

## NAAE Convention Region VI Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 by Region VI Vice-President Ken Couture.

Erin Noble (NJ) shared reflections.

Ken welcomed everyone to the 2008 NAAE Convention. He gave an overview of the convention. Ken emphasized three focus points for this year's convention; 1) Professional Growth, 2) Member Recognition and 3) Networking.

Ken recognized the 2007-08 NAAE Region VI Award Recipients.

Cynthia Chotkowski (CT) moved to adopt the agenda with flexibility. Seconded by Tara Bereseik (NY). Motion passed.

Terrie Shank (MD) moved to adopt the Region VI Summer Conference minutes as presented. Seconded by Krista Pontius (PA). Motion passed.

Ronnie Ansley (NC) Past President of the National FFA Alumni Association welcomed the members to the convention.

Next, Ken handed out the attendance roster, state summer conference and letters of appreciation forms to the members.

Ken called on Kevin Keith, LPS Specialist to report on National FFA current issues. Kevin presented pertinent information about the National Quality Standards Program. Keith encouraged state leaders to sign-up to participate in the program. He also announced the FFA Scholarship forms are on-line now. The FFA "K" type membership dues will be increased to \$12.00. Finally, the National FFA now has a Vet. Science Proficiency Award.

NAAE President-Elect Sally Shomo (VA) spoke to the members and encouraged them to participate in all of the convention activities.

Ken encouraged all members to attend the ACTE opening session on Thursday morning at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Mr. Robert King (NY) reported the establishment of the Ag & Life Science Inst. at Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY. The ALSI mission is to create a formal degree at the college that will support and strengthen the Pathway to Success program with Cornell University. So far 20 students have transferred from MCC to ANSI.

Ken asked members to sign up to be facilitators for the various workshops held at the convention. Many members stepped forward to sign up.

Next, Ken reviewed the standing committee assignments.  
Daryl Holland (VA) moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Aaron Geiman (MD). Motion passed.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 11:55AM

### **Friday, December 5, 2008 - Governor 4,5,6**

Ken called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Ken reminded members to complete and turn in the state summer conference, letters of appreciation and state roster forms as soon as possible.

Ken reported that the 2009 Region VI Summer Conference hosted by the New England Teachers Association, will be held in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The tentative dates for the conference are June 28-30, 2009.

Terrie Shank (MD) gave a brief report on the 2010 Region VI Summer Conference to be held in Rockville. Maryland.

Ken called for nominations for Region VI Secretary.

Aaron Geiman (MD) nominated Michael Harrington (MD) for Region VI Secretary. Krista Pontius (PA) seconded.

Sara Beth Wanbaugh (PA) moved to close nominations. Seconded by Krista Pontius (PA). Motion passed.

Michael Harrington was elected Region VI Secretary.

Next, Ken reviewed the delegate count information. The delegate voting cards will be handed out at the last NAAE business session on Saturday, December 6, 2008.

Ken presented the State Professional Association and Membership awards to the following states;

New York-“10% Plus” Award and Distinguish State Award  
Virginia - “10% Plus Award and Professional State Award  
Pennsylvania - Distinguish State Award  
Connecticut – Professional State Award  
Maryland – Professional State Award.

#### **Committee Reports**

Strategic Planning – John Busekist (NY) reported that there were no major recommendations for the Board. The committee reviewed the Program of Activities. John announced he will serve as Committee Vice-Chair next year.

Finance – Tara Berescik (NY) reported the committee approved the 2007-08 Independent Audit Report and the 2009-10 NAAE budget report. They asked each state to develop a plan to increase contributions to the NAAE Agricultural Educator Relief Fund. The committee recommended a 10% increase to the Agriculture Education Scholarship Fund. Tara reported that Naomi Knight (MD) will serve as Committee Chair next year.

