

# **Pennsylvania FFA Association**

## **Board of Directors**

### **Meeting August 7th, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Chloe Bomgardner at 1:05 PM and the State Officer Team conducted opening ceremonies. In attendance were Chloe Bomgardner, Nathan Lesh, Sydney Albright, Emily Kerstetter, Evan Espenshade, Kennady Laird, Jaclyn Martin, Mike Brammer, Doug Masser, Jodie Hoover, Katie Ranck, Alex Barzydlo, Curt Turner, Crystal Bomgardner, Sarah Sparks, Ron Frederick, Sherisa Nailor, Natalie Barkley, Luke Zerbey, and Dr. Kevin Curry.

Lesh/Laird moved to accept the minutes presented from the May and June meetings. Motion passed. Crystal Bomgardner/Hoover moved to concur. Motion passed.

#### **Reports of Officers/Staff**

Executive Director Report: Mr. Brammer announced his position on the National FFA Board of Directors and that the National FFA now has just over one million FFA members nationally and 15,801 Pennsylvania FFA members. Mr. Brammer then presented the financial report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The financial report will be filed for audit.

State Officer Team Report: The State Officer team gave an oral and visual presentation reviewing what the team has been doing since they were elected and what they're looking forward to for the coming year. A written report was also provided.

National Officer Candidate: Crystal Bomgardner has been working with Jess Herr and other mentors to prepare for the process. Attending upcoming events including Ag progress Days, Philly Connects Panel, Chapter Visits, and Fall Leadership Conference.

#### **Standing Committees**

CDE/LDE Committee: Barzydlo presented the CDE/LDE committee report. The main topic was the adjustment of twelve CDE and LDE competitions to help these competitions better align with the National competitions' rules and regulations. Motion presented by the competitive events committee to accept all changes made to these CDEs and LDEs. Motion passed.

Espenshade/Kerstetter moved to concur – Motion passed. There were also some concerns about the Incident Report process and event formats and rubrics, and there was some concern the PA FFA has reached its capacity of Competitive Events at State Convention but there was no current action taken. The competitive Events committee will continue to review.

SAE Committee Chair: Nailor presented the committee's report. Two announcements from the committee:

SAE for All- Had training with the National FFA Staff in January 2024 for new alignment of curriculum and focus on school-based SAE's. The state committee will start presenting to teachers soon.

Keystone FFA Degree-Same submission process as last year of submitting applications through AET with a Statewide evaluation process with a committee of non-teachers. Will be following the required checklist for the application.

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

Strategic Planning: Dr. Curry presented on the strategic planning committee. They are now at the data collection stage and will continue to meet.

State Convention Review Committee: Masser reported that the committee has not formally met again but has ideas to send a survey asking for thoughts and reflections on how the State Convention went and possibly getting student feedback as well.

Middle School Programming Committee: Brammer has nothing new to report. Trying to get a date for the committee to meet.

Competitive Events Creation/Development Committee: No report – Trying to set up a meeting.

### **Unfinished business:**

Convention & Activities Week Review: Brammer reported that the name badges were a success in increasing security. The dates and housing are confirmed for next year's State Convention. June 10-12, 2025, in East Halls.

### **New business:**

Commonwealth Charter Academy FFA Charter: Brammer summarized the report from Commonwealth Charter Academy. Masser appointed a committee to review the reports and policies and report back in December. Masser to chair with members: Sparks, Nailor Turner, Crystal and Chloe Bomgardner.

### **Delegate Report 2024 Review:**

**Creating Spanish Creed Speaking LDE:** Kerstetter/Martin moved to refer the Spanish creed speaking LDE to the competitive events committee for further review and recommendation. Motion Passed. C.Bomgardner/Ch.Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion Passed.

**Create Internships for High School Students:** Laird stated that this issue has 4 recommendations and one (career fair at convention) is being discussed by ag & food careers in PA intern group with the foundation. Because this group is proposing some ideas the State Officer team will discuss this further and present them at a future board meeting. No Action at this time.

