

Wisconsin FFA Center Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

The Meeting was called to order by President David Kruse at 10:09 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Ehrenberg, Clara Hedrich, Bridgett Neu, Jeff Hicken, Cheryl Zimmerman, David Kruse, Glenda Crook, Nicole Nelson, Mike Robinson, Shari Graffunder, Kim Houser, Kristin Hanson Members Absent: None

It was moved to approve agenda with flexibility by Kim Houser and motion was seconded by Glenda Crook . Motion Passed.

Approval of November Minutes was moved by Randy Ehrenberg and seconded by Kim Houser. Motion passed.

Cheryl Zimmerman referred to the blue sheet for Wisconsin FFA Center Operations Report. **See attachment titled Wisconsin FFA Center Report January 2013.**

District Speaking Contests

The new online registration system for speaking contests has been going well. District speaking contests begin next week. Cheryl has been working with Jeremy and Pat at US AgNet, the website company to get this all set up. They are currently working on a feature that locks the system once the registration has been completed for a district. Although the form will be locked it will still be viewable to the instructor. The registration deadline for the speaking contests is two weeks before the contest. Once the registration is complete Cheryl will send the report back to all the registered instructors and ask them to confirm if the information is correct. Cheryl is also working on a form for substitutions on site. These substitution forms will be sent back to the FFA Center for membership checks. The plaques are available here at the Halftime conference for the district hosts to take with them. At the March meeting it was voted to allow all seats for the sectional speaking contests to be filled. What this means is that if there is a district that does not have two winners in a contest to move on to the sectional contests and another district has more contestants then it is possible for a third or fourth place winner to go on to sectionals. For more information see handout. **See attachment labeled New Rule For District Speaking Contests.**

Annual Report

Cheryl then referred to the Annual Report. This is the third edition. If you have ideas for feature items that should be included in this document please let Cheryl know. The booklet is titled, Wisconsin FFA & Wisconsin FFA Foundation Annual Report

Website Update

There was a conference call on Tuesday night to provide an update on the website. This project is moving forward.

Summer Assistant

The Summer Assistant position has been posted and applications are due on February 1st.

Membership

Membership is looking good. This will also be talked about at the FFA board meeting. Membership is just over 16,000. The Wisconsin membership affiliation needs to be evaluated. This needs to be evaluated with both the FFA Center Board and the FFA Board. There is a reduction in revenue because of the new membership affiliation to the Association.

Summit

Jeff and Cheryl will be attending the Agricultural Education Summit that will take place in Indianapolis, IN January 29-31. Also attending will be Kim Houser, Shari Graffunder, Josh Rusk, Rachel Sauvola, Laura Hasselquist, Kathy Breunig, Dr. Buttles, and Dr. Zidon.

Rosters

Only Alma missed the Dec 1.

Benton and GB West are inactive – no teachers at these programs.

FFA Board Meeting

Convention speakers will be discussed. Rally to Fight Hunger will be discussed - Bethany Reith is leading this effort. High School Quiz Bowl will be discussed as UWRF has suggested it is time to update and rewrite some of the questions used in the contest. Update on sectional speaking contests. Calendar of upcoming events can be found on attached sheet

Alumni Convention

This year the state officers have painted chairs for the auction item and next year the item will be barn boards. The convention this year will be held in Fond du Lac at the Holiday Inn the weekend of February 8-10th.

Proficiency Judging Update

Judging will take place on March 8-9 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. As always if teachers are available to assist it would be appreciated.

National Officer Candidate Selection

This year they only have one candidate that expressed interest. The selection process may happen after convention. There is concern that it would be nice to have multiple candidates. With only one there would be no alternate and that is concerning. Jeff and Cheryl are going to look at other ways of conducting this process.

Liability Case Update

Cheryl received a call from a paralegal regarding the case. She has filled out paperwork and has returned it. She has shared everything that she knows and does not know what the next step is going to be. She has reiterated to them that the FFA Center was not involved in this activity at all. Although the WI FFA Center is in no way related they have been named in the suit. However until released from the suit the Center has to continue to work with the insurance company until this is resolved.

