

**Wisconsin Association of FFA
March Board Meeting
March 13-14, 2014**

Thursday, March 12, 2014

Logan Wells, State FFA President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday March 13, 2014. Members present: Logan Wells, Mrs. Russell, Connor Anderson, Mrs. Schott, Thomas Olson, Ms. D' Angelo, Emma Hesper, Mrs. Bailey, Alison Wedig, Mr. Lobdell, Jon Jennings, Mr. Lee, Alex Klapoetke, Mrs. Darr, Jenessa Freidhof, Ms. Ploekelman, Ms. Long, Reba McClone, Mr. Raymakers, Justin Schwahn, Mr. Schuh, Katie Freeman, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mr. Hicken. Guests: Ms. Schoenborn and Ms. Graffunder

- I. **Welcome** – Logan and Mrs. Zimmerman welcomed the group to our meeting.
- II. **Overview of Meeting Agenda** – Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the schedule of the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Board Meeting – Feb. 2014** – Emma Hesper, State Secretary

Alison Wedig moved to approve the minutes from the February 2014 Board Meeting seconded by Alex Klapoetke. Motion passed and sustained by the advisors.

IV. Wisconsin FFA Officer Updates

State Officer Challenge – Logan Wells summarized the State Officer Challenge for Board members and informed them that the officer team placed 3rd overall in this national competition and will be receiving an officer training session provided by National FFA.

FFA Farm Forum – Alex Klapoetke gave a brief report on the activities the state officer team were involved in at the Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.

The Country Today – Thomas Olson and Connor Anderson reported on their experience with The Country Today auction. They had a great time interacting with past members and other spectators and raised a record breaking amount for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Other State Officer Activities – Logan Wells gave a summary of the events the officer team has been involved in including proficiency judging and the upcoming Co-ops Yes! Conference.

V. Wisconsin FFA Center Update

Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a few handouts summarizing proficiency award participation and a written report of activities. She informed us that we have maxed out the capacity for our 212/EDGE Conferences, our band and chorus applications have been sent out to the directors for selection, State Degree notifications have not been sent out yet, but the State Star Finalists have been selected, and American Degrees are up 43 applications from last year. Mrs. Zimmerman also reviewed questions on hosting Sectional Speaking Contests. She gave reminders about holding rooms and room monitors.

Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the details for the Sectional Safe Tractor Operators Contests which the state officers and their advisors host. Sections are allowed to host the contests together, but there will be one representative from each section who is eligible to compete at state contest at Farm Technology Days in August. Mrs. Zimmerman brought to the Board's attention a possible rule change/clarification because of an incident with a contestant that did not complete the entire course and found a loophole to win the contest. Mrs. Zimmerman took notes of advisor comments and will look into it for the future.

VI. DPI/Agricultural Education Update

Mr. Hicken reported that there are currently 8 open teaching positions in our state. This is a concern because there are a small number of student teachers graduating this Spring. Mr. Hicken also announced that the Milwaukee Vincent program will be hiring a third teacher this Fall. Dr. Evers has officially appointed Mr. Hicken as the chairperson of the Rural School Development Council.

VII. Wisconsin FFA Foundation Update

Ms. Schoenborn gave a brief report discussing the Foundation activities and several of the partner programs coming to a close for the year. She also gave an update on the photography project the Wisconsin FFA Foundation has been working on through funds from the Star Mission Partner Grant Program. A new potential partner is CNH out of Racine, WI. Alison, Justin, Logan and Miss Schoenborn were able to visit their plant and discuss future sponsorship.

VIII. Wisconsin FFA Alumni Update

Mrs. Oldendorf was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Schoenborn provided a report from Ms. Oldendorf with the Alumni Update.

IX. WAAE Update

Ms. Graffunder handed out a report about WAAE activities from this past year. Some of the highlights of her report included sending teachers to the Ag Ed Summit in Indianapolis to discuss SAEs, sending members to Washington DC to advocate, and planning the upcoming WAAE Conference and the Region III Conference in June.

