

**Pennsylvania FFA Association  
Board of Directors  
Meeting March 13th, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Crystal Bomgardner at 12:58 PM with the State Officer Team conducting opening ceremonies. In attendance were Crystal Bomgardner, Clayton Hetrick, Rebecca Lehman, Grace McCarty, Maggie McAteer, Grace Brammer, Madeline Musser, Mike Brammer, Doug Masser, Natalie Barkley, Michael Clark, Sherisa Nailor, Sarah Sparks, James Winklosky, Curt Turner, Adam Serfass, Jodie Hoover, Renee Cambuzzi, Carole Fay, Ron Frederick, Chris Davis, John Seaman, and Melanie Berndston.

***McAteer/McCarty moved to accept the minutes presented from the August meeting. Motion passed. Cambuzzi/Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion passed.***

**Reports of Officers/Staff and Standing Committees:**

**Executive Director Report:** Mr. Brammer presented some committee appointments for the Management, Budget/Joint Finance, and Nominating Committee east board representative.

**Management Committee: Masser, Serfass, Davis, PDA and PSU representative**

**Budget/Joint Finance: Brammer, Clark, Ranck, and Barzydlo**

**Nominating Committee:** Need business and industry reps from South Central and Western regions. PSO from the Northern region. Board representative from Eastern Region.

**National Officer Candidate Selection Committee:** Two board members needed. **Cambuzzi and Ranck volunteered.**

Brammer finished by presenting the financial report which will be filed for audit.

State Officer Team Report: Lehman, Hetrick, Bomgardner, and McCarty presented the State Officer Report. They touched on past, current, and future events being planned and the exciting things the State Officer team is putting together. A written report was provided.

**Standing Committees:**

**CDE/LDE Committee:** Barzydlo presented the report from a meeting that was held the previous day. Cell phone policy and dress code policy will be presented in May. The consequences will be in place with the cell phone policy and the area will be monitored for such. The dress code policy will have definitions as to what appropriate official dress and industry dress is. Having inappropriate dress will decrease points or have other consequences.

Creating CDE/LDEs for middle school students is being discussed.

Written report provided.

**Board recommendation for an Ag Communications CDE.** Complying with National FFA as they have taken away the media plan component. Media presentation would take place as the last item on the last day. All the work would be done at State Convention, none done prior to arriving.

***Motion to approve the changes to the Ag Communications CDE. Motion passes. McAteer/McCarty move to concur.***

**SAE Committee Chair:** Nailor presented her report on proficiency updates and Keystone Degree Application. Will make the application simpler and shorter. Create a Keystone Degree Evaluation Committee that does not include current teachers. Written report provided.

***Move to adopt a new version of the State FFA Degree: G Brammer/Musser moved. Motion passes. Hetrick/Hoover move to concur. Motion passes.***

***Move to create a Keystone Degree Evaluation Committee: G Brammer/McCarty moved. Motion passes. Bomgardner/Hetrick moved to concur. Motion passes.***

#### **Reports of Special Committees:**

**Strategic Planning:** Seaman had nothing to report on behalf of Dr. Curry

**State Convention Review Committee:** Masser had nothing to report.

**Middle School Programming Committee:** Brammer referred to the report in the packet. A One-day JAMS Conference to be held tentatively in 2025. Conversation of holding the conference regionally. Creating CDE/LDEs for middle school students.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

***Musser/McAteer moved to create materials for schools without AG ED/FFA. Motion passed. Hetrick/Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion passes. This information will be housed on the PA FFA web site.***

**ACES Review - Student Incident:** Brammer shared concerns brought by students, teachers, and school administrators. There were six recommendations provided to prevent these incidents from happening again.

