

**Minutes**  
**Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 12, 2008**  
**Clarion Suites Hotel - Madison, Wisconsin**

President Andrew Christenson called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. Those present included: Aaron Dietsche, Mr. Fossum, Alex Patten, Mr. Danielson, Nick Palkowski, Mr. Stoppelmoor, Preston Green, Mrs. Gehrke, Marie Mahaney, Mrs. Beaty, Brad Krueger, Mrs. Jones, Whitney Peissig, Mr. Wirkus, Mrs. Raatz, Kaleb Santy, Mr. Schaffner, Sean VanderWaal, Mr. Friend, Derrick Papcke, Mr. Kruse, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman. Guests present included: Mr. Ken Seering, Mrs. Mary Gagnon and Mr. Ralph Johnson. This meeting was held at the Clarion Suites Hotel in Madison.

Andrew Christenson welcomed the Board of Directors to Madison. Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the agenda for the Board meeting, and then welcomed our guest speakers – Mr. Seering, Mrs. Gagnon and Mr. Johnson.

The minutes from the February Board of Directors meeting were presented. Andrew Christenson asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none. There was a motion by Aaron Dietsche to approve the February Board of Directors Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Derrick Papcke. Motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported from the Wisconsin FFA Center with an update on activities. Sectional Speaking Contests were now complete and there was no rescheduling needed this year. Speaking contests did see a decreased number in events. However, there was a record for the highest participation in the Prepared Speaking Contest since 1994. The rosters for State FFA Band and Chorus will be published by the end of the week. The final number of State Degrees received was 490. Students were sent their degrees today if changes needed to be made; they have until April 1 to return those to the FFA Center. Star and Proficiency Judging was held on March 7-8. There were 59 advisors along with staff, sponsors and college students there to help. They judged 738 applications; the results will be out by next week. There were approximately 193 American Degree applications that came into the FFA Center. Online registration for State Convention housing will be open next week. Please encourage CDEs for State Convention – registration is due April 1. MFE/EDGE will be the last weekend in March. The National Officer applicants will be judged at this time. Mrs. Zimmerman handed out the National FFA Convention proposals. The Wisconsin delegates will be voting on the American Degree requirements. There are two proposals, one concerning community service and the other concerning the hours and dollar amounts. Questions and concerns were taken on the items presented.

Mr. Hicken reported from DPI. The contract has been signed for three more years of State Convention at the Alliant Energy Center. In 2009 there will be an early convention: June 8-11. This will only be for one year due to an Airstream Convention being held that cannot be rescheduled. The Convention will be held at the normal time again in 2010. Agricultural-science equivalency project is moving fast. There has been some publicity from newspapers; the State Superintendent recognized groups that were working with this project. The Perkins applications will be coming out in three weeks. Mr. Hicken answered any questions and concerns.

A Wisconsin FFA Foundation update was given by Mrs. Gagnon, Foundation Executive Director. There was a mailing sent to past state officers, sponsors, alumni, chapters, etc. for contributions to the Foundation. This year there will be 52 scholarships given out, totaling \$34,250. The Foundation is hoping for more applicants this year – encourage all FFA members to apply. SAE scholarship participants were notified as the recipients of the Dairy SAE Initiative and the Organic Agriculture SAE Initiative. The Matthew D. Anderson Endowment Fund has acquired \$32,575. Mrs. Gagnon reminded the Board that with an Endowment Fund, the initial contributions can never be used and only the earnings from that fund can be spent. The Matthew D. Anderson Memorial Fund has acquired almost \$15,000 through the tractor sales. This money will be available for scholarships – five scholarships from Memorial Fund, plus five \$500 scholarships from the Anderson family will be awarded. Mrs. Gagnon finished her report by talking about all of the different events that the FFA Foundation does to raise money for the General Fund. Questions and concerns were addressed.