**Student Courtesy Corps for State Convention:** Lesh/Espenshade moved to refer the recommendation to create a student courtesy corps for state convention to a special committee with power to report back consisting of Chloe Bomgardner as chair, Martin, Laird, Nailor, Hoover, Ranck, and Brammer. Motion Passed. Lesh/Ch.Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion Passed.

**Expanding State Convention to Four Days:** No Action necessary. The convention review committee is discussing.

### **Create Apple**

**Judging CDE:** Albright/Espenshade moved to refer the apple judging CDE to the competitive Events Committee for further review and recommendation. Motion passed.  
Hoover/Ch.Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion Passed.

**Good of the Order:**

**Regional Coordinators:**

South-Central Region- Barkley reported Oct 3 SPOT Conference and April 24 regional LDE day.  
Western Region- No report  
Eastern Region- Frederick shared Fall CDE day Nov 12 and spring CDE day April 15  
Northern Region- Turner shared LDE day April 15.

**PA FFA Foundation:** Mrs. Sparks announced the new development manager, Mrs. Newberry. Eby Trailers reached out to become a sponsor. Tractor Supply also reached out about creating a state specific mural in stores that could also become shirts and mugs, and Pennsylvania is going to be the first state. They asked the Pennsylvania FFA to help design the mural.

**Agriculture Education Specialist:** Davis provided a written report.

**SAE Specialist:** Mrs. Fay had no report.

**PAAE:** Mrs. Pontius provided a written report.

**FFA Alumni:** Mrs. Nailor had no report.

**Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report:** Dr. Curry reported that there were 8 students that graduated with Agricultural Education and Extension degrees and of those 8, 4 took agricultural education jobs. Future classes: 2025-6, 2026-15, 2027-20, 2028-30  
Also working on an area map.

**Future Event Dates:**

- FLC- October 1,2024
- Mid-Winter- January 6,2025
- ACES- January 25-26, February 1-2, February 15-16, February 22-23, 2025
- SLLC- March 23-25, 2025
- State Convention & Activities Week- June 10-12, 2025

**Announcements:**

Future Board Meetings: 2024-2025: December 11, March 12, May 14, June 11 & 12

Closing ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Brammer  
FFA Executive Director

Sydney Albright  
FFA State Secretary

## **August 2024 - State Officer Team Report**

**Over the course of the past month and a half we have undergone multiple different training sessions, preparing us for the upcoming year. We have learned about professional development, communication, teamwork, and workshop facilitation. Jumping full in as the year took off, we have had multiple opportunities to demonstrate these skills already, from the PAAE Conference, to State Officer Summit and even facilitating our very first workshop at the State Grange family festival.**

**As a team, we have selected and branded our theme for the year, “Together We Can”. Whether it’s supporting one another, tackling the challenges of advocating, or creating positive change in our communities, together we can achieve remarkable things. Together, our voices are stronger, our actions are more impactful, and our dreams are easier to reach for. This year our team is striving for the spirit of togetherness to make a difference, one step at a time.**

**As a team we have traveled many miles attending the following:**

- Basecamp training in Erie, PA**
- Universal Letting Tour in Van Wert, Ohio-receiving our association jackets!**
- PAAE Conference in Somerset, PA**
- Checkpoint #1 in State College, PA**
- PA State Grange Family Festival in Centre County, PA**
- State Officer Summit in Washington D.C. meeting with several Congressmen and/or their staff.**

**Some of the other events we attended as state officers include:**

- The Shippensburg Community Fair Livestock Sale-handing out nearly 350 buyer thank you cards**
- The Schuylkill County Fair Celebrity Cow Milking Contest-taking home gold**

**We are gearing up for the upcoming chapter visit season, Fall Leadership Conference, and Business and Industry visits, while preparing for the Big E and other events.**

**Throughout our travels thus far, we have each spent nearly 40 hours in the FFA van alone, not counting our individual drives to and from the Department of Agriculture.**

