

Advisory Board Council Meeting –

10:00AM – Tuesday, September 28, 2010 – Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

Members in Attendance: Andy Seibel, Brian Alexander, Brian Fisher, Cindy Blaha, Dana Fisher, David Balderson, Donna Moore, Glenn Anderson, Jason Ince, Jennifer Lyons, Jessica Jones, Kevin Keith, Lindsey Thomas, Melessa Suder, Missy McDonald, Sally Shomo, Stephen Edwards, Ted Delano, Theresa Lindberg, and Todd Mills

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order. Dr. Anderson stated the advisory council was in need of a chairman due to Ron Daughtry's term expiring and him stepping down. The floor was open to nominations for Advisory Council Chairman to replace Ron Daughtry. Cindy Blaha nominated Brian Alexander. Alexander accepted. No further nominations were made. Alexander was voted by acclamation. **Motion passed.**

CDE scorer program

Andy Seibel stated last year, National FFA went to a new company to use a new judging score card and program. Based on the new program, chapters would be required to purchase opscans to compete. This new scorer program is available to the Virginia Association. If an area wants to use the scoring program, they could, the only thing the advisors have to do is bring their opscans. The Virginia FFA Association would have to buy the opscans from National FFA at about \$0.50 per opscan. The program coordinator charges \$1 per opscan to calculate results. The program coordinator is based out of state. To get the results, he does the calculating at his home base and then sends the results back to the individual(s) who requested them. National FFA will be using these opscans for all the CDE's at Nationals and they are being scored by the new CDE scorer program.

Ted DeLano asked 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 \$3000 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.

DeLano asked if it would be any easier on Seibel, the tabulating committee, etcetera for results being submitted and released to switch to this new scorer program. Seibel stated not sure of what would occur because it has not been done yet. Melessa Suder stated the only problem she would see is if switching to the new scorer program would be some advisors getting to the competitions and then realizing the forms have been left back at the school. In this case, would the advisors have an opportunity to purchase those forms somewhere on campus from Virginia FFA or be left to their own vices. Jennifer Lyons stated that at some points in tabulating committee, it would be the same and other points different depending on the competition and how many students are competing in a contest and what type of contest. Missy McDonald moved to take this issue back to the respective areas and bring input back at the spring advisory council meeting. Theresa Lindberg seconded. **Motion passed.**

Middle School ribbons

Seibel stated for some middle school ribbons they are engraved by contest. Seibel continued to state at \$6.00 per ribbon, should we only be providing one ribbon per student. Based on the cost breakdown, there is not enough in quantity for them to get engraved therefore rising the price of the ribbon.

Options presented include going to a flat ribbon and getting rid of the current rosettes or keep the ribbon and awards system the way it is and possibly charge each chapter for students competing in a third contest. Seibel asked if the ribbons need to have the individual contest printed on the ribbon, also raising the cost per unit of ribbon. Lindberg stated going to a generic ribbon that just stated the contest and inserting the student name, contest name, and date on the back by hand, like standard ribbons could be more cost effective.

Sally Shomo stated the rosettes are important instead of the flat ribbon. Shomo stated to make the rosettes universal instead of engraving and incorporate the blank tag on the back of the ribbon like Lindberg stated would be ideal. You would still get the rosette ribbons; you would just have to write the competition information on the back of the ribbon instead of any type of engraving. Lindberg stated her kids are excited to get their rosette ribbons and then just write the information on the back. Suder asked if switching the ribbon to a rosette not engraved with blank tags on the back would make a difference in the price overall. Seibel stated he tried to hit the quantity of ribbons fairly close in the pricing and each time you submit a request to a ribbon company, there is a price change based on the type of ribbon, style, and quantity. Shomo asked if there is a ribbon company the FFA Foundation needed to go and research. Seibel stated it is the setup of the ribbons, not the company itself. Each time you go to a different ribbon, they change the price, so each time the names of events are changed there will be a change of price. Lindberg moved to go to a universal ribbon that is a rosette type and has blank tags on the bag for information to be written in by hand. Russell Jennings seconded. ***Motion passed.***

Quiz Bowl event

Seibel stated National FFA is looking at adding a national Agriscience quiz bowl and had a task force to research the addition. The question posed by Seibel was should Virginia FFA change the current Quiz Bowl event to match the national event or remain the same. Seibel additionally stated, every time a new contest is added to the roster of state career development events, a qualifier contest must be in place so students qualify to compete at the national level.

