

ND FFA Association Board of Directors Minutes
Friday, June 9, 2023 – 1:00 pm CST
15th Floor Conference Room – State Capitol & Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Nikki Fideldy–Doll, State Advisor
Craig Kleven, State Exec. Secretary
Ben Curdy, Dist. 1 (via Teams)
Lance Van Berkomp, District 2
JoDee Free, Dist. 3
Molly Zahradka, Dist. 4 (via Teams)
Missy Hansen, Dist. 6
Bill Zingg, Dist. 7
David Leier, Dist. 8 (via Teams)

Amy Klain, FFA President
Katelyn Duchscher, FFA Secretary
Hailey Maddock, FFA Vice President
Regan Jones, FFA Treasurer
Faith Norby, FFA Reporter
Jakob Van Berkomp, FFA Sentinel
Wyatt Kersten, FFA Parliamentarian
Beth Allen, FFA Foundation

Members Not Present

Jeff Bjugstad, Dist. 5

1. Call Meeting to Order

Fideldy–Doll called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. CST.

2. Roll Call

Fideldy–Doll conducted role call. Bjugstad and Allen were not present during role call.

3. Secretary’s Minutes 03.27.2023

It was moved by Free, seconded by Kersten, to approve the 03.27.23 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Fideldy–Doll gave the treasurer’s report. She reported that as of 05.26.23 the FFA checking account had \$287,187.90; Edwards Jones account had \$243,074.60 and there were no chapters past 90 days due with bills.

Fideldy–Doll briefly reviewed the budget reports for 2023 Winter CDEs and Horse Evaluation. She shared that the office billed out State Convention registration in early May. Money is coming in steadily. We foresee the majority of chapters will have paid by end of fiscal year.

Beth Allen joined the meeting in person.

5. State Officer Report: Amy Klain

Klain shared that the state officers wrapped up banquet season and chapter visits. In total, there were approximately 18 chapter visits that impacted over 1,500 students! On May 9, three state officers helped with the FFA Horse Evaluation event. The officers spent countless hours planning and preparing for State Convention. State Convention went very well for our team. We had very minimal, if any hiccups, and it was a Convention none of us will ever forget.

As Ms. Duchscher said in her retiring address, live to leave it better. We hope we have left this organization better, and we are all incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve. Thank you, Board of Directors, for all of your support over the past year.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Written Applications & SAE

Hansen stated that the POA Committee met on May 17. She reviewed the proposed changes to the POA manual with the Board.

b. CDE

Kleven said that there is no formal report from the committee because they have not met.

c. Finance

Free requested district feedback from board members on the proposed dues proposal. Very little feedback was provided by state chapters. It was suggested that the committee come back with a second tiered option which would be reviewed at the August 6 BOD's meeting. The proposal would be presented during PDC to advisors on August 7. The Board would act on the proposal at their November meeting and follow the proposed remaining timeline.

The Board reviewed the 2021 FFA Association Tax Return. There were no questions or concerns.

d. Events/Activities

Curdy said that the Events/Activities committee met on May 24 to discuss the continuation of the State FFA Crop Show. After review of the event and lengthy discussion, the committee recommends the discontinuation of the State FFA Crop Show as a state sponsored event. It was also recommended that all inventory items related to the State FFA Crop show be donated to the

North Dakota Winter Show Committee for their use if the event were to continue as a local or regional event.

e. **Policy**

No report.

f. **2023 ND FFA State Convention Delegate Committee Report**

Kleven asked to move the 2023 ND FFA State Convention Delegate Committee Report up in the agenda. Fidedly-Doll granted this request. Each Delegate Committee provided a report to the Board.

- i. The Program of Activities Committee recommended to keep the chapter officer books and try to modernize them, try to integrate them into the AET website if possible, and add more information about the officer books to the ND FFA website.
- ii. The Auditing Committee recommended that the 2023-2024 budget be approved and that state dues remain at \$6.
- iii. The Community Service Committee recommended holding a statewide day of service. They also suggested adding a chapter resources tab on the ND FFA Association website with information on community service project ideas for chapters to use.
- iv. The Alumni Recruitment Committee recommended updating the North Dakota Alumni Website, to include more information on joining alumni chapters, advertise statewide alumni events, set up an award system for members of Alumni Chapters, for time served, and have booths set up at the State Convention Career Fair to increase awareness that graduating FFA members can join a local alumni chapter.
- v. The Leadership Conference Committee recommended the following: 1) Change leadership names to a similar more diverse name, such as: 101, Beginner Blue, Intermediate Gold, and Aspire; 2) Diversity speakers for each of the conferences and rotate them every other year; 3) Move community service projects before the dance instead of during the dance; and 4) Promote FFA Leadership Conferences through social media, advisors and flyers; and 5) Make the State Convention dance floor bigger.
- vi. The AET Committee recommended that there be more training sessions for the advisors on how to correctly use AET. It was also recommended that the app be promoted at different events or on the social media pages so students know that it is out there for their use and convenience.

- vii. The Social Media Committee recommended that the North Dakota FFA Association and the State Officer team create a BeReal account, create more Tiktok content and Instagram stories, such as 'Add Yours' stickers, polls, and unique hashtags. The committee also suggested promoting giveaways on social media to get more interaction, promoting social media more during the sessions at State Convention and other events, and utilizing YouTube more by creating short, informative videos talking to members about different aspects of FFA events and activities.

7. Old Business

a. FFA Camp

Curdy said that FFA Camp staff and directors have been selected. Camp registration ends Thursday, June 15. Reminder emails and social media posts have been sent out. The FFA Camp Committee will be deciding at their next meeting who will be taking over for Curdy and Van Berkom. Fideldy-Doll said that this person will need to provide a written report at every BOD meeting.