**As the 2024-2025 Pennsylvania State FFA officer team, we say thank you! Thank you for supporting us as we advocate for and with the nearly 16,000 FFA members across the state. And, thank you for all you do for your students in your local chapters.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Chloe Bomgardner & Sydney Albright  
2024-2025 Pennsylvania FFA President & Secretary**



# **CDE/LDE Committee**

## **Report for August 2024**

The CDE/LDE Committee met on Wednesday, July 10 during the PAAE Summer Conference to review proposed changes to CDEs and LDEs submitted by Chairs. The following proposed changes are recommended to the Board for approval by the committee:

### **1. Ag Communications**

- a. Align Practicums and Communication Plan to match National FFA
- b. Use updated rubrics from National FFA

### **2. Ag Education - State Pilot in June 2025**

- a. Temporarily deviate from original plan of a Grade 7-9 division and a Grade 10-12 division to offer a single division for grades 9-12 until the event is more established.
- b. Limit to 3 participants per Region to be selected by the Regional Coordinators
- c. Require that all participants bring a laptop or iPad, even if not needed for their lesson, in order to facilitate their participation in the other elements
- d. Updates to previous rubrics as appropriate following Regional Pilot in 2024

### **3. Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Dairy Cattle Showmanship**

- a. Both events will need to make changes based on pending changes from National FFA.
- b. Both events are requesting permission to submit their official changes for approval at the December Board Meeting in order to observe the events at Big E & National Convention as well as wait for updated event formats from National FFA.

### **4. Employment Skills**

- a. Update document format on the website by removing all specific years from the documents and provide fewer updates of this nature in the future.

### **5. Food Science**

- a. Add an Individual “Product Specification Compliance” component to align with National FFA.
- b. Update the Team “Safety/Sanitation Practicum” to align with National FFA.

### **6. Forestry**

- a. Update ID Lists to align with National FFA.

- b. Remove Team Interview and replace it with an additional Practicum rotation to align with National FFA.
- c. Update total points for the Team portion from 250 to 450 to align with National FFA.
- d. Update Event Guide to specify what materials are needed on Day 1 of State Competition vs. Day 2 for participating students.

## **7. Maple Syrup - First Year out of Pilot**

- a. Move time and location of event from January at PA Farm Show to November at the Lake Erie Maple Expo in Albion
- b. Emailed explanation from current Chair, Emily Kellogg  
 “After holding the Maple CDE at the Farm Show this year and discussing with judges and other Ag Teachers, we would like to move the location of the Maple CDE for the 2024-2025 school year.

I (Emily) have made several phone calls to the PA Maple Syrup Council and the Northwest Maple Syrup Producers and I would like to hold the Maple CDE at the Lake Erie Maple Expo in Albion on Friday, November 8.

In addition to holding the Maple CDE at LEME, both students and advisors would receive free registration for the seminars and events at the expo. The PA Maple Syrup Council is very excited and supportive of this CDE. Holding the CDE at this event would give our FFA members a chance to interact with industry professionals as well as learn about potential career opportunities in the maple industry.”

## **8. Nursery & Landscape**

- a. Remove Equipment and Supplies ID as well as Team Presentation to align with National FFA.
- b. Reduce the number of questions on the General Knowledge Exam from 50 to 25 to align with National FFA.
- c. Update Plant ID List to align with National FFA.
- d. Move Verbal Customer Service Practicum to take place during the event instead of being done in advance now that time has opened up during the contest day with the reduction of other elements by National FFA.

## **9. Small Gas Engines**

- a. Update the wording of the Event Guidelines to address some safety concerns encountered at the event regarding long hair since this was the first year with a student fitting this description competing.
- b. Adjust format of tools list to separate what is required from what is permitted.
- c. Update to include that the event will supply Nitrile Gloves for the participants.