Jessica Jones stated she had been contacted by Champ Hardie concerning his concern of the change for the FFA Quiz Bowl career development event to the Agriscience Quiz Bowl career development event. Jones distributed a copy of the concern for each council member to review. Upon review, Lindberg stated Hardie made fine points about the FFA Quiz Bowl competition and made valid concerns about the possible change of events. Lindberg stated the council should consider adding the Agriscience Quiz Bowl but take Hardie's concerns to mind. Kevin Keith stated there is an open contest Quiz Bowl competition at National FFA Convention where chapters could take two teams. It is not sanctioned by National FFA and is run by an individual chapter. Keith stated it was originally setup for Creed Speaking and overtime has changed to be the Quiz Bowl competition. Seibel stated Champ Hardie and Jacklyn Roller were sent the information for their chapters to attend and be the Virginia middle school representatives for the quiz bowl competition at National Convention. Seibel stated Hardie nor Roller have stated to the association office if they would attend the competition or not at convention this fall.

Keith stated the Agriscience Quiz Bowl is based on the current Charlie the Greenhand program. The test bank for the Agriscience Quiz Bowl competition would come from the Charlie the Greenhand program and it would contain the basic elements of Agriscience Fundamentals. Suder asked if it would be feasible

to run the two contests at convention. Seibel stated based on the number of students competing, spacing, and availability of persons to help, the competitions are running as efficiently as possible without having one more competition to find facilities and resources for. Jones stated as a group, we should consider taking this information back to the areas and seeing what others have to say about it. Jones also stated an option could be to discuss this change at the State Middle School AgriScience Teachers' Workshop at Beverly Manor in January to see what middle school teachers think and want for their students and chapters based on what National FFA is asking for the organization.

Shomo asked if National FFA had the template written yet for the competition. Keith stated the information had not been released and signed off on the dotted line. Keith stated some people in other states like their event the way it is. Until those chapters have representation at the national level, some will remain in their competitions as is. Keith stated furthermore, the range of answers needs to be considered instead of asking for exact answers word for word. Shomo asked if this would delay the time of the competition initiating based on the input of answers. Keith stated it could. In this instance with the Agriscience Quiz Bowl, each state would be able to have a team and then there would be open slots because some schools do not have middle school teams.

Donna Moore commented there could very well be a lag in time. Whatever could be decided today could change in six months based on what National FFA decides to do. Keith recommended having the state FFA Quiz Bowl winner be designated as the Agriscience Quiz Bowl representative at the National FFA Convention to assure representation at the national competition until more firm decisions have been made at the national level. Dr. Anderson recommended follow Keith's recommendation of having the state FFA Quiz Bowl winner be designated as the Agriscience Quiz Bowl representative at the National FFA Convention. Lindberg moved to follow the recommendation of Keith to have the stated FFA Quiz Bowl winner be designated as the Agriscience Quiz Bowl representative at the National FFA Convention until final decisions have been made at the national level. DeLano seconded. ***Motion passed.***

State dates

Seibel distributed the calendar of state events covering the current and upcoming year. Seibel stated the dates are subject to change daily based on various factors. Advisors should continue to check on the state website and scholar for the most up-to-date events.

