

Wisconsin FFA Board of Directors Meeting
Friday January 11th, 2019 at 1:00 PM
Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order by State FFA President Amelia Hayden at 1:04 PM Friday January 11th.

Attendance:

Cheryl Zimmerman.....Executive Director
Jeff Hicken.....State Advisor
John Hroymak.....Foundation Executive Director
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
Steven Schank.....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
Jacob Timm.....Ellsworth Assistant Advisor
Emily Kruse.....State Parliamentarian
Dave Kruse.....Elkhorn Advisor
Makayla Klumpyan.....Elkhorn Student Teacher
Ashley Hagenow.....State Reporter
Andi Cooper.....Rio Advisor
Jillian Tyler.....State Vice President
Katie Reider.....Granton Advisor

Mrs. Zimmerman provided a brief welcome and gave a quick refresher on how voting works with the state officers voting first and then the advisors voting.

We began with our reports. Amelia gave an update on the State FFA Officer Team and Activities. The state officers have been conducting chapter visits in their section this fall. The state officers also traveled to put on conferences including FIRE and Sectional Leadership Workshops. The team has also been preparing for Halftime Conference. New this year, the officers have had the opportunity to participate in the state officer continuum for training. This

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allowed for three weeks of training with our facilitator, Wyatt Shaw, in June, July, and December. The team also had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for a week with Mrs. Zimmerman as part of the new program. Mrs. Zimmerman also thanked all of the Sectional Leadership Workshop hosts and the advisors for all their hard work within their chapters to make the workshops a success.

Next Mrs. Zimmerman provided a Wisconsin FFA Center update. She highlighted key points of information from the gold handout provided. Wisconsin FFA is still collecting data on participation from male and female students. Wisconsin FFA applied for and received a service grant from National FFA for the amount of \$8,000.00 to be used for Rally to Fight Hunger at State FFA Convention. Mrs. Zimmerman also reminded everyone to keep a look out for the mini service grants, because they are still available for the second half of the school year. The center is aware the Band and Chorus links do not work; they are in the process of fixing them right now and they are expecting the links to work next week. Continue encouraging members to apply for and participate in Band and Chorus. Convention planning has started at the center and with the State Officer Team. The Wisconsin FFA Center is also excited to announce and welcome Mrs. Cheryl Steinbach as a new office assistant at the center.

The hand out provided by Mrs. Zimmerman also included: Sectional Leadership Workshop Participation, a summary of business and industry visits, FIRE Conference participation, 212/360 Conference Participation, National Convention Award Results, Upcoming Events, and Current Projects at the Center.

The third report was provided by Mr. Hicken about DPI. The new Superintendent at DPI is Carolyn Stanford Taylor. February is Career and Technical Education Month, our new superintendent is hoping to visit Career and Technical Education Programs during the month. In Wisconsin we have 46,000 students in agriculture classes. That number includes duplicated students. Mr. Hicken found it interesting, of each grade level seniors account for the highest number and unsurprisingly the population of all students in agricultural education in Wisconsin is not very diverse. There is a man from Pioneer Seed who is working on a project called "Cheese head Express." This project is intended to set up busing for students across the state to attend Farm Technology Days in the Johnson Creek area. This program would pay for the bus and entry fee to Farm Technology Days. A new chapter has been added in Alma and there is a new person in the role at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

Mr. Hromyak gave an update for the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. He extended thanks to all the advisors and state officers for arranging business and industry visits with current and potential businesses across the state. The annual report is slightly delayed this year, but the foundation is very excited about the new lay out. They have made changes to provide more of a magazine feel to the annual report. Currently the renewals have been strong for this fundraising year and the foundation is about 45% to the fundraising goal. The economy of agriculture has been difficult, but the foundation is optimistic about reaching their goal. The foundation is also still

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working with individual donors as well. The FFA Foundation is currently hiring; they are looking for a new part-time operations manager. Right now the foundation is working to set things up for the future. They are also considering adding an intern in the future. Mr. Hromyak is hoping to get out of the office more to see donors in the future.

Our next item of business was the presentation of State FFA Convention Entertainment and Speakers. The two speakers who have replied were Wiley Bailey and Tasha Schuh. Both of them are within our budget and we will be making our final decision at our next meeting. For entertainment our options were C. Willi Myles (Comedian), Chris Kroeze (Singer), and Al Snyder (Hypnotist). There was discussion on the all three options. Mrs. Konkel made the point, this year could be a great opportunity to try a concert with lower risks because Chris has had exposure on The Voice and students will recognize the name. The possibility of switching entertainment to Wednesday night instead of Tuesday was discussed but not decided on. Emily Kruse moved to ask Chris Kroeze to be our State FFA Convention Entertainment. Alexis Kwak, seconded the motion. The motion passed and sustaining action was taken by the advisors.

