

State FFA Alumni Agenda
June 17, 2008
Nonnewaug Regional High School
6:30 P.M.

Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Report from State FFA Association
Report from Ag Advisory meeting
Chapter Reports

Old Business

- State Convention wrap-up
 - silent auction – total profit
 - thank you notes – who will send?
 - career show – 15 exhibitors
 - later set-up time better this year?
 - review payment received
 - check must be sent for meal tickets - \$216 (18 tickets at \$12)
 - thank you notes – who will send?
 - workshop – recommending only workshops directed toward students
 - review of sales of items – suggestion on selling graduation sashes in future
 - need to send check to Foundation for sponsorship of Opening & Closing CDE
 - WLC booth – will give facts to exhibitors next year for better results
- update on Jacket Incentive achievers: Housatonic, Southington, Suffield, E.O. Smith
- State Leaders Conference – Jen and Wamogo VP attending this year
- annual meeting ideas
 - Berry Farm
 - Aquarium
 - Riverboat cruise

New Business

- National Convention Delegates – Jen & _____
 - one hotel room reserved – check must be sent to Mr N (\$201.50)
- sponsorship of:
 - National Officer candidate?
 - retiring state FFA officers 1 year alumni membership
 - American Degree candidates
- Next State FFA Foundation meeting
 - will be at Suffield High School – date still being confirmed – who is attending?
 - discussion of items that alumni should request Foundation to take over (state degree chains, sponsorship of American Degree candidates, sponsorship of National Officer candidate, etc)
- Submit proposal to new state officer team for sales of items at FFA conferences
- Review of State Alumni POA
 - Idea of having each hosting chapter serve on committee 30 minutes before start of each state alumni meeting. **These could be our constitutional committees – Membership/ Recruitment, Fundraising, Affiliate Leadership Development, FFA membership leadership development, State officer leadership development, National alumni participation.**
- set dates for next year's state alumni meetings

ADJOURN **state alumni officers will meet briefly to discuss summer officer meeting date**



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Call to Order: Jen Plasky 6:45pm

Members In Attendance: Jen Plasky, Fred Scoville, Donna Corbin Sobinski, Lori Longhi, Michele Longhi, Lynn Scoville, Anita Kalenauskas, Emily Kalenauskas

Members Absent: Hilda Kapral, Cheryl Matheson, Mark Burdick

Approval of Minutes:

Lori Longhi motioned to accept the 5/13/2008 and 01/15/2008-meeting minutes as presented, 2nd by Fred Scoville, Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed

Treasurer Report:

Michele Longhi reported the current bank balance of \$15,812.66. Recent deposits included from the State Convention included \$2,356.00 Auction; \$489.75 FFA Store; and \$212.00 collected from the Career Show participants.

State FFA Association Report:

Emily Kalenauskas, President FFA Association mentioned that current activities for the new officers include Blast Off, NLCO – in New York, also the end of July Emily and the secretary will be attending the SPC (State Presidents Conference)

Report from Ag Advisory meeting: Not available

Chapter Reports:

Woodbury: Recently held their May Open House, approximately 300 students attended, planning the June banquet; they have eight teams going to Nationals to compete; The Alumni purchased a barn unit to sell food at the Goshen fair. This will be a permanent building, and is located just outside the dairy barn area. Next year they will have running water installed.

Housatonic: Recently held their chicken barbeque and distributed eight scholarships at \$500 each. Their open house was successful, approximately 1000 people attended. Alumni judge the student's projects. The school hosted the State Convention, and the alumni were in charge of the food. The caterer donated the proceeds to the alumni, and is willing to continue that practice at other schools as well. This is a great idea for a fundraiser.

Wamogo: Their yearly banquet went well; students received their awards and scholarships, they sponsored WLC

Old Business:

State Convention wrap-up

Housatonic had people assigned to various areas for setup/cleanup. The process worked very well, and made it much easier with the silent auction and career show.



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The Silent Auction:

Should locate the store in the same room as the silent auction/career show. The items purchased and sold at other events where not available? We need to locate them and keep all inventories at one location. We should advertise at the event what we do with our funds. We did not sell many chains; some of the chapters are purchasing them for the students. We will most likely have enough for next year without having to purchase anymore. A suggestion was to sell graduation sashes. Question raised is cashing out early caused sales of store items to be reduced? Most teachers, schools like to leave immediately following the closing ceremonies, which does not allow for time to purchase items, and pay for auction items.

