

Minutes
NAAE Board of Directors Meeting
September 9-10, 2023

The NAAE Board of Directors conducted a board of directors meeting on September 9-10, 2023 in Lexington, KY at the NAAE Office. Board members in attendance included: Deanna Schnuck (MO), President; Eric Tilleman (MT), President-Elect; Cameron Dale (OK), Region II Vice President; Shari Graffunder (WI), Region III Vice President; Jeff Voris (MO), Region IV Vice President; Bill Newsom (TN), Region V Vice President; Aaron Geiman (MD), Region VI Vice President; Stan Scurlock (FL), Past President; and Alissa Smith (KY), NAAE Chief Executive Officer. Kyle Stapleton (ID), Region I Vice President joined the meeting virtually.

The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

1. **Call to Order** – President Deanna Schuck called the board meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Deanna welcomed all to the meeting.
2. **Reflection and Pledge** – President-Elect Eric Tilleman provided a reflection to the group and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. **Review and Adjust Agenda** – Aaron Geiman moved, Bill Newsom seconded, to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Shari Graffunder moved, Cameron Dale seconded, to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2023 virtual meeting. The motion carried.
5. **NAAE Board and Staff Updates** – Deanna Schuck invited each director and staff person to present an update on their activities since the last board meeting in July.
6. **NAAE Membership Report** – Alissa Smith provided a final update on membership for 2022-2023 membership year. She reported we had a 6% increase in active membership and a 5.87% increase in overall membership. Alissa also provided the official delegate count for the 2023 NAAE Convention. A total of 207 delegates will be possible for this year's convention. Lastly, Alissa provided a report of the 2023-2024 membership year. She reported that we have roughly 50% of our active membership submitted and entered into our membership database.
7. **NAAE CEO Report** – Alissa Smith shared an update on the new website landing page and secondary pages, as well as a MOU update. She also shared an update regarding the National FFA Foundation and the new #TeachAg Lesson Plan in a Box.

8. NAAE Board Committee Meetings

- **Finance** – Jay Jackman, Chief Financial Officer, joined the meeting to present the current financial update including going over the most recent financial compilations from May 31, 2023. Jay also shared an update on the Ag Ed Relief Fund with current balance.
- **Policy & Bylaws**
 - **Leadership Handbook** - Alissa Smith shared the update the draft of the Leadership Handbook. Additional items were discussed to add to the handbook and how to make it more user friendly. Alissa will finalize the handbook with the input and bring to the NAAE Board at the October virtual meeting.
 - **Assembly of Delegate at NAAE Convention – Overview of Delegate Process** – Alissa shared the updated process with the addition of the Assembly of Delegates.
 - Eric Tilleman moved, Shari Graffunder seconded, to have any motion that would come before the delegate assembly be submitted to the NAAE CEO by September 1st and the CEO must send out to the membership sixty days prior to the delegate session at NAAE Convention. Motion passed.

President Deanna Schnuck recessed the board meeting for lunch.

9. **NAAE Convention Update** – Alissa Smith provided an update on the schedule and other convention items. The goal is to have the convention app live by October 17, 2023. She also provided an update on the Celebration of 75 years! Dinner at NAAE Convention and discussed the outline for the State Leadership Training Program.

10. **National FFA Convention Update** – Alissa Smith shared the plans to support educators through the NAAE Educators Lounge at National FFA Convention. She also shared that we will have the #TeachAg recruitment booth as well as provide two student #TeachAg workshops. Additionally, we will also have professional development workshops in room 145 with a #TeachAg Agents workshop and a My Local Cooperative workshop.

11. NAAE Board Committee Meetings Cont.**a. Advocacy in Agricultural Education**

Jeff Voris, Board Chair for the Advocacy in Agricultural Education Committee, conducted the meeting. Mary Handrich, Wisconsin, Advocacy in Agricultural Education Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.)

b. Member Experience

Cameron Dale, Board Chair for Member Experience Committee, conducted the meeting. David Ruvarac, Pennsylvania, Member Experience Membership Committee Chair, joined

the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.

c. **Professional Development**

Shari Graffunder, Board Chair for the Professional Development Committee, conducted the meeting. Rob Yates, Montana, Professional Development Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.

d. **Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition**

Bill Newsom, Board Chair for the Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Committee conducted the meeting. Annette Weeks, Washington, Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Membership Committee Chair, joined the meeting via Zoom. (Refer to the committee report for the details of the committee meeting.

13. **Regional Conference Review and Planning** – The Regional Vice Presidents shared challenges, concerns and successes of this past summer’s regional conference. Alissa Smith presented, as part of the Leadership Handbook, a “Guide to Planning Regional Conferences”. Additional discussion included how NAAE could help manage the conferences to take the additional work load off of the state hosts but still make sure the host can provide input and a way to showcase their state. The Board agreed that the registration will need to be ready prior to January 15th if not sooner.

President Deanna Schnuck recessed the board meeting at 5:53 p.m. until Sunday morning.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

President Deanna Schnuck reconvened the meeting on Sunday, September 10th, at 8:31 a.m.

14. **NAAE Committees** – A discussion was held by the Board of Directors to help increase participation in committees. The Board worked on dates to create a calendar for committees for 2024. The committee events will be: winter meetings held January 16-25, 2024; February 1st – Committee Reports will be due; February 1st Committee Leadership Training will occur; and July 29-August 8th – summer virtual committee meetings will be held. The Regional Vice Presidents will work with the committee to secure their dates.
15. **Committee Reports** – Kyle Stapleton moved, Shari Graffunder seconded, to approve the committee reports as presented. Motion carried.
16. **NAAE Board Committee Meetings Cont. Strategic Planning** –
- **NAAE Awards Revisions** - Alissa shared the NAAE Awards Revision 2025 Plan of Action and discussed the need to have awards finalized by June 1, 2024, Eric Tilleman moved, Shari Graffunder seconded, to approve the NAAE Awards Revision 2025 Plan of Action. Motion carried. Aaron Geiman moved, Cameron Dale seconded, for Shari Graffunder and Bill Newsom to serve as Co-Chairs of the

NAAE Awards Revision 2025 Committee. Motion carried.

- **NAAE Strategic Plan** – The NAAE Board provided input on the action items and targets and measurements for the strategic plan. The final plan will be brought to the October meeting for Board approval.

17. NAAE Representative on Ag Ed Board Reports –

- a. **National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees** - Sherisa Nailor updated the board on the latest Board of Trustee information and informed us of the upcoming meeting in December.
- b. **National Council for Agricultural Education** – Jeff Voris and Alissa Smith updated the board on the latest related to the Council and shared they will be attending the fall Council meeting this upcoming week.
- c. **National FFA Board of Directors** – Deanna Schnuck updated the board on what has occurred since our last meeting including the new hire for the CFO of National FFA.
- d. **National FFA Alumni & Supporters Council**–Shari Graffunder shared her notes from the National FFA Alumni meeting she attended virtually and also added that she is in charge of the FFA Blue Network for the month of September.

18. Other Business – The board discussed upcoming meetings and set dates for the following: September meeting to discuss CEO contract – September 13 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern time; October meeting to discuss Committees and Strategic Plan – October 16th at 6:00 p.m. Eastern; February Board Meeting – February 9-11, 2024.

19. Adjournment – With no further business to be transacted at this NAAE Board of Directors meeting, Eric Tilleman moved, Kyle Stapleton seconded to adjourn; the motion carried. President Deanna Schnuck declared the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.