X. State FFA Committees

Policies/Constitution/Bylaws Committee – Alex Klapoetke gave a brief overview of the Policies/Constitution/Bylaws Committee including the new policy for disruptions during speaking competitions. Mrs. Zimmerman clarified parts of the new policy. Alex moved to accept all of the recommended changes to the policy handbook. Alison Wedig seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Finance Committee – State FFA Budget – Jon Jennings gave a brief overview of his reports and the Wisconsin FFA budget. Mr. Hicken summarized the reports for the Board and gave further explanation. Jon moved to accept the 2014-2015 budget as proposed. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

2014-2015 Affiliate Membership Fees – Mr. Hicken explained the affiliated fees and how this type membership payment option affects the Wisconsin Association of FFA budget. Currently the amount of revenue to the Wisconsin Association of FFA paid by affiliate membership is close to the amount paid through traditional dues. So at this time no changes need to be made in the payment schedule/chart for affiliated membership chapters.

State Marketing and Membership Committee – Katie Freeman and Thomas Olson gave a brief overview of what they have been doing to increase membership and advertise our organization. Mr. Hicken then announced our membership is 19,023. This is down from last year and was slightly expected because of the large amount of new advisors. Thomas Olson moved to approve the State Marketing and Membership Committee report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Awards and Programs Committee – Logan Wells and Jenessa Freidhof gave an update of items they have been working on throughout the year. Their main projects have been the website contest, the agricultural artwork contest and information about CDE national competitions. Logan asked for suggestions on how to award contestants for their artwork projects based on the sponsorship from NASCO. Jenessa moved to approve the Awards and Programs Committee report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Media and Public Relations – Reba McClone recapped the role of the Media and Public Relations committee and the increase in social media use. Reba moved to approve the Media and Public Relations committee report. Justin Schwahn seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Service Committee – Connor Anderson and Justin Schwahn gave an update on the Rally to Fight Hunger. Option 1 is to send the meals internationally with the Kids Against Hunger or option 2 is to keep the meals local through Outreach Inc. By keeping the meals local there would be a slight increase in cost, but the benefit would be fighting hunger within our communities. Discussion followed regarding which option to choose. Justin moved to work with Outreach Inc. and keep our service project local. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Motion passed and was sustained by advisors. Another service project the committee has been working on is working in a homeless shelter during a trip in Missouri. They are excited about venturing out of the state to help others. Justin moved to approve the Service Committee report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Partners Committee – Emma Hesper, Alison Wedig and Logan Wells reported on their work with the Wisconsin FFA Foundation throughout the year. They were able to travel to 26 business and industry tours and watch several new sponsorship programs grow throughout the year. A big thanks to Ms. Schoenborn for all of her work this year. Alison Wedig moved to approve the Partners Committee report. Thomas Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

XI. Old Business

Speaking Contest Audience Instructions – Quiz Bowl – Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the new statement, which has been released regarding the Quiz Bowl competition. This statement is now read at the beginning of each new bracket of competition.

State FFA Degree – Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the list of activities above the chapter level that qualify for the State Degree. She asked the Board for any suggestions or changes. None were suggested.

Chapter Constitutions and Program of Activities – Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a list of chapters who have not turned in their POAs or Chapter Constitutions. Officers were reminded to continue collecting these from chapters.

XII. New Business

SAE Committee Proposals

- 1. Star Awards** – Chapters allowed to submit more than one application in each Star area.

Justin Schwahn moved to allow chapters to submit more than one application in each Wisconsin Star area. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Thomas Olson moved to amend the main motion by adding “are allowed to submit no more than 3 applications” so the motion would read, Chapters will be allowed to submit no more than 3 applications in each Star area. Amendment failed and sustained by advisors. Main motion passed and sustained by advisors.

- 2. Star Awards** – Members allowed to apply in more than one Star area and be a finalist in more than one area, but can only win one.

Reba McClone moved for members to be allowed to apply in more than one Star area and be a finalist in more than one area, but only win one. Justin Schwahn seconded the motion. Alex Klapoetke moved to amend the main motion by adding the phrase “with the individual allowed to choose which area they want to receive.” So the motion would then read, for members to be allowed to apply in more than one Star area and be a finalist in more than one area, but only win one with the individual allowed to choose which area they want to receive. Amendment failed and sustained by advisors. Main motion passed and sustained by advisors.

