

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF FFA**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 20, 2009, The Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, 8:00AM**

State President Nick Palkowski called the February meeting of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors to order at 8:04AM.

Those in attendance were: Ms. Bos, Tyler Latz, Ms. Sauvola, Molly Heintz, Mr. King, Emily Lezpona, Mrs. Berget, Tommy Butts, Ms. Beaty, Kimberly Forrester, Mr. Talford, BJ Chrisler, Mr. Slipek, Jessica Hinrichsen, Ms. Dykes, Rodney Hillskotter, Ms. Fischl, Jamie Renier, Ms. Schutt, Erin Theder-Belienski, Mr. Ritscher, Nick Palkowski, Mr. Hicken, and Mrs. Zimmerman.

This meeting was held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Forum.

The State Officer Team proceeded with opening ceremonies.

The minutes of the January 2009 Wisconsin Association of FFA Board Meeting were distributed. Tyler Latz moved to accept the January Board minutes as written. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers and sustained by the advisors.

**State Officer Reports:**

Kimberly Forrester reported on the State Officer Trip to New York City. Some highlights included the Statue of Liberty, the United Nations, Wall Street, and Good Morning America.

Erin Theder-Belienski reported on the CTSO Legislative Day. Overall, it was very educational about Wisconsin's legislative process and a great opportunity to visit with State Representatives.

Tommy Butts reported on the State FFA Alumni Convention. It was excellent to help out with the auction, put on workshops, and mingle with the FFA Alumni. The painted milk cans from last year's team brought almost \$2,000 in the auction, and the 2008-09 State Officer Team was auctioned off for two chapter officer-training seminars in the summer. Also, the 2008-09 State Officers' project for the Alumni will be saw blades. We plan to paint one each for our individual sections and auction them off at next year's FFA Alumni convention.

Nick Palkowski reported on upcoming FFA Week Activities and publicity opportunities for FFA. Each officer planned to have a news release or interview, and be involved with a chapter for a day.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported on the 2009 District Speaking Contests. All District Contests are now complete. She handed out results for each section, highlighted participation numbers, and stated the Wisconsin FFA Center was still checking active membership of all participants. District Speaking Contest entries increased from last year. A major accomplishment was reaching exactly 75 Parliamentary Procedure teams, a state-wide goal for the state officer team.

Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman reported on the National Ag Ed Summit. Key issues in Agricultural Education were discussed and the theme of the Summit was "Better Days Through Better Ways." Mrs. Zimmerman added that with the current economy, some FFA cash award areas provided by National FFA will be reduced because of cutbacks from the national level.

Mr. Hicken discussed the Jag Lake camp. There are still available dates for reservations and we still need more chapters to sign up. The facility has been renovated in the past couple of years and the camp is in very good condition.

Mrs. Zimmerman discussed the Parliamentary Procedure Contest Changes Proposal. Mr. King and Mr. Talford who served on the Review Committee that met at the Half-Time Conference provided additional comments and clarification from the committee's work. The purpose behind the changes is to allow the State Contest to be more similar to the National Contest, however keeping Wisconsin's important parts. The main focus of change is around the debate and now scoring members on quality of debate. The advisors and state officers were asked to continue to review changes and get feedback from sections. The Board will be voting on the proposal at the March Meeting.

Mrs. Zimmerman discussed the Stars and Proficiency Judging on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7. Mrs. Zimmerman is still looking for assistance to help judge.

Mrs. Zimmerman and Mr. Hicken presented an update on other State FFA Activities. See report attached at the end of minutes.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Hicken presented an update on FFA membership. The State Association is still working on receiving payments for rosters, and helping out chapters with recruiting members and completing rosters. The current Wisconsin Association of FFA membership is: 15,717 members at the time of this meeting.

Mr. Hicken then talked about DPI Background Checks coming up for State Convention. Keynote Speakers and State Officer Candidates will be required to have a background checks completed. As far as judges and other volunteers, as long as a certified teacher is supervising the event, then these individuals will not need background checks.

**New Business:**

Mrs. Zimmerman discussed the H.O. Sargent Award. National FFA has discontinued this award program for 2009 to reevaluate it. The State Level will still present the award this year because sponsorship has been secured, but will look at whether to keep area in future.

