

Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

Tower Rock Elementary School

Members arrived at Tower Rock Elementary School at 6pm for a tour of the school, specifically the agricultural aspects they have incorporated into their curriculum. After the tour, the group gathered in the Agriculture Classroom for a presentation by a couple of the teachers, along with snacks and beverages provided by the teachers. They touched on several aspects of their daily school life and how it incorporates agriculture:

- Classrooms- weaving agriculture in the rooms and activities such discussing jobs, décor, their tower garden, and putting an ag spin on the district curriculum.
- Chicken Coop- students take care of the chickens
- Bilingual mural, compost area, bilingual mural
- Ag Room – sensory table, discovery house with challenges, garden with plastic veggies and fruits, market, and kitchen
- Dramatic Play Area – farm, farm to table, vet clinic, green house windows

Each year, the agriculture program grows at the school. Year 1 was the Monsanto Grant of \$10,000 towards raised beds, education materials, and a tool shed. Year 2 was Ag Day with live animals, tractors, and chickens. Year 3 is focusing on the Ag Room and careers in agriculture. Many questions were asked about the facility and curriculum by the Alumni members.

Following the presentation, the Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni held a meeting of the members, which started at 7:22pm. Members in attendance included Kathy and Tom Breunig, Brad and Terri Anderson, Tina Raschein, Anna Raschein, Terry and Sue Slotty, Mark Ladsten, Cathy Jo Schreiber, Mike Lindloff, Bruce Hasheider, Art Mueller, Kenny Noltner, Lora Kippley, Troy Talford, Greg and Wendy Sprecher, and guest Cliff Thompson- Sauk Prairie School District Superintendent.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Breunig – Checking Account \$26,983.74, Scholarship Account \$3,886.46 with a transfer coming, Supply Account \$1,580.40, Loan \$70,850.00. Cathy Jo Schreiber moved to ratify all payments since the last regular meeting. Mark Ladsten seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Advisor's Report – Troy Talford – February and March are very busy months for Mr. Talford and the FFA members. District speaking contests are next week Monday, followed by the FFA Banquet Tuesday, and Judging contests Friday. The district is searching for a biology teacher and the agricultural classes are packed. Mr. Talford can only do so much, so the district decided to post the job opening as a biology/agriculture teacher position. Mr. Talford brought up that as an alumni we should think about possibly pay for a second advisor position depending on the candidate, but we will see what happens with the posting.

Old Business

Annual Meeting – we had very good attendance with the Alumni paying 100% of the meal and we will possibly move the location around the area.

State FFA Alumni Convention – Slotty’s, Anderson’s, Raschein’s, Troy Talford, Mark Ladsten, and Sally Albers attended. Mark Ladsten is the WI State Alumni President now. He said the state is planning on increasing leadership workshop scholarships. The 2019 convention will be in Stevens Point, 2020 in Milwaukee, and 2021 TBD but will be hosted by Sections 6, 9, and 10

Consignment Auction- Brad Anderson reported that there were 485 bidders, 1000’s of people present, 674 lots total with only 22 that did not sell, and Gavin Brothers have a photo from our auction as their Facebook cover photo. Took in \$251,000 total and blew last year out of the water. There was plenty of help during the week but next year we need help the week of the event getting items checked in. The food stand was a huge hit and brought in around \$1,700. A big thank you went to Brad Anderson for chairing this event.

FFA Banquet Donations – anyone can donate an item or basket and monetary donations will go towards the meal.

Cinnamon Roll Thank You’s – Kathy Breunig – We will bake and delivery cinnamon rolls on Tuesday, March 20 to our business sponsors. We will load up at the high school at 7:30am; delivery helpers include Nancy Leigel, Lora Kippley, and Cathy Jo Schreiber.

Sportsmen’s Banquet – April 14th – ticket deadline for past attendees was Saturday, March 3rd. There is a huge waiting list that the committee will address now and will probably fill all available tickets. It was discussed that a common opinion heard from people is having higher quality guns is better than quantity.

Sign Advertisements – Kathy Breunig sent out 52 letters to businesses; the first year is \$400, then it is \$100 each year after unless sign needs updating or replacing.

Spring Tractor Pull – Brad Anderson – working on the farm tractor classes yet. Ballweg Chevrolet Buick is on board for sponsorship again.

Fall Tractor Pull – Brad Anderson – Badger State Tractor Pullers contract is signed and is \$1,000 more than last year but Brad spoke to Greg Elsing and will swap a class to lower the cost \$1,000. There will be 5 classes total this year. It costs about \$16, 700 to run the fall pull so we really need sponsors for the this.

Wobble Wheel – Fair Valley Performance will be on one side for \$350/year; Scott Davis Mowing Service will be on the other side but not charging him every year for 5 years because he donates lawn mowing at the park which used to cost us \$1,000/year. Brad Anderson is taking care of getting the wobble wheel done.

New Business

National FFA Alumni name change – Changing to “National FFA Alumni and Supporters”, they no longer have By-laws, just a membership entity, the shield/emblem has changed too, but nothing changes with the State FFA Alumni’s. We need to decide about changing our name. Troy Talford said that he struggles getting parents and people in the community to understand that anyone can join the Alumni; you don’t need to be a former FFA member. We wouldn’t want to change our logo though to keep separation between the school and Alumni when dealing with beer sales.

Tower Rock Assistance – Curriculum Time is what the teachers are asking for. They want a sub-teacher so they have time as a group to organize. Troy Talford thinks the Tower Rock staff could just ask for money for this from the school board. They are also asking for \$400 for stuffed animals, hydroponic heating pad and shelving unit. Mark Ladsten moved to grant them \$400 for their list of items needed. Kenny Noltner seconded this motion. Motion passed, we will grant Tower Rock \$400 for stuffed animals, hydroponic heating pad and shelving unit.

Fundraising – Farm to Table Chamber Events – Will be at Joe Keller's, the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce is looking for an organization to run it. It needs to have an educational piece to it. Goal is to bring people to the location and then teach them something. Will investigate this more.

With no further business, Mark Ladsten moved to adjourn the meeting. Troy Talford seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Jo Schreiber
Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni Secretary