

Conference and Strategic Planning Meeting of the VA FFA Board of Directors/Advisory Board Council –
2:30PM – Tuesday, April 16, 2013 - Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

Members in Attendance: Alan Webb, Andy Seibel, Brad Bryant, Brandon Monk, Brian Alexander, Brian Fisher, Brian Walsh, Cindy Blaha, Dana Fisher, Darryl Holland, Edward McCann, Frank Saldana, Glenn Anderson, Jessica Jones, Mindy McCroskey, Missy McDonald, Rick Rudd, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtry, Russell Jennings, Sally Shomo, Sarah Scyphers, Ted DeLano, and Teresa Lindberg.

Brian Alexander called the meeting to order. Alexander distributed the minutes from the previous meeting and asked members to review the minutes and to state any questions in regards to the minutes as submitted.

Sarah Scyphers moved to accept the previous meeting minutes as submitted. Russell Jennings seconded.
Motion passed.

Lancaster Farmer

Andy Seibel stated items of old business are to decide to continue the Lancaster Farmer. Seibel stated Lancaster Farmer has been giving Virginia FFA a half-to-full page spread, totaling eight or nine pages to recognize the students and their work. Alexander stated that in his area, it has been said that it is not a popular publication. Seibel stated that is a very important publication that has a great deal of agricultural information in it and Lancaster is supposed to be sending a complimentary copy of the publication to all agriculture teachers at least once a year. Seibel stated he would check on if the practice is being continued. Alexander stated it is a part of our advocacy and should be kept. Brian Fisher asked if a section of the State/American Degree could have an area stating that if you do not complete the Lancaster Farmer portion of the application, your application will be

Lancaster Farmer page completed with .jpg photo. Sally Shomo moved. Russell Jennings seconded.
Motion passed.

Certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Communication: A Partnership between SVCC's Agribusiness Program and the Virginia FFA Association and Foundation

The Certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Communication will initially be created to fulfill the needs of the FFA state officer team. Each year, seven or eight students will be selected to serve as Virginia's state FFA officers. Officers who are enrolled in (or accepted to) college are asked to defer their college work for a year to allow them to devote themselves full-time to the duties of state officership. During that year, students will attend seminars and workshops to contribute to their own professional development, and they will enhance their leadership, teambuilding, and communication skills through delivery of speeches and workshops through facilitation of teambuilding activities. Southside Virginia Community College will serve as the host institution for leadership and communication courses for the officer team. During their year of college deferment, students are asked not to enroll in courses for credit at any institution. Therefore, students will treat their year of service as their "work year," where they will complete the requirements for their coursework. They will then enroll the following year in online courses offered by SVCC, where they (or the state FFA coordinator) will submit their assignments and tests via the courses' Blackboard course shells. The agribusiness program director will serve as the instructor of record for each of the courses and will review the course materials, in collaboration with

the Foundation Director, to ensure that all course requirements have been met. At the end of the semester of enrollment, the instructor will record the grades for each course. Upon successful completion of the six courses below, students will receive a certificate in Agricultural Leadership and Communication and transcripts will be provided so that courses can transfer to the students' college(s) of choice. Proposed equivalencies are provided for Virginia Tech, while other colleges will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Dana Fisher discussed the state of the Virginia FFA Foundation. D. Fisher stated the endowments will continue which have already been promised to fulfill by the foundation. Despite the financial situation that occurred as the loss of funds had no interruption of the money for student scholarships.

Teresa Lindberg stated Sarah Scyphers will work with her on the proposed list of statistical data for promotion of agricultural education in the legislation process. There were four proposals that were submitted to the state Farm Bureau and all four were passed by. The four proposals were to sustain funding and/or positions for were: the state agricultural education curriculum specialist position, the Virginia Department of Education Agricultural Education and Related Clusters Specialist, the Virginia FFA Executive Secretary position, and maintaining extended contracts for all Virginia agricultural education teachers. **No action needed.**

State Convention

Seibel stated for the Extemporaneous contest, need to have the second place individuals identified to determine judges. For the Floriculture event, the individual that stated they would help us has refused to answer any communication in regards to helping put the event together at state convention. In the past, we have gone through and assigned teachers two work areas during state convention. We are to inform

