



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

Virginia FFA Association
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Board of Directors Meeting

October 16, 2019

The Virginia FFA's Board of Directors met at the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation's Headquarters on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Chair, Brian Alexander called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Alexander, Chair; Cindy Vance, Secretary, Marc Moran, LaVAeta Nutter, Andy Seibel, Jennifer Armstrong, Darryl Holland, Cindy Vance, Ed McCann.

FFA UPDATE: Andy began the meeting with giving an FFA Update:

Tax exempt status back - Andy appealed with the IRS ruling to revoke the 501c-3 status and he was able to get the penalty removed and the status reinstated.

Andy distributed 2018 tax forms for review as well as Profit and Loss Statement for January 1, 2018-January 1, 2019 and July 2018-June 2019. All Board members' names are on the tax return and will be public information.

Foundation paid for buses for Big E this year. No money was made, just money in money out.

FFA DUES: \$12 regular membership; middle school membership - flat fee of \$600 per chapter (state gets \$300).

\$5 per student gained in revenue. Biggest expense is magazine. \$3,100 + 11.5% per copy each issue; 4 times per year = approx. \$24,000. Equates to \$3 out of \$5 dues goes to magazine.

.50 goes to Camp. \$1000 per state officer is budgeted. That is approx. \$1.50 of dues money for state officer expenses.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: Andy passed around Wyndham's contract stating the cancellation policy. After certain dates, hotel charges per room for cancellation. \$192 per night is fee is total with all taxes. State is charging \$205 per night so that state officer travel and participation at convention is covered. We currently have 15 rooms not being used out of 215 reserved. Rooms will still need to be covered per the cancellation policy.

8 buses were reserved according to initial reservations. 6 are now needed.

Pending Approval: March 27th, 2020

STATE CONVENTION: \$85 per student for convention fee = \$85,000. Fee includes plaques (\$25 per student) lighting/sound (\$35 per student). That leaves \$25 to help fund activities throughout the year (i.e. State Fair)

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER DEBT: \$206,000 is currently outstanding; primarily for National Convention, and Big E hotels, a few chapters still owe for the State Convention.

STATE STAFF FUNDING: previously \$200,000 had been with VDACS and was in VA State Code. Stability is needed and more funding. Exec. Sec. position is a year to year position with no guarantee for next year. In the future, we need to look for additional support with more of a guarantee for employment. Possibly seek input and collaboration with VAAE and Extension so that we could have a “permanent position” for the program.

SAEs: Farm Bureau is lobbying and supporting that SAEs to be considered part of Work Based Learning. SAEs are no longer recognized by DOE as work based learning nor do SAEs fit into the reporting categories that DOE has adopted. We need to garner support from groups in order to have SAE recognized as WBL in DOE. WBL could be justification for 12 month contracts as students need to be supervised in growing season (summer months.) We will seek assistance from VAAE in this effort and we all need to help with this lobbying effort.

LEGACY FUNDS: 5%-10% is what is made from activities. Money was invested and interest was used to support Legacy Fund. Money is still there. Board needs to decide if we need to continue investing money or name a Legacy to support for the year.

Andy took questions from the Board about finances.

STATE FAIR: Largest participation yet. How can we help with costs? Charge fee? Sponsorships? This year VA FFA spent approx. \$8,000. Jennifer will see if the Foundation Board can potentially get sponsorship for the future.

Determining the awards back to students/chapters is cumbersome as they are different for each competition. Can we become consistent among all contests?

Board agreed to have Andy come up with uniform awards throughout contests.

Hort Demo - Propose change for 5 stations per each area of contest. 5 winners then divide scholarship among five. Board was in favor that we move forward with that change.

National Hort Demo requires age of 14 in order to advance. Allow junior teams to participate but not be eligible to go on for National Jr. Hort Demo competition.

CHAPTER CHARTERS: Some states have implemented regulations that require participation or membership in order to keep charter. Some schools have chapters that do not pay dues; not all teachers attend teacher's

conference, state convention, etc. Maybe we need to look at what other states are doing and potentially implement something similar in Virginia. Discussion occurred as to what we can do to encourage/require teachers to start participating. Potential for 12 month contracts, minimum of 11 month contracts needed. As an example, Andy read off requirements for NC teachers. They accumulate points for specific activities and must collect 80 points in order to keep their 12 month contract. We will seek assistance from VAAE in this.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 11:30 and VAAE and the Advisory Council joined the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Vance
Virginia FFA Board Secretary