

SMOKY VALLEY HOME EDUCATORS, INC.

Back to School Business Meeting

In Person Family Fellowship Meal & Recreational Activities at Webster Conference Center

8/12/23

4:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Arlen Redden at 6:32 pm

Introduction of Advisory Council:

**President:** Louis Ade

**Secretary:** Melissa Miller

**VP:** Arlen Redden

**Treasurer:** Regan Peterson

**CHECK:** Wayne McQuillan

**Attendees:** Michael & Melissa Miller (3), Tyler & Laura Greenman (6), Dan & Regan Peterson (5), Micah & Missy Mattison (5), Jenny Mercy (2), Peter Browning (1), Wayne & Erin McQuillan (2), Louis & Melissa Ade (5), Tabre & Ashley Perez (3), Kylee Fick (4), Brandon & Danielle Shelton (5), Arlen & Hayley Redden (8), Darren & Jennifer Bagby (4), Josh & Shelby Werner (7), Amanda Womack & Nicolas Gardner (3), Jacob & Alisha Hemmer (6), Conley & Nicole Nichols (6), Jesse & Kimmi Smith (4), Justin & Rachelle Grimmatt (6), Robie Smith (1), Heidi Crist (2)

**Topics of Discussion:** Approval of minutes from May; Approval of Treasurer's Report; Committee Reports: Library, PE, Field Trips, Art, Choir, 4-H, TEA, Athletics, CHECK, Graduation, Website, Fundraiser; Continued Business: SVHE Child Protection Policy, Open Forum & Additional Announcements

**Roll Call** A sign in sheet was passed around. 21 families signed in for a total of 88 attending.

**Minutes**

**Motion to Approve** Hayley Redden

**2nd** Regan Peterson

**Minutes Approved**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Motion to Approve** Wayne McQuillan

**2nd** Ashley Perez

**Report Approved**

August 12, 2023	
Beginning Balance	<b>\$11,703.68</b>
Income	
Membership Dues	\$100.00
River Festival Fund Raiser Income	\$600.00

Total Income	\$700.00
Expenses	
JotForm Fees	\$19.00
PayPal Fees	\$5.44
Protect My Ministry (annual fee)	\$149.00
Total Expenses	\$173.44
General Fund Ending Balance	\$12,230.24
Baseball Ending Balance	\$824.82
Basketball Ending Balance	\$15,151.94
Volleyball Ending Balance	\$2,230.57
Cross Country Ending Balance	\$7,579.09
General Fund Assets	\$8,803.82
Choir Fund Assets	\$3,128.44
Cross Country	\$7,579.09
Eagle Bot Net Assets	\$297.98
Baseball Net Assets	\$824.82
Basketball Net Assets	\$15,151.94
Volleyball Net Assets	\$2,230.57
Total Net Assets	\$38,016.66

## Committee Reports

**Library/Kimmi Smith** SVHE has a section of homeschool-specific materials in the First Southern Baptist Church library including curriculum books, missionary biographies, books on homeschooling encouragement and how-to, plus a microscope, rock collection, and more. It is all located on the shelves in the middle of the room. You can also use their library computer to search for a specific title, instructions are posted on the wall by the computer. We are also allowed to check out any resource from their library. It's open 8-12, 1-5, M-Th. Ring the doorbell and the secretary will let you in.

**PE/Julie Chamberlin** Hayley Redden reported that Julie Chamberlin will be scheduling PE activities for SVHE this year. Luke Rencher (former Tabor College coach and current Genesis coach) is going to give us two weeks of tennis lessons Tuesdays August 15 and 22nd in Lindsborg at the Bethany College Tennis courts. The cost for both weeks will be \$5/student (I will collect money for Luke). From 8:30-9:15 ages 5-7 will work with coach. Then from 9:15-10:30 will be for ages 7 and up. Bring a tennis racket if you have one, but he will have some extras available if needed. RSVP so we know how many to expect. On Wednesday, September 6 students will have the opportunity to jump at Sky Trampoline Park from 12:30-2:30 pm. The cost is \$5.99 a jumper, plus socks if needed. You can purchase tickets in advance to save time at

<https://skytrampolinepark.aluvii.com/store/shop/productdetails?id=1&productId=52&fbclid=IwAR0ELvMDg41QgSY4pX8exTFSn1JHQBYPWRUALW1dTXUs53vEZinQlh-6Ca0>.

