**Pennsylvania FFA Association**

**Board of Directors**

**Meeting December 11th, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Chloe Bomgardner at 12:55 PM and the State Officer Team conducted opening ceremonies. In attendance were Chloe Bomgardner, Nathan Lesh, Sydney Albright, Emily Kerstetter, Evan Espenshade, Kennady Laird, Jaclyn Martin, Mike Brammer, Doug Masser, Jodie Hoover, Michael Clark, Natalie Barkley, Katie Ranck, Renee Cambruzzi, Nathan Schanbacher, Amanda Gagne, Sharisa Nailor, Curt Turner, Alex Barzidlo, Jordan Anderson, Grace Bomgardner, Crystal Bomgardner, Ron Fredrick,Bethany Mathey, Melanie Berndtson, Sarah Sparks.

Lesh/Albright moved to accept the minutes presented from the May meeting. Motion passed. Lesh/Ch.Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion passed.

**Reports of Officers/Staff**

Executive Director Report: Brammer announced the guests that are present which are Amanda Gagne, Grace Bomgardner, and Bethany Mathy who is filling in for Dr.Cury. Brammer presented the financial report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The financial report will be filed for audit.

State Officer Team Report: The State Officer team gave an oral and visual presentation reviewing what the team has been doing since the August Board of Directors meeting and what they are looking forward to for the rest of this year. A written report was provided.

**Standing Committees**

CDE/LDE Committee: Barzydlo presented the CDE/LDE committee report. There were three Voting Items.

1. Barzydlo moved to approve the recommendation to approve changes to the general knowledge test for the dairy cattle evaluation CDE to be reduced from 40 to 20 multiple choice questions and the addition of 3 problem solving questions. Motion Passed.
2. Barzydlo moved to approve the recommendation that Dairy Cattle Showmanship CDE placing 1st-4th advance to the Big E. Motion Passed.
3. Barzydlo moved to approve adding a second practicum to the TurfGrass management CDE. Motion Passed.

Barzydlo shared that additional progress has not been made on new CDEs/LDEs beyond suggestions for the development process. A Google Folder has been added under PA FFA to house documents that a chair might use to run their event. Each CDE and LDE will have their own folder. An application to become a Chair/Co-Chair for a CDE/LDE is being developed. It should be ready to bring to the board by the March Meeting. This committee wondered if the National Chapter Award Applications and the process used in PA should be tasked to someone else. Berndtson moved to make a special committee to evaluate how to go about the National Chapter Award Application process. Barzydlo Seconded. Berndtson will serve as chair and add a couple members. They will come back with an update for the next meeting. Motion passed. Lesh/Cambruzzi moved to concur.

SAE Committee: Nailor shared that the keystone evaluation went well. Working on fine tuning the process and honing in to the checklist for keystone degrees. This committee will meet between now and the next meeting. Review the proficiency evaluation and if there's a way to make it like keystone. Reevaluate record systems for farm show. Hope to figure out a definition of an SAE project in Pennsylvania to have an outline to tell students.

**Reports of Special Committees:**

Strategic Planning: Mathey moved to approve $500 and mileage reimbursement to have a meeting session for the Strategic Planning Committee. Motion Passed. Kerstetter/Espenshade moved to concur.

State Convention Review Committee: Masser has nothing new to report.

Middle School Programming Committee: Brammer. Met to talk about Jr. ACES for Middle Schoolers. It would run like FLC with a workbook, shirt, lunch, and workshops. Teachers are not willing to pay more than $25 per student and that would not be able to pay for the supplies and rooms needed for this conference at that rate, so the committee will continue to talk about how to make this conference happen. If each region held the conference and found a place for no/minimum cost it might be possible to host at that price rate. They also want to look into possibly making leadership conferences a timeline that there would be a middle school conference, 9th and 10th grade conference, 11th and 12th grade conference, and a conference for chapter officers.

Competitive Events Creation/Development Committee: Gagne presented the CDE Creation/Development committee report. Gagne moved to approve recommendation for the Association Board Policy which is listed in a written report. Motion Passed. Lesh/Kerstetter moved to concur.

