

**Wisconsin Association of FFA
Board of Directors Meeting - March 15 and 16, 2012
Clarion Suites Madison, WI**

Ethan Giebel, State President called the meeting to order on March 15th at 7:05 pm

Members Present: Isaac Christenson, Ms. Mancheski, Mr. Meyer, Ashleigh Schlewitz, Mrs. Loewenhagen, Brian Guza, Mrs. Hanson, Abbie Baker, Mr. Robinson, Katie Dreier, Ms. Houser, Sara Raschein, Mr. Talford, Alissa Milonczyk, Mrs. Wirkus, Stacey Kunde, Mr. Melby, Nicole Petrie, David Friend, Katrina Pionek, Kayla Hack, Mr. Holle, Ethan Giebel, Mr. Hines, Mr. Petrowitz, Mr. Hicken, Mrs. Zimmerman. Others present: Mrs. Nicole Nelson and Mr. Jim Check

Overview of meeting agenda-Mrs. Zimmerman

Sara Raschein moved to approve the minutes of the February Board Meeting as printed. Seconded by Isaac Christenson. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

State Officer Updates

FFA Farm Forum, Brian Guza: Suggestions were made to Mrs. Zimmerman for next year's event on how to improve workshops and free time for students at the end of the night. Overall good conference.

Country Today Auction, Isaac Christenson: Officers worked with Mr. Jim Massey. Officers supervised the auction and talked with numerous people throughout the duration of the event.

National Ag Day, Ethan Giebel: Traveled to Washington DC. Positive experience, talked with legislators about Agricultural Education and FFA. Other items discussed included the Farm Bill.

WI FFA Center Update: Mrs. Zimmerman, See attached

DPI/Ag Ed Update: Mr. Hicken: Alicia Hodnik, National FFA Central Region Vice President was live streamed from California's Buena Park High School for the National Teach Ag Day Virtual Celebration and Ryan Best, National FFA President testified on the Farm Bill. The Wisconsin Assembly passed a resolution in recognition of all CTSO's. Child labor laws update was given. Bill was passed that hunter safety education can now be taught in schools; Mr. Hicken is the contact person to work with DNR.

WI Foundation Update: Mrs. Nelson, See Attached Report

WI FFA Alumni: Jim Check reported that there are two reactivated affiliates Owen-Withee and Athens. The State FFA Alumni has increased their lifetime dues. This will take effect during the 2012-2013 membership year. The CAN will be utilized for the alumni membership for the 2012-13 membership year. The Wisconsin FFA Alumni thanked the state officer team for being a lifetime team. Wisconsin FFA Alumni has a Facebook Fan Page. They have put in a bid for the 2013 National FFA Alumni Development Conference. WLC Scholarships have changed this year. The funding was reduced from \$550 per scholarship to \$300.00.

WAAE Update: Mrs. Houser, WAAE President-Elect Reported. Agricultural Education and the public education systems continue to change at a rapid rate. WAAE is working to be proactive. They are collecting data the challenges and impacts on Wisconsin ag programs. WAAE sent four members to the National Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. Registration is now open for the WAAE Professional Development Conference in Green Bay this summer. Milwaukee Vincent will be hiring an ag teacher for the 2012-13 school year.

State FFA Committees:

Policies/Bylaws Committee-Stacey Kunde. Three bylaw changes to be presented to delegates for a vote at State Convention.

Action Items:

- Wisconsin Association of FFA Constitution Dues Amendment
- Wisconsin Association of FFA Constitution President Election Amendment
- Wisconsin Association of FFA Constitution Officer Election Amendment

CURRENT CONSTITUTION 1

Article XIV. Dues - Section A

Annual membership dues shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at any state convention.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION Amendment

Article XIV. Dues - Section A

Annual membership dues *of the Wisconsin Association of FFA* shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the *Wisconsin State FFA Convention. In the event the annual state convention is not held and/or the official delegates fail to set dues, the annual membership dues of the state organization will remain the same as the previous year.*

MOTION:

Move to amend Article XIV. Dues - Section A by adding the statement after the first sentence (after convention.) : In the event the annual state convention is not held and/or the official delegates fail to set dues, the annual membership dues of the state organization will remain the same as the previous year.

RATIONALE:

This amendment provides clarity in the event the annual convention is not held or the delegates fail set dues because of unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters or health risks.