Mr. Chris Beaver and Ms. Nicole Nelson joined us to pitch the idea of the Wisconsin Ag Ed Design Project. The idea was sparked at NAAE Convention. There are always ways to be more efficient and transparency in what we do as Team Ag Ed is a priority. This project is meant to be forward thinking in how we look at our organizations coming together to collaborate. Ms. Nelson described this project and its outcome as being on a spectrum where one end would be no changes and to keep Team Ag Ed the way it is now and the other end could be something very different or somewhere in between. The intention is to have an answer/ solution at the end of two years. Right now as Wisconsin FFA we have two decisions to make: will/how will we participate? and who will represent Wisconsin FFA during the project? We will discuss this project further at the February meeting.

The first item of old business was to review the motion passed by the board to change the Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event. The contest is essentially the same as nationals without the test at district and sectional levels and time limits for levels.

Star mission grant

Next Mr. Hicken updated us on membership rosters. Currently 111 chapters still owe something, but those are being updated 1 to 2 times a week. There are 16,905 FFA members right now, however chapters have until March 1st to register additional students. This year, a chapter that had been affiliated with about 800 members in the past switched back to traditional membership with about 75 members. Seven chapters switched from traditional membership to affiliated membership.

Mr. Hicken gave us an update on the budget. We will have a budget in March, currently working with Mitchell and a small group to make the budget. The audit is complete and we are not in

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the red. If we did not have the foundation our state dues and conference registration would be expensive, right now these costs to members and chapters are much cheaper than other CTSOs in Wisconsin.

Next Mr. Hicken updated us on liability for the association. The question comes up, is DPI liable? We have to have our own policy as an association. Currently we have a 1-million-dollar policy with Rural Mutual, but we need more coverage. We are looking at potential policies with Rural Mutual or Sympica, which is who some of the other CTSOs have worked with.

In December at Checkpoint 2 Training, we learned about changes that may be taking place at Wisconsin State Fair. Mr. Hicken and Mrs. Zimmerman updated us on the item of business. State Fair has sent out a letter to Junior Organizations detailing changes in how livestock are stalled during the junior shows. Junior Organizations would be stalled with their organization, rather than by county and each organization would be responsible for coordinating exhibit details. Mr. Hicken has set up a meeting with Brian Bolan about why FFA wasn't included in making the changes and decisions.

Our next item of business was to discuss the change in due date for the State FFA Degree Application. The National FFA Scholarship is due February 6th which is the date we currently have set for the State Degree as well. We discussed moving the deadline back by 1 day. Gaelan Combs moved to change the State Degree Application Deadline to February 7th and Mitchell Schroepfer seconded the motion. The motion passed and sustaining action was taken by the advisors.

Our next item of business to vote on was Hustisford to stay in current district or move back to original district. In Section 10, one advisor was responsible for Hustisford in addition to another chapter, they were in different districts so the association allowed them to compete and be part of the same district until Hustisford hired an advisor. Hustisford has hired another advisor and wants to know which district contests to attend. Moving Hustisford back would make their original district larger than their current district. Paige moved to keep Hustisford in the district they are currently in and Ashley seconded the motion. The motion passed and sustaining action was taken by the advisors.

Next we reviewed the information provided by the Career Development Committee regarding Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape CDEs. These CDEs will be moved to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. There would be a few added costs for utilizing some of the classrooms at the botanical garden but the CDE committee plans to roll that into their total costs. At this time nobody had any major concerns, but there were a few questions about if these types of situations would become more common for advisors to attend state CDEs on dates and locations other than the one in Madison. There was also a question as to whether students would be allowed to compete in more than one CDE, for example if they wanted to participate in Floriculture or Nursery/Landscape and one of the contests that is helps during state CDEs in Madison. These

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questions would be brought to the CDE Committee meeting on Friday night of Halftime by board members who are also on that committee.

The next item of business was introducing revisions to the proficiency award session and scoring. Essentially, when scoring proficiency applications, the judges would not know the final rank because they would each rank them individually. This would allow us to keep the top ranked proficiencies confidential until state convention. During that time, we would ask the top 4 candidates to create displays related to their proficiency areas and they would find out their placing on stage (similar to session at national convention). This would allow more excitement in the session and would help shorten it with hopes more people would attend for a longer period of time. Emily Kruse moved to accept the revisions and Jill seconded the motion. Sustaining action was taken by the advisors.

Our final item of business was to distribute a packet about setting up Sectional Leadership Development events. The packet outlines contacting chapters about the sectional contest, room set ups, selecting and training judges, and includes other important information to help the event run smoothly.

Collin Weltzien moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Alexis Kwak. The motion passed and sustaining action was taken by advisors. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Nelson
State Secretary
Wisconsin Association of FFA