Member Services – Eric Larson (NY) reported that all regions will use the same method in selecting their Ideas Unlimited winners. However, the committee moved to allow presenter's the option to submit a CD/DVD presentation if they were unable to attend the Regional meeting. The committee also suggested that Regional Winners submit their presentations on an electronic format to the NAAE office, so they can be put on the Communities of Practice website.

Professional Growth – Terrie Shank (MD) reported that the committee recommended the Board look into offering workshops at the National FFA Conventions. The committee suggested a calendar be developed on the Community of Practice website for future webinars. They reviewed the Professional Growth section of the Program of Activities.

Marketing – Erin Noble (NJ) reported the committee recommend that NAAE Upper Division Scholarships be given to NAAE dues paying student members. They suggested that the Teacher Mentor Application be streamlined. Also, they encouraged state leadership to give recruitment presentations at the local and state level. The committee reviewed the Marketing Section of the Program of Activities.

Public Policy – Aaron Geiman (MD) reported the committee recommended that the NAAE office use a lottery system to award unused money to states that wished to send a second person to the National Policy Seminar. The committee reviewed the Public Policy section of the Program of Activities. Aaron Geiman will serve as Committee Chair next year.

Policy and By-Laws – Pamela Berlekovic (CT) reported the committee reviewed the Program of Activities as it applies to Policy and & By-Laws. The committee recommend an addendum or addition to the Memorandum of Understanding stating the approximate number of days that Regional Secretary and Regional Vice-President will be expected to be out of school. Pamela Berlekovic (CT) will serve as Committee Chair and Krista Pontius (PA) will serve as Vice-Chair next year.

Ray Nash Region V Vice-President and President-Elect candidate introduced himself to the members.  
He talked about the future of NAAE.

#### State President Reports

Connecticut – Pam Berlekovic reported they had a very successful conference in August. The 2-day Conference focused on CAAE business and included many Professional Development workshops. They have four scheduled after school meetings this school year. They also had a full day new teacher workshop. Connecticut will be a NQPS pilot state. Membership is stable with 70 members.

Maryland – Michael Harrington reported they have 53 members. They also helped fund CAERT curriculum for every agriculture teacher in the state. They are working hard on planning the 2010 Regional Summer Conference.

New Jersey – Erin Noble reported they held a Fall Conference which included Lab Aid sponsored workshops. They will be holding a Spring Salute to Achievement activity

New York – John Busekist reported that membership is up. They had a great conference at the Inn On Canadaigua in Geneva, NY. The 2009 conference will be held in Croghan, NY. The Ag Ed Outreach is now fully staffed. They will be having a Made for Excellence / Advance Leadership Development conference in January. They have over 350 students and teachers registered already. The 2011 conference will be held in Saratoga at the oldest race track in America. They helped fill 14 positions in the state. They have one current opening.

Pennsylvania – Sara Beth Wanbaugh reported they have presently 152 members. The PA Department of Education approved the use of SAE hours to satisfy Ag programs standards. The 2012 Regional Summer Conference will be held in Hersey, PA.

Vermont – Tim Gustafson-Byrne reported they had a 10% increase in membership. They now have 16 career-tech centers and 1 high school with an ag program. However, they are having trouble finding teachers. Tim explained how they raffled off tickets to a Boston Red Sox game to raise money for scholarships. They also formed partnerships with area farmers and ag business owners to provide classroom space for students.

Virginia – Darryl Holland reported they have increased membership in their state. Virginia will now have four voting delegates. Their 2009 summer conference will be held in Richmond, VA in August.

Terrie Shank (MD) spoke on behalf of the Region VI members to thank Ken Couture for his leadership and support this past year.

Ken called on David Miller, Eastern Regional FFA Alumni Vice-President for a report. David encouraged the members to form alumni chapters and if they need help to call him.

Aaron Geiman (MD) moved to adjourn. Seconded by Sara Beth Wanbaugh (PA). The motion passed. Ken adjourned the meeting at 10:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Harrington  
Region VI Secretary