



THE GOLDEN SLATE

The official newsletter of the California
Agricultural Teachers' Association

CATA Governance at the 2023 CATA Summer Conference

By Matt Patton, CATA Executive Director

Pre-Conference Governing Board Summary

Below are summaries of the actions and initiatives discussed during the pre- and post-conference CATA Governing Board meetings at the CATA Summer Conference this June. Complete minutes are posted on the CATA website for those interested in more detail.

[Governing Board Conference Minutes](#)

Pre-Conference CATA Governing Board Meeting Summary

It was reported that registration at the 2023 California Agricultural Teachers' Association (CATA) Summer Conference reached an all-time high, with more than 1050 participants. In addition, the awards banquet hosted by the Southern Region sold 900 tickets, underscoring the interest and engagement surrounding the event.

During the pre-conference Governing Board meeting, Gene Lieb was presented and accepted as a candidate for the State CATA Treasurer position. Mr. Lieb's name was forwarded to the Awards/Nominations/Bylaws Committee.

Cari Brown, CATA Executive Assistant, reported on the automatic membership renewal system associated with the new CATA website. Ms. Brown assured the membership that only those members that wanted to participate would be enrolled in the auto renew service.

During the pre-conference meeting's Curricular Code (CC) portion, the first topic was Career Development Events on probation. Farm Business Management, Vine Judging, and

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Marketing Plan contests all had five or more teams participate at State Finals and were removed from probation. Agricultural Computers and Food Science and Technology failed to secure the five teams needed to be reinstated. California Department of Education staff recommended that both contests be suspended. A motion was made and seconded to extend the probation period for Agricultural Computers for one more year. The motion failed, suspending both Agricultural Computers and Food Science and Technology as State Finals contests. It was noted that host sites may choose to facilitate competitions in those areas, but there will not be a State Finals contest until greater participation can be ensured.

Contests that received proposed changes in rotation included Best Informed Greenhand, Farm Power and Machinery, Forestry, Impromptu Public Speaking, Livestock Judging, Parliamentary Procedure and Debate, Poultry Judging, Agricultural Mechanics Fair, California Water, and El Credo de FFA. A non-CATA member submitted the proposal for Impromptu Public Speaking, rendering the suggested changes ineligible. JessaLee Goehring was added as a sponsor of the proposed Impromptu Public Speaking changes, making it suitable to be considered.

Contests submitted out of rotation included Agriculture Experience Tracker (AET) - Farm Record Book, Agricultural Issues, Agricultural Mechanics, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Floriculture, General Rules, Light Horse, Soil and Land Evaluation, and Vet Science.

All contests submitted out of rotation were opened. Contests opened out of rotation stand a much greater chance of opening if the author of the proposed contest change is present at the pre-governing board meeting to justify the opening.

Three resolutions came to the CATA Governing Board. Two of the resolutions were bylaw changes, and one was an amendment to operating policies. All resolutions were forwarded to regional meetings for discussion by the membership.



Post-Conference CATA Governing Board Meeting Summary

A total of three hundred nineteen individuals completed the CATA Summer Conference evaluation. An impressive 83% of the survey respondents lauded the conference with ratings of "very good" or "excellent." Only 0.3% expressed ratings falling below the threshold of satisfaction.

The Governing Board spent the first part of the meeting analyzing feedback from conference attendees.

Conference highlights included, but were not limited to:

- General rules Curricular Code meeting before specific contests
- Hall of Fame recognition in the first session
- Banquet (specifically the award portion of the program)
- Organization and education about CATA structure
- Festivus for the Rest of Us
- Website for curricular code changes
- Impeccable dress of the new teachers
- Inclusion of all in new teachers introductions
- Dr. Traini's message was timely
- Small group SWOT discussions

Areas for improvement for the conference were:

- More time for regional meetings
- Curricular Code and workshops conflicted with recreational activities
- Bios of potential CATA election candidates needed on digital voting app
- Discussion of possible CATA officers should be announced at spring regional meetings
- Evaluate room assignments to accommodate number of people
- RSVP for workshops and committees
- Utilization of AET text feature for sending mass communication
- Format retiring teacher presentations
- Hall of Fame inductees should speak on their own behalf



Next, a motion was made that an Ethics Review Committee be composed of the six regional presidents and be tasked with reviewing and proposing changes to the Agricultural Teacher Code of Ethics. During the conference, the Ethics Committee tasked the Governing Board with appointing a group to look at the Agricultural Teacher Code of Ethics. The motion passed via a voice vote. It was recommended that the regional presidents get feedback from the members to help create a resolution to be presented at fall regional meetings.

The Governing Board then discussed the Budget and Audits committee recommendation to review the organizational structure of the CATA Executive Director and CATA Executive Assistant positions and look at the memorandum of understandings (MOU) that pertain to the CATA positions with the California FFA Adult Board and the California FFA Foundation.

The Governing board then turned to gratitude. Hosts of FFA Field Days, CATA Conference contributors, and other friends of agricultural education were all written thank you cards or letters.

