

2024 Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters Association Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Green Bay KI Convention Center, 12:30 PM

The 44th annual meeting of the Association was called to order by President Bobbie Jo Montgomery at 12:35 PM. State FFA Reporter Jescey Thompson led the group in the pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Schlies was introduced as being our official certified parliamentarian for the meeting and he will be assisted by State FFA Parliamentarian Henry Koerner. Members were reminded that in order to do any voting at the meeting they must have their validating voting card to confirm their membership has been cleared. An official head count of delegates was taken to confirm 177 eligible voters.

Minutes from the 2023 annual meeting are printed in the program for member review. Rick Bockhop, Platteville, moved to accept the minutes as printed from the 2023 annual meeting. Ken Harter, Oconto Falls, seconded the meeting. Motion passed.

Terri Wilfert assumed the position of chair. She moved to forward Bobbie Jo Montgomery to the position of Past President, Grant Staszak to President, and Nick Lowe to President Elect. Mary Gundrum from Mayville seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was one candidate, Chris Blank from Cashton, who declared his candidacy for Vice President prior to convention. There was an opportunity to take nominations from the floor, but candidates were reminded they must have proof of a background check to run. It was asked 3 times for nominations. There were none. Mark Ladsten from Sauk Prairie moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Chris Blank as the 2024-25 Vice President. Gene Hetebrueg from Kewaskum seconded the motion. This motion requires a 2/3 vote so had to be counted. Motion passed.

FFA Family members were present at the meeting to share greetings and updates.

Cheryl Zimmerman, Executive Director Wisconsin Association of FFA – She thanked alumni for all of their leadership and help throughout the past year. Anything the alumni members can do to assist FFA members and Ag teachers is crucial. She was excited to report that FFA is now being offered to 5th and 6th grade students. We have added a program at LaCrosse and Nathan Hale Academy Charter School in Milwaukee. She invited the alumni to the state FFA convention upcoming June 10-13 at Madison. There is a lot of help needed as well.

Glenda Crook, Managing Director of Chapter and Member Program of Wisconsin FFA – Her new role has involved organizing all of the LDE activities, State and American FFA degrees, Proficiency award applications. She is working on updating applications and the website, as well as resources for CDE events. There are a lot of questions received from ag teachers so that is also a priority. She is also working to develop assistance and support with the SAE for All initiative.

Abi Quinlan, Executive Director Wisconsin FFA Foundation – Working on Scholarships currently. Hosted fall SAE grants and currently planning golf outings and fall gala event. Trying to develop a digital ambassador program and work with Alumni to solicit new Living to Serve sponsors.

Sally Ladstan, Wisconsin DPI Agricultural Education Consultant for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources – She shared that the numbers of certified ag instructors is short and there are open positions, even with several positions being filled with the work base experienced teachers. We need to remember Agriculture Education is based on the 3-circle model, not just FFA. In classroom instruction and Supervised Agriculture Experiences are vital to a sound program. She said we need to engage and network as much as possible. 4 students, 4 teachers and 4 Agriculture.

Kathy Hartman Breunig WAAE Executive Director. – There are lots of teacher changes so Alumni support is more vital now than ever. We are utilizing retired teacher mentors and helping to develop hands on lessons. We hosted a Day on the Hill for students and advisors. It was well received. We have some national winners, Mary Handrich Region 3 Outstanding Instructor and Roger King received a Lifetime Achievement award.

Grant Staszak assumed the podium to present the financial report of the association. The budget is prepared and approved by the council each year, but we shared our highlights, goals and plans for the 2024 year.

Grant next handled the motion for the council recommended bylaws changes. Motion by Rene' Lehman, Waupaca to accept the proposed bylaws change of ARTICLE VI – Annual Convention and General Membership Meetings

Section I. The annual convention of the Association shall be held in the month of February. The council has the right to modify the date outside of February in the event of necessity.

Motion seconded by Troy Talford, Sauk. Motion requires 2/3 vote so cards were used. Motion passed.

Nick Lowe assumed the position of chair to manage the recommended council resolutions. The following resolutions were all proposed by the alumni state council.

1. Council recommends that we seat the following council members for their first 3-year term, Todd Coons, Jerry Wendt, Brook Woodbury, Stacy Boettcher, and Mary Gundrum, and William Litzer and Nicole Wallander for their 2nd 3-year term.
2. Council recommends that we thank the following retiring council members for their dedicated service and commitment to the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association: Terri Wilfert, Dave Clausen, Rene' Lehman and Gene Hetebreug.
3. Council recommends that we take a moment of silence for FFA Alumni members, friends and family who have passed on throughout the year, especially remembering council member Jerry Larsen, and including those involved in the military forces who continue to defend our country and what she stands for. Let us remember them and all they have accomplished.
4. The Association would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the farmers and agriculture workers throughout the state and to show them our support.

Penny Kottke of Oakfield moved to accept the resolutions as presented. Moyza West of Wisconsin Heights seconded the motion.

Motion by Rick Bockhop to amend resolution 1 to include Nick Huffman to his 1st one year term. Mike Sabel seconded the Amendment. Vote was called on amendment and it passed.

Main motion was then voted on to approve all resolutions. Motion passed.

Bobbie Jo Montgomery assumed meeting chair from Nick to close the meeting. We announced to make sure and check out Walter Taylors CDE Boot Camp display in the Foyer area. Meat raffle ticket sales will end at 4:45 with the drawing at 5 PM. Be sure to check out the awesome workshops this afternoon. The silent auction will end at 4:30.

Moyza West of Wisconsin Heights moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark Ladsten of Sauk seconded the motion. Motion passed at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Steinbach, Executive Director