

Texas FFA State Degree Check
Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 28, 2022

Tammy Glascock, State Degree Check Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 a.m. and the invocation was given by Roger Green, Area 1.

Area Committee Members in Attendance

Area 1: Roger Green, Andrew Hokanson
Area II: Travis Lange, Blake Chudej
Area III: Sara Burke, Sommer Thomas
Area IV: Josh Sanders, Rusty Brixey
Area V: Jennifer Gilbreath, Brent Lankford
Area VI: Brent Kiefer, Micah Davidson
Area VII: Patrick Padgett, Danny Kempen
Area VIII: Monica Patrick, Michelle Sammons
Area IX:
Area X: Jeff Kennedy, Pablo Trevino III
Area XI: Christy Capps, Liz Treptow
Area XII:
Guests: Tracy Blum, Clay Ewell, Vanessa Kirby, Roger Hanagriff, Kelley Clements, Dawson Shannon, Bre Warhol, Theresa Farthing, Savannah Bowers

Area Concerns

Area 1:

- Good

Area II:

- Good

Area III:

- What is the difference between State Degree Check Committee and Area Degree Check Committee?

Area IV:

- Can we look at the Star Finalists interview schedule? We had conflicts this year due to recognition of Agriscience Fair winners walking across the stage at the same time as interviews.

Area V:

- What can we do to get more teachers considered as qualified judges?

Area VI:

- Good

Area VII:

- Good

Area VIII

- Good

Area IX

- No one present.

Area X:

- Issues at area degree check with active and inactive toggle switch. Turning it off would make money meet for the State Degree.

Area XI:

- Good

Area XII

- Good

Addressing of Discussion Items from Committe

Area III:

- The difference between the State Degree Check Committee and Area Degree Check Committee was explained and this cleared up some confusion that the area had last year.

Area IV:

- Staff informed the Area IV that we understood the issue and that we would look at the schedule for the 2023 Texas FFA State Convention and try to prevent conflicts.

Area X:

- Roger Hanagriff was present and addressed the situation with toggling SAE's on and off which made application financial records to say "MET".

Agenda Discussion Items

American FFA Degrees

- Staff reported that all of our American applications had been approved and that National FFA was very appreciative of the state getting those submitted early.
- Staff thanked the areas for their diligent efforts in getting American Degree applications submitted by the April 1st deadline. A motion was made by Patrick Padgett to move the due date of American FFA Degree's to February 1st of each calendar year, it was seconded by Roger Green. The motion passed 8 – 2.
- Patrick Padgett asked if we could work on getting more of our membership to apply

for their American Degree.

- Action taken; 1) staff informed the committee of plans to hold an American FFA Degree workshop at teachers conference to assist teachers with the review and submission of applications. 2) AET informed the committee that they would create a list of students eligible for the American Degree based on their State Degree applications. This generated list would then be emailed out to the respected areas, and 3) The motion to move the due date for applications to February 1st will be presented by staff to the Texas FFA board.

State Degree Process

- Staff thanked the committee members and Lone Star Degree committee members for their work getting over 2100 Lone Star Degrees reviewed and approved in a timely manner.
- Staff asked for volunteers to serve on a Lone Star Degree Task Force to develop a detailed document outlining all required items needed to earn the Lone Star (State) Degree. Task Force committee members include Roger Green, Travis Lange, Saray Burke, Rusty Bixby, Jennifer Gilbreath, Micah Davidson, Danny Kempen, Monica Partick, Pablo Trevino, Lix Treptow and Jeff Heffernan.
- The motion was made by Brent Keifer, seconded by Roger Green. Motion passed 7 to 3 to let each area have the final say in who qualifies for the Lone Star (State) Degree and that we would randomly audit 25% of each area's Lone Star Degree's each year during State Degree Check. Those found not to meet the degree requirements would then be reviewed by the Texas FFA Executive Committee as in previous years. Staff will present this motion to the Texas FFA Board.

Stars and Outstanding Service – Learning and School Based Learning Awards

- The committee felt that Star Finalist and Outstanding Chapter Awards continue to be held during the State FFA Convention.
- They did ask to look at the interview schedule to prevent conflicts.
- Roger discussed a new version of the Star application that would allow you to pick which SAE's would go into the application. For example if a student had 1 placement SAE and 5 production SAE's and the student wanted to run for a Star in Production, they would only select the 5 production SAE's. This is similar to a proficiency and the old Star Battery we had several years ago.
- Staff addressed the Stars Banquet with the committee. Four options were given, 1) to continue with the banquet as is, 2) to only invite the finalists, 3) go to a reception, or 4) no banquet at all. Votes were taken and it was unanimous that we continue as is.

Proficiency Awards

- The proficiency process was discussed. The question was asked if we needed to move due dates for proficiencies since the closing date is December 31st. Staff did inform the committee that National FFA had discussed moving due dates.
- No recommendations or motions were brought forth from the discussion.

National Chapter

- Process discussed without any recommendations or motions coming forth.

John Justin / Ryan Mott

- Discussion focused on applications and interviews. The committee would like to combine both applications. In addition, the committee discussed the necessity and feasibility of interviews for the John Justin Award and Ryan Mott Scholarship applications.
- Action taken regarding applications; staff will work to combine applications and make both apps more accessible.
- Action taken regarding interviews, the motion was made by Pablo, seconded by Liz to have Ryan Mott interviews virtually. The motion passed 6 to 4. Pablo also made the motion to have John Justin virtual, it was seconded by Bobby, the motion failed 4 to 6. Staff will take this motion to the Texas FFA Board.

Golden Horizon

- There was some discussion regarding the divisions and the need to add an additional division for 6 plus teachers. Staff informed the committee that this had been discussed and that staff would recommend the change to the Texas FFA Board.

AET

- Roger and his staff informed the committee that they would offer American FFA Degree training beginning in December.

Motion was made to adjourn by Brent Keifer and seconded by Liz Treptow. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.