

Maryland FFA Board of Directors  
November 21, 2019 6:00 p.m.  
MidAtlantic Farm Credit  
925 North East Street, Frederick, MD 21701  
Conference Call Number: 443-339-3131

Richard O'Hara, Tom Hawthorne, Robert Dinsmore, Brenda White, Karen Nicklas, Laura Ramsburg, Emily Muller, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Naomi Knight, Susanne Zilberfarb, Quinn Martin, Jim Ferrant, Jason Watt, Karen Myers, Jill Allen, Ryan Mondonedo, Mallory Anderson, Jaclyn Bryant, Terrie Shank. Phoning in: Richard Stonebraker.

Chairman, Richard O'Hara called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

The Minutes from the August 15, 2019 Board meeting were presented. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved to accept the minutes as presented. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Laura Ramsburg. An accounting of profit/loss was shared. Laura also presented a Budget summary so that the Board members were aware of the financial standing of the Association as of this meeting. Robert Dinsmore moved to approve the report as presented and file for audit. Karen Myers seconded the motion and the report will be filed for audit.

Financial update- Outstanding Invoices: Naomi Knight shared that overall, the outstanding balances were minimal. Most outstanding accounts were for membership and regional leadership conference participation.

State Officer Report- Jill Allen, President and Ryan Mondonedo, Vice-President presented an update of the State Officer activities.

#### Committee Reports:

#### Unfinished Business:

4-H/FFA MOU-Susanne Zilberfarb shared the status of the document. Terrie Shank will contact Dr. Nia Imani Fields to set up a meeting and finalize the MOU for signing.

MOU between Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland FFA Association- Terrie Shank shared that she has been in contact with Parker Welch and the document is to be signed on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. at the MD Farm Bureau Convention.

#### 2019 State Delegate Recommendations

CDE/LDE Review Committee- Delegates felt that the state contests are not held to the same standards as national CDE and LDEs and that same day entries are competing with no score penalty, allotted resources and time are limited. Veterinary Science and Floriculture Career Development Events are not qualifying Career Development Events and cause inefficiency at the state level.

Therefore, the Delegates would like state contest mirror national contest standards at a smaller scale and same day entries will not be permitted to compete at career and leadership development events.

Floriculture and Veterinary Science become regional qualifying Career Development Events much like agricultural mechanics that allow only three teams to qualify from each region to compete at the state contest.

It was shared by those Board members who serve on CDE committees that they try to make the events smaller versions of the National CDE, held within the time and facility constraints of the day. Naomi Knight assured the Board members that new participation, who show up onsite the day of the events are not accepted. Only substitutions of students which are made by the Advisor at the time of check in. Concerns were expressed by Board members about who would plan and conduct five regional Veterinary Science or Floriculture events of equal quality and wouldn't that be limiting student engagement in these events? Tom Hawthorne moved to not pursue the recommendations. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Community Outreach Committee- The Delegates recommended that the state association continue to host the state-wide community service project at the state convention and that the top 3 chapters who participated by bringing in donations be recognized with monetary rewards and that the state association project will be an Oyster Bed Building Workshop at each Regional Leadership Conference. Terrie Shank shared that she had contacted the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and they are not currently accepting artificial oyster beds. There was consensus by Board members that holding a community service project during the State Convention was beneficial. It was also felt that Chapters should not have to be recipients of monetary awards to perform/participate in the community service project. Amy Jo Poffenberger moved that the Board not pursue the recommendation as presented. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Regional Ambassador Committee- Requested the establishment of regional student officers to work in relaying information from the State FFA Officers to Chapter Officers. There were concerns expressed about how these Regional Ambassadors would be selected? How many would there be? What would be their responsibilities? Whom would be responsible for their supervision? After some discussion including a suggestion from Quinn Martin that the State Officers be assigned to chapters and that they meet with those Chapter members during the COLT Conference to help establish communications with the Chapter student leaders. Emily Muller moved not to support the recommendation. Karen Myers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Convention Review Committee- FFA Members expressed their concerns about the 2019 Convention which included: The insufficient housing accommodations and utilities. There is an overlapping of schedules and lack of transition time between events. There are issues traveling on a weekend due to traffic. There is a lack of member participation due to certain CDE locations being moved. Therefore, the Delegates would like the following improvements to take place at the 2020 State Convention: Clean water is always accessible to members, more time is allotted for members to transition between events including but not limited to Career/ Leadership Development Events, meals, and sessions. The Convention dates are moved to Monday through Thursday to avoid traffic and the Floriculture and Environmental Natural Resources will be moved back to state convention. The Board discussed the recommendations. The 2020 Convention has already been scheduled to be held on Tuesday to Thursday. Terrie Shank shared that the Floriculture and Environmental and Natural Resource CDE were moved at the request of the event Superintendents. Floriculture will remain at the Spring judging date and Environmental Natural Resources prior to the State Convention. Robert Dinsmore moved to refer the recommendations to the Convention planning Committee. Quinn Martin seconded the motion and the items of concern will be reviewed by the committee.