Mr. Seering, State FFA Alumni President reported on events of the State FFA Alumni. This year's theme for the State Alumni is: "As a Team We Can Achieve a Dream." Their dream is to help FFA members. This year they will be looking like a team also. They have purchased yellow and blue shirts that will be worn to any Alumni event. Mr. Seering said thank you for the State Officer's presence and positive influence at State FFA Alumni Convention and congratulations on becoming Lifetime members. The State FFA Alumni has three goals for each affiliate to accomplish this year: to establish an activity in each affiliate, to look for a student to be recognized that does not see much recognition, and to have fun! Alumni membership was due by March 1. Currently the Alumni have 110 affiliates and hopeful for more than 8,000 members. There will be a total of 20 WLC scholarships given out this year. The "Can Hunger" food drive has collected around 200,000 cans by now. There were 310 people that attended the Milwaukee Bucks game, and over 200 people at the Milwaukee Admirals game. The Alumni was able to raise \$2,000 for the Matthew D. Anderson Endowment fund. The Alumni newsletter and council meeting will be coming soon. The Milwaukee Brewers game is set for August 28. The State FFA Alumni will be doing a workshop at State FFA Convention to help promote Alumni participation to all the sections. The workshop is geared more towards FFA members that do not have an affiliate, and would like to start one. At the WAAE Professional Development Conference this summer, the Alumni hopes to have a workshop similar to the one at State FFA Convention, plus a booth and presentation. The State Leaders Conference is being hosted by Wisconsin this year. The Alumni is also hoping for a food booth at Farm Technology Days this year. Questions and concerns were answered.

Mr. Johnson, WAAE State President reported from WAAE. There will be a Professional Development Conference held in Madison in July. The theme is: "Celebrate in 2008." There are 70 workshops planned to get teachers rejuvenated for the school year and give them new ideas for their curriculum. The Region III NAAE Conference will be held in June. WAAE is working on getting sponsorship for this event. There will be workshops and tours available. AB83 was passed by the Assembly and is waiting for the Senate to approve the bill – it needs to be approved tomorrow, otherwise it's lost. Mr. Johnson said that it was wonderful to see the support of the bill and the push that has been made to ensure that it passes through the Senate. WAAE is working on updating their constitution and bylaws. WAAE is looking for community schools that do not have agricultural education programs. WAAE will hopefully establish one new agricultural education program starting next year in Barneveld. WAAE is working with teachers/ advisors to get agriculture-science equivalency. This is a positive thing in order to help grow agricultural programs. The Governor is considering adding a third year of required science in high school. This should also help agricultural programs. Mr. Richard Aide retired as the

WAAE Executive Director – currently Bridgett Neu has been hired to fill the position. WAAE currently has 304 members across state and the next WAAE meeting will be held on April 25 at State CDE Judging in Madison. Questions and concerns were answered.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported on upcoming events for the advisors on the Board. Sectional Speaking Contest results have been turned in and are being processed. She took questions and concerns from the sectional contests. Some suggestions were made for the job interview contest: maybe have a few different positions to apply for instead of leaving it open, participants must use real information and references for the contest, the rules should clarify “white” color and “bond” paper (contact National FFA to see their clarification on the requirements). Issues on the quiz bowl contest were also brought to the Board’s attention: should anyone but the participants be allowed in the contest room. It was suggested for the Discussion Meet that FFA should use the red and yellow cards, like in the Farm Bureau contest, for time limits instead of the moderator interrupting the discussion. Mrs. Zimmerman said thank you to the advisors and the State Officers for their hard work in putting together the sectional contests. The next event for the advisors on the Board to host is the Sectional Safe Tractor Operator Contest. Mrs. Zimmerman handed out a copy of the contest manual. It gives a step by step guide of what happens at the contest. Because Farm Technology Days will be in July, time will be needed to process the results from sectionals. Each advisor needs to set the date of the Sectional Tractor Contest by April 1. All contests need to be done by June 25. Be sure to get the shirt size of the member that advances to the state contest and the name needs to be spelled properly for the plaque. The exam will be sent to the hosts of the contest – there is no need to write one. Questions and concerns were answered.

The State Officers were called upon to present their reports on the State Committees they were appointed to. Kaleb Santy reported on behalf of the Policies/Constitutional/Bylaws Committee. The Committee has recommended two changes in the State Constitution and Bylaw to go before the delegates at the State FFA Convention. One recommendation is in Article VII – Section C to amend by adding “Middle school FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation blue discovery degree pin.” The second recommendation is in the Bylaws Section B, Number 1 to update the wording from annual Program of Work to annual Program of Activities. There was a motion by Kaleb Santy to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Marie Mahaney. The motion was passed by the State Officers and was sustained by the advisors.