Who will send thank you notes? Fred Scoville

Career Show: 15 organizations participated. Housatonic recruited some from their area; very successful. Was the later timing for setup okay? Yes Michele Longhi will verify all registration monies were received. Who will send thank you notes? Anita Kalenauskas will, Fred to forward names/address

Meal tickets: Need to send \$216 (18 tickets at \$12 each) check to the FFA Association; Alumni officers were pre-paid by the Association. Michele Longhi mentioned she would need an invoice to pay the tickets. Jen Plasky will notify Milton Natusch to send one to her. Michele also has some remaining tickets that were not used.

Workshop: The timing was confused, advertised as one in program, different on signs. Past workshops with parents/adults did not have a large attendance. Will consider only a student workshop next year.

Opening Closing Ceremonies/CDE's:

Jen Plasky a \$300 check is needed to send to the FFA Association.

Michele Longhi mentioned that the alumni decided last year not to pay for this, it is not in the budget or approved prior to the event. She/we were not notified or asked about sponsorship for these events. It was also mentioned that we pay for the breakfast items, these are always kept at a location near registration, which is usually the other end of the Convention. Nothing is offered to the people setting up, career show participants etc. Question asked if the Alumni were reimbursed for the unapproved travel that was paid to Pat Natusch to a previous National Convention – No. This seems to be an ongoing problem – certain individuals assume we will pay/sponsor different events and activities without prior knowledge/votes. Because of this we also do not receive receipts, statement/invoices. This practice will no longer be allowed.

Michele Longhi motioned to not pay for the opening/closing CDE's/ceremonies, since we had no prior knowledge or approval, 2nd by Lynn Scoville. Jen Plasky mentioned she was worried as what future issues this may cause. Vote taken, 5 in favor, 1 not; motion passed. Michele Longhi said to direct all questions to her, regarding this if any are received.



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WLC Booth:

Students had to answer random facts about places in Washington; then they were entered into a drawing for a \$25 certificate. Next year arrange it so the students need to collect facts from the career show vendors. Once they receive all the needed entries, then they would return to the booth to be entered into the contest for an award.

Update on Jacket Incentive:

Donna Corbin Sobinski questioned how many jackets could be received in a year by each chapter? Two, and One for non-affiliates. Jackets (check) will be distributed at Annual Meeting. . Currently jackets will be awarded to:
Housatonic, Southington, Storrs, Suffield – Donna Corbin Sobinski will check records for Woodbury.

Suggestion to have ties/scarves included in incentive as well, if attendance is over six; these are other items that chapters struggle with. Review at September meeting.

State Leaders Conference:

Jen Plasky and Raylene (Wamogo) will be attending this year – they will split the scholarship.

Annual Meeting Suggestions:

River Boat – Essex: This runs through October – we would have to change our meeting schedule if we decided to do this event. Cost if 60 people attended for sit-down meal cost is \$3000 would be 3-½ hr event.

Mystic Aquarium: \$500 rental fee, it cannot be held on a Saturday approximately \$40 additional per person for food.

Berry Farm-Glastonbury: Hayride/Breakfast /brunch Lori Longhi will proceed to get more information.

Lyman Farms – possible – Hilda Kapral suggested at prior meeting – no information available at this time. They may not have a place for meeting.

New Business:

National Convention Delegates:

Jen Plasky will be attending with her school. Space available for another representative. Jen asked if anyone else would like to attend to represent the alumni, Anita Kalenauskas said she would be interested. We need to reserve a hotel room, by sending a check to Mr Natusch for \$201.50

Emily Kalenauskas motioned to send Jen Plasky and Anita Kalenauskas as representatives, and to send a check for room deposit of \$201.50, 2nd by Lori Longhi, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.



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National Officer Candidate Sponsorship:

There are currently no candidates this year. Do we want to sponsor a scholarship in the future? This is something the Association and Foundation can sponsor.

Emily Kalenauskas asked if we would be interested in sponsoring a state officer to attend ILCSO

Michele Longhi mentioned we do have a miscellaneous line item in the budget that could be used. Candidates can attend a meeting and request a grant.

Retiring State FFA Officer:

We usually pay for a one-year alumni membership to retiring state officers. Michele Longhi mentioned she sent a letter and only had one reply. It was also mentioned that some schools pay the membership as well. Michele will send another request to see if anyone is interested.

