



MINUTES

NYSFAAA Executive Council

December 13, 2022 | 1:03pm | Meeting called to order by Patti Donahue

In Attendance

Adrienne King	Joe Weglarz	Peg Stearns
Amy Thompson	Joel Phelps	Rob Zasso
Erica Follick	Megan Kennerknecht	Shalena Clary
Jane Gilliland	Nicole Griffo	Sonya Stein
Janice Hilbrink	Patti Donahue	Tom Zarkos

Guests: Stacy Hawkins, LaSonya Griggs, Sean Sherwood, Brian Smith, Chris Barto, Donna Gurnett, Lisa Simpson

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October Meeting were approved with the following changes.

1. Clarification: NYSFAAA credit cards will be made available to NOVICE chairs. Conference chairs will not receive NYSFAAA credit cards.
2. Corrections:
 - a. Cost of the storage unit went to \$140, not \$240.
 - b. Whova remote vote added.

Motion to Approve amended minutes: Janice

Seconded Motion: Adrienne

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved

HESC Update- Simpson

Processing Update

12/7: 2022 Rosters, spring awards on this file.

IVP is still an issue. Awards aren't sent until IVP is complete. Some not rostered due to this.

Student IDs are missing on some applicants- schools should stay on top of ID requests from HESC.

Action Requested: Continue to complete the lists and/or encourage those on campus to stay on these lists.

Spring 2022 Excelsior Application will be available, but no date has been set at this time. Full year applications should be finalized before HESC is handling spring applications. HESC sent an email on 12/8/2022 to students missing contracts and gave them until 12/22/22 to complete. Action Requested: Encourage any students who you know haven't signed the contract to sign by 12/22/22.

Excelsior students with IVP issues were sent an email on 11/23/22 informing them of action needed. Repeat recipients who haven't done application sent an email on 11/22/22. TAP recipients with IVP issues will get emailed on 12/15/22.

Fresh Start guidance provided via email and is available on HESC website. <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/partner-access/colleague-emails/1224-fresh-start-guidance-for-renewed-state-financial-aid-eligibility.html>. Schools can complete form and sent via DocTrac.

FAFSA Completion Events in the fall via Zoom, partnered with NYSFAAA. Approximately 50% no-show rate. Upcoming virtual events include 1/11 4-7pm; 1/19 4-7pm; 1/30 11am-2pm. Action Requested: Volunteers Needed

TAP for Incarcerate Students: Webinar and applications on HESC website. FAQs are in progress.

2023-24 award information is being disseminated.

2021-22 Action Requested: Please clean-up pending and errored awards as soon as possible.

Discussion Initiated: Funding for FAFSA Completion Events in regions to assist with expense of putting on the events, including printing, advertising, event space, etc.

President's Report- Donahue

Action Requested: Check out the NYSFAAA Organizational Chart to become familiar with each other, our roles/functions, and the schools we represent. If questions, please reach out offline.

Region visits: Patti attended a meeting with Region 1 and is scheduled to visit Region 3 during their holiday breakfast. Regions are encouraged to reach out to invite Patti to attend region meetings in-person or virtually to engage with individuals within our membership.

The Empire Chat Blog has been discontinued due to underuse. Community Forum replaces the intended purpose of Empire Chat. Patti used executive decision-making to have the blog removed.

Past-President Report- King

Meeting with governance before February meeting.

Action Requested: Regions should begin conversations with members about open positions within the organization. Two Executive Council positions will be available in the next cycle: President-Elect and Treasurer-Elect. Positions would begin October 2023.

First Vice President Report- Thompson

Membership

- 1,010 active members (down 85 from this time last year)
- Working with Howard on Member Clicks training. Community tab is missing for communications and needs to be resolved.
- Regions 6 & 7 need Region Chairs
- Points of Information
 - Lucy Villaquiran. is interested/planning to continue as the chair of the membership committee (Shalena, Patti, Adrienne)
 - She has indicated to Patti & Adrienne via email that she'll continue as chair of the committee. Shalena will confirm with Lucy to assist with processing payments.
 - Region 6 Co-Chairs have been identified; Tom Zarkos has the information. Amy will follow-up with him. (Janice)

Mentorship

- Approximately 3 active members and no chair currently. Amy actively looking for a chair and regional representation.
- Points of Information
 - Nancy Toedecki can be a resource for mentorship committee since she has done work on this committee over the years (Patti). Amy will follow-up with Nancy.

Second Vice President Report- Zasso

State-wide Training- Zasso & Smith

FAFSA Workshop timing conversation follow-up from October Executive Council meeting. LaSonya explained that the session is scheduled after the release of the FAFSA to ensure that all screenshots are up to date based on any last-minute changes after the demo site is released.