Seibel stated the Virginia Cattlemen's Association is hiring RFD-TV to come out to Harrisonburg to film the Virginia Youth Cattlemen Meeting on October 28. July is the busiest month for facing situations with things like Mark Wahlberg retiring and events still needing a superintendent. The entire Animal Science Department at Virginia Tech is going to a nine month contract. \$25,000 will need to be paid to use the Horse Arena if another location cannot be found. Alexander stated Kim Houff stated she would handle the competition. Seibel stated unless the Animal Sciences Department decides that it is one of their activities, they will charge Virginia FFA to use the facilities.

Seibel stated April 8 and 9, 2011 would be the date for the Horse Competition if the Breed Association allows Virginia FFA to have it in Lexington in conjunction with the 4-H Group. Moore stated the horse events are the easiest things to fund. Horse events, horse travel, and dairy events are the easiest things to help supplement the costs.

Dr. Anderson asked when the Middle School Ag Teachers' Conference would be. Shomo stated January 14 and 15 at Beverly Manor Middle School. Lindsey Thomas stated the week of March 21 is AG Week and March 24 is National Teach Ag Day.

February 26 is the date of the State Parliamentary contest, which is earlier than normal this year. The Beef Expo has stated they are willing to host the Tractor Operator's competition and Jason Ince stated he is willing to host the competition. The floor was opened for comments. No comments were made. **No action needed.**

2009 Taxes – report

Seibel stated the Virginia FFA tax year runs through June 30 and as of June 30, 2010, we had taken in \$642,540. Expenses totaled \$592,492 leaving a \$50,000 margin at the end of June. The true net income was \$9,919.

Seibel stated advisory council members should have received a copy of the annual report. This report contains a lot of information. Due to budget cuts, we may not have one next year. In the past, we have produced a teacher directory. Again, due to budget cuts, at some point the directory will not be sent by mail because of postage but electronically. Currently Seibel and graduate students are working on completing an agricultural education teachers' directory that can be sent electronically via email and also be posted on the Scholar Site.

For the annual report, the Virginia Farm Bureau did an in-kind donation and published the reports for free this year. Virginia Tech wanted \$8 to publish the report. Seibel asked is this worth the time to publish the Annual Report or not. Lindberg stated it is worth time as she went before the school board and was able to show them what they were doing in Virginia Agricultural Education and it is because of that report, her job was saved and her contract extended for another term. **No action needed.**

Budget for 2010 – 11

Shomo asked Seibel if the FFA has the liability insurance for its Board of Directors. Seibel stated no. Shomo stated that is something the Advisory Council needs to look into and will be brought up to the FFA Foundation Board and results will be reported back to Alexander to bring before the Advisory Council. Moore stated it is well worth the investment to have the insurance and create the policy to cover the entire board. Shomo stated the Foundation Board will look into the matter and report back findings. Blaha stated the budget report showed the association had a \$2,000 profit on MFE conferences. Seibel stated we didn't pay Virginia Tech until after the tax year had ended, therefore, the balance shows different because the expense was paid after the tax year had ended. The balance shows incorrectly for that reason. Seibel stated Virginia FFA does not make any money from MFE. The cost of MFE is \$17 per student of which, \$15 goes to Virginia Tech and \$2 to the meal. The remaining balance charged on MFE conferences goes to graduate scholarships to help pay for them to present their materials to the students and travel to do so. **No action needed.**

Dr. Anderson stated there are too many people listed as Board of Directors on the Virginia FFA Association and the list should be trimmed to meet state guidelines. **No action needed.**

Alternative AG Grant

Seibel stated the Virginia Department of Agriculture was the source of the grant that paid for Kate Hawkins and Dan Swafford. Due to the loss of funding, the department had let Hawkins and Swafford go because the grant was not reauthorized. The Virginia Tech Department of Agricultural and Extension

Education completed a grant for the Appalachian and Southside Areas. Through the grant, the department is able to provide grants to local high schools to provide alternative agriculture programs to its students in the agricultural education program. However, until the sponsored programs accept 10% off the top from the funding, the department cannot proceed with its plans.

