

Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council Meeting Agenda

**Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Center, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, 54301
Meeting Room 5 AB**

November 11, 2017

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Call to Order

1. Welcome / Attendance – Dan Follendorf – Salute to flag, tribute to the veterans. Asked members to share why they were there involved in FFA Alumni and serving council. Several Guests: Ken H, Larry L, Bobbi Jo M, Caleb G, John H, James G, Sara B. Council Members Present: Dan F, Mark L, Cheryl S, Herman S, Rudy K, Nick L, Brian B, Gwen D, Terri W, Ellen C, Bobbi Jo K, Candi L, Ken N, Amy V, Tim S, Julie S, Cari S, Brenda F, Amy P, Matt D.
2. Motion by Terri Wilfert, 2nd by Julie Spoke, to approve agenda with flexibility. Motion Passed
3. Motion by Herman Seebandt, 2nd Mark Ladsten to approve August 19, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion Passed.
4. Financial Report was Presented and Reviewed. Motion by Brian Buchholz, 2nd Tim Spoke. Motion Passed.
5. FFA Family Reports included:
 - FFA Center – Cheryl Zimmerman – Distributed written report. Thank you to Alumni for providing games and student interaction. Next one is Manitowoc in March. Membership growing. Goal is one more than highest goal. Affiliated membership is a current issue. Uphill battle. There are 60 chapters currently. Growing slightly. Cost is first concern. The bigger they get the more the cost will go down. Probably will see dues increase in the future. Alumni role could help to fund the fee. SLW had great attendance. Thanks to Alumni for added involvement. Thanks to reps for meeting with advisors. New workshops were great, hope to see it grow; it was a great benefit. FFA had a great national convention. Conference today 731 total. Gearing up for Leadership Development Events. Offer to help local at levels. Next summer all state officers will attend DC training now, vs. past only two went. Mid-year planning coming soon, please share how the Alumni would like to partner for the 2018 State FFA Convention. Thank you for all the support. Ken N asked how we could help more. Hunger Rally and Day of Service, Tours, etc. for state convention volunteers. Candi asked Cheryl Z for a list of opportunities.
Terri W questioned attendance/participation of workshops at state convention. She asked Cheryl about possibly having parent/Alumni workshop. We need to make Alumni members aware of the opportunity. Share via newsletter. Program Development Committee needs to meet soon if you want this to happen for Alumni. Cheryl Z. suggested an evening workshop. Ken H and James G said to make sure and avoid conflicts. Ellen shared that there were some in the past, poorly attended. We need to utilize the social media also to promote. State convention is a great place to bring people to be re-energized and motivated. Cari suggested school boards and administration also. Jeff has a special program for them by invitation. Alumni can help advocate for this. James Grasee stated that the Alumni needs to encourage official dress. Alumni can help encourage and support that.
 - DPI – Jeff Hicken – Ken N. asked Jeff what impact came about as administrators attended convention. He said they like information, CTE is there, and bigger names are there, to help

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convince them of the value. Currently covering National Quality Program Standards revision and utilization. Alumni can have input into the program evaluation, noting it is scoring the program, not the teacher. State has launched the new SAE material. Cheryl should share link with Alumni. The goal is every student in every classroom should have a foundational SAE in one of five areas. Licensing is a current event: Life licenses will be back January 1, only requirement now is background check every 5 years. Flexibility is opening up, will have 15 experience-based teachers, which means that is 15 programs that would be open otherwise. This is impacting not only agriculture, but also all CTE areas. Testing components are also being modified to help accommodate new teachers. Mark asked for the list of those schools with new teachers or experience-based teachers so our sectional reps are sure to reach out to them to provide additional support. Larry asked if National FFA is revisiting charter. Cheryl Z addressed that the current memorandum of understanding with Steve Brown as advisor could be revoked as it currently stands so they are looking at modification. US Dept. of Ed. said some could not be on the board, so nationals, under Mark P leadership, has rewritten charter to give governance back to FFA, but would provide seat for education department. This continues to be discussed, with reminder that this is FFA charter, not Ag Ed Charter. Draft and information will be coming out after the first of the year. This must be an act of congress. FFA constitution and by-laws would have more impact than government. We will be kept posted. FFA would still be intra-curricular.

