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**Agenda**

**Montana FFA Alumni Meeting (April 1st, 2022)**

**The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM in the Fireplace Room in the Student Union Building in Bozeman, Montana.**

**Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Alumni Secretary McKenna Quirk posted the minutes from the January 2022 meeting as well as the March 2022 meeting.

Sandy Everson moved to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes as presented, and Ken Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sandy Everson then moved to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes as presented, and Kristen Swensen seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**Officer Reports:**

***Treasurer Report***

Kirsten Swensen is working on figuring out how best to handle having chapters submit their dues. She has received a deposit from the Broadview FFA chapter, as well as other chapters, and will continuing to get those dues payments organized. A cash reimbursement was made for $310, and a few vests and shirts were purchased for $120 for the newly elected board members. Including an invoice for $100, the total bills presented at this meeting was $530. There is one outstanding bill for the Montana Silversmiths pins for the past state officers that were ordered through the Montana FFA Foundation. There is a total of $20,782.97 in the Alumni account at this time.

Kirsten Swensen moved to pay the outstanding bills and Ken Johnson seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Kirsten will be transferring from the Quickbooks record-keeping system to a leger format, which should make things easier to record and report. There is also a OneDrive program available that has all previous meeting minutes and treasurer’s reports and records. She looks forward to more training with Ben about the roster and treasurer’s duties at the National level.

The account signers have officially been updated and changed to include the new members of the board.

Kirsten plans to submit reimbursements for State Convention expenses at the next meeting. There is information in the bylaws regarding reimbursements for gas mileage, according to the bylaws members can be reimbursed 57.5 cents per mile. For members who drove to State Convention, feel free to submit reimbursements for gas. We also have the $50 payment that goes towards coffee and donuts at chapter meetings that is available for members to use.

***Executive report***

President Mike Tuszynski discussed the role of the Montana FFA State Alumni Association, including our role in promoting FFA and opportunities for students across the state by supporting our local alumni chapters. We are here to support local chapters that want to become affiliated, that need help getting reaffiliated, and aid in the transition back in to the post pandemic world. We are also here to share resources with our local alumni chapters. Mike attended the National FFA Alumni Convention a few months ago, and he greatly recommends taking advantage of the various regional trainings for Alumni that are available. The next training is going to be in Idaho.

***District Representative Reports***

*Eastern*

Gracie Tooke shared that she talked with Mrs. Hoagland from the Dawson FFA, that has an alumni chapter. However, that chapter has not paid dues or had an active meeting since the pandemic started. The Wibaux FFA has a booster club that does not have a separate Alumni chapter, so Gracie will be trying to show the tangible benefit of having a separate Alumni chapter. She has reached out to the Baker/Plevna FFA Alumni, but they have not gotten back to her yet. The Miles City FFA is doing very well. The Forsyth FFA chapter is having trouble recruiting and retaining younger members, but in regards to Alumni they are all up to date with their roster and dues. She has not yet made contact with the Broadus FFA Alumni but the advisor has mentioned that they are having trouble with the alumni understanding their role. At the moment they are acting as an advisory committee and getting involved with the schoolboard in terms of how he teaches in the classroom. The Broadus advisor is trying to bring in new topics to teach and folks are not happy about it and they want to rework the ag program.

*Glacier District*

Ken Johnson shared that their district had an extremely successful crops and mechanics seminar with about three hundred students in attendance. The rosters for the chapters in the district are updated and dues have been paid. Unfortunately, there is no longer an FFA chapter in Valier as they did not have any students interested in the program. There is a possibility that the chapter could be revitalized in the next five years. Ken Johnson has had conversations informally with the other chapters in the district. The Conrad FFA chapter will need a new advisor in the future. The Fort Benton FFA chapter has had an incredibly successful year, as they brought 19 students to the State Convention! Additionally, at the moment, an advisor is splitting time between two chapters, and Choteau County is losing students.

*Southwestern*

Kirsten Swensen attended the NAAE meeting and shared about the alumni support for Livingston FFA chapters. She also connected with Shannon Boswell from the Office of Public Instruction about helping to share the opportunity for an advisory board or committee in the Three Forks FFA Chapter and helping to create an Alumni Chapter there. The chapters in her district have been busy setting banquet dates. Banquet season is a very important time for alumni to have vests and smiles on for those opportunities to offer to provide help with the banquet and attend to support the students.

