

# **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Wisconsin Association of FFA  
Clarion Suites Hotel, Madison, WI  
Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Wisconsin Association of FFA State President Nick Palkowski called the March meeting of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors to order at 7:33 P.M.

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

Jamie Renier moved to accept the February Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. Erin Theder-Belienski seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

## **Wisconsin Association of FFA State Officer Updates:**

The State Officers reviewed and discussed their time at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Forum Conference. Highlights of the conference included assisting with the different workshops, helping wherever possible, putting on an icebreaker, and the dance.

The State Officers discussed their FFA Week activities and some favorite moments from their visits. Some highlights from the week were donkey basketball, workshops, banquets, visiting the Capitol building in Madison, assemblies, and a variety of other activities. Also, the officer team was able to publicize the FFA through a variety of media. Everyone had either newspaper coverage, a radio interview, or even a TV interview.

Molly, Tyler, and Nick discussed assisting with The Country Today Auction in Eau Claire. They had a lot of fun visiting with bidders, working with Mr. Massey and sharing information about the Wisconsin Association of FFA while raising funds for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Nick discussed National Ag Day that was held in Washington, D.C. March 11 and 12. It went really well, but seemed very short. He had the opportunity to meet with our national representatives about the agricultural industry and the FFA Organization.

Nick discussed the National FFA Foundation Business and Industry Tour or Partner Visits he had with two of the National Officers. He visited the Racine CNH Capitol and Case IH companies. While there, Nick spoke with the company officials discussing sponsorships and the impact on FFA members.

## **Wisconsin Association of FFA Center Update:**

Mrs. Zimmerman presented an update on a variety of issues the Wisconsin Association of FFA is currently taking a part in. See attached report.

All Sectional Speaking Contests have been completed. The final results are being recorded. Any recommendations or concerns to help improve the competitions are encouraged and can be sent to Mrs. Zimmerman. Mrs. Zimmerman will be putting together a committee to review the Job Interview contest since there have been a number of concerns about this competition as well as seeing growth and positive interest in this event.

Wisconsin State FFA Degree notifications were e-mailed to all advisors. There were a number approved and some that are being sent back to chapter's for corrections. Corrections can be made and the applications turned back in by April 1<sup>st</sup> for appeals.

There were 214 total applications for the Wisconsin Association of FFA Honors Band and Chorus, 89 for the Honors Band and 125 for the Honors Chorus.

The proficiency judging has now been completed. There were 79 FFA advisors present including students and educators from UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and UW-Madison that assisted with the judging. Over 827 applications were judged in two days.

American Degrees have also been turned in for the Wisconsin Association of FFA. The numbers of applications are down a bit. Approximately 133 Degree applications were turned in. There were also four star applications turned in for the Wisconsin Association of FFA.

### **DPI Update:**

Mr. Hicken presented an update on the issues currently facing the Department of Public Instruction.

Elizabeth Burmaster is leaving the Wisconsin State Superintendant position. The new Superintendant will take over July 7<sup>th</sup>.

There also was an Entrepreneurship Task Force Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to try to find a solution on how to get entrepreneurship education into Wisconsin schools k-12.

The Ag/Science Equivalency Credit work continues with recruiting schools to find the value of the program and for the usefulness to Wisconsin students.

Ms. Candice Olson from the Badger FFA Chapter was selected as a National Agri-Science Ambassador. This is a huge honor as only 18 top individuals were selected from across the nation.

### **Foundation Update:**

Miss Nicole Schmidt presented an update on the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and issues affecting it.

The Foundation Raffle is in progress. The goal of the FFA Foundation is \$8000, which equals 2,000 tickets to be sold.

There will soon be mailings heading out to Alumni, Partners, and other FFA individuals for the LifeWork Expo, General Fund solicitation, Chapter & Alumni solicitation, and Golf Outings.

The Foundation is also in the process of recruiting Sponsor's Board members. The Board has a two year term and the duties include helping out with sponsorships, making decisions for the Foundation, etc.

Miss Schmidt and everyone currently associated with the Wisconsin FFA Foundation are creating a "New Look" for the Foundation, as well as holding a strategic planning meetings to find where the Foundation truly wishes to go and find goals for its future. They hope to educate members and guests with a booth at the State FFA Convention.

**Wisconsin FFA Alumni:**

A report was forwarded by State Alumni President Mr. Ken Harter to the Board.

**WAAE Update:**

Mr. David Laatsch gave an update on the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE) and upcoming events for them.

The Professional Development Conference is coming up again this summer in June. This conference helps educate agricultural instructors on new ways for teaching youth, new issues that can arise, and new techniques to use to help with the student's understanding.

