

Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

Three Bears Resort Warrens

Saturday, August 19, 2017

President Dan Follendorf called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Motion by Mark Ladsten, seconded by Candie Lehto to approve agenda with flexibility. Motion Passed.

1. Dan Follendorf welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He shared that we had a nice evening at retreat with dinner and a fun game of family feud. He thanked Candie Lehto for providing the pies.
2. Motion by Cari Sabel, seconded by Candie Lehto to approve June 24, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion passed.
3. The Financial Report was reviewed. Motion by Mark Ladsten, seconded by Matt Damm to approve. Motion passed. Cheryl shared the frustration that Quick Books is grabbing numbers from past years and other accounts so we have to update so much of the regular information in preparation for the statements.
4. FFA Family Reports were shared via notes in the packets, as leaders were not able to be present...
 - a. FFA Center – Cheryl Zimmerman
 - b. DPI – Jeff Hicken. Candie Lehto suggested providing some of the Ag Ed Data in the newsletters to help emphasize the success of Ag Ed in graduation rates and school reports.
 - c. WAAE – Nicole Nelson & Darren Schwartz
 - d. FFA Foundation – John Hromyak
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Dan Follendorf reported that the executive committee would be meeting with Cheryl after the retreat to do her 6-month review.
 - b. Marketing Committee – Julie Spoke reported that we are ready to order the dress shirts. We will pay for them out of the marketing budget and we will distribute via mail. The website continues to need updating. Cheryl will try more emails to council for monthly updates. We need to look at training of our new council members early in the year, educating them on their roles and responsibilities.
 - c. Program Development – Ellen Cary was not present. No report.
 - d. Fundraising Committee – Brenda Franklin was not present. No report. Question arose as to how many cookbooks were left and it was noted that they were given away at the state convention.

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- e. Finance Committee – Tim Spoke announced that the committee would be meeting at noon on October 15 at his place to develop budget to be presented to the council at the November council meeting.
- f. Bylaws and Resolutions Committee – Cari Sabel stated that the group needs to meet soon to look at the topic of quorum in the event that we lack sectional representation. Options discussed included changing the wording to reflect seated council numbers or look at vote reallocation of one per section.
- g. Membership Committee – Ellen Cary was not present. No report. Cheryl noted that we need growth in active membership.
- h. Statewide Convention Committee – Dan Follendorf shared that the committee met this morning and Tim Spoke presented some ideas. The committee will be tweaking their ideas and plan to make a formal presentation for vote at the November meeting. Highlights of the plan include looking at having location consistencies throughout the state, similar to how FFA functions, so that each area would be set for a determined site. This would save money and making planning easier, but we would want to ensure that local chapters help to keep it fresh. They also discussed that council members would be more involved in the convention planning each year and are looking at the Past President serving as a co-chair with an appointed co-chair from the area. This would help being uniformity to the convention because of the experience the past president would have with so many conventions under their belt. Discussion of eliminating the convention treasurer and adding those duties to the executive secretary was also held, along with having electronic lists of donors, personalized letters, etc. being more consistent from year to year. This all would require updating position descriptions. Policy updates will be addressed in November and then a timeline cheat sheet for planning would be developed prior to the 2018 convention.
- i. Awards Committee – Larry Lader reported that they have not met since the last meeting but they will be meeting again soon to discuss the elimination of the webpage and newsletter awards to be replaced by a PR award. Nationals has updated all of their applications for 2018 so Cheryl will have to look at making sure that ours are aligned to those.

Old Business

1. 2018 Convention Report – Cari Sabel updated us regarding the 2018 convention. The next planning meeting is October 14, tentatively set for Paper Valley at 9 AM. There is lots of fund-raising work to be done. Many people are stepping up to help though. We have talked with Josh Rusk to speak to the entire group at 11 AM. Cari will complete paperwork to confirm that. We have some good tours planned for Friday. Due to those times, Cari would like us to consider having the council meeting Friday morning vs. afternoon so we all can participate. Ken Harter and crew are working on workshops. There are many great ideas. There will be some sort of barbecue meal on Friday night at Fox Valley before heading back to the hotel for the auction. The main registration will still all be held at the hotel. We are looking into an

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option for Friday only registration to attract a few additional people. Saturday night entertainment looks to be the Kenny James Duo out of Oshkosh. Cari is finalizing those details. We discussed sponsorships and want to include the In-Kind contributors in publications and lists. Looking at scrolling lists, etc. but being sure to differentiate between in-kind and financial.

2. Statewide Convention Committee report was presented earlier. The discussion and vote of new proposal will be held at the next meeting.
3. Farm Technology Days Review – Individuals that attended had a good time and felt it was a very worthy project. Great way to connect with the Ag Ed Family and promote our organization.
4. WAAE Conference– Bobbi Jo Kuntz reported that the interaction with agriculture instructors was awesome and beneficial. Definitely worthwhile for the future. Cari commented that the banquet was inspirational and she got some ideas for our convention from that. It was a great week to network with everyone. Cheryl also reported that she met with the newly elected state officers while there and addressed the full group, sharing our message.
5. Leadership/Strength Finder – Mark & Cari would really like to see this happen. Since we are already half way through the current year, it was decided to put this on hold and make it happen right away with the new group.
6. Open Council Seats are still available. Cheryl got some names so she will start calling around for interest. We need to be sure and have someone schedule section 4 for SLW and a fall meeting. If anyone is interested, please let Cheryl know.
7. Newsletters – Cheryl used constant contact for the first time and it went smoothly. There is concern that many did not receive theirs however. We really need to emphasize that correct emails need to be submitted at membership time. This is the only contact we have for them. We will maintain the PDF format for the next year as it will make the transition easier.
8. Charity License – Cheryl investigated this license and we should have one so she will move forward with this.
9. There was not any Other Old Business Brought Forward.

