

**Pennsylvania FFA Association
Board of Directors
Meeting December 13th, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Crystal Bomgardner at 11:35 PM and the State Officer Team conducted opening ceremonies. In attendance were Crystal Bomgardner, Clayton Hetrick, Rebecca Lehman, Grace McCarty, Maggie McAteer, Grace Brammer, Madeline Musser, Mike Brammer, Alex Barzydlo, Casey McMasters, James Winklosky, Sherisa Nailor, Natalie Barkley, Doug Masser, Carole Fay, Chris Davis, Jodi Hoover, Renee Cambuzzi, Adam Serfass, Dr. Kevin Curry, Curt Turner, Melanie Berndtson, and Nathan Schanbacher.

McAteer/Musser moved to accept the minutes presented from the August meeting. Motion passed. Winklosky/Barzydlo moved to concur. Motion passed.

Reports of Officers/Staff and Standing Committees:

Executive Director Report: Mr. Brammer presented the year-to-date financial report. It will be filed for audit.

State Officer Team Report: Lehman, Musser, and McAteer presented the State Officer report. They went over what the team has been doing since the last board meeting in August and what the team is looking forward to for the remainder of the year. They touched on key upcoming events including the Mid-Winter Convention and the ACES Conference.

Standing Committees:

CDE/LDE Committee:

1. Barzydlo reported that the committee has been meeting monthly. She asked for help in prioritizing universal cell phone policy, universal dress code, and middle school LDEs and CDEs. Maybe establish a sub committee with middle school teachers. Need to find which one to take action on first. Recommended guidelines for a cell phone policy at state convention competitions. Discussion of applying potential categories for competitions that give guidelines depending on which type of dress is required.
2. There was a suggestion to form a special committee to establish an order of sequence in creating a new CDE/LDE. A member from the foundation, a member from the board, and the CDE committee should be on the special committee as well as two teachers. *Barzydlo/Cambuzzi made a motion to form a special committee to develop board policy on creating and implementing CDEs and LDEs which will report to the current CDE and LDE committee. McMasters will chair the committee with Barzydlo, Cambuzzi and two additional at large teachers. (Northern and Eastern Region). Motion passes. Hetrick/G. Brammer moved to concur. Motion Passes.*

A 30 minute recess was taken at 12:30 PM . The meeting resumed at 1:05 PM.

CDE/LDE Committee Continued: *Barzydlo continued by presenting the report on the Veterinary Science CDE. The committee recommends this for approval to change Pennsylvania's set-up to mirror National FFA. Motion passes. Hetrick/Musser moved to concur. Motion passed.*

SAE Committee: Nailor reviewed the current Keystone State Degree process. She thanked the regional coordinators and Carole Fay for their help. She is leaving her teacher position as of January 5, 2024. She would like to stay on as the chair of the SAE Committee at least through the spring. She will know more in March. No objections noted. She also talked about Courtesy Corps chair position – Same will apply – Will report back in March – No objections noted.

Reports of Special Committees:

Strategic Planning: Dr. Curry presented that the committee met to discuss the survey and idea of collection in the spring.

Charter Committee: *McCarty/G. Brammer made a motion to approve Schuylkill Valley as a new chapter. Motion passes. Cambruzzi/Hetrick moved to concur. Motion passes. McCarty/G. Brammer made a motion to approve Spring Grove as a new chapter. Motion passes. Hetrick/Winklosky move to concur. Motion passes.*

State Convention Review Committee: Masser reported that the committee met early in the spring to reevaluate what occurs at state convention. A survey was conducted to get opinions from teachers on what they would like to see. Brought up some possible suggestions to restructure events at the state level to assist in teacher burn-out. These ideas will be presented to Team Ag Ed for additional ideas. The special committee will remain in place.

Unfinished business:

New business:

Approval of Keystone State Degrees: *Lehman/Hetrick move to accept the approval of the 504 Keystone State Degrees as printed. Motion passes. Barzydlo/Masser move to concur. Motion passes.*

Approval of Honorary and Distinguished Parent Awards: *Hetrick/Musser move to accept passes. Barzydlo/Winklosky move to concur. Motion passes.*

Delegate Issues:

- **Creating a Statewide Community Service Project:** *Lehman/Hetrick move to propose a statewide community service project. Motion passes. Winklosky/Bomgardner move to concur. Motion passes.*
- **Create a JAMS Conference (Junior ACES for Middle Schools):** *Hetrick/McCarty move to implement a conference focusing on middle school students to be piloted in 2025. Motion passes. Bomgardner/Barzydlo moved to concur. Motion passes. Also suggested to create a committee with middle school teachers to advise on the agenda. They could be included on the middle school CE/LDE committee.*
- **Create a Hydroponics and Horticulture CDE:** *McCarty/Hetrick moved to create a Horticulture CDE and for it to be referred to the CDE/LDE committee. Motion passes. Hetrick/Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion fails. Cambuzzi/Hoover referred to the document as it reads to the CDE committee for review to be presented by August. They will be provided delegate documents from the 2023 delegates. Motion passes. McCarty/G. Brammer moved to concur. Motion passes.*
- **Create material for schools without AG ED/FFA:** *State Officer team decision was to push this delegate proposal to the March board meeting to allow for further discussion.*

Good of the Order:

Regional Coordinators:

Northern- Turner reported that the regional public speaking will be held April 16th. Could include an environmental science CDE at the regional level.

South Central- Barkley reported that the regional speaking will be on April 17th.

Western Region- Wallace-Not in attendance.

Eastern- Frederick not in attendance. Written report provided. Masser reported there was a fall CDE day with high participation dates. Keystone degree review comments. Future dates for CDEs April 11 & April 16.

PA FFA Foundation: McMasters reported that for Farm Show they are seeking students to volunteer for the Foundation food booth. Learning by Doing Grant winners to be announced in a few days. Foundation Board needs three new trustees, so they are looking for recommendations, volunteers, or suggestions. Applications will be coming in March.

Agriculture Education Specialist: Davis reported that reapprovals are occurring. There are approximately 170 approved programs. Judd Pitman is in a new position as the Director of the Bureau of Career & Technical Education.

SAE Specialist: Fay referred to the report in the packet. A teacher-needs survey was conducted on the need for SAE or AET assistance. Fay has been traveling the state assisting with Keystone and American degrees. Working on State Star competitions via interviews December 18th. American Degrees due February 15th. AET has developed a

State Degree and Star Applications that can help clear up confusion and incomplete submissions. Proficiency applications are coming up.

PAAE: Report in the packet.

PA FFA Alumni: Nailor reported that there will be 970 jackets given out at the Mid-Winter Convention. Largest one-time jacket order in the history of National FFA. WLC scholarship applications are out.

Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report: Dr. Curry reported that there are 8 in the 2024 graduation class that presented their final presentations this week. Looking for hosts for student teachers for the 2025 year.

Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence- Mr.Fitzpatrick was not in attendance. Written report is in the packet.

Announcements:

Future Dates: Bomgardner reported dates for 2023-2024 events.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES:

Mar 13, (State College), May 15, (TBD), June 12-13 at Convention

The Mid-Winter Convention will be January 8th, 2024.

ACES will be January 27-28, February 10th-11th, 17th-18th, 24th-25th 2024.

SLLC will be March 24th-26th 2024.

State Convention and Activities Week will be June 11th-13th 2024.

Closing ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mike Brammer,
PA FFA Executive Director**

**Rebecca Lehman,
PA FFA State Secretary**