Fall Events

- 220 members attended the FAFSA Needs Analysis Changes for 2024-25 session on November 18, 2022
- 205 members attended the Verification - Conflicting Information, PJ, Citizenship and Other Eligible Criteria session on November 28, 2022

SWT Committee is looking to increase collaboration and partnerships with the NYS Scholarship Association to increase training opportunities and networking with school counselors.

Regional SWT Events: The committee is focusing on providing “SWT comes to your region” in the fall 2023 semester and not the spring 2023 due to time constraints. Discussions have started to consider creating training events in November that reflect the needs of the individual regions instead of having the training topics dictated to regions on a specific date and time. February 24, 2023 is not being offered as a traditional SWT Comes to Your Region.” The training is being offered, but the traditional coordination of the SWT is not being done. Regions may decide to still get together to view training together, though.

TICC- Zasso, Sherwood, Smith

Looking for new co-chairs

Website- Sherwood

Website revision is underway. Content is not being replaced for the most part, just relocated. Using Texas and Iowa FA Associations as a guide. Member Clicks seems to be the most readily used platform for the FA Associations. Navigation is a focus for the revision with minimalization of menu items. Based on the feedback provided in the survey, areas that will become more prevalent are member center, trainings, and donations. Specifically, removing the log-in requirements to see trainings and donations.

Action Requested: If anyone has web development experience or strong interest in assisting with the web revisions, please reach out to Sean.

Much Appreciation given to Sean, Howard, and Lea for their time and hard work on this project!

Novice- Zasso

June 4-9, 2023 at Mercy College (contract is being negotiated with Lisa’s assistance)

Action Requested: Need 10 small group leaders and a co-chair. Please reach out to LaSonya or Rob.

Meeting in January to discuss details and finalizing structure of the program.

Zoom- Zasso

Contract expires January 5, 2023. Negotiations are currently underway. Consideration is being given to reducing the number of accounts from 20 to 10. This will reduce the cost by \$1,400, which is about ½ of what we are currently paying and keep meeting capacity at 500.

Treasurer’s Report- Clary & Weglarz

Financial Report shared virtually and attached to this report.

Key Points:

- Our membership was met for this budget cycle
- Conference 2022 budget 61% UNDER budget, all payments have been made and resulted in a bit of revenue- Excellent work by Sonya & Stacy!
- Revenue & Scholarship funds have increased 1.6% since last report.

Discussions/Points of Information:

1. Treasurer role is very time intensive for a single individual. While changes have been made to streamline, ex. the lockbox for payments, there are several other functions that require a substantial time commitment, ex. untimely expense reimbursement requests. It may be reasonable to make this a shared role in the future. (Shalena & Joe).
Action: Gather past treasurers to discuss the role and potential options for moving forward. (Patti)
2. Conference Expense reports are still outstanding. (Shalena) Action: Please complete and send back ASAP or let Joe and/or Shalena know if you are not submitting a request.
3. Whova expense increased 35-40% year over year. (Joe)
Action: None. We received several discounts that were not repeated from last year. We need to plan on a 10-15% increase year over year. The contract has already been signed.
4. Is the storage unit in Yonkers worth the expense that it has been over the years? Novice materials are stored in this unit and at Marist College. Could we use a smaller unit? Action: Further discussion and investigation is needed.
5. Zoom contract is under negotiation. Rob will discuss later in meeting.
6. Vendor pricing for our conference is significantly less than what is charged at other state conferences. NYSFAAA charges \$600/vendor, while other conferences charge closer to \$900.

Proposal: Increase our annual conference vendor fee from \$600 to \$750 for 2023.

Motion/Second: Peg/Jane

Discussion: Increase incrementally. Consider sponsorship and fees tiers

Vote: Unanimous affirmative vote of all members present. No abstentions.

Result: Motion Passes

Governance Report- Barto & Gurnett

Advocacy Day

- Tuesday, February 14, 2023 | Virtual
- Advocacy Talking Points are being drafted, looking to the State of the State and the Governor's first budget to finalize.
 - See virtual voting section for approval of NYSFAAA Advocacy Talking Points
- Action Requested: Initial talking points should be provided to Donna and Chris before mid-January. Since its virtual, it offers the ability to make appointments one and around that day. In-person meetings are being scheduled, but there is a request that smaller numbers of students/attendees be invited.