Derrick Papcke reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. He was assisted by Mr. Hicken. The financial reports and budget were presented to the Board. The Wisconsin Association of FFA is in very good financial condition. Some fine-tuning of coding and accounts will be done to make the financial reports better to read and interrupt. Derrick Papcke moved to accept the report as given. It was seconded by Marie Mahaney. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Sean VanderWaal reported on behalf of the Membership Committee. The committee again presented the new award for recognizing the percentage of school populations involved in FFA as well as encourage the state officers to promote chapters to sign up more members before the final membership deadline. Sean VanderWaal moved to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Derrick Papcke. There was some discussion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Nick Palkowski reported on behalf of the New Awards and Programs Committee. He continues to work on the G.A.S. project to be posted on the Wisconsin FFA website as well as developing

an application form for a service grant. A motion was made by Nick Palkowski to accept the report as read. It was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion. The recommendation from last year's team for a High School Quiz Bowl contest at the State FFA Convention was discussed. Because of time constraints in preparing for State Convention this contest will not be able to occur at the upcoming Convention, but other options will be looked into including a workshop or presentation on a potential high school quiz bowl activity. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Marie Mahaney reported on behalf of the Public Relations Committee. The Committee continues to find ways to help with publicity for the Wisconsin Association of FFA. Continuing efforts are being encouraged to develop brochures and materials to promote the Wisconsin Association of FFA. There was a motion made by Marie Mahaney to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded by Sean VanderWaal. There was some discussion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Preston Green reported on behalf of the Service Committee. The Committee wants to finish up the Operation Stand Solid project. They are struggling with ideas for the upcoming State Convention. It was recommended to continue the work the "Can-Hunger" Project started through the Alumni. There was a motion made by Preston Green to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. There was some discussion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

The Board of Directors took a three minute recess.

Mrs. Zimmerman reported on the district realignment for sections 1, 6, and 9. She shared with the Board that official ballots were sent by e-mail to all the advisors in each of these sections and that a majority vote was reached on an option for each section. The outcome of the votes were presented to the Board. Section 1 selected Option 1, Section 6 voted to move Adams-Friendship and New Lisbon to different districts and Section 9 selected Option 2. Kaleb Santy moved to ratify the decision of the chapters in sections 1, 6 and 9 for the district realignments. The motion was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors. The district realignments will be implemented for next school year (2008-2009).

Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board about what they would like to do as far as making a contribution to the C. Coleman Harris Endowment fund. The fund would support the National Officers and their activities and since Coleman Harris's retirement, state associations of been encouraged to contribute to this fund. There was a motion made by Whitney Peissig to contribute \$300 to the C. Coleman Harris Endowment fund. The motion was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. There was some discussion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Mr. Hicken asked the Board about what they would like to have put on the popcorn canister. There was some discussion. There was a motion made by Kaleb Santy to recommend that Matt Anderson be put on the popcorn canister. The motion was seconded by Sean VanderWaal. There was some discussion. The motion was passed by the State Officers. Division of the house was called. A standing vote was then taken. The motion failed – three in favor, six opposed and one abstention. No sustaining action was needed by the advisors. There was a motion made by Kaleb Santy to put something "alumni-related" on the popcorn canister. The motion was seconded by Nick Palkowski. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Mr. Hicken reported on the potential event at the Milwaukee Mile. He is working with the Wisconsin Association of FFA and the Alumni to create an agreement to split the profits. The race will be held on June 20. Promotional materials will be available at a later date.

There were no submitted proposals from FFA chapters to the Wisconsin Association of FFA for Andrew Christenson to present to the Board.

Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman asked for nominations for the Honorary State FFA Degree. Nominations for this degree are due April 1. With now using the Honorary American Degree applications, we hope to have more applicants that can be forwarded on for Honorary American Degree recognition. Applications are available online and Bridgett Neu is assisting with the Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Awards and recognition this year.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked for recommendations on the updates to the State FFA Degree Handbook. These updates include things on accepted SAE programs for earning a State Degree, defining what agricultural education SAEs are, and the clarification of hours of agricultural education required and 24 months of membership. There are examples available of what a State Degree should include. Suggestions were made and discussion took place. The Board is referring this to the WAAE SAE committee for further recommendations.

