

**Wisconsin Association of FFA
Board of Directors Meeting
March 14th & 15th 2013 – Clarion Suites Hotel, Madison**

Meeting called to order by Kayla Hack at 7:00 pm. Present were the entire state officer team, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Hicken, Mr. Meyer, Mrs. Sauvola, Mr. Markhardt, Ms. Leonard, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Pruss, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Santy, Mrs. Heinbuch, Mr. Kruse, Mr. Holle, Mrs. Nelson, Ms. Houser, Ms. Graffunder and Ms. Breunig.

Zach Markhardt reported the February Board Meeting Minutes were posted via email and sent out by Mrs. Zimmerman. Zach moved to approve the minutes as posted. Aaron Zimmerman seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

The state FFA officers provided reports to the Board regarding the following activities: Farm Forum, National FFA Week, The Country Today Auction/Eau Claire Farm Show, Ag Day at the Capitol and National Ag Day.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported on Wisconsin FFA activities. Report is attached. Sectional Speaking Contests were discussed. Items brought to the attention of the Board included the APA formatting for prepared speaking, critique time between parliamentary procedure teams and notification of individuals and teams that may move up into open spots of competition.

Regarding FFA Honors Band and Chorus, Mrs. Zimmerman reported that Monte Dunnum has notified her that the brown van used to haul instruments from Westby High School is no longer usable. Ms. Breunig offered the use of her van to haul instruments. Options will be continued to be discussed with Mr. Dunnum.

Mr. Hicken reported on DPI and Agricultural Education. He highlighted new standards to be given out at professional conference. He touched on some points of the newly released biannual budget and Superintendent Ever's re-election.

Mrs. Nelson, Wisconsin FFA Foundation Executive Director, reported that at the February Foundation Meeting, the Organic Proficiency and a total of \$7,750 in Star Mission Grants were approved by the Foundation Board. Mrs. Bonomie has left the Foundation staff for a position with Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin and March 20th is the deadline for finalists applying for Foundation Executive Director.

Ms. Breunig, Wisconsin FFA Alumni president-elect said that Regina Oldendorf, FFA Alumni Executive Director is a third done with Alumni rosters and that they are excited for the National Alumni Development Conference in Green Bay this July. Also new this year is a Program Development Committee to organize alumni workshops at the State FFA Convention and a leadership retreat for sectional representatives.

Ms. Houser, WAAE president provided a report for WAAE. Mrs. Graffunder president-elect was also in attendance. Three new programs will be offered next year, including Madison East, Sun Prairie, and Milwaukee-Vincent. Registration is open for the Professional Development Conference held at the Hyatt on Main in

Green Bay. Ms. Houser also highlighted the WhyAg.com website, encouraging everyone to check it out and use it as a portal for people looking for employment.

State Committees – The following committee reports were given:

Nate Overby, chair of *Policies, Constitution, and Bylaws*, moved to approve the revised policy in the Wisconsin FFA Handbook, clarifying times of denying activity registration to chapters without financial payment. Emily Watson seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Nate motioned to approve the revised Wisconsin FFA Policy Handbook in its entirety and Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nate Zimdars, chair of *Finance*, and Mr. Hicken explained the current budget. Discussion was raised as to state officer's mileage in concurrence to the IRS rate. Logan moved to amend the current budget to set the state officer's mileage to 15 cents less than the IRS rate. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Many people expressed their worry that increasing this compensation would take away from student opportunities. Others expressed the value of the events officers attend and the importance of providing funding to those events. Logan withdrew the motion with Emily Watson seconding. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Nate Zimdars moved to approve the budget as written with Aaron Zimmerman seconding. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Logan Wells moved to set officer's mileage at 15 cents less than IRS rate at the start of October 1. Bethany Rieth seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Bethany Rieth moved to increase state fair fees paid by members of the FFA Honors Band and Chorus from \$35 to \$50. Aaron Zimmerman seconded. Emily Watson moved to amend the motion by striking the word "\$50" and replacing it with "\$40". Amendment was seconded by Nick Huffman. Amendment failed and sustained by advisors. Main motion passed and was sustained by advisors.

Nate Overby moved to transfer an amount to be determined from reserves from the Wisconsin Association to the Wisconsin Foundation investment portfolio as separate line items for the Wisconsin Association. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

A five-minute recess was moved by Nick Huffman and seconded by Aaron Zimmerman at 9:23 pm. Meeting resumed at 9:38 pm.

Nick Huffman and Gabes Rabb, chairs of *State Marketing and Membership*, reported on the past events where FFA marketing was implemented and moved to prepare a list of suggestions for next year's committee. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Mr. Hicken also reported that our current membership total is 19,168 members.

