

**Wisconsin Association of FFA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 11th, 2022 – From All Corners of Wisconsin - Madison, WI**  
**Opened: 9:13 a.m.**

**Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was opened at 9:13 a.m. by State FFA President Ben Styer.

**Attendance:**

Mrs. Cheryl Zimmerman..... Wisconsin FFA Association Executive Director  
Mrs. Sally Ladsten.....Wisconsin FFA State Advisor/ DPI Advisor  
Mrs. Abi Quinlan..... Wisconsin FFA Foundation Executive Director  
Ben Styer..... State President  
Katie Zimmer..... State Vice President  
Casey Denk..... State Vice President  
Amara Livingston .....State Parliamentarian  
Ms. Christine Jumbeck.....Cochrane Fountain City Advisor  
Ms. Deanna Wiersgalla.....Cochrane Fountain City Advisor  
Mia Hillebrand.....State Secretary  
Mrs. Shari Graffunder.....River Valley FFA Advisor  
Aubrey Schlimgen.....State Sentinel  
Ms. Paula Bakken.....Marshall Advisor  
Emily Dahlke..... State Treasurer  
Ms. Becky Grabarski.....Adams-Friendship Advisor  
Mr. Kaleb Santy..... Pulaski Advisor  
Lashawna Vogel..... State Reporter  
Ms. Mary Handrich.....Denmark Advisor  
Mr. Marty Nowak.....Denmark Advisor  
Sydney Bender..... State Vice President  
Mrs. Lisa Konkel..... Big Foot FFA Advisor

## **Purpose of Meeting**

We received reports on behalf of the Wisconsin State FFA Executive Director, Mrs. Zimmerman, State Advisor reports by Mrs. Ladsten, Mrs. Quinlan from Wisconsin FFA Foundation, Mrs. Steinbach on behalf of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters, and Mrs. Hartman-Bruenig on behalf of WAAE. Mrs. Zimmerman led a discussion about questions on the year to come for the future of Wisconsin. We plan to further discuss awards, State Convention, State Officers Committee Reports, and proposals.

## **Review of Past Months:**

February minutes passed by Aubrey Schlingen and was seconded by Casey Denk. Motion passed. State FFA Officers shared their favorite part of their year. Advisors reviewed updates on assigned Section of State FFA degrees and their progress. We received 34 State Star Applications. We also received 73 Band and 75 chorus applications. We had received 130 American Applications and 11 Star applications.

## **Plan for What Is to Come:**

The tractor driving contest at Farm Tech Days will continue. Edge, Mission, and Impact Conferences will be held on March 18th and 19th with enrolled 511 members for Friday and 138 enrolled for Saturday attendance. Washington D.C. Scholarship results have been announced. Career Development Events are well underway with preliminaries and contests in late March and early April.

## **Board Updates:**

Mrs. Ladsten has been working with DPI working with a state-wide Agriculture Education pathway. She discussed having a meat science and having a grant for education.

Mrs. Quinlan had spoken on behalf of the Give FFA Day and her goal is to reach \$50,000 in the coming years. An alternative event for North East Wisconsin will be hosting a “Day on the Farm” that could be similar to a Food for America event and dairy breakfast combined together for a foundation fundraiser. Jeff Hicken's endowment fund had created a car sticker with the fundraiser. Board had discussed future goals to expand the future of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Wisconsin FFA Alumni raised \$30,000 from the raffle. Alumni are working towards getting grants for local chapters. Wisconsin FFA Alumni have benefits in regards to the Forever Blue Network with being a part of the Alumni membership. Wisconsin Alumni sponsored our Live Stream at State

Convention, workshops, proficiency areas, recognized alumni members and were able to sponsor students to go to the Washington Leadership Workshop. Alumni also voted in new area representatives for sectional areas. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or information.

The Wisconsin Agriculture Association Education Board had discussed their PDC conference. The National Policy Seminar will be attended by Mrs. Breunig to speak on behalf of Agriculture Education. WAAE is looking to connect educators to attend the Alumni Convention. 254 members are currently a part of the WAAE.

#### State FFA Committees:

Amara Livingston, State Parliamentarian, had proposed new amendments to the Wisconsin State Policies/Constitution/Bylaws in Article V, Article VII, Article VIII, and Article XII of the Wisconsin Association of FFA Constitution to be brought upon delegates at the State FFA Convention. The motion was seconded by Aburery Schlimgen. Second amendment Articles I & IV of the Policy Handbook. Katie Zimmer seconded the motion. Aubrey Schlimgen moved to amend Sectional Leadership workshops to Fall Leadership workshops. Sydney Bender second motion. Motion passed. Only the constitutional amendment will be brought in front of delegates at the State FFA convention. The National FFA Board of Directors is considering a Constitutional change that members can be involved in the FFA organization through the “State-approved Agriculture Education program” to be moved by delegates at this upcoming National Convention.

Emily Dahlke, State Treasurer, and Mrs. Ladsten had discussed the Finance Committee and are working towards cleaning the budget up for a clearer statement. Lashawna Vogel moved to approve the budget report and Sydney had seconded the motion. Motioned had passed.

Sydney Bender and Mia Hillebrand had discussed goals of reaching 21,000 members and the goal of reaching and advocating for agriculture education. 21,273 members enrolled in 2019-2020. We tentatively have 22,173 members in Wisconsin FFA. Kaite Zimmer had seconded the motion of the Marketing and Membership Committee. Motion passed.

