



# Connecticut Association of Agricultural Educators

*An Affiliate of the National Association of Agricultural Educators*

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## CAAE Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Westhill High School

*Call To Order - 12:37pm*

### **Announcements**

- Introductions of New Teachers/Student Teachers
  - Elyse Manyak - Wamogo, new teacher
  - Mikayla Hood - Wamogo, student teacher
  - Katie Gorman - Southington, student teacher
  - Jen Couture - Suffield, student teacher
  - Rachel Holden - Wallingford, new teacher
- UConn Update - Dr. Sandy Bushmich and Meagan Ridder
  - See attached handouts
- Proficiency Judging - Bonnie Kegler
  - We will have two judging sessions this year in March. A-Equine and then two weeks later will be the rest of the award areas.
  - We need to figure out how to get a better grip on the applications, especially financials and entrepreneurship.
  - Nationals can sometimes send mixed messages so we have to do our best. We can't get kids DQ'd for things we should have caught.
  - It shouldn't just be the chapter's responsibility to get a great application to Nationals, it is a state of Connecticut application.
  - Many states sit back down and go over revised state winning applications before going to nationals, maybe this is an option for us. We are all responsible for winners at the state level.
  - The rubrics may or may not be altered this year.
  - Is proficiency PD as possibility? It should be one-on-one because it's very specialized and individual. Don't be repetitive, be careful with captions.
  - Version numbers all have to match on each page of the proficiency.
  - Some struggles with AET - no advantage or disadvantage at Nationals. Plugging financials into AET can be tricky if you try to unlock the application.
  - Kids can have SAEs that might not fit into a proficiency award area and that's okay (page 93 of new FFA handbook).
- Website Update - Jen Shields
  - Problems with the domain and company, looking for new one
  - Everything is being rebuilt and will be up in time to get CDE info



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- All suggestions are welcome, please email Jen Shields
- Jen needs new resources for every CDE, lost anything that was on the website
- State FFA Report - Milton Natusch
  - Danny Quinn is continuing to volunteer as Milton's assistant
  - Big E - request tickets, register teams, send waivers for teams. For those making corsages in Farm-a-rama, info will be coming. If interested, there are dates available, evening slots as well. Send Milton an email with any questions.
  - National Convention - register rooms online, teachers can manage rooms on this system. Please complete this ASAP.
  - IMAGE - First Monday of Thanksgiving week. Looking at going back to UConn for cost savings.
  - Great officer team this year - one of them is very tech savvy, created a video that was sent to Kevin Keith, FFA PR people sent it to all state FFA staff. The CT FFA website which is new and live now.
  - State Convention will be June 2 in Storrs.
  - Danny Quinn applied to be the Region 6 FFA Alumni VP/Representative.
  - Need representative from CAAE to serve on CT FFA Foundation
- SDE Update - Harold Mackin
  - He has more responsibility now than before, now has access to Perkins budget. New opportunities - \$400,000 needs to be spent by next September.
  - need more input from the public about our standards - going to Goshen Fair
  - News about apprenticeships approved through DOL, if school is deemed an apprenticeship school you don't need the 75-1 form. Harold may need assistance to talk about this with the apprenticeship opportunity
- Share the Positive!
  - Look out for a digital retirement card for Dr. Jepson - Marion Stannard

## **Secretary's Report**

- Copies of minutes available
- MOTION to accept the minutes as printed - Erik Wildes
  - i. SECOND, MOTION PASSED

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Budget, dues and demographic forms available.
- First dues submission is September 1 so get them in soon. Please don't ask for an invoice, it was sent in email from Audra to customize as needed.
- Harold - Currently paying \$248 per year for post office box, are we saving that in taxes?
  - i. Association is currently looking at getting a smaller box
- MOTION to accept the 2017-18 budget as presented - Ken Couture
  - i. SECOND, MOTION PASSED
- MOTION to accept the treasurer's report as presented - Erik Wildes