8. New Business:

a. Standing Committee Reports:

i. Written Applications & SAE

It was moved by Hansen, seconded by Klain, to adopt the POA Handbook with the November 1st deadline. Motion passed.

The handbook will be updated and go into effect next year.

ii. CDE

No action items.

iii. Finance

It was moved by Free, seconded by Hansen, to adopt the Finance Committee report and ND FFA Membership Dues Proposal with proposed changes. The committee will come back with an additional tiered system, or second option, at the August 6 BOD meeting and present the proposal at PDC on August 7. The proposed remaining timeline will be followed. Motion passed.

iv. Events/Activities

It was moved by Curdy, seconded by Jones, to discontinue the State FFA Crop Show as a state sponsored event and all inventory items related to

the State FFA Crop show be donated to the North Dakota Winter Show Committee.

v. Policy

No action items.

vi. Officer Books

It was moved by Free, seconded by Zahradka, to discontinue State Officer Books. Motion passed.

vii. Service Projects

It was moved by Klain, seconded by Norby, that the state compiled a list of service projects to be collected from advisors and be made available on the North Dakota FFA website. Motion passed.

It was moved by Klain, seconded by Jones, that the ND FFA Association host a statewide day of service determined by the 2023-24 state officer team and state office. Motion failed.

b. State Star Tour Review April 26-28

Kleven said that there were three Star finalists for Agricultural Placement and four finalists for Farmer. The judges included: Rick Vannett, Warren Schlecht, Dale Hruby, Glen Huettl, Wade Anderson and Jeff Hagel. Overall, Kleven said the tour was successful and went well.

c. American Star Submission Review

Kleven said that Colt Kersten from the Max FFA Chapter has been nominated to be an American Star Farmer and Tyler Lee from the Carrington FFA Chapter has been nominated to be an American Star in Agricultural Placement. Both names have been approved for the American Degree by the state office and forwarded on to the National FFA Organization for review.

d. State Proficiency Judging, National Chapter, Food for America Review

Fidely-Doll reviewed state proficiency applications. She said that there were 63 individuals that signed up for state proficiency judging. This was an increase from last year. Sixty-one judges completed their judging assignments.

There were 84 proficiency applications from 24 chapters that were submitted. There were 32 proficiency areas represented, 73 finalists and 31 state winners.

Fideldy-Doll said that the quality of the applications was really poor this year and that we as a state need to work on improving this.

Fideldy-Doll shared that there were eight National Chapter applications this year. These were scored by extremely qualified judges from outside of the state. All eight applicants have been forwarded to the national level.

She said that 14 recipients were honored at State Convention for Superior Chapter. Superior Chapter is a form of the National Chapter award.

The Premier Chapter Award was new to State Convention this year. The top three individuals were recognized in each area. Fideldy-Doll said that a separate set of judges that had not scored the student's National Chapter applications looked at just their activities, and then they chose what they felt were the top three innovative ideas. These chapters were awarded plaques at State Convention.

Fideldy-Doll said that Food for America had three chapters submit applications. All three chapters were recognized on stage at State Convention and one winner was chosen.

e. State Horse Evaluation CDE Review

Fideldy-Doll congratulated Carrington for being the state champion for Horse Evaluation. This event took place on May 9 at NDSU. Allen said that there is sponsorship dollars for Horse Evaluation. Fideldy-Doll said that we will add this as income in the budget.

f. State Convention Review

Fideldy-Doll said that State Convention student attendance was 1,164. This does not include special registrations. The attendance was down from 2022. There were 116 advisors/adults in attendance. Space continues to be an issue in Benston Bunker Field House. Not sure about a solution at this time.

NDSU is currently updating their parking process. State staff, chapters, volunteers and family guests attending next year will be given a code for parking instead a paper copy parking pass. The Association will be billed for their assigned codes after State Convention.

It was suggested that all teachers receive name badges. This would be helpful for advisors to get to know who the new advisors are.

Kleven and Fideldy-Doll addressed changes that will be made to career development events in 2024, technical issues with Livewire, lack of hot water in South Weibel and NDSU staff not being prepared during check-in. Fideldy-

Doll said that follow-up meetings have already been scheduled with both Livewire and NDSU staff to address these concerns.

Board members provided their feedback on the 2023 State Convention.

g. National FFA Convention CDEs/LDEs Declarations

Fideldy-Doll said that information had been sent out on the listserv today to notify everyone that if they had a state winning individual or team that they would need to notify her by June 16 if they would be going or not to nationals. If the winning chapter is unable to attend, then the second-place individual/team is eligible to go.

h. NDSF Advisor Assignments, FFA Exhibits & FairEntry

Kleven said that there were 57 responses so far for advisor assignments. He asked board members to remind their district's chapter advisors to sign up by next week.

i. Land Judging & Range Judging

Fideldy-Doll said that Land Judging will be held from August 2 -3 at the Dickinson Research Extension Center. Range Judging will be from September 20-21. Location is still TBD. Kleven said to let him know if a chapter would be willing to host this years Range Judging.

j. August Board Meeting-Election of Officers & Committee Assignments
(Includes Designation of Committee Chairs)

Fideldy-Doll reminded board members that election of officers and committee assignments will take place at the August 6 board meeting.

9. FFA Foundation Report

Allen reported that there were approximately 750 members that attended the Career Fair. Overall, the Career Fair went well and there has been lots of positive feedback. She thanked the state staff for all their hard work during State Convention.

10. Next Meeting Date & Location:

The board will meet on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the Bismarck Radisson Inn. Committee work will need to occur prior to August 6.

11. Adjourn:

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.