

NAAE Region VI Conference
Business Minutes
7/6-9/10
Rockville, Maryland

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Region VI Vice-President Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 11:02am and welcomed everyone to the conference.

Ken thanked the members of the Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association for organizing the conference.

Joe Linthicum (MD) moved to adopt the agenda with flexibility. Sally Shomo (VA) seconded. Motion passed

Ken expressed greetings from the NAAE Board of Directors.

Next, Ken handed out the conference attendance roster, NAAE State Officer Roster and letters of appreciation forms to the members. Ken emphasized how important it is for members to complete the forms and hand them back in as quickly as possible.

Ken shared with the members the many benefits and professional growth opportunities available to all NAAE members. He reminded the members that anyone interested in running for the position of Region VI Vice-President or Secretary must submit a Memorandum of Understanding to the NAAE office by September 15.

Ken reported that the number of teachers state associations can send to the Teachers Turn the Key program was been lowed from two to one. He reminded the members about the early bird registration date for this year's National NAAE Convention is July 9.

Next, Ken explained to the members about the new SmartEdge-GMAC Financial Literacy Program. This program is aimed at helping people make better financial decisions.

Debra Seibert (PA) moved to adopt the Region VI National Convention Business Minutes as presented. Seconded by Sarah LaRose (CT) Motion passed.

Ken announced that Regional Committee meetings will be held today from 4:45 - 5:30pm. Ken introduced the Committee Chairpersons;

- Finance – Naomi Knight (MD)
- Member Services – John Neyhart (NJ)
- Policy & Bylaws – Terri Shank (MD)
- Professional Growth – Marion Stannard (CT)
- Public Policy – Aaron Geiman (MD)
- Strategic Planning – Lacey Dixon (Del.)
- Marketing – Mike Harrington (MD)

Ken encouraged every member to serve on a committee. He also asked for volunteers to help judge NAAE Award Applications.

Ken discussed with the members information about the name change for the 10x15 Initiative. The new name is “Strategies for Quality and Growth in Agricultural Education”. He also encouraged members to sign up for the NAAE Communities of Practice program. Ken said this is a great tool for all NAAE members to share and receive information. Ken also explained how to access his Region VI Blog link on the NAAE Communities of Practice website.

Ken announced the date for next year’s National Teach Ag Day will be March 24, 2011.

Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist addressed a few issues from the FFA including the new Affiliation Fee Program, National Program Standard Program and National Convention concerns. Kevin announced that the Life Knowledge curriculum is now free. He also announced that the FFA website has been improved and updated.

David Miller, National FFA Alumni President-Elect reported on the Campbell Soup Barn Program. The program was a huge success. He encouraged the members to seek out former FFA members and ask them to join.

Dr. Jay Jackman, NAAE Executive Director talked to the members about the 2010 NAAE National Convention , which will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 30 to December 4. He encouraged all members to attend. Dr. Jackman reported on the many exciting professional growth programs offered by NAAE such as the Communities of Practice and webinars. Dr. Jackman stressed the importance of informing the members of the U.S Congress about the issues facing our profession.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 8:14am.
Ken reminded members to sign the attendance roster.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Pamela Berlekovic (CT) reported that the committee reviewed and approved the NAAE Program of Activities and Budget.

Policy and Bylaws committee – Terri Shank (MD) reported that the committee recommended the adoption of a second or later due date for membership dues. The later date may help new members meet the financial obligation. The committee strongly recommends the creation of a “Survival Kit” to assist new teachers to deal with the demands of our profession.

Marketing – Mike Harrington (MD) reported the committee stressed the importance of having NAAE staff members hand out promotional items such as pens, mouse pads and magnets at the Teacher’s World booth. The committee moved that the NAAE offer corporate discount cards to its’ members. The committee would like for NAAE to provide testimonial videos to help recruit new members. The committee would like the NAAE provide information through brochures to answer the question: What is secondary ag education?”

Public Policy – Aaron Geiman (MD) reported that the committee suggested that each state have an Advocacy Leader. The committee suggested that information about the Advocacy Tool Kit and Legislative Action Center be assimilated into a webinar and placed on the Communities of Practices website.