Aaron Zimmerman and Logan Wells, chairs of *Awards and Programs*, reported that the website and video contest are running well. Logan moved to have two judges for the website contest evaluating the website twice a year. Gabes Rabb seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Joanna Wavrunek moved to add that the committee re-considers the proficiency award due date and the rubric for the State Agriscience Fair to the report given to next year's team. Nick Huffman seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Aaron moved to approve the Awards and Programs Committee report. Logan seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Joanna Wavrunek, chair of *Media and Public Relations*, talked about her new weekly recordings to broadcasters and newspapers to inform what's happening in FFA today. Joanna moved to approve the Media and Public Relations Committee report. Logan Wells seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Bethany Rieth, chair of *Service*, asked for everyone to promote the service project in the next coming weeks. She is looking into flyers and business cards to aid in promotion. Bethany moved to approve the Service Committee report. Nate Zimdars seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Kayla Hack, Emily Watson, and Zach Markhardt, chairs of *Partners*, reflected on the success of working with the Foundation in business and industry tours. One thing the committee will recommend for next year's committee is to have a "practice" Awareness visit meeting with the team prior to Sectional Leadership Workshops. Emily moved to approve the Partners Committee report. Kayla seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

In **Old Business**, Mrs. Zimmerman will add some clarification about community service and chapter level activities to the state degree handbook. She also announced the QLF FFA Week Giveaway results, with Neillsville taking first, Waupun second, and Mishicot third. The chapter constitutions and POA list was handed out for reviewing. A description draft for the new Organic Proficiency was handed out. Upon review, Mrs. Sauvola suggested that "typically" should be taken out of the wording to prevent gray area.

New Business, a proposed amendment to the State Degree Requirements was handed out for Board review. Emily Watson moved to approve the proposal with Joanna Wavrunek seconding. Nate Overby requested to divide the motion into two parts. One motion regarding Article V and the other regarding the completion deadline for agricultural education hours. Bethany Rieth seconded. By unanimous consent, the motion passed. The motion regarding Article V passed and was sustained by advisors. Debate regarding the completion deadline for agricultural education hours followed, with some for and against the proposal. Motion failed and sustained by advisors.

Floor was opened up to Honorary State and American FFA Degrees nominations and Delegate Issues for National FFA. No nominations were made from the Board for honorary degrees. As far as Delegate issues to be submitted to National FFA, Mr. Markhardt recommended counting seventh and eighth grade classes toward the 360 required agricultural education hours. Mrs. Sauvola also encouraged we add to the recommendation to allow sixth graders to be added for active membership. Logan Wells, Emily Watson, and Nick Huffman will work on a proposal tonight and report back in the morning.

Emily Watson adjourned. Logan Wells seconded. Motion passed and meeting concluded at 11:28 pm.

Friday, March 15th, 2013

Meeting called to order by Kayla Hack at 8:40 am. Present was the entire state officer team, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Hicken, Mr. Meyer, Mrs. Sauvola, Mr. Markhardt, Ms. Leonard, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Pruss, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Santy, Mrs. Heinbuch, Mr. Kruse, Mr. Holle, Mrs. Nelson, and Ms. Hinkley.

Mr. Hicken presented the amended budget to include factors of increased state fair fees and mileage reimbursement. Aaron Zimmerman moved to approve the amended budget. Nate Overby seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Logan Wells, Emily Watson, and Nick Huffman presented the middle school agricultural education hours proposal. The proposal will be brought to State President's Conference by July 1st. Emily moved to approve the proposal. Nick seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

State Convention Business

Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a rough draft of the convention schedule. Both Mrs. Zimmerman and Bethany Rieth explained the Day of Service and Rally to Fight Hunger. It was asked to move up the Board Meeting to 2 pm. on Monday June 10, to which by unanimous consent was agreed upon. Mr. Hicken reminded the Board to bring their administrators for the school official's lunch. The administrator program starts at 9:30 am on Wednesday, with guest speaker John Ashley from the State School Board and ends after stage recognition at 2 pm. Email Mrs. Zimmerman a list of your school officials and have them RSVP by May 1st.

Convention assignments were handed out and explained by Mrs. Zimmerman.

Discussion was held about the convention printed program, Mrs. Nelson asked if there was a better way we could find pages in the program. Aaron Zimmerman advised that National FFA has yellow pages for sessions in their program. Mrs. Zimmerman will work with the printers and see what it takes to do that. Aaron also presented his drafts of the convention program, meal program, and foam board design. Suggestions and comments followed.

