

ND FFA Association Board of Directors Minutes

June 6th, 2025

Location: 15th Floor Conference Room – State Capitol & Microsoft Teams

Members Present:

Nikki Fideldy-Doll, State Advisor
Laiken DeMorrett, FFA Foundation
Jeremy Carkuff, District 1
Amanda Huettl, District 2
JoDee Free, District 3
Callahan Lemer, District 4
Jeff Bjugstad, District 5
Missy Hansen, District 6
Bill Zingg, District 7
Breanna Mueller, ND FFA Association

Colbey Steeke, District 8
Mariah Lovro, FFA President
Teagan Erbele, FFA Secretary
Bailey Urlacher, FFA Vice President
Anna Palmer, FFA Treasurer
Joe Lindberg, FFA Reporter
Dawsyn Malkowski, FFA Sentinel
Grant Anderson, FFA Parliamentarian
Darin Spelhaug, Executive Secretary

a. Call Meeting to Order

Fideldy-Doll called the meeting to order at 1:00PM CST.

b. Roll Call

Fideldy-Doll conducted roll call. All were present.

c. Secretary's Minutes 3.12.2025.

It was moved by Steeke, seconded by Malkowski, to approve the 3.12.2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

d. Treasurer's Report

Fideldy-Doll reported that as of 5.14.2025 the FFA Association currently has \$295,222.22 in checking and \$325,058.41 in Edward Jones. There are no chapters that had bills past 90 days, those chapters are not allowed to participate in FFA events until paid. Fideldy-Doll reviewed the 25- to date category reports, as well as the Horse Expenses and Star Tour.

It was moved by Steeke, seconded by Urlacher, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

- e. **State Officer Report:** Lovro presented the State Officer Report. They enjoyed attending Winter CDE contests and are excited for Winter CDEs. They have attended 36 chapter visits and interacted with over 1,200 members. They completed 51 Blue Jacket Frequencies, shy of their 75 chapter goal. They went to 60 banquets out of 62 requests.
- f. **FFA Foundation Report:** DeMorrett gave convention updates—the Bright Futures Career & Education Expo had 50 vendors and \$15,400 raised. This is up from last year. CDE and Proficiency Sponsors brought in \$22,470, which is down from last year but had about 50 sponsors. Celebration banquet has some new sponsors, sponsors plus the ticket sales were \$12,270. This was up from \$4,000 last year. All

in with the major sponsors of convention was \$45,000. HESS was a presenting sponsor at \$25,000. Scheresky Ag Service and Butler Machinery both donated \$10,000. ABOVO was an in kind donation for the work they do for us. All in was \$95,140 raised for the Foundation. About \$60,000 will go to the association for State FFA Convention.

g. Standing Committee Reports

1. **Written Applications & SAE:** Hansen presented that the committee is working on the State Degree Handbook, Activities for State Degree, Award Descriptions for Food for America, Blue and Gold Award and Distinguished Service. The committee will continue to work on these items and bring them to the next meeting.
2. **CDE:** Carkuff presented the CDE Committee report. They are starting to work on the Agronomy review and working with advisors to update the agronomy information. The committee discussed Livestock Judging and that they did not feel like goats were needed. The committee discussed that they would like to have a random draw for State LDE Day. The committee would like to simplify the Employment Skills Application. Attached are objectives and purposes for the handbooks that do not have them. Ag Communications was discussed, and it says 12 social media posts in the handbook, but the rubric reflects 7 posts. Basic Ag Mechanics was discussed, and it is 50 questions worth 2 points per question.
3. **Finance:** Free presented the Finance Committee report. North Dakota accepted \$6 dues at Convention. The committee is waiting on Nationals to continue to move forward more with affiliation. They will also be meeting with Edward Jones to understand our different options for utilizing that account.
4. **Events/Activities:** Huettl presented the report. They recommend hiring 1-2 security officers at Leadership Conference. They also had a horse update for the move to Twin Buttes Fairgrounds. The comp update is that they are moving forward—they do not have a director, but they do have more camp staff. We will discuss camp at the November board meeting.
5. **Policy:** The policy committee was unable to meet.
6. **2025 ND FFA State Convention Delegate Committee Reports**
 - i. **100th Anniversary:** The student input on the 100th anniversary committee discussed what events and activities should be done to celebrate the 100th anniversary, whether or not we should plan something statewide that connects current members with alumni to reflect on FFA's history and impact, and how local chapters, members, and alumni could be engaged in this

celebration. The committee had agreed that a token (pin, button, etc.) would be handed out at the 100th convention. The committee also agreed to a video highlighting the past 100 years of North Dakota FFA with photos that can be submitted to a link on the website or social media (Facebook or Instagram). Committee members also brought forth the idea of having past state officers involved through interviews posted online and recognition at session through a sort of advisor walk through and special seating. The committee also discussed having a trivia game (kahoot, quizlet, etc.) before sessions. Finally the committee agreed that having a FFA themed game for a chapter trophy, where each chapter sends forth one delegate, to be played some time during state convention.