- WAAE – Written report provided
- FFA Foundation – John Hromyak – Shared copies of written report. Leadership transition of the group, names reported. Campaign & Finances, record high program support of Team Ag Ed partners this past year, trending higher support and fund-raising. Fund development is big role, retention of benefactors, etc. Communications coming out, annual report, working on revitalizing past relationships. Milestone years upcoming and Foundation plans to leverage them. Shared Foundation support. 5 % automatically distributed, remain amounts go towards Star Mission Grants. Partnerships with leadership programs.

Old Business

1. Committee Report

- Executive Committee – Dan Follendorf. Major focus this year was hiring a new Executive Director. This is a work in progress with a large learning curve for everyone.
- Awards Committee – Larry Lader. Goals have been met. Committee met last night. Motion by Terri W. to change Ag Ed application. Gwen 2nd. Motion passed. Committee assigned judges, discussed gifts for AG teacher awards. New goals include 1. Replace website and newsletter to add Public Relations. 2. Investigate the Outstanding State Award application, whose responsibility it will be. 3. Develop efficient way to train members in award applications. Committee asks Cheryl to send reminder email to chapters in sections.
- Marketing Committee – Julie Spoke. Big project this year was shirt distribution. We used more social media. Need to look at update of brochures. All we had are gone. Labels replaced on those we got back, but still some out there. Committee is looking for new Chair. Rudy K volunteered.
- Finance Committee – Tim Spoke Shared a review of budget planning meeting. Finance committee met in October with Executive Team to develop a budget. Will be voted upon in new business. Rudy is concerned chapters are not paying dues. We need to help people. It has affected our income. We have a lack of current leaders list to contact. It is recommended we have a convention workshop to train membership. James Grasee gave Edwards Jones Update. He reported the current balance \$ 233,230. Performance up 12.73 %, average 6.62%. Now at 70 % Equities, 30% Bonds. He shared forecasts based on earning and profits. Projecting a rise for

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2 years with some setback corrections. We have three main Goals: Do not panic, buy quality and be diversified.

- Fundraising Committee – Brenda Franklin. Committee has not met. Still working on statewide convention committee role. Janet Schneider had an idea that she will be forwarding as a fund-raising option.
 - Membership Committee – Ellen Cary. Brief meeting this morning, report to follow in new business.
 - Statewide Convention Committee – Dan Follendorf. Committee met last night, will present policy to move forward later.
 - Program Development Committee – Ellen Cary. Have not met recently. Will be meeting soon.
 - Resolutions & Bylaws Committee – Cari Sabel. Met this morning, report to follow later.
2. Sectional Leadership Workshops. Rudy sent congratulations to Candie. Group felt it was a good start. Amy V. felt we need to do better PR ahead of time. The SOFT Workshop was used but topic was modified for smaller groups. How do we improve for next year? Suggested that we incorporate fall sectional meeting with these. Terri, questioned if the night got too long. Many felt it might be longer, but only one evening vs. two. Rudy questioned membership recruitment as a potential workshop for the future. Candie said nationals has some, we can share.
 3. National FFA Alumni Convention Review – Dan Follendorf. All 27 Wisconsin Delegate seats were filled initially, some left early due to length of time. Delegate count calculations proposal failed. Because we have large lifetime membership, nationals does not recognize that. Wisconsin lost 15 last year. Adding a 3rd Past National Officer failed after much debate. Lifetime dues increase will go up to \$ 200 for 2018-19 passed. State dues stayed the same. National office is open 1st Monday and 3rd Monday to chat with national staff until 8 PM.
 4. Team Ag Ed Meeting Review – Cheryl Steinbach. We met yesterday and it was all about Collaboration...we are all on the same page; our primary goal is to develop our consistent story and share.
 5. RDC Update – Cheryl Steinbach. Due to costs, we did not book full Marriott. Instead, we have a contract with Marriott West for a room block and connection with Farm Bureau for meeting space. We want to keep it free/cheap if possible. Local Alumni's will be asked to provide lunch. Mark is heading that up.

Motion by Mark, 2nd by Matt to recess until 12:15. Motion passed. Called back to order at 12:25 PM. Back from lunch.

