

VAAE Officer's Meeting

1:00PM – Tuesday, September 20, 2011 - Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

Members in Attendance: Andy Seibel, Brian Alexander, Brian Fisher, Cindy Blaha, Dana Fisher, Darryl Holland, Edward McCann, Glenn Anderson, Jennifer Simmons, Jessica Jones, Katie Reames, Laura DeLano, Laura Wall, Missy McDonald, Rick Rudd, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtry, Russell Jennings, Sally Shomo, Sarah Scyphers, Stephen Edwards, Theresa Lindberg, Ted DeLano, and Brian Walsh.

Brian Alexander called the meeting to order. Discussion began with Dr. Rick Rudd discussing the AES Leadership conference held yesterday, Monday, September 19 at Virginia Tech.

AES Conference and Virginia Tech Agriculture Department Development

Dr. Rudd reported a successful leadership conference yesterday. Some of the money generated from the leadership conference will help fund the student interns going to National Convention in Indianapolis this October.

Dr. Rudd stated Hannah Shear has joined the Virginia Tech staff as a former science teacher and will be working with STEM integration. Hannah started in August and has done a great job of stepping in where needed and moving forward with her research. Dr. Rudd stated Virginia Tech will apply for Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (VDACS) funding again this year. Dr. Rudd noted the department is having an increased difficulty funding the State FFA Executive Secretary. Currently, he makes less than a typical agriculture teacher in the state of Virginia and does a sizable amount of work that is seen and not seen by others. The duties that are taken on by Andy are time consuming as they pull him away from his family and should be compensated for what he does, despite more hours being put in than that of what he is receiving in pay.

Darryl Holland asked Dr. Rudd if there were any popular alternative agriculture grant projects. Dr. Rudd said local community improvement was a trend this year, especially if they are replicable to other schools. Curriculum building projects that are innovative and cutting edge and tied to local improvement are a big plus. Additionally, the USDA beginning farmers and ranchers is working with agriculture teachers on a program as well as an adult education program.

Andy

See page 21 of the Annual FFA Report to see where money is being allocated

Financial Statements and Reports

Seibel instructed the advisory council members to review the Annual FFA Report and to especially look over page 21 to see where the money is being allocated for the association. Seibel passed around documentation from Langford Accounting showing the Virginia FFA Association account balance sheet and tax filings. Seibel stated you will see the Virginia FFA Association lost money because the curriculum project ran out of funding to keep individuals working on State Convention on staff. Seibel asked if there were any questions or concerns about finances.

Alexander stated we would cut it close on National Convention with the way the current situation is going. He stated that as teachers change their minds about the number of rooms used, but all rooms used must have a \$50, can't we make it a "no refund policy" or "late penalty policy" for the continuous back and forth without committing to what was reserved. Seibel stated we did have a policy in place, but there are many factors that play into the decision of how many rooms and some just reserve and

cancel and then don't want to pay for what they said they were going to use. Seibel stated it would be better if we could get the money deposit for rooms by July 6th, but at that point, funds may not be available for teachers to send it in to the state office from their locality, so the cycle starts all over again.

Seibel asked if the bus for picking up members, advisors and parents for national convention was still a feasible means of transportation as many teachers are starting to make their own travel arrangements either by driving, riding the train, or flying. Seibel stated he has been asked how the price for riding the bus is calculated and he stated they take the price of the bus and divide it by 46 seats, but there are complaints about paying more for people that were further away – some folks also did not one to drive to main roads. Seibel asked what did the council want to do for national convention as far as transportation and was it really worth continuing offering the service if everyone was either going to make their own travel plans or not try and accommodate others so the bus would stay on a main highway. Sally Shomo suggested main pick up spots that were set by Seibel and that's the only way to go on the state bus.