1. The State Officer team should visit the school and sit with teachers and students to hear their concerns. **DONE!**
2. Send an email to teachers and advisors before an event to refresh on code of conduct, expectations from teachers and students, and process for requesting special meals for dietary restrictions.
3. Making an announcement at SLLC about student expectations and that we have a no tolerance policy for these actions and that there will be consequences. Courtesy Corps will be in charge of all incidents and making an announcement to students at the beginning of the event.
4. All SLLC students will wear a name tag. Students name, Advisor/Chaperone, and chapter included on the name tag.

5. All State Officers and Past State Officers undergo DEI training. **This happens at the beginning of their year of service and is ongoing throughout the year.**
6. Remind advisors to chaperone everyone and if you see something, say something

**Statewide Community Service Project:** Grace Brammer reported on the upcoming statewide community service project the State Officer team has planned for the month of April. Each county has a food bank that they can volunteer time or give food in order to accumulate for a competition.

#### **New Business:**

**Preview of SLLC:** McAteer presented information for SLLC and things to look forward to.

**Preview of Activities Week and Convention:** Brammer presented updates for State Convention. Registration should open April 1st. Deadline for registration is mid May.

**Board elections:** May meeting will need to elect President and Vice President for the adult board. South Central - Clark and Northern - Berndtson ending first term and will be up for reelection if desired.

#### **Good of the Order:**

##### **Regional Coordinators:**

**Northern Region** - Barzydlo reported for Turner. Northern Region CDE/LDE day on April 16th. Ag Awareness Day at Bloomsburg Fair May.

**South-Central Region** - Barkley reported about their regional speaking day April 17

**Eastern Region** - Frederick reported that the LDEs will be on April 11th. CDE day will be April 16th.

**Western Region** - Cambruzzi reported on behalf of Wallace that the regional speaking day will be on April 26th.

**PA FFA Foundation:** Sparks reported some numbers from the Farm Show food booth. Spoke about sponsors being recognized at Mid-Winter Convention. National FFA Week and Give FFA Day brought good participation and giving. Business and Industry visits at New Holland, Hughpharma, Stevens Feed, and the Covation Center. The Foundation is hiring a consultant to do a three- and ten-year plan to drive more funding. The location for the foundation golf outing has changed for 2024 to the Fairview Golf Course.

**Agriculture Education Specialist:** Davis reported that approvals are happening. Upward of forty-five schools will be visited next year.

**SAE Specialist:** Fay referred to the report in the folder and reminded that early submission for American Degrees is March 15th and Nationals approval date is June 15. This is the last year for graduates from 2021 to apply for the American Degree. Fay is looking for feedback for proficiency applications to bring to the National FFA SAE Based Award and Degree Revision Committee.

**PAAE:** Serfass referred to the report in the folder. Spring regional meetings are set. Running SOCS in conjunction with those meetings. 2024 PAAE Summer Conference will be held July 8-11 at Salisbury-Elk Lick. New PAAE logo for 2024. PAAE Award nominations were accepted through December 31st, 2023, and 63 total were submitted. Application numbers submitted are listed in the report. Personal Finance Graduation Requirement to find out what teachers are teaching to satisfy this graduation requirement. Region VI Conference March 22-24, 2024, in Harrisburg PA.

**PA FFA Alumni:** Nailor referred to the report in the folder and touched on some impressive numbers they were able to share.

**Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report:** Berndston reported on behalf of Dr. Curry.

**Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence** - Mr. Fitzpatrick provided a report in the folder.

**Announcements:**

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

FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES:

May 15, location TBD, June 12-13 at PSU 6:30am Headquarters

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 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Brammer  
Executive Director

Rebecca Lehman  
FFA State Secretary

# **CDE/LDE Committee Report - March 13, 2024**

The CDE/LDE Committee met on March 12. The Committee does not schedule a meeting in January and the February meeting was canceled due to calendar conflicts for the Chair.

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Plans are to prepare and bring a Universal Cell Phone Policy to the Board in May. Guidance was received from an individual with National FFA to set and communicate expectations and consequences for Cell Phone Use during Competitive Events and unapologetically follow through without intervening by collecting devices from students, etc. The Committee will be working to match National Events in terms of cell phone use resulting in a score deduction or disqualification.