WAAE continues to promote the Teach Ag Ed Program to help provide ways for members to learn more about the career of agricultural education. They hope to have a booth at the State FFA Convention to allow members to learn more about Agricultural Education.

**Upcoming Events:**

The Sectional Tractor Operator's Contest is to be hosted by each of the State Officer's home chapters. Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a Manual and letter about the contests and explained more about the procedures. Dates for the contests are to be sent to Mrs. Zimmerman by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The 2009 Wisconsin State FFA Convention official dates are June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Reports:**

*Constitution and By-Laws Committee:* Tommy Butts moved to accept the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors. The proposed Constitutional Amendments to Amend Article XII and Article XIII Section C will be presented to the 2009 Delegates at the State FFA Convention.

Emily Lezpona moved to accept the Finance Committee Report. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. Mr. Hicken discussed the Budget and Finances of the Wisconsin Association of FFA more in detail. A clean audit had been conducted and the Wisconsin Association of FFA is in sound financial condition. Specific questions regarding the finances of the Association can be directed to Mr. Hicken. The budget will be presented to the delegates at the 2009 State FFA Convention. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

DPI has asked for the FFA Board to clarify the Wisconsin Association of FFA's position on allowing family members to stay with advisors during conferences and how the cost of the room will be addressed as DPI does not pay for any more than one person to stay in a room under the Single State Rate. Prices for a single person room will be based on current state rate for a single room, and any spouses or family members (multiples in rooms), advisors must pay for the higher negotiated rate with the hotel. BJ moved to accept this policy. Rodney Hillskotter seconded. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Erin Theder-Belienski moved to accept the Membership Committee Report. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. At the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting there were 15,919 Wisconsin Association of FFA members. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

A suggestion by Mr. King was made for an exception rule to be in place for special circumstances (such as block scheduling) to allow chapters to submit final rosters after the date of April 1st.

Molly Heintz moved for extensions for the Membership Roster to be granted through approval by the State FFA Advisor. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Tyler Latz moved to accept the Awards and Programs Committee Report. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The website competition is currently being judged. The High School Quiz Bowl entries are now full for the pilot at the State FFA Convention. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Rodney Hillskotter moved to accept the Wisconsin Association of FFA Chapter Establishment Grant. Kimberly Forrester seconded the motion. Jamie Renier discussed the grant application and qualifications. It would be a grant available to first or second year agricultural education instructors in a program to help them boost their FFA chapter and enhance materials needed which may have been lacking when they started in their new position. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors. The proposal will be forwarded to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for further action and funding.

Rodney Hillskotter moved to accept the Wisconsin Association of FFA Service Grant Proposal. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors. The proposal will be forwarded to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for further action and funding.

Jamie Renier moved to allow the Foundation to seek sponsorship to rent a trailer for the State Officers. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Kimberly Forrester moved to accept the Public Relations Committee Report. Jessica Hinrichsen seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Kimberly Forrester moved to accept the Partners Committee Report. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. Miss Schmidt provided a number of new ideas and suggestions to enhance the FFA's work with sponsors and potential sponsors. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

The Service Committee Report was postponed until the Friday Morning Meeting so the Board could hear from Ms. Donna Barber about the Liberia Service Project.

BJ Chrisler moved to accept the Tree Project Committee Report. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. At the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, there were 27,000 trees planted across the State of Wisconsin for the project already. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

### **Old Business:**

Tyler Latz moved to accept the Parliamentary Procedure Contest changes as presented by the Review Committee. Rodney Hillskotter seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors. The changes to the Parliamentary Procedure Contest will be shared with advisors and presented to them so they can prepare for the changes to take place for the 2010 District Speaking Contests.

After changes were made, the updated State FFA Officer Candidate Application and Handbook were sent out and posted on the Wisconsin Association of FFA website. The major change behind all State FFA Officer Candidate procedures is the DPI background checks that will be taken on ALL candidates.

BJ Chrisler moved to have the Wisconsin FFA Cookbook Proposal be placed on next year's SLW surveys to find if there would be interest and funding for such a project. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

**New Business:**

There were no submitted proposals for Constitutional Amendments from Wisconsin FFA chapters.

If there are any nominations for Honorary State & American Degrees or Distinguished Service Awards please send names to Ms. Bridgett Neu.

There were no new Delegate Issues to be passed on to the National FFA. A possibility of researching more into a National Discussion Meet Competition was mentioned and continuing to have National FFA consider this competition.

As Delegate Issues were being looked into, a conflict arose between the Day of Service and the Delegate Committee Meetings. The times for the two events would crossover and interfere with one another. It was recommended that the Delegate Committee meetings be moved to Tuesday morning before the Delegate Business Session.

