

**State FFA Alumni Agenda**  
**March 12, 2009**  
**Suffield High School Agriculture Program**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Report from State FFA Association  
Chapter Reports

**Old Business**

Website suggestions  
State Leaders Conference – due May 1, 2009  
Washington Leadership Conference – due April 1, 2009

**New Business**

State FFA Convention – May 30<sup>th</sup> (Lyman Memorial High School, Lebanon)  
    Silent Auction – Lori & Donna  
    Career Show – Whom should we ask to come?

Lee Kane Project (Hilda)  
Central Meeting Location

**ADJOURN**



**State of CT FFA Alumni Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2009**  
**Suffield High School**  
**Page 1 of 4**

**Call to Order:** Fred Scoville 7:00pm

**Members In Attendance:** Fred Scoville, Donna Corbin Sobinski, Lori Longhi, Lynn Scoville, Hilda Kapral, Sherry Hart, Anita Kalenauskas, Mark Burdick, Emily Kalenauskas State FFA President (arrived late)

**Members Absent:** Michele Longhi

**Welcome:**

Linda Sheridan Suffield Regional thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the center

**Approval of Minutes:** Donna Corbin Sobinski reviewed minutes from January 8, 2009 meeting Beth Roger motioned to accept meeting minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lori Longhi  
Vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

**Treasurer Report:**

Lori Longhi reported on behalf of Michele Longhi that we have an approximate balance of \$4,600.00 in checking and a cd totaling \$8,401.00 The tax return is completed – passed around for everyone to view – will be mailed

**Chapter Reports:**

Suffield: Mrs. Willard reported there are a lot of transitions going on, with Mr. Griffin retiring in January after 38 ½ years. The new principal is becoming interested in the program. Attended the CAAE meeting last evening and diner in Glastonbury. The jackets were awarded to two students; thanked the Alumnae for providing the opportunity for the chapters to receive the jackets, makes a difference. Linda Sheridan reported completed the Greenhand ceremony, fundraisers and a special fundraiser for Sam Smyth, student that was injured recently. Denise O'Kanes niece fundraiser, scholarship valentine dance, gift cards to ag store Upcoming SAE night and April banquet, plant sale, Suffield on the Green.

Killingly: Planning Spring fest beginning of May, banquet and Foxwoods Bingo 3/27/09, Spring bulb sale in May, Norwich CT Defenders and in June a Bowling for Bob benefit: They have two time slots at bowling alley, people pay based on the number of pins knocked down 5-10cents each plus a \$10 cover charge. They also awarded a SAE loan to a student with 1% interest

Housatonic: Annual diner 100+ attended, people brought basket, sold tickets. Planning student exchange with Arkansas, Chicken bbq, Quilt sale FFA held breakfast for legislatures and faculty

Glastonbury: Students attended CT Floral show, planning animal fair, spring fair, State compliance review in process, will be attending Ag Day at the Capitol next week, upcoming Open house with Ag passports



**State of CT FFA Alumni Meeting Minutes**  
**March 12, 2009**  
**Suffield High School**  
**Page 2 of 4**

**Old Business:**

**State Leaders Conference:** Will be middle of July 14-19,2009 applications are due 5/1/09 Committee to review applications: Lori Longhi, Anita Kalenauskas, and Donna Corbin Sobinski

**WLC:** Two scholarships \$550.00 & \$325

Committee to review applications: Lynn Scoville, Lori Longhi, and Donna Corbin Sobinski .

Hilda Kapral commented that she has reviewed in the past and felt it was a rewarding experience to read about the various activities students have done

**Annual Appeal: Should we have one?**

Can ask and would be important to send letters stating what we have done and our program of activities. Should we send to all alum or groups of alums? Postage would be expensive, not for profit application with post office is time consuming and we would have to sort mailings, and there is also a minimum limit – we would not qualify

Lori Longhi motioned to create appeal letter and send to approximately 200 people, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Corbin Sobinski

Beth Rogers motioned to amend sending 200 by email to save postage, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherry Hart

Sherry Hart motioned to amend and remove the email limit of 200

Vote taken to Create appeal letter and send by email, all approved, motion passes.