New Business

1. 2018 – 2019 Alumni Calendar – Mark Ladsten. A Written copy will be coming in the email soon. For now, Alumni convention, Feb. 9 – 10 at Appleton Paper Valley. Council meeting will be at 9:30 AM, Fri. Feb. 9. There was discussion at last council to move up the retreat to be one month within the election and want to incorporate leadership training, retreat and strength finder, etc. After much discussion of dates that would and would not work for most Mark asked all council members and newly elected candidates to send an email of dates that will work by Wednesday and he will work with Cheryl to get the calendar ready. State FFA Convention June 11 – 14, 2018 Mark will work with Ellen to plan strength finder and other program development.
2. Chapter Support Grant Applications. Membership committee reported there are two applications in your folders, one for Black River Falls and one for Lakeside Lutheran. Motion brought forward by Ellen, 2nd by Rudy to present those checks at state convention.
3. New/Reactivated Grant Applications. There were none at this time.

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4. 2018 Convention – Cari Sabel updated the group. She distributed sheet of donations thus far. Lots of work to do. Looking for ideas of donors, reach out to Cari if you have any. Basics are in place. Getting ready to launch registration soon. Menus set, workshops planned, tours, etc. are planned. Letters to past presidents for contributors. Also mailing to other sections beyond 8 and 9. Shared preliminary postcard. VP candidates and early birds in program by Jan. 1. Council members are responsible for own registration. Cheryl S will book room by email request. Matt D questioned if council registration could be reduced. Most opposed. Discussion of utilizing travel expenses for council vs. sectional rep accounts.
5. 2019 Convention – Herman Seebandt stated convention will be at Stevens Point Feb 8 – 9, 2019. Committees are being assigned. Most spots are filled. Looking at entertainment. Program planning is going well. They are looking at sectional areas for sources of revenue.
6. Convention Scholarship Program – Cheryl Steinbach asked council which FFA Alumni Chapters have been chosen. The ones selected at this point are 1 – New Auburn, 2 – Menomonie, 6 – Lodi, 7 – Granton, 8 – Suring, 9 – Bay Port and 10 – Waterloo. Clarification was it includes 2 nights 1 Room and 1 single registration. Please notify Cheryl by next Thursday of other winners.
7. 2018 Budget Approval – Committee met Oct. 15 to prepare budget. Income is very hard to predict. Change of WLC vs leadership conference. Would be distributed on a per section basis...money being proposed, so would provide funding for committee to develop. Gwen wants a guarantee that all sections would be given equal representation. Terri suggested six per section. It was decided that committee clarification is needed. Since WLC is Executive committee, Tim suggested they do that ASAP. Goal to unveil new program at convention. Terri wanted to make us aware that we will need to be careful to not double dip WAAE recipients that may be getting WAAE funds for their PDC. Terri said we were asked to help sponsor playground at Ag Ed center. Do we need to consider before passing. General group felt that was not a project in our realm at this time. Motion to approve budget by Herman, 2nd Candie. Motion passed.
8. Policy Updates:
 - Statewide Convention Policy. Proposals presented by Tim, Julie and Cari. 1. There was discussion of the Executive Director Position being assigned the convention Treasurer position. Group felt the Transition would be smoother if we wait so it will remain as is. No change at this point. The specific changes proposed included to change the following:
 - a. Page 1 under **Purpose** after the word February change to: Effective with **2020** at 4, 5 and 10, **2021** 3, 6 and 9 and **2022** 1, 2, 7 and 8.
 - b. Page 2 Under Section B, Local Convention Chair: Change chairperson(s) to add **Co-chairpersons, one of which would be the past state president**, secretary and other local **chapter** (to replace affiliate) member representatives within the hosting sections. Then Add, **In the event the Past President is not able to fulfill those obligations, that Co-Chair position would be appointed by the council.**
 - i. This would result in Past President job description changes. Add:
 1. As # 12 - Serve as Co-Chair for the next year's state convention.
 2. As # 13 – Assist with selecting the Co-Chair from the rotational sections.
 3. Change \$ 250 in A. 1 to \$ 750.
 - ii. There was also discussion regarding the sectional representatives will also serve as members. It is currently stated in the policy, but would result in Section Representative Position changes. Add a bullet under Responsibilities to state:
Provide active assistance in convention planning.