Mrs. Zimmerman presented the State Officer Candidate Handbook Draft. A discussion ensued over various parts. A Parent Information Page has been added to let parents know what to expect for their son/daughter when serving as a state officer. The Application for Candidacy was discussed and a major change included adding a form from the DPI for background checks to be completed.

The background checks are mandatory from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman provided more information to the Board concerning this issue. A list of felonies that would potentially cause a candidate to not be accepted was provided to the Board. Tyler Latz moved to add “illegal possession of drugs and/or alcohol” to the list of background check items that would keep members from running for state office. (Upon approval by DPI lawyers) The motion was seconded by Kimberly Forrester. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

BJ Chrisler moved to add a clause, “upon an appeal process”. Tyler Latz seconded the motion. As discussion ensued, BJ Chrisler formally withdrew his motion. No objections were given. Motion was withdrawn.

BJ Chrisler moved to have the DPI conduct background checks prior to State Convention on all candidates. Rodney Hillskotter seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

Rodney Hillskotter moved to remove the word “felony” from each list and the parentheses’ items. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

Jamie Renier moved to approve the State Officer Candidate Application with the changes approved by the Board and final review by legal council at DPI. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

Tyler Latz moved to approve the State FFA Officer Candidate Handbook changes. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

Tyler Latz discussed the FFA Cookbook project. Jamie Renier moved to recommend to have further research done on creating an FFA Cookbook and present more information at the March meeting. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

### **State Convention Updates:**

Jessica Hinrichsen reported on her research of potential State Convention speakers. BJ Chrisler moved to approve Ryan Porter as one of the State Convention speakers. Tyler Latz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors. Rodney Hillskotter moved to accept Andrew McCrea as another State Convention speaker. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

BJ Chrisler reported on his work with the State Convention Tours. Specific tours have been planned, bus schedule developed, and limits set for members to attend. The Board will vote to approve all final tours at the March meeting.

BJ Chrisler and Ms. Beth Rieth discussed the Day of Service Activities for the 2009 State FFA Convention. Molly Heintz moved to accept the Wisconsin FFA Day of Service as a project. Erin Theder-Belienski seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

BJ Chrisler discussed the 80,000 tree-planting project. He reviewed the packet of information that was going to be sent to each FFA chapter. Emily Lezpona moved to accept the tree planting project. Rodney Hillskotter seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman discussed the procedures for the State FFA President elections and State Convention housing for advisors, chapters, and family members.

Emily Lezpona discussed the High School Quiz Bowl Competition and stated there would be a pilot program this year. Mrs. Zimmerman will be sending out entry forms and confirming time and location of this event.

BJ Chrisler moved to adjourn the February Board of Directors Meeting. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the state officers, and sustained by the advisors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 AM by State FFA President Nick Palkowski.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tommy Butts  
State FFA Secretary  
Wisconsin Association of FFA  
2008 – 2009

# Wisconsin FFA Executive Director Report

## Wisconsin FFA Center Funding

2008-09 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 243                      Breakdown: Option 1 (\$300.00) – 243    Option 2 – 0

Unpaid chapters include:

Red Cliff-Bayfield	West Salem	Palmyra-Eagle
Hudson	Sun Prairie	

## News

Former State FFA Officers have been selected to serve as National FFA leadership trainers at a variety of leadership training events. Sheri Nelson was selected to serve as a counselor for the 2009 Washington Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. Rick Henningfeld and Ron Henningfeld will be working with National FFA and their BLAST OFF training. Jessica Berger is a presenter for MFE, ALD and EDGE Conferences.

