

Minutes-Maryland FFA Board of Directors
MidAtlantic Farm Credit
August 15, 2019 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call Number: 443-339-3131

Richard O'Hara, Karen Myers, Quinn Martin, Tom Mazzone, Brenda White, Robert Dinsmore, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Rylee McConville, Jason Watt, Greg Stull, Jill Allen, Sydnie Grossnickle, Sierra Wean, Terrie Shank, Naomi Knight, Karen Nicklas, Joe Linthicum. George Mayo participated via the conference line.

Call to Order-Chairman, Richard O'Hara called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 11, 2019 meeting. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to approve the minutes as presented, Karen Nicklas seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report-Laura Ramsburg presented the report for the Association. Karen Myers moved to accept the report and file it for audit. Quinn Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Financial update- Outstanding Invoices: Naomi Knight shared that reminders were sent to Chapters with outstanding balances more than 30 days overdue. Regional Coordinators were also informed of the outstanding balances for the chapters in their region.

State Officer Report- Sydnie Grossnickle, 2018-2019 President and Jill Allen, 2019-2020 President presented the officer report. Sydnie highlighted the events Sydnie thanked the Board members for their dedication to the Association and support of the members of the 2018-2019 team. Jill shared that Sierra Wean, Mallory Anderson and she will serve as the Maryland official state delegates at the National FFA Convention.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

FFA MOU with 4-H and Farm Bureau-George Mayo reported that there has been no progress with the 4-H/FFA MOU. He will continue to follow up as there is a change in the leadership of Maryland 4-H. The Farm Bureau MOU has been approved and we are waiting on a date to be set for the signing.

Technology for State Officers-Terrie shared a bid received from. Amy Jo asked if a video editing program should be included in the software package. Terrie was asked to do some more research on the purchase or rental of computers.

Review of Summer CDE- Quinn shared that she thought the events ran smoothly. Dairy cattle evaluation had more heifer classes than cow classes which was a concern. The tent where the dairy evaluation CDE was held was crowded with the FFA and visiting 4-H teams. Karen Myers asked if we should be partnering with another state to hold our summer livestock events?

Review of State Convention- All

Participation-Naomi shared that total participant numbers were up by 10 participants this year over last. Single day participants- Discussion was held around setting a price and allowing for students to attend on one single day. Naomi shared Jodi Callahan's concerns about students having to come and stay. Students work, live close by and don't want to stay overnight.

Costs-Laura shared information on the income and expenses of the convention in 2018 vs. 2019.

Alumni-Brenda White- Alumni Board would like to see more attendance from students in the local area. They liked the fact that convention was in a different part of the State. The food was good, holding the career development events on same floor of building was a plus. The Alumni Board suggested starting on Monday-Thursday instead of Sunday. They also suggested that everyone bring their own towels and bedding. The Ice Cream social was well attended, and they would like to hold that again next year. Another suggestion was to contract Shuttle buses to transport people from the Student Center to the event locations and housing. They thought the schedule was well planned. UMES was accommodating. The location of the FFA shopping area was good. Income was down \$1,000 over past convention sales. (Sales were up at Spring Judging.)

Jason Watt-Poultry CDE at UMES was good, facility was great. He felt that we were missing an opportunity to have students tour the facilities and meet with Ag business partners from that area. He would like to see a opportunity like this implemented next year. He realized that off-site transportation will need to be arranged. Karen Myers asked if Industry folks could help to sponsor buses?

Foundation Board- Jason Watt-The MD FFA Foundation would like to award more scholarships for students to attend the convention. Applications received from students were below the number applications to be awarded.

Day of Service- Amy Jo Poffenberger shares that her students enjoyed the experience. There needs to be additional opportunities for the students and more details about the service tasks provided ahead of time. UMES required a special waiver for people to travel on shuttle.

Workshops- It was suggested that different workshops be held during the morning and afternoon.

Volunteer Surveys- results were shared by Terrie. Very positive feedback was received from those who judged and assisted with the events.

Student Feedback- Sydnie Grossnickle shared that the feedback her officer team received was positive. Students did indicate that they preferred a hotel to the dorms as they aren't used to being in a dorm setting. Have a check list for the students. Recommend having students bring their own towels and bedding. CDE facility was good. The dorms ran out of the drinks by the last day. There was no chocolate milk after the first day in the dining hall for meals. The Ice cream machine was slow. There were no trash cans/trash bags for the dorm rooms.

Other Feedback from Regional Coordinators- Quinn Martin-Advisors should have access to a refrigerator for storing drinks for students. There needs to be a communication channel, "remind or Group Me" application for alerting Advisors of changes to the convention schedule ie. The time dinner was served the one night.