Important Dates to know: January 10, 2022: State of the State\ Huchul's 1st budget is due February 1st

Conference Reports

Conference 2022 Debrief- Hawkins & Stein

Final conference report attached

Key Points:

- \$24,000 profit!
- 184 registered attendees | 1 attendee no-show | 3 attendee payments outstanding | 23 vendors | 3 sponsorships
- Early-bird pricing went well, no complaints about the late registration increase to conference fee. Presenter discount went well, too
- Meals & facilities were the highest expenses
- Materials were provided to next chair for conference 2023.

Much Appreciation to Sonya & Stacy for their hard work, coordination, and time! The conference was amazing!

Conference 2023- Simpson & Hilbrink & Weglarz

Region Exec Council Representative Updates

No Report

Region Reports

Region 1- Griffo

Meetings since last executive council meeting

- Date and Location: November 10, 2022 held virtually
- Attendees = 16
- Topics and Training details: Membership, conference review, School news, Exec council updates, Holiday party, discussion on FAFSA simplification & loan repayment

Treasury update: Kathy Michalski: \$3,849.62

Conference news

2024 to be held in Buffalo. Some members showed interest in participating in committees. Discussions to resume Early 2023

Region 2- Gilliland

Meetings since last executive council meeting

- Date and Location: 11/16/2022 Virtual
- Attendees = 27
- Topics and Training details:
 - General hot topic discussion on Fresh Start, Loan forgiveness, Payment Pause, Simplified FAFSA
 - FAFSA fest update
 - Discussed potential Statewide training location at RIT
 - Conference recap
 - Date and Location: 12/7/2022 Batavia Downs Holiday Party

Other Training events that the Region was involved in:

- Rochester Area FAFSA Fest 10/17 East High School – 41 Families; 11/19 Edgerton Rec Center; 12/10 Jackson Rec Center (sponsored by UR)

Treasury update: Treasurer, Jonathan Heining heining@geneseo.edu

- \$7,782.41 – does not include expenses from Holiday party

Region 3- Stearns

November Meeting Resulted in new chair: Janet Lafada and new secretary: Rocky Weintraub

Meeting since the last executive council meeting

- Date and Location: Friday, December 2, 2022
- Attendees = 19
- Topics and Training details:
 - *Guest Speaker:* Patti Donahue, NYSFAAA President
 - *Treasurer's Report:* Cynthia Roach
 - Election Results
 - Remarks from incoming Chair
- *Open Forum/Topics:*
 - Preparation for summer nominations/elections

- FSA Conference Re-cap
- Consideration of Region III in-person version of the Virtual Statewide School Counselor Training Workshop in the Spring
- February Statewide TICC Regional Meeting at LeMoyne College
- Future virtual meeting dates

Treasury update: (please include Treasurer's Name)

- Cynthia Roach, \$7,012.20 starting balance. \$4,869.76. current balance after receipt of \$100.00 member payments toward 12/2 brunch, \$1,048.60 payment to Sherwood Inn for brunch and \$1,193.84 payment/reimbursement to LaSonya Griggs for expenses incurred to hold FAFSA filing events (i.e. postage, toner, paper).

Region 4- Phelps

Action Needed: Looking for co-chair the Entertainment Committee for the Conference

No meetings held or planned at this time.

Region 5- Hilbrink

No new report since October. Noted that election in November named new secretary: Sabrina Heartless- SUNY Ulster

Treasury update:

- As of October 5, 2022: \$8,854.18
- New Treasurer – Ben Loya, Earnest

Conference news:

- We are helping with next year's Conference in Albany, NY. Lisa Simpson (HESC) is helping secure the hotel and, also, helping with planning.

Next meeting scheduled: 1/11/23 Holiday Lunch at the Culinary Center

Region 6- Zarkos

Meeting since last executive council meeting

- Date and Location: December 8th, 2022- Planning Meeting
- Attendees = Region 6 Leadership: Cochairs: Debra Bush-Ford & Danielle Cooper; Secretary: Alvaro Garcia; Treasurer: Lucila Villaquiran
- Topics and Training details: Upcoming January Kick-Off Meeting(virtual) & possible February in person meeting

Region 7- Follick

Meeting since last executive council meeting

- Region 7 in person meeting held at St. Joseph's University with 10 Attendees
- Statewide Training on FAFSA/Needs Analysis Changes coming in 24-25; other topics discussed PT TAP, Shop Sheet for VA Benefits, New COA rules in effect for 23-24
- Treasury update: Jeanine Murphy (SCCC –Ammerman) \$5,510.26.

