

Texas FFA State Degree Check Committee Meeting
July 24th, 2025
American Bank Center, Room 106

The committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Tammy Glascock.

Tammy Glascock called roll to confirm areas present and voting members. The attendance sheet was passed around and signed at this time as well. Members present:

Area 1: Casey Jones, Andrew Hokanson

Area 2: Travis Lange, Blake Chudej

Area 3: Sara Burke, Emma Urbani

Area 4: Sarabeth Hesteande, Dawson Shannon

Area 5: Brent Lankford, Jennifer Gilbreath

Area 6: Brent Kiefer, Amanda Underwood

Area 7: Patrick Padgett, Lynn Woolever-Telleen

Area 8: Michelle Sammons, Monica Patrick, Olivia Driskell

Area 9: Beverley Schroeder, Cassie Morrison

Area 10: Pablo Trevino

Area 11: Christy Capps, Liz Treptow

Area 12: James Marcuse, Amy Torres

In addition, guests were recognized.

Guests in attendance were:

Bonnie Beard

Marty Resendez

AET - Clay Ewell, Roger Hanagriff

Invocation: Brent Kiefer

2025 State Degree Recap

- Really good and efficient.
- Lonestar Room: Increase in apps- still very efficient.
- Information for the 2026 State Degree Check was announced.
- June 1st-5th
- Stephenville, Texas.
- Deadline for submitting all awards applications, including Agriscience Fair, is May 20, 2026. *** This does not include Texas FFA Scholarships and American Degree Applications.

Area Concerns

Area 1:

- Area Submission Deadline- when we were leaving notes, people went back and changed it even after the deadline. The Area did not have a way to close it down. Apps were completely different from when we shut it off at Area Submission.

- Roger and Clay: How can we shut this down?
- Is there a way to cut the system off for this specific area?
- Their response: Back in the day we had 12 different lists that we could shut down. The reason why we got away from it: put in the Area list, then had to have a state list.
- After much discussion and Clay stating that he could sit up cutoff dates specific to each area deadline a motion was made by Area 1, Casey Jones to have AET set up designated submission dates for each area so that areas could control applications being deleted and submitted while under review. Motion was seconded by Areas 5 and 8.
- Vote 12 for and 0 against. Motion passed.

Area 2:

- Lonestar not walking the Main Stage- this is an issue.
- Not enough seats in the Lonestar Room

Area 3:

- SAE that are unique: wanting more guidelines for unique categories for Lone Star.
- Want clearer guidelines. (example: is 1 breeding fancy chicken really an SAE?)
 - What constitutes an SAE?
 - Staff informed the committee that staff and the executive director would be working on a definition that would provide more clarity.

Area 4:

- Lone Stars need to be back on the big stage.
- Overlap and scheduling of John Justin and Ryan Mott Interviews.
 - Staff informed the committee that the executive director would be reviewing the schedule along with 4-H staff. In addition, staff will recommend adding language to policy to address attendance for both.

Area 5:

- Honorary Plaques for Teachers, teachers only got padfolios this year. This was very disheartening
- Lone Star's overlap with presidential speeches. Took away delegates and voting.
- Golden Horizon and Chapter Awards: do committee look at these or how they are announced
- Service Learning/School-Based: Rubric not clear and need more information, no one wants to do or judge cause not knowledgeable
- Kaleidoscope: not able to print, hard to score
 - Can set up into 12 rounds instead of 1. To help with the area, be able to get those easily. Also, can we set up our own deadline?

- Staff informed the committee that those can be set up for each area and that we can add deadlines.

Star Awards: \$1,000 for star awards: More details on how to collect money.

- Staff informed Area that the links are on Texas FFA website and the information was included in award letters.

Live and PDF Lone Star: Can see both- this could cause issues.

- Live is causing issues
- Clay/ Roger: Yes, you can see both, PDF is the best one to look at.

