

## **Advisory Board Council Meeting –**

9:00AM – Wednesday, April 14, 2010 – Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

**Members in Attendance:** Andy Seibel, Brian Alexander, Chris Brown, Dan Swafford, Dana Fisher, Darryl Holland, David Balderson, Glenn Anderson, Jason Ince, Jeff Wilt, Jennifer Lyons, Jessica Jones, Kevin Keith, Kim Black, Laura Wall, Melessa Harvey, Morgan Slaven, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtrey, Russell Jennings, Sally Shomo, Theresa Lindberg, and Tom Broyles

Ron Daughtrey called the meeting to order. Andy Seibel asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the Fall Meeting minutes. Brian Alexander moved to accept the minutes as printed. Theresa Lindberg seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel began discussion about raising the state dues in light of the increase in national dues. Appalachian area is opposed to raising dues. Southside area is in favor of raising dues. Central area has no comment on raising dues. Northern area comments that it depends on what the different localities will allow to charge for fees. Discussion of the benefits and drawbacks to raising dues to use funds generated. Benefits include having money to pay for area events for students and other expenses. Drawbacks include having to centralize the money and workload for balancing an area account. Kevin Keith spoke about National FFA working with an affiliation of a chapter that usually works about \$7 per member. It becomes a pain because the smaller chapters don't get the true benefit, that if 7 people pay versus 20. Many states are offering an affiliation as an option and having the chapters choose. The purpose of the alternate affiliation option is to get all agricultural education students as paid members but to get the money to come from another source, for example FFA Alumni or boosters club. It is a different option. The problem comes in when you have to also pay state dues. There is also a state affiliation option and the only state that is showing interest is California because their entire state is already paying for the state dues. The pilot states for the program were Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and California. Teachers have commented that more and more students are not joining FFA because they do not have the money to join. The more avid members now are the ones that could not pay, but since their membership fee was paid through affiliation chapter, it would not have happened.

Darryl Holland moved to increase state dues \$1 and it returns to the respective area. Jason Ince seconded. Motion failed.

Seibel stated beginning in 2011, there will be a service component added to degree applications. Hours would be 10 for chapter, 15 for State, and 25 for American.

Brian Alexander moved to move Virginia in line with what National FFA has suggested for degree applications. Jennifer Lyons seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel stated with the cuts that are falling around the state, is it worth having convention in June and moving convention in May in the future. Discussion was made that most conventions that are held are in March and April and during May, most schools will not let students out due to SOL testing. Michigan and Massachusetts are having their conventions during the college's Spring Break. They use the dorms and have short-course dorms and the students use those dorms for housing, but some still stay in hotels. Dr. Alan McDaniel is taking a buyout, Dr. Mark Wahlberg is going to retire, the new Dean of Animal Science is questioning if Wahlberg's position would be better utilized with youth development or as a faculty research position. It has been recommended that most people in the College of Agriculture go to a nine month contract. Based on the contract move, the question is how to get the convention underway when

the contract status might be cut. If the contests are going to be successful, teachers need to be more proactive in running the contests in their entirety and working together more as a group. Area teachers need to be talked to and reconvene either this summer or fall and make an informed decision as to what we need to do with convention in the future years.

In December, all funding had been eliminated for the project and Governor Kaine's budget is what the General Assembly had to start with and there was no money for Agriculture Education as of June 30. The Growing the Next Generation: Virginia Agricultural Education Annual Report 2008-2009 that was submitted was put by Tom to show others what Virginia Agricultural Education is doing. Suggestions were made to highlight the stars, NAAE awards, local budgets and reflections, NICE, Agriscience Ambassadors, and Collegiate FFA. The FFA section will be expanded and Todd Moore's experience in China, going abroad with FFA should be added as well.

Glenn Anderson began the discussion of the new Foundations of AgriScience course is done. There are lesson plans for each of the required units already done with everything you need to teach the material. It should be going up on the VERSO website. Once VDOE completes the intro, then an intro to each of the pathways will be completed. The Intro to Plant Sciences is being worked on and needs to be reviewed. The things that need to be worked on are the proposed topics that would go into the class, and outline the individuals that would be working on the curriculum. The Intro into Plant Systems, Intro to Natural Resources, Intro to Animal Systems, Biotechnology, and Food Systems, which there is no class currently, are complete. Feedback needs to be provided to Anderson and Seibel. You would do an introduction to the pathway and then following through and complete that pathway. The Intro to Foundation should be up on the CTE Verso Resource Center website by the end of June and will carry the 8006 course code. The Intro to Plant Sciences is something that can be started with teachers on Monday of Ag Teacher's conference to review for clarity. Intro to Animal Science could also be reviewed by the conference as well once completed. Compare the competencies to the one that is online. The course that is online is the one that teachers need to follow and see if there are any suggested changes that need to be made. Some of the units for Food Systems were taken from 8008. There are no schools offering Biotechnology as of now.