Other PE activities include golf, circuit workout at K-State, swimming, drum fitness, bowling, and field day.

**Field Trips/Megan Harding** A variety of field trips have been scheduled this year including visits to Kansas State Fair, Old Cowtown of Wichita, "Phantom of the Opera" at Theater Salina, P & M Pumpkin Patch, Smoky Valley Railroad, Greyhound Hall of Fame, Smoky Hill Museum, Salina Symphony, State Capitol, Kansas Discovery Center, "Pinkalicious" at Theater Salina, Salina Fire Department & Police Department, Blackthorn USA, Milford Nature Center, Hildebrand Farm, and Milfest in Lindsborg. Watch for emails and FB invitations with dates, times, and more details.

**Art/Karla Schlatter** This year in Art the elementary classes will be learning about art by studying an artist and using that artist's work as an inspiration for their own art work. We will have sections for ages 5-7, 8-9, and 10-12. Look forward to a great year of learning more about interesting artists and how they create what they create. Teachers are still needed.

**Choir/Sheila DeHaan** Choir will begin Wednesday, August 30 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm at First Southern Baptist Church. We will skip the following week Wednesday, September 6, and resume each week after that. The final practice and concert will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at First Covenant Church.

**4H/Karla Schlatter** The Boldly Go 4 H club meets the second Tuesday of the month, at 4:15, with other project meetings available on other Tuesdays. This is a great place for your students to pursue their interests. Students can give speeches and create projects about their passions and receive feedback and celebrations for their work. There are an amazing variety of projects from baking, art, photography, to STEM related projects like rocketry, astronomy, and robotics, to traditional agricultural projects like horticulture and livestock. 4H also provides opportunities to learn leadership and citizenship as well as record keeping, interviewing, and resume writing skills. In September we will have a party in the park for families interested in joining 4H. This year our family will be participating in the Kansas Scholastic Chess Association tournaments. There are several tournament options each month October-April. We would love to form a chess club and have other members of SVHE attend tournaments with us. If you have questions please feel free to contact me. Karla Schlatter 785-404-272, [schlattermk@gmail.com](mailto:schlattermk@gmail.com)

**TEA/Melissa Miller** Our planning committee this year will be Melissa Miller, Jenny Mercy, and Danielle Shelton. Our fall events include a Back to School Brunch on Saturday, September 2; a smore's roasting event on Friday, October 6; a cookie frosting event on Friday, November 10; and a bonus meeting at Moka's on Saturday, December 16. We are here to encourage you and help you in any way we can as you take on this beautiful calling!

## **Athletics**

**XC/Peter Browning** The XC team finished their training camp on Saturday, August 12 with a couple of students completing the mile in under 6 minutes and 1 student in under 5 minutes. It is not too late to join the team. Cost is \$200.00 per runner. The goal is always to glorify Christ in all things.

**Basketball** Registration will open in September and practice will begin in November.

**Basketball Skills/Peter Browning & Justin Grimm** Basketball skills development is held every Monday evening by coach Grimm from 5-6:15 pm for beginners and 6:15-8:00 pm for advanced athletes. Players also have an opportunity with coach Browning on Thursday morning from 6:15 - 7:30 am for players at all levels. All practices are held at First Covenant Church and open to boys and girls.