Up to y'all to see what you want to leave or turn off. Or which one we are viewing on evaluation

Review Committee Table State Degree Check:

- The deny table- what we were putting in was wrong, came back and was approved.
- Recommendation: Sitting in a room and communicating over those apps that may be denied.
- Follow Policy and make sure what is approved and not approved on Lone Stars.
- Things that were not denied: 10 activities above chapter: but when they read the comments that were chapter activities.
- Staff expressed concerns from a state staff perspective that all the areas have different ways to complete and check record books. She also noted that we need to streamline and figure out how to do it all the same.

Area 6

- School Based Enterprise/ Service Learning: Needs a rubric for the interview that is for them and not just an overall star application. This is very confusing and not clear. Need updates on the physical applications.
 - Staff informed the committee that a new rubric was in the works.
- Ryan Mott and John Justin: 2 different award applications and they need to be treated as so. Need to recommend to each Area that these need to have separate award committees.
- John Justin and Ryan Mott rubrics need updates to actually fit the application
- Feed Back for Golden Horizons
 - Are Golden Horizon ranks based on points?
 - Staff informed the committee that the Golden Horizon is point based and ranks were assigned based on policy
 - Were the non-gold schools not gold because of POA.
 - Staff informed the group that only chapter who submitted POA's could apply and that the rankings were based on policy.
 - How many POA were submitted this year?

- Staff informed the committee that there were approximately 60 applications submitted which was a decrease from 2024. Due to number this year, 10% was 1 per category
- Roger/ Clay: POA Submission list in other states.
- Staff informed the group that the Golden Horizon is designed to reflect the 3-circle model utilized within agricultural education and it was not about who went to the most shows/contest or who won the most awards.
- More feedback for Proficiency Apps and Stars
 - Judges did not put feedback in.
 - Need to add individual information on the Rubric for the Proficiency Judges
 - Roger/ Clay: Can do individual pages instead of the full feedback all together.
Would judges really want to sign up to share their email and phone numbers?
 - Staff stated that staff and the executive director would have to discuss putting judges information out.
- School based Entreprises: Scholarship for chapter? Or the child?
 - Explanation: We do not have money endowed for that. AET wrote checks for the 1st year.
 - Need to get it endowed.
 - AET: Instead of getting endowed can AET just do individually each year?
 - Staff informed the committee that they would ask the executive director.
 - Staff informed the committee that School-based Enterprise/ Service-Learning finalists will be invited to the Star banquet next year.
 - Breakfast Banquet- So much better than dinner.
 - Go straight to awards if schedule allows
- Lone Star overlaps State Winning Awards, including Lone Star Stars Awards. Kids were forced to choose to walk for Lone Star or walk the main stage.
- Lone Star stage again? Can we make sure it's not over the retiring address for that area?

Staff informed the committee that this topic has been brought up numerous times and that it had been addressed by the executive director.

- Can we make a separate category for: Floral Cup, Trainer Build Off, FFA Rodeo, etc. Instead of classifying them as CDEs or can they be classified as an invitational event?
 - Staff informed the committee that this would require a policy change and it would be discussed with the executive director.

Area 7:

- Clarification: Some SAE not on list (Cashier)
 - Food Preparation: Not Approved?
 - Food Science Pathway?
 - Food Science Proficiency?
 - Time requirement to be an SAE?
- If the POA Submitted on time: will there be approval or disapproval?
 - Staff informed the committee that this information was available for them to see in their Texas FFA Roster Management account and that emails were sent out to each chapter. I

Area 8:

- Lone Star moving back to main stage
- Limit the amount of changes into AET from year to year.
 - Can we make it into revision cycles?
 - Clay/ Roger: Most of the changes coming from National FFA instead of state.
 - Clay/ Roger: May-August: Is the only time that they change.
- Lone Star checked online rubric at the area level just like we do at state.
 - Click yes or no.
 - Can we get the online rubric for Proficiency and Stars at the area list.
 - Clay/ Roger: This is intense, but we can look into it.