FFA Center Office Operations

Cheryl reported on activities since November Meeting and Office Operations. The standard Mileage Rate is now .565 per mile IRS rate as of January 1. Cheryl mentioned that she is continuing to work with DPI and accounting/contracting procedures. She stated that it is interesting how DPI does things and the policies that have to be followed but they are working through it.

Equipment Update

Cheryl has requested that the FFA Center Board purchase an iPad for both herself as well as Jeff Hicken. Carrying a laptop is cumbersome and it would be helpful to have this technology. Cheryl

noted that money for equipment is usually taken from reserves and not a budgeted item. She said that she wouldn't need the data plan at the current time. David mentioned that MicroSoft now has the surface tablet. He is looking for what will be the most user friendly and functional tool to be used. Glenda said it is possible to consolidate all usage of calendars on the tablet technology. Cheryl mentioned that she has seen a number teachers using Ipads and thought it would be a good tool to use. Mike mentioned that a Kindle Fire also has a lot of capability to do many of these things as well. Kristin moved to allocate \$500 for Cheryl to purchase some form of tablet technology for the FFA Center. Kim Houser seconded the motion. Motion passed. Cheryl will do some research on this purchase and send it out to the board before making a final decision.

Office Rental Agreement

David and Cheryl have been looking into an office rental agreement. They have found some options online. This discussion started as a result of the basement flooding that occurred in Cheryl's basement in 2011. It has been challenging to find language that applies to a home location but they are working through it. David's goal is to have something to review by the June meeting.

Financial Report

Affiliation Fees

We are doing really well. Benton (Inactive), Cassville and Dodgeville in Section 4 and Green Bay West(Inactive) and New Holstein in Section 9 are listed as not paid.

Milwaukee Vincent, Fall River, and Owen Withee will not pay as they just chartered this year.

Review Checks and Deposits

Cheryl brought the general ledger along if anyone wants to review payments that have been posted or checks that have been written

Dental Insurance

The dental plan that Cheryl and her family have been using is changing and she would like to continue with using the benefit dollars she has been given through her contract. There is a line item for dental and disability for \$2300. Dental insurance has usually been paid twice a year. Net payment was \$820.47; and \$869.60 before taxes. Disability is paid directly to the insurance company. Cheryl expressed concern that she doesn't want to lose that benefit and a potential use

could be toward paying life insurance. Her current policy is term and paid every six months. David asked if we had considered setting up a Section 125 plan. Cheryl asked if everyone was familiar with the HSA plan that some schools are setting up. Cheryl proposed that for next year that she would like to investigate some options for benefits. The consensus was that would be an acceptable plan. Randy moved that she can use up to \$900 out of the dental and disability line item to use at her discretion. It was seconded by Kristin Hanson. Motion passed. It was added to remember that this would be taxable income.

GPR Funds

The 2011-12 final report on how the GPR funds were used this past year is not complete at this time. Once it is completed it will be emailed to Jeff Hicken and to the FFA Center Board. Jeff mentioned that GPR dollars will also be available soon for the 2012-13 school year and will be sent to the Wisconsin FFA Center.

Review Financial Statements dated October 31st was done by the Board members.

FFA Chapter Affiliation Fee - 2013-2014

It was moved by Randy Ehrenberg and seconded by Mike Robinson to set the affiliation fee at \$350 for the 2013-2014 year. Motion passed.

Report by Nicole Nelson, Wisconsin FFA Foundation

Nicole reviewed the goals of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Nicole has submitted her resignation and the Executive Director position has been posted.

Applications are due on Feb 1st. She will stay on part-time in the role of Project Coordinator with duties to be determined by the new Executive Director. The Executive committee has been working hard on the hiring process. The hope is that by April they will have someone selected and possibly starting sooner. The Golf Outing dates have been selected. If an organization wants to be recognized in the brochure that decision needs to be made by January 15th. Hole sponsorships have also changed to allow more people to take advantage of the opportunity.

