

Texas FFA Association
Board of Directors - Fourth Quarter Meeting
Tarleton State University – Stephenville, TX
June 9, 2023

Board Members Present: Ryan Pieniazek, Traylor Lenz, Lynita Foster, Troy Oliver, Toby Long, Blake Vineyard, Dr. Candis Carraway, Kathy Bates-Beck, Aron Hutchins, Dr. Whit Weems, Shelton Green, Jeff Thayne, Karissa Jones, Ray Pieniazek, Aaron Alejandro, Les Hudson (Ex-Officio), Kelly White (Ex-Officio).

Student Officers Present: Campbell Offield, Zoe Nolen, Logan Jaure, Windsor Godfrey, Austin Blagg, Joseph Nelson, Thomas Egbert, Ty Williams, Brandon French, Nathan Atkinson, Laura Beth James, Bryce Fisher

Staff Present: Gwenn Cain, Ashley Dunkerley, Carolee Frampton, Tammy Glascock, Avery Hall, Mary Kate Hivnor, Jennifer Jackson, Sterling Pieniazek

Guest Present: Abby Mund – Strategic Association Management, J.J. Coleburn – Strategic Association Management

9:03 A.M.

1. Call to Order - Mr. Ryan Pieniazek, Chairman
- Opening Ceremonies: 2022-2023 State FFA Officers

2. Invocation – Traylor Lenz

3. Introductions and Recognition of Guests

Jackson introduced Texas FFA interns Avery Hall and Mary Kate Hivnor

4. Consent Agenda

ITEM

(a) Minutes of the 3rd Quarter Meeting - 4/3/2023

MOTION: Caraway to accept the minutes.

Motion passed by general consent.

(b) New Chapter Charters/Re-Charters/Reinstatements

MOTION: Foster to approved the charters as listed.

Motion passed by general consent.

5. Committees

ITEM

(a) Standing Committees

(i) Nominating Committee: Election of Board Members

(a) Recommendation

Jackson reviewed the discussions of the nominating committee and presented the report, noting the three board members who will have terms expiring and those that are eligible for a 3-year term renewal. Jackson also noted that Vineyard will no longer be eligible for the Educator position her currently serves in as he has left teaching.

The Nominating Committee recommends transitioning Blake Vineyard to Agriculture Industry, Place 4, Re-appointing Jeff Thayne to Agriculture Industry, Place 5, Re-appointing Dr. Candis Caraway to Agriculture Educator, Place 7 and appointing Melissa Spicer to Educator At Large, Place 6.

MOTION: Beck to approve the re-appointments of Thayne and Dr. Caraway.
Motion passed by general consent.

MOTION: Caraway to move Vineyard in Industry place 4.
Motion passed by general consent.

MOTION: Caraway to appoint Melissa Spicer to Teacher At Large, Place 6.
Motion passed by general consent.

Jackson thanked Shelton Green, retiring board member for his service on the board over the last six years.

(ii) Budget & Finance:

(a) Staff Notes

(b) Proposed Budget FY 2023-2024

Jackson reported on the proposed budget as approved by the committee. She reviewed the budget spreadsheet which the committee utilized, noting how the budget was developed and the comparisons that were done for each line item.

Jackson stated the proposed budget is based around the current membership dues amount and not the proposed increase to dues that the delegates will be considering at convention in July.

MOTION: Ray Pieniazek to accept 2023-2024 budget as proposed.
Motion passed.

(iii) Human Resources and Benefits

Chairman Caraway presented the report, noting the committee is looking into ways to support staff mentally and physically.
They also recommend

Jackson thanked HR committee for helping to get Texas FFA fully staffed as they assisted with the recent interview process for open positions.

Jackson announced two new staff member: Barbie Mosely – State Officer and Leadership Coordinator and Ashley Laird - Program and Recognition Coordinator

6. Student Officers

(a) Update on Student Officer Goals & Activities

State officers reported on their events and travels since April, including Area conventions, chapter banquets, MVP training and State Leadership Conference. It was noted that there was over 50,000 miles traveled this year.

State officers made the following recommendation to the Board of Directors:
As discussions continue to take place regarding the state officer model, they recommend it is taken to the point where all state officers are able to travel and each officer has equal opportunity to engage with chapters.

Board members complimented the officer team on their work this year, and their appreciation for their respectful, diligent, and genuine attitudes and dedication to the members.

7. Unfinished Business

- None posted

8. Action/Discussion/Update Items (New Business)

ITEM

(a) Action: Recommendation of Lone Star Degree Recipients **Finalized on June 7, 2023**

Glascocock noted the very successful Lone Star review process that took place this week. Areas did a great job checking the applications before submitting them to the state for consideration.

Glascocock stated of the 2,514 applications that were submitted, 15 were rejected leaving a final number of 2,499 Lone Star Degrees being submitted for approval by the board.

MOTION: Jones to approve the 2,499 degree applications submitted.

Motion passed by general consent.

(b) Action: Recommendation of Honorary Lone Star Degree Recipients

Glascocock noted the 114 Non-Teacher applications and 78 Teacher applications that were submitted for Honorary Lone Star Degree and recommended for approval.

MOTION: Ray Pieniazek to accept the Teacher and Non-Teacher Honorary Lone Star Degree applications.