Mrs. Zimmerman presented a proposal on behalf of the WAAE SAE committee. This is the same proposal presented last year concerning the change with the degrees and adding the community service requirement, which will also be presented to the National Delegates at the upcoming National Convention. Kaleb Santy moved to accept the proposal stating that the Wisconsin Association of FFA would include the community service hour requirements for the degrees when approved by the National FFA Organization. The motion was seconded by Sean VanderWaal. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors. This proposal will be presented to the delegates at the 2008 State FFA Convention.

Alex Patten presented a proposal regarding the State FFA Officer scholarship. It was proposed to split the \$750 scholarship into two separate parts, receiving a portion of the scholarship at the midpoint of the year, and the remainder at State Convention. Alex moved to accept this proposal as read. The motion was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. There was discussion. Question was called by Nick Palkowski. The Board proceeded to vote on the main motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Mr. Hicken discussed the mileage reimbursement rate for state officer travel. There was a motion made by Derrick Papcke to increase the mileage rate to \$0.35 – up from \$0.32, to be started for next year's state officer team. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Mrs. Zimmerman presented a proposal concerning Dale Carnegie Training. The proposal is for potential funding through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for state officers to attend the Dale Carnegie Course for Youth Training. There was a motion to accept the proposal as presented by Aaron Dietsche. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion. Question was called by Whitney Peissig. The Board proceeded to vote on the main motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors. This proposal will now be forward to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for their consideration and potential funding.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board for suggestions as to delegate issues that should be passed on to National FFA for this year's National Convention. Suggestions were made and included: Continue to recommend a national discussion meet contest and a national middle school quiz bowl contest.

Aaron Dietsche moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sean VanderWaal. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 am by President Andrew Christenson.

**Minutes**  
**Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 13, 2008**  
**Clarion Suites Hotel - Madison, Wisconsin**

President Andrew Christenson called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Those present included: Aaron Dietsche, Mr. Fossum, Alex Patten, Mr. Danielson, Nick Palkowski, Mr. Stoppelmoor, Preston Green, Mrs. Gehrke, Marie Mahaney, Mrs. Beaty, Brad Krueger, Mrs. Jones, Whitney Peissig, Mr. Wirkus, Mrs. Raatz, Kaleb Santy, Mr. Schaffner, Sean VanderWaal, Mr. Friend, Derrick Papcke, Mr. Kruse, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman. This meeting was held at the Clarion Suites Hotel in Madison.

Mrs. Zimmerman gave the Board an overview of the 2008 State Convention schedule. She highlighted some of the new events that are going to be happening – “Change Lives, Teach Agricultural Education” Program and a School Administrators’ lunch and program. She presented a draft of the administrator’s program. Mrs. Zimmerman asked for ideas and suggestions for the program from the Board.

Mrs. Zimmerman presented the Board’s assignments for State Convention. An assignment grid was passed out to everyone. Questions and concerns were answered. . The convention program will be updated. There was a discussion on the convention facilities. It is a possibility to get risers for seating. A discussion followed. The manager positions for convention were discussed; questions and concerns were answered. Mr. Friend will assist with the administrator’s program. Details on housing for State Convention were discussed. Parking passes will be available through orders – they need to be mailed before school gets out in order to receive them in time. Mrs. Zimmerman reviewed the menu for the meals that are being offered throughout convention. Suggestions were taken. There was a discussion on the convention stage set up. Other questions and concerns were answered.

Mrs. Zimmerman asked the Board for suggestions as to whom to invite to State Convention as special guests and greeters.

The Board of Directors took a three minute recess.

The State Officers were called upon to present their reports on the Convention Committees they were appointed to. Andrew Christenson reported on behalf of the Delegate Operations Committee. Andrew recommended one change for the committee this year to include Chapter Officer Training as a committee of discussion rather than Chapter Interaction. Sean VanderWaal moved to accept the report as presented by Andrew Christenson. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion. It was recommended to get more people involved by creating an online video/power point and to highlight being a delegate on the State Officer blogs. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Brad Krueger reported on behalf of the Convention Speakers Committee. The Board was given an update on the progress of the speakers chosen at the February Board meeting. The contracts for both Rhett Laubach and Ed Gerety were being processed and both will be presenting a workshop. Rhett Laubach will speak at the opening session and Ed Gerety is scheduled to speak on Tuesday night. The Convention Speakers Committee report was approved at the February Board meeting.