Delegate committees for 2009 would include: Evaluating State Awards and Programs; State Convention Improvements; Chapter Officer Training; and National FFA Affiliation Fee.

Tyler moved to accept the 2009 State FFA Convention Delegate Operations Committee report. Erin Theder-Belienski seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

BJ Chrisler moved to adjourn the meeting for the night. Kimberly Forrester seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

The Thursday Meeting Session of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors was officially adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Wisconsin Association of FFA State President Nick Palkowski called the Second Session of the March Board of Directors Meeting to order at 8:31 A.M.

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

There was a quick introduction of the State Officers and Advisors for Ms. Donna Barber from Global Orphan Outreach. She then gave a description and answered questions on the Liberia Service Project, an option for our State Convention Service Project.

Jamie Renier moved to not have the Liberia Project as an official Service Project, however will grant them a booth and workshop at the State FFA Convention to help educate chapters. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Rodney Hillskotter moved for the Wisconsin Association of FFA to support the Adopt a Troop Service Project. Tyler Latz seconded the motion. A discussion ensued with possibly cooperating efforts with "Operation Homefront." The main goal for the Wisconsin Association of FFA will be to help provide the start and resources for chapters to take part in the Service Project. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date for everything to be ready and sent to all advisors. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman presented the Draft Schedule of Events for State FFA Convention and discussed the schedule for the week.

The Day of Service Committee is finalizing the locations and donations for the event. As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, the committee only needs \$430 more for full sponsorship of the event, therefore members will not have to pay to take part in the project. There will be four locations for service projects to take place, and at the moment there are five to choose from. The Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens, Second Harvest, City of Madison Parks, Salvation Army Family Shelter, and the Community Action Coalition are all possible locations. The Day of Service will take place Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 11 A.M. and last until about 6 P.M.

Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the Advisor's work schedule for State FFA Convention. A review of the schedule followed and any changes needed were made.

An overall discussion on items concerning State Convention, the planning, organizing, and implementation of all areas took place. This included the convention managers, program, and other details necessary for the Convention to run smoothly.

There was a discussion on any special guests that may want to be invited to the State FFA Convention. Dave Cieslewicz, mayor of Madison, was nominated as a possibility to be present at the Day of Service kick off.

### **State Convention Committees:**

Jessica Hinrichsen gave a brief report on the Speakers Committee as the speakers were chosen at the last meeting. Final arrangements are being made with each of the speakers.

Jamie Renier moved to accept the Convention Workshops Committee Report. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. Invitations have been sent to a variety of individuals for workshop presenters. The schedule will be full, however hopefully not overlapping too many other activities. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

BJ Chrisler moved to approve the Convention Tours Committee Report. Jessica Hinrichsen seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Molly Heintz moved to approve the LifeWork Expo Committee Report. Erin Theder-Belienski seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Molly Heintz moved to approve the Special Project Committee Report. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Erin Theder-Belienski moved to approve the Courtesy Corps and Seating Committee Report. Tyler Latz seconded the motion. A discussion on the issue of labeling rows and seats for making it easier to find appropriate seats took place. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Rodney Hillskotter moved to accept the Meals and Receptions Committee Report as presented with changes indicated. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The state officers will be discussing more of the meal assignments at their afternoon meeting. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Tommy Butts moved to accept the Contest Committee Report. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Emily Lezpona moved to accept the Past State Officer Committee Report. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Kimberly Forrester moved to accept the Decorations Committee Report. Jessica Hinrichsen seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Tyler Latz moved to accept the AV Productions Committee Report. Kimberly Forrester seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

Molly Heintz moved to accept the Pre-Session Committee Report. Emily Lezpona seconded the motion. The proposal to accept sponsorship for Pre-Session Activities was presented as part of the report. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by advisors. The pre-session sponsorship proposal will be forwarded to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for further action and funding.

Jamie Renier moved to accept the Spirit Stick Committee Report as read. BJ Chrisler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors. It was recommended by Mr. King that the winning chapter from the previous convention assist in the judging for the selection of the Spirit Award since they are not eligible to win two years in a row.

BJ Chrisler moved to accept the FFA Hall of Fame Committee Report. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. This committee will be meeting by conference call to finalize the selections for the Hall of Fame. Bridgett Neu is leading the selection process. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by Advisors.

Comment by Mr. King to follow through with our Committee suggestions to accomplish our goals. All FINAL committee reports will be completed and sent to Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman by April 21st. The reports will be presented on April 24<sup>th</sup>. They will then be sent out to all advisors.

BJ Chrisler moved to adjourn the meeting. Molly Heintz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the Advisors.

