

**Wisconsin Association of FFA
State FFA Board of Directors Meeting
February 16, 2007
Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, WI**

The Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:11 a.m. by State FFA President Matt Anderson. Members present were Andrew Christenson, Mr. Meyer, Lenny Polzin, Ms. Siegmund, Bridget Klinkner, Mr. Heinberg, Patrick Harker, Katie Falch, Ms. Houser, Ken Levzow, Mr. Bouwkamp, Melissa Ploeckelman, Mr. Wirkus, Jessica Berger, Mr. Raymakers, Ross Bender, Mr. Friend, Jenny Breuer, Mr. Selzler, Matt Anderson, Mr. Talford, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mr. Hicken. Ms. Ihm was not in attendance.

Matt Anderson thanked Ms. Siegmund for the treats she brought for our meetings. He also thanked all of the advisors for their long night of reviewing State FFA Degrees.

The January 5, 2007 Wisconsin Association of FFA Board Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

State FFA Officer Reports:

Louisiana Trip – The state officer team traveled to Erath, Louisiana to assist Hurricane Rita victims. While there, they recorded 238 hours of community service. They cleaned up and cleared fence lines and built fence along with learning more about what the people suffered through and are trying to rebuild. They also visited other points of interest in Louisiana and agricultural education programs.

CTSO Legislative Day – The state officer team and Mrs. Zimmerman attended a one-day meeting in Madison at the State Capitol building. They heard from and visited with several Representatives and Senators, along with the other CTSO state officers. Most of the state officers met with their Representative or Senator or someone on their office staff.

State FFA Alumni Convention – This year's FFA Alumni Convention was held in Tomah. The state officers had the opportunity to help with the auctions, present a workshop on bridging the gap between FFA chapters and alumni affiliates, as well as present their reflections program. The micro-cows that were created by last year's state officers and on display at State FFA Convention last year were auctioned off at the alumni convention "live" auction Friday evening. The state officers also offered a basket of leadership training at the basket auction Saturday evening. The Sauk Prairie FFA Alumni bought the State Officer Leadership Basket for \$800.

District Speaking Contests – Mrs. Zimmerman reported that not all of the District Speaking contests were finished at the time of the Board Meeting due to the cold weather and school cancellations. Overall, the contests are going well. The number of entries are down at this point however a final count has not be done. The final count will be available at the March Board Meeting. Each advisor and state officer received a copy of the results submitted at the time of the Board meeting. They were to review the results and let Mrs. Zimmerman know if any corrections needed to be made.

Discussion was held about conflicts that FFA speaking contests seem to have with forensics contests. It was suggested that we obtain a calendar from the State Forensics Association to see if we can find out when their contests are held to try and avoid conflicts if possible.

It was suggested considering a 3-week deadline for manuscripts and resumes to be received for the Prepared Speaking Contest and Job Interview contest. After discussion, it was decided to keep the original 2-week deadline.

A concern was brought forth about documentation for prepared speaking manuscripts by some judges. However, the Wisconsin Association of FFA follows the documentation rules that National FFA has established. We will continue to follow the National FFA rule on documentation and bibliography.

A concern was brought forth from some advisors in Section 4, that some districts have no quiz bowl team participation and others have multiple teams. They are interested in exploring the idea that allows quiz bowl teams from other districts to fill the six spots for sectional speaking contests. This would have to be in a formal proposal and ultimately something that would go before the delegates. Discussion was also held concerning this issue that it would not only affect quiz bowl teams, it would affect all contests and may also affect other activities and contests. Further research would have to be done on this as to the change in the structure of the current speaking contests. No formal decision was made on this issue as it was only brought forth as a concern and not a formal proposal.

Sectional Speaking Contests – Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed and answered any questions that the advisors and state officers had about hosting their Sectional Speaking Contests. March 5 is the first sectional speaking contest in Bonduel. Don't forget to use the result sheets in the handbook, and make sure they are correct with correct spellings! All contestants get placed, no ties.

Update on National FFA Week Activities – Matt Anderson presented a grid of assignments to the FFA Board of Directors indicating all the activities that the state FFA officers will be involved in during FFA Week. Many of the activities are with local FFA chapters. Radio and TV interviews are also scheduled. Mrs. Zimmerman has written an FFA article that may be used by all for FFA week promotion.

State FFA Executive Director and State Advisor Reports:

National Ag Ed Inservice – Mr. Hicken reported on his attendance at the National Ag Ed Inservice in Indianapolis. Bidding will begin for National FFA Convention - 15 cities are being reviewed. After the 2008 National Convention, they will announce where the National Convention will move after Indianapolis. Total cost of National Convention the last year in Louisville was just over \$5 million. Several topics were discussed concerning Branding, FFA Dues and upcoming proposed changes to the American FFA Degree.