***Other***

Kristen had a few suggestions on how to support the Broadus FFA Chapter advisor. She mentioned that potentially writing a job description for the agriculture education teacher would help administrators understand the role that the agriculture education teacher plays in the program. Making information available about FFA and Alumni FFA Chapters to help administrators have a better understanding of program expectations. Advisory committees are not the same as Alumni chapters as the structure is very different. Gracie could try to get invited to the Broadus banquet to remind them of their role and go through the packet with them.

***National FFA Update***

Ben submitted that report for review online and he stayed after the meeting to answer questions about the contents of the report.

**Old Business**

**Report on CDE Days Alumni Involvement**

Mike and Gracie were in attendance for two days at CDE Days. There was a lot of apprehension that they would be short on volunteers and but many volunteers showed up and they ended up having too many judges. Miles City Community college was a great host and has a number of programs that students are interested in. One of the newest is the agriculture education program partnership with Montana State University – Bozeman where students spend two years in Miles City, two years in Bozeman, and graduate with a degree in agriculture education. They are hoping to recruit out of state students to come to Miles City, as the tuition is lower and more students would be receptive to going back to Eastern Montana to work there. They have a high graduation rate for the two plus two-year programs, as shown from their other partners with Dickenson State.

**Roster Trainings with Ben Meyer at State Convention**

Ben stayed in Bozeman during the afternoon with Kirsten if anyone had questions for them about the roster system.

**Social Event After Meeting**

In order to bring the various organizations closer together and increase attendance at our meetings, we hope to plan a few social events after meetings in the future.

**New Business**

**Alumni Store Reports**

*Sales Report*

Lori Kraft reported that the sales at the Alumni Store were going very well. It was discussed that going forward Lori will do the ordering for the store, with help from Cyndi Johnson.

Kirsten moved to have Lori Kraft appointed at the chairman of the Alumni Store Committee. Ken Johnson seconded the motion.

Lori mentioned that the Montana specific merchandise is licensed with National FFA, and that we could make a better profit margin if we worked with someone else to make the merchandise.

Lori accepted the nomination to be the chairman of the Alumni Store Committee. She will be reaching out to the Foundation to see if we can have a trade booth at the tradeshow for the Montana Ag Expo. We will also need to purchase more inventory moving forward, and Kirsten will need a budget amount of the store in order to do this. At the next meeting we will review what was sold at the store and determine a budget amount for the store.

Kirsten moved to amend that main motion to add that Lori will present a budget for the store at the next meeting. This amendment failed due to a lack of a second. The main motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Updating the Alumni Page on the Montana FFA Website**

McKenna, Kirsten and Mike will be working on this project to update the website.

**New Alumni Introduction Packet**

Gracie and Mike will be working on editing the packet and there will be opportunities for other members to provide input on the contents of the packet. There is already a handbook draft on One Drive that Susan Standley put it together years ago. We are planning on using that document as a foundation, and then updating it. National FFA also has many resources that could be distributed to new Alumni chapters, so Gracie and Mike will be going through that information and compiling it to be included in the Packet. Kirsten asked that all of this information be shared with everyone.

**Banquet Season**

Be sure to attend banquets in your district to support your chapters!

**Other**

Kirsten shared that the Montana FFA Foundation will be moving their office and because of this, we need to change our mailing address. We need to be thinking about this for the future, but we do have some time before it becomes a priority.

Mike is working on the expense report now, and we are currently sitting on a $20,000 account balance. He is planning on applying for a $5000 grant to help cover expenses from State Convention. We will submit applications for more grants if needed. Kirsten mentioned that we should put some of our money in a savings account in the next year.

**Officer Elections**

* **District Representative for the Judith Basin District**
* **District Representative for the Big Muddy District**

There are a few past board members in these areas. Kelsey Kraft will be moving to Lewistown, and she will be able to help make connections. Sandy talked to someone from Moore as well. We need to do some more networking to find folks to fill these positions.

**Announcements**

**Scheduling a Zoom meeting**

We scheduled a Zoom meeting for May 19th (Thursday) from 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM. We will be reaching out to everyone to help with participation, as offering this opportunity to meet could help encourage folks to stay engaged. Contact information in the roster still needs to be updated though, so please be sure to remind your chapters about this.

**Alumni Leadership Camp (June 16th – June 19th)**

Kirsten made a call to the insurance company and is getting organized for Alumni Leadership Camp. We will have an in-person meeting on June 18th at the camp. We normally help serve food and then have our meeting after the banquet. Matt needs six checks to go shopping for snacks and workshop materials, so he will be in touch with Kirsten about that. Todd Lackman was able to help set up online registration.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM.**