Motion passed by general consent

(c) Action: Blue and Gold Award & ER Alexander Nominations

Jackson reviewed her recommendation of Dr. Dwayne Pavelock to receive the Blue and Gold Award, noting his exceptional service and support of Texas FFA over the years.

MOTION: Caraway to award Dr. Dwayne Pavelock with the Blue and Gold award.

Motion passed by general consent.

Jackson reviewed her recommendation of Mr. Jim Allsup and Dr. Rudy Ritz to receive the E.R. Alexander Award for each of their extraordinary service and contribution to convention over the years.

MOTION: Jones to accept the nominations of Mr. Allsup and Dr. Ritz for the E.R. Alexander Award.

Motion passed by general consent

(d) Discussion: National FFA Board of Directors Action Concerning Opening Ceremonies

Jackson briefly noted email previously sent to the board regarding National FFA's recent change to opening ceremonies. She noted the Executive Board decided that for convention, Texas FFA will continue to use the traditional language and that for ay contests, it will be up to the discretion of the chapter as allowed for by National FFA.

Board members discussed the change extensively.

MOTION: Foster to adopt the same policy as National FFA regarding opening ceremonies that they could be conducted in a gender specific or non-gendered manner.
Motion Passed.

(f) Update: Recognition of Retiring Board Members

9. Announcements, Meeting Dates and Times

- (a) Texas FFA Convention: July 10-14, 2023
 - (i) Board of Directors Recognition: Friday, July 14, 2023
- (b) 2023-2024 Board of Directors Meetings (Proposed Dates):
 - (i) First Quarter: Monday, September 11, 2023
 - (ii) Second Quarter: Monday, January 8, 2024
 - (iii) Third Quarter: Monday, April 8, 2024
 - (iv) Fourth Quarter: Friday, June 7, 2024 **Tentative*

Ryan Pieniazek briefly reviewed convention recognition date as well as planned meeting dates. No objections were presented by members.

10. Financial Reports

ITEM

Financial Notes

- (a) Balance Sheet FY 22-23
- (b) Income Statement FY 22-23
 - (i) Previous Years Comparison
- (c) Affiliate Financials
 - (i) FFA Alumni

Jackson reviewed the financials, noting items that were over budget and the justification. She also noted the State Officers have been great stewards of their line items this year and are sitting in a healthy position.

MOTION: Godfrey to Rescind the motion to adopt the same policy as National FFA regarding opening ceremonies that they could be conducted in a gender specific or non-gendered manner.

State Officers and board members discussed what should be allowed and if any action was actually required by Texas FFA. It was noted that Opening and Closing ceremonies are listed in the FFA Manual and not in policy therefore no action is needed by Texas FFA.

Motion passed.

11. Reports (No board action required)

ITEM

- (a) Texas FFA Operations
 - (i) Leadership Development Report
 - (ii) CDE Results and Participation
 - (iii) 2023 Texas FFA Scholarship Process Update
 - (iv) Texas FFA State Speaking Contest Report
 - (v) Texas FFA Communications and Media Report
 - (vi) Inactive/Discontinued Chapters for 2023
 - (vii) Award and Degree Update
 - (viii) Swine Validation
 - (ix) Executive Director's Report

Texas FFA Staff reviewed their respective reports.

Jackson recognized retiring chairman Ryan Pieniazek. She noted the value he brings to the board, and his dedication to FFA members.

Jackson thanked all of the state officers and commended them all on their dedication this year.

(b) Instructional Program: Texas Education Agency

Hudson reviewed the report, reviewing the TEA's Strategic Plan. Hudson gave an update on the timeline for AFNR TEKS revision and Program of Study Refresh process that is taking place.

Recess for Lunch: 12:06 P.M.

Reconvene: 12:50 P.M.

8. Action/Discussion/Update Items (New Business)

ITEM

(e) Discussion: Convention Update

Mund informed the board of AM Planning's acquisition by Strategic Association Management (S.A.M.) and introduced J.J. Coleburn. Mr. Coleburn gave brief description of what services his company provides.

Mund reviewed the convention report, noting housing reservations, and rooms still available in the housing block. She also provided update on ongoing discussions with Dallas regarding future contracted years as well as some alternative locations that are being considered.

11. Reports (No board action required)

ITEM

(c) Development: Texas FFA Foundation

Alejandro reviewed the report, noting the upcoming LEAD trip and the brand new award that will be presented at convention. He also thanked Texas FFA for the joint work on State Leadership Conference and noted the Leading a Legacy Social that the Foundation will be hosting on July 24, 2023.

(d) Teacher Development/Advocacy: ATAT

Ray Pieniazek reviewed the report, noting the preparations ATAT staff are making for both Texas FFA Convention and teachers conference. Pieniazek stated conference exhibits are sold out with a wait list with 2170 teachers registered. Pieniazek reviewed the legislative sessions that took place in the spring, noting that pretty much all education funding bills failed.

Chairman Ryan Pieniazek thanked everyone, stating it was an honor to serve as chairman. He also expressed gratitude to Jackson, noting the board really chose the right person to lead Texas FFA.

MOTION: Caraway to adjourn.

Motion passed by general consent.

12. Adjourn at 1:45 P.M.