



Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators
PO Box 61861
Harrisburg, PA 17106



Executive Board Meeting
Cumberland Valley High School
January 4, 2020
9:00 am

Attendance: Darla Romberger, Kacey Rice, Adam Serfass, Dianna Jarema, David Steinfeld, Hannah Harris, Laura Metrick, Carly Rippole, Robyn Bechtel, Meagan Smyers, Melanie Berndtson, Janae McMichael

Absent: Brian Campbell, Carole Fay
Called to order at 9:05 AM.

Executive Committee Reports

- **President—Darla Romberger**
 - Welcomed Janae McMichael as Eastern Region Vice-President to replace Kacey Rice. McMichael will lead Professional Growth committee.
 - Romberger reminded the group about the date of our next meeting on Sunday, March 15th from 12:00-3:00 pm at SLLC in Harrisburg
 - An update from partner organizations was provided (PA FFA Board, PA FFA Foundation, Ag Ed Commission, and PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation). Kacey Rice will be transitioning as our rep to the PA FFA Board.
 - An updated was provided regarding the tax amendments over the past months. The tax amendments were filed in the wrong tax year, so we were receiving statements indicating we still owed funds. Romberger provided Power of Attorney to Boyer & Ritter on 10/17/19 so they could make inquiries and corrections on our behalf. This was completed due to wait times on the phone (2-3 hours). In November/December, taxes were filed in the correct year by Boyer and Ritter. Notifications received in late December indicating the “failure to file” penalty for TY 2016 and TY 2018 (still waiting for TY 2015 and TY 2017 to be processed). Romberger made recommendation to file an abatement letter for TY 2016 and TY 2018 to alleviate these funds. Rice moved to file an abatement letter immediately. Jarema second. Motion carried
- **Past-President—Dianna Jarema**
 - Jarema provided an update about a presentation to a PSU Grad class and attendance at the NAAE Convention. Sherisa Nailor (Big Spring) was elected NAAE President-Elect
 - She will be working with Lancaster Farming to increase visibility of PAAE work and inquire why press releases for award winners were not published

- **President-Elect—Kacey Rice**
 - Rice reported on her attendance at the Penn State Advisory Meeting in December and PA Preferred Reception last evening
 - Offered to assist any committees that need manpower or guidance
- **Membership Chair—Kacey Rice**
 - A current report is posted on the PAAE Website. As of 12/31, there are 131 members
 - She will be making changes to the form in coming months to more accurately report demographic information to NAAE
- **Executive Secretary—Vacant**
- **Treasurer—Brian Campbell**
 - No report. All outstanding membership invoiced paid as of today.
 - Expecting receipts from NAAE trip attendees

Representative Reports

- **SAE Specialist—Carole Fay**
 - A written report was provided. Report emphasized the need to replace Ag Ed Specialist position in Department of Education.
- **Penn State—Dr. John Ewing**
 - Dr. Curry is the new Student-Teacher Coordinator as the 2020 cohort begins their student teaching internship
 - Center for PPD is planning to provide \$3500 in conference start-up funds as Summer Conference planning begins
 - PAAE will be approached to present at end-of-year Teach Ag picnic

Committee Reports

- **Member Services—Meagan Smyers**
 - The AgriScience Inquiry Institute was held November 15-17 at Cumberland Valley High School with 14 attendees and 4 presenters. Good feedback from participants
 - Committee has funds remaining to host the 4th Annual “Run Across PA” challenge. Will report back with outline for event at March Board meeting
- **Marketing Committee—Robyn Bechtel**
 - Apparel orders have been collected, invoices sent, and ready for distribution at Mid-Winter Convention on Monday. 18 members ordered.
 - Stickers were also ordered and will be provided to all paid members at ACES. Additional stickers available for \$1 each

- **Strategic Planning—David Steinfelt**
 - Steinfelt will continue to work with Nate Schanbacher to update the document as committees are completing their designated tasks and follow-up as needed to keep committees on task
 - Steinfelt reminded the group that Scott Sheely is Interim Director for Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence. We need to proactively develop a working relationship with Scott in the coming weeks

- **Public Policy—Laura Metrick**
 - Metrick reminded about the opportunity to attend the National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC (March 29-April 1). Each state receives a complimentary registration and PAAE has funding for an additional representative.
 - No movement on hiring a lobbyist for 2019-20 fiscal year.

- **Policy and By-Laws—Carly Rippole**
 - No meeting occurred in December. Aiming for the 3rd weekend of ACES to gather the committee in-person.

- **Finance—Adam Serfass**
 - Serfass provided the proposed 2020-21 budget to the board for previewing. We will be adopting the budget at the March board meeting. Any changes, please contact Serfass directly so he can compile and discuss.
 - Romberger discussed the upcoming 3-Circle Summit in Indianapolis and sought permission to utilize remaining funds from NAAE budget line. Serfass moved to allow \$500 to cover costs from the 3-Circle Summit. Steinfelt second. Motion approved.

- **Professional Growth—Janae McMichael**
 - Award nominations were distributed for the group to review. Revisions and corrections were recorded due to years of service, paid dues, etc.
 - McMichael will be coordinating the Awards Selection.
 - Nominees will be contacted and asked to complete an application via Google.
 - Board members will evaluate each category by February 28th
 - Winners shared at the March Board meeting

- **Standing Special—Hannah Harris**
 - No report for Sunshine Committee.
 - Scholarship Committee has distributed the application to Penn State and Del Val.
 - Summer Conference is being held in Wellsboro, Tioga County on July 6-9, 2019. Melanie Berndtson provided an update to the board about current ideas for housing, tours, etc. The next planning meeting will take place at Wellsboro in late January.

Unfinished Business

- Romberger opened the floor for nominations for President-Elect. If anyone has ideas for candidates or would like to step forward from the board, please follow-up. Candidates should have a completed MOU by May 1.
- Discussion regarding establishment of communication methods for paid PAAE members ensued. Romberger, Harris, and McMichael will follow-up with procedures for an email account at March meeting. We shouldn't have to depend on other organizations to distribute our announcements.
- Discussion regarding the Executive Secretary position ensued. Most board members agreed an Executive Secretary is convenient for consistency and attention to details we can't provide while trying to balance teaching responsibilities. No action taken

New Business

- No new business

Announcements

- Next board meeting is March 15th at 12:00 pm at SLLC.
- Dates for Spring Regional Meetings
 - Northern—April 2nd at Williamsport Hoss's
 - Western—April 21st at Murraysville Hoss's
 - Eastern—April 16th at Mount Joy Farm Credit Office
 - South-Central—April 7th at Big Spring High School
- NAAE Region VI Conference is scheduled for July 12-15, 2020 in Maryland. We need to have some representation

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Darla Romberger
PAAE President