This proposed change provides the means for continued organizational operations due to natural disasters, health quarantines or emergencies that result in the annual convention not to be held. It provides the means for continued organizational operations due to unforeseen circumstances that prevents the delegates at the annual convention from setting dues, due to an interruption, cancellation or non-completion of the business session.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Article X. President - Section A

The President shall be elected by the out-going State Officer team, at the State Convention from among the qualified members of the State Officer team for the year then closing. Election shall be by ballot and shall require a majority vote of the officers present.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION Amendment

Article X. President- Section A

The President shall be elected by the out-going State Officer team, at the State Convention from among the qualified members of the State Officer team for the year then closing. Election shall be by ballot and shall require a majority vote of the officers present. *In the event that no individual from the out-going State Officer team wishes to run for the position of President, see section E for further instruction.*

MOTION:

Move to amend Article X. President - Section A by adding the statement after the second sentence (after present.) : In the event that no individual from the out-going State Officer team wishes to run for the position of President, see section E for further instruction.

RATIONALE:

This amendment provides clarity that there is a procedure put in if no out-going State Officer chooses to run for president.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Article X. Election of Officers- Section E

In the event that no current state FFA officer runs for the position of the State FFA President, a nominating committee selected by the FFA Executive Director and State FFA President will select the incoming president from the top sectional candidates. This person can only serve as a state FFA officer for one year.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION Amendment

Article X. Election of Officers - Section E

In the event that no current state FFA officer runs for the position of the State FFA President, a nominating committee selected by the FFA Executive Director and State FFA President will select the incoming president from the top sectional candidates. *The next preceding delegate from the elected President's section will be elected as the sectional officer. In the occurrence of this event, the President for this year* can only serve as a state FFA officer for one year.

MOTION:

Move to amend Article X. Election of Officers - Section E by adding the statement after the first sentence (after candidates.) : *The next preceding delegate from the elected President's section will be elected as the sectional officer.* And deleting the words *The person* and inserting the words *In the occurrence of this event, the President for this year...*

RATIONALE:

This amendment provides clarity in the event that no out-going State FFA Officer chooses to run for president, the newly elected President, chosen in the process already in place, would not be serving as both a sectional officer and president.

Stacey Kunde moved to accept the committee report. Seconded by Sara Raschein. Stacey moved for previous question. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Finance Committee, Brian Guza. Finance reports were reviewed and the 2012-2013 budget reviewed. Brian Guza moved to approve the committee report. Seconded by Nicole Petrie. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

State Marketing and Membership, Katie Dreier and Ashleigh Schlewitz: Katie Dreier moved to accept committee report as printed. Seconded by Isaac Christenson. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

-Membership Update, Jeff Hicken: ACN. Review of inputting data. Some duplicate members have been found. Overall membership looks very strong and we hope to see an increase once all numbers are finalized.

-Fees charged for late membership: Sara Raschein moved to charge a \$25 fee per member for late membership after deadline has passed, effective immediately. Kayla Hack seconded. The board discussed that this would be an option rather than disqualifying a student especially for a student who was accidentally missed when the roster was completed. National FFA currently charges a \$25 fee per student for late members added when a member participating in an event is found missing on a roster. The \$25.00 fee would be paid to the state level for members added after the March 1 deadline. Motion passed. Sustained action by advisors.

Awards and Program Committee, Sara Raschein and Nicole Petrie: Website competition is in third round of judging. Awards for CDE's are in the works. Sara moved to approve the committee report as printed. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Service Committee, Kayla Hack: The Water Bottles for Hope continue to be available for sale. Change for Literacy flyers were made. Discussion on logistics of how this project will work at the State FFA Conention. Kayla Hack moved to accept the changes to the flyer of having only 15 books per site and a stamp to be put on the books donated to all locations. Seconded by Isaac Christenson. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Partners Committee, Ethan Giebel, Abbie Baker, Alissa Milonczyk: The partners committee did a number of things this year with the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and also with the FFA Alumni. Spring business and industry visits are still being worked out but plans are to see how this can actually happen in the future. Abbie moved to accept as printed. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Break: 8:45..Resume at 8:55

Discussion of Sectional Speaking Contest. Mrs. Zimmerman opened the floor for discussion on suggestions for the Sectional Speaking Contests. Suggestion was made to go to MLA formatting for the Prepared Speaking Contest. Mrs. Zimmerman will contact National FFA as to why it's APA formatting. National FFA currently set the rules for that speaking contest. It was also recommended that quiz bowl teams be seeded next year for the State Competition based on their final scores at the Sectional Competitions.