The March Meeting of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors was officially adjourned at 12:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tommy Butts  
State Secretary  
Wisconsin Association of FFA



**Wisconsin Association of FFA Report  
Cheryl Zimmerman, State FFA Executive Director**

**2009 Sectional Speaking Contests** are all complete. Thank you to all advisors and state officers for hosting. Final results will be sent out next week.

**State FFA Degree Processing** – All chapters were notified of the status of their state FFA degree applications via e-mail. Applications needing revisions are being returned to chapters. Final appeals are due April 1. Thank you State FFA Officer Advisors for your time in reviewing these applications. Final number submitted – 486. Final number accepted – To be determined

**State FFA Star Applications** - Were judged on Friday evening, March 6 in Wisconsin Dells. Finalists in each area are on back of this report. There are 10 Star Farmer Finalists; 10 Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists; 4 Star in Agribusiness Finalists and 4 Star in Agriscience Finalists.

**State FFA Honors Band and Chorus** – Final rosters will be published next week and sent to the applicants and advisors. Total applications 214 – 89 Band and 125 Chorus.

**State FFA Proficiency Judging** – Took place on Friday and Saturday in Wisconsin Dells. Jeff Hicken and Terry Bernick headed up the process. Results were e-mailed Wednesday. We had 79 FFA advisors, as well as, student teachers, university staff, state officers and sponsors involved in the judging process. Also UW-River Falls, UW-Platteville and UW-Madison agricultural education students assisted with the process of writing comments 827 proficiency award applications were received, processed and judged.

The Proficiency Award Review Panel was used again this year to verify the final placings and helped provide consistency in judging as well as catching items that the judges may have missed during the evaluation process. State Winning Proficiency Applications will be reviewed again by this Panel in early May so the applications can be evaluated for any suggested corrections that should be made before moving on to National Competition

**American Degree Applications** have arrived at the Wisconsin FFA Center. We have approximately 133 applications – down 60 applications from last year. – The official count and inputting has not yet occurred due to our focus on proficiency awards and state degrees. Unofficial American Star Applications – 1 Farmer; 0 Agriscience; 2 Agribusiness; 1 Placement

**Made For Excellence and EDGE Conferences** – Manitowoc, March 27-28

52 chapters registered – 171 MFE participants and 213 EDGE participants.

Registrations are just being processed. We plan to have American Degree Review, American Star Selection and National Officer Selection Process at the same location.

**State FFA Convention - Website now available.** Housing Reservations are online. Tentative Planning Guide next.

**High School Quiz Bowl Competition** – 15 entries as of Thursday morning, March 19

**Opening/Closing Ceremonies** – 10 Middle School Entries; 19 Senior High Entries (4 on waiting list)

**Marketing Plan CDE** – 3 teams

**Ag. Issues CDE** – 3 teams

**National Update** – Cheryl Zimmerman attended first National Council Meeting March 6-8.

Change in COO of the National FFA Organization – Bill Fleet interim COO.

Recommendation to separation the National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation.

**Constitutional Amendments sent to Wisconsin FFA by National FFA** – See additional handout.

**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

### **Upcoming Events**

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  
April 27 – State FFA Officer Candidate Application postmarked  
June 8-11 - State FFA Convention – Alliant Energy Center - Madison

### **State Star in Agriscience Finalists**

Alicia A. Hodnik - Big Foot FFA  
Cara A. Robinson - Manawa FFA  
Johanna Alling - Unity FFA  
Aarich Curtis - Waupaca FFA

### **State Star in Agribusiness Finalists**

Shelby R. Lofthus, Bloomer FFA  
Jacob Paul, Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA  
Justin Hemshrot, Shell Lake FFA  
Jens Arneson, Stoughton FFA

### **State Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists**

Adam H. Moore - Black Hawk FFA  
Tyler G. Herrmann - Bonduel FFA  
Scott Felten - Campbellsport FFA  
Jason J. Heberlein - Fennimore FFA  
Sarah Henderson - Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau FFA  
Nathan Horack - Johnson Creek FFA  
Elizabeth K. Dahlke - Montello FFA  
John Fabry - Oconto Falls FFA  
Michelle Bulger - Pulaski FFA  
Dustin Doherty - Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA

### **State Star Farmer Finalists**

Wade Kessenich - DeForest FFA  
Bailey Quam - Lodi FFA  
Amanda M. Kurt - Marshall FFA  
Bradley Sternweis - Marshfield FFA  
Jacob W. LaBlanc - Montello FFA  
Bradley Beaumier - Oconto Falls FFA  
Angie Brusky - Pulaski FFA  
John Gutzman - Randolph-Cambria-Friesland FFA  
Jared Wendt - Stoughton FFA  
Tylor Schwartz - Watertown FFA