

Florida Foundation for Future Scientists  
Spring RSEF Directors/FFFS Board of Directors  
Annual Spring Meeting  
April 2, 2015  
Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL  
MINUTES

Bill Herschleb called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2014 BOD Fall Meeting Minutes: Thanks to Sandy McCoy for taking minutes in Maia's absence. Minutes from the fall meeting were reviewed by the group (Joe requested a clarification about the statement on page 2 referring to the AP Bio test/Bio EOC—JP will provide a clarifying statement). Motion to approve—Tom Dann; second by Karen Malesky. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report: Nancy thanked everyone for all of their efforts to get everything done that needs to be done. The database is up and running (very exciting!).

Preliminary SSEF reports:

**SRC (Sharon Suits)**

- We had another successful 1-day SRC meeting in spring—we had a great group of volunteers this year and that was really appreciated. We sent out more deficiency reports than ever.
- Paperwork from 843 projects was submitted for review by over 80 volunteers
- 217 violation forms were issued, up from 182 last year
- 47 of the projects were judged as PFTQ compared to 29 last year.
- Fire team members discussed all violations with regional directors and copies of the deficiency notification forms were given to be distributed to the student researchers.
- At the fair site SRC, 8 volunteers interviewed 210 students and reviewed their paperwork modifications.
- 7 pre-fair FTQs were no-shows.
  - 1 project lacked appropriate vertebrate protocols and supervision
  - 3 projects had PHBAs cultured at home
  - 2 projects had date violations
  - 1 project had no research plan
  - 2 projects lacked appropriate QS/DS supervision
  - 1 Jr project was a BSL2 done in a middle school lab
  - 1 human project presented with inappropriate questions on a survey for minors
- All 210 students interviewed (including 40 PFTQ projects) were cleared and able to compete.
- Thanks to regional directors for helping their students clear up violations.
- Bill expressed his thanks to the SRC/Fire Team.

**Logistics and Display & Safety (Danny Thomas and Kim Rex)**

- Danny thanked regional directors for helping ensure that there were no logistics issues this year. Kim seconded that—stating that there were only minor issues during D&S. There were no table to floor issues this year! The only real logistic issue was that there was a spacing issue between a few of the rows and that will be corrected next year.

- Reminder that students must provide photo/graph/table credits on their boards (D&S will not be providing stickers for students to use on their boards next year.)
- 816 projects set up. Only 5 call backs done before opening ceremony.
  - 4 of these were for missing certification cards and one was for small objects on board.
- During the first round of judging, all students had at least 2 judges by 11:30 and most had 3.

#### **Shop Talks** (Nancy for Jaqua Ballas)

3 Shop Talk sessions. *Marine Resources Development Foundation*, *SRC* (Nancy mentioned that parents are particularly encouraged to attend this session), *CPALMS*. There was good attendance at Shop Talks.

#### **Photography** (Sue Cole)

- 9 photographers took about 5,000 photos. Having such a large number of photographers allowed completion of the photos in good time.
- Sue requested slightly wider aisle space in some areas.
- Volunteers to help “shepherd” students during the awards ceremony would be appreciated! There will be 4 photo stations. New banners (celebrating 60 years) will be used.
- Sue, Phil and Joyce could use extra hands with loading up the truck following the awards ceremony.
- Nancy reminded members that the photography is a huge fundraiser for FFSSEF. Pre-photo sales were about \$3,000; annual proceeds are usually about \$8,000.
- Sue anticipated photographs will be available on the website within about 2 weeks.
- Bill thanked Sue for her volunteer efforts.

#### **Place & Grand Awards** (Joyce Bervaldi)

- About 44% of the students this year are getting place awards.

#### **Special Awards** (Pat Zalo)

- Over 50 volunteers judged 200 special awards worth \$16,000; potential \$1.2 million in scholarship awards.
- Pat requested that regional directors encourage students (seniors) to apply for the National Youth Science camp opportunity.
- New College provides scholarship opportunities for FSSEF finalists.

#### **Judging** (Bill Herschleb)

- Special thanks to D&S and Logistics for helping ensure that all students had been judged by an appropriate number of judges in each round.
- Bill assured the committee that inappropriate comments/bullying by judges are not tolerated and that he is dealing with those issues as they arise (and that those judges will not be
- Final (round 3) judging was completed by 6:45 pm.

#### **JASON** (Nancy Besley)

- JASON speakers were fabulous this year—several parents/students came up to Nancy after the program and asked how they could become JASON speakers.
- Intel STS—Catherine Li of Orlando won 3<sup>rd</sup> place medal of distinction for innovation at STS this past year.

- May 10-15 is ISEF in Pittsburg, PA. The 8 students selected from FSSEF will be announced tonight.

#### Adjunct programs

**Florida Junior Academy of Science**(Pat Zalo). On March 21, 2015, the state competition was held at St. Leo University—71 students participated. Nineteen of those students also participated at SSEF. Every year, there is a significant correlation between student participation at FJAS and SSEF. Pat will be evaluating the 2015 data to see if those trends continued this year. The next competition will be held in St. Petersburg (USF campus) on March 19, 2016.

Participation at FJAS is the only way students can have an opportunity to present at the American Junior Academy of Science/AAAS conference in February each year.

**FAST** (JP Keener). FAST will be held Oct 22-24, in Tallahassee in collaboration with FDEP and FDOE.

**FDOE**. FDOE budget looks stable for this year. New standards in technology and engineering are being developed to enable more STEM development in schools.

**Center for Pre-collegiate Education and Training** (UF) (Bill Herschleb). Summer programs for teachers will be offered—check their website for opportunities. Summer science training program for students is also available (opportunities for students to participate in research at UF.)

#### New Business and Announcements

**Fall Meeting Workshop and dates:** to be determined (currently no funding for this).

**Funding:** After the awards ceremony tonight, there are no guaranteed funds for FSSEF. Bill will be announcing tonight that we hope that the 60<sup>th</sup> FSSEF is not the last. We will be establishing a crowdfunding website and sending information out on Twitter. Bill thanked Kim Unger for her help in developing a crowdfunding program. Annually we need \$150,000 to run the SSEF.

2016 State Science Fair (funding-dependent): Week after Easter in Lakeland (March 28)

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am.