- ii. **Constitution & Bylaws Review:** Our committee gathered in the Memorial Union Oceti Sakowin Ballroom B, and we began discussion on Proposals A and B that were on our agenda. Members had no questions regarding Proposal A, but discussion was held on Proposal B concerning the process of members being nominated by their advisors in each district for the screening committee. A motion was made by Sabrina Haas to adopt Proposal A as written. The motion was seconded by Summer Meyer from Grant County and the motion passed by Majority. A motion was made by Mason Schuh from Drake-Anamoose to adopt Proposal B as written. The motion was seconded by Ivy Graber from Rolette and the motion was passed by majority.
- iii. **Delegate Experience & Improvement:** As a committee, we held a productive discussion regarding the delegate experience at the North Dakota FFA State Convention. Several key areas for improvement were identified, with a shared goal of ensuring that all delegates feel informed, prepared, and confident in their roles. Many members felt unprepared and lacked information about their roles. To address this, we agreed that delegates should receive materials ahead of time, including a clear itinerary, an overview of their purpose, and details on each committee. We suggested having experienced members explain the process, creating a short orientation video or presentation, and sharing

key questions and talking points in advance. Icebreakers and anonymous ways to ask questions were also recommended to help delegates feel more comfortable and confident. Overall, we agreed that changes are needed to ensure delegates are informed, prepared, and supported in their roles.

- iv. **Auditing:** The committee discussed the annual budget and covered concerns related to certain expenses, such as a potential error in the rental storage expenses. There were also questions about land judging, state fair, and state convention expenses. The committee also went over chapter affiliation and acknowledged that National FFA is looking to go to 100% affiliation by 2028. The last item that the committee addressed was state and national dues. The Auditing Committee recommends that the state and national dues stay at \$6 for state and \$7 for national.
- v. **State-Level Competitive Events:** The Student Input on the Delivery of State-Level Competitive Events Committee started our meeting by taking roll and recording the substitute delegates. We then started discussing issues in the current CDEs or LDEs, such as moving CDEs to different times in the year, making greenhand a state event, and improving timing and rotations in events. We also discussed gradually making state CDEs and LDEs align with their National counterparts. We then moved our discussion to the possibility of adding CDEs and LDEs that are offered at the National Level but not at the state level. These events were: Agricultural Issues Forum, Forestry, Marketing Plan, and Poultry Evaluation. We then discussed the possibility of adding a new CDE that is not available in any states, such as a bee production CDE. We then voted on each discussion item.
- vi. **Recognition & Awards:** The Chapter Recognition and Awards Committee evaluated the current structure, promotion, and recognition of Chapter-based awards. These awards include; Premier Chapter, Superior Chapter, National Chapter Awards, and Food for America. The committee discussed increasing awareness, accessibility, and quantity. The committee, additionally, explored potentials for introducing new chapter-based awards to better reflect the diverse achievements of FFA

chapters. The Chapter Recognition and Awards Committee suggests the following actions; having more student awareness of chapter-based awards and having more communication between students and advisors when such awards are coming up. We are proposing implementing a technological system for all reminders of deadlines and opening awards, such as a North Dakota FFA app. We also propose having a 2 class system for the chapter-based awards separating larger and smaller chapters to give everyone a fair shot at winning an award, in which 1st place would be awarded to all sections. We believe creating a Community Service Recognition chapter award will encourage members to do more community service and add another Chapter Award for members to strive for. Additionally the committee would like to add money incentives to all Chapter Awards to give money back to all the hard work the winning chapters have put into their awards.

- vii. **State Program of Activities:** We started our committee meeting discussing how to access the state POA. From that we began discussing the different events that took place over the year as stated in the POA. Members stated that events such as the Blue Jacket Frequency event was a great way for FFA members to get out of their comfort zone and get more involved. Members pointed out that the National Officer Visit was a good idea but was hard for other chapters to get involved in it as there was little advertisement and chapters didn't know how to attend the event. Members also pointed out that many activities on the POA lacked advertisement which made it hard for FFA members and chapters to get involved in the various events. Members also pointed out that instructional videos posted on the official FFA website or various social media platforms would be a great way to promote and describe how chapters can do their POAs. It was also brought up that the rules of chapter POAs need to be more detailed and specific to help ensure that all chapters are correctly doing their POAs. The idea of a montage video to be displayed at next year's state FFA was brought up to highlight the different activities that chapters did throughout the year. This would help to promote POAs and to get more chapters involved.
- viii. **Engagement & Retention Committee:** The Chapter Recruitment and Retention Committee discussed materials to provide insight

