

**ILCAE/ICAE Meeting**  
**Illinois FFA Center, Springfield, Illinois**  
**Minutes**  
**June 17, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 A.M. by President Mike Massie. The following individuals were in attendance: Elizabeth Christian, teacher; Bill Schreck; Harley Hepner, ISBE; Vern Mc Ginnis, VIA; Andy Baker, WIU; Richard Treat, ILCAE; Bill Bodine, IFB; Jill Carey-Hargrave, Gibbs & Soell, ICAE/ILCAE; John Kabat, ICAE; State Senator Brad Burzynski; Connie Niemann, Macoupin County Ag Literacy; Karen Fraase, IDOA; Jason Emmert, U of I; Tammy Miller, ICAE, Joliet Jr. College; Bob Arthur, Retired SIUC- ILCAE; Bill Johnson, Joliet Jr. College, ILCAE; Dave Cattron, ILCAE; Heather Miller, ILCAE, U of I; Kay Shipman, Farm Week, ILCAE; Doug Falk, ICAE; Al Dietz, ICAE/ILCAE; Mike Massie, ILCAE; Stacy Stremsterfer; ILCAE/ICAE; Mindy Mc Dermott, Waterloo Ag Teacher; Penny Haase-Wittler, Illinois Ag Ed Post-Secondary Development; Jay Runner, FCAE State Coordinator.

Each person introduced themselves and indicated their respective career title.

The previous meeting minutes were approved (Schreck made the motion /Miller seconded).

Bill Bodine commented on the Vision for Agriculture. He mentioned that the vision has served as a roadmap and implementation will focus on the following:

- Grow Illinois production so that it is in the top 3 nationally
- Grow food manufacturing in the state so that it is in the top 3; currently IL is ranked 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Lead the U.S. in creation of bio-based outcomes
- Participate in the fiscal integrity forum in August
- Grow regulatory responsiveness; as compared to other states Illinois slow
- Continue to build fiscal integrity in the state

Vern Mc Ginnis mentioned that there was a need to try and improve funding for research and education so that 'pipeline' efforts in agricultural education could be sustained.

Andy Baker discussed that students have a freedom of choice as to what career they choose. Some say that agricultural education students come to agriculture programs due to it being their 'comfort zone'. He also mentioned that teacher certification is an issue and that some students struggle with taking tests.

Dick Treat commented that there is a great need for agricultural education to be focused at the middle school level.

Jay Runner commented that teachers do a good job of informing guidance counselors, but as a whole there needs to be more attention in this area.

Tammy Miller commented that a primary roadblock is that there is a perception that there are no jobs in agriculture. She recommended the following:

- Show the number of jobs in agriculture
- Use outreach programs to help spread the word
- Billboards do help; marketing may be a key component

Jill Carey-Hargrave discussed that the need focuses on making the advocates (parents, counselors, etc.) aware of the jobs that are available in agriculture. IL needs consistency of a message to give to these advocates; a simplified, consistent message so that everyone is on the same page.

Mindy Mc Dermott mentioned that there should be a need for these jobs that are sustainable. If the agriculture teachers are doing a good job then counselors will come to the agriculture teacher and the agriculture program.

Kay Shipman commented that Facebook is not the best way to communicate this message; the best way is to go to the parents and to help universities remove barriers.

Heather Miller indicated that online education is becoming more prominent. Technology needs to be used since it is becoming more a part of university settings.

Jay Runner commented that students need to get agriculture credit for some of the courses that deem worthwhile as agriculture credit.

Penny Haase-Wittler commented that Gainesville (University of Florida) uses all players in their agriculture education system so that rich, collaborative efforts continue to strengthen the agriculture infrastructure in the state.

Harley Hepner indicated the FY 11 budget has been proposed and that there would be several areas funded. One area is the general state fund and another area is entitled mandated categorical. From this area the agency will determine where to spend the money and distribute funds. Emergency funds are at \$600 million.

Senator Brad Burzynski mentioned that his concern is in the long term federal funds. P-20 needs to look for integration. Teachers should consider roles as administrators and counselors. A consistent message regarding jobs in agriculture and agriculture in general needs to be put forth. Farm Bureau could adopt a legislative program and get legislators in schools. The situation with the state budget should give us pause as to what can happen with funds in the state. The senator also commented that he was very glad to be at this meeting.

The new Illinois FFA state officer team introduced themselves and mentioned that they are getting familiarized with events from this past week.

Motion by Andy Baker and seconded by Al Dietz that we accept the following ICAE nominations: Dave Mouser, 2010 -11 ICAE Chair & Stacy Stremsterfer, 2010-11 ICAE Vice-Chair. Motion passed.

Bill Schreck mentioned that Illinois agriculture education needs presence on Wednesday June 23 and Thursday June 24 at the Illinois State Board of Education meeting.

Jill Carey-Hargrave commented that we need to build better advocacy with industry as to where we send our students for internships, jobs, etc. We need to use our alumni and others to help achieve this.

Jay Runner reviewed the awards list and explained how it is used. The group discussed ILCAE Award nominees and has recommended the following slate:

- Legislation: Senator Demuzio and Senator Burzynski
- Media: Tracy Boe Steffen
- Education: Jesse Ruiz, Robert Easter, Dr. Gary Minish
- Agri-business: Vern McGinnis
- Perry Schneider Special Award: Julie Reed, Stacie Walker, Martha Ebbesmeyer

Dick Treat encouraged attendance at the counselor's conference. Results from the community college survey should be delivered to counselors. This is an important piece as it verifies what is actually being done at the community college students.

Stacy Stremsterfer passed out "Ag in the Classroom" items and mentioned that they were adding two more counties.

Doug Falk mentioned that secondary agricultural education programs are in a holding pattern and that top quality ag programs have been hit hard with the lack of funds. There were good in-service workshops focusing on horticulture, technology, etc. at the IAVAT conference. He mentioned also that there may be a bump in retirements as well.

Karen Fraase encouraged everyone to attend Ag Day at the state fair on August 17. She has ordered the following weather: "a bright sunny day". The little farmers program will continue and Indiana and Minnesota will be bringing in imaging equipment.

Jill Carey-Hargrave provided information regarding the FY10 Illinois Agriculture Education Media Relations Report. She indicated that every opportunity to share agriculture information

should be used. This includes twitter during the Tuesday ag chat. Agriculture awareness is the essential component in promoting agriculture.

The tentative next meeting dates are as follows:

- September 9, 2010 – Location TBD
- November 4, 2010 – Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Penny Haase-Wittler, Acting Secretary