If a child gets hurt at a contest and you are assigned to that area, you can be held liable. If you are not going to be at convention, then you need to find

State Convention 24-27

If you have a state officer, looking to do an additional workshop for them pri

July 7-12 BLAST OFF

FFA Camp July 8 – 12

Ag Teachers' Conference 15-18

State Presidents/Secretary Conference 22-27

Young Farmers Field Day July 25 @ Riverheads – July 28- Aug 1

Young Farmers Conference Aug 1/2-4 invited and expect both gubernatorial candidates to speak

In September, the Foundation's trial is the 9-11. Seibel will be out of the office.

September 12-15 Big E

September 18, 19, or 20 AES Conference (Brad suggested to have the State Advisory Council meeting either in conjunction with AES or here in Staunton on September 20)

State Fair

- 27 Jr. Dairyman's
- 4 Ind. Stockmen's' contest that are to be confirmed as open
- Jr. Foresters, Crops, Hort Demo, Ag Demo (asked to have on Tuesday & Wed.)
- Discussion about doing an Agriscience Fair. Hannah got a grant putting up your posters for the kids who do well at state convention. The students would not be brought to state fair; just posters.

State officers Oct. 27 leave; VA leave 29 and come after VA gets Am. Degrees on Nov. 2. Frank stated they are looking for judges at national convention. VA is required to provide a judge for creed, prepared, and extemporaneous public speaking. If you volunteer to judge one of those events, they pay for your registration.

Young Farmer National Convention Jan. 6-9 (VA Beach)

Young Farmer Virginia Convention (End of Jan. – Staunton)

State Convention 2014 – 16-19

Constitution

Seibel stated that one member from your chapter is supposed to be on the officer team – Section D; Article IX. The recommendation that came forward was that if there is not a worthy candidate and to allow a second individual from a particular chapter to fill an office that is not filled. Rudd asked what for the definition of an acceptable candidate to be explained. Seibel stated they have to pass with 50% or greater on all of their state officer candidate tests and activities. Seibel stated in the past we have filled the president and the area vice presidents first, and if you were the only student in the top position, the only position you could fill would be an area vice president. Seibel stated that has since been changed. It is up to the advisory council what the decisions will be made or to leave it as is. **No action taken.**

Anderson stated to review Section G of the Constitution which has not been followed in a long time in the association. Seibel stated in the Bylaws under 3, section B – Duties and Responsibilities of the president. That the office of president becomes vacant, who fills the office. Seibel stated this has not been followed in a while as well. We have always in the absence of the president, filled the office with the secretary and sent the secretary in the place of the president and that is not following the bylaws of the organization. **No action needed.**

Area Concerns

Appalachian Area: Who is going to run Floriculture and Nursery Landscape? It was stated that last year the national list wasn't year, but

Central Area: Forestry contest and there was not enough of the Topographic maps for all of his students to use but has contacted the appropriate persons and it is being taken care of.

Eastern Area: State Degree questions – a lot thrown out last night about the five activities above the chapter level. Clarify and make it consistent

Seibel stated it is five activities above the chapter level, such as public speaking, If you went to state convention five years in a row, it would be counted as five different activities instead of one activity. It has been stated that if

Northern Area: The University Faculty

Students observed/served as the audience, but didn't score. At nationals they do a 10 minute workshop and they bring in a 9th grade class for the audience, but this year, they used the graduate students instead.

Changing Dairy and align it to the National contest. Seibel stated we cannot do everything that Nationals does. Dave has asked to see the CD from nationals

Darryl Steegie has been suffering with cancer since May of last year. His job was posted this past week. Keep Darryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Southside Area: None.

Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:

Fall Meeting – Either Wednesday, September 18; Thursday, September 19; or Friday, September 20, 2013.

Virginia FFA Foundation meeting will be held the morning April 8, 2014.

The Virginia Agricultural Education Conference and Strategic Planning Meeting will begin at 5:00PM April 8 and be the entire day of April 9, 2014.

Minutes of the meeting will be archived with previous minutes at www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html.

Ron Byrd moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Daughtry seconded. ***Motion passed.***

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica M. Jones