

Maryland FFA Board of Directors Meeting  
April 15, 2020 9:30 a.m.  
Via zoom conference meeting  
Conference Call Number: 929-205-6099

Those in Attendance: Karen Nicklas, Susanne Zilberfarb, Jodi Callahan, Laura Ramsburg, Quinn Martin, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Emily Muller, Jason Watt, Brenda White, Naomi Knight, Richard Stonebraker, Tom Mazzone, Dr. Melissa Welsh, Jim Ferrant, Elizabeth Knight, Liza Goetz, Brian Stokes, Brittany Rigdon, Rachel Coffey, Jill Allen, Jaclyn Bryant, Sierra Wean

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman, Karen Nicklas.

The Minutes from the January 21, 2020 Maryland FFA Association Annual Meeting were shared. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the minutes as presented. Emily Muller seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Laura Ramsburg. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the report and file it for audit. Tom Mazzone seconded the motion and the motion passed. The report will be filed for audit.

A Financial update of Chapter accounts was shared by Naomi Knight.

Karen Nicklas opened the meeting for a discussion on holding Maryland CDE/LDE this spring and summer.

Dr. Melissa Welsh informed the Board members that the University of Maryland, College Park, has a secure ELMS (CANVAS) system that can host competitions. The fees for using this system have been waived by the University. We would have to enter the student name and each student would then receive a unique identification number sent directly to them via email. Students would need to use their identification number to access the system to complete the various parts of the event. The event can contain multiple choice, true or false questions, picture identification, videos, power points, etc. Each event can be divided into modules for students to complete. The student browser can be locked down and test bank questions can be shuffled randomly so no two exams are the same. Student scores would be uploaded into a master scoring sheet and results tabulated through the ELMS system.

Question: If the student's internet connection drops during the exam, can they re-enter to complete the exam?

Dr. Welsh: The ELMS system records when a student logs in for the first time and they can reconnect to continue. Students must have a current email address to be able to access the ELMS site.

Naomi Knight shared that she has contacted the team at Judging Card to inquire about hosting our events online through their platform. There is a cost of \$200/event to host and an additional \$2/student who accesses the site.

Karen Nicklas asked for discussion on the options presented.

Quinn Martin expressed concerns about the integrity of the exams and online materials.

Amy Jo Poffenberger shared her concerns also about exam/material security. How do we as Advisors coach when we can't have contact with our students? Some members don't have internet access. Will this platform be approved for student use by our local school system?

Emily Muller shared that her local school system does not allow the use of the zoom platform. Not all students are getting information from the schools and having a unique email for students may not be supported by the school system as student personal data is still be collected.

Jodi Callahan expressed her concerns about students not having internet service at their homes. Only certain platforms are approved for use by the school. We need to look at the student equity to participate in the events. If students in two counties can participate and students in one county are not allowed to participate, what happens then? If the events are virtual, not in person, there should be no monetary fee for students to participate. She also shared her concerns about the quality of the participants and if the students would truly be prepared to complete and then represent Maryland should National events be held.

Tom Mazzone asked if there was any word from the National FFA as to the status of holding the National FFA Convention in October? Terrie Shank shared that no decision to postpone or cancel has been made at this time.

Dr. Melissa Welsh shared that as Agronomy superintendent, she was going to try to input information into the ELMS system and may be able to offer a demonstration of the system event at a later time.

Amy Jo Poffenberger reminded the Board members that FFA isn't just about competitions and holding CDE/LDE should not be our primary focus.

Quinn Martin asked if it would be prudent to survey the Advisors to see who could or would have students to participate in the CDE/LDE. If we hold the events, the winning team could choose not to attend out of State events.

Karen Nicklas asked about projected funding to put together and hold virtual events. That information is unknown.

Amy Jo Poffenberger moved that the Maryland FFA Association does not hold Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events this year due to the COVID-19 virus. Jodi Callahan seconded the motion and the motion passed.

State Convention Planning- Karen Nicklas asked for an update on plans for holding the State Convention. Naomi Knight shared that UMES will not be holding events on campus this spring and summer.

Elizabeth Knight was introduced and shared that she is working with the Maryland FFA State Officer team and Staff in the coordinating of a virtual State Convention. She shared that the convention will be held over four days with one session each day being posted through You tube and Facebook.

Jill Allen shared that the Officer team is working on planning the Convention. She noted that students receiving their State FFA Degrees, American FFA Degrees and Proficiency awards would be recognized. State Officers will present their Retiring Addresses and FFA Advisor recognition will be included.

Karen Nicklas asked if students are on Facebook or if You tube may be the best platform.

Amy Jo Poffenberger noted that Facebook would be a good outlet for parents and other supporters to be able to view the convention.

Emily Muller shared that having students view the Convention should not be an issue since they could do this on their own time and their participation was not being required.

Other items: Amy Jo Poffenberger shared that holding election of student Chapter officers was going to be a challenge as teachers in her school system were not allowed to hold “video chats/conferences” with students.

State Officer Nominating Committee appointments: Emily Muller will represent the Board of Directors; Brenda White will represent the MD FFA Alumni and Karen Nicklas will serve on the committee as the Board of Directors Chairman.

Gift of Blue Program: Amy Jo Poffenberger asked about the status of members receiving their FFA jackets through the Gift of Blue program. Terrie Shank has the FFA jackets and will be mailing them to the advisors for distribution to the members.

Terrie Shank reminded the Board members that State FFA Degree applications will still need to be emailed to her by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. National Chapter Awards are also due at that time and can be submitted with the completion of events pending. All activities will need to be completed prior to those applications being submitted to National FFA.

Board members were reminded of the upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings: Location, date and time for Board of Directors Meetings:

Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.- location or platform to be determined.

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.- MAFC-925 North East Street, Frederick \*new date\*

With no further business to be discussed, Emily Muller moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy Jo Poffenberger seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terrie Shank*

Terrie Shank, Executive Director  
Maryland FFA Association