A five-minute recess was moved by Joanna Wavrunek and seconded by Aaron Zimmerman at 10:16 am. Meeting resumed at 10:31 am.

Convention details were discussed. Mrs. Sauvola asked to change the meal menus so as not to have the same meal twice. A general reminder to push for early registration was given in order to cut down on Tuesday's lines.

Convention Committees – The following committee reports were given:

Joanna Wavrunek, chair of *Speakers and Entertainment*, has lined up Grant Baldwin and Kyle Scheele confirmed as our two keynote speakers. Joanna is working on contacts with Wyatt DeJong, Bo Ryan, and Donald Driver for greetings. Joanna moved to approve the Speakers and Entertainment report. Nick Huffman seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman briefed on a potential singer to have at state convention, brought up through some connections through the Foundation. Ally T is a beginning country singer and is looking to get a little publicity in singing engagements. Logan moved to consider Ally T as a possible entertainment venue and to be discussed later as more information arises. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Zach Markhardt, chair of *Workshops*, reported to have scheduled a record 26 possible workshops for this year's convention. Invitations were sent early February and confirmations will be sent out later this month. Zach moved to approve the Workshops report. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Logan Wells, chair of *Tours*, talked about having tour hosts able to have a meal with FFA members at convention. The tour hosts would have a ticket to a dinner so they could eat a meal and socialize with FFA members at their tables. More discussion will be taken to the Foundation. Logan moved to approve the Tours report. Nate Overby seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nate Overby, chair of *Meals*, moved to approve Pam Jahnke as the emcee for the State Degree Luncheon. Emily Watson seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Discussion was held as far as potential guest speakers. Nate Overby moved to approve the Meals report. Aaron Zimmerman seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Gabes Rabb, chair of *Decorations and Special Projects*, reported that contact has been made with Ms. Crook and Dan Filla regarding decorations and plans has begun to be set in motion. Zach Markhardt moved to give printed recognition to Ms. Forrester's family for the flowers on stage. Bethany Rieth seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Gabes moved to approve the Decorations and Special Projects report. Nate Zimdars seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Bethany Rieth, chair of *Courtesy Corps and Seating*, will work on seating card logistics and Courtesy Corps. Bethany moved to approve the Courtesy Corps and Seating report. Gabes Rabb seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Emily Watson, chair of *Contests*, is working on promotion of state convention contests and encourages everyone to advertise them through blogs, newsletters, and word of mouth. Emily moved to approve the Contests report. Aaron Zimmerman seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Kayla Hack, chair of *Delegate Operations*, reported that forming delegate issues and working on delegate operation structure have been started and will continue to be worked on as convention draws closer. Kayla moved to approve the Delegate Operations report. Emily Watson seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nate Zimdars, chair of *Past State Officer Committee*, will be sending out invitations on the week of April 1st. Upon reading the report with the list of proposed guests, Mr. Zimmerman pointed out that there are some missing officers from the 10th year anniversary. Nate Zimdars will work with Mrs. Zimmerman to look more into this. Nate Zimdars moved to approve the Past State Officer Committee report. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Aaron Zimmerman and Nate Overby, chairs of *Audio/Visual*, showed us some of their "branding" layouts for convention and some of the stage revisions and improvements. Aaron moved to approve the Audio/Visual report. Joanna Wavrunek seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Joanna Wavrunek, chair of *Pre-Session*, reported that pre-session this year will involve upbeat music, slide shows, and more FFA talents, rather than games. Joanna moved to approve the Pre-Session report. Nate Overby seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nick Huffman, chair of *Spirit Stick*, listed past Spirit Stick winners at SLW and FIRE for review as well as laid out his action items for awarding the convention spirit stick. More contact will be made with Fennimore FFA concerning minting of FFA Bucks and Nick will contact Colby FFA to retrieve the Spirit Stick. Nick moved to approve the Spirit Stick report. Logan Wells seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nick Huffman and Nate Zimdars, chairs of *Hall of Fame*, passed out the Hall of Fame ballot. Emily Watson moved to nominate John Emmons (living) and LaVern Stuckey (deceased). Nate Zimdars seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors. Nick moved to approve the Hall of Fame report. Nate Overby seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Nate Overby adjourned. Aaron Zimmerman seconded. Motion passed and meeting concluded at 12:04 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Zach Markhardt
2012-2013 Wisconsin FFA Secretary

Wisconsin FFA Report

Cheryl Zimmerman, State FFA Executive Director

State FFA Honors Band and Chorus – Applications are with the directors for final selection. Band Applications – 91; Chorus Applications – 78 (Increase in band; decrease in chorus applications). Discussions concerning Band and Chorus: Directors suggesting an increase in honorariums for assistant directors; Change in vans for hauling instruments; Increase in portion of State Fair Fees paid by the students – currently paying \$35 of the total \$69 fee paid; New collection of State Fair forms and fees through the Wisconsin FFA Center by June 1; Concerns about students not attending both State Convention and State Fair – new agreement students will sign when they are notified of their selection.

