

State Degree Check Committee meeting – Arlington – July 27, 2017

Lone Stars –

- Motion was passed that no changes be made to AET record book program after Jan. 1 each year. This will hopefully insure that we have less confusion with books and applications.
- Mr. Tymrak and Austin Large informed the group that a SAE handbook (similar to old “golden rod” booklet) is being developed at the state level – this will help define what a SAE is and also help determine how entries are done in a record book.
- With 2 new areas, some discussion was had about we figure out what areas go first each year at LS ceremony during convention – Austin Large said at this point, the most likely scenario was to group them with other areas – i.e. areas I and XI would both go on a year ending with 1. No final decision has been made and more information will come as we get closer to that time.

Proficiency awards –

- Teachers are urged to promote these awards – had several categories not represented at state level.
- Be sure the start dates are correct and that the student has at least 4 months in the project area on apps sent on to state. Several made it through to state check that were incorrect and knocked out some that would have qualified.

American Degree –

- Had list of 6 rejected apps from nationals showing some items not allowed – most involved using teams for SAE – won’t work. Needs to be project based. This will also be more strongly enforced on LS degree as well.
- Community service language still is a problem – state is working to include some guidelines in SAE handbook to address this
- Treptow also mentioned a “SAE resources” tab on national website that has some good information as to what is acceptable/not acceptable for SAE.

Star applications –

- Big concern over the consistency and ability of some teachers in star interview rooms. Had some weird questions in some and some problems with the process in others. It was suggested that the committee chairs at least be instructed and that maybe all of the teachers in the room be briefed on what to do.
- Tymrak also wants to have an electronic listing of area winners and project description sent to state office with Star Americans so as to determine their eligibility for that category. There seems to be questions in some rooms as to whether an app is placement/entrepreneurship, etc. The process will be determined and info will be sent to area coordinators at some point.

John Justin and Ryan Mott concerns –

- None other than would like to start interviews earlier

Date for state check – AS OF NOW (FFA board has final say) is June 6-8 in Stephenville. There is some concern about schools getting out later and 4-H Roundup moving.

Final concerns from Austin Large –

If you are in an interview room, please DO NOT post any results from state check on social media. Those results are not final and in some cases had confidential info attached – such as those DQ'ed or rejected. Some lists posted were also incorrect.