



# ST. JOSEPH COUNTY 4-H YOUTH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting  
February 5, 2018  
Courthouse Annex II  
MSU Extension Office  
Centreville MI 49032

President: Jenny Bower  
Vice President: Cody Baker  
Secretary: Michelle McNamara  
Treasurer: Julie Carpenter  
Deputy Treasurer: Virginia Trattles  
Media: Brittany Bogema

**Members Present:** Jenny Bower, Nancy Hiemstra, Kelsey Maystead, Michelle McNamara, Shawn McNamara, Andy Rambadt, Zach Sackrider, Brittany Bogema, Caitlynn Hughes, Barb Weston, Lucas Carpenter, Virginia Trattles, Samantha Hoekstra, Jennifer Mead- Bennett, Emily Mead, Julie Carpenter

**Members Absent/Excused:** Holly Gregory, Cody Baker

1. President Bower called the meeting to order at @6:32pm
2. Pledges were led by Zach.
3. Public Comment
  - a. Tom Miller, liaison to the St. Joseph County Grange Fair Board made a presentation about having 4-H be more present at the fair each September. He also made mention of the suggestion that 4-H members could potentially sell a still exhibit project at the fair in addition (or in lieu of) an animal project. Tom indicated he will make attempts to attend any livestock committee meetings in the future to keep those connections strong.
  - b. Bill Johnson, Manager of the Fair addressed the board about their Animal Health Plan. The plan is located on the fair website and one of the areas that he specifically addressed was public act 466, updated in 1988 (found on the Department of Agriculture website) that specifically addressed how we handle livestock issues at the fair. He also encouraged us to remain in contact with our superintendents when it comes to needs (everything from urgent animal issues to the need for a new lightbulb for a barn.) Eva asked Bill about updates to the Horse Barns. He reported that barn #18 has been gutted recently, and that #19 is being addressed right now.
  - c. Emily Redmond asked about how the 2018 passes will be addressed. Whether they will be paid for by the Youth Council or the Livestock Association. Eva indicated that she would add this to the March agenda.
4. Additions to the agenda- Eva wants Facebook page added to k of New Business. Brittany asked to have Youth Council minutes added to g of 4-H Development report.
5. January minutes were approved by Virginia and seconded by Nancy.
6. No correspondence was received
7. Financial Report – Julie Carpenter, Treasurer
  - a. Balance in Sturgis Bank & Trust checking account as of January 8, 2018: \$50,923.27
  - b. No bills needing approval/review.
  - c. Virginia made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, with Brittany seconding the motion. Motion approved.
8. Officer/Committee report
  - a. Horse Council Report- Eva shared the new officers of the horse council: Diane Zinsmaster remains the President. Danielle Sackrider as VP, Bobby Jo Newland, Secretary, Treasurer is Jamie Terry and deputy treasurer is Shirel Hart.
  - b. Silent Auction- Eva reported in Cody's absence. Wendy has agreed to organize the event again in 2018 and the council voiced their appreciation for Wendy stepping up and helping again this year. Eva reported that the

contract with the Shoppers Guide is still at campus and we are waiting for its approval. Jennifer asked for clarification as to why 4-H is not included in the publicity- Eva indicated that it was because the campus has yet to give final approval. Eva encouraged everyone to begin gathering donations- even without the contract signed. The silent auction committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the fair office-discussing everything from businesses who donated in the past, businesses that we have a connection to as well as semantics of the actual auction organization itself.

c. Awards Committee Report

- i. Brittany reported on the survey and indicated that Survey Monkey charges a \$35 fee after the first 100 responses. The Youth Council received 123 responses and while we recognize that every single opinion counts; a motion was made by Jennifer and seconded by Zach to take the first 100 responses instead of paying the extra money for what would likely be the same types of responses. The survey results are attached to the end of these minutes. After reading the questions, comments and responses, the Youth Council looked at plaques, medallions, picture frames, banners, and other items and looked at recognition items and personalization. There was a focus and emphasis on using the term AWARD in lieu of trophy as we contact donors for 2018. Barb supplied an example of a letter that could be used in contacting those donors. A motion was made by Jennifer, seconded by Virginia to move forward with changing the livestock showmanship awards from trophy's to vinyl signs/water bottles or similar awards. Motion passed.
- ii. A motion was made by Jennifer to draft a copy of the letter to send to donors instead of making phone calls this year. That letter will include an invoice indicating what the donor had done in the past. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Virginia offered to contact award vendors to present at the March Youth Council meeting.

