

Pennsylvania FFA Association

Board of Directors

Meeting March 12th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Chloe Bomgardner at 12:50 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, Michael Clark, Jodi Hoover, John Seaman, Clifford Wallace, Renee Cambruzzi, Chris Davis, Nathan Schanbacher, Grace Bomgardner, Ron Fredrick, Curt Turner, Katie Ranck, Carol Fay, Sarah Sparks, Rachel Newberry, Sherisa Nailor, Natalie Barkley, Melanie Berndtson, Lacy Miles.

Lesh/Albright moved to accept the minutes presented from the December meeting. Motion passed. Clark/Cambruzzi moved to concur. Motion passed.

Reports of Officers/Staff

Executive Director Report: Brammer presented the financial report for the 2024-2025 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 their activities since the December Board of Directors meeting and what they are looking forward to for the rest of this year. A written report was also provided.

Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report: Seaman reported that the numbers for Penn State Agricultural Education has improved as there are 6 current student teachers that are about halfway through their terms. There are 13 current Juniors who will have their student teaching placement interviews in the upcoming week. There are 17 current Sophomores and 29 current Freshman in the program. 64 teachers are registered for the SLLC teachers workshop. April 12 planning tours of food processors. July 14 – CASE Institute at CV High School.

Standing Committees

CDE/LDE Committee: Barzydlo presented the CDE/LDE committee report. A committee chair application is needed. It informs applicants what it takes to be a chair and what is expected of them. The hope is for it to be posted on the Pennsylvania FFA website on the CDE/LDE tab, so that anyone could apply if they are interested. Current chairs would not have to reapply. Ranck moved to move the vote on this policy till the May meeting. There were no objections, so it was tabled until May 2025.

SAE Committee: Nailor presented the SAE committee written report. The process for Keystone Degree Reviews went well. They tried a new process that teachers found easier and more streamlined. For the Proficiency Evaluation Reviews, teachers are encouraged but not required

to assist with applications. They are also requesting feedback for any point deductions, so that members know exactly what they need to improve on.

This committee recommended policy changes as attached. The Board voted to accept the recommended policy changes. Lesh/Kerstetter moved to concur. Motion Passed. **SECOND VOTE NEEDED**

This committee is also recommending developing a policy change for the standing SAE committee that identifies term and term limits to create a cycle of service and participation. Board voted to bring this recommendation back at the May meeting. Lesh/Martin moved to concur. **Motion Passed.**

Reports of Special Committees:

Strategic Planning: Dr. Musser was contacted by Dr. Curry to find a date to meet. Nothing more to report.

Competitive Events Creation: Second vote needed for this policy change.

The board provided feedback and questions to the committee and this policy change is tabled till the May meeting.

Commonwealth Charter Academy Chartering Committee: Masser presented the CCA Chartering Committee Report. This committee gave three recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Approve the CCA FFA charter, effective June, 2025.

Recommendation 2: Update Chaperones Policy

i. Page 15, line 24: "Chapter chaperones must be school district employees or other individuals approved by the school district."

ii. Page 17, Add after IIIe.iii, Line 30: "Chapter chaperones must be school district employees or other individuals approved by the school district."

i. Add to policy as Section II.d.iii: "The region for an FFA chapter will be determined based on the legal address of the charter/school district. Appeals to the assigned region can be sent to the board of directors for review."

ii. Edit Section II.d.I.1. Classroom Instruction

1. Current: Courses in the sequence must involve physical seat time in the building.
2. Proposed Change: Courses in the sequence must involve classroom and laboratory instruction related to any disciplines of agriculture.

SECOND VOTE NEEDED.

Recommendation 3: Edit the State Authorization Form so that the school-approved chaperone for the event is clearly stated. Suggested a single form for Admin with chaperones/teachers and students' names. So they only have to sign once.

The board voted to approve recommendation 2. Lesh/Espenshade moved to concur. Motion passed. The board voted to approve recommendation 3. Kerstetter/Martin moved to concur. Motion passed. The board voted to approve recommendation 1. Kerstetter/Laird moved to concur. Motion passed.

Convention Committee: Masser presented the Convention Committee report. They concluded that they are no longer needed and have served their purpose.

Middle School Committee: Brammer reported that there will not be a Junior ACES for Middle Schoolers (JAMS) conference in the 2024-2025 year, but there is hope to have one ready to go in the near future.

National Chapter Award Committee: Berndtson provided a written report of advisors who expressed interest in being a part of this committee. Reviewed information advisors had sent in. Discussed some topics that can be brought up with the committee. Suggested the committee send action items to the Board.

Unfinished business:

Regional Alignment Research: Grace Bomgardner was asked to research and propose regional and area re-alignments. The Board very much appreciates the work Grace has done on this matter. Regional Coordinators can share it with the teachers in their region for further recommendations. The regional coordinators will report back in May about what their regions discussed.

