

Maryland FFA Board of Directors
August 17, 2017 5:00 p.m.
Mid Atlantic Farm Credit-Frederick
Conference Call Number: 443-339-3131

Chuck, Joe Linthicum, Diane Safar, Amy Jo, Greg, Tom, Laura, Brenda, Tom Mazzone, Quinn Cashell, Mike Harrington, Naomi Knight, Autumn Lippy, Cahlen Cheatham, Mikayla Stockman, Terrie Shank.
Calling in: George Mayo, Cole Bishop, Jodi Callahan.

Call to Order-Chairman, Chuck Schuster at 5:10 pm

The Minutes from the April 7, 2017 meeting were shared. Tom Linthicum moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mike Harrington seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Treasurer Laura Ramsburg provided a Balance sheet and Profit Loss statement for the Association. Laura expressed her concerned with the extension deadline for filing taxes being in November and finding time to work with Matt Koerner to wrap up the transition process. Laura has all the accounts reconciled. There are two outstanding checks from November 2016 for state proficiency award winners. Laura did file the personal property taxes and the tax-exempt status has been filed. It is expected to be renewed in September. Chuck Schuster will reach out to Matt Koerner to find a time for Laura Ramsburg and Matt Koerner to meet to complete the transition of financial materials. Chuck Schuster suggested contacting Sherry Ling to look at the financials and assist with completing the taxes. Tom Linthicum also recommended that Matt Koerner's name be removed from the Quick Books account once the financials are completed. George Mayo moved to approve the treasurer's report and it file for audit. Amy Jo Poffenberger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Outstanding Chapter Invoices: Naomi Knight shared a current report of the Maryland FFA Association. Jodi Callahan asked if the invitation letters could be released prior to June 1st for the fall events so that funding could be sought during the summer for the fall leadership events and conventions.

State Officer Report-Autumn Lippy, Cahlen Cheatham, Mikayla Stockman- Provided a written report. They highlighted the State Officer Trainings with Natalie Ryan and the events that they have attended over the summer. Cahlen Cheatham added the team goals: visit each chapter at least one time and to charter new chapters. The Officer team would like to pursue legislation to make Ag Ed a graduation requirement for Maryland school students. They are working to have a 10 % membership increase, Their Theme this year is: Legacy. Terrie Shank commented that the Officer team has been doing a great job with their training and participation in Maryland events.

Committee Reports:

State CDE Survey- Greg Stull shared the 30 responses from the teacher survey conducted through survey monkey. He reviewed the results and will send the survey to the teachers on the listserve once it is completed. Naomi Knight shared that an Advisor resource page on the mdffa.org website for information on the upcoming events has been added. Greg Stull asked about having a questionnaire for students to complete following the events. Greg Stull also thanked Amy Jo Poffenberger for her assistance with the survey and presentation. Chuck Schuster asked Greg Stull if he would work with him to review the results and pull together a proposal for the board to be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Report of State Officer Candidate Selection Process-Chuck Schuster shared that he was involved in the selection process this year. Multiple activities were held over two days, which showed how the candidates form bonds, think on their feet, speak, work well together. The interviews were held at the Hampton Inn, Frederick. He noted that it was a very fair, concise process. Strong group of individuals, nominating committee came together. Chuck volunteered to serve again on the committee. He noted that we need to work to bring candidates from other area of the state into the process. Laura Ramsburg also served on the nominating committee and felt that the process went well. Jodi Callahan felt that the process was well run, that it was a neat process to be a part of and a worthwhile weekend.

Review of MD FFA State Convention-Naomi Knight presented a written report outlining the major changes and additions to make the State Convention of 2017 more proficient. The report is attached. Brenda reported an income from the Alumni store was \$5215.00

Review of MD FFA Summer events-Terrie Shank

Separate area for parents/advisors, during the events, Joe Linthicum shared a concern that two students had their cards pulled during a water break and not when the event was actively running. Cards should have been pulled during the class in which the students were observed talking and not after the class. It was felt that not enough direction was given for the handlers. He felt that his students were treated unfairly. He also observed that students could keep placing cards for the full 15 minutes during reasons classes when they should have been collected after 12 minutes. It was shared by numerous board members that if students are talking, the cards should be pulled. Quinn Cashell noted that there were many students talking during the event. Quinn shared that greater direction should have been given and the superintendent should be the one to disqualify the students. Poultry event went well once set up was completed. Livestock event was tight with sharing the showing for the beef classes and dairy judging.