Stephen Edwards discussed the program stating they are hoping to sponsor 3-8 thousand into approximately 5 programs for something that is not grown or raised in the local county. Implement something that can be done with your students and can be sustained over time. The only stipulations are to fill out the application and maintain the data of the project. Virginia Tech will come in and help with the reports, combine the data, and then be able to implement the same in other schools in Virginia. The best that can be said right now is to look through the proposal and ask the questions you have right now at this time. The information will need to be taken back up based on the snag that has been ran into from Virginia Tech. Seibel stated people have talked about a high tunnel, cut flowers, processing goats and turning it into jerky at the Food Science and Technology program at Virginia. The student would learn about it at school, implement it at home, and then start their business. This year the program would only be available for Southside and Appalachian area as a pilot. **No action needed.**

FFA Camp

Seibel stated Dana Fisher was able to find a camp that is owned by the elk and the cost is \$300 per student and that is the minimum they will do. The question posed by Seibel is if we as a group should look at other locations and dates for 2011. We have been giving every student that goes to FFA Camp a \$100 scholarship and we have been charging \$200 total. Seibel asked if there were any recommendations. Blaha stated that she and others that attended FFA Camp liked where they were, despite it was a little more money, but the students liked where they were and didn't want to move. Blaha further stated she had talked to people who lived in the area where the new camp location could be and the residents stated it would be a step back from where the camp currently is. Jennings stated he would not like to make a recommendation for people who have not been to camp. **No action needed.**

FFA Foundation

Seibel stated before the foundation invested in a computer program, they had to go back through records by hand of what records were there and recreate what was there to complete logbooks. Through invested funds, the \$500 was invested in permanent with 5% invested by the Foundation. The Legacy Funds are the same way. The money cannot be spent, only the interest. Neither the association nor the boards has gone in and touched any of the money. Seibel stated he made a bad mistake recommending the tractors as a fundraiser for the Foundation. Seibel stated the Foundation owed \$50,000 on the tractors and instead of paying on the interest, we have the tractors. The tractors are doing well in other states, but not Virginia. After national convention is over, the \$250 rebate is sent to the chapter per member that did not attend the convention. Last year the foundation brought in about \$50,000 and a part time graduate student that cost \$26,000. Bottom line, the foundation does not have the money to put into things that are not essential to operations of the board and its association.

Shomo stated that as agricultural teachers we should not just support the foundation financially, but giving support that can have a lead to donate the money for Virginia FFA activities. We have got to have help and sell these tractors around the state. If you took a case of tractors and it is now time to pay the \$160. Alexander stated it was promised that those who took the tractors would receive an invoice and the invoices were never sent. Shomo stated she didn't know the invoices had not been sent. She had received a spreadsheet of those chapters who had received the tractors and assumed those schools had received the tractors. Seibel stated if Shomo could get him a list of chapters, he would send the invoices.

Missy McDonald stated she feels that Virginia FFA is moving in the right direction. Moore stated this Foundation is headed in the right direction, but it is in the middle. Todd Mills stated the Foundation will not infringe on the local contacts. McDonald stated she understood, but it is sometimes feeling that the same donators are being asked repeatedly to help.

The Leave a Legacy individual for this year is Dr. James P. Clouse. Dr. Clouse would like for his money to go to something for international travel. The work that he did in South Africa and other countries was worldwide recognized. As an incentive, \$200 per chapter to donate to the Dr. James P. Clouse to build the fund would endow it permanently. Seibel stated the association started the Leave a Legacy program three years ago, starting with Dr. Hillison then Wick Coleman and now Dr. Clouse. **No action needed.**

State Horticulture Events

Seibel stated with Dr. Alan McDaniel's retirement the question is who will operate the state horticulture events. It doesn't look like Virginia Tech is going to replace his position. Seibel stated there will be a meeting with Dr. McDaniel at the AES conference. The meeting time may be around 1:00PM. Dr. McDaniel was one of the first ones to endow the individuals and team awards for events, but once you get hammered time after time, then people may not want to do it any further. We have to take care of those who have taken care of us and it just has not been fair to see how hard he has worked, how much he has given, and the way he has been treated by some during competitions. **No action needed.**