9. 4-H Development Report

- a. Enrollment Update. Eva reported that roughly 25-30 new volunteer leaders are currently going through the VSP process.
- b. 4-H Leader Meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018, Nora Hagen Theater, Glen Oaks Community College at 6:30pm. Danielle Sackrider delivered the presentation in January.
- c. United Way Grant presentation is Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- d. County Endowment Fund is \$1,014 and Eva had some suggestions as to where that money should be allocated this year. Some of the suggestions made included the Fair Frenzy Scavenger Hunt and the 4-H dance. Suggestions can be sent to Eva.
- e. There is no contract update at this time. (This was in reference to the Silent Auction fundraiser)
- f. State Award update. St. Joseph County had 6 members apply for state awards in 2018!!!!
- g. Secretary's Minutes: The process for how the minutes are posted was discussed. Once the Youth Council secretary completes them, they are sent to Eva and Tonya and then forwarded to campus to be posted on the website.

10. Old Business

- a. Jacie King attended the 4-H Leadership & Global Citizenship Spectacular at the Kettunen Center so that bill can be paid (approved by the Council in January pending her attendance)
- b. Zoe Bungart registration for International Exchange to Norway and Eva suggested the 4-H Youth Council provide her with a scholarship of \$500 to attend. Kelsey made a motion to make this donation, seconded by Jennifer. Motion carried. Eva also mentioned that she has at least 6 kids interested in the Great Lakes Resource Camp at Pascal Island. Kelsey made a motion that we pay for 50% of their attendance cost, if they are selected to attend. Seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.
- c. Eva brought the master copy of Committee Assignments to share with the group. Committee members signed up for appropriate committees.
- d. 4-H Club Treasurer training was held on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and was well attended and informative. The council discussed offering an additional officer training workshop for 2018, but decided to hold off until early 2019 for additional official training countywide.