**Volleyball** Registration is closed and practices have begun.

**Baseball/Jeff Garretson** Registration and practices will begin in the spring.

**Trap Shooting/Peter Browning** SVHE has partnered with homeschooling families in Junction City to have a Trap Shooting team. Practice and events are held at Sportsman Acres which is located close to Milford Lake. Students are taught the importance of gun safety and have the instruction of multiple advisors. No prior experience is needed with many students having never fired a gun before joining the team. If a student has not completed a hunter safety course then it is required they pass an online test. If a student does not have their own shotgun

then loner guns are available. The group competes against other homeschool teams on a national level. Scores are submitted electronically each week and compared to other teams in the country. In the 2023 Spring season, the team placed 2nd in their division for the regular season. However, the team placed 1st among all homeschool teams at Nationals.

Congratulations to the following students: Asher Solander - 1st Varsity Male & 1st overall shooter; Cruz Donley - 14th Varsity Male; Soren Reidsma - 1st JV Male; Thad Donley - 5th JV Male; Tyrell Gefellar - 6th JV Male; Collin Gfeller - 8th JV Male; Owen Donley - 5th Novice Male; Margaret Browning - 1st JV Female, High overall female & 3rd overall shooter; Makenna Hughes - 2nd JV Female; Annalee Green - 1st Novice Female; Karley Thelander - 9th Novice Female.

**CHECK/Wayne McQuillan** Kansas Home Educators and CHECK are our homeschool advocates in our state. They are volunteers and they need help. We all need to be contacting our representatives and voicing our appreciation and our desires for home education. During the summit there was a Q & A panel with Senator Erikson and Representative Helgerson. They both expressed their support of homeschooling, making mention that many other legislators in Kansas are supportive as well. Erikson is most supportive of universal school choice where the money (taxes) follows the child, with no government interference. Erikson also warned that the education establishment is not supportive of homeschooling. They want the power over and money for education. Homeschoolers need to be active to maintain our freedom! KSSHA bill that passed recently is voluntary and has no restrictions for homeschoolers. ESA bill did not pass.

2024 CAPITOL DAY will be held on February 8 this year. CHECK will be trying to plan events for the day to make it worthwhile for families to make the trip to Topeka. Suggestions for events that would make it worth the trip to you and your family are welcome! Jeremiah 12:5 "If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"

**CHECK: Christian Home Educators Coalition of Kansas**

<http://kansashomeschool.org/>

<https://hslida.org/legal>

Kansas Home Educators (kshomeeducators.com)

<https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-state-capitol-plan-your-visit/18649>

[www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org)

<https://openstates.org>

**Graduation/Gretchen Browning** Do you have a senior who would like to participate in our group's graduation this coming spring? Please contact Gretchen Browning at [pgbrowning13@gmail.com](mailto:pgbrowning13@gmail.com) or 913.219.7455. We hope to get a date on the calendar within the next couple of weeks, so reach out so that we can send a survey your way. Our graduations are parent and graduate organized, so we will need everyone's help in planning and executing the event. Please email, text or call. If you text, make sure to leave your name, so I know who is messaging me.

**Website/Dan Peterson** Dan continues to update our website.

## **Continued Business**

**SVHE Child Protection Policy** The following policy was presented, voted upon, and passed to add to our policies.

***Motion to Approve*** Ashley Perez

***2nd*** Melissa Ade

***Motion Carried*** 18 Yes; 0 No

### Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention Policy

Smoky Valley Home Educators (SVHE) prohibits and does not tolerate sexual abuse or misconduct in the workplace or during any organization-related activity. SVHE provides procedures for employees, volunteers, board members, or any other victims of sexual abuse or misconduct to report such acts. Those reasonably suspected or believed to have committed sexual abuse or misconduct will be appropriately disciplined, up to and including termination of employment, as well as criminally prosecuted. No employee, volunteer, board member, or other person, regardless of his or her title or position has the authority to commit or allow sexual abuse

or misconduct.

#### Definitions and Examples

The following definitions or examples of sexual abuse, misconduct or harassment, may apply to any and/or all of the following persons- volunteers, employees, or other third parties.

