

**Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors Meetings
February 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM
The Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order by State FFA President, Amelia Hayden, at 6:52 on February 14th, 2019. Amelia also gave a brief welcome.

Attendance:

Cheryl Zimmerman.....Executive Director
Jeff Hicken.....State Advisor
Amelia Hayden.....State President
Lisa Konkell.....Big Foot Advisor
Sarah Calaway.....State Vice President
Mary Handrich.....Denmark Advisor
Marty Nowak.....Denmark Advisor
Collin Weltzien.....State Vice President
Kevin Whalen.....Arcadia Advisor
Amber Patterson.....State Vice President
Madeline Bode.....River Ridge Advisor
Mitchell Schroepfer.....State Treasurer
Shalynn Domke.....Antigo Advisor
Gaelan Combs.....State Sentinel
Jamie Morris.....Verona Advisor
Angie Midthun-Hensen.....Verona Advisor
Alexis Kwak.....State Vice President
Courtney Deetz.....Prairie Farm Advisor
Paige Nelson.....State Secretary
Katie Christenson.....Ellsworth Advisor
Emily Kruse.....State Parliamentarian
Dave Kruse.....Elkhorn Advisor
Ashley Hagenow.....State Reporter
Andi Cooper.....Rio Advisor
Jillian Tyler.....State Vice President
Katie Reider.....Granton Advisor

State secretary, Paige Nelson, directed everyone's attention to the meeting minutes from the January 11th Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors Meeting. Jillian Tyler made a motion to accept the secretary's report as read and Emily Kruse seconded. The motion to approve the secretary's report passed.

Next on the agenda was an update from the State Officer Team on CTSO Day at the Capitol and Alumni Convention. CTSO Day was cancelled due to weather. Mitchell Schroepfer and Gaelan Combs gave the update for Alumni Convention. Mitchell Schroepfer started off, the team had a lot of fun helping set up the silent and live auctions. Sarah did a great job inputting auction items

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and keeping paperwork in order during item check in. The Parliamentary Procedure workshop went well even though a small group attended. Gaelan Combs added the Alumni Involvement workshop was also a small group. The team also helped during the business session by counting votes. Mrs. Zimmerman added, Mrs. Steinbach had amazing things to say about all the help the state officers provided. Mr. Hicken also noted the State Officers also helped pass baskets during the Saturday night auction to collect donations for the Fossum and Arneson Families.

Mr. Hicken gave a brief update on the money raised during alumni convention for the Fossum and Arneson families. The total raised between the baskets and the baskets from Denmark that was auctioned off came to \$4620. The Arneson Family want their half to go to the Fossum Family since they face limited damage. \$120 of the total will be used to purchase giftcards for the Arneson Family, the remaining \$4500 will be donated to the Fossum family. It is impressive how willing people are to give to people in need after tragedy.

The next item of business was District Leadership Development Events. Mrs. Zimmerman provided the most up to date list of dates. Bloomer and Chippewa Falls are hosting their events tonight. Usually at this time most of the contests would be completed. Mrs. Zimmerman also distributed records of results, although some of the more recent contests haven't been as thoroughly checked as the FFA Center usually prefers. As of right now there are no rule violations the FFA Center is aware of.

We continued discussing Leadership Development Events by asking for suggestions for the future. Mr. Whalen inquired about discussion meet being run differently because that was a question in their district. At the district event giving time for contestants to prepare their opening statement couldn't be found in the rules. Amelia Hayden, thought she recalled the opening statement preparation time being in the moderator's directions. Sarah Calaway suggested printing off the rubrics for each contest to include in the State Officer binder.

Mrs. Zimmerman and Mr. Hicken then updated us on their meeting regarding state fair stalling. Although the meeting should have happened well before any decisions were made or letters were sent, everyone left with miscommunications being cleared and more understanding. There were organization staff people present from FFA, Jr. Breeds, and 4-H, Mr. Bolen, and a few parents. This year stalling will be by county and a lead adult (who is background checked and approved by state fair) will be assigned to each county. Mr. Bolen needs to verify this with his risk management team still, however state fair has already taken on liability in the dorms. Junior breed organizations will be allowed to have their own display and will be held to the same rules and standards as county groups. This year state fair will be using dairy as a pilot to try the new system with lead adults. In addition to new changes for state fair, FFA band and chorus will no longer have adults in student rooms as chaperones at state fair. All chaperones will stay in an all adult room. This may also mean we only need half as many adults to chaperone state fair band and chorus students.

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Mrs. Zimmerman updated us that although Mr. Monte Dunham is retiring as the band director in the high school he will continue to work with the Wisconsin FFA Band.

Our next item of business was to discuss the changed to Hall of Stars this year due to the proficiency award changes. Mrs. Zimmerman, Mr. Hicken, and Mr. Hromyak worked on a plan for a way proficiency areas can be displayed by the state finalists. The association will purchase and provide black display boards for each proficiency area. They will also provide a sign which includes the sponsor and area. The students will be asked to bring a photo of themselves and four photos of their SAEs and descriptions. Materials will be available Tuesday for students to work together to attach their photos and finish their display. Students will be able to bring small extra things for the display as well such as candy to hand out or a toy cow or tractor to display. This year students will be able to take turns at the display with the other finalists. A premade indicator such as a star will be ready to place next to the area winner after the proficiency session and the winner will be able to bring the board home.

Next, as a board we talked about honorary degree and hall of fame nominations. Each state officer collaborated with their advisor to vote for three individuals. Gordie Gash, Ken Natzke, and Victoria Harder are the three people we are nominating as Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors. We would also suggest putting Ken and Victoria together. This was a unanimous consent. Mrs. Konkel suggested Rick Henningfeld as an honorary degree recipient if he has not received the degree already, we are looking into if he has been given the honorary degree yet.