## **Dress Code**

The Committee plans to bring guidelines to the Board in May regarding point deductions for student dress that does not meet the expectations of the CDE/LDE. The Committee is opposed to any disqualification of students based on their attire. In the event of a safety concern, alternate items should be provided for the student to wear and the point deduction assigned. The items brought in May will reflect this viewpoint and offer guidance on how much of a scoring impact attire should have on placing. There was a positive reaction to the guidance from the Board to have universal terminology/categories.

## **CDEs/LDEs for Middle School Students**

Discussion is underway based on feedback from the Middle School Programming Committee Meeting. The Committee Representative has been given some questions and potential concerns to share at the next meeting with the Middle School Programming Committee, but the initial response is positive with Competitive Event Chairs who sit on the Committee beginning to consider how they could provide some middle school options in the future, as early as 2025.

## **Board Recommendation - Ag Communications CDE**

The CDE/LDE Committee recommends that following changes be made to the Ag Communications CDE for States 2024:

- Remove the Media Plan component
- Adjust the Media Plan Presentation component to be focused on items created during the State Convention instead of on the Media Plan prepared in advance.

In the past, National FFA has released the topic to use for the Media Plan in advance, teams have prepared and submitted it in advance, and have then given a presentation about it on the first day of State Competition. Since National FFA is no longer using the Media Plan as part of the contest, a topic for this year has not, and will not be shared. While the Committee acknowledges that Policy dictates that any changes are past due for this year, we do not think it is reasonable to ask for students and advisors to do additional work that has not been assigned by Nationals. It should also be noted that the information about these proposed changes was not available from National FFA until after the deadline to submit changes in PA.

- Alex Barzydlo, Chair

# PA FFA SAE Committee Meeting

## February 28, 2024 ~ 4pm on Zoom

### Committee Members Present:

Sherisa Nailor – PA FFA Board Chairperson; Phil Haussener – Eastern Region; Laura Palmer – Western Region; Mikara Anderson – South Central Region; Brandon Witmer – Northern Region

### Guests Present:

Melanie Berndtson – Proficiency Chairperson; Carole Fay – SAE Specialist; Mike Brammer – FFA Executive Director

### I. Proficiency Updates

- a. Registrations are rolling in with one week to go
- b. Concern about non-teacher judges being submitted by chapters
  1. Do we need to provide training to those individuals?
  2. Should be pair them with experienced ag teachers?
- c. Melanie is verifying that AET is ready for evaluation with Roger

### II. Keystone FFA Degree

- a. New version of State Degree application reviewed from Fall meeting with AET
- b. Application appears more simple and shorter
  1. Checklist is customizable in items and values by state
- c. AET Record Books are included in application for review
  1. Concern that too much information is present
  2. Requesting AET reduce the full records to the following:
    - i. Section E – Activities \*needs modified for review
    - ii. Section F – SAE's \*description only
    - iii. Section I – Profit/Loss Statement by Year
- d. Evaluation of review process revealed many concerns
  1. Consistency
  2. Time commitment from evaluators
  3. Grudges and bias
  4. Anger and offense between teachers

### III. Report from SAE Specialist

- a. National FFA has Guidelines to Community Service
  1. Should we consider adopting?
- b. Concern about students who only have SAE course each year of high school, without any other classroom learning in agriculture education
  1. Mike Brammer and Chris Davis will get this information when it is found and bring recommendations for action, as needed, to the board

### IV. SAE for All

- a. Group of three attended National FFA Training in January
- b. Recommending full roll out beginning in July
- c. Full report and recommendation for implementation coming in May 2024

**V. Next SAE Committee Meeting**

- a. Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm (SLLC)
  - i. In person and virtual as needed

**VI. Recommendations to the Board**

- a. Adopt the new version of the State FFA Degree, to be tailored to PA requirements and guidelines. Final report of checklist requirements to be presented at the May Board of Directors meeting.
  