11. New Business

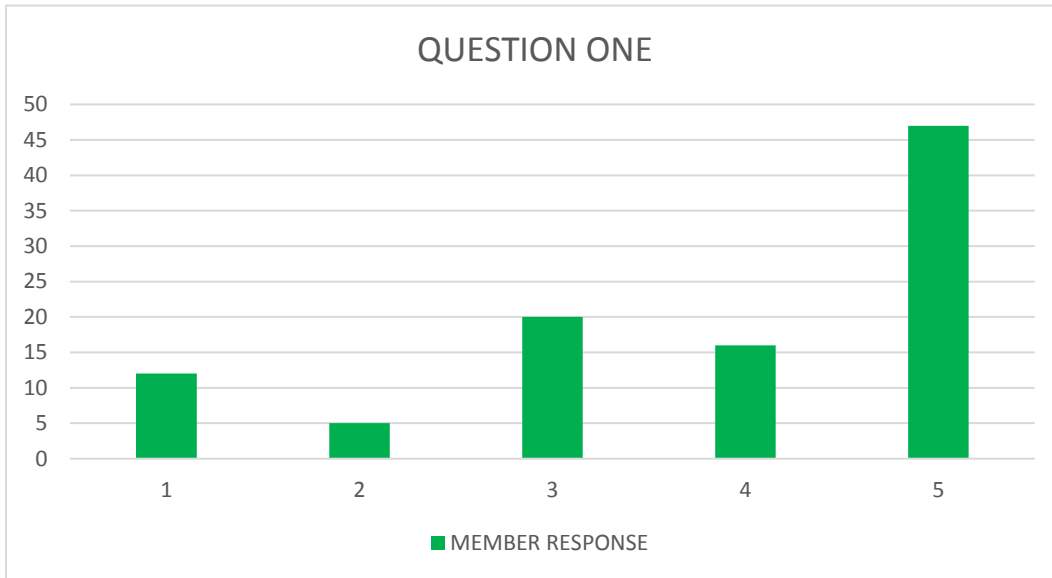
- a. Set 2018 4-H Youth Council Meeting dates. Michelle moved and Luke seconded moving April's youth council meeting to Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to avoid Spring Break. Motion Carried. Kelsey moved and Julie seconded to move the July youth council meeting to Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> to avoid the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Motion carried. Jennifer moved and Kelsey seconded to move the September Youth Council meeting to August 27<sup>th</sup> to avoid the fair. Motion carried.
- b. Eva brought forward a suggestion from the budget committee that \$100 be offered for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place for clubs that display a 2018 Club Banners at the fair. Kelsey made a motion to change the fair book to reflect these changes, Michelle seconded that motion. Motion carried.
- c. Budget- Virginia made a motion to postpone the budget discussion until March. Seconded by Andy. Motion carried.
- d. Milk Cooler – Individuals are looking at the milk cooler currently. Still waiting for it to be moved to Scott's shop where it can thaw out and further investigations will take place. An updated will be provided next month.
- e. Milk Barn. Eva is requesting that the Youth Council either purchase or rent a cash register for the 2018 milk barn to keep more accurate records. Dixie offered one for use. Jennifer made a motion that we first look at Dixie's and if it is not viable we purchase one as budgeted by our budget committee. Motion seconded by Luke. Motion carried.
- f. 4-H Youth Council Scholarship. Scholarship information will be mailed this week, Jennifer is the Youth Council representative, and the other members of the interview committee are kept confidential. In the past the Youth Council has put forth \$750 for 3 scholarships for high school students and one \$1500 scholarship for a college applicant. The Youth Council discussed changing the wording to indicate if applicants do not meet criteria- the committee has the authorization to award the scholarship to another eligible applicant regardless of whether they are HS or continuing education bound. Jennifer made a motion to change that wording, seconded by Kelsey. Motion carried. We had a \$500 Midge Bender scholarship that had been given in the past, but is no longer offered. The council discussed the benefit of picking up that scholarship. Kelsey made a motion that the Youth Council pick up the \$500 scholarship that can be used for either a high school or college applicant. Virginia seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- g. Youth Council Shirts. Michelle McNamara offered to take charge of ordering shirts for the new 4-H youth on the council. She will contact each new member after the meeting and put an order together. Michelle was also given a donation of gently used Youth Council shirts from Lisa DeLeo and will make sure those go to individuals who can use them. Lastly, Michelle will include any additional orders of Youth Council apparel for any adult or returning youth on the council who would like to purchase something for themselves.
- h. Awards Banquet for 2018. Barb moved to table, seconded by Julie. Motion Carried.
- i. 4-H Camp Meeting Date: Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am.
- j. New Leader Interview is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm each night.
- k. Facebook page discussion was centered around changing from just a Youth Council page to an all-county page. Changing the name to St. Joseph County Michigan Facebook page. Some changes need to be made to the administrators. Michelle made a motion to this change, seconded by Brittany and motion passed.

12. A motion was made by Kelsey, seconded by Virginia to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm. Motion approved by a very tired membership at 9:32pm.