Storage of materials and equipment for MD FFA CDE/LDE-George Mayo/Chuck Schuster-
Still need to get together to discuss this topic.

Regional Coordinator Responsibilities/Guidelines-Terrie Shank reviewed the survey of the coordinators.

It was noted that they would like to have specific guidelines with terms limits. Greg Stull suggested that the selection of the Regional Coordinator should be by the teachers in the Region and not by the Executive Director. This will need to be changed in the Maryland FFA Constitution by the students at the FFA Convention. Jody Callahan volunteered to serve in this role for Region 5 and has concerns about the programs and who would take on the leadership role in her region. Amy Jo Poffenberger shared that she has issues with communicating between the FFA Advisors, the county 4-H leadership and sometimes between 4-H and FFA members themselves. Greg Stull asked about term limits for other board positions as well. It was noted that many are appointed to represent other support groups and those members do change frequently, for example MATA Representative, FFA Alumni, FFA Foundation, etc.

Other items: Amy Jo Poffenberger asked the Board members to consider bringing back the short form for State FFA Degrees. She shared some concerns from her advisors about the long form limiting the number of students who can apply or will apply because they must use the long form. The Short form was simpler for FFA members who just want to apply for State Degrees. After some discussion, no motion was made, no action was taken.

Tom Linthicum asked about the status of the 4-H/FFA State agreement. He feels that the MAFB needs to be involved in the process to get this finalized. Chuck Schuster will reach out to Chris Anderson to set up a time to meet.

New Business:

MD FFA Annual Report- Naomi Knight shared copies of the Annual Report with the Board members.

State Delegate Issues: Star Greenhand Recommendation-Cahlen Cheatham reported that the delegated made a Motion to have the Maryland FFA Officers put forth a delegate resolution for a National Star Greenhand program. The motion passed. Delegate issues from States are to be submitted to National FFA in April of 2018.

Convention Review-Autumn Lippy reported that the committee overall liked the convention. They would like a bigger facility so that everyone could sit in the sessions. They also would like to have a service activity be a part of the convention.

Regional Activities- Mikayla Stockman reported that the members would like to do more together within their regions. She noted that some regions are large and it is difficult to do things together because of the distance and travel times.

CDE/LDE Event reviews- Cahlen Cheatham-Committee recommends dropping of those CDE/LDE with low participation. They did not outline what a number would be of teams or individuals required to be in an event to keep offering the event. Chuck Schuster worried that removing CDE/LDE it would be hard to replace them or bring them back at another time. Quinn Cashell suggested that even if one team was registered the event should be held and the team expected to present or go through the skills of the event.

Amy Jo Poffenberger, moved that the Board establish a committee to look at redistricting the regions. Tom Linthicum seconded the motion. Cahlen Cheatham asked if there would be representation or coordinator for each region. Motion passed. Tom Linthicum, Terrie Shank, Cole Bishop, Autumn Lippy, Chuck Schuster- Will meet prior to the next board meeting.

FFA Day at the Maryland State Fair-Partnership with MATA- Mike Harrington/ Diane Safar shared that on Friday, August 25th Scheduled- 5 Chapter Booths, 2 chapters with banners, Ag Science Fair-4. Are you smarter than your Ag Teacher? 5:00 pm. Joe Linthicum will be Master of Ceremonies. There will be a team presentations in Ag Marketing, Ag Issues and Ag Communications. There is one public speaker. Naomi shared that students can enter the fair with their membership cards on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

State Convention- Bidding process through MSDE-Terrie Shank shared that there is a new company that can be used to find venues for conferences and conventions. FBLA, DECA are using them for their state events and the FFA and Skills USA associations were asked to give the group a try. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to use the bidding process through MSDE, Tom Linthicum seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Update on Big E and National FFA Convention attendance, housing-Naomi Knight reviewed the CDE and numbers for the events. There are 89 people staying in 21 rooms at the Embassy Suites 10 chapters, 58 people from 8 chapters, 4 chapters not staying within the block.

COLT Conference- Cahlen Cheatham, Naomi Knight Shared information about the camp, adventure challenges and other activities. A new Ninja barn/glow in dark putt golf. Autumn Lippy shared workshop topics on FFA History, Values/Virtues, Levels of Leadership, Planning banquets. Workshop for students on FFA Alumni and FFA Officer responsibilities will also be offered.

Enforcement of Deadlines. Program of Activities (NC Form 1) and Membership for fall semester (and all students if an affiliate chapter) due by-November 30th with payment due by January 15th. Chuck Schuster reminded everyone that deadlines will be enforced.