Kaleb Santy reported on behalf of the Convention Workshops Committee. There was a motion made by Kaleb Santy to approve the report as read. The motion was seconded by Marie Mahaney. The Board reviewed the program outline for the "Change Lives, Teach Agricultural Education" workshop. All the other new workshops were reviewed also. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Derrick Papcke reported on behalf of the Convention Tours Committee. There was a motion made by Derrick Papcke to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. Derrick Papcke reviewed the planned tours. It was said that better advertisement is needed. The opportunity for anyone to become a chaperone will be sent out on list-serve. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Sean VanderWaal reported on behalf of the Life Work Expo Committee. A motion was made by Sean VanderWaal to accept the report as read. It was seconded by Nick Palkowski. There was a discussion on the potential activities to have at the Expo. To become a Life Work Expo exhibitor, there is more information on the Foundation website. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Aaron Dietsche reported on behalf of the Seating and Courtesy Corps Committee. There was a motion by Aaron Dietsche to accept the report as read. It was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion on different ideas, and suggestions on information provided to courtesy corps members. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Alex Patten reported on behalf of the Meals and Receptions Committee. There was a motion by Alex Patten to approve the report as read. The motion was seconded by Sean VanderWaal. There was some discussion and recommendations made on the State Degree luncheon. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Marie Mahaney reported on behalf of the Partner and Relations Committee. There was a motion made by Marie Mahaney to approve the report as presented. It was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. The Board was given an overview of the activities stated in the proposal. The State officers approved the motion and it was sustained by the advisors.

Whitney Peissig reported on behalf of the Contest Committee. There was a motion made by Whitney Peissig to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion about the parliamentary procedure speaking contest rules and regulations. Suggestions were made. There was a motion made by Nick Palkowski to amend the Contest Committee report by adding that we will have a task force look into the parliamentary procedure contest rules and regulations. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. The State Officers passed the amendment and it was sustained by the advisors. The Board proceeded to vote on the main motion. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Sean VanderWaal reported on behalf of the Special Projects Committee. There was a motion made by Sean VanderWaal to accept the report as read. It was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. There was some discussion – maybe bring a truck from the Milwaukee Mile into convention to help advertise the event. Other ideas and suggestions were made. It was also suggested that during LifeWork Expo a quiz-type activity be implemented to help develop the idea of a high school quiz bowl event. Nick was going to check with NAAE on their activity that was used at the National Convention. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Whitney Peissig reported on behalf of the Past State Officer Committee. There was a motion made by Whitney Peissig to approve the report as read. It was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Marie Mahaney reported on behalf of the Decorations Committee. There was a motion made by Marie Mahaney to accept the report as presented. It was seconded by Kaleb Santy. There was some discussion and recommendations made. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Nick Palkowski reported on behalf of the AV Committee. There was a motion made by Nick Palkowski to approve the report as read. It was seconded by Whitney Peissig. There was some discussion, suggestions and other ideas presented. It has been recommended to add some fun video commercials to sessions. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Brad Krueger reported on behalf of the Pre-session Committee. There was a motion made by Brad Krueger to accept the report as presented. It was seconded by Aaron Dietsche. There was some discussion. Pre-session activities have to be timed out and planned exactly as to what will be occurring before each session. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors.

Preston Green reported on behalf of the Sprit Stick Committee. There was a motion made by Preston Green to accept the report as read. It was seconded by Alex Patten. There was some discussion. The spirit stick is a point of pride for chapters – we can't limit who can receive it. The motion was passed by the State Officers and was sustained by the advisors.

Nick Palkowski reported on behalf of the Hall of Fame Committee. The committee has not yet met to make recommendations for 2008 nominees.

Andrew Christenson opened the floor to the Board for a discussion on any other ideas for State Convention. It is a concern that the length of sessions is too long. Possible ways to cut down on the time include: cutting the number of awards presented on stage in each category and cutting down on the number of representatives speaking at the beginning of each session. To break up the sessions the State Officers will place their inspirational moments in scattered spots. The possibility of adding another session was mentioned.

There was a motion made by Sean VanderWaal to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kaleb Santy. The motion was passed by the State Officers and sustained by the advisors. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. by President Andrew Christenson.