1. Sexual abuse or misconduct may include, but is not limited to:

- o Child sexual abuse- any sexual activity, involvement, or attempt of sexual contact with a person who is a minor (under 18 years old) where consent is not or cannot be given.
- o Sexual activity with another who is legally incompetent or otherwise unable to give consent.
- o Physical assaults or violence, such as rape, sexual battery, abuse, molestation or any attempt to commit such acts.
- o Unwanted and intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, brushing, massaging someone's neck or shoulders, and/or pulling against another's body or clothes.
- o Material such as pornographic or sexually explicit images, posters, calendars, or objects.
- o Unwelcome and inappropriate sexual activities, advances, comments, innuendoes, bullying, jokes, gestures, electronic communications or messages (e.g., email, text, social media, voicemail), exploitation, exposure, leering, stalking or invasion of sexual privacy.
- o A sexually hostile environment characterized as comments or conduct that unreasonably interferes with one's work performance or ability to do the job or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.
- o Direct or implied threats that submission to sexual advances will be a condition of employment or affiliation with the organization.

## Reporting Procedure

Immediately report suspected sexual abuse or misconduct to the SVHE Advisory Council or the Director of the involved activity. It is not required to directly confront the person who is the source of the report, question, or complaint before notifying any of the individuals. In the event that a suspected incidence of abuse is reported, the staff member in question may be temporarily suspended from duties while an investigation takes place. SVHE will take very reasonable

measure to ensure that those named in complaint of misconduct, or are too closely associated with those involved in the complaint will not be part of the investigative team.

## Anti-retaliation and False Allegations

SVHE prohibits retaliation made against any employee, volunteer, board member, or other person who lodges a good faith complaint of sexual abuse or misconduct or who participates in any related investigation. Making knowingly false or malicious accusations of sexual abuse or misconduct can have serious consequences for those who are wrongly accused. SVHE prohibits

making false or malicious sexual misconduct allegations, as well as deliberately providing false information during an investigation. Anyone who violates this rule is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution.

## Investigation and Follow-up

SVHE will take all allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct seriously and will promptly, thoroughly, and equitably investigate whether misconduct has taken place. The organization may utilize an outside third party to conduct an investigation of misconduct. SVHE will cooperate fully with any investigation conducted by law enforcement or other regulatory/protective services agencies. SVHE will make very reasonable effort to keep the matters involve in the allegation as confidential as possible while still allowing for a prompt and thorough investigation.

## Reporting to Law Enforcement or Appropriate Child or Adult Protective Services

SVHE is committed to following the state and federal legal requirements for reporting allegations or incidents of sexual abuse or misconduct to appropriate law enforcement and child or adult protective services organizations. It is the policy of SVHE not to attempt to investigate or assess the validity or credibility of an allegation of sexual or physical abuse as a condition before reporting the allegation to proper law enforcement authorities or protective services organizations. Reports of abuse or neglect of an adult or child will be reported to the Kansas Protection Report Center by calling 1-800-922-5330 or online at [www.dcf.ks.gov](http://www.dcf.ks.gov).

## Employee and Worker Screening and Selection

SVHE is committed to maintaining a diligent screening program for prospective and existing employees, volunteers and others that may have interaction with those employed by, associating

with or serviced by SVHE. The screening and selection process shall include the following:

1. Application: Every staff member and volunteer working with our students will complete a written application that will set forth appropriate background information, and require disclosure of any prior claims or allegations of sexual abuse or other inappropriate conduct.

2. Screening: Each prospective staff member will be interviewed by the Director of the corresponding activity. This screening process will include specific questions regarding the existence of any prior claims of inappropriate behavior with respect to youth.

3. Background Check: All potential staff members will be subject to a criminal background check with a contracted vendor qualified to conduct such checks. For returning staff members, this background check will be updated at least every two (2) years.

#### Supervision of Youth

To provide a safe environment for minors, SVHE strives that a minimum of two adult workers supervise or be in attendance with minors during organization-related activities. The purpose is to avoid one-on-one interactions between adults and minors that are not easily observable by others. If individual meetings with a minor must be held in an office, keep the door open. Only conduct closed door meetings when another adult is put on notice of the meeting and the door remains unlocked.