Old Business

State FFA Degrees: 360 hours of Agricultural Education requirement proposal was reviewed. Isaac Christenson moved to accept option 2 that students that have not met the 360 hour requirement by the February 1st deadline must fulfill the final requirement class hours by being currently enrolled in agriculture education classes and complete the hour requirements by the end of the school year prior to the state FFA convention that they would be receiving the degree. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Discussion followed on who would be checking that the students actually completed the class. Standing vote was taken: 3 for, 4 against, 3 abstained. Motion Failed. Sustained by advisors. We will continue to enforce the rule that the 360 hours of Agricultural Education has to be completed by the February 1 application deadline.

Proposed Changes for Speaking Contests: • Goal: Have full participation at sectional speaking contests in all events, therefore creating more opportunities for all FFA members.

• **Proposal:** If a district does not produce two contestants eligible to send on to the sectional contest in any event, those spots will be given to contestants from another district who did not receive first or second place. If there is one spot open to fill and two contestants from different districts both in third place, the decision will be based on the sum of the rank that the contestant received.

• **Example:** District 1 had only one creed speaker. District 2 had two creed speakers and District 3 had three creed speakers. With this proposal, the third place contestant from District 3 would now have the chance to participate in the sectional contest because District 1 left a spot vacant.

• **Ties:** If there is one spot to fill and two third placing competitors who have the exact same sum of the rank, we propose that both move on to sectionals and that contest will simply have a seventh contestant.

• **Fairness:** This is a fair way to make sure our sectional speaking contestants are truly earning their way to the state competition. If they are a first or second placing contestant, their performance should be able to easily beat those who placed lower because the

number of contestants can not change how well they do their individual or team speaking. In the end, this proposal is simply creating more opportunities for Wisconsin's FFA members to succeed and have as many learning experiences as possible.

Katie Dreier moved to approve the proposal as printed. Seconded by Kayla Hack. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Reconstruction of State Degree Review Meeting Time: Proposed change to have meeting Thursday night and state degree review on Friday morning with orientation on how to review the State Degrees on Thursday evening.

Thursday Schedule:

2:00 p.m. State FFA Officer Work Session
5:00 p.m. Dinner – Advisors and State Officers
6:30 p.m. - FFA Board Meeting
9:30 p.m. Orientation for State Degree Review - Adjourn for evening

Friday Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Orientation for State FFA Degree Review
9:00 a.m. State FFA Degree Review – State officers to assist with the review process
11:00 a.m. Start of FFA Farm Forum
Finish State FFA Degree Review by 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

New Business

Wisconsin FFA Graphic Dissemination and Usage: One-year trial use for new Wisconsin FFA graphic to see how the public accepts it. Isaac Christenson moved to accept the Wisconsin graphic as submitted with the guidelines set by National FFA. Seconded by Kayla Hack. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Mallards Ball Game: Decided not to pursue this topic.

Submitted proposal discussion and recommendations: A letter was set from Chapter FFA Advisor Jodi Meyer to move the Almond-Bancroft Chapter from section 7 to section 8. Kayla Hack moved to accept the proposal as submitted. Seconded by Brian Guza. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Honorary State and American FFA Degree Recommendations: The Board was asked for recommendations for any of the Honored Adult Awards.

Delegate Issues to be Submitted to National FFA: none at this time

Sara Raschein moved to adjourn. Katie Dreier seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Ethan Giebel, State President, called the meeting to order on March 16th at 8:40 am
All members present and guest Amy Ryan, Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Mrs. Zimmerman discussed an item missed from the night before. After input from State Officers and advisors, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Farm Forum will be held February 15-16, 2013 and will be considered for alternating weekends in future years depending on the scheduling of the State FFA Alumni Convention.

