December 4, 2015

To PAAE Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the NAAE National Convention and act as a voting delegate. I attended Region VI Meetings and presented President Bittner’s PAAE Report. Reminder, Ideas unlimited winner will need to present at the April 29-30 Region VI meeting in Trenton, NJ. Scott Stone, Missouri Ag Science teacher and former PA FFA State Officer was elected President Elect for NAAE.

ACTE General Session included Tara Berescik , New York Ag Science teacher speaking of her career and the eyes that watch her. She spoke positively of being a role model in her community by being an Ag Science teacher. Jason Wetzler, former National FFA Officer, and Oklahoma University student, spoke on teacher recruitment. He said we need a positive spin to bring more teachers into the Agriculture teaching field. Kid chef, Eliana, spoke of the excitement of coming through CTE for her education and career.

Some of the workshops with good takeaways included…

“No job is worth a young worker’s life” Careersafe online safety company presented stats on youth injuries on the job. They provide a 10hr OSHA training program for youth. The cost is $25 per student. The certification is good nationwide and is lifetime. They currently have a scholarship program for 4000 free classes nationwide (check their website). PDE has indicated Ag Programs need their students to have more certifications before graduation, so this may be a good option for some programs. Contact [www.careersafeonline.com](http://www.careersafeonline.com)

“Put the POWER back into Agriculture Power and Technology” by Randy Cook, instructor at Jenks, OK. Randy went from a small school to a large school and has had to adapt to large numbers and high technology skills of incoming students. I hope to get Randy to post some on COP. To be creative and hands on with STEM or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, “AG” and Math) he created some unique units. His students make leather belts and buckles, ceramic tile coffee tables, wind chimes and all forms of furniture out of 2” x 4”s.

Interactive Gaming for Your Learners: Pest Management by Kelly Lowery and Dr. Kerry Richards. Their latest update to the games are on their website! Go to the [Penn State Pesticide Education Program website](http://extension.psu.edu/pests/pesticide-education). On the right-hand side, there is a Spotlight section with a link for [Quiz Show Games](http://extension.psu.edu/pests/pesticide-education/educators/extension-educators-inspectors/quiz-show) that displays [Pest Management for High School Students](https://cloud.c3softworks.com/play.php?game_id=5510338fc469885c7e000002) and [Pesticide Basics for High School Students](https://cloud.c3softworks.com/play.php?game_id=551033aec469885802000001). These games can only be played in single player mode. There is still the option to print a certificate if an 80% or better is scored.

Overall, there were dozens of great workshops for a broad spectrum of Ag and Ag Science programs. I would encourage PAAE members to pay theirs NAAE dues and compete in the awards programs and DuPont scholarships. The fellowship and enthusiasm of the Conference is impressive. You return to your school with new goals for you and your program!

Cliff Wallace, Mohawk High School