

Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors Meeting

Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

January 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Alison Wedig at 1:08 pm.

Attendance: Alison Wedig, Ethan Dado, Maggie Larson, Matt Kortbein, Danielle Jentz, Kaitlyn Owens, Sally Albers, Leeah Luepke, Hallie Kopczynski, Kelly Wilfert, Kati Kindschuh, Mr. Lobdell, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Boettcher, Mrs. Bailey, Ms. Babcock, Ms. Houser, Mr. Talford, Mr. Zimmerman, Mrs. Lietz, Mrs. Propson, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Hicken, Ms. Schoenborn

Alison and Mrs. Zimmerman welcomed the group and reviewed the procedure of the FFA Board of Directors.

REPORTS:

Alison Wedig gave an update on the State Officers, covering Sectional Leadership Workshops, FIRE Conferences, chapter visits, National FFA Convention, the December meeting, and Half-Time Conference preparations. She also made note that we are now just five months from State FFA Convention and briefly touched on some of the changes made to convention committees.

Mrs. Zimmerman provided a Wisconsin FFA Center report. As of January 8, 2015, there are 244 paid affiliated chapters. Lakeside Lutheran had fees waived this year, and Fall River is currently inactive. The Wisconsin FFA Center Summer Assistant Position will be posted after Half-Time. Mrs. Zimmerman will be attending the National Ag Ed Summit in Indianapolis on January 27-29. Mrs. Zimmerman and the State Officers will continue working to prepare for the State FFA Alumni Convention, FFA board meetings, and Farm Forum.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that the Wisconsin FFA Foundation has currently raised \$288,842.05 of the 2014-15 campaign year goal of \$510,000. As of January 1, 2015, Blue and Gold Society membership has increased to a contribution of \$15,000 over three years or less. The Leaders' Legacy campaign targeting past state officers has been enacted, and the Star Mission Partner Program has currently raised \$60,000 for the year. The Annual Report has been finalized and is at the printer. \$18,000 in Supervised Agricultural Experience grants were awarded this year. Jennifer Bradley began her duties as the Foundation's new Marketing Coordinator in January.

State Convention Speaker Report

Alison and Mrs. Zimmerman reported on the following speakers based on research from the State Officer team, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Ms. Schoenborn: Josh Sundquist, LeRoy Butler, Kelly Barnes, Gabe Salazar, Barrett Keene, Brooks Gibbs, Mark Black (last minute contact, waiting for a response), John O'Leary (last minute contact, waiting for response), Harriet Turk (mixed reviews), Jermain Davis

Josh Sundquist, Donald Driver, Bo Ryan, David Edward Garcia, and Dave Roever were either too pricey, did not reply, or were not contacted.

Top Four to Continue Discussions: LeRoy Butler, Gabe Salazar, Barrett Keene, Jermain Davis

OLD BUSINESS

“Ratification by States” Amendment

This amendment (which failed at the 2014 National FFA Convention) was proposed again by both Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Wisconsin had considered pulling the proposal to give states a break from the amendment. The State Officer team and advisors decided not to pull the proposal, as it will be stronger with two states sponsoring it.

Ethan Dado suggested submitting a proposal for next year for an amendment to make all constitutional amendment votes done by ballot. If someone elects to do this, it will be due at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership

Mr. Hicken reported that there are four chapters who submitted late rosters. Per the Wisconsin FFA Constitution, these chapters can be placed on probation unless the presiding State Officer team decides otherwise at the January Board of Directors Meeting.

Late Rosters: WI Rapids, Pittsville, New London, Ripon

Sally moved to place Wisconsin Rapids, Pittsville, Ripon, and New London on probation. Ethan seconded. Ethan moved to amend the main motion by striking Ripon. Sally seconded. Discussion followed about standards and teacher retention. Amendment passed unanimously through State Officers. Amendment sustained by State Officer advisors. Motion passed unanimously through State Officers and sustained by State Officer advisors.

Mr. Hicken reported that there are about 30 chapters who are late on their initial membership dues. Sally moved to give chapters who have not submitted their dues a two week notice before being put on probation. Ethan seconded. Discussion ensued about how quickly schools can push a check through and leniency if they contact Mr. Hicken within that two weeks about that school check issue. Policy about dues payment before being allowed to compete will be brought up and discussed in March. Motion passed unanimously through State Officers and advisors.

Discussions about schools with no licensed agricultural education teacher and possible charter revocations (Algoma, Frederick, Alma, GB West) will be moved to the February agenda.

Program of Activities and Chapter Constitutions

Lists of POAs and Constitutions missing were handed out by Mrs. Zimmerman. It was suggested to mail good examples to missing chapters. Mrs. Zimmerman could also send the POA from the previous year out to the chapter.

State FFA Officer Banquet/Special Event Travel Reimbursement Proposal

Mrs. Zimmerman and Alison Wedig presented a proposal for a new form of reimbursing State Officers for banquets and special events. They requested advisor feedback with the plan that the proposal will be brought back up after additional development at the February meeting; Ethan moved to accept the proposal as read. Leah seconded. Ethan moved to postpone to our next scheduled meeting that the team accept the reimbursement form for special events. Sally seconded. Motion passed by State Officers and sustained by advisors.

Sectional Speaking Contests

Mrs. Zimmerman gave sectional speaking contest information to the advisors and reviewed the process for preparing for the sectional contests.

Membership Update

Mr. Hicken gave a quick current membership update: 5,435 through affiliation, 16,767 current membership. There is a ton of potential to grow, as evidenced by past years.

State Fair Stipend

Mr. Hicken and Ms. Schoenborn reported that State Officers will be receiving a State Fair stipend of about \$178. Because of new funding from the Foundation for State Officer activities, less of this stipend was utilized to pay for officer expenses at State Fair and therefore will be able to be given to State Officers. Mr. Hicken will work to get the voucher set up and sent out to the State Officers in the coming week.

Announcements:

February Board of Directors Meeting, Feb 19-20, WI Rapids

Thursday, February 19, 2015

5:00 pm optional dinner

6:30 pm meeting

9:30 pm advisor state degree orientation and State Officer work session

Friday, February 20, 2015

8:00 am: advisors and State Officers review state degrees

Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the Half Time Conference program.

Danielle Jentz moved to adjourn. Maggie Larson seconded. Motion passed, and sustaining action was taken by advisors. The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Wilfert

Wisconsin Association of FFA
2014-15 State Secretary