

PYFA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 24, 2013

The Executive Board of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association met on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at Hoss' Restaurant, State College, PA. Those in attendance were Robert Corman, Ed Zug, Jeff McClellan, Kathy Zimmerman, Carol Corman, Hannah Wentworth, Denise Leydig, Nathan Jamison, Cliff Day, and Betsy Huber.

President Bob Corman called the meeting to order 9:10 am and offered the opening prayer. Carol Corman read the opening ceremony. President Corman welcomed new officer, Western Region Vice President Denise Leydig.

Minutes- Carol Corman suggested tabling approval till next meeting when we have a final copy from Caleb with changes. The Board agreed by common consent.

Treasurers Report- Ed Zug presented the financial report. Three Chapters sent their dues checks but no roster. Membership Chair Edith Rhoads is in process of opening bank account but needs a copy of our verification letter from IRS. A question about the Miscellaneous line item \$2300 was the donation to St. Jude's Hospital from the quilt auction held at the Winter Conference. The current travel reimbursement rate is 51.5 cents. Carol Corman requested notice of the new rate be sent to officers.

Bob Corman asked if our accountant needs us to do anything extra regarding the new IRS regulations for nonprofit organizations. The treasurer said no.

Jeff McClellan moved, Carol Corman seconded to approve the report. Carried.

Membership report – In Edith Rhoads' absence, Nate Jamison read the current membership numbers for this year. There are three new life members. Kathy Zimmerman reported that Horace Waybright died, but he was not a state life member. Board members asked if Edith can send an electronic copy of the membership roster to chapters or, if a paper copy is sent, expand columns so there is room to add names. Carol Corman will contact Selinsgrove and Penns Valley for their rosters.

Public Relations – Britney Marsh sent no report. Bob Corman presented award plaques and checks to Manheim winners at their banquet. There was discussion on the mixup of Outstanding Young Farmer award applications at the Winter Conference. Bob Corman said the host chapter plaques need to be presented to the chapters since the plaques were not awarded at the Conference. There was discussion on whether Britney will be able to continue in this position since she is graduating. Bob will contact her. Bob suggested we review the awards we currently give. Carol Corman moved, Kathy Zimmerman seconded, that an advisor may only receive the outstanding advisor award two times in their career and must be an active advisor when awarded. Carried.

The Board discussed the Spokesperson award. The chosen shopper should have a lot of non-food items in their cart to show how much they buy at the grocery store is not food. This has not been done the last couple years. The Board agreed that the intent of the program is to show how much of the grocery bill is not food. This contest should be conducted by the PR chair. The Board discussed how to increase participation in spokesperson contest. Hannah said it needs to be advertised more, better promotion in ag departments of schools encouraging ag teachers to promote it more.

Scholarships- Denise Leydig suggested sending applications to guidance counselors instead of ag teachers. Kathy Zimmerman said ag teachers have a better idea of who the best applicants are. Facebook promotion was also mentioned. An agri-business award was again mentioned.

Ag Advisor report – Cliff- Weller’s biggest job now is schools putting together the Chapter 339 binder evaluations. April 15 was the deadline to send binders to PDE. A team is coming in next week to evaluate the binders, then reviewers visit and recommend improvements.

Cliff has been reviewing American FFA Degrees- 78 this year, a big increase. A team of retired ag ed teachers review these applications. Schools can be reimbursed \$6.80 per hour for teacher’s work with adult farmer education if they file paperwork with PDE. Some do not apply, may not be aware of this. May 17 he must turn in budget concept paper for PYFA. We can count on at least \$5000 for 2013-14. He asked if there is a project we could earmark \$2500-3000 for that would be of value to PYFA and help many members. He asked for ideas and suggestions by May 10. These funds will still cover the newsletter etc. but we should have another major project. Jeff McClellan asked if officers manual would qualify; Cliff said yes. Bob suggested a special appeal to FFA seniors to join PYFA. Kathy Zimmerman suggested a state agriculture symposium held possibly in early November at a central location (outside Harrisburg), topics -- how to encourage next generation to farm, business plans, future planning, diversification, family event, farm safety for kids. There should be a small charge to show commitment to attend. PYFA could partner with other groups, such as FarmLink, PDA, with possible funding assistance from state or county Farm Bureaus. Cliff asked Kathy to put a proposal together and email to him. An alternative would be 4 regional programs, or a stipend to chapters of \$200 to conduct an educational program locally.

Cliff said he and the Treasurer will meet to figure out expenses qualifying for PDE money.