## **10. Turfgrass Management**

- a. Provide flexibility to the Chair to consider and finalize proposed changes for the December Board Meeting.
- b. The Committee has also identified that this event may benefit from a teacher Co-Chair as the Chair is from Industry and is not always comfortable with developing contest elements (ie: rotation timing, rubrics)

## **11. Veterinary Science**

- a. Remove the specific point deductions for dress code violations and allow for the process established with Courtesy Corps and the Board to be the determining factor.
- b. Update the tiebreakers to align with National FFA.

## **12. Wildlife**

- a. Update ID lists to use most current terminology.
- b. Clarify wording of Procedures to better cover expectations for the 2-day format.

No current action is needed, but the Committee also discussed:

- some concerns from Chairs about the Incident Report process and finding the balance of offering support, protection, and consistency without micromanaging event formats and rubrics.
- ways to organize information and updates to reduce the high quantity of emails with details for specific CDEs/LDEs that are sent by Mr. Brammer on behalf of Chairs at the end of the school year, prior to State Convention.
- our continued worry that PA FFA has reached its capacity on the number of Competitive Events at State Convention, but requests for new CDEs and/or LDEs come in each year. We are excited to see the progress and ideas to help with this that may come from the State Convention and CDE/LDE Creation Committees. We also acknowledge that the process to secure help from teachers and chaperones at State Convention needs continued adjustments to be effective.

Submitted by Alexandra Barzydlo, Committee Chair



**The Delegate Review Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

**Recommendation #1: Incentives**

*The committee recommends that the following incentives are included for participating delegates at state conventions: partially paid for registration and floor seating at all sessions.*

**Recommendation #2: Recognition**

*The committee recommends that all delegates be recognized on stage during the third session of convention with the committee chairs receiving a plaque after reading their recommendations.*

**Recommendation #3: Progress**

*The committee recommends that students receive their committee assignments prior to convention to conduct research among resources and trusted advisors.*

**Recommendation #4: Leadership**

*The committee recommends designating an Adult Coordinator to oversee and elevate the process from year to year.*

**Further Commentary:**

*Other ideas and recommendations of the committee include an encouragement to the board to increase funding for the process and an extended relationship to the Foundation to promote the process with stakeholders.*

**EXAMPLES FROM NFFA**

<https://ffa.app.box.com/v/delegate-experience/file/1357096304659>

**The Creating a Spanish Creed Speaking LDE Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

**Recommendation #1:**

Committee recommends that the state of Pennsylvania create a Spanish speaking LDE that consists of the creed and questions in the Puerto Rican dialect, by the most recent version adopted by the National FFA Organization.

**Recommendation #2:**

The competition will be implemented at the State Convention in 2026 and be re-evaluated in 2028.

Further Commentary:

- Surveying Teachers, asking questions such as “Do you have students who may compete in this?” or “Will your students become more active in FFA after competing in this contest? This can be accomplished through emails to teachers.
- We recommend that at least 1 of the judges be Spanish speaking professionals (preferably 2 judges).
- Reach out to the community for bilingual agricultural professionals.
- Possible help: Mrs. Foster from PSU, Spanish teachers, Bilingual Business Professionals.

**The Working with businesses to create internships for high school students Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

Recommendation #1: Job Fair

The committee recommends the following that Pennsylvania FFA holds their own job fair for all age groups with the idea of getting students talking about possible internships and job opportunities at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on the Monday of Mid Winter Convention.

Recommendation #2: Communication

The committee recommends that Pennsylvania FFA advertise’ s through various platforms such as email, social media, newsletter, and on the Pennsylvania FFA website to make sure everyone around the state is updated on advocating for student internships for our FFA members.

Recommendation #3: FFA Website

The committee recommends that there is a page on the Pennsylvania FFA website listing the PA career link and workforce development board, which explains the internship opportunities available to all students.

Recommendation #4: Internships

The committee recommends the following when doing internships, 9th and 10th will be separated in the process of internships from 11th and 12th. The underclassmen will learn about the background and information about the internships and the SAE projects, while the upperclassmen will have the opportunities to work in their internships for their SAE projects. This would need to be established before the internship process is communicated to chapters and businesses.