State FFA Degree Processing – Chapters have been notified of the status of their state FFA degree applications via e-mail. Applications needing revisions will be returned to chapters next week. Final appeals are due April 1. Thank you State FFA Officer Advisors for your time in reviewing these applications. 365 applications were reviewed – increase of 6 applications from last year. Several teachers were notified that they did not attend the State Degree trainings offered throughout the year. We will offer one more training opportunity at 212 and EDGE Conference for those that didn't get trained and want students to receive degrees this year.

State FFA Star Applications - Were judged on Friday evening, March 8 in Wisconsin Dells. Finalists in each area listed in this report. There are 10 Star Farmer Finalists; 10 Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists; 5 Star in Agribusiness Finalists and 4 Star in Agriscience Finalist.

State FFA Proficiency Judging – Took place on Friday and Saturday March 8-9 in Wisconsin Dells. Cheryl Zimmerman, Terry Bernick, Jeff Hicken and Glenda Crook headed up the process. Results are being proofed and will be sent to advisors next week. We had approximately 65 FFA advisors, student teachers and university staff involved in the judging process. Also UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville agricultural education students assisted with the process of writing comments. 613 proficiency award applications were received, processed and judged. This was down 70 applications.

American Degree Applications Unofficially we have 113 applications down 73 from last year – This after a quick count through the applications in the mail bin.

American Star Applications – 3 Farmer; 1 Agriscience; 1 Agribusiness; 5 Placement

Instructors to assist at the 212/EDGE conference in reviewing the American Degree Applications and the American Star Applications.

State Convention Housing and Tentative Planning Guide will be online soon. Convention Managers will be confirmed and invited to submit their housing requests next week. The last week of March I will begin to post State FFA Convention materials on the FFA website. Convention housing to be the first item posted.

Upcoming Events:

CDE Assignments :

- Janesville – March 16 – Kayla, Emily and Logan
- UW-Platteville – March 21 – Nick and Zach
- UW-River Falls – April 6 – Nate O., Gabes and Aaron
- Fox Valley Tech – April 6 – Bethany, Joanna and Nate Z.
- State CDEs – Madison – April 26 – All State Officers

212 and EDGE Conferences – Green Bay, March 22-23

Currently we have approximately 185 students for 212 and 261 for EDGE. We plan to have American Degree Review, American Star Selection and National Officer Selection Process at the same location. Those scheduled to attend: Kayla, Nate O., Gabes, Bethany, Joanna, Zach

Wisconsin National FFA Candidate Selection Process – Process is delayed until this summer following state convention.

Wisconsin Public Service Farm Show – March 26-29 – Kayla, Nate Z., Bethany and Joanna

2013 Wisconsin FFA Star Finalists

State Star in Agribusiness Finalists

Mike Sankey - Amherst FFA
Dakota Siegler - Badger FFA
Cora Demler - Pecatonica FFA
Aaron R. Retzlaff - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA
Thomas Larson - Viroqua FFA

State Star in Agricultural Placement Finalists

Jacob S. Pintens - Barron FFA
Nick Mastey - Bonduel FFA
Eric Heeg - Marshfield FFA
Eric K. Coddington - Montello FFA
Taran Brody - Neillsville FFA
Elizabeth Sprout - Oconto Falls FFA
Kevin Welke - Osseo-Fairchild FFA
Nathan E. Spink - Pecatonica FFA
Nathan Leystra - Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA
Josh Reimer - Reedsburg FFA

State Star Farmer Finalists

Dayna R. Braaksma - Beaver Dam FFA
Seth Loudenbeck - Big Foot FFA
Valerie Kramer - Campbellsport FFA
Kurt Weisensel - Edgerton FFA
Billy Marshall - Kickapoo FFA
Carissa Haffenbredl - Marshfield FFA
Eric K. Coddington - Montello FFA
Kevin Welke - Osseo-Fairchild FFA
Thomas M. Allen - Reedsburg FFA
Brad Warmka - Waupun FFA

State Star in Agriscience Finalists

Seth Loudenbeck - Big Foot FFA
Rebecca Baudhuin - Luxemburg-Casco FFA
Cora Demler - Pecatonica FFA
Anthony Austreng - Waupaca FFA