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- c. Locations is a concern. Cheryl needs to compile a list of recommended hotels for the committees to consider, working with Cheryl Zimmerman. Under Item C. Guidelines choosing property to host:
- i. **Eliminate “The local convention committee may suggest a property from outside the preferred list, however.” Then Change all to All.**
 - ii. **Eliminate 1 or 2.**
 - iii. **Eliminate s from locations.**
- d. **Add** Resolution proposed from section 5, with exception of # 3, so it would be as follows:
- i. H. Sponsorship Levels
 1. That any changes to the sponsorship levels should be discussed between the current hosting convention committee, Statewide Convention Committee, and/or others. After discussion, a recommendation from the State-Wide Convention Committee should be proposed to the entire Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council for action.
 2. The Sponsorship Levels should be consistent from convention to convention. Changes to the sponsorship levels must be proposed or passed by the entire Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council before the next convention begins solicitation of sponsorships.
 3. The Convention Sponsorship Levels are:
 1. Diamond Level- \$2,500+
 2. Star Level- \$1,500- \$2,499
 3. Platinum Level- \$1,000- \$1,499
 4. Gold Level- \$750- \$999
 5. Silver Level- \$500-\$749
 6. Bronze Level- \$250-\$499
 7. Friend of the Alumni- \$1-\$249

The section 5 proposed resolution was also shared. Ellen questioned why treasurer change. Tim clarified that it is not being changed. Ellen questioned the presentation of the proposal format. Cheryl stated that she was not able to do that at the last minute after last night’s meeting.

Motion to adopt policy changes by Mark L, 2nd Nick L. Motion by Gwen to **amend policy change one to be 2020 – 4, 5 and 10, 2021 – 6, 8 and 9, and 2022 – 1, 2, 3 and 7.** Seconded by Terri. Amendment Passed. Main motion passed.

- RDC Policy. Motion by Candie to **Add “or Regional Development Conference and adjust mileage equal to closest event”**, 2nd Matt. Motion passed.
 - National Convention Delegate Reimbursement. Send to Executive committee to draft policy for approval.
 - Investment Procedures. Motion by Mark, 2nd Tim not to exceed withdrawal of \$ 10,019 from investments for next budget as per our policy.
 - Policy Executive Director Position Description. No change needed.
 - Past President Position Description. Motion by Tim, 2nd by Matt to accept the 3 Changes proposed to the description above in 8. B. i. Motion Passed.
 - Sectional Representative Position Description. Motion by Julie, 2nd by Amy V to add description as presented in 8. B. ii. Motion Passed.
9. Proposed Resolutions for Convention – Cari Sabel. Ken N. moved resolution of Moment of silence for passed members and veterans. 2nd Candie. Motion Passed.

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Motion resolution by Herman, 2nd by Mark that the Alumni Council recommends that we seat the new council members for their first 3-year term. Motion Passed.

10. Proposed Bylaw Changes – Cari Sabel. In order to assist with quorum issues, Motion by Julie, 2nd by Candie to **Add seated** in Article IV, Section VIII under membership, Quorum in front of voting, so when passed it would read: “One-half of the number of seated voting members of the council, plus one constitute a quorum” instead of “One-half of the number of voting members of the council, plus one constitute a quorum.” Motion Passed.
11. Open Council Representative & VP Positions – Dan Follendorf reported that we are actively looking for two seats in section 4. Those leaving council are Julie S, Tim S, Candie L, Ellen C, Herman S, and Gwen D. (Note that Bill L will also be leaving council as per phone conversation.) Julie asked if anyone was interested, or knew of someone interested in becoming Vice President. She asked for help being on the nominating committee. Ellen asked if there was ever a policy made for nominating committee. Mark, Amy P and Tim S will serve on the committee. Nominations are still always asked for from the floor. (After the meeting, Rudy declared that he would like to run.
12. Other business. Cheryl thanked the group for patience. She was unaware of past precedence of bi-weekly emails. She will send 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The committees need to meet. Cheryl would add any section minutes, newsletters, to the website if provided. In addition, we could feature events and projects in the state newsletter, etc. She will send a test email on Monday so please reply by Tuesday noon. She will call if she does not get a reply.
13. Adjourn. Motion by Mark, 2nd Bobbie Jo. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Steinbach, Executive Director