into a spending account
    - This money is used to help pay for the Reception - members can submit receipts for reimbursement
    - Approximately $400-500 in this account on an annual basis
- North Carolina 4-H Honor Club Endowment
    - Lifetime dues prior to a certain year went into this endowment as principal
    - The Board can decide how to spend the interest earned on this account
        - E.g., the Board voted to use the interest on this account to spend for the database startup fees

Second Vote

Chloe Allen, Vice President

- 13 applicants received 100% Yes votes
- 8 applicants received at least one No vote

Vote: Becky Caison made a motion to accept all applicants who have received at least 85% Yes votes (all eight who received at least one vote). Susan Morgan McCaskill seconded the motion.
Discussion:

- Chloe Allen shared concerns about not discussing No votes
- Ruth Perkins, Laura Pennell, Becky Caison, and Victoria Child spoke in favor of voting Yes.

Subvote: Laura Pennell made a motion to conclude the discussion and vote. Alex Evans seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

- Discussion for Becky's motion concluded.
- All voted in favor of the motion to accept applicants with at least 85% Yes votes. Motion passes.

- 21 members will be inducted into the Honor Club this summer at 4-H Congress 2025!

Committee Meeting Reports

Finance Committee

Sarah Dietrich, Financial Officer

- Financial statements reviewed and signed initials
- Minutes have been accepted; CPA will perform final approval

Vote: Sarah Dietrich proposed that By-Laws Article XII Section 1 on dues be amended effective July 31st, 2025 to the following:

"A member is required to pay lifetime dues of ~~$55.00~~ **$70.00** by December 31st of the year inducted. Thereafter it will increase to ~~$85.00~~ **$100.00**."

Vote taken: 36 in favor, 4 opposed. Proposal accepted.

Tapping Committee

Chloe Allen, Vice PResident

- Looking for Honor club members to take on more of the responsibility and prep work for the Tapping ceremony
- Prep includes preparing candles, new member packets, sashes, etc.
- Need all hands on deck for crowd control, lining people up, directing inductees to new member meetings

- **Action Item:** If you can be at Congress on Monday, July 21st, please volunteer. Reach out to Chloe Allen for additional information.

Elections Committee

Scott McCollum, Honor Club Member

- State 4-H Officer elections held on Thursday of 4-H Congress, 1:30-3:30 PM
- Need Honor Club members to begin helping at 1:00 PM
- **Action Item:** If you can volunteer, reach out to Scott McCollum for more details.

Candle Lighting Committee

Scott McCollum, Honor Club Member

- Information on the Candle Light Clover marking and ceremony will be sent out closer to Congress
- Need volunteers to help lining the clover on Thursday morning and directing people and handling out candles on Thursday evening
- **Action Item:** If you can volunteer, reach out to Scott McCollum for more details.

Honor Club Reception Committee

Alex Evans, Honor Club Member

- Volunteers (~10 members) needed to help on the Monday night of 4-H Congress
- Setup will begin at 4:00 PM - decorations, runners, plating and serving, greeting
- Biggest need: People to help clean up after the reception
- **Action Item:** If you can volunteer, reach out to Alex Evans for more details.

Honor Club Video/Marketing Committee

Jonie Stumbo, Historian

- Working to remake the video shown at Congress during the Tapping Ceremony for 2026
- Thank you to those who have participated so far
- Will continue filming during Honor Club Conference

4-H Camp Service Project Committee

Joe Freeman, Honor Club Member

- Discussed a weekend event to paint the Ellis House (biggest camp need)
- Other projects: revamp of pollinator garden, other landscaping projects
- Keith Russell has committed to feeding and housing volunteers
- **Save the Date:** Tentatively planning for a weekend in September, with a backup weekend in case of rain
- Opportunity for Honor Club to contribute directly to the camps
- Keep an eye out for future details!

Adjourned

3:47 PM

Approved on Monday, July 21st, 2025

Business Meeting (continued)

Date: Sunday, June 1st, 2025

Call to Order

Emmett LaHay, President
12:11 PM

Nominating Committee Report

Emmett LaHay, President

- Chair of the Board: Emmett LaHay
- President: Dorothy Shutt
- President Elect: *vacant*
- VIce President: Alex Evans
- Secretary: Anna Marie Morra
- Treasurer: Rebecca Dietrich
- Historian: Hannah Vagnozzi
- Communication Coordinator: Jonie Stumbo
- New District Directors to serve a two-year term:
    - North Central District: Lauren Hoesli
    - Northeast District: Marisa Suedbeck
    - South Central District: Nikki Tuttle
    - Southeast District: Chloe Allen
    - West District: *vacant*
- District Directors serving a second year:
    - North Central: Keynon Settle to complete one-year term
    - Northeast: Endia Lewis
    - South Central: Leah Joyner
    - Southeast: Elizabeth Merrill
    - West: Jacob Hanlon
- **Action Item:** If you are interested in filling one of the vacant positions, please reach out!

Additional Notes

Emmett LaHay, President

- The Honor Club Board will be discussing a Benevolence Policy for how Honor Club can respond to the death of a member - stay tuned for details
- Mark your calendars: Weekends of September 5-7 and September 12-14 are tentative for a weekend of service at Millstone 4-H Camp!
- Please share feedback on this year's Honor Club Conference with Dorothy Shutt
- Let Chloe Allen know if there is someone you would like to tap in before Congress

Meeting Adjourned

12:22 PM

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