State Convention

- Convention Schedule/Activities: Changes in session 1, 2, and 3 Session 2 will be for all of the proficiency awards. Speaking contest results will be moved to the third session. First session designed more as the grand opening of the convention.
- Special Events:
 - Board of Directors Meeting at 2:00 on Monday June 11
 - Day of Service: Beth Reith is looking for more sites as many students like to participate.
 - Kick off to Convention: BJ Chrisler will assist us in managing this event.
 - Administrator Attendance and School Officials Program: Each officer should have a person to represent them from their school
 - Parent and Advisor Recognition and Appreciation Lunch: Immediate Family is invited to attend the lunch on Thursday.
 - Convention Assignments/Duties: Chart with advisor duties was reviewed, it's only a draft
 - Door Checkers: section 8 advisors

- Spot Light: section 5 and they will have lunch for the officers behind stage.
- Convention Facilities, Q & A: same layout in main hall as last year, convention registration will be in the center of the long hall way next to hall B, online registration for state convention is new this year,
- Convention Program: maps for sponsors/judges/guests, “brand” for convention was proposed by Isaac Christenson, all like it.
- Convention Managers: adding scrapbook managers, confirming those who have done it in the past
- Convention Details:
 - housing: sign-up sheets passed around,
 - meal functions: meals sent out to caterers at convention
 - registration: will be online
 - convention stage: adding two spot lights,
- Convention Special Guests: list was reviewed
- Convention Photography: Empire Photography will be taking pictures, making access for teachers will be nice

Break was taken at 10:00 am and resumed at 10:15

Committee Reports:

Speakers and Entertainment, Stacey Kunde: Stacey Kunde moved to accept the speaker’s committee report as printed. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Final arrangements are being made for Landen Schaffert and Rick Rigsby. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Workshops, Nicole Petrie: Nicole Petrie moved to approve the report as printed with suggestions for more ideas that were presented. Seconded by Sara Raschein. Nicole is continuing to update workshops and finalize presenters. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Convention tours, Kayla Hack: Kayla Hack presented the up to date list for convention tours. Several tours may involve some additional costs for admission or supplies. Also final tour prices will need to be determined based on the price of fuel and bus transportation. Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman will work with Kayla. Kayla Hack moved to accept the convention tour committee report. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Meals and Receptions, Ashleigh Schlewitz: The emcee for the State FFA Degree lunch will be Bob Bosold from WAXX radio. Alicia Hodnik will be the keynote speaker for the State Leadership Dinner. Ashleigh Schlewitz moved to approve the committee report as printed. Seconded by Alissa Milonczyk. Discussion followed on possible people to add to the various programs as guest speakers. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Special Projects and Decorations, Abbie Baker: Abbie presented a list of displays and projects she is working on. There will be an alumni display. The flowers for the stage were also discussed. Abbie Baker moved to accept the committee report as printed. Seconded by Sara Raschein. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Seating/Courtesy Corps, Sara Raschein: No real changes are proposed at this time. More work will be coming in May as seating cards and charts are produced. Sara Raschein moved to accept the report as printed. Seconded by Isaac Christenson. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Media and Public Relations, Isaac Christenson: Isaac has been doing a number of things as State FFA Reporter this year. He has worked with the Wisconsin FFA Facebook and would like to have “like’s” up to 3,000 by convention .

Contests, Brian Guza: Most of this committee work will happen at the Wisconsin FFA Center when judges packets and materials need to be assembled. Brian Guza moved to accept committee report as read. Seconded by Isaac Christenson. Discussion followed on more possible people to serve as judges. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Delegate Operations, Ethan Giebel: Ethan reported that he will be working to finalize the committees for the delegates and once delegates are registered committee assignments can be made. Kayla Hack moved to accept the committee report as printed. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Past State Officer Committee, Alissa Milonczyk: Alissa handed out the information that she is sending to the past state officers. Discussion was held about the anniversary teams and the team that is invited to do the opening ceremonies on Wednesday evening. Alissa Milonczyk moved to approve the PSO report. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

AV Committee, Isaac Christenson: Isaac is working on a number of videos for state FFA convention. Parent video pictures have already been scanned. Additional video taping is scheduled. Isaac will be contacting Premier Printing about the background for the convention powerpoints. Isaac Christenson moved to approve committee as printed. Seconded by Nicole Petrie. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Pre-Session, Katie Dreier: Katie has requested t-shirts from chapters for items to through out during pre-sessions. Discussions about past state officer involvement and activities for pre-sessions. Katie Dreier moved to accept the report as printed. Seconded by Alissa Milonczyk. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Spirit Stick, Alissa Milonczyk: No real changes anticipated. Judges need to be selected. Alissa Milonczyk moved to approve the report as printed. Seconded by Abbie Baker. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Hall of Fame, Brian Guza, Katie Dreier: The Hall of Fame committee has not yet met but will be reviewing nominations soon. Sonya Huebner at the Wisconsin FFA Foundation is heading up the Honored Adults for 2012. Katie Dreier moved to approve the report as printed. Seconded by Ashleigh Schlewitz. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Open Discussion: The floor was open for any further discussion concerning the State FFA Convention. No other ideas were recommended at this time.