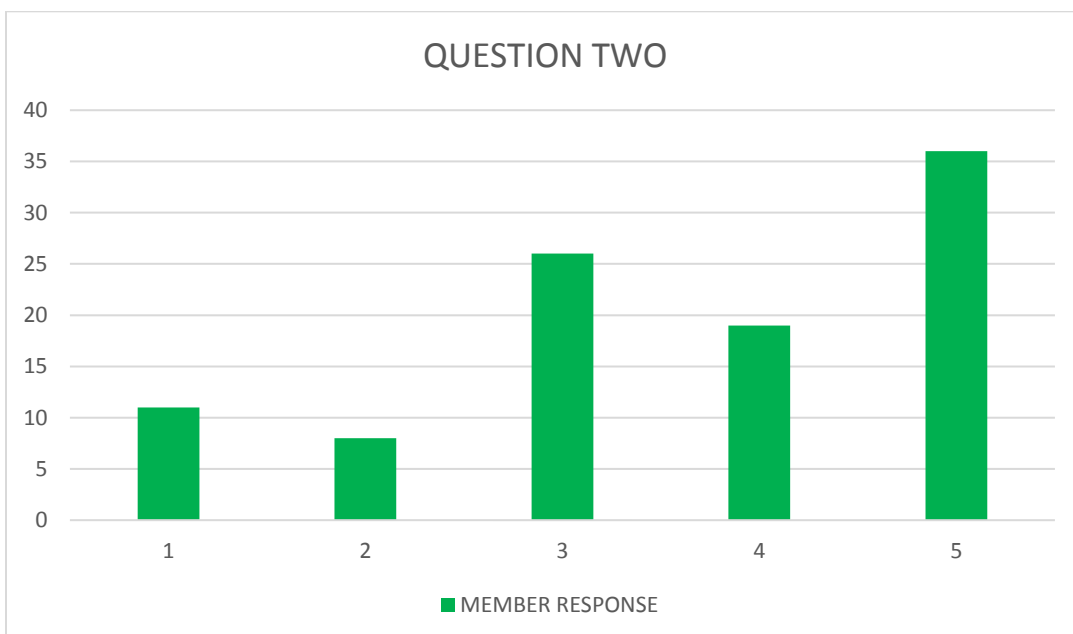
**Next Meeting Date: March 5, 2018, 6:30p.m., MSUE office**

**\*\*Disclaimer:** Out of 123 responses, we are only able to view 100 survey responses for free. SurveyMonkey requires a monthly subscription to view more than 100 responses, which was unknown when created and for financial reasons the Youth Council will have to vote on the decision to pay for the other responses.

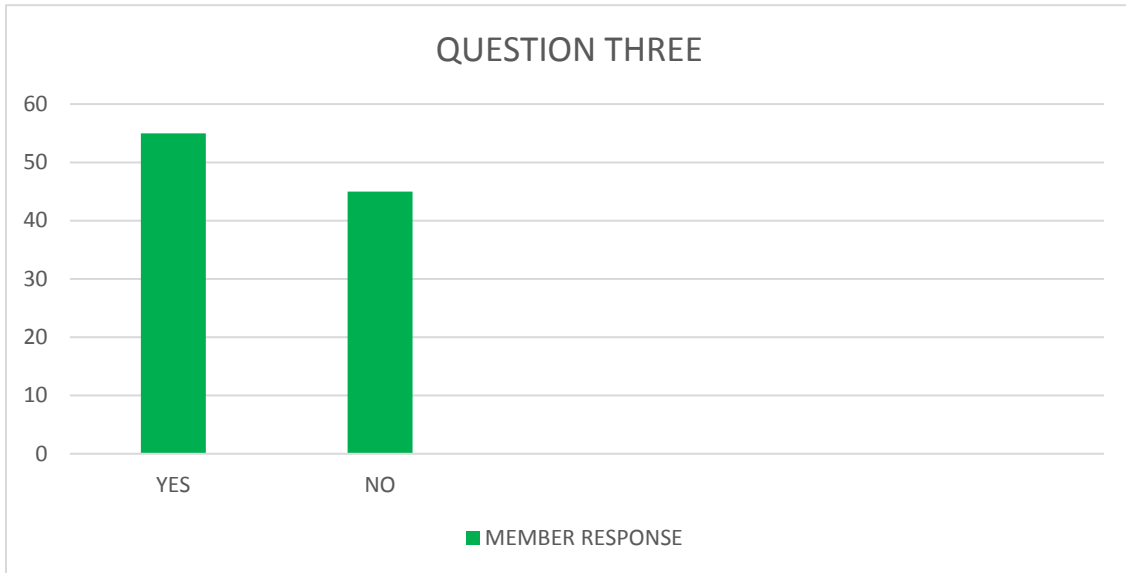
**1. On a scale of 1 to 5, (1 being least happy and 5 being the happiest), how excited are you to receive trophies for livestock projects and still projects?**



