

NAAE Convention Region VI

Meeting Minutes

Nashville, TN

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 – Hermitage E

Region VI Vice-President Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. There were 39 delegates present.

Aaron Geiman, (MD) moved to adapt the agenda with flexibility. Krista Pontius, (PA) seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Harrington, (MD) moved to adopt the Region VI Conference minutes as presented. Seconded by Tara Berescik, (NY). Motion passed.

Ken handed out the attendance roster, state conference information sheet and letters of appreciation forms. Ken announced the dates of next years' National Policy Seminar. Each state can send one person to the Seminar. Ken asked state leaders to make changes to the State and National Officer Directory as soon as possible. Ken announced the number of delegates for each state. Voting will take place on Saturday, November 21. Delegates will receive their voting cards on Saturday.

Ken called on each state president to introduce those members attending the convention.

Ken announced the names of the states receiving NAAE State Professional Association and Membership Awards.

Next, Ken called on Nancy Trivette, President of The Council for Agricultural Education to give a report on the activities of The Council.

Nancy welcomed the delegates to Nashville and the NAAE Convention. She told the delegates about the many tough decisions the organization needed to make this year and how they will affect the work of The Council in the future. Nancy explained her four cornerstones that guided her work this year-communication, clarity, transparency and focus. The Council's strategic plan is to be the voice of all Ag. Ed. Nancy recommended all state leaders look into the CASE Program to help increase the inclusion of science and math conceptions into agricultural education courses. Finally, Nancy talked about a new campaign called "Agriculture is Cool" that will be launched soon by The Council.

Ken called for nominations for Regional Secretary. Naomi Knight (MD) nominated Mike Harrington. Ken said nominations will be open till the next regional meeting on Friday.

Ken announced new committee assignments. Terry Hughes (NY) will serve on the Public Policy Committee, Susan Sanger (MD) – Strategic Planning Committee, Tara Berescik (NY)-Strategic Planning Committee and Krista Pontius (PA) –Policy and Bylaws.

The following Region VI members will serve as Committee Chairs: Pamela Berlekovic (CT), John Busekist (NY), Naomi Knight (MD) and Aaron Geiman (MD).

Ken then asked members to serve as workshop facilitators. Many members signed up to serve.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01PM

Friday, November 20, 2009 Hermitage E

Regional Vice-President Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 9:46AM. There were 41 delegates present.

Ken addressed the issue of the changes occurring with the National FFA Foundation Board. Ken read a letter from the NAAE Board of Directors to Dr. Larry Case, Trustee's President of the National FFA Foundation Board outlining the desire of the NAAE Board to support the FFA Foundation Restructuring Process. The changes the NAAE Board supports will be included in the 2009 Public Policy Committee report.

Ken then called on Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist with the National FFA Organization to give a report.

Kevin announced the FFA College Scholarship site is up and running. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2010. Also FFA membership dues will increase next year. Kevin told us that the requirements for the FFA American Degree will be changing in the year 2015. Kevin asked all members to provide feedback to the National FFA Organization about improving customer service.

Committee Reports

Finance – Naomi Knight (MD) reported that the committee approved the NAAE 2010-11 Budget. They also approved the 2008-09 NAAE Independent Audit Report. The committee recommended to continue the relief fund and to encourage states to contribute to the fund.

Marketing – Deb Seibert (PA) reported the committee recommended the creation of an award certification system for Community of Practice (COP). The committee recommended the use of COP in the descriptions on the award applications narratives. Deb Seibert (PA) was elected Committee Vice - Chair for 2010.

Member Services – Tim Bryne (VT) The committee recommended the NAAE Board communicate to state leaders about how important it is to submit their dues to the NAAE in a timely manner. The committee would like the Board to increase the number of webinars available to members.

Professional Growth – Jeff Wilt (VA) reported the committee recommended to the Board to encourage states to introduce college students and NAAE members to the Community of Practice website by developing a “How to Guide”. The committee recommended that all state associations offer a COP workshop during their summer conference next year.

Strategic Planning – John Busekist (NY) reported the committee suggested the Board add the NAAE mission and vision statement to the front of the strategic plan document. The committee also suggested the Board reach out to agricultural industry professionals in an effort to recruit them to fill vacant agricultural education positions across the country.