Reminder to the current state FFA officer to write down ideas for the next officers so they don't have to re-invent the wheel and they can build off of ideas and projects that current officers are working on.

Nicole Petrie moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Katie Dreier. Motion passed. Sustained by advisors.

Wisconsin FFA Report

Cheryl Zimmerman, State FFA Executive Director

State FFA Honors Band and Chorus – Applications are with the directors for final selection. Band Applications – 87; Chorus Applications – 103 – Notifications to be sent out next week.

State FFA Degree Processing – Chapters have been notified of the status of their state FFA degree applications via e-mail. Applications needing revisions will be returned to chapters. Final appeals are due April 1. Thank you State FFA Officer Advisors for your time in reviewing these applications. 359 applications were reviewed. This was down 105 applications from last year.

State FFA Star Applications - Were judged on Friday evening, March 2 in Wisconsin Dells. Finalists in each area listed in this report. There are 10 Star Farmer Finalists; 10 Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists; 5 Star in Agribusiness Finalists and 1 Star in Agriscience Finalist.

State FFA Proficiency Judging – Took place on Friday and Saturday March 2-3 in Wisconsin Dells. Cheryl Zimmerman, Terry Bernick, Jeff Hicken and Glenda Crook headed up the process. Results have now been sent to advisors. We had over 70 FFA advisors, student teachers and university staff involved in the judging process. Also UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville agricultural education students assisted with the process of writing comments. 683 proficiency award applications were received, processed and judged. This was down about 59 applications.

American Degree Applications Unofficially we have 186 applications. Number of applications up 43 from last year. American Star Applications – 2 Farmer; 0 Agriscience; 2 Agribusiness; 7 Placement Instructors assist at the 212/EDGE conference in reviewing the American Degree Applications and the American Star Applications.

Food for All Grant Program

Through funding from Farmers Feeding the World and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, we were able to fund 140 chapters from 41 states. Just over \$330,000 was granted out through the program.

Big Foot FFA	Big Foot Union High School	Fuel Foods 4 Families	The Big Foot FFA Chapter plans to fight hunger by making their school greenhouse available all year, and they plan to raise layer hens for the eggs and meat. They will conduct educational workshops on sustainable food practices.
Neilsville FFA	Neilsville	Learn to Garden at the Neilsville School Garden	This chapter's main goal is to use the school garden as a living classroom for students and community members through a unique outreach program. They will use this living classroom to teach and families throughout their community how to grow their own garden and preserve the harvest.
Pulaski FFA	Pulaski Community High School	Fresh Grown for All	Pulaski FFA plans to design, plant, grow and maintain a community garden to provide their community with a space to grow their own vegetables. The area will also be used to teach students about gardening and the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables in their daily diets. Students will also build additional Garden Boxes for the elderly in the community.
Unity FFA	Unity School	The Unity CommUNITY Garden	Through the implementation of a Unity Community Garden they will provide fresh produce to their weekly backpack program during the school year. The ag education students will then present brochures and documents with food samples from the garden to the elementary students to encourage them to try new types of fruits and vegetables.

State Convention Housing and Tentative Planning Guide will be online soon. Convention Managers will be invited to submit their housing requests next week. Next week I will begin to post State FFA Convention materials on the FFA website. Convention housing to be the first item posted.

Upcoming Events:

CDE Assignments : UW-Platteville – March 29 – Ethan and Abbie
UW-River Falls – March 31 – Isaac and Ashleigh
Fox Valley Tech – March 31 – Stacey and Nicole
Belleville CDEs – April 13 – Abbie and Katie
State CDEs – Madison – April 26 – All State Officers

212 and EDGE Conferences – Manitowoc, March 23-24

Currently we have approximately 180 students for 212 and 213 for EDGE. We plan to have American Degree Review, American Star Selection and National Officer Selection Process at the same location. Those scheduled to attend: Ethan, Kayla, Nicole, Stacey, Sara and Katie

Wisconsin National FFA Candidate Selection Process - Interviews to be held March 24 in Stevens Point. We have 2 candidates.