National FFA Officer Candidate State Selection Process – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a handout with the process of selecting the Wisconsin National FFA Officer Candidate and explained the expectations and the selection process. Jon Jennings moved to approve the National FFA Officer Candidate State Selection Process document. Thomas Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Submitted Proposal(s) Discussion and Recommendations – Mr. Hicken had no submitted proposal(s) or recommendations from chapters.

Honorary State and American FFA Degree Recommendations – Mrs. Zimmerman and Logan Wells asked for any nominations for candidates and none were recommended. Alex Klapoetke moved to close nominations. Justin Schwahn seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Delegate Issues Recommended to National FFA – Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board for any issues or concerns and none were recommended.

2014 National FFA Convention Delegate Business Proposals – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out the constitutional amendment that will be presented at National FFA Convention and explained its meaning. Justin Schwahn moved for Wisconsin to propose the constitutional amendment to our delegates at State Convention and then move it on to National FFA Convention. Motion was seconded. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Friday March, 14 2014

Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors – Session 3

I. State FFA Convention

Convention Schedule/Activities – Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a master copy of the state convention schedule and made note that the only major change for the year will be the addition of the Ag Artwork Contest.

Special Events –

Board of Directors Meeting -2:00 p.m. Monday, June 9 – Mrs. Zimmerman noted that all officers and advisors will need to be in attendance for this meeting.

Day of Service – Connor, Justin and Mrs. Beth Rieth – There are currently 6 locations that students will be traveling to for the Day of Service events. The Rally to Fight Hunger will also be held that day and students will be packing meals for the Madison area.

Administrator Attendance and School Officials Program – All officers must have at least one person to represent their school district to be recognized on stage. The administrators will also have the opportunity to attend a meal/reception. Officers should have the names of potential guests to Mrs. Zimmerman by April 15th.

Parent and Advisor Recognition and Appreciation Lunch – All advisors, parents and officers are invited to a lunch reception following convention.

Convention Assignments/Duties – Mrs. Zimmerman passed out a SUPER DRAFT of the 2014 State FFA Convention Advisor Assignments and Duties and then explained each of the duties to the advisors.

Door Checkers – Section 10 Advisors – Section 10 advisors will be in charge of checking official dress at the convention session doors to assist courtesy corps.

Convention Facilities – Questions and Answers – Mrs. Zimmerman discussed some common questions that arise during convention time and reviewed our roles during convention.

Convention Program – Mrs. Zimmerman and Ms. Schoenborn explained the process of submitting ads for the state convention program. We also held discussion on using social media at convention, creating a hashtag for convention and creating a scan code to look up convention activities and programs. Mrs. Russell will serve as our Social Media Manager.

Convention Managers – Mrs. Zimmerman pointed out the past convention managers and asked for potential new managers or new areas that need to be managed.

Convention Details –

Housing – Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a sign-up sheet for officers and chapters to reserve rooms for guests and members coming to convention.

Meal Functions – The group discussed refreshments for behind stage and Section 5 is in charge to supply food and drinks. Mrs. Zimmerman discussed different meals/receptions that the officers will need to attend. The Sponsors' Dinner will be attended by all officers. We also discussed the Leadership Dinner and State Degree Luncheon. Mrs. Zimmerman took lots of notes and will look into it in the future as to adjusting the Agriscience Award presentation with the State Degree Lunch.

Registration – Mrs. Zimmerman confirmed that registration will be in the same place as last year however all judges will have to register at the main registration table before going to the contest area.

Convention Stage Set-up – Mrs. Zimmerman summarized the choices our team will have to make regarding the convention stage set up. The stage has a general set-up but we are allowed to make changes as we see fit within budget and abilities to create images for the backdrop. We held a discussion about the backdrop on the convention stage and changes we might make to it.

Parking – Mr. Hicken confirmed that parking will remain the same as the last several years. He also notified the Board that we are looking to receive a bid from Aliant Energy Center to include parking in the rental price.

Convention Special Guests, Greeters, etc – Mrs. Zimmerman reported that we have our two keynote speakers confirmed, Brian Walsh representing National FFA, and other special guests to speak at convention. Officers are encouraged to invite their local government officials.

