

**Northern Area Agriculture Teachers  
Fall Annual Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 9, 2015  
Fishersville, Virginia**

Members Present: Clark Adams, Kristin Beery, Janae Bickhart, Liz Borst, Mr. Borst, Mike Brown, Stuart Byrd, Abbi Copp, Brian Crickenberger, Brian Fisher, Barry Gray, Melinda Hinkle, Herb Hoffeditz, Christy Kerr, Sarah Keyser, Elizabeth Lam, Blair Long, Codi Jo Smith, Sarah Smith, Cindy Vance, Zach Wakeman, Elizabeth Williams

Guests Present: Ron Byrd, Matt Spindler, Northern Area Officers, Lane Woodward

The Northern Area Agriculture Teachers at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 9, 2015:

1. heard Christy Kerr call the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.
2. heard Christy Kerr lead the introduction of the Area Officers and new teachers.
3. heard Abbi Copp move to dispense with the reading of the minutes, the motion was seconded and passed.
4. heard Christy Kerr discuss the Virginia STAR Program
  - a program designed to create a sustainable and effective recruitment and retention strategy for ag ed teachers and majors in Virginia.
5. heard Brian Fisher provide VAAE updates.
  - Winter inservice Registration is due soon so be sure to register in time.
6. heard Ron Byrd provide VAAE, FFA Alumni, and Young Farmers of Virginia Updates.
  - Thanks for everyones help during the Summer Conference
  - Ron coordinated the buses at National Convention: understands there were some issues, those will be dealt with for next year.
  - VAAE: It's not too late to pay dues. Contact Ron if interested in joining.
  - Look at the NAAE website for insurance benefit information
  - Some VAAE members will be traveling to New Orleans for the National Conference next week.
  - Alumni: Dues are due May 1st. The roster is similar to FFA, contact Pam Fairchild at National FFA if you need help with your roster. Send dues to Ron Byrd at Virginia FFA Alumni. If you are interested in organizing an alumni let Ron know.
  - Young Farmers: Ron spoke with the advisors present. State Convention will be January 28-30 in Charlottesville. Get as many members emails as possible and give to Ron for better communication/updates.
7. heard Lane Woodward provide updates on the Virginia FFA Association and Advisory Council.
  - Each area is being divided into a Task Force focusing on specific topics. The Northern Area is in charge of awards. If you have any comments/suggestions about awards, contact Sherry Heishman or Derek Ritenour ASAP as they will be meeting at the end of the week.

- FFA Rosters are due ASAP. If you need assistance, call or email Lane. If necessary, she will even schedule a visit to work with you in person. It is very important to print invitations and have all students log into ffa.org because all award applications will be completed through this site.
  - There are 2 surveys currently active: FFA Week Participation is due Dec 7 and National Convention Feedback is due Nov 13.
  - GPS or Spring Leadership Conferences are being changed to a weekend type event held on February 5-7 at Wakefield 4-H Center. Registration will be coming soon.
  - SAE grants close November 15 online.
  - State FFA Convention is schedule for June 20-23
  - Reminder that all applications for students must be completed online this year.
8. heard Zach Wakeman give updates on COLT and recommendations from the Task Force on Area Officers and RAlly.
- See Attached Sheet for Zach's Report
  - Discussion of whether or not \$25 chapter dues should be required was held.
  - Zach Wakeman nominated Christy Kerr to be the Area Advisor for the next three years. The nomination was accepted, seconded and passed.
  - Zach Wakeman moved for the term of the 2016-2017 Area Officers be from July 1 - June 30. The motion was seconded and passed.
  - Zach moved to accept the revised Area Officer election process as printed. The motion was seconded and passed.
9. heard Ty McReynolds, Northern Area President, provide updates on the Area Officers.
- The officers have been going through many teambuilding and leadership trainings during the summer and continuously by studying the Habitudes curriculum.
  - Be on the lookout for their Newsletters.
  - The officers conducted workshops for students at COLT conference.
  - Please contact them to attend chapter events.
10. heard Matt Spindler provide updates on Virginia Tech Ag Ed.
- If you are interested in learning more about AET let him know.
  - 6 students went to National FFA Convention: helped judge/recruit and attended workshops
  - Collegiate FFA ran mock interviews this past Spring and will continue to do so
  - Currently seeking follow up information from the middle school conference
    - Looking to combine with Teach Ag Day next year
  - Looking to add more Teach Ag workshops at State Convention for students interested in teaching agriculture
11. heard Brian Crickenberger provide updates on Area Rally planning.
- The fairgrounds price is non negotiable. However, Farm Bureau will help offset costs
  - The first full week of April is the target date. The majority decided to shoot for April 5.
12. heard various teachers provide results of teams competing at National FFA Convention.
- Virginia FFA was represented very well.
13. heard Christy Kerr adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm.