

PYFA Executive Board Meeting  
December 28, 2016  
Courtyard Marriott, Shippensburg, PA

Meeting called to order by PYFA President Denise Leydig at 9:38am.

Those in attendance were:

Denise Leydig	Judy Croner	Linda Krall	Jennifer Balmer
Betsy Huber	Deb Zug	Ed Zug	Steve Kline
Lizzy Bailey	Chris Weller	Doyle Paul	Dan Wilkinson
			Jason Rentzel

Doyle Paul offered an opening prayer.

Chris Weller had a correction to October's meeting minutes. Secretary Becky Nas made a typo under his report. She typed "PDA" instead of "PDE". The correction was made. President Denise Leydig called for a unanimous motion to approve the corrected minutes. October's corrected meeting minutes approved.

**Executive Secretary Report** given by Betsy Huber. Betsy attended the NYFEA winter institute in Tampa, FL. She also participated in the NYFEA phone conference in September. She received a letter inviting us to sponsor the PA Preferred reception at the Farm Show. She did not pass it on because that wasn't something that PYFA had contributed to in the past. Betsy received a letter on December 27 from PDA Secretary Russell Redding that covered all of the departments activity for 2016.

Ed Zug gave his **treasury report**. Ed shared several thank you letters that he received from past contributions made from PYFA. He distributed an up to date treasury report. PYFA sent Tony Rice to the National Institute. He noted that expenses have been down for 2016. Chris Weller inquired about the number of state life members and affiliate members vs. annual dues that are coming in. Ed stated that we will not be receiving fair fund money for this year. He neglected to apply for it by November 15. Last year it was \$3200.00 Ed noted that Betsy Huber is no longer drawing a salary from PYFA, which was over \$3000.00 and officer expenses have been very light. Treasury report filed for audit.

**Membership report** distributed and reviewed by Deb Zug.

**Public Relations report** given by Linda Krall and Jennifer Balmer. Linda stressed the importance of getting spokesperson contestants registered so they can plan them into Tuesday night's banquet. Awards recipient suggestions and applicants are due by January 10.

Chris Weller suggested making an extra effort to keep members active and paying dues by sending a postcard or letter to members that might not have an active advisor for their local chapter. There was conversation about getting real about increasing membership. Judy Croner

suggested pursuing contacting and possibly merging with PFB Young Farmers And Ranchers. Doyle Paul stressed the importance of having up to date advisor contact information through each participating school district and making it their duty to organize their respective chapter. Doyle also reiterated that one of Penn State's focus for this school year is post secondary education. For the Ag programs, that translates to PYFA. The website needs updated to keep current information and happenings. Doyle is being pushed by PSU to conduct sessions this spring for new direction for adult education. Penn State Extension is no longer a resource for adult education and this is the void that PYFA should be filling. Chris Weller noted that PFB is legislative whereas PYFA is educational. Should a member of PFB become a PYFA board member, resources could be combined.

Chris presented his **PDE report**. Chris noted that the state budget has been the hot topic. The Governor recently came out with news of a \$600 million deficit. By the end of June this could be a \$1.7 billion deficit. The Governor put on a hiring freeze. Any job that is not filled by December 5th will not be filled and will more than likely go away. It's likely that all departments will be impacted. Secretary of Ag, Russell Redding has put a big emphasis on agricultural education, including K-Adults. Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Pennsylvania. Chris noted that Cliff Day has extended his annuitant employment status until the end of June 2017 but after that time, it is unlikely that he will continue. Chris announced that he is retiring at the end of February 2017. That leaves those two positions vacant and with budget concerns, there might be a long term void at the state level. There has been good growth in general Ag education.

Doyle Paul presented his **Penn State Report**. A new Head of Department of Ag and Extension Education should be announced next month. Interviews were conducted for a third professor in the Dept. of Ag. The successful candidate will be offered the job in February and will more than likely start working on the first of July. Penn State degrees are one of, if not the most reputable Ag degrees in the nation and by having a mix of both in state and out of state professors helps keep the depth to maintain that status. With having only 7 student teachers this year, there isn't near enough graduated to fill open jobs. There is a larger than ever national shortage of Ag teachers. Doyle shared the seven school districts that will be having a student teacher until April: Central Columbia, Bald Eagle, McGuffey, Pequea Valley, Tyrone, Mifflinburg and Greenwood. Doyle reviews thoughts from Dr. Ewing. They are looking forward to taking their student teachers to the Western part of the state in the Spring to interact with the Young Farmers. Doyle stressed the importance of occupational advisory committees and communicating, sharing ideas and getting feedback with new and experienced teachers.

- There was discussion about the Ag Ed Directory. It is printed in November, however when a new slate of officers is elected, information needs to be supplied to Terra Ingram and she will have it updated on the website.
- If there is a larger attended regional or county PYFA meeting planned, it might be possible to contact Penn State or a local extension service, to have a specialist come to do a talk. If Extension is invited to do a talk, there should not be a fee charged. The more

diverse you can keep your membership, the more ideas there will be about curriculum and meeting topics.

### **Regional VP**

Steve Kline- Northern

They have committed to host the 2019 Winter Convention. It will more than likely be held at the Country Cupboard. Lewisburg said that they will assist in planning. Steve will be mailing out a newsletter about their regional banquet in the coming days. It will be held on March 30 in Milmont at the Lutheran Church, west of Mifflinburg. Steve, along with Mifflinburg's support, is reinstating this banquet. He has invited Ed Swartz, county agent for Cumberland/Dauphin/Perry County to speak at the banquet. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Steve because he will need an accurate head count.

Bill Zollers might be needing to give up his seat as an Eastern VP. Nominees are welcome for Eastern Region VP's. Please submit names.

Judy Croner- Western

Rockwood and Berlin BrothersValley are the two active chapters. A planning meeting was held in November and the meetings for next year are all set. There will be educational county dinner meetings in January, February, and March, that will also be fundraisers for the 2018 PYFA Convention in Seven Springs. April 27 will be the date of the meeting to host the student teachers. There will be a farm grain tube rescue demonstration.

Lizzie Bailey- South Central

The Shippensburg group did the Farm/City Banquet with several local organizations on the Monday before Thanksgiving. They had a job exchange with Shippensburg University and the Harbor Downtown. There have been several planning meetings for the upcoming convention. Rose Dillner has played an active support role.

### **New Business**

Denise stressed the importance of finding President Elect nominees for February.

An idea was mentioned about asking the Past Presidents to brainstorm for suggestions on nominees.

Manheim should be an area to pull from for VP's.

Betsy Huber stated that she used to sit on FarmLink's board to represent PYFA. If anyone is interested in participating in Farmlink, please see Betsy. Also, Bill Zollers had taken her role in representing PYFA to Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations. If Bill would move out of state, there will be another void to fill.

Dan Wilkinson offered an update on NYFEA National Institute. The National Board had planned the institute. There was a banquet hosted at a food bank. There were some folks that joined Young Farmers in Florida. If it turns into starting a state organization, that is to be determined. All farm tour hosts mentioned that they had labor issues. Pam Berning will be President. Stan Diehl will be President Elect. Jeremy Holsclaw will be Secretary. The first vote between Jeremy and opponent, Robert Crisman resulted in a tie, so a re vote was taken. NYFEA lost John Deere's sponsorship. NYFEA is looking for new sponsorship. University of West Alabama is starting an Agricultural Mentoring Conference. Contact Gordon Stone at NYFEA if you are interested in participating. Institutes will be held in Savannah, GA in 2017, either Arkansas or New Orleans, LA in 2018, and potentially Pennsylvania or Indiana for 2019. Denise Sanner would prefer Pennsylvania to host in 2019 as opposed to a later date. Betsy Huber agreed.

February 7th, 8am will be the next PYFA board meeting.

Shippensburg convention booklet was planned.

Please bring cereal or oatmeal for donating at the Shippensburg Conference.

It was suggested to break from the PAAE Summer Conference in 2017 and have our own PYFA Summer board meeting and maybe a tour or two. Will be on delegate meeting agenda.

Judy Croner moved to discontinue paying affiliate membership dues to NYFEA. Steve Kline 2nd. Will be discussed during delegate session.

As a PYFA Board, it will be recommended to the Delegates to move the above motion.

Doyle Paul will present officer trainer for new officers in 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm