

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

Members Present: Ginger Anderson, Katie Bethke, Abbi Copp, Brian Crickenberger, Mandy Curry, Crystal Duvall, Ashlee Edwards, Brian Fisher, Barry Gray, Sherry Heishman, Melinda Hinkle, Herb Hoffeditz, Christy Kerr, Blair Long, Jeremiah Major, Eric McLaughlin, Derek Ritenour, Jaclyn Roller, Codi Jo Smith, Theresa Thompson, Chrissy Whitacre, Elizabeth Williams

Guests Present: Ron Byrd, Dana Fisher, Jimmy Hisghman, Northern Area Officers

The Northern Area Agriculture Teachers at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 22, 2016:

1. heard Christy Kerr call the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.
2. heard Christy Kerr lead the group in thanks of the Dinner Sponsorship from Daryl Bowman Livestock and Central FFA
3. Heard Christy Kerr lead the introduction of the Area Officers.
4. heard Brian Crickenberger move to dispense with the reading of the minutes, the motion was seconded and passed.
5. heard Christy Kerr discuss the Virginia STAR Program
 - a program designed to create a sustainable and effective recruitment and retention strategy for ag ed teachers and majors in Virginia.
 - The program gave gifts to 1st year teachers around Valentine's Day.
 - The program has \$8000 in the budget for 2016
6. heard Christy Kerr lead discussion on Northern Area dues and a new bank account.
 - The questions were raised of what all do officers do, where would the money be held, who would be in charge, etc.
 - The decision was made to have a more comprehensive and detailed document answering these questions made to be presented at the next Area meeting.
7. Heard Christy Kerr provide VAAE updates.
 - Katie Reames was selected as the recipient of the 2016 VACTE Teacher of the Year Award and will represent Virginia in the ACTE Region II competition.
8. heard Ron Byrd provide VAAE, FFA Alumni, and Young Farmers of Virginia Updates.
 - If anyone has question/concerns about the process of operating our own Northern Area bank account, talk to Mindy McCroskey.
 - VAAE: Can still pay dues through June. Contact Ron if interested in joining.
 - VAAE award application deadline has been extended to April 1.
 - Information for Summer Conference is coming out now, sign up soon.
 - Alumni: Dues are due May 1st. The roster is similar to FFA, contact Pam Fairchild at National FFA if you need help with your roster. Send dues to Ron Byrd at Virginia FFA Alumni. If you are interested in organizing an alumni let Ron know.

- Young Farmers: The Convention in Charlottesville went well. Dues for 2016 will be due soon. Everything will be going electronic soon and possibly the newsletter.
9. heard Sherry Heishman & Derek Ritenour provide updates on the Advisory Council.
- State Judging will be April 12-13 in Staunton.
 - National Chapter Applications need to be completed by April 1 on AET.
 - If you need them to pick up your Proficiency Awards and Degree Applications, let Sherry or Derek know ASAP.
 - If you have a student completing the STAR Battery, they must complete the old Excel State Degree Form.
 - Looking into revising the Avian Bowl contest to be more like Stockmans.
10. heard Dana Fisher give updates on the FFA Foundation.
- The search committee for the State FFA Specialist had an interview with one candidate, Brandon Monk.
 - There are 9 scholarships available so make sure students are informed to complete those on time.
 - The Foundation Reception at State Convention is being moved to the Inn at Virginia Tech.
11. heard Christy Kerr provide updates on the Virginia FFA Association on behalf of Carly Woolfolk.
- In need of teachers to be on curriculum review panels. Contact Carly if you are interested.
 - All CDE revisions for 2016 are complete.
 - American Degrees need to be submitted to Nationals May 15.
12. Heard Christy Kerr provide updates on the Northern Area Rally & Officer Task Force on behalf of Zach Wakeman.
- There are 8 Area officer candidates.
 - Interviews will be conducted during the Area Rally.
 - The newly elected officers term will be from July 1-June 30
13. heard Brian Crickenberger provide updates on Area Rally.
- April 12 from 9-2 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds
 - Registration is \$8 a person and will be sent to Turner Ashby High School by April 8 or you can pay at the door.
 - Small Engines will be coordinated by Stuart Byrd
 - Public Speaking will be coordinated by Mary Hardesty at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. If you had a student place 2nd at Federation, you need to help judge the contest.
 - Tractor Operators will be coordinated by Herb Hoffeditz and Brian Crickenberger
 - Dana Fisher discussed the Career Fair and with the general consensus an interview element will be added this year.
 - Please bring items to be given to judges as gifts.
 - The following list of workshops was suggested to have at the Rally: Floral Design, Environmental and Natural Resources, Job Interview, Soils, Farm Business Management, Crops, Food & Fiber, AG Demo or Science Fair, Quiz Bowl or Creed.

14. heard Ty McReynolds, Area President, give updates on the Northern Area Officers.
 - The officers have finished the Habitudes curriculum.
 - They are looking into starting an officer blog.
 - The Nominating Committee Nominees will be receiving an email shortly.
 - The officers are available for chapter activities. Just email them to request a visit.
 - Virginia FFA was represented very well.
15. Heard Brian Crickenberger bring up discussion on the federation sizes and rule on how many students can compete at the Area level from each federation.
 - With little discussion, it was decided to bring the topic back up at the next area meeting.
16. Upcoming dates:
 - VICE at Graves Mountain Lodge: April 1-3
 - Northern Area Rally: April 12
 - State Judging & Meetings: April 12-13
 - State Poultry Contest at Virginia Tech: April 29
 - State Forestry: May 13
 - State FFA Convention: June 20-23
17. heard Christy Kerr adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.