ACES Review: Laird provided a review of ACES. There were over 2,000 students & teachers in attendance. There were 2 tracks and 10 workshops for students to go through, and a Sunday morning activity that was led by Emilly Kerstetter and Nathan Lesh, that was a review of the workshops and how they can implement what was learned at their local chapters.

SLLC Review: Kerstetter reported that in the last meeting 8 interns out of 40 applicants were chosen to serve as student legislative interns. There will be 4 workshops for students to attend and an advocacy fair, and six legislative bills to debate. There are 544 members attending and there will be over 40 special guests and 60 legislators going to the breakfast.

New business:

Human Resources: Clark/Barzydlo moved to form a Special Committee for human resources for vision and personnel to meet about the job description of the executive director, and how to create a healthy transition into a new executive director. The committee will consist of Brammer (as needed), four regional representatives, and anyone else appointed as needed. The Board voted to approve this motion. Lesh/Kerstetter moved to concur. Motion Passed.

STAR- Living to Serve: Miles proposed adding a new STAR award, the living to serve award.

This award would recognize students who complete an SAE in a service area. SAEs included would be Fire, EMS, Hospital, Therapeutic/Therapeutic riding, Community Service, etc. Barzydlo/Clark moved to refer this to the SAE committee. Motion passed. Laird/Kerstetter moved to concur. Motion passed.

2025 Convention & Activities week: Brammer presented the report for the 2025 Convention & Activities week. It will be held June 10-12, 2025. Registration will go live on April 15 and will go till May 15. Housing will be in the East Halls at Penn State, but meals will be in Pollock and Redifer dining hall. Sessions will be held in Eisenhower Auditorium.

Regional EIN Numbers: Brammer reminded regions that they need to have EIN numbers for their bank accounts.

Board Elections: Brammer reported that there will be elections for the next President and Vice President of the adult Board, at the May meeting. Masser, Schanbacher, and Cambuzzi are at the end of their second term, so they will not be able to return. Nominations and elections will occur between now and May.

Leadership Conference Review Committee: Brammer proposed a committee to look over the leadership conferences that the Pennsylvania FFA holds conducts. Barzydlo/Cambuzzi moved to create a committee to review the leadership conferences of Pennsylvania FFA, with Ranck as chair with the power to add representatives as needed. The motion passed. Kerstetter/Espenshade moved to concur. Motion Passed.

Good of the Order:

Regional Coordinators:

South Central Region- Barkley reported that the South Central Region added an Agricultural Education LDE. Their regional competitions will be on April 24, 2025.

Northern Region- Turner reported that the Northern CDE day is on April 15, 2025. They added the Floriculture CDE last year and will add the Landscape and Nursery this year.

Eastern Region- Frederick reported that the Eastern Regional LDE day will be on April 1, 2025 and the regional CDE day will be held on April 8.

Western Region- Wallace reported that the Western Region CDE Day will be on April 15, 2025.

PA FFA Foundation: Mrs. Sparks provided a written report. She introduced Rachel Newberry, the new Program Development Manager. New sponsors have been secured – Ag Com, M H Eby, Paragon and Harrell's. Various programs were discussed. Golf outing is Sept 24, 2025.

Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence: Davis reported that their next meeting is on March 19, 2025. Working on the definition of Agricultural Education to help better explain what it is to people who may not be familiar with it and may not understand what it all entails.

SAE Specialist: Mrs. Fay provided a written report. Discussion on SAE credits being offered with no class time and on the roster.

PAAE: Nailor provided a written report.

FFA Alumni: Nailor provided a written report.

Announcements:

Future Board Meetings: 2025-2026


(At Country Inn & Suites - State College) May 14, (At PSU) June 11 & 12, August 6, December 2, March 11, 2026, May 12

Future Event Dates:

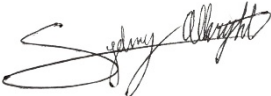
- SLLC- March 23-25, 2025
- State Convention & Activities Week- June 10-12, 2025
- 2026 State Convention Dates? June 9-11 OR June 16-18? June 9-11 preferred.

Closing ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Brammer".

Mike Brammer, FFA Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sydney Albright".

