

**Wisconsin Association of FFA  
February Board Meeting  
February 20, 2014**

Logan Wells, State FFA President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014. Members present: Logan Wells, Mrs. Russell, Connor Anderson, Mrs. Schott, Thomas Olson, Emma Hesper, Miss Johnson, Alison Wedig, Mr. Lobdell, Jon Jennings, Mr. Lee, Alex Klapoetke, Jenessa Freidhof, Miss Ploeckelman, Reba McClone, Mr. Raymakers, Justin Schwahn, Mr. Schuh, Katie Freeman, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mr. Hicken. Guests: Mrs. Christenson representing Section 2 advisors in the absence of Jean D'Angelo.

**I. Welcome**

Logan and Mrs. Zimmerman welcomed the group to our meeting.

**II. Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting – Jan. 2014 – Emma Hesper, State Secretary**

Reba McClone moved to approve the minutes from the January 2014 Board Meeting seconded by Jon Jennings. Motion passed and sustained by the advisors.

**III. State Officer Reports**

**School Board Convention** – Katie Freeman and Logan Wells gave a brief update of the events that took place during the School Board Convention.

**Media Training – Madison** – Alison Wedig and Justin Schwahn reported on the media training with Jill Makovec. Alison discussed the benefit of learning to speak slowly and clearly when talking with media.

**CTSO Legislation Day** – Jon Jennings, Reba McClone and Alex Klapoetke gave a brief report of meeting with government officials and the unique conversations of sharing our story with them about agricultural education and FFA.

**State FFA Alumni Convection** – Jenessa Freidhof, Thomas Olson and Emma Hesper reported on the events we helped with, the workshops we hosted and the auction.

- 1. Update on Painted Barn Boards and 2014 Project** – Logan shared with the group that our 2014 State Officer Artwork Project will be painting rustic windows and the past state officers brought in around \$2400 with their painted barn boards.

**National FFA Week** – Logan handed out a report of what all of the state officers had been up to in this past week and the officers have a highlight of their events.

**IV. District Speaking Contest**

Mrs. Zimmerman gave a brief update on district speaking contests and asked for comments and concerns. Emma Hesper brought forth the comment that manuscripts and resumes should possibly be sent out earlier in order to assure judges could have the information in a more timely fashion before the contest. Mrs. Schott and Mrs. Christenson suggested sending in materials electronically. Mr. Lobdell also suggested that if this was changed we would need to change the rubric in order to

have student not be downgraded for not using resume paper. Mrs. Russell mentioned that most job postings have electronic submission, so maybe this would just be a technological advancement. Mrs. Zimmerman took note of the suggestions for further discussion. Mrs. Zimmerman discussed the importance of new online registration and the enforcement of electronic deadlines.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported that most contests went very smoothly. There was one incident however at a District Contest involving an individual in the audience in a contest room disrupting a competition. This is not allowed during the time of competition. This is also not the first time that this individual has been warned of such an action. Justin Schwahn moved to ban this individual from being present in FFA contest rooms during all contests. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Alison Wedig asked to modify the motion so it says that this individual as presented to the Board will be banned from all FFA contest rooms indefinitely. Motion passed unanimously and sustained by the advisors. Thomas Olson moved to create a policy where if an individual or coach disrupts a contest, they will be banned from all future contests indefinitely. Alison Wedig seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mrs. Zimmerman will put together an introduction for contests containing rules and consequences for contests. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman passed out sheets to each officer and their advisor(s) with the members who will be advancing to sectional speaking contests. She explained that chapters who wish to withdraw their student from a contest would need to go through the state office before the sectional contest; sectional hosts cannot make these arrangements. Mrs. Zimmerman reminded hosts that official results sheets need to be sent in immediately after the contest.

## **V. State FFA Executive Director & State Advisor Reports**

**National Ag Ed Summit Update** – Mr. Hicken gave a brief summary of the events that went on at the 2014 National Ag Ed Summit. A team of people from Wisconsin including Mrs. Zimmerman attended the Summit. The theme this year was SAEs and attendees were able to broaden their knowledge as well as discuss how to incorporate SAEs for all agricultural education students. Mr. Hicken highlighted the importance of using our SAEs in all classrooms because it makes our program unique. The Summit also highlighted updates on FFA programs and activities including the new applications for degrees and proficiencies that will be a part of the Ag Career Network.

**Stars and Proficiency Judging Update** – Mrs. Zimmerman invited all advisors to come to Wisconsin Dells on March 7-8 to help judge star and proficiency applications.