Aubrey Schlimgen, State Sentinel, Awards, and Programs Committee had discussed Fall Leadership Workshop spirit awards, Honorary Degree recipients, and many more found in the committee reports. Emily Dahlke had seconded the report. Motion passed.

Lawshawna Vogel, the State Reporter, led the Media and Public Relations committee. She discussed the newly established travel blogs promotion over social media, President’s Instagram and Facebook accounts, and had established an account on the Tik Tok platform. Aubrey Schlimgen had seconded the report. Motion passed.

Katie Zimmer, Vice President, led the service committee and shared State Officers donated canned goods towards Marshfield Rotary Lights, #TheTimeIsNow community service projects, and working on the Gift of the Blue project with 10 jackets to be given to members. Discussion of Day of Service

at State FFA Convention in regards to food boxes, book drives, or dog toys. Jag Lake renovation with State Officer team and Wisconsin FFA Members. Service projects included in Wisconsin FFA Conferences. Sydney Bender had seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Casey Denk, Vice President, and Ben Styer, President, led the Partners committee; they have attended Foundation Board Meetings, followed along with Foundation strategic planning, and worked with Sponsor Engagement. They are currently working with sponsors to have Spring Visits. Lashawna Vogel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Unfinished Business:

Sectional Speaking Contest, no points shall be taken off if students do or do not shake judges' hands. We are working on electronic submissions for State Convention without worrying about lost or late submissions.

Honored Adults and Hall of Fame nominations had been discussed in the previous meetings to brainstorm nominations. Board has come up with a list of Honored Adults and Hall of Fame Nominations.

#### **Honored Adults Nominations:**

Pam Allen  
Rick Henningfeld  
Adam Wehling  
Wally Taylor  
Audrey Fischer  
John Hromyak  
Jen Bradley

#### **Hall of Fame Nominations:**

Ken & Vicki Harter  
Kevin Whalen  
Mark Zimmerman  
Jeff Hicken  
Terry Bernick  
Cheryl Steinbach

#### New Business:

Elkhorn FFA Chapter had proposed State Officer Scholarships to be approved by the Wisconsin Association of FFA Board to be approved by Wisconsin FFA Foundation Board. Mia Hillebrand accepted and moved the Elkhorn FFA Chapter proposal for State Officer Scholarships and a second

by Aubrey Schlimgen. Motion passed unanimously to the Wisconsin Foundation Board to be further discussed.

State Officer Election Process had been brought to the attention of the Wisconsin FFA Board for the 2022 State Convention. Amara Livingston, Parliamentarian, the initial portion of stated proposal change of Article X of Section B. Seconded by Katie Zimmer. Amara hopes to approve Article 5 parts A, B, C, and D move to approve Aubrey Schlimgen Second. Motion Passed. Amara Livingston amended B2 to change “two” to “multiple” Aubrey Schlimgen Seconded the motion. Motion passed. Amara Livingston amends “overall” with “Nominating Committee” Aubrey Schlimgen seconds motion. Motion passed. Approval of amendments of A-D of Article 5 State Officer information. Motion passed. Amara Livingston eliminated ABC into 2 and September 1 to be struck. Katie Zimmer seconds motion. The division has been called and the motion fails.

Amara Livingston, Parliamentarian, has another proposal of creating a task force for the State FFA Officer election process and conducting research on a structural change for Sectional State Officers. Katie Zimmer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### 2022 State FFA Convention

Amberley Snyder, Eric Mckenveey, or Chris Koch for State Convention Keynote speaker by Aubrey Schlimgen and Katie Zimmer. Motioned passed. Sam L. Smith Band was our first choice and Al Schnieder, hypnotist, as our second choice for our entertainment moved by Katie and seconded by Sydney Bender. Motion passed.

The reflections committee is Amara Livingston, Emily Dahlke, Casey Denk, and Sydney Bender. Leading Entertainment Night Aubrey Schlimgen, Mia Hillebrand, and Emily Dahlke. Send ideas to Mrs. Quinland for Convention Expo. Talent Competition full speed in-person. Convention Tours tentative. Convention branding, T-shirts, logos, programs, and buttons coming. Decorations - theme items, state decorations, plants are being pursued with Emily Dahlke and Sydney Bender, and Mrs. Crook. Courtesy Corps and seating are being prepared by Aubrey Schlimgen.

The school Administrator's attendance and School Officials' Program is being determined by State Staff. We are planning to invite Mr. Stump, Jackie Rosenbush Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair, Wisconsin Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and Alice in Dairyland. If Wisconsin FFA Alumni approves, we would like to live stream State Convention again.

National Agriculture Day.

State Officers are to reach out to Federal Congressional District representatives during National Ag. Day. State Staff and Ben Styer will plan to set up State staff visits on Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022.

National FFA Officer Visits

National FFA Officers Courtney Zimmerman, Central Region Vice President, and Jackson Sylvester, National Secretary, plan on visiting Wisconsin March 14th-18th. They are visiting Culvers for a National sponsor visit along with visiting Wisconsin FFA chapters.

**Upcoming Leadership Training for Members:**

Wisconsin State FFA Officers preparing for Mission/Impact/Edge will be held on the days of March 18th and 19th. Career Development Events are fully underway across the state with virtual preliminaries and in-person contests.

**Closing Statements:**

Aubrey moved to adjourn the meeting and Katie second. Meeting ended at 4:57 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mia Hillebrand".

Mia Hillebrand

State Secretary

Wisconsin Association of FFA