Big E

Seibel stated Lindsey Thomas went on the Big E trip this year on behalf of the Virginia FFA Association State Office. Thomas stated probably most of the agricultural educators have seen the Big E trip to Springfield, Massachusetts had a really good turnout. Most of the teams placed in the top three and won three of the four stars at the Big E. Thomas stated Brian Fisher was on the trip in October as well. Fisher stated students had a good time and things turned out well. Seibel stated the Big E trip is losing money for the Virginia FFA Association. Seibel asked if the trip is something that needs to continue or be dropped. The question was asked by Suder if some advisors that have been attending, would they continue to attend if they did not have the transportation and arrangements made for them in advance. The general consensus was no. **No action needed.**

National Convention

Seibel stated National FFA does have an outside affiliate range that offers \$50 -100 per student. Some states have gone to a flat fee for some chapters that do that form. Right now there \$1-1.50 for insert in the magazine, \$1.00 for state officer travel, and remaining change for FFA Camp. The only other sources of income are state and national convention. Each room is marked up about \$12 that is used to pay for the outside Honorary Degrees and State Officer rooms. The only other thing is paying for plaques that are not sponsored, for things such as area plaques that are about \$39.00. The order to National FFA this year was in excess of \$36,000 and audio/video is about \$12,000 and the speakers are about \$8,000-\$10,000 out of a \$650,000 budget there was only about \$9,000 left. Lindberg said her state winner this year received four plaques that were sponsored. Blaha asked if that money could be used to send students to National Convention instead of in plaques. Seibel stated when the person sponsors the plaque they are paid for the remaining time of that contest in action. Blaha asked if the sponsors are given the option to give their donation directly for a plaque or as a donation to the student for travel to National Convention. Seibel stated they are and it is up to the sponsor as to where the money goes.

Lindberg asked how many plaques are not sponsored. Shomo stated the majority of first place awards are sponsored, but the area awards are the ones needing sponsors. Moore stated her observation is the

Foundation is working hard to get plaques and travel sponsored. Seibel stated the teams going to National Convention are no longer sponsored and it has been this way for a while. Moore stated there was a retired Agriculture Teacher that took it upon himself to go raise funds for teams in New York to have sponsorships to attend National Convention. Moore added, if the Farm Bureau submits a check to the Foundation that is tax deductible. The Farm Bureau can indicate where the funds can go for plaques, travel, and etcetera.

Seibel stated National FFA is still in need of proficiency judges and room hosts for national convention. If you have transportation out there, it is a good way to get out there and see behind the scenes and learn how to do proficiencies and how programs operate at National Convention.

Shomo stated Seibel will be receiving the VIP Award at National Convention on Friday morning and to congratulate him on this level of achievement and his standard of excellence. Seibel asked if we as a state continue to try to do the National Convention trip as a state. Is it still worth the time to do this? Seibel stated we can still have a block of rooms, but if you don't pay the \$50 on July 1, then you don't go. The other thing with the buses, the buses will hold 55 people and we still have people that have not while they are sitting in Indy, they are \$400 a day. We are still willing to do it, but we have to have teacher support. We don't mind doing this, but it is not going to happen if we can't get people to start cooperating. Moore stated it is people stating back in June or July they were going to go and then the third or fourth week in September stating, sorry, we're not going now. This is something that most states do not do. You don't have to have a state block, but the fact there is a block of rooms that are downtown and buses that carry you where you need to go is phenomenal. Suder stated Seibel has spoiled the Virginia Ag Teachers over time and people have gotten used to the trips being the way they are. Suder stated maybe it would a good thing for Seibel to step back and put time towards something else other than planning all these trips and things that take Association money and Seibel's time. **No action needed.**