- b. Develop a state-wide committee to evaluate Keystone FFA Degrees. This committee could include, but is not limited to retired/former agriculture teachers, state staff, industry representatives, teacher educators, and pre-service teachers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sherisa Nailor  
SAE Committee Chair

# SAE Specialist Report to the FFA Board

March 13, 2024

Good Afternoon,

Since the last meeting I have chaired the State Star interview process.

We had 13 candidates and the judging event over zoom went smoothly. Thanks to Cliff and Curt for the help, this year. AET has a new Star application, similar to the State Degree application with the ability to set the checklist for each state. Waiting on the list from AET for review. I'll share with the board when I get it.

## **From the National FFA Weekly update:**

### ***American FFA Degree Early Submission Deadline Is March 15***

*The online submission deadline for state-approved American FFA Degree applications to be submitted to National FFA remains Thursday, Jun. 15. State-approved applications submitted by Friday, March 15, are guaranteed at least a two-week time frame to make corrections to rejected applications and to resubmit if desired. National FFA will try to provide correction opportunities for applications submitted after March 15 through May, but a resubmission opportunity is not guaranteed. The earlier an application is submitted for national review, the higher the chance it will be given an opportunity for corrections and resubmission if required.*

*Applications submitted in June cannot be corrected or resubmitted. If the application is rejected during national review, the applicant will not receive the degree. State associations may submit applications in multiple batches; there is no need to wait and submit applications in a single batch. Once state-reviewed and approved, applications can be submitted to National FFA through the online system.*

American Degree reviews have gone great, this year. 82 have been approved, 2 more are submitted and more are working. The applications get better every year. The earlier deadline of Feb. 15 and reviewing through March 15 seems to be working with no complaints. All of our applications have passed National FFA's reviews this year, with none returned for edits. The review process includes: emails to candidates and advisors, phone calls, zoom meetings and in person sessions.

This is the last year for 2021 graduates to apply. Because of the changes in FFA Advisors, I asked Roger H to pull a list of potential candidates for me and I made those contacts always copying advisors.

We have 2 Star Placement candidates, both have been approved for the Am Degree, I have pulled the pdf of the applications and shared them with 2 judges. When the winner is chosen, they will be notified and the alternate will have the option of pulling their American Degree application, this year and applying for Star next year. Next year, if I chair this process, again, I will set a deadline for Star applications.

## **Proficiency application:**

I am on the National FFA SAE Based Award and Degree Revision Committee and looking for feedback on the proficiency application. If you have any comments or hear any, let me know, the application and rubric are being reviewed for updates next year.



There may be a School based enterprise application and service learning application in the future.

The Agriscience proficiency application is being reviewed and revised by the AgriScience Fair Committee.

**PA Farm Show: January 4 to 11, 2025.**

Gathering edits to the Farm Show premium guide for 2025. Chris Davis will be collecting pre entries for the Farm Show in the fall. That information will be in the premium book.

Planning Zoom sessions on starting Market Livestock projects: Market/Entrepreneurship projects 101, March 20 and 21 from 3 to 4 pm.

Planning school and FFA event visits in the spring.

**Sincerely,**

**Carole Fay  
PA SAE Specialist**

**Supported by:  
Commission on Excellence in Ag Education  
Center for Professional and Personnel Development at Penn State  
PAAE**



PAAE Report to the FFA Board of Directors  
March 2024



**1. Spring Regional Meetings and SOCS**

- ❖ Tuesday, April 2nd - Eastern Region Meeting at Conrad Weiser High School
- ❖ Thursday, April 4th - South Central Region Meeting at Cumberland Valley High School
- ❖ Thursday, April 11th - Northern Region Meeting at Williamsport Hoss's
- ❖ Thursday, April 18th - Western Region Meeting at Blackhawk High School