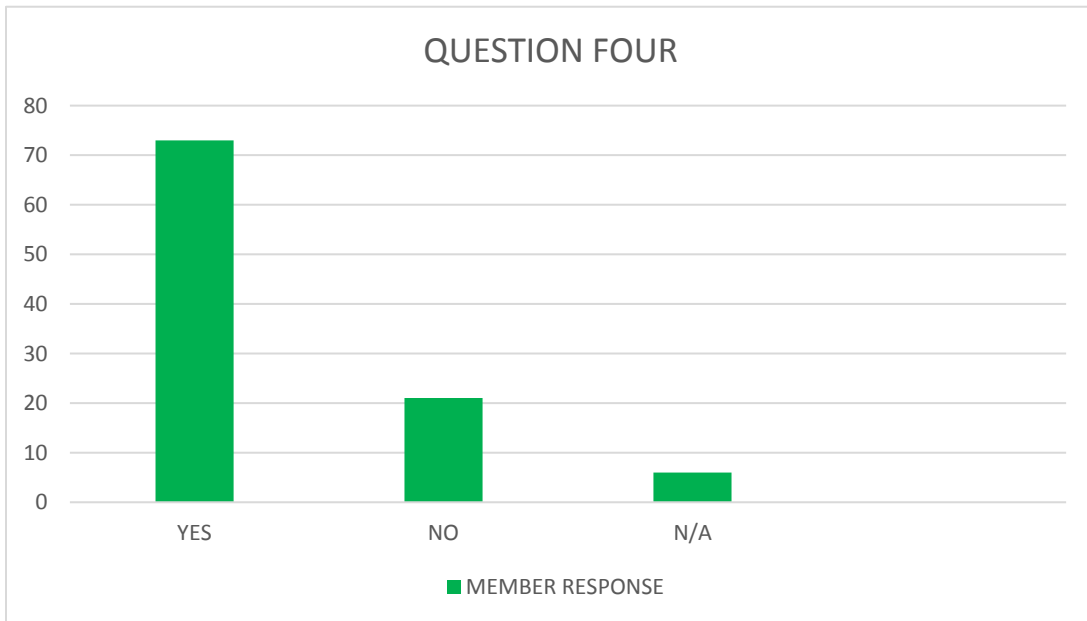
**2. How important is it to receive a trophy as an award? (1 not very important and 5 very important)**



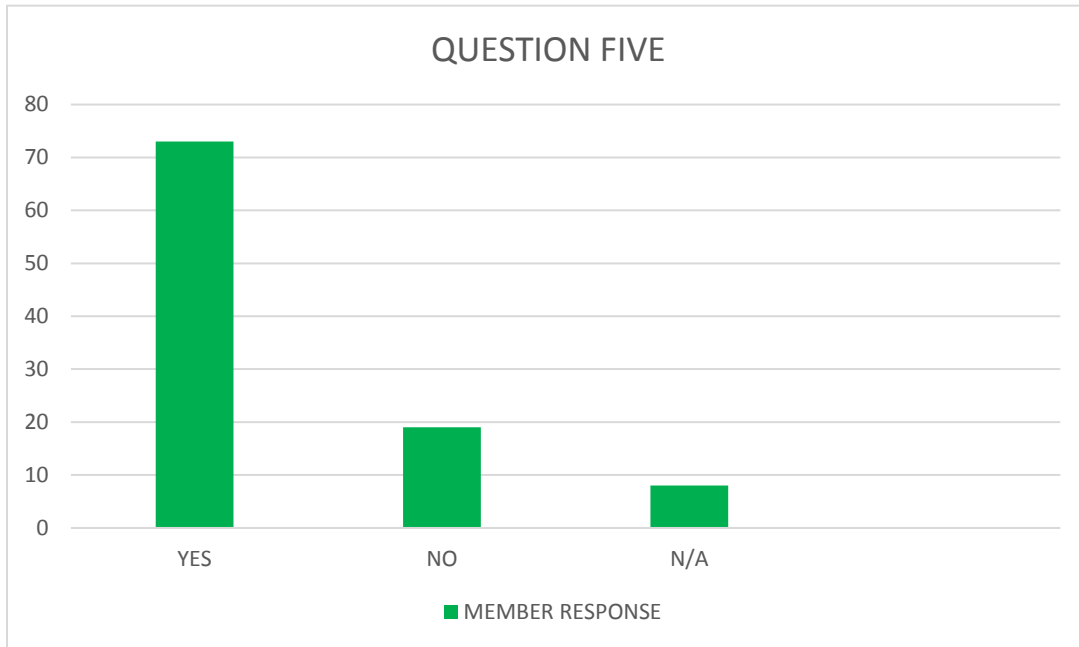
**3. For placings lower than Overall Reserve Champion and Grand Champion, should those placings receive a medallion or plaque instead of a trophy?**