Location, date and time for Board of Directors Meetings and Annual Meetings-Chuck Schuster
Annual Meeting Nov 30th- Election of officers, new board members
Next meeting October 17th MAFC- 5pm
January 24th 2018- MAFC 5pm
March 21, 2018-MAFC- 5pm
May 30th MAFC 5pm or conference call

Amy Jo Poffenberger asked for clarification on Regional delegates as their region has a rotation set. Naomi Knight shared that the Intent of funding for regional delegates is to students who could not

otherwise attend without the financial support. It is not intended to be additional support for those on CDE/LDE teams.

Greg Stull asked about the possibility of having teachers recognized by receiving the Honorary State FFA Degrees. He recommended that those teachers/FFA Advisors with at least ten years of service be awarded the honorary degree.

With no further business to be discussed, Mike Harrington moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Linthicum seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Shank

Terrie Shank,
MD FFA Executive Director

Report on 89th Maryland FFA State Convention (Aug. 17, 2017)

By Naomi Knight, MD FFA Program Coordinator

A Team- The 89th State Convention was a huge success thanks to the 12 volunteers known as the A Team, who assisted in implementing the entire convention. They were all given a folder with the same information so that anyone asked any of them, they all were on the same page. We identified them with a bright gold lanyard.

SOC's- The State Officer Candidates were instrumental in running CDE/LDE's and being the behind the scenes crew for all the business sessions.

PSO's- Without the tremendous commitment from past state offices, the convention would not have been possible. Elizabeth Knight took charge of all the audio/video components, including all the many graphics and pictures added to this year's stage presentations. Hannah Adkins took charge of the back stage, and Tori Poole was in charge of the convention hall. Renee Wilson not only was the Superintendent of the Ag Communications CDE, but assisted Victoria Robinson, who is also a PSO, in photographing the convention.

Overflow room- Terry and Mark Adkins hosted all the many activities and prizes given out during the business sessions. Didn't see a huge increase in attendance but all had a great time, thanks to their dedication. Note: convention attendance was down almost by 100 this year.

Alumni Shopping Mall- Brenda and Rick White operated the shopping mall during the entire event. Their family also designed and built the amazing lighthouse for the stage.

Operation Gratitude- Our service learning project this year was to support our military personnel. Shelbi Clark, Ag. Ed. Major from the University of Kentucky conducted a 2 hour Servant Leadership Workshop, that included making paracord bracelets and writing thank you notes for the different areas of military service. Along with those initiatives, each chapter was challenged to bring in Beanie Babies or similar sized stuffed animals upon convention check in. 1,519 stuffed toys were collected from 10 chapters. The winning chapter, Tuscarora got to select their seats early before the last general session of the state convention.

Workshop Passport Card- From the suggestions made from various advisors, we were able to create a workshop card that showed each member which workshop they were to report. That way, everyone knew where and when they were to be during the convention. The State Officers took turns in stamping their cards. At the end of the convention, we collected the cards and pulled 5 for gifts cards to use at the FFA Shopping Mall.

Volunteer Form- We consolidated the CDE/LDE judges and helpers, workshop presenters and exhibitors into one form they could complete and submit online. After selections were made, confirmations were sent by emails to all volunteers, superintendent and judges one month prior to the event. Positive responses were received and will continue to improve for next year.

CDE/LDE management- A superintendent for each CDE/LDE was identified. This helped tremendously in each event. We also created a box for each room. This was very helpful in particularly all the public speaking LDE's where there are two judging rooms, proctors, runners and time keepers. Next year, we would like to gain access to the guidelines for each event and send out to each superintendent a head of time so they are better informed of the process. We would also like to inform each superintendent of their judges and email addresses, far in advance, so they can be better prepared prior to the judging day.

Post meeting- We held a post state convention meeting shortly after the convention to discuss ways to improve for next year.

Biggest Challenge- Management of advisors and chaperones during the convention. Poor participation in the three advisor workshops offered to them. The few advisors that did assist in CDE/LDE's were disrespected. Advisors did not supervise their students in convention activities including: sitting with their students in the business sessions, student workshops, the dance, meals, etc. Not to mention their lack of professional dress and attitude. Maritime Management approached the MD FFA State Staff on how the adults were hanging around in the middle of the hallways and lobby area, and their staff could not get around them, to sitting on countertops where they serve food. There were several advisors that brought their own children to the convention, which takes away from the FFA member's experience, not being supervised, and more importantly are not covered by the Maryland FFA insurance policy.