Further Commentary:

- To find more information about the internships the place to go is PA Career link and workforce development board which gives information about employers that are available for internships in your areas.

- In addition to internships, the committee recommends FFA chapters take 9–12 graders on multiple field trips to businesses throughout the year so they get an understanding of the agriculture industry.
- The committee wants to make aware that if you do not wish to participate in an internship you may politely decline and offer this option to someone else.

**The Create a student courtesy corps for state convention Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

Recommendation #1: Application Process

The committee recommends that the application process includes: a letter of recommendation, 3-6 short answer questions, and the opportunity to select three preferences.

Recommendation #2: Commitment

The committee recommends that the student selected must not participate in any other CDE or LDE events.

Recommendation #3: Training Process

The committee recommends that the training process/requirements include: a virtual meeting prior to convention which may include state staff, adult courtesy corps and other individuals. The applicants must be between the ages of 16-21.

Recommendation #4: Tasks

The committee recommends that the tasks may include but are not limited to: time keeping, escorting, student advising in a room, assisting state officers, and stage managing.

Further Commentary:

Additionally, the committee suggests including incentives such as a matching shirt, a certificate, a courtesy corps pin, and an arm band for official dress. Students will gain community service hours during their time of being courtesy corps members and will be recognized and awarded at the sessions. The students shall be overseen by adult courtesy corps members.

**The Explore the idea of expanding state convention to four days Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

Recommendation #1: Schedule

The committee recommends that the following would be added to the weekly schedule: a college and career fair, an extra session, more guest speakers, group activities, and a dance.

### Recommendation #2: Overview of Community Service

The committee recommends that the community service projects will be a sign-up based group of events that will occur throughout the week. These events will be open to all members, competing or not.

### Recommendation #3: Volunteers

The committee recommends that the board should work together with the Pennsylvania FFA foundation, Pennsylvania FFA alumni, and any other interested adult with the proper clearances to help staff during the week.

### Recommendation #4: General Overview

The committee recommends that the convention should stay at Penn State University from Monday through Thursday in the second week of June, and official dress will be required for sessions, delegate meetings, and competitions only. The added sessions will help alleviate the time of normal sessions and will extend interview time for the nominating committee for the state officer candidates and eliminate online interviews.

### Further Commentary:

- In addition to the college and career fair and guest speakers we would like to implement extra industry presentations from professionals and winning students from Agri-science and proficiency.
- All Agri-science participants can set up their projects in an expo hall to be viewed by members.
- Due to more time, students can participate in multiple events and activities (CDE, LDE, Delegate, etc.)
- To keep track of all events, a QR code on every student's badge can access a full schedule of events for the week and upcoming events will be posted on Pennsylvania FFA's social media.

### **The Create an Apple Judging CDE Committee recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:**

Recommendation #1: The Apple Judging CDE Committee Recommends that the Pennsylvania FFA implements a statewide Career Development Event (CDE) not only focusing on apples but also tree fruits. The contest can be in June at the Pennsylvania State Convention.

Recommendation #2: The Committee recommends that the tree fruit contest consist of the seven categories of, varieties identification, insect defect identification, disease identification, equipment identification, fruit judging, a general knowledge test, as well as the "a tree fruit guide" examination test. There can also be the option of a team activity scenario, for competing teams.

Recommendation #3: This committee recommends that the contest spans over the course of two days. Day one will require participants in official dress according to the code of conduct provided by National FFA. Following day two will consist of an appropriate outfit for an off-campus orchard. Day one will consist of the written portion testing and day two will have hands practicum.

Recommendation #4: Our committee recommends that the Pennsylvania FFA appoints an adult coordinator to supervise the preparation of this contest.

Further Commentary:

### **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Tonight:
  - Reserved seats on the floor, front right for tonight's session
  - Session at 7 pm tonight, presession at 6
  
- Tomorrow:
  - Reserved seats for tomorrow morning's session
  - Chairs will share recommendations from the podium and secretaries will stand next to them (Chairs will stay after this session for rehearsal)
  - All committee members will be on stage for their recommendation (Smile Big!)