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i. SECOND, MOTION PASSED

MOTION to omit oral reading of taxonomy and committee reports - Marion Stannard

- SECOND, MOTION PASSED

## **Taxonomy Reports**

- Animal Science
  - Housatonic is fostering a cat at the school through a shelter, she just had kittens.
  - Middletown has invested in new flooring for large animal lab (Stable Comfort) - may be able to change bedding and improve air quality.
  - Wamogo started an IEA team and riding club, first show is in October.
  - Housatonic built an FFA escape room, "Unlocking FFA Stereotypes"
  - Trumbull's first homebred Galloway took Grand Champion at North Stonington, headed to Durham next
  - Bill will make CDE chapters list, email chapter for all CDEs by Sept. 8
  - Superintendents were chosen for all animal CDEs
- Plant Science
  - Big E Floral Contest discussed - need judges overall and materials for team event
  - CFA - creating a test to give to students to achieve certification
  - Nursery Landscape - Laura will remain superintendent. Same as last year, but may add a small design portion for individuals. Team event will be the rite analysis.
  - Floriculture - Virginia Cipolla is superintendent. Corsages replaced with one of the following arrangements - bud vase, long and low, mound, symmetrical triangle. Team event will be planning a wedding based on bridal interview (pre-recorded).
- Ag Mechanics
  - Possible PD opportunities with drone - workshop possibility in October
  - Harold Mackin mentioned the DOL issuing pre-apprenticeship hours. Trying to secure how Ag Mech will tie in.
  - EO Smith will hold the State Tractor Driving CDE at the State Convention in June.
  - Pat O'Keefe - announced the Turf Wars contest held at UConn. They would like to get more schools to participate.
- Natural Resources/Aquaculture
  - Updates for Forestry and Environmental Science were reviewed and discussed. Contest overviews will be posted on the website.
  - PD ideas were discussed including ESRI.org for GIS/GPS, soil pit analysis, land judging, watershed management, chainsaw parts and safety, soil analysis, and aquaculture water quality parameters
  - Discussed suggested updates for Aquaculture CDE

## **2. Committee Reports**

- Government and Public Relations



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- Did not meet
- Membership and Professional Development 601
  - Discussed PD conference, new teacher conference and banquet
  - Audra Leach will head the PD conference, Nicki Decker-Lawler will head New Teacher Workshop
  - Someone is needed to head organization of the annual banquet
  - Discussed options for PD as well as dates, look out for a survey
  - The New Teacher Workshop will be in Southington at the end of January
- FFA Relations 603
  - AgriScience Fair - new divisions, only 12 National Finalists, check display requirements
  - National Chapter - new titles and divisions
  - New LDE titles: Ag Comm, Creed, Ag Issues, Prepared, etc.
  - Many CDEs changed from 3 members to 4 members, please be aware
  - Ag Sales has a new, adjusted rubric
  - Agronomy - New ID lists, removed some parts of the contest
  - Conduct of Meetings - new "Novice Parli Pro" for grades 7-9, 7 members
  - Be sure to check updated National handbooks for all information
- SAE and Agri-business Relations 605
  - No forms need to go through the state for 504(c)(3) volunteer SAEs anymore, still need a work-based learning plan. LED 75-1 and 3123 are still required.
  - Proficiency awards need to be printed all at once because they have a code on each page.
  - Talked about the benefits of UELP, please email Harold if interested. There is a safety training and application required.
  - SAE grants through FFA are online. Be sure to fill it out according to the rubric and include SMART goals. Money is available for your kids!
  - Living to Serve Grant - a lot of paperwork involved but is a very rewarding experience. Possibilities include growing food in a greenhouse, raising fish in an aqua lab, raising broilers, etc. and then donating.
- Alumni Relations 607
  - No report submitted

## Old Business

## New Business

- **CDE Superintendents - Please review**
- Available positions in CT FFA
  - Need new CT FFA Foundation representative - there are 2 meetings per year
  - Advisor for state officer team, working with Erik Birkenberger and Milton
  - MOTION to nominate Laura Laflamme as advisor for the state officer team - Sarah Oliver
    - SECOND, MOTION PASSED
- Chair DECLARES that the CAAE officer slate for the 2017-18 year stands as presented.



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- i. Vicky Christian retired as President and Pam Berlekovic is assuming all responsibilities associated with this office.
  - ii. Pam Berlekovic moved on from President Elect and Virginia Cipolla is assuming all responsibilities associated with this office.
  - iii. Audra Leach retired as treasurer and Karolyn Card is assuming all responsibilities associated with this office.
- o Chair DECLARES the following as the CAAE meeting dates for the 2017-18 year.
  - o MOTION: Casey Dunn, Jen Shields, and Karolyn Card serve as the CT delegates for the 2017 NAAE conference. - Melissa Cunningham
    - i. SECOND, MOTION PASSED

## 2017-2018 Meeting Dates and Locations

October 5 (Thursday) - Southington

January 9 (Tuesday) - Middletown

*Snow Date: Jan 16 (Tues)*

March 7 (Wednesday) - Trumbull

*Snow Date: March 14 (Wed)*

May: TBD as needed

*Meeting adjourned - 2:09pm*

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Dunn  
CAAE Secretary  
2017-2018

## 2017-2018 CAAE Proposed Officer Slate

Retiring President - Vicky Christian

President - Pam Berlekovic

President Elect - Virginia Cipolla

Secretary - Casey Dunn

Treasurer - Karolyn Card