Simmons asked Seibel the estimated cost for the state association to pay for individuals to attend national convention. Seibel stated \$24,025 for the bus, plus meals, plus the incidentals that are charged. That is why the estimate is \$30,000 for the trip to go to convention. Laura Wall asked if because it is a hassle to get everything arranged, do you think it would be the reason attendance for convention would go down if we do not have the buses. It is a service that is being provided for some that may not be able to arrange transportation otherwise. Wall suggested that maybe we need to make people pay upfront. The individuals will lose the \$50, not the FFA Association. Cindy Blaha stated for someone who has taken a bus and flown, the kids love the bus trip because they got to see the country, bond with kids that you may not have ever met before, we have drove to Richmond to meet the bus, then you should be able to give two or three central location spots. Ted DeLano stated we like the bus trip. Seibel stated the part that scares him is that we are still in Indianapolis for another two years and then back to Louisville. That would lose teachers and participants that head to convention that may be on their own if we cut out buses. There are 56, 54, and 54 people on a bus. Seibel is looking for the advisory council to agree to charge the same price to ride the bus, that way Eastern area buses would be the same price for Appalachian area. Shomo asked if it was based on pickup spots and Seibel stated no, it is based on mileage. For tours, if you work with Ron Byrd for coordinating trips, as long as the advisor worked to keep the mileage under 100, that would be fine. Katie Reames stated advisors need to look at the full picture and be held accountable. You can look at the margin with a trip that big and see that too many people are dropping at the last minute.

July 15, each winning team is scheduled one night's lodging of approximately \$205.00. That money must be sent directly to Indianapolis because by the time that it is received at the state office, it will be past due at the national office. The Virginia FFA Foundation has agreed to pay the money after convention; so the checks for winners go out after the event and if that student is not there to compete, the money stays in the Foundation and goes to a child the following year. Reames asked what if the association asked for money up front. Seibel stated he knows the money would be there when needed, but to ask for the money up front would probably not solve the problems.

T. DeLano stated he saw the bigger issue was that if you are committed to those rooms, if someone else uses it, you are not expected to pay for them, but if you commit to them and drop out at the last minute, then you are obligated to pay for them in full, especially if the rate is \$210 per room. Missy McDonald stated this goes to the advisor and then if kids bail out, make the advisors pay a greater

percentage up front and make it non-refundable. Decision number one, if we do get the buses which we have already contracted do we keep them or release them.

T. DeLano moved that we keep the buses for this upcoming national convention in 2012 and revisit the situation after we see what happens with transportation issues at the 2013 spring advisory council meeting. Reames moved. Blaha seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel discussed that the hotel rooms are costing the association approximately \$197 per night. Seibel asked what the advisory council wanted to charge per room this year. He also stated to keep in mind we have to cover the bus drivers' rooms and whatever is left over would go to help the state officers. T. DeLano asked if there was an estimate, Seibel asked if putting six kids in one room for \$215, would help. Blaha stated when they put students in the room they divide the total cost of the room by the number of occupants in the room. Seibel stated FFA is not a part of VT, so when FFA takes state officers in a 15 passenger van, they have done away with the 15 passenger van and now it takes two vans at \$700 per van, plus fuel. Seibel stated the officers are taking the train out. It saves the association a night's lodging out at convention.

Alexander moved we continue to charge the \$215 per night as in the past since the state officers were taking the train out and it would save the association one night's lodging out at convention. Reames moved. T. DeLano seconded. Motion passed.

Wall asked if Seibel wanted the areas to decide the centralized location for bus pickups. Seibel stated it is fine with him, as long as you stay on the main roads. Seibel agreed and Wall agreed that was a recommendation made from the Appalachian area, not Seibel specifically. Blaha stated individuals should be prepared to drive to a centralized location for a trip for everyone, not just a particular group.

Continuing with budget, Dr. Rudd asked Seibel to breakdown of what each area he saw had changed due to budget constraints. Seibel stated, 10 years ago when he started working full time as the Virginia FFA Association Executive Secretary he had three employees and now the picture has changed. Seibel has given up vacation for the past 10 years and working weekends and Seibel has stated he has reached the age of where he cannot keep up with doing this anymore. Seibel has asked if there is a way to combine activities and look at consolidation to extend the life of the organization and its employees. Dr. Glenn Anderson stated, he may not have enough in his budget to continue to keep things covered. Sarah Scyphers asked if the contest or event entry fees cover the cost of the events. Seibel stated he tries, but sometimes it just doesn't based on what the contest superintendent asks for to host the event.