Area 9:

- Lone Stars
 - Needs to be back on main stage.
- School-Based Enterprise/ Service Learning
 - It needs to be added to the breakfast.
 - Need their own rubrics and interview rubrics.
 - Rubric needs more detail.
- Inconsistency between areas on Lone Stars
- Golden Horizon
 - 10% of whom applied, can we change it to the ___% of all of the chapters in the state.
 - Staff informed the committee that current policy states 10% of applications applying for the award.
 - Record Book example
 - Area would like Tammy (staff) and/or a committee to make one and then send it out for training before we look at student books.
 - Trying to get our judges on the same page.

- Can we use AET for a scholarship app instead of Kaleidoscope? Since the kids are already putting in the information in AET and then having to retype it all into AET.
- Staff informed the committee that we would be using Kaleidoscope again.

Area 10:

- Golden Horizon: hard to know about someone signed or didn't sign
- Lone Star Stage: Parents and community members were very upset that kids were pushed in a corner and felt like this was not appreciated or cared for like others.
- POA/ Chapter Documents
 - Why is it Oct 1st and not November 1st with rosters?
 - Is it because they will turn off rosters on November 1st if not in? Some people did not receive feedback on POA/ Constitutions until May this past year.
 - Staff informed the committee again that emails were sent and that advisors could see the status of their Constitution/POA in their Texas FFA Roster Management account.

Area 11:

- Foundational SAE: green check marks this past year, will it check that they had 5 skills/ journals
 - Need to be checked personally. NOT computerized.
- Service Learning/ School Based:
 - Workshop done over both please.
- SAE Clarification: Committee Needed
 - Staff informed the committee that the state office would be working on a definition and list of non-approved SAEs.
 - Liz: Moved to form a committee over clarification of SAE (NON-SAEs) and their timeframe. That committee will meet by October 1st. And the committee would be appointed by staff (Tammy Glascock).
Second: Brent Keifer
Vote Taken 12 voted in favor, 0 against. Motion Approved
Appointed Committee: The committee will consist of each voting member from each area.
- Foundational SAE Clarification.
 - 5 components required
 - 15 hours
 - Relook at POLICY for Foundation
It says 3 hours in each component.
Needs to look at that and change the words. AET needs to make it a Met or NOT MET

- Golden Horizons: Supposed to be over a 3-circle model, then can we add in community service?
 - Need to Add School Based Enterprise and Service Learning As well.
 - Some of the dropdowns were not user-friendly.
 - Not being able to see what you entered.
 Staff informed the committee again that we were happy with Kaleidoscope and that we would be working this fall to update the application as needed.

Area 12:

- Star Awards: Plaques for each area winner like we did in the past.
 - Staff informed the committee that we stopped providing area winners with plaques from the state four years ago for the following reasons; 1) They are already receiving a plaque at the area level that states "Area Winner" and we were giving them a plaque that said "Area Winner", they did not need two, and 2) we changed the plaques that we were given out when we went to the process of interviewing finalists during the State FFA Convention.

Additional comments from committee members and/or Areas

- Can AET connect with judging card: to double check the activities entered.
- Stock Show is not real entrepreneurship in 2025.
- Area 9 Recommendation:
 - Labor Exchange in AET to help kids make money for Lone Star
- Honorary Lone Star Degree: Can they be submitted earlier? Could the deadline be April 1st?
 - Staff informed the committee that this would be discussed with the executive director.

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- Can AET connect with Judging card: to double check the activities entered?
 - Roger/Clay no response.

Final Announcements from staff

- Policy used to say: State Degree Make OR Invest \$1,000.
 - NOW it says: Stage Degree MAKE \$1,000 (Profit)
 - Board Approved to GO BACK to Make or Invest
 - Roger/ Clay: Must CLARIFY what is invested? Roger and Clay will investigate this.
- October 1st deadline for new committee to meet about SAEs.
- Announcement of our Star Finalist in Agriscience.
- National judging is in process for National Chapter, Proficiencies and Agriscience results will be released the first week of August.

- All submitted Americans were approved by the National FFA Board of Directors.
- Reasons for rejections of Lone Star:
 - Activities - Kids teachers falsifying information on applications
 - Policy now addresses falsification of records.

Committee meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.

Submitted by Amanda Underwood and Tammy Glascock