Jag Lake Update - Mr. Hicken informed the Board that Mr. Chuck Allen will care for the grounds and cabin again this year. He has been presented with a formal contract and is set for the 2007 summer.

Stars and Proficiency Judging – Advisors are welcome to assist. The judging begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday March 9. It resumes at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 10. This is being held at the Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells.

Update on State Activities – There is no official band and choir number yet as far as applications submitted. Wisconsin has two National FFA presenters this year, including former state officer Angie Kringle and a past Spencer member Ben Bauer. WLC scholarship deadline is March 1. Ag Issues, Ag Communications, Marketing, Opening Ceremonies, and the Agri Science Fair need more and continued promotion to chapters.

Operation Stand Solid – This community service program's goal is to collect shoes for Iraqi children. State Convention will be the last drop off point before the shoes are shipped out. There is hope for a lot of media coverage on this new program. Thanks to Mr. Gary Olson from the Fort Atkinson FFA Chapter for presenting this idea to the state FFA officers and helping to allow this project to become a statewide activity.

Old Business:

Membership Update - Membership is continually being submitted to National FFA. The rosters have been difficult this year. The online roster will be used next year to eliminate some of these problems. Good results have come from those that used the online system this school year. After the final deadline for membership rosters, the following chapters were placed on probation – Palymra-Eagle and Red Cliff Bayfield. The Hudson FFA Chapter is on prohibited status. The Hudson FFA charter will not be pulled at this time due to a conversation with Mr. Hicken and the Hudson High School Principal. However, they are prohibited from participating in state and national activities at this time.

Unified Branding - Efforts are continuing with the project and now at the point of reviewing some tools that chapters and that Team Ag Ed can use. A website with a Team Ag Ed logo is being developed as well as promotional materials that can be taken from the website are being considered.

Section Realignment – This was passed at the 2006 State Convention and will now take effect at the 2007 State Convention. The Business Session at the Convention will be run by the new boundaries and the 2007-08 State FFA Officer team will be elected based on the 2007 Sections.

New Business:

New State Officer Voucher Rule - State officer vouchers need to be in on time or payments will not be made to the officers. There will be a new statement placed on the voucher that indicates a final deadline for summer expenses. These expenses have to be submitted no later than September 15 or they will not be able to be reimbursed since the fiscal year of the Association ends September 30. Suggestions for any changes with the voucher should be sent to Mr. Hicken. This is procedure through the DPI and will be used in working with state officers to encourage more timely submission of vouchers by all officers.

State FFA Degree - Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a revised list of the activities above the chapter level that are eligible for the minimum requirement for State FFA Degree. This list will be finalized and then brought forth at the March Board Meeting. The list includes some of the new activities added in the past few years as well as better define some activities.

There was discussion that since National FFA is adding a community service requirement to all degrees and that Wisconsin will also follow this recommendation and this would need to be added to the application once approved by the delegates. We need to better define several of the requirements for the state degree especially the requirement as to what constitutes a financial error that would not allow a degree to meet minimum qualifications.

There was a suggestion to make an SAE guideline so that advisors understand what SAEs are acceptable for receiving the state degree and also helping students and advisors understand how they are to explain their SAEs on page 2. It was discussed if having advisors attend an application training before submitting applications to the state level would help eliminate some of the common problems with state degrees. These were all just suggestions. No decisions were made on these items. Mrs. Zimmerman will work on these ideas for the March Board Meeting.

State Convention Update:

Speakers: State FFA Sentinel Lenny Polzin has a list of possible speakers and asked for further suggestions. He is working on getting more speakers researched so a final decision can be made at the March Board Meeting. Michael Peterson is a confirmed speaker and entertainment for Tuesday evening.

State FFA Vice President Katie Falch and chairman of the Convention Tours committee has 10 tour ideas being considered.

The School Administrator's lunch may not happen this year. There needs to be funding secured for this event before it can take place.

Housing reservation forms were sent around for both the advisors and state officers to indicate their room reservations for convention. Final reservations will be done at the March Board Meeting.

The next Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors Meeting will be held March 13 and 14 in Madison at the Clarion Suites Hotel.

Melissa Ploeckelman, State FFA Parliamentarian moved to adjourn the meeting. Jessica Berger, State FFA Treasurer seconded the motion. State Officers and Advisors passed the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Jenny Breuer, 2006-07 State FFA Secretary