T. DeLano asked if we switch to a standardized score card, would it save the association any money. Seibel stated it could. T. DeLano state if this score card would be used for contests like public speaking. Seibel stated no, it would be used for competitions like poultry, forestry, and meats judging. Seibel stated additionally, there are several states out west that are already using this program and are doing well with it. Blaha asked was this program going to be used at the state convention this year. Seibel stated it depends on what the group decides. Alexander asked if the association would continue to go with Doug for the \$3,000 per year plus travel expenses or change to this new system. Seibel stated it depends on what the group decides. Brian Fisher asked who would be responsible for purchasing the opscans, the individual chapter or Virginia FFA. Seibel stated it would be the individual chapter that would be responsible for individual events, like area judging for example. Fisher stated it would be up to the chapter to then buy the opscans for each event and then again at state convention. Seibel stated that is correct. Fisher stated it would be best to have Ron Byrd sell the scantrons sheets in the FFA Store

for \$2.00 each if teachers forget them, but teachers need to bring their own scantrons. Seibel stated that option would be available for federations and areas to pursue from judging card.com. Seibel will contact Clay to discuss the issue of adding Virginia as a state and report back at the spring 2012 meeting. Further discussion on the topic will be at the spring meeting.

Seibel stated printing the annual report is a time-consuming process that is costing approximately two weeks of work to complete and there is just not enough man power to get it done. Seibel stated teachers would comment that we don't have any kids who are interested in going into Agriculture so it is a hard sell to try and promote the annual report without displaying students who are going into the field. Simmons asked if this is a project the student teachers could work on. Seibel stated they could, but he does not oversee that program.

Seibel stated the FFA magazine costs \$4,000 per issue per insert the association does three times a year. National FFA has had its dates changed. This year the magazines had to be done by July 5 when convention ended on June 30. National FFA has changed the due dates for the current issues, with one due date being during National Convention. They have also cut back from six issues this year back to four with a thicker edition. It is printed in Tennessee by the same individuals who print the Progressive Farmer. Seibel has talked to Dwight Armstrong and he stated he would go back and revisit the issue. Out of 240 state degrees, only 65 teachers or students submitted their information to the Lancaster Farmer. The items submitted asked for your favorite FFA activity, your plans after school, and your SAE activity and that was not completed. The Lancaster Farmer takes time, putting in a new article about once every two weeks. It is a good newspaper and gives our association recognition, but costs time. Lancaster Farmer articles are due June 1, but the names were submitted in April 2011.

Dana Fisher stated he would take the lead on developing a position statement based on the action taken by the advisory council to develop a background paragraph about the issue and put in additional support for agricultural education by doing the following activities, then it would be voted on by the local board and then they would go to the state meeting. If items are passed at the state Farm Bureau meeting, then when the general assembly meeting our suggestions for strengthening and growing agricultural education should proceed. The county Farm Bureau will have a resolutions committee that would meet and then it would decide how to proceed. Darryl Holland asked what would be issues that would be included in the statement. Fisher stated curriculum, supervision of agricultural education at the state level, and fully funding the full time CTSO agricultural education position in the Virginia Department of Education.

Seibel stated the new FFA records system switch lost its designer and now the program for National FFA will not be ready before December 2011. Seibel has stated for the past three years, we have been in a crisis and this is a critical turning point where we are headed in the right direction and we have to be prepared for the change.

Blaha moved that we should limit the chapter chats to two editions a year. Holland seconded. Motion passed.