Seibel stated the new record books that are to be implemented in classes are up on the Scholar Site. The Scholar Site is accessible directly from the Virginia Tech Homepage. Teachers need to volunteer one lesson plan to the Scholar Site which gains them access to using the materials on the website. Materials are full lessons that can be changed by the individual teacher to fit their needs but are aligned to the competencies that need to be taught in classes. Dana Fisher suggested during the summer conference to sit down with the teachers, create a workshop, have the teachers bring one lesson, the reason for the formatting, no one is an expert in agriculture, the only way we can get out of the comfort zone, and to try and make you go outside of your comfort zone. Jeff Wilt asked if there would be a need for a computer lab with internet access and last at least one hour to present and show what the Scholars Site has to offer. Sally Shomo suggested to resend the Scholar Site email and make it more eye appealing enough to get people to read and be aware of firewalls and access, also, maybe open a new email account to use for Scholar Site so school email filter does not block incoming messages. There is a complete measurement where the students write down the width and other dimensions of the items for Agricultural Mechanics. This past fall, Tom Broyles asked three teachers to give everything they had on Agricultural Mechanics for student teachers. Broyles received over 70 lesson plans that explained Agricultural Mechanics from beginning to end.

Farm Bureau supports the students of Agricultural Education as the future of the Farm Bureau organization. A few weeks ago, the Virginia FFA Association state officers were invited to go to training in Richmond for Farm Bureau. The Officers and Seibel were participated in leadership development and multi-intelligence trainings and activities planned by Farm Bureau. Ron Saacke wants to build a relationship between FFA and Farm Bureau as our activities overlap, for example, the Farm Bureau PALS Program and the FFA Food for America Program are identical. Farm Bureau currently has their Women's Committee who created the Farmer Hero cartoon character that will be revealed this summer at the Farm Bureau conference. The Virginia FFA Association state officers are invited to the Farm Bureau conference to continue to build and maintain the relationship between FFA and Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau has also increased their budget almost four times to develop more programs and opportunities for Virginia's agricultural youth. The new funding structure created almost has of its funding staying in the locality building up the individual agricultural areas statewide.

Broyles began discussion about the Made for Excellence (MFE) Conferences report from the Virginia Tech graduate students. The report mainly is about behavioral changes that need to be studied over a long period of time. When analyzing the data collected from the surveys distributed before the conference and after, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the conference are showing significant change whereas the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are not demonstrating as much change. The Signal Knob Middle and Chatham Made for Excellence Conferences were both reported. The Appalachian MFE that was scheduled for late winter has been rescheduled for the week of April 19; however, attendance is an issue as students are involved in different spring activities. Seibel stated the money charged at the VT and Dinwiddie Leadership Conferences, formerly AES Conference, held in the fall, goes to the Cathy Hively Hughes fund. \$2 of the fee is for the conference format, \$15 into the Hughes fund, and the remainder to the graduate students to be able to apply for out of state conferences to present information and work on their program. Question was posed if to have a meal at the end of leadership conferences which is the additional charge of the fee or to not have a meal, reducing the cost of the leadership conference. Suggestion was made to maybe go to a Mega Conference, having one big conference at one time.

Wilt stated the Agricultural Education Teacher's Conference will begin on Monday, July 12 in Winchester at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Hilton Garden Inn will be the primary hotel for the conference and the overflow will be at the Wingate by Wyndham. The Conference will run from Tuesday through Thursday. Conference will have focus on professional development workshops for teachers. There will be a lower number of tour opportunities, they will not only be educational but fun so it is encouraged to register early and get tours scheduled.