Wisconsin Public Service Farm Show – March 27-29 – Stacey, Kayla and Alissa

2012 COLT Conference – July 7-9, Green Lake, Wisconsin

2012 Wisconsin FFA Star Finalists**State Star in Agribusiness Finalists**

Tim Eddy - Amherst FFA
Logan Wells - Monroe FFA
Aaron Zimmerman - Spencer FFA
Bryan Wendt - Stoughton FFA
Josh Kreft - Unity FFA

State Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists

Amber Zimmerman - Beaver Dam FFA
Emily Selner - Denmark FFA
Nathaniel Nolden - Lodi FFA
Andrew Heiman - Marshfield FFA
Will Larson - Osseo-Fairchild FFA
Erik Kok - Randolph-Cambria Friesland FFA
Jacob Holland - Shullsburg FFA
Derek Pierce - Tomah FFA
Travis Luxton - Weston FFA
Derick Rettenmund - Wisconsin Heights FFA

State Star Farmer Finalists

Camber Sannes - Amherst FFA
Courtney Lobdell - Darlington FFA
Emily Sendelbach - Evansville FFA
Jessica Tyler - Granton FFA
Cassandra Krull - Lake Mills FFA
Elizabeth Boesl - Prairie Farm FFA
Aaron Zimmerman - Spencer FFA
Bryan Wendt - Stoughton FFA
Emily Petzel - Unity FFA
Ashley Orr - Waupaca FFA

State Star in Agriscience Finalist

Aaron Zimmerman - Spencer FFA

Wisconsin FFA Foundation

Report – 3/15/12

Q3 Goal Progress

Our goal was to reach \$297,084 by the end of our third quarter (March 31). We have already exceeded this goal by nearly \$13,000 with two weeks left in the quarter. We are still working to close the gap on our goal to achieve 75% sponsorship of all proficiencies and CDEs – need \$15,000 by March 30.

Star Mission Partner

Just this week we mailed the checks for \$3,500 each to the participating organizations. We currently have \$45,000 raised through this program, so very close to our goal of \$50,000 by May 1. We also had our first opportunity to make grants from the Mission-Based Initiative Fund on March 1 and approved \$3,500 total - \$2,000 for chapter establishment grants and \$1,500 for state officer communication trainings. There was another website proposal that was referred back to a committee for more planning.

Convention Partner

Our goal is to secure \$55,000 through this new program – we currently have \$49,110 and have another \$7,500 in pending asks. We are working with the Association to identify the best method for transitioning to a different system to facilitate the funding distribution and convention budget.

Golf Outings

All three locations have been secured and volunteer committees are currently soliciting in-kind and hole sponsorships. The southern outing will be held at a new location – Cherokee Golf Course (private course and Steve Stricker is planning to make an appearance). All other details are available in print copy and online for additional reference. We will also be working to transition more of the planning details to the regional coordinating committees to alleviate the administrative costs of doing it with staff time.

Endorsed Fundraiser Program

Amy has been working with our current and potential endorsed fundraiser programs to get their final agreement information. There will be a full launch of the marketing of these endorsed vendors starting May 1 to include print materials, web page, listserve emails and more.

Honored Adults Program

The administration of the Honored Adults Program (Honorary State Degrees, Distinguished Service Citation, VIP Award, Hall of Fame and Honorary American Degrees) has bounced around different audiences the past couple years. The Foundation offered to take it on starting this year because of the close connection to a lot of current or potential individual donors.

Spring Visits

We have the dates confirmed for the spring visits and will be meeting with the participating state officers this afternoon to discuss the outline of our visits and presentation. We have run into trouble confirming the visits with the sites and have received feedback that this is a bad month for the ag industry. We will continue trying to confirm at least a couple dates to still pilot the visits this year, but will consider different timing for next year.

State Convention Planning

We started a lot of the state convention brainstorming in December and the actually planning process is gearing up now. Our changes for the convention are to focus on making sure we really create a “welcome” feeling for the donors in attendance.