Blaha moved we allocate \$2,000 to Ron Byrd's salary out of Virginia FFA Association fund. Jessica Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel stated he has the Sausage label and it will have to have Virginia Tech and the FFA emblem on it. The advisory council should establish a price and then sell it at the earliest established date. T. DeLano

asked if it is possible for FedEx to do cold shipping of the product. Seibel stated it could be, but that would be something that would have to be worked out between the individual purchasing and FedEx. As an incentive, Seibel stated if we put three packs together (3lbs for \$10) possibly more people would purchase it. Seibel stated the sausage is of a more mild seasoning containing the ingredients of pork, water, and natural flavors.

Holland moved the association market the Traditions sausage at \$3.50 per pound or 3 pounds for \$10.00. Blaha seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel reported there had been changes made to the National FFA Career Development Events and asked the council for recommendations:

- Agricultural communications was a five team person going to three. Media proposal, presentation, and quiz.
- Agricultural sales changes are that all four scores count. The written exam would be 50 questions, 2 points each; National FFA will provide the product and then you have to sell it. The product will be released on July 1.
- Agricultural mechanics has no change recommended. All four scores count and run the contest the same. Brian Fisher asked if this would be an issue of space. Seibel stated the junior contest is easier to set up since the majority of the contest is on paper.
- Avian bowl has no change recommended.
- Cattle working has no change recommended and is based on VQA Standards.
- Computer applications have no change recommended.
- Crops have no change recommended.
- Creed Speaking has a change on scorecard. Change state scorecard to meet national requirement.
- Dairy Foods has been eliminated; it is now Milk Quality and Products.
- Dairy judging has all four scores count.
- Dairy Handler; Dave Winston asked to have a way to eliminate some of the students from participation. He had more students than animals and would like to have a qualifier to eliminate. Are there objections to having a written test on Monday; have each area send the top two only.
- E & R has no change recommended.
- Extemporaneous has the speech count up to 1,000 points.

- Farm Business Management has the top three scores; with written exam; eliminate the team activity to make the event more efficient.
- Floriculture has no change recommended.
- Food Science has all four scores count with a change in points and align with national requirement.
- Senior Forestry has all four scores count; exam based on green book Eric Fitzgerald wrote; adding the two tree disorders; tree identification; and equipment identification. On the contest, change red and white oak.
- Junior Forestry has to keep the junior forestry contest consistent with the senior contest, however, add map interpretation to allow for preparation for the national contest requirements.
- Forestry Field Day has no change recommended.
- Horse Evaluation has the three scores remain the same; adding breed or equipment identification.
- Horse Hippology has no change recommended.
- Horticultural Demonstration should be based on whoever wins the State Fair contest goes to NJHA; NJHA is in San Diego. The only teachers that responded said that San Diego was cost prohibited. There is a teacher in Hanover that is going to go to Nationals and would like for her kids to be scored at the state contest since her kids are going to Nationals.
- Job Interview stays the same; Virginia will not do the telephone call.
- Livestock must have a four person team to compete or they cannot go to the national convention in 2012.
- Marketing has no change recommended.
- Meats judging has national requirement of cookery added, so any effort to keep the meat from changing will not work. Comply with the national requirements.
- Nursery has no change recommended.
- Parliamentary Procedure has no change recommended.
- Junior parliamentary procedure has no change recommended.
- Poultry judging has no change recommended.
- Prepared public speaking, both junior and senior has no change recommended.

- Quiz Bowl – Limit the students to answering 5 questions, regardless if there are 3 or 4 students on the team
- Small Engines has no change recommended.
- Soils judging have no change recommended.
- Tractor operators have no change recommended.
- Tractor Troubleshooting was discussed to determine how the contest would play out if the tractor being troubleshot was an older model. Some of the problems do not deal with a scenario. The new rules need to be looked at more closely.
- Vets Science has no change recommended.

Jones moved to accept the recommendations as stated. Simmons seconded. Motion passed.