Public Policy – Aaron Geiman (MD) reported the committee recommended the continue support of the Strategies for Quality and Growth Advocacy Committee and ACTE Policy Issues. The committee suggested the NAAE Board continue to build partnerships with other organizations that share the same Ag Education view. The committee passed a motion supporting the NAAE Board position on the FFA Foundation’s Restructuring Process. Terry Hughes (NY) was elected Committee Vice-Chair for 2010.

Policy and Bylaws – Pamela Berlekovic (CT) reported the committee recommended the passage of the Bylaws amendments stating the voting privileges of direct active members be structured identical to active members. The committee also suggested to eliminate the specific dues amount for each level of membership in the Bylaws. This issue will be discussed at Regional Conferences next year. Pamela announced that Krista Pontius (PA) was elected Committee Chair for 2010.

State President Reports

New Jersey – John Neyhart reported they are working hard recruiting new members. They will be holding a state-wide meeting in January.

Connecticut – Beth Royer reported they held their summer meeting in conjunction with the State FFA Chapter Leadership Training. They are revising their constitution. The State Association is also reorganizing their committees to align more closely with the NAAE committee structure. Beth announced they lost their state Ag Consultant to retirement. They hope a new person will be hired soon. Membership in the State Association is consistent.

Maryland – Aaron Geiman reported that Maryland is reorganizing their committee’s assignments to improve service to members. Also, they are in the process of updating their Association Strategy Plan. The MATA members are working hard planning for the 2010 Regional Summer Conference. They had an increase in membership this year. The Ag Education program at the University of Maryland is now accepting students.

Virginia – Jeff Wilt passed out copies of the 2009 VAAE Annual Report. Jeff reported they have a new Executive Director. VAAE implemented a payroll deduction program to help members pay their membership dues. Jeff also said they conducted a survey to determine teacher needs for in-service training. The survey was a great success. VAAE will hold their summer conference in Winchester, VA. The dates of the conference are July 12-15, 2010.

West Virginia – Charles Bennett reported that membership is steady. They had a great summer conference. He reported that teachers are concerned with the new end of semester assessments.

Pennsylvania – SarahBeth Wanbaugh passed out copies of the 2009 PAAE Annual Report. She reported on the large number of student teachers placed in local schools this past year. A new \$50,000 scholarship has been established at Penn State to assist Agricultural Education students. PAAE is pleased to announce they have 166 members this year. PAAE summer conference will be held July 13-15, 2010. They have started working on the 2012 Region VI Summer Conference.

New York – Betsy Foole reported that New York has added 15 new agricultural teachers and 5 new agricultural programs this year. They had a fantastic collaboration with Career Pathways for their Professional Development Workshop and Conference. Betsy announced the dates of the 2011 Regional Summer Conference will be June 26-29.

Delaware – Judith Bruns reported that members of the Delaware State Association were successful in helping to protect 509 funding for agricultural programs in the state. Also, members are working on state approved curriculum. Judith was happy to report that Delaware is adding new programs.

Vermont – Tim Gustafsen-Byrne reported they have scheduled regional meetings instead of one state wide meeting. They hope this new strategy will increase participation. Their goal this year is for 100% NAAE membership.

Ken called on NAAE President Sally Shomo (VA) to address the delegates. Sally thanked everyone for their support over the years and for making this year's convention a huge success.

President Elect candidate Greg Curlin addressed the delegates next. Greg introduced himself to the delegates and talked about his background and teaching experience. He told the group he was ready to serve.

National FFA President-Elect David Miller (MD) talked to the members about his goal of having a FFA Alumni affiliation at each FFA Chapter across the nation. David wants to hear from any member needing help establishing an Alumni affiliation.

Ken called on Naomi Knight (MD) to report on the 2010 Region VI Summer Conference. Naomi reported the conference will be held in Rockville, MD. The dates of the conference are July 6-9. She passed out information packets to state leaders. Naomi announced that conference attendees will tour the White House in Washington, D.C.

Ken asked for any further nominations for Regional Secretary. Krista Pontius moved to close nominations. Aaron Geiman seconded the motion. Motion passed. Mike Harrington (MD) was elected Regional Secretary.

Ken reminded the members about the Letters of Appreciation forms. The forms need to be handed in today.

Ken thanked everyone for coming to the 2009 NAAE Convention. Next year convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada

Ken adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM

Respectfully submitted

Michael Harrington
Region VI Secretary