Sydney Albright, FFA State Secretary

I.c. Regional Coordinators

I.c.1. Duties of Regional Coordinators

- i. Work with the state advisor, executive manager, and FFA facilitator to insure **ensure** continuity of program and purpose. Perform such duties as assigned to assist with the establishment and advancement of the FFA. Serve as liaison between the State Association and local chapters in their respective region. Coordinate the flow of information from the State Association and the local chapter and vice versa.
- ii. Facilitate the management, organization, and implementation and forward the information to the FFA Facilitator **PA FFA Association State Office** of the following regional FFA activities:
 1. Parliamentary procedure, public speaking, safe tractor driving, and small gasoline engines.
 2. Keystone Degree selection, Regional Star selections, and **evaluation of** Proficiency awards, including checking appropriate documentation.
 3. Attend state staff meetings and Board of Directors meetings to be an integral part of the decisions making process, and reflect the concerns of each region at the meetings.
 4. Assist, if needed, with FFA activities at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show and Pennsylvania FFA Association Mid-Winter Convention and State FFA Convention.
 5. Attend PAAE Regional meetings to update teachers on FFA activities.
 6. May conduct other Career **and Leadership** Development Events as needed and requested by regional teachers.

I.c.2. Term Of Office

- i. Region Coordinators shall serve for two years starting on June 1. The Executive Manager will advertise for regional coordinators. Regional Coordinators Job Description and Selection Procedure.

Section IV: State Awards

IV.a. Keystone Degree Procedures

- i. Candidates must be at least a junior in high school to be eligible to apply for the Keystone degree.
 1. Keystone Degree verification process will take place at the Regional **State** level. Regional Coordinators shall schedule the event and form a committee of six-eight to evaluate the applications. A list will then be provided to the Executive Manager of those approved. **The State evaluation committee will consist of a minimum of eight (8) members, none of which shall be current PA Agricultural Educators. This committee will be formed and coordinated by the PA FFA Association Executive Manager.**
 2. **All other details of the evaluation process will be outlined and approved by the PA FFA Association Board of Directors annually.**

IV.b. Guidelines for Selection of Keystone Degree Recipients and Star Candidates.

IV.b.1. Keystones i. All Keystone FFA Degree applications and appropriate information need to be forwarded to the corresponding regional coordinator **registered and submitted for evaluation** according to the directions and dates set forth by the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors.

- IV.b.2. Regional **Keystone** Stars Selection i. Candidates **MUST** be approved to receive their Keystone Degree the same year applying for STAR.
- ii. The regional coordinator will oversee a selection committee comprised of an agriculture teacher from each area (when possible) and a representative from the agricultural or education industry, when possible. The committee members should not be from the same high school as a star candidate for the category of selection.
 - iii. The top candidates from each area will be present for an interview with the selection committee. Upon the conclusion of the selection committee evaluation and interviews, their recommendation for regional stars shall be submitted, by the regional FFA coordinator, to the FFA Board of Directors for final approval. When the regional selection committee meets, they will take into account the following:
 1. That the student has in operation, an outstanding supervised agricultural and/or other occupational experiences program, which must show comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope with records to substantiate such accomplishments.
 2. That only the appropriate part of the application that is being considered for star shall be judged. Examples: production pages should not have bearing in selecting star agricultural business and vice versa
 3. That the best candidates of that year be considered for stars. Time should be provided for those candidates, following Regional Star Selection to provide additional documentation for the State Star Selection Committee

IV.b. 3. State Star Selection Committee

- i. The SAE Specialist or the FFA Board designee will oversee a selection committee for each star category to review applications and interview the candidates **according to the procedure and timeline approved by the PA FFA Association Board of Directors.** the morning of the Pennsylvania FFA Association Mid-Winter Convention. (2017)
- ii. This committee will consist of one Pennsylvania agricultural educator (when possible), one member from the FFA Foundation (when possible), and at least one other member that represents the agricultural or education industry for a minimum of three members.
- iii. The committee will be evaluating only those parts of the records and application that pertain to the star category in which the member has applied.

IV.b.4. Star Awards

- i. The four Pennsylvania Star areas are:
 1. Star in Ag Production
 2. Star in Ag Placement
 3. Star in Ag Business
 4. Star in Agriscience
- ii. Each regional star will receive a regional plaque and monetary award at the Mid-Winter Convention.
- iii. Each state star will receive a state plaque and monetary award from National FFA at the Pennsylvania FFA Association Mid-Winter Convention
- iv. The representatives that will go on to the Big E will be the four state stars at the Pennsylvania FFA Association Mid-Winter Convention.

IV.b.5. Record Book—State Stars

- vi. All students who apply for county/area, regional and state stars must submit state-approved **complete and accurate** record books for the years covered by the application with their application. 1. Each county/area committee will make their star selection based upon the state definition. All applications and record books will be forwarded to the regional coordinator for evaluation by the regional level verification committee.
2. State Keystone verification committee will certify the regional stars **are being recommended for their Keystone Degree and are, therefore, eligible to compete for State Star.**
3. Records for all years of the application shall accompany applications to the first level of judging and will be kept with the applications as they progress through judging. Records will be returned promptly following judging. **Records shall be provided electronically.**
4. State-approved **Complete and accurate** Record Books substantiating all years of activity covered by the application must accompany the application. Photocopies of the required state-approved record book will be acceptable.