Convention Photography – Empire Photography is hired as our official convention photographer. This is run through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and everything is in order to work with them again this year.

II. Committee Reports

Speakers & Entertainment – Reba McClone gave a brief update on the actions the Speakers and Entertainment Committee. Emma Hesper moved to accept the Speakers and Entertainment Committee Report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Convention Workshops – Jon Jennings gave an update on workshop presenters and potential workshop topics. Jon then presented the Discussion Panel he has put together as part of Convention Workshops. Alison Wedig moved to approve the Workshop Committee report. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Convention Tours – Katie Freeman gave an update on tours she has finalized and her schedule throughout the convention. She has some repeat and regular tours scheduled, but also several new tours set up for members to attend. Reba McClone moved to approve the Convention Tours report. Jon Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Meals and Receptions – Jenessa Freidhof gave an update of speakers during meals. She highlighted the Teach Ag Ed Feature during the Leadership Dinner to assist with our goal of promoting Ag Ed as a career. Jon Jennings moved to approve the Meals and Receptions report. Thomas Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Special Projects and Decorations – Alison Wedig gave a few highlights from her committee report. She will have several glittered props, the tractor display, a display celebrating the 85th year of Wisconsin FFA, our window display and a “handprint/purpose display” to allow students to share their purpose. Reba McClone moved to approve the Special Projects and Decorations committee report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Courtesy Corps and Seating – Connor Anderson updated us on the initial organization he has started. He reviewed the actions he will be taking once convention moves closer. Reba McClone moved to approve the Courtesy Corps and Seating report. Alison Wedig seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Contests – Justin Schwahn gave an update on the events and work he has been doing thus far in planning for convention. His main project this year has been the Ag Artwork project. The team has been promoting this contest throughout the year. Justin Schwahn moved to approve the Contest Committee report. Jon Jennings seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Delegate Operations Committee – Logan Wells proposed potential delegate topics for state convention. Several Board members suggested other potential topics which Logan took note of. These topics are picked to spark interest in members and using their ideas to help the state association improve. Another issue that will be put in front of the delegates is the proposed bylaw change to be brought to National FFA Convention. Justin Schwahn moved to approve the Delegate Operations Committee report. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Past State Officer Committee – Alison Wedig presented her potential invite and RSVP cards. She plans on having the 25th Anniversary Team host the Past State Officer Reunion. Alison Wedig moved to approve the Past State Officer Committee report. Reba McClone seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

AV Committee – Thomas Olson presented his report to the Board and summarized his future plans for video. He presented the potential videos to be shown at state convention. Next he presented potential convention button ideas. Thomas Olson moved to approve the AV Committee report. Alison Wedig seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Pre-Session – Emma Hesper gave a brief update on the actions she has taken so far to prepare Pre-Sessions at state convention. She will be continuing with the t-shirt toss and trivia games. Emma Hesper moved to approve the Pre-Session Committee report. Alison Wedig seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Spirit Stick – Alex Klapoetke gave an update on the spirit stick activities and participation throughout the year. She proposed having a photo booth for students to take pictures with the spirit stick at convention. Alison Wedig moved to have the spirit stick photo booth for this year's conventions and cut the spirit stick from state convention after this year. Jon Jennings seconded the motion. Alison moved to withdraw her motion. Justin Schwahn moved to remove the spirit stick from this year's convention. Connor Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by advisors.

Hall of Fame – Jon Jennings read the names on the Hall of Fame ballot to the board. We took the advice of all Board members and will be voting for 2 living inductees and 1 deceased inductee. Justin Schwahn moved to approve the Hall of Fame report. Alex Klapoetke seconded the motion. Motion passed and sustained by the advisors.

III. Open Discussion for Convention Ideas and Recommendations – Mr. Lobdell brought to the Board's attention the difference between pre-session and session. He would like the officers to take this into consideration when they are reviewing scripts and revising sessions in order to reduce the time of each session.

IV. Adjournment – Alex Klapoetke moved to adjourn the meet. Alison Weidg seconded the motion. Motion passes and sustained by advisors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emma Hesper
State Secretary
Wisconsin Association of FFA