Ron Byrd discussed the Teachers' Conference letter, registration form, and workshop list are all on the VAAE website ([www.aee.vt.edu/vaae/convention.html](http://www.aee.vt.edu/vaae/convention.html)). All registration checks need to be made payable to VAAE. Make sure to send in the registration money with the workshop and tour selection. Workshop and tour information will be entered as they are received. Early bird registration is through June 1 and must be postmarked June 1 to be considered early bird. The cost is \$165 for the early bird registration. After June 1, registration is \$195. If you are one of the first 50 to submit early bird registration, you will be entered to win a \$100 cash prize. Anybody who registers between now and June 1 will be entered to win a \$50 cash prize. An email will be sent out to agricultural educators to notify them of the sweepstakes drawing. As of today, 38 agricultural educators paid dues by check or cash in one installment; 21 entered into the \$20 per month automatic checking account withdrawal option; 13 paid by credit and options were Visa, Master Card and American Express. The American Express option was dropped as none of the members paying used American Express.

Byrd also discussed for Alumni membership, if Alumni members pay \$15 for 10 months, their membership is paid forever. This is an option that members should look into as once you hit 100 Alumni memberships you earn one free WLC Scholarship. If you do not have an Alumni chapter, Virginia has the Founding Fathers chapter which is the catch all for those who do not have a local affiliation.

Seibel stated for the store at state convention, the profit from the store goes to the permanent account, after this year, the profit will go to state officers to attend the National Alumni Conference.

Seibel stated agricultural education teachers on the advisory council should complete their applications for the Virginia Pork Industry, Virginia Forestry, and the Virginia Milk Boards by the respective deadlines. They are State Government appointments. Members should have received emails regarding the vacancies and application process.

Kate Hawkins stated the survey the Virginia Agricultural Educators took in the past fall was used to create workshops that would be on Wednesday and Thursday morning during the state teachers' conference. The workshops are limited in availability. For the Basic Electricity workshop, participants will build the wiring frames and get all the supplies at the end of the workshop. The workshop is ideal for those who have six or less years experience, but if you haven't taught electrical principles or need a refresher, it is open to anyone to attend. Other workshops include Greenhouse Floral and Machinery and Shop Machine Service. There will be tours on Wednesday afternoon. The tours include the Conservation and Biology Institute, Trex, Winchester Fruit, Sunflower Cottage (herb garden), local vineyard, and North American Greeters. The Golf Tournament will be on Monday and other options include a tour given by Darryl Holland of Harper's Ferry Antietam and canoeing. Dr. Anderson will have a curriculum writing workshop and Thursday afternoon, there will be the Greenhouse Certification and Industry Certification tests. Also, the Agricultural Education newsletter, AG ED Connections, Hawkins will start doing themes based on the pathways. The pathways will change monthly.

Morgan Slaven stated the state officers had 72 chapter visits total. There have been 16 in the Appalachian Area, 23 Central, 27 Northern, eight Southside, and two in the Eastern. There are seven visits planned for Southside, 22 banquets, and seven FFA events until the end of the year. The officer team has been to National FFA Convention, New Teachers' Meeting, Farm Bureau, ISSLO – China (largest group to attend), Rose Bowl Parade, Signal Knob and Chatham MFE Conferences, Zach Wakeman visited with Dr. Case when he spoke at James Wood, FFA Camp (Michelle Wood was unable to attend as she went back home out West), the last week of January the team came up with the state convention logo, video ideas, session assignments, and giveaways; Regina Holliday and Barrett Keene will be guest speakers at convention. The officers are busy recording their addresses and will keep working two to three days a week on state convention to get it planned and ready for the end of June. Seibel explained for convention fees, \$54 per person to conduct convention and the rest of the money goes to Virginia Tech. The lighting company takes \$13,000, USSA \$6,000, plants, mats, scoring, etcetera \$3,000, plaques, pins, contest and convention materials \$25-30,000. Speakers at convention cost \$5 per student for speaker at \$5,000. Every pin that goes across stage is \$6. Area plaques are \$39 per piece and state plaques \$50 per piece. Plaques for first, second and third places are endowed at \$29 each. Richard Ratteau has the list of plaques/awards that need to be endowed. Convention is not a money-maker; just trying to cover costs. Ratteau stated Farm Credit made a \$10,000 donation to be the headliner for state convention. Seibel stated the cost of convention this year will be \$200 per person for a single room and \$190 per person for a double room. Also, the extemporaneous speaker would be on Wednesday during the business session. The convention dorms are Pritchard and Lee. The boys will stay in Pritchard and the girls in Lee.

Keyana Willis stated as a fundraiser for Virginia FFA, P. Buckley Moss is offering to redo a new print for an upfront fee of \$15,000. FFA would own the original and keep the profit.