## PAAE Report for August 2024 FFA Board of Directors Meeting

### 1. The 2024-2025 PAAE Leadership Team:

President: Adam Serfass

Past-President: Sherisa Nailor

President Elect: Krista Pontius

Executive Secretary: Thomas Gabel

Executive Treasurer: Brian Campbell

Eastern Region VPs: Amy Garber, Stephen Geib

Northern Region VPs: Nicole Hall, Brandon Witmer

South Central Region VPs: Kelly Bier, Krista Moser

Western Region VPs: Lyndsay Wilcox, Dylan Clark

### 2. 2024 Summer Conference is in the books. We are thankful to Salisbury-Elk Lick High School for hosting us in July and for the PAAE members and guests who made the Conference a success. Our 4 PAAE Committees met during the conference and have set myriad goals for this coming year, including:

**Advocacy**- Re-initiate the “Ag Education Showcase” with the PA Secretary of Agriculture/Education in order to develop an “advocacy tour.”

**Member Experience** - Communicate more clearly to members by updating and sharing the rules for wellness challenges throughout the year such as Run Across PA and Stepping Into the School Year.

**Professional Development** - Plan and implement a financial wellness workshop for the 2025 PAAE Summer Conference hosted by the Northern Region.

**TRR&R** - Have a stronger timeline for award announcements.

At the banquet, we also provided recognition to members for years of service, mentors and mentees, and state winners for NAAE awards; to name a few. Congratulations to Cumberland Valley Agricultural Education Program for winning the Region VI Outstanding Middle/Secondary Program Award and to Ron Frederick for winning the Region VI Outstanding Service Award.



3. We are now into the new membership year. This serves as a friendly reminder to renew your membership with PAAE. Forms are now available on the PAAE website - and the online payment form is also live. Physical forms and checks can be mailed to PAAE, PO Box 1056, State College, PA 16801.
  
4. Mark your calendars for these upcoming PAAE events:
  - October 3rd: South Central Region Meeting at Cumberland Valley High School
  - November 14th: Eastern Region Meeting at TBD
  - TBD: Western Region Fall Meeting
  - TBD: Northern Region Fall Meeting

July 8, 2025 - July 11, 2025: 2025 Summer Conference @ Otto Eldred High School

Submitted by Adam Serfass, PAAE President



# SAE Committee Report

## SAE Committee Members

- Eastern – Phil Haussener
- Northern – Brandon Witmer
- South Central – Mikara Anderson
- Western – Laura Palmer

## SAE for All – Train the Trainer

- Training with National FFA Staff in January 2024
  - New alignment of curriculum
  - Focus on supporting school-based SAEs
- Sarabeth Alderfer, Mikara Anderson and Brandon Witmer
- State trainings coming throughout 2024

## Keystone FFA Degree

- Same submission process as last year – submit through AET
- Statewide evaluation process with committee of non-teachers
  - Timeline: (all deadlines are 11:59pm)
    - Submission due through AET by Oct 31st
    - State Evaluation Complete by Nov 15th
    - Notifications of Revisions by Nov 18th
    - Revisions due to Regional Coordinators by Dec 4th
    - Board of Directors Approval of Recipients – Dec 11th
- Updated requirement checklist
  - \*Must have earned at least a 70% or better on the Parliamentary Law Test in AET or recorded a journal entry for performing ten parliamentary law procedures.
  - \*\*SAE transactions (income/paychecks, expenses, or journal hours) for each SAE appropriate for the enterprise(s) SAEs listed
  - \*If market livestock project, inventory purchased for resale must exist or be explained in the Annual Review (clipboard)
  - \*\*SAE market adjustments are appropriate & reasonable for the SAEs

\* indicates a new requirement from previous degrees

\*\* indicates a new requirement from previous degrees and item to be verified by advisor electronic signature