

NAAE Region VI Conference Minutes  
In the STICKS: Successful Teachers Inspire Character and Knowledge in Students  
June 26-29, 2011 Camp Oswegatchie, Croghan, NY

Welcome Note: Agricultural Education Outreach Assistant Coordinator, Shari Lighthall stated, "We have worked hard to include activity-based workshops that address the needs of our constantly changing agricultural and agri-science programs. Each participant received over 30 hours or more of professional in-service time and materials valued at over \$400." Over 120 agricultural educators and guests were in attendance at the Oswegatchie Educational Center in Croghan NY.

**First Session Business Minutes**

**Sunday June 26, 2011 7:00-8:30 pm**

Region VI Vice-President Mike Harrington called the meeting to order at 7 pm and welcomed everyone to the conference.

Mike thanked the members of the New York Association of Agriculture Educators for organizing the conference. Tara Beresak (NY) moved to adopt the agenda with flexibility. Seconded by Robin McLean. Motion passed

Deb Seibert offered Reflections with a challenge to attendees to write out a "Teacher Bucket List".

Mike brought greetings from the NAAE Board of Directors.

Deb handed out the conference attendance roster, NAAE State Officer Roster and letters of appreciation forms to the members and shared how important it is for members to complete the forms so they can be read. A suggestion was made to bring to the NAAE Board to create a letter to be sent to schools addressing the growing trend of teachers paying their own way to conferences without administrative support.

Mike shared with the members the many benefits and professional growth opportunities available to all NAAE members. A power point was shown highlighting NAAE membership benefits. He reminded the members about the early bird registration date for this year's National NAAE Convention is July 15.

John Busekist moved to adopt the Region VI National Convention Business minutes as presented. Seconded by Cheryl Matthewson. Motion passed.

2011 NAAE National Convention will be held in St Louis, MO November 17-19, 2011

Early Bird registration deadline July 15, 2011

PA will host 2012 Region VI Summer Conference

Julie Fritsch presented information from the NAAE office including COP, Teach Ag Day and Teacher World at FFA Convention. She asked for comments from the group on ways to make these programs more user friendly.

National Teach Ag Day will be March 15, 2012.

High praise from the group for all the new professional development opportunities for NAAE members.

**State Leader Reports summary:**

CT: Governor spoke at FFA Conference this year

NJ: Will be hosting CASE workshop in August. Emphasis on retention in POA

NY: Streamlining state meetings including using technology

PA: PAAE lobbyist is active with new Governors team and the budget process. Defining what Ag-Ed is in school code. Will be using NAAE POA as a template for a new state POA.

MD: Working on Strategic Plan, state education budget cuts-opportunity for advocacy

**Kevin Keith**, National FFA LPS specialist report.

Kevin addressed the sweeping CDE and degree and proficiency applications from the FFA.

**Ag Career Network** is going online Aug 15. ACN will host the site to record membership information plus Ag Programs and student access sites. Memberships can now be added anytime during the year-an issue in the past.

ACN will also house site for American degree and proficiency applications as well as FFA scholarship and industry links.

Use My FFA password to login. Advisors can create a Chapter Homepage that your students can manage. Will also be a place for Alumni interface.

AET: Ag Ed Tracker Online SAE records will allow online conversion of SAE records to an American or Proficiency application via the Ag Career Network.

There will be a Train The Trainer meeting on Sept 7, 2011 for new CDE changes.

Report from Bob King-Rochester University Ag Business program

Motion to recess by Cheryl Matthewson (CT). Seconded by Melvin Phelps (NY) Motion passed.

### **Second Session Business Minutes**

#### **Monday, June 27, 2011 1:45-2:45 pm**

Ideas Unlimited presentations were made by PA and NY members. One vote per state was cast. Mark Anderson from Pennsylvania was the winning idea of welding nails to make stick cowboys.

Mike presented Ideas Unlimited proposal from Sally Shomo (VA). To encourage more participation allow all state winners to present at the National NAAE convention with NAAE awarding six regional plaques and the stipend at the convention. No action was taken on the proposal.

Kelli Beir and Deb Seibert (PA) presented a draft outline for the 2012 NAA Region VI Summer Conference to be held in Hershey PA: *The Sweetest Place on Earth* July 9-12, 2012.

Registration is \$225/person. Registration information will be available on paae.org.

HOUSING: Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey in Grantville, PA \$109/night

Suggestions from the group included adding some animal science workshops, kid program and camp ground options.

Mike introduced the Region VI Committee Chairpersons and encouraged every member to serve on a committee. Deb noted that several of the national committee leadership roles are held by Region VI members.

Finance – Keith Schiebel (NY)

Member Services – John Neyhart (NJ)

Policy & Bylaws – Frank Yesalavich (NJ)

Professional Growth – Tara Beresak (NY)

Public Policy – Terry Hughes (NY)

Strategic Planning – John Busekist (NY)

Marketing – Deb Seibert (PA)

Mike asked for volunteers to help judge NAAE Award Applications at the evening business session.

### **Third Session Business Minutes**

#### **Monday July 27, 2011 8:30-10:30 pm**

Reviewed NAAE Award applications and Region VI award applications

Winning names will be forward by Mike to the NAAE Board.

Respectfully submitted  
Deb Seibert (PA)  
NAAE Region VI Secretary