

NAAE National Convention 2010
Region VI Meeting Minutes
Riviera Hotel
Capri 109

Wednesday, December 1, 2010-Session 1

Region VI Vice President Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. He welcomed everyone to the National Convention and Las Vegas. There were 49 delegates and members present.

Bethany Royer (CT) offered reflections.

Aaron Geiman (MD) moved to adapt the agenda with flexibility. Seconded by Tim Gustafson-Byrne (VT). Motion passed.

Joe Linthicum (MD) moved to accept the minutes from the Region VI Summer Conference held in Rockville, MD this past July. Seconded by Cindy Chothowski (CY). Motion passed.

Ken asked all delegates and members to sign in on the Regional Meeting Attendance Roster. He also reminded everyone to complete the Appreciation Letter forms and hand them in before the end of the convention to our Regional Secretary Mike Harrington.

Aaron Geiman (MD) and Tara Berescik (NY) were appointed by Ken to be in charge of selling the 50/50 Scholarship Raffle tickets.

Next, Ken called for nominations for the office of Regional Vice President.

Aaron Geiman (MD) nominated Mike Harrington (MD). Seconded by Frank Yesalavich (NJ). John Busekist (NY) nominated Tara Berescik (NY). Seconded by Rebecca Rose. (CT).

Ken asked for nominations for Regional Secretary.

Tara Berescik (NY) nominated Debra Seibert (PA). Seconded by Krista Pontius (PA).

Aaron Geiman (MD) moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Sara Wanbaugh (PA). Motion passed.

Ken announced voting for these two positions will be held on Friday during our second Regional meeting.

Ken asked Mike Harrington Regional Secretary to assume the duties of the chair.

Mike asked each state president or representative to introduce their members and delegates. The following states were present; Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia.

NAAE Professional State Association Awards were presented to the following associations:

Connecticut – Professional
Maryland – Distinguished
New York – Distinguished
Pennsylvania – Distinguished
Virginia – Distinguished

Following the presentation of awards, Mike asked for the delegates to sign up to be workshop facilitators. Region VI is responsible for managing 20 workshops during the convention. Many delegates and members stepped forward to sign up to be facilitators. We managed to fill all the positions.

Committee Reports- Members of the various committees reported on the issues the members were dealing with in their meetings. The committees will present their final reports on Friday during our second session.

Aaron Geiman (MD) moved to adjourn. Seconded by Allan Rathbun (DE). Motion passed.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 11:55AM.

Friday, December 3, 2010 Capri 109

Region VI Vice President Ken Couture called the meeting to order at 9:45AM. There were approximately 51 delegates and members present.

Ken introduced Dorothy Lakso, representing the Ford Motor Company. Ms. Lakso announced changes to the National FFA College Scholarship Program sponsored by Ford Motor Company. This year the program will be offering 6 regional \$3000.00 grants for FFA Chapters. Teachers can obtain additional information about the program by logging on to the National FFA or NAAE websites.

Next, Ken called on Tara Berescik and John Busekist (NY) to give a report on the Region VI Regional Summer Conference. Tara and John showed a Power Point Presentation to the members highlighting the many activities and professional development workshops planned for the conference. The conference is scheduled for Sunday, June 26th to Wednesday, June 29th, 2011 at the Oswegatchie Education Center in Croghan, New York. The theme for this year's conference is "Region VI in the Sticks".

Membership Awards

Ken presented NAAE Membership Awards to the following state associations:

“10% Plus” Awards:

Maine, Rhode Island, Maryland, Vermont

Largest Percentage Membership Increase-State Association:

Vermont

Ken called on Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist with the National FFA Organization to give a report. Kevin encouraged members to sign up for the Agriscience Teachers Program sponsored by the FFA. Kevin explained how impressed he was with the CASE program. He recently visited a number of schools presently using the program in his region. Kevin reminded everyone about the new CDE formation being used for the 2012 National FFA Convention.

Mr. Dwight Armstrong from the National FFA addressed the members about the leadership changes occurring within the FFA Organization.

Committee Reports

Members Services – Keith Schiebel (NY) reported the committee approved a motion to add a line to all NAAE National Award Applications for state presidents to approve a press release announcing state winners by a pre-determine date. Also, the committee moved to strike the words “public school system” and replace them with “educational community” in the Agriculture Teachers Creed.

Professional Growth – Sherisa Nailor (PA) reported the committee recommended that the NAAE send out E-mail Blasts twice a month to keep members informed and that all national NAAE Award Winners be asked to submit a video or tutorial showcasing their activities. The videos should be placed on COP. Sherisa announced she will be the Vice Chair of the committee next year.