Amy Jo Poffenberger shared a concern that the MD FFA Facebook, Twitter, Instagram accounts still have the 2018-2019 State Officers information and they need to be updated. Richard O'Hara suggested having a #ignitemdfffa attached to each post. Amy Jo also shared that Frederick County Public Schools only recognizes Twitter. State Officers need to have access to the social media and be posting regularly to create a following.

## Policies for Career and Leadership Development Events-

Naomi Knight was requested to gather information on the scores of the Maryland FFA CDE/LDE teams in 2019 events. She shared a document listing the scores achieved/ total score possible of the first-place teams in each CDE/LDE event held during the past year. There was much discussion about having a minimum score set for a team or individual to achieve to represent Maryland FFA and advance to the next level, being the only team or individual in an event should not automatically lead to advancement if the demonstration of skills is not at a competitive level.

Quinn Martin moved that "A floor of 50% be set for State Career Development Events /Leadership Development Events teams and individuals to be eligible for advancement to out of state events. Should the scores be below the 50%, the team/individual would be eligible to participate at the state event again in future years. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion.

Discussion on the issue included: State FFA Officers Jaclyn Bryant and Mallory Anderson sharing that they, as chapter members, would study to compete in events and sometimes the other two or three students on their teams may not be as serious about the event, thus the team score is lower. Ryan Mondonedo agreed that 50% is a reasonable level for students to reach. Amy Jo Poffenberger suggested that a minimum number of objectives be established for teams to meet prior to moving forward to represent the State.

With no further discussion, a vote of eight in support of the motion, three against the motion were casted. The Motion passes.

Tom Hawthorne moved to establish a CDE/LDE standing committee with a minimum of three members to establish guidelines for events. Quinn Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed. Richard O'Hara appointed the following individuals to serve on the Committee: Tom Hawthorne-chairman, Jim Ferrant, Karen Myers, Jaclyn Bryant, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Quinn Martin. Non-voting: Terrie Shank and Naomi Knight.

Single Day Registration fee for State FFA Convention was requested by Regional Coordinator Jodi Callahan-How much would it be? What would be included? After discussion about the costs of events, meals, workshops, tours and activities held during the convention which need to be covered by each person who attends, Quinn Martin moved that the single day registration fee be 1/3 of the total convention cost and that meals for that day be included. Karen Nicklas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### New Business:

Review of participation at the following events was shared:

#### Eastern States Exposition held September 12-15, 2019 @ Springfield, MA

There was a smaller group attending this year representing Maryland, but the Chapter members did extremely well in their events. Three Members who were Maryland State Stars were honored on Saturday each receiving a plaque and check for \$250.00. The State FFA Officers assisted with the CDE/LDE during the weekend and State Secretary Sierra Wean served as an officer for the awards banquet.

COLT Conference held October 11-13 @ River Valley Ranch. Terrie Shank asked if this conference should be continued as the fall is busy and some chapters were not permitted to attend the camp site selected. There was discussion and the consensus that this conference benefited many chapters and members was shared. Amy Jo Poffenberger suggested that other venues be contacted, and a 4-year rotation of sites be implemented. Possible sites for the COLT Conference: could be Camp Hashawha-Westminster,

Summit Lake and Round Meadow in the Catoctin Mountains, the Claggett Center in Buckeystown, Mar-Lu-Ridge in Jefferson and Skycroft in Myersville.

National Convention held October 29-November 1, 2019 @ Indianapolis, IN

Naomi Knight shared the results of the CDE/LDE teams who participated in the National Convention events. Maryland State President Jill Allen and State Secretary Sierra Wean and State Sentinel Mallory Anderson served as official voting delegates at the Convention. State Treasurer, Rylee McConville was the flag bearer for the opening session. State Sentinel, Mallory Anderson, a member of the National FFA Speak Ag team, presented a student workshop on Friday morning. Fourteen members received their American Degrees on Saturday. Maryland CDE Superintendents Dr. Melissa Welch-Agronomy, Mrs. Ann Platou-Food Science, Dr. Brooke Ridinger-Vet. Science and Executive Director Terrie Shank-Marketing Plan served on CDE teams during the convention.

Regional Leadership Conferences held throughout the State with 779 members from 37 Chapters attending this year. Workshops focused on Risk Management, "Who are You", Telling your Ag Ed Story, "Speak Ag" Advocating for Agriculture and "The Places You'll Go" Opportunities in the FFA and Ag. Education. Teachers attended the SAE For All workshop and received instructional materials for helping students as they implement their SAE projects.

Establishment of Board Committees:

2020 State Convention Planning Committee- Naomi Knight- Chairman members: Karen Myers, Laura Ramsburg, Karen Nicklas, Jill Allen, Rylee McConville, Terrie Shank.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee-Richard O'Hara-Chairman, Jill Allen, Ryan Mondonedo, Amy Jo Poffenberger, Tom Mazzone, Quinn Martin, Richard Stonebraker and Terrie Shank.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6 p.m.- Annual Meeting, Mt. Airy Tavern, Twin Oaks Shopping Center

Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.- MAFC-Frederick

Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.-MAFC-Frederick

Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.-MAFC-Frederick

With no further business to be transacted, Robert Dinsmore moved to adjourn the meeting. Emily Mueller seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terrie Shank*

Terrie Shank, Executive Director