**Update on other State FFA Activities** – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a couple of Wisconsin FFA Updates. She reported that Mrs. Bernick is back in the office and feeling much better. The Wisconsin FFA Summer Intern has been hired and Stacy Kunde will be working for the Wisconsin FFA Center starting in May. Mrs. Zimmerman also summarized the National Officer Experience and its success. She also highlighted the changes made at the National level with the National FFA CEO and CFO positions.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

**Convention Speaker Committee** – Reba McClone reported that Layman Hicks and Scott Backovick have been chosen as our convention speakers and contracts are being processed.

**Convention Tours Committee** – Katie Freeman reported that the potential convention tours include: Cave of the Mounds, Little Norway, Epic, Crave Brothers, Pam Jahnke Studio, International Crane Foundation, Aldo Leopold Foundation, and Zoo.

**Convention Workshop Committee** – Jon Jennings reported that he has sent out several emails to potential workshop presenters. The deadline for workshop presenters to report back to Jon is March 1. He is also looking into having a discussion panel where multiple representatives would sit in and answer questions for members.

**Service Committee** – Connor Anderson reported that he and Justin have been in contact with Beth Reith to finalize the Day of Service. They have heard lots of positive feedback and are looking forward to it. Connor and Justin have also been looking into a team service project and more will be developed on that soon.

**Marketing and Membership** – Katie Freeman reported on the FFA promotional videos that chapters have been posting on our new Facebook page. Another successful marketing tool was our FFA Week Locker Posters.

**Program and Awards Committee** – Logan Wells reported on the chapter website contest which will be conducted identically to last year's contest. Jenessa Freidhof highlighted a couple points of Career Development Events. This committee is looking for ways to improve our state CDEs in order to have better success at the national contests. Mrs. Lyon suggested that having a basic outline of the national contest structure would be very beneficial. She also suggested having contact information to previous teams who have competed in the national contest previously. These ideas will be passed on to Gordie Gasch, the CDE program coordinator.

Logan Wells also brought before the Board the new idea of an Agricultural Artwork Contest. They explained the contest and the rubric used to judge this contest. Emma Hesel moved to hold an agricultural artwork contest at state convention. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

**Hall of Fame Committee** – Mrs. Zimmerman took the lead to explain that a ballot will be coming out soon to vote on the nominees for the Wisconsin FFA Hall of Fame. She explained the rules and requirements, as well as, the nominees that are on the ballot. The Board was allowed the opportunity to contribute more names to the list of potential inductees. The suggestions will be passed on for further review of eligibility.

## **VII. Old Business**

**Membership Update** – Mr. Hicken commented that since the final membership deadline is this next week, all officers need to push for final membership of chapters to be entered. He reminded the Board that there were 60 changes in advisors this past year so we need to keep this in mind when membership numbers come in.

**Chapter Constitutions and Programs of Activities Update** – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out an updated version of chapters who have not sent in their POAs and Chapter Constitutions.

## **VIII. New Business**

**Growing Wisconsin Magazine 2014 Edition – Advertising** – Mrs. Zimmerman reported that last year Wisconsin FFA partnered with Team Ag Ed on a magazine advertisement that was placed in the Growing Wisconsin Magazine. Reba McClone moved to continue funding our portion of the Team Ag Ed Advertisement in the Growing Wisconsin Magazine. Justin Schwahn seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed and was sustained by advisors.

**State FFA Degrees and Review Process** – Following the meeting, advisors will be reviewing state degree applications.

## **IX. State FFA Convention Update**

**State Officer Ideas/Suggestions** - Mrs. Zimmerman reminded the officers that all final committee reports will be presented at the March Board Meeting. Mr. Hicken presented a cell phone holder that is a potential judge's gift for state convention.

**Procedures for State President Elections** – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a handout with the roles and responsibilities for state president. The final deadline to apply for state president is April 15. Logan suggested that anyone interested in running for state president or national officer candidate should talk to previous people who have held the position.

**Board of Directors Housing** – Mrs. Zimmerman summarized the housing process for state convention and requested all housing requests should be finalized by the March Board Meeting.

**Officer/Parent Housing** – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a sheet that summarizes the housing process for state convention and requested that all housing requests should be finalized by the March Board Meeting.

**X. March Meeting** – Madison; Clarion Suites Hotel – March 13-14

**XI. Adjournment** Reba McClone moved to adjourn the meeting. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and sustained by the advisors.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emma Heser  
State Secretary  
Wisconsin Association of FFA