Seibel stated the agricultural building where other groups would have to rent the building from the state fair, but the money would go has a concrete floor, a porch; someday down the road, put a porch on the backside, close in the original porch and have a metal post building with concrete; it would be 2.5 weeks once a bid is submitted and the building would be completed. There could possibly be a BOAC grant where each chapter gets awarded one \$1 million annually so they can have career development events for students who are from the area. Currently, the State Fair is spending roughly \$30,000 annually on tents for career development events. Holland asked if the grant proposal could come from a tobacco producing company. Siebel stated that if it is run through Virginia Tech and a sponsored program, Virginia Tech will want 48% of the top. If at other times throughout the year where both FFA and 4H are hosting events at the same time, it would be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Seibel stated for state convention, when we have scheduled workshops for students the students carried chairs from meeting rooms and left them in the hall. The Assistant Dean of the college emailed Seibel and stated they would consider banning FFA from Virginia Tech because they do not clean up behind themselves.

Shomo stated yesterday, at AES, there were students that were out of official dress and questioned when official dress was amended. Shomo stated official dress is such and should be looked at carefully before entering events.

Central Area:

Concerns covered throughout the meeting agenda.

Northern Area:

No concerns

Eastern Area:

Horse Judging – The top five teams of the same students that originally qualified compete. Understanding that Nationals has a new leadership program in 2012 and some teachers had heard that Virginia was not going to participate in the program. The one that Nationals is doing is \$75 per student, must have at least 50 students, and must be done over a two-day period. National FFA also has the 360 program.

Appalachian Area:

The major concern is the lateness of state officers and state officer candidates being out so late during state convention. Dr. Anderson stated he is not sure of why the nominating committee keeps the state officers out as late as they did. That is being very unsafe and irresponsible.

Russell Jennings moved state officer candidates are to observe the same curfew as the other participants during state convention for the safety and overall. Blaha seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Anderson began discussion about the Virginia Article IX, State Officers and Procedure for Election. The FFA Chapter may not have any more than one member run from that chapter. Dr. Anderson stated Section G has not been enforced for many years. The division of the cycle of the Vice President does not occur the way it should. Additionally, Dr. Anderson stated the nomination committee is in control of nominating a worthy candidate and we are getting problems with the wording. All candidates that enter the nominating process are eligible, but the worthy aspect is being misconstrued. At the spring advisory council meeting, we will revisit this issue.

Alexander moved that at the spring advisory council meeting, we restructure the constitution. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Southside Area:-

No concerns

Seibel stated that after discussion, the precedent set was the number of teams should reflect the number of chapters at the particular school site and State Fair will always end on Columbus Day from this year forward.

Seibel stated the agreement with 4H Congress will be held the fourth week of June and FFA State Convention will be held on the third week of June, despite what the calendar may say.

Seibel stated the national collegiate FFA want to establish some competitions at the national level for collegiate FFA members for example Collegiate FFA members would compete in the event.

Seibel stated that the national association wants to include middle school FFA members as national members, from sixth through eighth grade. Right now, they only recognize middle school members on the state level. They also want to have contests specifically for middle school students.

Seibel stated the New Century Farmer program should be infused at the state level so collegiate members can learn more about agricultural production. They bring in nationally renowned individuals and train how to farm in the 21st century between the ages of 19-21 that really gives them the hands-on, direct teaching including technology aspects.

Seibel stated National FFA wants to restructure the delegate process. A lot of the smaller states in the east coast are stating it is not fair due to the larger sized states, for example Texas with such a greater sized membership based on overall population. They want to restructure the process, but don't know how. In addition, they have to have the majority of states and the majority of delegates present to pass.

Seibel stated the Floriculture CDE is a categorized 4 status meaning funding has not been adequate for the past five years and/or less than half the states have been participating, therefore, the event is subject to being terminated. It means they have not had check off dollars with FTD, but FTD rejected it because they do not have a board like the nurseryman's. It is around \$50,000 to sponsor the event and nationals is losing approximately 35,000 annually by doing the event.

Seibel asked advisory council members to discuss with local areas to find out if there is interest in keeping MFE for the upcoming year.

Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:

State Judging – April 16 and 17 or 17 and 18.

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

T. DeLano moved to adjourn the meeting. Byrd seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica M. Jones