Membership Services – John Neyhart (NJ) reported that the committee recommends the due date for state roster be moved back to January 1. The committee would like for the NAAE set-up an electronic payment system for states to submit dues. The committee suggested the NAAE increase the number of webinars available to members.

Professional Growth – Marion Stannard (CT) reported the committee suggested the NAAE develop workshops covering topics such as food science, alternative energy, biotechnology, sustainable agriculture, conservation, environmental science, and technology. The committee suggested that all workshops include “starter kits” for teachers to take back to their classrooms. The committee would like to see a new “community” be started in the Communities of Practice (COP) dealing with workshop information. This action will help teachers retrieve information faster. Also the committee suggested that all COP workshops include additional time for teachers to use and explore the various features of COP.

Strategic Planning – Lacey Dixon (Del.) reported that the committee agreed with the three major priorities areas identified by the NAAE. The committee suggested the NAAE continue using newsletters to promote our organization.

Ken thanked the committee members for their excellent work. He also reminded the members about the Ideas Unlimited presentations scheduled for this afternoon.

State President Reports

Connecticut – Sarah LaRose reported that membership is stable with 60 members. They have a new State Agriscience Consultant- Mr. Harold Mackin. They are holding new teacher and professional development workshops for their members. They are having their annual summer meeting on Aug. 17 at Ledyard High School. On Aug. 18 they are having a day long professional development day. Sarah reported that they are looking for teachers to teach ag mechanic courses in their state.

Delaware- Karen Breeding reported they have 52 members. They now have an agriculture program in every public high school in the state. The DAAE is in the process of updating their constitution and setting up a committee structure for the association. They have also increased the number of NAAE award applications and have established a mentoring program in the state. Their State Ag Teachers Conference was held in June.

New York – Betsy Foote reported that they have just completed their annual professional improvement conference. The conference included activities celebrating 100 years of Ag Education in New York. They had a record number of teachers attend the conference. Recognizing the growing of women joining the profession, NYAAE organized a children's program during the conference. This program was well received by their members. Betsy also reported that they are working hard organizing next year's Region VI Conference. The conference will be held at Oswegatchie Educational Center from June 26-29, 2011. She encouraged all NAAE members to attend.

Maryland – Aaron Geiman reported that they have just completed a Strategic Plan and established a new committee system for the association. They also updated their award selection policy. Aaron reported that Maryland has established the CASE program in 6 counties. He thanked Terri Shank for her outstanding work organizing this year's conference.

New Jersey – John Neyhart , president of the New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators thanked the members of the MATA for an outstanding job hosting this year's conference. They held their annual meeting on May 25. The association made constitutional changes to align membership classes with the NAAE. John reported they had a successful Teach Ag Ed Program. They also updated their website. The association's Executive Committee meet last week and adopted the following topics to promote this year; a salute to service, NJAAE promotional program and continue professional growth.

Massachusetts – Michael Lamontague reported that a number of teachers are interested in renewing the association. The association has been hurt by lack of an Ag Teachers Education program in the state.

Pennsylvania – Carole Fay reported PAAE has a total of 123 members. Carol passed out a detailed report about the many activities PAAE members are involved in. Carol reported that they working hard organizing the 2012 NAAE Region VI Conference.

Virginia – Sally Shomo reported that the Virginia Teachers Conference is being held in Winchester, VA July 12-14. Sally reported that they started a direct deposit dues payment program. The monthly payments average about \$20 per members. Sally reported that they are experiencing budget cuts thought out the state. She also said they have a new state agriculture commissioner.

Ken thanked the state presidents for their reports. Ken adjourned the meeting at 9:10am.

Thursday July 8, 2010

This business session was held at the Farm Bureau Building in Washington, D.C.

Ken opened the meeting at 9:40am.

Ken reminded the members to sign the attendance roster before they leave the conference. He also announced that the Teacher's World booth will be at the National FFA Convention this year.

Ken reminded all Conference Committee Chairperson to turn in their reports as soon as possible.

Ken ended the session at 10:10am with an inspirational video from Simple truths.com.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Harrington
NAAE Region VI Secretary