Fred Scoville will ask Michele Longhi to create a letter and email to all officers and those in attendance prior to next meeting.

Other fund raising ideas is a bakeless sale and tea

**WebSite:**

Anita Kalenauskas reported that she believes we can setup a website ourselves Costco would cost \$17.97/month In Motion web hosting \$8.95/month both have very good ratings \$215 for 2-yr period and register domain ctffaaluimni.org is still available

What would be on the website, the number of pages determines the fees?

Homepage: Constitution, Mission Statements, Officer Information and contact

Forms page: Applications

Minutes of Meetings

Future Meetings / Calendar

Links to other web sites & Chapters and contact information for chapters

Suffield said they are also looking into options for a web site

Suggestion was to have people log in for access – this would be time consuming for someone to verify and give access – nothing would need to be for members only

Suggestion for Blog section to post ideas, suggestions



## State of CT FFA Alumni Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2009

Suffield High School

Page 3 of 4

### New Business:

#### **State Convention: 5/30/09 Lyman Memorial – Lebanon**

The school has limited space – we may be outside under tents

It was agreed we cannot separate the career show and auction

We can not rely on the fact that we will have adequate space – need to know how much space we will have before moving forward

Instead of having silent auction - create theme baskets – people can bid on baskets and small items

Beth Rogers motioned to have baskets at convention in place of silent auction, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherry Hart, vote taken, all approved, motion passes.

Should ask chapters and companies for donations, send letters ask for confirmation

Career Show – ideas on who to invite?

South Windsor – Lincoln? Work with diesel engines

Colleges: Cobleskill, Unity (Sherry Hart offered to contact), UConn, Northwestern, Naugatuck Valley

Business Careers: florist, tree service, CT Vet. Association, NCCC, Dept. of Environmental Protection Wildlife Division, Wind Over Wings – Hope Douglas, Rittners Floral Design, Turf, greenhouse UConn, Dog/Horse areas of interest

Lori Longhi motioned to table until we get more information on the space available to us, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynn Scoville, vote taken, motion passes.

#### **Lee Kane Project: (Hilda Kapral)**

Lee Kan is from Boston Whole Foods would like to be involved with FFA interested in suggestions:

We can have meetings in West Hartford Whole Foods

Employees Judge for CDE's twice yearly at UConn

Donations for contests: meats, poultry, milk

Mention us in their ads,

Offer job shadows, workshops on cuts of meat, food safety, and organics

#### **Central Meeting Locations:**

Emily Kalenauskas mentioned the State Officers meet at Manchester Community College

Whole Foods West Hartford

Cabella's – state executive committee used to meet then they started charging

Glastonbury Vo-Ag, new Middletown Ag-School

It is nice to meet at schools – maybe we can do half the meetings in a central location and others at schools



## State of CT FFA Alumni Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2009

Suffield High School

Page 4 of 4

### **WLC Grant for Advisors:**

Each school has different policies on advisors attending

We need to have a committee to suggest policy and application, determine what cost

Committee: Beth Rogers, Jen Elman, Fred Scoville, and Michele Longhi

We will keep things the same this year; possibly have grant beginning next year

### **State Association Update Emily Kalenauskas**

Nationals – convention they are considering cutting back due to economy, scholarships will be reduced from 26 to 7, CDE's, Proficiency winners – canceling trips, Funding for workshops is reduced, budget is much smaller, reduction in officer training and travel, they are losing sponsorships

State: JLC next week, Ag Day at the Capitol

Emily Kalenauskas just returned from Ag Day in Washington DC – great experience

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

5/7/09 – Housatonic 6/11/09- Ledyard

Possibly find a central place for meetings – suggestions: Manchester Community College, Public library, Whole Foods – Glastonbury or West Hartford

Some like idea of moving meetings for jacket incentive program

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:40pm