New Teacher Conference

Seibel stated agriculture teachers need to encourage new or young teachers to register and participate in this conference. We would hope that you would use a county car where \$0.50 a mile is a lot to reimburse people to attend. Fisher suggested that doing Agricultural Mechanics as a working lunch would not be a good idea and turn it into a three hour workshop. Seibel stated that is what occurred last year and teachers stated that is not what they needed to help them. The projects they would be working on include plumbing and ink pens. Seibel stated that if teachers had any small projects 8 and 9th grade students could work on to please send them in so the 2010 New Teachers' Conference program could be adjusted accordingly. **No action needed.**

VAAE

Seibel stated the cost to attend the Virginia Agribusiness Dinner. It is \$200 per seat to attend the General Assembly Dinner on Thursday, January 13. Normally the VAAE President and two state officers, etcetera would attend the General Assembly Dinner. The cost some years the foundation has helped for the seats and try to have students attend and last year we had two tables and we made some good contacts during the event. Seibel is asking if we can please have people to attend the event then do so. Lindberg stated she is willing to attend the event scheduling permitting. **No action needed.**

National FFA update

Keith introduced to the group the FFA updates for National FFA. Keith stated the organization had reached 40 senators nationwide. We have 98 representatives and when you usually hit 100, it is a

landmark and keep in this is just for this legislative session. Keith stated you can go to NAAE.org website, type in zip code, and then hit send using the template letters attached. Keith also stated to search FFAlearn.com which was originally Team AG ED learning center. There is new information and middle school information placed on the website. Go past the Life Knowledge which is now completely free. The only thing that is not there for Life Knowledge is the assessment portion.

National AG ED Summit agreed to pass requirements on the American degree next year. For the degree, applicants are required to spend at least 50 hours in at least three different areas. The American degree can be downloaded and can be used. On page 12, there are three options of completion. It does not matter if someone has completed the form before or not, you can still use the new application online.

Seibel asked if we should go ahead and match the State FFA Degree up to the American Degree. Lindberg moved to have an information technology specialist to align the Virginia FFA State Degree to the American FFA Degree with a cost not to exceed \$1000. DeLano seconded. **Motion passed.**

Seibel stated the Lancaster Farmer did publish the Virginia FFA State Degree recipients with biography. Lindberg moved to have the Lancaster Farmer continue the Virginia FFA State Degree insert and have the information for the insert be a requirement of the state degree. Jennings seconded. **Motion passed.**

Virginia Department of Education Update

Dr. Anderson stated there is a requirement that localities must document any pesticide application and must have a commercial license to spray any type, restricted use or over the counter. If someone in your neighborhood will supervise you, it is allowable; however, the school has to fill out the forms that state agencies must complete. The county extension office can assist in getting the forms to the agricultural education teachers.

Dr. Anderson stated he has a budget of \$20,000 and must document in advance who is attending the advisory council meetings. Dr. Anderson urged council members if you can get a county car to attend, that will better help him in allocations of funds from his budget.

Dr. Anderson stated he has had inquiries about homeschooled students joining FFA. Homeschooled students joining FFA comes down to a locality/school board issue. It is okay on the state level for homeschooled students to join local FFA chapters, but the parents in agreement with the agricultural education teacher and school administration need to seek the local school board policies and determine if the localities will allow it. **No action needed.**

Virginia Tech Update

Moore stated the faculty has voted on changing the name of the Agricultural and Extension Education Department to the Agricultural Education Leadership and Community Development or Viability Department. The question was asked if changing the name would change the way individuals identified the department, including graduation, publicity, and etcetera. Moore stated as with all things, the name change would just bring about a new face to the same department. The department website would have to change to reflect the name change but the change itself and would not interfere with any pre-existing business. To access the department, visitors would still go to www.vt.edu, look under colleges and departments and go to the new department items under new website.