Star Mission Partner – Oscar Mayer is the newest partner in the program. DuPont Pioneer also came in as a 3 star partner for this year. Cheryl expressed her appreciation to Nicole for all that she has done to help us through sponsorships and restructuring this program to benefit all of us.

Review FFA Center Board Terms and Positions for Election

There was a reminder that Sections 5&10, and 3&4 need to be looking for replacements or re-election to the board.

Next Meeting – June Professional Development Conference, Tuesday, June 25th

Weekend Update

Cheryl went over the schedule for the rest of the weekend and listed the meeting locations. The opening session will be a little bit different this year.

Meeting was moved to adjourn by Randy Ehrenberg and seconded by Shari Graffunder. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

FFA Center Board Representatives Term

Sections 1&2 Kristin Hanson 2012-2015

Sections 3&4 Mike Robinson 2010-2013

Sections 5&10 Randy Ehrenberg 2010-2013

Sections 6&7 Glenda Crook 2011-2014

Sections 8&9 Clara Hedrich 2011-2014

David Kruse WAAE Past-President 2012-2013

Kim Houser WAAE President 2012-2013

Shari Graffunder WAAE President-Elect 2012-2013

Wisconsin FFA Center Report

January 2013

FUNDING

2012-13 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 243 (As of Jan. 9, 2013)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$350.00) – 243

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payment – 8

Chapters inactive – Benton and Green Bay West

Three new chapters with fees waived for this year – Fall River, Milwaukee Vincent and Owen-Withee

2011-12 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 245 (As of Jan. 4, 2012)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$300.00) – 245

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payment – 4

Two new chapters with fees waived this year – Highland and Southwestern

2010-11 Chapter Affiliation Fee Summary

Total Chapters Paid: 241 (As of Jan. 5, 2011)

Breakdown: Option 1 (\$300.00) – 241

Option 2 – (No one has indicated specifically they will use this payment option)

Waiting for payment – 6

One payment received at DPI – Check to be sent

First quarter financial statements were presented to the FFA Center Board at Half-Time meeting.

WISCONSIN FFA CENTER UPDATE

1. New Online Registration System for District Speaking Contests - Preparing District and Sectional Speaking Contest Materials – Contests begin January 15.
2. New procedure to fill all spots for Sectional Speaking contests. If some districts don't fill their allowed participants, others from the section will move into those spots. Determined by Sum of Rank and Quiz Bowl final scores. Passed by the FFA Board of Directors March 2012.
3. Wisconsin FFA and FFA Foundation Annual Reports available at Half-Time Conference.
4. Progressing through the development of the Team Ag Ed Website Project.
5. Continue to work with Ag Career Network and answering instructor questions.
6. DPI will provide GPR money (\$19,166.66) to the Wisconsin FFA Center for 2012-13. Same amount as last year
7. Wisconsin FFA Center Summer Assistant Position has been announced and posted. Resumes due February 1.
8. FFA membership – 39 chapters selected the National FFA Affiliation Fee option – Board evaluation process with this and how the affiliation fee income compares to the past FFA dues payment.
9. Attending National Ag Ed Summit January 30-31 in Indianapolis, IN
10. Preparing for the handling, processing and evaluation of the State and American Degrees and Proficiency Award
11. State FFA Convention planning has started.
 - a. Hotel contracts process starting in January.
 - b. State Officer Committees are underway and plans were developed at December Officer Meeting.
12. Preparing for upcoming FFA Alumni Convention, State Officers conducting workshops and reflections.
13. Preparing for FFA Board meetings and Farm Forum.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION of FFA UPDATE

1. Late membership rosters and payment were discussed at the State FFA Board of Directors meeting Friday – action was taken by the FFA Board of Directors.
2. Other items the Board discussed included – State Convention Speakers, State Service Project, Website Competition Judging, High School Quiz Bowl Competition, Team Ag Ed Website Project, Sectional Speaking Contests.

STATE FFA CONVENTION

Date & Locations: The State FFA Convention will be held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, June 10-13, 2013

Registration: Online registration system again in place.

Housing: Official Housing will be posted online in early March - Hotel negotiations in progress

Activities: Day of Service will be continued

Rally for Hunger Service Project on Monday – Packing meals similar to National FFA project.

