



# Governing Board/Advisory Council Minutes

**March 20, 2020 9:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Alexander, Chair; Cindy Vance, Secretary, Alan Webb, Marc Moran, Kate Hawkins, Ed McCann, Darryl Holland, Jennifer Armstrong, LaVeta Nutter, Alison Jones, Andy Seibel, Philip McCroskey, Blair Hoffman, Cole Ramsey, Cindy Green, Mary Hardesty, Sherry Heishman, Casey Davis, Stuart Byrd, Teresa Lindberg, Jennie Simmons, Russell Jennings.

**COVID- 19 AND ITS IMPACT ON AG ED AND FFA:** At this time we do not know the impact that the virus will have on the State Convention. Currently we want to hold the Convention as scheduled but in light of current status of virus and the shut down of schools we need to discuss options.

Options include: Holding convention later in summer (probably Ag Teacher's Conference week), Virtual Convention, or hold a modified convention over a long weekend once schools are back in session (September).

Discussion was held about each scenario. Issues included: convention fees generate operating funds for VA FFA. If the convention is not held, funds would be limited for next fiscal year; virtual convention with virtual CDE/LDE events - how can we ensure integrity of events? Can all schools have virtual access for events?

3 areas have not held area rallies to designate area winners for several CDEs.

What can we do about State Officer Interviews? The new State Officer Team will have several events to attend in July.

We may receive more info in the near future from the Governor that will provide more info as to what our options are. All will discuss with areas and report back.

With school closure for two weeks, some teachers are not allowed to access school facilities. This leaves animals and greenhouses with no supervision. LaVeta will draft a memo to ask that Ag teachers are deemed essential personnel so that access to school grounds can be given.

**COUNTY FAIRS/ANIMAL SHOWS:** Students have money tied up in animals and there is uncertainty if these shows will be able to occur. Other states have run into the same issue.

**AWARD APPLICATIONS:** Current date for awards judging (April 29th/30th) is questionable for students and teachers to get applications submitted given the uncertainty of when schools will return to session.

It was proposed that we move awards application deadline to May 15 for National Chapter, Proficiency, etc and seek guidance from Nat'l FFA as to potential extensions. We will be flexible if students cannot complete the application due to lack of internet but the teacher must make state staff aware of the problem.

Motion - Ed McCann

Second - Sherry Heishman

Passed

- *Please note that due to the printer that we use the State Degree date cannot be adjusted.*

**HONORARY AMERICAN DEGREES:** Virginia can nominate 3 teachers and 3 individuals. Criteria for teachers has been that they must have taught for at least 20 years and have at least 85% FFA membership.

**VAAE AWARDS:** Encourage teachers (especially young/new) to apply for VAAE awards.

*We will continue to meet on a weekly virtual basis. Next meeting Friday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m.*

**Meeting adjourned: 10:20 a.m.**