Other items: Naomi asked if the convention program should be online instead of a printed, hand held copy. Jason- Farm Bureau uses an electronic program, maybe MD FFA could find out more information from Farm Bureau staff. Karen Nicklas manages a similar application for the Great Frederick Fair. Applications don't always change with the updates. Maybe there should be an event page on Maryland FFA Facebook.

Safety issues focused on students walking on the Road to the student center and back to their dorms- Can there be a shuttle to dorms and CDE/LDE sites? Water needs to be available in dorms for students.

New Business:

Big E Participation-Registrations are due today. Thus far there are 5 chapters with 30 students registered to ride on the bus.

Reimbursements for CDE teams traveling to National Convention-Laura reported that following the National Convention, an Invoice will be sent to the chapter advisors asking for verification of student participation in the National Convention. The invoice will be due back to Laura by December 15th for payment to the chapter in support of student participation.

Regional Delegates: 4 students/region @ \$75 is supported by the Maryland Agriculture Fair Board funding.

Support for CDE Superintendents to Attend the National Convention- Amy Jo brought forward a request from Region 2 Advisors for CDE/LDE Superintendents to be supported to attend the National FFA Convention to see the events. Karen Nicklas suggested that Superintendents share with their committee upon return. Amy Jo moved that the Board add funding in the budget to support Superintendents to attend the NC in 2020. Quinn seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Superintendent Guidelines-Draft was shared by Terrie-feedback is requested by the next meeting.

Delegate Proposals-Sydney Grossnickle presented the 4 proposals from the State Convention Delegates.

CDE/LDE Committees

Convention Review Committee

Community Outreach

Regional Ambassadors

(All four delegate reports are attached.)

Regional Ambassadors- Karen Myers asked if there are ways to communicate with members? Richard shared that this would burden the State Officers to manage this program and are reaching out to those members they know. The challenge is having communication between State Officers (18 yrs.) with minors. Karen- at COLT maybe the Chapter Officers should be aware of how to find information. Quinn asked if the State Officers were again this year identifying chapters they are directly supporting. Amy Jo could the list of State Officers and their contact chapters be shared with Advisors. There are some issues of student emails being blocked from receiving outside information.

Karen Nicklas moved to table the vote on the delegate proposals to the next meeting. Tom Mazzone seconded the motion and the motion passed. Discussion and vote on the delegate proposals will be tabled until the next meeting in November.

Competition policies-Karen Nicklas asked: IF there is only ONE team, do they HAVE To go to nationals? In some cases, the only competing team receives a very poor score/is not prepared and is there any policy that says they MUST go represent the state at convention or is / should there be a policy stating a team must receive a certain % score or something? Creating some type of standard?

Training for the judges not familiar with the event in which they are judging needs to be held prior to the event. Competent judges for the various events need to be secured. Regional Coordinators could help to recommend judges from their regions for service at State events.

Amy Jo asked about the Ag Sales CDE- did all students from the team present to the same judge? Did they not get split between judges? Terrie will contact the Superintendents to inquire how the event was run.

Quinn- What is the % score achieved in the state events for each team that placed 1st in 2019? Naomi will research the scores possible and that which was achieved. She will share at the next Board meeting. Karen Myers suggested that we don't set the bar too high to start. Jason Watt moved to table the discussion to the next meeting and have information presented to form a standard for CDE/LDE events. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion and the motion passed. This item will be added to the November agenda.

2020 State Convention-

Recommended dates: travel on Monday, June 22nd or Tuesday, June 23rd with the event held June 23rd -26th or travel on Sunday, June 28th with the event held June 29th-July 2nd

Location- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

Registration fee full convention vs. a one-day attendance fee:

Add a boxed diner on Sunday night or the first night when schools travel to the convention.

Karen Nicklas moved to have a single day registration fee. Amy Jo second the motion. Karen Myers moved to table a decision until the next meeting. There were inquiries as to the student just coming to pick up an award, should there be a cost to the student/parent to attend or not? What about the student who wants to come for a day?

Richard asked for volunteers to be on the Convention Planning Committee- Karen Myers, Laura Ramsburg, Karen Nicklas, Naomi Knight, Jill Allen, Rylee McConville.

Karen Myers moved that the convention be held at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore with the first choice of dates June 28-July 1st. Amy Jo seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Appointment of a Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee- Amy Jo Poffenberger, Tom Mazzone, Richard O'Hara, Terrie Shank, Ryan Mondonedo & Jill Allen

Other items:

Dates for Fall events needs to be sent out to teachers soon.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for FFA Board:

Thursday, November 21st- 6pm MAFC Tuesday, January 21st – Annual Meeting Village Tavern

Thursday, March 26th-6pm MAFC Thursday, May 7th-6pm MAFC

Thursday, August 13th- 3pm MAFC

With no further business to be discussed, Karen Nicklas moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Shank

Terrie Shank

MD FFA Executive Director