No longer having Kick Off program for Convention – Replaced with Rally for Hunger

Upcoming Activities/Calendar of Events:

District FFA Speaking Contests to begin January 15. Sectional contests in March at the state officer's home schools.

National Ag Ed Summit, Indianapolis, IN – January 30-31 – Cheryl to attend.

State FFA Officer Media Training - February 6 in Madison – State Officers to work with Jill Makovec.

CTSO Legislative Day – February 7 in Madison – State Officers to attend with Jeff Hicken and Cheryl Zimmerman.

Wisconsin FFA Alumni Convention - Feb. 8-10, 2013 in Fond du Lac. State Officers will be assisting and presenting a reflections program and a workshop. The chairs and stools from State FFA Convention will be auctioned off at the Alumni Convention.

FFA Board of Directors will meet on February 14-15 in Wisconsin Rapids to conduct the review process for State FFA Degrees. The Board will meet again in March in Madison for convention planning.

FFA Officers will be assisting with the FFA/Farm Bureau Farm Forum Feb. 15-16 in Wisconsin Rapids.

National FFA Week activities – February 16-23, 2013.

Wisconsin FFA Proficiency Awards will be judged March 8-9 in Wisconsin Dells at the Chula Vista Hotel. Cheryl Zimmerman is coordinating the arrangements and details for the judging. Anyone interested in judging is invited to attend. Reservations should be made by February 20, 2013. Call the Chula Vista Hotel at 608-254-8366. Rooms are reserved under FFA.

State Degree Appeal Process interviews will be scheduled for the March 8-9 for those students wishing to appeal their state degrees.

212° Conference will be held March 22-23, 2013 at the Hyatt in Green Bay. The EDGE Conference will also be presented for Middle School Students by Rhett Laubach and his staff.

National Officer Candidate selection process – reviewing current state selection process with limited number of candidates.

Next fall's 212° and 360° conferences will be November 15-16, 2013 at the Plaza Hotel and Suites, Eau Claire.

2014 Half-Time Conference set for January 10-11 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point

NEW RULE FOR DISTRICT SPEAKING CONTESTS

DISTRICT HOST--PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In March 2012, the FFA Center Board voted to have full participation at sectional speaking contests in all events, therefore creating more opportunities for all FFA members.

If a district does not produce two contestants eligible to send on to the sectional contest in any event, those spots will be given to contestants from another district who did not receive first or second place. If there is one spot open to fill and two contestants from different districts both in third place, the decision will be based on the **sum of the rank** that the contestant received.

• **Example:** District 1 had only one creed speaker. District 2 had two creed speakers and District 3 had three creed speakers. The third place contestant from District 3 would now have the chance to participate in the sectional contest because District 1 left a spot vacant.

• **Ties:** If there is one spot to fill and two third placing competitors who have the exact same sum of the rank, both move on to sectionals and that contest will simply have a seventh contestant.

It is the responsibility of the District Host Chapter to provide the necessary materials to the FFA Center for this to become a reality at their Sectional Contest.

District Host chapters need to make sure the following judges' materials are returned to the FFA Center as quickly as possible:

1. Final ranking (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.) of each participant in every contest
2. Sum of the Rank for each contestant/team that participated in Creed, Prepared, Extemporaneous, Discussion Meet, Job Interview and Parli Pro contests
3. For Quiz Bowl the Chapter Head-to-Head Tally Score Sheets for all brackets that were used

If these materials are not returned to the FFA Center members in your district that placed 3rd and possibly even 4th will not be given the opportunity to fill the vacant 2nd and/or 1st place individual/team speaking contests advancing to the Sectional level.

Please take a few minutes at the conclusion of your contest to confirm that you have all materials required to allow contestants the opportunity to advance to these unfilled 2nd and 1st placings to your Sectional contest. Check your rooms used for the competitions, verify with your judges while they are still present and ask for assistance from your state officer to help organization these results.

Then please send to the FFA Center so that we may record results in our database.

Thank you for making this a reality for your district speaking contestants.