Our next item was to discuss State FFA Convention. Mrs. Christenson asked if we could move ag issues and ag marketing and do them with CDEs since they are technically CDEs. At this time, they are so small, they would need to grow in participation or someone would have to be willing to take them on in order to take place somewhere aside from convention. Mr. Kruse inquired about the School Officials program, are the numbers struggling and what types of programs usually have officials attend? Usually there is a split between well-established programs and newer programs represented. Mrs. Zimmerman added, make sure all the state officer school officials are invited and provide a formal invitation. The state officer also brings their school official(s) on stage during session five.

Mr. Nowak added that sessions are too long and we should consider cutting out or cutting down the length of inspirational messages. It was also suggested to consider giving IMs pre-session. Mrs. Zimmerman was concerned about getting attention of audience during pre-session time. IMs are also the final time state officers get to give a small bit of inspiration to FFA Members. If the state officers are putting the time, thought, and preparation into them they will be meaningful and bring the entire session together. State Officers need to build their IMs into their sessions more and make it cohesive. Mrs. Zimmerman added the past few years we have been starting pre-session, run-ins, videos, etc. before the published start time of sessions in order for session to start at the published time. Mrs. Christenson suggested making a video

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prior to convention about the value of a session. Sessions get long and we get tired but a lot of time and effort when into the accomplishments being recognized on stage. Mrs. Konkel also suggested reading audience cues, don't have the audience clap again if they just gave a long round of applause. Amber Patterson suggested doing opening ceremonies once in session one with all the Vice Presidents together like they do the final session. Mrs. Reider brought up that the retiring advisors do the advisor part during each session. Mr. Hicken suggested we could recognize them with nice bios during sessions. Mrs. Konkel, said she wouldn't care to retire onstage, however Mr. Whalen said that needs to be kept because it's the people who give FFA the "flavor" not the corduroy.

Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the procedures of election of State President. Anyone interested should let Mrs. Zimmerman and Mr. Hicken know by April 18th, remember you cannot add your name in later but you can always pull it out later. At State CDEs interested state officers will meet with Mr. Hicken, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mr. Hromyak to talk about willingness to take on the responsibility and if each person considering is prepared. Election takes place on Thursday morning of convention and the team elects one of their teammates.

Mitchell Schroepfer asked why National Officer Candidate Selection is after State President election. Mrs. Zimmerman shared that in the past some state officers want to run for president and if they don't get president they still have the opportunity to run for National Officer Candidate. Before that National Officer Candidate selection was in March. Mitchell brought up that it in regards to prioritizing it seems backwards for someone to "settle" for national officer candidate if they aren't elected president. Most would think that National Officer Candidate would be your first option and president would be your section option and to have that opportunity still there if you are not selected as National Officer Candidate. We are also giving our National Officer Candidate a disadvantage right away because of the short turn around and many other states having almost a year to prepare. Mrs. Zimmerman added in Wisconsin we have older teams than many states so it doesn't give us the flexibility to choose a national officer candidate as far in advance, but she doesn't disagree more time to prepare would be better. Emily Kruse added, extra time is needed if you want to have successful National Officer Candidates, National Officer Candidate selection needs to be reevaluated. On the current National Officer Team, 3 of the 6 members ran once before getting national office. Amelia Hayden directed the conversation to Mrs. Konkel and asked her when the trainings took place and about Alicia's experience preparing. Mrs. Konkel shared that Alicia had put together a plan in high school and started preparing mentally during that time as a high schooler. The trainings took place in the summer and one in September. Alicia participated in 3 to 4 of them and her scores and rank improved each time. Part of National Office is about who you are genuinely. Mrs. Christenson brought up why all advisors aren't emailed about National Officer Candidate selection process. Any student who meets the requirements can apply, it isn't a requirement to be a past state officer. Mr. Whalen added some insight as to why president has been decided first in the past, due to the American degree deadline students who submitted applications

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didn't always know if they were for sure getting their degree. Mr. Nowak added that initiative needs to be taken years prior and it seems strange to not want to run for state officer but want to be a national officer. Mitchell added that if multiple people have put in the time and want to run for national officer candidate and it is decided first then whoever isn't selected still has the opportunity to serve as state president if they wish to run and get it. Ms. Dietz, assumed someone had to serve as a state officer before running for national officer candidate. Mrs. Zimmerman asked what do we do if the selected national officer candidate wanted to run for president. Multiple people suggested and agreed national officer candidates would have to be locked in and sign an agreement that by accepting they are the national officer candidate they are giving up their eligibility for state president. Mrs. Christenson asked about what funds were available to national officer candidates. The foundation has leadership partner's funds for training and preparation of the national officer candidate. We decided more discussion would take place at the March meeting.

Mrs. Zimmerman moved on to Convention Housing. The hotels the Association has blocks at are the Clarion, Sheraton, and Comfort Inn. Usually the FFA Board of Directors is housed at the Clarion. There are many different types of rooms available. In March have what reservations you would like decided.

Mrs. Bode asked how many students is she asked to bring as a state officer advisor. Bring students for courtesy corps. Advisors are also responsible for hosting LDEs, Sectional Meetings, help backstage, guarding cutouts, workshops, chaperone trips the dance and concert.

Our March meeting will be held in Madison at the Clarion all day on Friday March 15th beginning at 8:30 AM. This is different from the past due to National Ag Day planning. The state officer will have a short meeting at the conclusion of the board of directors meeting then everyone is free to go home Friday evening.

Jillian Tyler moved the adjourn the meeting and Gaelan Combs seconded the motion. The motion passed and sustaining action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Nelson
2018-2019 Wisconsin FFA Secretary