**4. As a 4-Her, would you enjoy receiving other awards such as plaques, photo frames, medallions or species-specific items (Brushes, crops, combs etc.) as awards for livestock projects?**



5. As a 4-Her, would you enjoy receiving other awards such as plaques, photo frames, medallions or project-specific items (cake decorating set, wood carving tools, candle making tools, etc.) as awards for still projects?



6. Other comments or concerns: (33 RESPONSES)

1. I wish the names on the trophies were updated more often at the fair. I won a trophy last year before the fair started and it took until Thursday to get my name on the trophy.
2. The System is fine the way it is
3. We Love our 4h fair
4. Savings bonds would be a great idea
5. I love the animal trophies but like the project-specific items, too. For dog class, I would love to see a plaque or medallion with dog supplies.
6. I do not like medallions or picture frames. Plaques or usable item that is related to my project would be nice
7. Trophies are nice to show off, but after years of having them they become a day catcher. Having something else may be nicer if that's what is chose.
8. Banners would be ok for livestock championships but not other projects
9. Trophies take up a lot of room. Picture plaques are much nicer or something similar.
10. As a former 4-Her, I would've rather received banners for Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champion honors than the ribbons.
11. I think things other than trophies every year is a great idea... things like: jackets, chairs, shirt
12. I rather receive a bucket with what award I have received, or something in that nature. Thanks.

13. I'm my opinion, I would leave everything the same.
14. I would like to see banners for livestock awards
15. Stay away from medallions, we will not wear them and what do we do with them? They will just hang on a shelf like the trophies sit on a shelf. For livestock, we could get banners that could hang in our barns, or equipment that is labeled with what we won. Coats or sweatshirts that we could wear. Picture frames are nice too.
16. It's not about the trophy rather the recognition of the placement If other youth are in it for the trophy then they are not doing the project for the right reasons
17. I like the trophy with the specific animal species on top
18. Alternative awards besides trophies, especially for livestock, could include banners for Grand Champion and Reserve Champion. T-shirts or sweatshirts for 1st place showmanship (it could read Top Junior Showman- St. Joseph County Grange Fair, or something similar) the picture frames are nice as well.
19. It is a great idea to mix up the awards a little. Give out useful awards. A show stick, chair, buckles are a couple of awards that would offer a wider range. That would allow for a more diverse award but be usable.
20. Eliminate trophies, and all highpoint awards
21. It is a great idea to mix up the awards a little. Give out useful awards. A show stick, chair, buckles are a couple of awards that would offer a wider range. That would allow for a more diverse award but be usable (submitted response twice)
22. Trophies are cool for a few weeks but tools for encouragement are a more productive award we can use instead of trophies that take up more shelf space every year.
23. Plaques would be great but NO to medallions. And maybe for over ALL GRAND AND RESERVE GET A CHAIR, blankets, clock, etc. maybe with the year on it! As a long time 4-H member I believe trophies are good the first few years. I don't believe that trophies should go away but have grand and reserve get something worthwhile! TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER
24. Shooting Sports souls still have trophies
25. Specific items as rewards for both still exhibits and livestock would be more rewarding for a 4-h exhibitor.
26. Trophies take up room and just collect dust. Something project specific would be more useful.
27. Yes! Yes! Yes! Please look into something more practical. I think a trophy is a big deal when you win your first one. Or, if it is the G-R-A-N-D overall. But do we really need this many? It appears to me that our still exhibit barns have a fraction of what we used to have and yet our trophy numbers have not changed. Other fairs have gone with medals, plaques, items. St. Joseph County is way behind.
28. I like doing the trophies and plaques. I think doing livestock related prizes would be fun but would be nice to choose the prize as doing already picked ones some people win things they already own rather than what they need. I like the trophies and plaques as it's more memorabilia especially the plaque/picture frames for animals
29. - 33. No/Nope/None