



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 4, 2025 • 10:00 AM
Courtyard Marriott Cal Expo, Sacramento, California

DAVE DILLABO

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds & Event Center

LAURIE GIANNINI

VICE CHAIR

CEO, Calaveras County Fair

CLIFF MUNSON

VICE CHAIR

CEO, Siskiyou Golden Fair

PATRICIA CONKLIN

TREASURER

CEO, Dixon May Fair

ALAN PHILLIPS

SECRETARY

CEO, Imperial Valley Fair

NANCY SITES

CEO, Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair

Cascade Area

ALLISON KEANEY

CEO, Cow Palace

Central Coast Area

CINNAMON HOWELL

CEO, Merced County Spring Fair

San Joaquin Area

MATT REED

CEO, Butte County Fair

Sacramento Valley Area

VACANT

North Coast Area

CARLENE MOORE

CEO, San Diego County Fair

Southern Area

ANDREW TRYGG

CEO, Nevada County Fair

Mother Lode Area

SARAH CUMMINGS

President & CEO

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- I. **Call to Order and Welcome** – CFA Board Vice Chair Laurie Giannini called the meeting to order, welcoming board members, members, and guests to the CFA Board Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call** - President & CEO Sarah Cummings called roll. Directors in attendance were: Laurie Giannini, Patricia Conklin, Nancy Sites, Cinnamon Howell, Matt Reed, Carlene Moore, and Andrew Trygg. Directors absent were: Dave Dillabo, Cliff Munson, Alan Phillips, and Allison Keaney.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Vice Chair Giannini called for a motion of the October and November minutes. Director Trygg made a motion to approve the amendment minutes; Director Howell seconded the motion. All board members were in favor; the motion carried.
- IV. **Committee Reports** –
 - Legislative** – Brown reported that legislature is out on recess they will come back in January. Analyst are expecting huge deficit in 2026. Brown had a meeting with Secretary Karen Ross of CDFR with topic of 2026 Fair Legislation; Secretary Ross presented that they may be interested in introducing the idea of regionalization. Assembly member Connolly is interested in authoring legislation on our behalf again in 2026 to assure 1499 are distributed to the network. Conklin expressed frustration with past attempts at change citing the proposed JPA structure. As well as the CDFR hosted listening sessions with the public regarding change, but it went no further.
 - Marketing** – CFA will host a booth at the Showcase event at the WFA convention.
 - Finance** – Pat summarized steps taken to date to ensure financial transparency. She recapped that the CFA Board approved the CFA 2026 Budget and Dues in August, reaffirmed the distribution of 2026 Dues in September, and again in October. Director Moore expressed concern that members were not renewing due to the dues increase. Director Howell noted that as a board we approved to send out the dues and we need to fulfill the obligations that we agreed too. Cummings reported on the number of renewals to date, to lessen concerns that there were a large number of non-renewals. She reminded the board that the 2026 budget took into account the possible loss of a few memberships. Director Moore proposed CFA extend its renewal deadline to the final day of WFA convention, so members can attend the CFA Member meeting at WFA convention before making a final renewal decision. Vice Chair Giannini called for a motion to extend the CFA dues deadline through convention. Director Moore made the motion; Director Trygg seconded the motion. Director Howell opposed; all other directors present were in favor. The motion carried.

Industry Relations – Vice Chair Giannini noted our advocacy team member Brown has been meeting with the CDFA Ag Secretary on our behalf.

V. Area Reports –

Mother Lode Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference.

Cascade Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference.

Sacramento Valley Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference. He told the board that the area was having a booth at the Chairs' reception.

Southern Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference.

San Joaquin Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference.

Central Coast Area, the area representative reported the Area has not met since Managers Conference.

VI. Industry Updates – no report from industry partners

VII. New Business – None to report

VIII. Old Business

a. CFA Evolution and Strategic Development Discussion

Director Moore reported that she has written an independent set of by laws for a new organization based off the current CFA and WFA bylaws, Moore will send out a redline copy to the board for discussion. Vice Chair Giannini thought this was a bit “cart before the horse” and inquired about perceived benefits. Laurie mentioned a zoom call she was made aware of that discussed CFA being a standalone entity, a discussion outside of the CFA board. Laurie noted she is open to discussing options, but that it should be driven by the CFA Board, and that we are moving forward for the right reasons. Director Conklin voiced concerns on how this was handled at the fall conference. What she has gathered from that meeting and since that time is that people need information and the board needs to develop talking points to go back to the areas. Director Trygg voiced the need for talking points and felt we need to support CFA through this process. Director Conklin thought that realistically a lot of dialogue and explorations needs to be done before change occurs and it can't happen overnight. Director Conklin pushed to develop talking points. Pros and cons were discussed. It was felt that communication needed to be sent to the membership regarding where we are at and what steps that are being taken. Conklin stated that we need to move in the direction our membership has identified, via a membership survey. Director Reed felt the communication should include what has been done. Director Howell felt that everyone needs more information before moving forward. It was determined that communication and a survey will be sent to the membership. The survey could be discussed at the meeting in January. Director Moore reminded the board that information needs to be received from the WFA board regarding a standalone entity, name etc.

IX. President & CEO's Report – President & CEO Sarah Cummings announced the resignation of Board Member Mic Moulton. With Mics' resignation from the North Coast Area seat CFA will be conducting elections to fill the vacancy to fill the remainder of the current term, through 2026. Cummings reminded members to register for WFA Convention and the hotel member rate closes December 17.

X. Next Board Meeting – The next board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the WFA Convention in Reno Nevada. Vice Chair Giannini adjourned the meeting at 1:28 PM.