Moore stated currently there are 14 masters students in the agricultural and extension education program. The department is in search of funding to bring on more graduate students in the spring and

the lines are to go along to help with the foundation and any work that may be needed there. Additionally, there are 15 teacher education students in the masters program in Career and Technical Education with 28 in total enrolled in the program. Moore stated 20 students graduated from the program and all are employed and some even out of state, including New Jersey, North Carolina, and South Dakota.

Moore will be leading the team that does the Teacher Turn the Key at Las Vegas and is excited about the opportunity. Moore stated instead of receiving the honorary degree, she requests the \$2,500 to be used toward the graduate students and the program.

Seibel stated the Cathy Hively Hughes fund, the money that is charged for the conference, after the bills are paid, the MFE ALD conference, the money goes to the graduate students to present their information at conferences. They have to help at the conferences and be able to provide work.

Southside community college – there are two degrees, there is as degree transfers to any college in Virginia and the at degree is a terminal degree and cannot be transferred as core classes, only elective classes that do not count toward degree completion. Make sure of which one you give advice to so the students are not led in the wrong direction. Working with Wytheville Community college.

The Scholar Site is up and the AG I curriculum is completed and is on the website. Virginia FFA is not a part of Virginia Tech and they do not want to give the server space to host the website. About every 18 months and want to take it down. The Virginia Tech technology department is switching to a new program called Ensemble. Virginia Tech will not allow Virginia FFA to access Ensemble. Jennings asked

State Fair

Seibel stated the tents for the fair are extremely hot. Is it worth asking the Virginia State Fair to put up a building or pole barn for the Virginia FFA Association? DeLano stated it would be a good idea as it would have the FFA visible at the Fairgrounds year round. Seibel stated he would look further into the matter.

No action needed.

Area Concerns:

Eastern Area:

None

Southside Area:

Suder stated guidance counselors are giving schools a difficult time about how to do the Foundations of Agriculture course and the alignment of the curriculum. Suder asked if there is something that can be distributed to guidance counselors that explains how the courses work. Dr. Anderson stated it is in the Administrative Planning Guide and has the information explaining 8007 Plant and Animal Systems Pathway, 8008 Animal Systems Pathway, Introduction to Natural Resources, and Introduction to Power Systems.

Appalachian Area:

Lyons regarding the parliamentary procedure contest. Propose we look at the list of the current suggested 25 topics for the past years and the contest should be aligned more with nationals and in

working with Shane Dunbar he has devised a list of 268 possible topics and take it into consideration so Virginia can be more competitive at the national level. Seibel stated there is no problem using the problems presented. Lyons will forward an electronic version of the potential list of problems.

Alexandra stated it was mentioned to him to write a letter to President Steger to put air conditioning in Burruss Auditorium.

Northern Area:

Brian Fisher stated Sally Shomo and Mike Brown stated updating the list of topics for the jr. parly pro contest. Have the areas make suggestions and submit.

Have 12 new trees to be considered to be added to the jr. and sr. competition. Have the area make suggestions and submit. The trees include: Downy Serviceberr, Longleaf Pine, Sugar Maple, Bald Cypress, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Eastern Hemlock, Eastern Cottonwood, Eastern Hophornbeam, American Chestnut, Paw Paw, Box Elder, and Basswood.

McDonald stated a few middle school advisors having top two teams and top ten individuals to be recognized like the jr. and sr. events. The recognition should be done during a regularly attended session, not the business session where half of the convention attendees are absent.

An advisor asked if it is possible to start a contest for FFA members to design the front of the convention booklet. As a thought, they could win a free convention t-shirt, be recognized at convention, or get a small cash prize. It could generate some member involvement and allow students to showcase some of their talents. It could be either be drawn by hand or designed on a computer. The state officers have been talking about it and seeing where the log. Also, for state convention, there needs to better supervision of students. At night, students

Do we need to have a speaker on Wednesday night of convention, even though the parents were impressed. That was due to scheduling conflict.

Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:

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.

Brian Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. Missy McDonald seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Jones