Executive Secretary- Betsy Huber met in Harrisburg with Cliff Day and Chris Weller concerning revision of the handbook and officers manual. She received nine scholarship applications and forwarded them to the committee. She attended the FFA legislative breakfast and Solanco meeting and banquet. Carol Corman had several corrections to the program booklet and recent newsletter.

FFA Report – Bob Corman read report on FFA activities from Renee Grove in her absence.

Regional Vice Presidents’ Reports:

Western – Denise Leydig is working with Edith Rhoads to check on the Brockway chapter. Local chapters have wrapped up midwinter meetings and finished up a good year.

Eastern – Hannah Wentworth said she will be taking a job in New Zealand so she will have to resign soon. She thanked everyone for welcoming her on board. The President asked her to suggest a replacement. She attended several chapter banquets.

South-Central - Kathy Zimmerman- Gettysburg had a banquet celebrating Battlefield FFA 75th anniversary with over 200 attending. Planning for the 2014 winter conference is coming along, under control. She has been in contact with Shippensburg, Red Lion, and Chambersburg chapters.

Northern - Carol Corman reported the Northern Region had another successful region-wide meeting. They raised over \$1000 for Wounded Warriors for their community service. For 2012 she attended over 10 of 45 meetings scheduled in her region, feels VP attendance at regular meetings is very important.

Old business-

PAAE summer conference- the PYFA board meeting will be July 10 Wed. afternoon. Tours will be Thurs morning through lunch.

Caleb Wright joined the meeting.

Winter conference- Ed Zug distributed the financial report on the conference. Profit to Lewisburg-Mifflinburg is \$1587.04, profit to PYFA \$1202.05. There was increased profit this year because of more sponsorships and higher registration fee. It was a well organized conference, the host team worked well together and enjoyed hosting. The Host committee wanted to charge the conference for their wrap-up dinner but the Treasurer felt it should come out of their profit. Jeff McClellan moved, Nate Jamison seconded to approve the financial report and disburse the funds. Carried.

Officers' manual- the executive secretary will work on revising after the handbook is completed.

Membership at Brockway and Bedford- VPs are working with these chapters.

New Business-

President Corman reviewed comments from the delegates' meeting at the winter conference. Regional VPs should come from the region they represent. Membership chair is appointed by board with voting rights and all other officer benefits; this was reaffirmed by motion at the meeting. The Treasurer will research reinvesting the CD before the June maturing date.

Past officers report- Bob Corman read the report from Carl Keller- promote membership, better communication from board to chapters, posting minutes on website, how to attract FFA members. Expand awards to include Outstanding Agri-business and agri-tourism. Update bylaws with past amendments from minutes.

Kathy Zimmerman suggested we update the Outstanding Farmer application to eliminate financial information, concentrate more on variety of activities, value-added, community service. Other types of farming such as equine, CSAs, produce, fruits, should be included. Include young farmers who do not own their farm but are a major part of operation. She felt the current applications are very difficult to complete. The Awards committee should review all contests and present revised applications at July meeting.

Free registration for the winter conference for delegates from a new chapter was suggested.

Annual meeting minutes should be posted as "Draft – unapproved" on website so members can read them before next year.

Regarding the delegate meeting discussion on holding the conference on a weekend, Ed Zug reminded the Board that the fair fund requires our conference to include 3 days, 6 hours of instruction each day.

Meeting attendance: Bob Corman reported he talked to Mike Brammer about the problem of the second-year FFA board member rarely attending. The Board brainstormed ideas to help the FFA representative be more active on board-- Must attend so many meetings to get trip to National Convention, have alternate, have 2 current FFA officers rather than 1 present and 1 former. Caleb Wright said building communication will help the FFA representative to feel more comfortable and know what is expected.

It was suggested to compile a Board policy reference manual so policies don't get lost in minutes. Ed Zug read the policy on delegates and reimbursement for travel to national conferences from the 2004 minutes. It doesn't mention hotel expenses, but Ed has been paying hotel expense. Carol Corman moved to amend the policy to include basic hotel fee for national delegates, Denise Leydig seconded, and the motion carried.

Sponsorship of FFA golf tournament July 25, 2013-- Hannah Wentworth said it is good to promote PYFA to FFA and get our name out. Carol Corman moved, Nate Jamison seconded that PYFA sponsor a hole for the FFA Golf Tournament at a cost of \$250. Carried.

Jacket sponsorship- our policy is to sponsor 2 jackets each year.

Program of work- President Corman handed out the list. Jeff McClellan suggested the Proclamation should be the responsibility of the hosting chapter since their local legislator must request it.

The Scholarship Committee met and selected Abigail Rineer as the 2013 winner.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Huber, Acting Secretary