#### Prohibited and Discouraged Behavior

##### 1. Prohibited Behavior

- a. Use of profane or degrading language. Staff members are also responsible for stopping disrespectful language or behavior between activity members.
- b. Threatening or intentionally inflicting physical injury upon a minor.
- c. Committing any sexual offense against a minor, or engaging in any sexual contact with a minor.
- d. Making any kind of sexual advance, or making a request for sexual favors, or engaging in other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- e. Communication between leaders and children that is not directly related to activities.

##### 2. Discouraged Behavior

- a. Rides to/from practices and competitions unless there is an urgent situation such as where a parent/guardian does not show up and the child would be in danger not having a ride.

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#### Acknowledgement Form: Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention Policy

I acknowledge that I received and read the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention Policy and/or had it explained to me. I understand that it is my responsibility to abide by all rules contained in the policy. I also understand how to report incidents of sexual abuse or misconduct as set forth in the policy, including retaliation against any employee or volunteer exercising his or her rights under the policy. I acknowledge that I will be alerted when changes and updates are

made to the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Policy and will be responsible for reading and complying with these updates.

Employee/Volunteer's Printed Name:

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Employee/Volunteer's Signature:



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness's Signature:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Open Forum & Additional Announcements**

**Art Display at Salina Public Library** All homeschoolers are invited to display a piece of artwork at the Salina Public Library in youth services during the month of October. Art should be no larger than 10x15. Write the following information on the backside: First and last name, age, name of homeschool, and phone number, if you'd like the artwork back. SPL will write your child's first name, age, and homeschool on a name card to be displayed with the artwork. Artwork may be dropped off at Melissa Miller's home or youth services no later than Friday, September 29.

**Game Nights/Deb Garretson** Homeschoolers of all ages are invited to game nights in Lindsborg, location TBA. Families are encouraged to bring a few games and a finger food to share. Watch for game night announcements on SVHE private FB page. Contact Deb at [lahe.ks@gmail.com](mailto:lahe.ks@gmail.com) with questions.

**Scripture Memory Systems/Lauren Waller** SMS is a program designed to aid families in memorizing Scripture. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30-6:15 at CrossPoint Church in Salina.

**Classical Conversations/Hayley Redden** Weekly classes offered on Mondays for PreK-12 through our Foundations, Essentials, & Challenge programs. During our Foundations (F) class (ages 4 and up) we go over all of the new information for the week, cover fine arts, science experiments, and public speaking. In Essentials (E) (ages 9 and up) we cover grammar, writing, and math games. Challenge A, B, 1, 2 and 3 is a full curriculum for Junior High through High School, training the children to take ownership of their own education teaching our kids to learn, think for themselves, and to present their thoughts through all seven subjects. Meeting weekly in a class provides accountability and a place to discuss what they have learned that week. For more information contact Hayley Redden at [salinacc12@gmail.com](mailto:salinacc12@gmail.com)

**Haven Academy of Salina** Check out Haven Academy of Salina's options for homeschooling families! We have three unique offerings to meet your needs. In our half-day hybrid for K-3rd, students will be in a classroom setting with professional teachers Monday - Wednesday with curated homework to do with parents on Thursday. Contact Emily at Haven 785.409.1971 for more information. Haven Middle Grades will offer sessions of group tutoring on Wednesday mornings focusing on math, language arts enrichment, and geography. Contact Karla at Haven Middle Grades 785.422.8744 for more information. Grades K-8 will enjoy monthly day camps offered the first Thursday of the month filled with fun STEM activities, art, guest speakers and more. Contact Emily or Karla for more information.

**Swedish Dancing/Rachelle Grimm** Homeschooled students are invited to dance at Hyllningsfest on October 13-14. Practices are held once a week leading up to the festival.

***Motion to Close Meeting*** Hayley Redden

***2nd*** Louis Ade

***Motion Passed***

Jesse Smith closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.