New Business

1. Membership 2017-18. Nationals has changed the program again so it could be challenging. Cheryl said so many wait until the absolute deadline and suggested we move this since they are not benefitting from the services, etc. Motion by Mark Ladsten, seconded by Rudy Kaderly to adjust membership deadlines to January 1 Initial, April 1 as final for awards and May 1 as final. After discussion, motion passed.
2. 2017-18 Calendar. Everyone is asked to review last years' calendar and look to the future, so we can establish the final calendar at the next meeting.
3. RDC. A few people have indicated that they will be attending this year in Springfield. Cari could not attend that one so she will be going in November to Kentucky. We are scheduled to host one here next fall. Cheryl is working with Dale Beaty at Farm Bureau in Madison and will continue to make plans as we move forward.
4. National Convention reports included:

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- a. Vote Proposal. Ron Lynch submitted the new delegate selection recommendation that we agreed to co-sponsor at the last meeting and it has been reported that the national council is recommending a no vote on that proposal.
 - b. Delegates are needed. Cheryl will find out the date they are needed by, put a request/plea in the next newsletters and then submit names. She will work closely with the executive council for this process.
 - c. Cheryl asked if there were Auction and Baskets that we need to contribute. The group believed that this was discontinued.
5. SLW will see some changes this year, with more involvement from us.
- a. Sectional Reps Role, Talking Sheet and Format will be updated and sent to all council members prior to the workshops. There will be contact surveys to hand out as well. She will email all of the reps the information and it is up to each section to let her know who will be attending.
 - b. In addition, there will be an Alumni Workshop from 6 to 7 PM, hosted by Candie Lehto and Bobbi Jo Kunz, utilizing the SOFT approach. Candie and Bobbi Jo shared the concept and said they had it under control. (This will also be shared with all reps so in the event there are less than 5 Alumni to register for the workshop, sectional reps can do it and save travel.
 - c. Dates & Who is attending thus far are:
 - i. 1.
 - ii. 2.
 - iii. 3.
 - iv. 4.
 - v. 5. Rudy & Nick
 - vi. 6. Matt & Bobbi Jo
 - vii. 7. Herman & Amy
 - viii. 8. Ken N & Candi
 - ix. 9. Cari & Terri
 - x. 10.
 - d. Suggested to wear new shirts if they have arrived, otherwise polos, etc. representing Alumni. See if you can find a door prize or two for Ag teachers and draw from surveys returned that day.
6. Retreats/Training were discussed. We are looking at option of Friday evening strength finder and Sat. meeting and training as part of the spring 212/EDGE conference in March. However, there was concern, as this is spring break. We will look at this closer and make final decision next meeting.
7. Grants are available. Motion by Candie Lehto, seconded by Mark Ladsten to offer two WAAE conference scholarships for new attendees, valued at \$ 500.00 each. After much discussion about benefits to new teachers and those who are non-licensed, etc., Herman Seebandt called question. Motion passed. Cheryl will work on a draft of the application and bring it to next meeting.

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8. Fall Sectional Meetings announced thus far are:

- i. Section 1
- ii. Section 2
- iii. Section 3
- iv. Section 4
- v. Section 5
- vi. Section 6
- vii. Section 7 – Nov. 4 @ 6:30 PM @ Loyal Legion Hall. \$ 16.00 meal.
- viii. Section 8 – Oct. 12 @ 6:30 PM @ Cecil @ Main Event
- ix. Section 9 – Oct, 11 @ 6:30 PM @ Mishicot @ Good Times
- x. Section 10

We need to get these planned ASAP! Please let Cheryl know dates and details so she can help spread the word on social media.

9. Any Other New Business Properly Brought Forward included:

- a. Matt Damm inquired if our WLC scholarship money was being used the best it could be or if we should consider a state bus sponsorship, since the dates are locked up so fast. We can investigate this further if there continues to be a concern of unclaimed scholarships.

10. Motion by Candie Lehto, seconded by Tim Spoke to Adjourn. Motion passed at 2:27 PM.

Dates to Remember...

- Sept. 8 – 9 – RDC @ Springfield, Illinois
- Sept. 18 – Section 9 SLW @ Luxemburg-Casco
- Sept. 19 – Section 8 SLW @ Waupaca
- Sept. 20 – Section 7 SLW @ Owen-Withee
- Sept. 25 – Section 3 SLW @ Black River Falls
- Sept. 26 – Section 2 SLW @ Menomonie
- Sept. 27 – Section 1 SLW @ Amery
- Oct. 2 – Section 10 SLW @ Big Foot
- Oct. 4 – Section 4 SLW @ Mineral Point
- Oct. 9 – Section 6 SLW @ Lodi
- Oct. 10 – Section 5 SLW @ Oregon
- Oct. 25 – 28 – National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis, Indiana
- Oct. 27 – National FFA Alumni Day
- Nov. 1 - Wisconsin FFA Alumni Support Grant Application **POSTMARKED**
- Nov. 11 - Deadline to submit resolutions to Exec. Director **POSTMARKED**
- Nov. 10 - Alumni Council Training/Committee Meetings/Games with FFA – Green Bay
- Nov. 10-11 - 212/360 – Green Bay
- Nov. 11 - State FFA Alumni Council Meeting – Green Bay
- Nov. 30 - All State Award Applications Due to State Office
- Feb. 9 - State FFA Alumni Council Meeting – Appleton
- Feb. 9-10 - State FFA Alumni Convention – Appleton
- Feb. 11 – Council Meetings - Appleton

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