American Degree Candidates:

There are seven candidates this year; will we be supporting this? In the past the Foundation and the Alumni each awarded \$50 to the candidates.

Fred Scoville motioned to pay \$50 to each American Degree candidate, 2nd by Lynn Scoville. Michele Longhi mentioned when she received her degree a few years back she did not receive any from the foundation. Tabled to September 2008 meeting.

Next State Foundation meeting:

Meeting to be held July 22, 2008 at Suffield. Lori Longhi, Jen Plasky and Michele Longhi will be attending to represent the Alumni; others are welcome to attend as guests, it is an open meeting. Jen Plasky suggested items to be discussed that should be funded by the foundation and not the alumni:

State Degree Chains, Sponsorship of American Degree; State Conference, National Officer Candidate; Open/Close Ceremonies, National Convention Sponsorship

If we are to sponsor any we would need requests in writing, prior to budget approval

Sale of Items at FFA Conferences:

We need to submit a proposal to the new state officer team to sell items.

Fred Scoville motioned to submit a proposal, 2nd by Donna Corbin Sobinski, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

Colt will be held August 18, 2008 at EO Smith, Storrs need to setup at 11:00am sell items through lunch ends at 1:00. Do we need to stay to end of meeting?

Lori Longhi offered to sell items.

Need to bring bags to set aside sold items, sharpies to identify whose bag, cash box

Jen will find out where missing store items are – possibly Southington.

Lori Longhi motioned to allot \$100 to purchase additional items to sell, 2nd Donna Corbin Sobinski, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.



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Review State Alumni POA (Program of Activities)

Jen Plasky suggested the hosting chapter serve on our constitutional committee discussions 30 minutes prior to opening of our alumni meetings. Question raised: Would this allow enough time to accomplish goals? This would allow for more involvement by the chapters, and more input. Some of the committees: Membership/Recruitment, Fundraising, Affiliate Leadership Development, FFA membership leadership development, State Officer leadership development, National alumni participation.

Timing was discussed as an issue, our current start times is early now when trying to get there after work etc. starting half hour earlier would make it difficult for some to attend. Not all State Alumni officers would need to be in attendance. The Officer (Committee chair) would report findings at the scheduled meeting.

Lori Longhi motioned to accept the hosting chapter members serve on constitutional committee meetings prior to start of State Alumni meetings, 2nd by Michele Longhi, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

Items from the Floor:

Lori Longhi mentioned the 990 tax return. She has the completed forms and recommendations from the accountants. The cost will be under \$1000.00 (still being determined). The past financial books were not organized, not a lot of paperwork / documents on file. The IRS laws changed in October, our financial year ends August. We do not need to file this year, but will have to file next year. It was recommended not to file this year – since we had no prior returns filed. We have no taxes due, so we would not have any penalties assigned if we didn't file, it would just be a formality. The actual cost to prepare would have been \$1,800.00 due to the time to prepare, and go through all the past records. Next year will be much easier, quicker, and the books are in order with all required documentation.

Fred Scoville motioned to approve payment up to \$1000.00 to the Farm Credit for preparing the 990 forms 2nd by Lynn Scoville, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

Fred Scoville motioned to not submit 990 tax return this year per Farm Credit recommendation, 2nd by Lori Longhi, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

Jen Plasky asked all officers to remain after we adjourn to discuss summer meeting dates.

Oversight Committee:

Emily Kalenauskas mentioned there is a new committee for the FFA Association CAAE members will be on the committee. It is setup to protect the FFA State Association officers if needed, and make rulings when necessary.

Adjourn: Emily Kalenauskas motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Lynn Scoville, vote taken, motion passes, meeting adjourned 8:15pm

State of CT FFA Alumni

Meeting Dates July 2008 - June 2009

July 12, 2008 5:00pm

Officers only to be held at Jen Plasky's home – dinner meeting

August 2008 – No Meeting Scheduled

September 11, 2008

October 16, 2008

November – Annual Meeting – To Be Determined

December – No Meeting Scheduled

January 8, 2009

February – No Meeting Scheduled

March 12, 2009

April 2009 – No Meeting Scheduled

May 7, 2009

June 11, 2009

Jen Plasky will get in touch with Chapters to determine locations of meetings