Finance - Bethany Royer (CT) reported the committee approved a motion to increase the number of participants for the Teacher Turn The Key program. The committee approved the Audit Report and the Summary of NAAE Receipts and Expenses.

Marketing - Deb Seibert reported the committee asked the NAAE to post a dues incentives survey for states to respond with suggestions about how to increase membership. The committee asked the NAAE to consider an evaluation process for teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of the Teach Ag Campaign. The committee suggested the NAAE to continue to pursue new opportunities with minority groups and agriculture industries. Sara Wanbaugh (PA) will be the committee Vice Chair next year.

Public Policy - Cindy Chotkowski (CT) reported the committee asked the NAAE to post a list of friendly legislative contacts in Washington DC. The committee suggested the NAAE publish a list of key talking points members can use when talking to elected officials. Terry Hughes (NY) and Aaron Geiman (MD) were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the committee for next year.

Policy & Bylaws – Krista Pontius (PA) reported the committee moved to remove the dollar amounts stated in the bylaws for dues. Frank Yesalavich (NJ) was elected Vice Chair for the committee next year.

Strategic Planning – John Busekist (NY) reported the committee moved to amend the NAAE Strategic Plan by adding a new objective to Section B – Professional Development to identify

STEM instructions to the core academic curriculum. Also the committee suggested the NAAE create a business card with talking points to help members with advocacy and to work with the National FFA Alumni to strength collaboration between the two organizations. John was elected Vice Chair for the committee next year.

Elections of New Officers

Mike Harrington (MD) was elected Regional Vice President and Deb Seibert (PA) was elected Regional Secretary.

Ken called on David Miller National President of the FFA Alumni Association for a report. Mr. Miller reported to the members the desire of the FFA Alumni to work with every chapter across the nation. David announced that the association is growing in numbers.

Ken then asked all state associations to make sure they send in their dues as soon as possible.

Nancy Trivette announced the ACTE Region 1 Meeting will be held in Albany, New York in the spring of 2011.

Krista Pontius (PA) reported that the 2012 Region VI summer conference will be held in Pennsylvania. The PA Teachers Association has already starting planning for a very interesting and “sweet” conference.

State Reports

Connecticut – Cindy Chotkowski reported the adaption of new state content standards for consistency within the state. She reported that Ag Teacher Bill Davenport was elected to the State Board of Education. Bridgeport Sound School was recently featured on the Food Channel for their Food Science Culinary program. The association is planning for a two day Professional Development conference in August.

Delaware – Lacey Dixon reported they have been very busy with bi-monthly meetings and CDE training sessions. They have 52 members this year. The association had a display at the Delaware State Fair to promote Agricultural Education in the state. The bi-monthly meeting has helped the members facilitate their growth and planning for their summer conference.

Maryland – Terrie Shank reported the association has been focusing on redefining their organization and how best to serve the members. The NAAE Region VI Conference was an overwhelming success with 89 participants in attendance. During the conference many members traveled to Capitol Hill to visit with their representatives. They have created 7 standing committees to encourage members to participate in directing the work of the association. They approved a Strategic Plan this pass summer. Maryland has established a Maryland Council for Agricultural Education. This organization was formed to foster collaboration between agricultural groups.

New Jersey - John Neyhart reported that two teachers received their Honorary American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention; John Morrow from Philipsburg High School and Bonnie Baldasare from Union County Vocational School. Also Nancy Trivette received the National FFA VIP Award at the FFA Convention. John reported the association participated in the New Jersey Ag. Leadership Summit held in August. The association held their Fall Ag Ed. Conference in September. New Jersey now has 9 teachers implementing the CASE Model. John reported they are updating their website. They are proud to report an increase in membership thanks to the efforts of Frank Yesalavich. They are also working with the Farm Bureau and the New Jersey Board of Agriculture to improve the state "School Choice" program.

New York – The association is busy planning for the 2011 Region VI Conference.

Pennsylvania – Sara Wanbaugh reported the association enjoyed a very successful year. Membership has increased this year. The association is in the process of developing new programs to meet the needs of its members. The association is proud to announce that 4 members won National NAAE Awards. The PAAE 2011 Summer Conference will be held in Athens, PA from July 11 to July 14.

Virginia – Russell Jennings reported that they had an excellent summer conference. The 2010 conference was held in Winchester, VA in July. Russell is the new president and Teresa Lindberg is president elect. The association has developed three dues payment options for the members. The 2011 summer conference will be held in Charlottesville, VA at the Omni Hotel. The dates of the conference are July 18th to the 21, 2011.

Aaron Geiman (MD) moved to adjourn. Seconded by Terrie Shank (MD)

Ken Couture adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Harrington
Region VI Secretary