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 19-20 – Wisconsin Association of FFA Board Meeting & State Degree Review - Wisconsin Rapids

Feb. 20 - State FFA Proficiency Award Applications postmarked

Feb. 20-21 - Farm Forum - Wisconsin Rapids

Feb. 22-28 - National FFA Week

March 1 – WLC Scholarship applications – postmarked

March 4 – The County Today Auction – Eau Claire

March 5 - American Degrees - postmarked

March 6-7 – State FFA Proficiency Award Judging – Wisconsin Dells

March 11-12 - National Ag Day Celebration – Washington D.C. – Nick Palkowski to attend

March 19-20 – State FFA Board Meeting – Madison

March 21 – Qualifying CDEs – Janesville

March 26 – Qualifying CDEs – UW-Platteville

March 27-28 - MFE/EDGE Conferences – Manitowoc

March 28 – Qualifying CDEs – UW-River Falls

March 28 – Wisconsin FFA National Officer Candidate Selection – Manitowoc

March 31-April 2 – WPS Farm Show, Oshkosh

April 4 – Qualifying CDEs- FVTC-Appleton

April 20-21 – CO-OPS YES! Conference – Eau Claire

April 20 – National FFA Chapter Award applications postmarked

April 24 – State CDEs – Madison

April 27 – Wisconsin FFA Foundation Scholarship applications postmarked

June 8-11 - State FFA Convention – Alliant Energy Center - Madison

### Summary of Sectional Leadership Workshops 1995-2008

Year	Attendance
1995	1674
1996	1715
1997	1934
1998	1937
1999	1921
2000	1806
2001	1886
2002	1964
2003	2211
2004	1919
2005	2103
2006	2173
2007	2086
2008	2028

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### Summary of MFE, ALD and EDGE Participation 1992-2009

Year	Fall	Spring	Total
1992-93	172	52	224
1993-94	195	119	314
1994-95	210	135	345
1995-96	226	152	378
1996-97	267	141	408
1997-98	271	219	490
1998-99	271	200 (MFE 143 + EDGE 57)	471
1999-2000	319 (MFE 184 + ALD 135)	331 (MFE 235 + EDGE 96)	650
2000-2001	387 (MFE 203 + ALD 184)	297 (MFE 194 + EDGE 103)	684
2001-2002	339 (MFE 203 + ALD 136)	373 (MFE 231 + EDGE 142)	712
2002-2003	376 (MFE 208 + ALD 168)	433 (MFE 228 + EDGE 199)	803
2003-2004	448 (MFE 267 + ALD 181)	347 (MFE 165 + EDGE 179)	792
2004-2005	376 (MFE 224 + ALD 152)	424 (MFE 175 + EDGE 248)	800
		223 MFE 84 + EDGE 139)	599
2005-06	361 (MFE 210 + ALD 151)	388 (MFE 220 + EDGE 168)	749
2006-07	339 (MFE 187 + ALD 152)	450 (MFE 219 + EDGE 231)	789
2007-08	484 (MFE 253 + ALD 231)	415 (MFE 169 + EDGE 246)	899
2008-09	487 (MFE 256 + ALD 251)		

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### Summary of Greenhand/FIRE Conference Participation 1993-2008

Year	Fall	Summer	Total
2008	261 Madison	175 Appleton	267 River Falls 703
2007	225 River Falls	163 Appleton	275 Madison 663
2006 (FIRE)	190 Madison	216 River Falls	271 Appleton 677
2005	178 River Falls	250 Appleton	327 Madison 755
2004	185 Appleton	217 Madison	233 River Falls 635
2003	198 Appleton	245 Madison	325 River Falls 768
2002	213 Appleton	173 River Falls	222 Madison 608
2001	169 Appleton	162 River Falls	220 Madison 551
2000	102 Appleton	157 River Falls	185 Madison 444
1999	187 RF	309 Mad	496
1998	204 RF	312 Mad	516
1997	159	150	307
Year	Fall	Summer	Total
1996-97	216	158	374
1995-96	219	186	405
1994-95	107	195	302
1993-94	175	171	346

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### Summary of Half-Time Conference Participation 1994-2009

Year	Members	Advisors	Others	Total
1994	230	87	13	330
1995	197	82	17	296
1996	239	104	14	357
1997	221	79	13	313
1998	232	82	16	330
1999	264	106	20	390
2000	244	105	24	373
2001	266	112	12	390
2002	302	113	11	420
2003	277	121	23	421
2004	276	138	24	438
2005	291	128	24	443
2006	276	137	26	439
2007	298	133	22	453
2008	308	139	30	477
2009	297	139	26	462