**2. 2024 PAAE Summer Conference: July 8-11 at Salisbury-Elk Lick High School**

- ❖ Registration will be live by the end of March

**3. New PAAE Logo**



**4. PAAE Awards**

Nominations were accepted thru December 31, 2023. Applications are currently being evaluated. Applications submitted include:

- ❖ 6 Teachers Turn the Key
- ❖ 7 Early Career Teacher
- ❖ 7 Outstanding Ag Teacher
- ❖ 6 Outstanding Middle/Secondary Program
- ❖ 4 Teacher Mentor
- ❖ 4 Outstanding Service
- ❖ 2 Lifetime Achievement

5. **Personal Finance Graduation Requirement Survey** - With a recent graduation requirement announcement coming from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PAAE is surveying the membership to determine the impact this may have on agriculture programs.

6. **Region VI Conference**

- ❖ March 22-24, 2024 in Harrisburg, PA
- ❖ PAAE Offering a \$100 discount for the first 10 PAAE members who register

Submitted March 4, 2024 by Adam Serfass, PAAE President-Elect

# Pennsylvania FFA Alumni and Supporters Association

Report to: Pennsylvania FFA Board of Directors

March 13th, 2024

## I. Alumni Association Update

- 970 jackets awarded to FFA members at the 2024 MidWinter Convention
  - Total Support: \$74,684
- Washington Leadership Conference – 23 applications
  - 6 Full Scholarships Awarded - \$6,600
  - 4 Half Scholarships Awarded - \$2,200
  - 6 Full Scholarships Awarded from Direct, Restricted Donations - \$6,600
    - Total Support: \$15,400

## II. Chapter Affiliation

- Invoices will be sent on March 15<sup>th</sup> - \$200 per chapter

## III. Upcoming Support

- Gold Toe SOCS
- State FFA Knowledge CDE/LDE Sponsorship
- Scholarships for State FFA Officers upon retirement
- PSU Teach Ag Essay Contest

## IV. What's New

- Considering the hire of an Association Manager – part time
  - i. Roles:
    1. Manage rosters and affiliate fees
    2. Manage WLC scholarship program
    3. Assist with Jacket Scholarship program
    4. Assist with Gold Toe SOCS
    5. Revamp State Board of Directors
    6. Design Annual Meeting Structure

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sherisa Nailor*

PA FFA Alumni and Supporters President



## **Executive Director – Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence Updates**

### **1. Commission Updates**

- a. Next Ag Ed Commission meeting will take place 6/12 at Penn State BOA Building Rm 103
- b. PDE will be hiring a secondary CTE Ag Advisor to support Chris Davis and BCTE

### **2. Budget Updates**

- a. The commission and ag education was not granted additional funding through the Governors new budget. A proposal has been sent to PDA/PDE, and legislators within the House and Senate advocating for additional funds to support capacity building and program support
- b. Commission allocated \$30,000 to FFA Foundation in support of Learning by Doing Grants
- c. \$15,000 will go towards supporting 50% of the state AET costs.
- d. As we prepare for 2024-2025 Ag Ed Budget please send recommendation to [stfitzpatr@pa.gov](mailto:stfitzpatr@pa.gov)

### **3. Upcoming Events**

- a. March 26<sup>th</sup> PA SLLC
- b. PAAE Regional Meeting (except the Western meeting due to a scheduled event)

### **4. Annual Report**

- a. The Ag Ed Annual Report has been ready since December 1, it has been held up at the Governors office. Hoping to release to general public before June.

### **5. Ag Ed Advocacy**

- a. Now more than ever your support of ag education is critical now more than ever. I have already packaged a study of 10-12 states that currently fund ag education. This has been shared with both Secretaries, Senators and house Representatives. Your advocacy to your local legislators and raising awareness is key in garnering support for our cause.