Fisher introduced the Virginia FFA Foundation Board members. They are Brian Alexander, Sally Shomo, Dr. Glenn Anderson, Richard Ratteau, Keyana Willis, Phil Percy, Todd Mills, Brad Lowery, Keith Phillips, Scott Stevens, and Robert Mills.

Dr. Anderson discussed having to elect two representatives from the FFA Board of Directors serve as representatives to the Foundation Board. Members include, Brian Alexander, Russell Jennings, Ron Daughtrey, Kim Black, Melessa Harvey, and Jessica Jones.

Jeff Wilt moved Ron Daughtrey and Melessa Harvey serve as Foundation Board representatives. Laura Wall seconded. Motion passed.

Ratteau stated he had put in a grant for the Foundation to use the money from the grant now or use the interest later on.

Area Concerns:

Russell Jennings reported Central Area concerns were for the State Meats' Judging contest, the lighting was bad and the meat was vacuum sealed. Seibel stated the head of the agriculture and life sciences department hired a full time meat scientist. Due to this, all meats are inspected by an official meat inspector and meet standards. The inspector then takes the meat from the hogs and makes sausage, bacon, cures hams, etcetera. Since the meat is vacuum sealed, it can be sold, whereas in the past, that was not possible because of regulations. Also, having the meat in the contest this way saves money, because no meat has to be bought for the judging competition.

Appalachian Area expressed no concerns.

Eastern Area expressed no concerns.

Jason Ince reported Southside Area concern of the Tractor Operators form is not updated or on the state website. Seibel stated the matter would be looked into.

Kim Black reported Northern Area concerns were the Vet Science contest rules on the state websites does not have a skills section that National FFA does and needs to be checked into as requested in the fall. Seibel stated the information had been updated; however, the matter would be looked into again and fixed. Black also reported that someone on the state officer executive committee submitted a proposal for changes to the selection of future state officers. The changes were to: eliminate area vice presidents; allow two officers to come from the same chapter to be on the same officer team; and have a vice president or president return from the previous officer team to fill vacancies of a current officer team. The proposal was denied for consideration as it was submitted by one member of the executive committee, not the committee as a whole.

Seibel stated the state needs to nominate three teachers for Honorary American Degree. To be nominated, the teacher must have 85% membership and 15 years of teaching experience. The council is allowed to nominate three individuals at large. The maximum number of Honorary State Degree is 30.

Due no later than May 15, agricultural education teacher awards unfilled are: Teacher Turn the Key – Southside Area candidate, Service Citation, Lifetime Achievement, and Outstanding Program.

Future Dates:

July 5 – FFA Camp (Syria, VA, \$200 per person)

July 12 - 15 – VAAE Teachers' Conference (Winchester, VA)

July 20 – State President's Conference

July 27 – National Judging (Indianapolis, IN)

July 30 & 31 – Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Conference (Woodstock, VA)

Aug. 1 - 5 – National Leadership Conference (Graves Mtn. Lodge, \$90 per person)

Sept. 15 – Big E (Springfield, MA)

Sept. 22 – State Fair Opening (Doswell, VA)

Sept. 23 & 24 – Dairy and other events, depending on funding

Sept. 30 – Beef competitions, Stockmen's, etc.

Oct. 4 -6 – AES/VSU (National officer can speak either the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, not 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)

Oct. 15-24 – National FFA Convention (Virginia delegation begins to leave on 15<sup>th</sup>)

Virginia will be staying in the Embassy Suites during National Convention. There are 100 double rooms and 100 single rooms. The cost is \$200 per room per night. The same price will be assigned to rooms with 1 or 6 students. There are two queen beds and the other has pull out sofa. The hotel will have a full continental breakfast with the buffet opening at 5:00AM on contest days.

Nov. 28 – State Farm Bureau Convention

Dec. 1 – NAAE Teachers' Conference (Las Vegas, NV)

State Competition Rotations:

Tractor Operators (Southside) – Chatham High

Forestry (Eastern) – Lakeland High

Soils (Appalachian) – Pulaski Co. High

Parliamentary Procedure (Northern) – Augusta Co.

Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:

Fall Meeting – October 12 or 13

State Judging – April 11 and 12 or 12 and 13

Minutes of the meeting will be archived with previous minutes at [www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html](http://www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html).

Jeff Wilt moved to adjourn the meeting. Russell Jennings seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Jones