CCA Chartering Committee: Masser presented the CCA Chertering Committee report. Masser moved to approve the CCA FFA charter effective in June 2025. This committee is going to look at creating a policy that would cover a definition for all chapter chaperones. They looked at the possibility with competitions that students compete wherever their schools' legal address. There are some concerns about finding ways for all programs to show what their students are learning through these programs to make sure curriculum is being taught. The original motion was withdrawn. They will bring a new recommendation to the March meeting.

**Unfinished business:**

Student Courtesy Corps Committee: The Student Courtesy Corps Committee recommends no further action at this time, but is open to exploring it in the future.

Regional Alignment Research: G.Bomgardner gave a written report and a presentation stating the current regions in Pennsylvania FFA. The current proposal would be to have 22 areas and 6 regions. The idea would be to have less distance travel in the regions and/or are broken down from district populations. The proposed Northwest, North Central, Northeast, Southwest, South Central, and Southeast. G.Bomgardner will take into account the questions/suggestions from the board and report in March what she finds. It will also be sent out to teachers in an email and be brought up at the next PAAE meeting to be evaluated by teachers.

**New business:**

2025 Convention & Activities week: Brammer presented the report for the 2025 Convention & Activities week. It will be held June 10-12, 2025. Members will be in the east halls, and convention sessions as well as State Officer Interviews will be in the Eisenhower Auditorium. Jordan Anderson has proposed having a Media Team that she would be in charge of. There would be 1 videographer, 1 editor, and 3 photographers. They would help with photo and video content and social media posts. Future goals are to have student interns assist with this and to possibly have a Pennsylvania State Convention App. Abigail O’Neill will be the delegate coordinator. This position will start in March for SLLC and will be incharge of that process at State Convention as well. Jessica Herr will be the Leadership Workshops and Visiting Officers Coordinator. Greg Gipe will be the Student and State officer experience coordinator. Brammer was also looking at the possibility of Chairs not announcing the competition results, but would still be recognized and thanked. The other possibility he was thinking about was lining up award winners before being announced.

2025 ACES & SLLC: Laird spoke on ACES. The theme this year is “Together we can spend a Weekend in the West”. Registration closes on December 16, 2024. Co Facilitators have been chosen. Kerstetter spoke on SLLC. There are 8 Student legislative Interns (SLI) that have been chosen to assist state officers throughout the week.

2025 Keystone Approvals: Espenshade/Martin moved to approve all 511 keystone applications. Motion was passed. Clark/Berndtson concurred.

2025 Honorary and Distinguished Parent Award Approvals: Albright/Espenshade moved to approve the 30 Honorary and Distinguished Parent Awards. Motion Passed. Clark/Berndtson concurred.

New Charter Approvals: Lesh/Kerstetter moved to approve the 6 New FFA Charters. Motion passed.

Appointment of the budget committee: Appointed the same members as last year. First meeting will be sometime in the spring.

**Good of the Order:**

### Regional Coordinators:

Northern Region- Barkey shared that the Keystone and Regional Stars are finalized. Regional speaking is next.

South-Central Region- Turner shared that on March 19, 2025 Temple Grandin will be coming to speak.

Eastern Region- Frederick shared that the regional CDE day was in November. Spring regionals are coming up on April 1, 2025. New Jersey will have some members competing in some competitions.

Western Region- Cambruzzi has nothing new to report.

PA FFA Foundation: Mrs. Sparks provided a written report.

Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence: Davis was not able to attend. Sparks spoke in his place.

SAE Specialist: Mrs. Fay provided a written report.

PAAE: Serfass provided a written report.

FFA Alumni: Nailor provided a written report.

Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report: Mathey presented the report. 6 Seniors, 13 Juniors, 20 Sophomores, and 25 Freshman. SAE for all is happening all four weekends of ACES. The annual recruitment event will be happening at Farmshow on January 6, 2025.

**Future Event Dates:**

* Mid-Winter - January 6, 2025
* ACES- January 25-26, February 1-2, February 15-16, February 22-23, 2025
* SLLC- March 23-25, 2025
* State Convention & Activities Week- June 10-12, 2025

**Announcements:**

Future Board Meetings: 2024‐2025

**(At Country Inn & Suites) March 12, May 14, (At PSU) June 11 & 12**

Closing ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Brammer,
FFA Executive Director

Sydney Albright,
FFA State Secretary