Next Meeting: January 6th HESC Update with Mike Turner

Topics:

- Working on securing a space for February Statewide Training
- Working on Tri-Regional Meeting for April
- Thinking about our region and the future slate

Region 8- Stein

Meetings since last of executive council meeting:

- None, although we had one Conference Committee recap meeting

Other Training events that the Region was involved in:

- The 2022 Conference was held immediately following our last EC meeting. No other training events have been held.

Treasury update: (please include Treasurer’s Name)

- Nicole Adner, \$2,737.49 as of 12/12/2022

Committee Reports: None

Conference news

- The final conference attendance was 183, including 23 associated with a vendor. We came in under budget with a profit of \$24K. The post conference survey results showed that the 98% of conference attendees were satisfied with the conference impact. To see the full post-conference survey results and overview of the conference, please see the Conference Committee Annual Report.

Upcoming meetings and events: TBD

Old Business

Regional Raffle Baskets- Donahue

Discussion: Conference raffle baskets have been an effective way to raise money for the NYSFAAA Scholarship Committee. Concerns were raised over varying basket values between the regions. Janice indicated that there used to be minimum value of \$100. Some regions stick close to this minimum and others go up to approximately \$250. Some regions use donations from members, some use region funds, and it can vary by year.

Action Requested: Adrienne will review and find a place in the P & P for this amendment.

Potential Motion Wording: Each region should donate a basket for the conference with a minimum value of \$100, whether paid for by region members or region treasury.

Shared File/Workspace- Kennerknecht

Discussion: Having a central repository for NYSFAAA documents, for voting purposes, minutes, agendas, etc. We’ll pilot with Dropbox, if possible. Megan can work with TICC to figure out other options.

New Business:

Is there an opportunity for NYSFAAA members supporting GAO Findings regarding award letters? – Stein Governance Committee will need to review and decide if the finding should be supported by NYSFAAA. It would be put to a vote after this review.

Virtual Voting Since December Meeting

NYSFAAA Advocacy Talking Points

Initiated	2/9/2023	
Proposal	Adopt the draft the provided Advocacy Talking Points as final to represent NYSFAAA's recommendations for student aid. Recommendations include: 1. Expand Reach of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP); 2: Eliminate Disparity in Access to TAP Awards; 3: Support Opportunity Programs Serving Our Most Vulnerable Students; 4: Protect Borrowers & Expand Use of Professional Judgement Authority; 5: Refocus Bundy Funding & Invest in Students.	Patti Donahue
Motion to Approve	I make a motion to accept the 2023 NYSFAAA talking points to be used for Student Aid Advocacy.	Rob Zasso

Second	I second Rob's motion to accept the 2023 NYSFAAA talking points for Student Aid Advocacy.	Amy Thompson
Discussion	None.	
Vote	Yes	Adrienne King
	Yes	Amy Thompson
	Yes	Erica Follick
	Yes	Jane Gilliland
	Yes	Janice Hilbrink
	Yes	Joe Weglarz
		Joel Phelps
	Yes	Megan Kennerknecht
	Yes	Nicole Griffo
	Yes	Peg Stearns
	Yes	Rob Zasso
	Yes	Shalena Clary
	Yes	Sonya Stein
	Yes	Thomas Zarkos
Quorum Met	Met	
Totals	13	Yes
	0	No
	1	Abstain
Result:	Motion Passes	
Date Closed	2/10/2023	

Next Meeting

February 13, 2023 | 1:00pm | Virtual

Motion to adjourn made at 3:37pm. Patti

Seconded: Sonya

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report:

https://fingerlakes-my.sharepoint.com/personal/megan_kennerknecht_flcc_edu/Documents/NYSFAAA%20EBoard/NYSFAAA%20Balances%20as%20of%2012.12.2022.docx

https://fingerlakes-my.sharepoint.com/personal/megan_kennerknecht_flcc_edu/Documents/NYSFAAA%20EBoard/Budger%20vs%20Actual%2012.2022.pdf

Conference Reports:

https://fingerlakes-my.sharepoint.com/personal/megan_kennerknecht_flcc_edu/Documents/NYSFAAA%20EBoard/NYSFAAA%2054%20Final%20Conference%20Report1.docx

https://fingerlakes-my.sharepoint.com/personal/megan_kennerknecht_flcc_edu/Documents/NYSFAAA%20EBoard/Final%20conf%20budget%20for%20EC%201.xlsx

NYSFAAA Advocacy Talking Points:

https://fingerlakes-my.sharepoint.com/personal/megan_kennerknecht_flcc_edu/Documents/NYSFAAA%20EBoard/NYSFAAA%202023-Student%20Aid%20Alliance%20Advocacy%20Proposals-Final%20Draft.docx

Minutes Submitted 2/12/23

Megan Kennerknecht