on kickstarting chapters, adding resources for running meetings and fundraisers, making member spotlights more organized and scheduled, and ensuring the NDFFA Association social media pages are more visible on the website. Action Recommended: The committee recommends that North Dakota FFA Premier Chapter Finalists' activities be publicized as a resource available on the NDFFA website and that we continue Member Spotlights on the NDFFA Association social media. We recommend a survey be sent out to North Dakota Ag Teachers to generate ideas on member engagement, fundraisers, and chapter recruitment and make that list accessible on the NDFFA website and social media pages.

h. Old Business

1. There was no old business.

i. New Business

1. Standing Committee Action Items

- i. **Written Applications & SAE:** None

- ii. **CDE:**

1. Carkuff moved that every contest moves to a random draw for each Order of Appearance at State LDE Day. Free seconded. Free amended the motion to strike out Order of Appearance and insert Room Placement. Amendment passed. Motion failed.
2. Huettl moved that we randomly draw for 1st place and 2nd place chapters for each room for each event at State LDE Day. Lovro seconded. Motion passed.
3. Malkowski moved that the Creed handbook be updated to reflect that there is a finals round. Anderson seconded. Motion passed.
4. Steeke moved to change the Agricultural Communications Handbook where it states 12 social media posts to 7 posts to align with the rubric. Malkowski seconded. Motion passed.
5. Steeke moved that the Basic Ag Mechanics written test to 50 questions worth 2 points each. Malkowski seconded. Motion passed.
6. Steeke moved that the Intermediate Ag Mechanics written test to 50 questions worth 2 points each. Malkowski seconded. Motion passed.

7. Lemar moved to update each handbook with the objectives and purposes provided in the attached document. Lovro seconded. Motion passed.

iii. **Finance:**

1. Free moved to accept the 2025–2026 Annual Budget provided. Urlacher seconded. Motion passed.

iv. **Events/Activities:**

1. Huettl moved to hire 1–2 additional security officers to be in attendance of Leadership Conference. Steeke seconded. Motion passed.

v. **Policy:** None

- j. **Stipend for who writes materials:** This is a topic to explore more in the future. Fideldy–Doll will explore what this looks like in other states.

1. Huettl moved to refer this to the finance committee. Lovro seconded. Motion passed.

- k. **Office Space Rental for Storage:** Fideldy–Doll inquired about an office space for storage in the same building as the Foundation. Hansen moved to rent the office space that has been discussed for a one–year lease. Urlacher seconded. Motion passed.

- l. **State Star Tour Review:** There were 14 applications and 11 finalists. We will continue to explore how we can continue to make this better.

- m. **American Star Submission:** We have two submissions – Jadyn Juntunen from Rolla in American Star in Ag Placement and Ben Scheresky from Max in American Star Farmer.

- n. **State Proficiency Judging, National Chapter, Food for America Review:** There were 62 finalists, 23 Superior Chapter applications, 8 Food for America applications, and then 16 applications for National Chapter and North Dakota FFA can send 10 on to Nationals.

- o. **State Horse Evaluation CDE Review:** Moving to Twin Buttes in 2026.

- p. **State Convention Review:** The feedback included:

1. Indigo will not be coming back as our backstage crew for Livewire, they will be moving.
2. There will be discussions with the Meats Department on moving forward and our rules.

3. We will be working with Dale at the SHAC to work with us next year. The SHAC staff were very impressed with our organization and would like to move forward for a long-term contract.
4. Having the career fair in the same facility at the same time as mic'ed up rehearsal was not great.
5. It did get warm in the arena, Dale is trying to find some things to help with fans and other ideas to cool the arena.
6. The DJ was fun to have and got kids involved, but it also made it challenging to get guests and parents sponsored.
7. Take a look at the schedule for Monday, could they go from Delegate Chairperson meeting at 4PM straight to Delegate Meetings at 5:15PM.
8. Advisor would like to see the same lights out times on Tuesday and Wednesday.
9. There are safety concerns still about Dairy Handlers and Dairy Eval. It is a lot better in Shepard Arena than outside.
10. Floriculture needs to insure there are more supplies for students and that they are not limited.
11. Delegates really enjoyed the Candidate and Delegate Social.
12. Forever Blue Suite was a great addition and great place for people to connect.
13. Agriscience Fair needs to be evaluated for structure and how we move it.
14. Advisors would like to find a better space for posting results so it is a space that students cannot go around.
15. Screening Committee Comments:
 - i. The delegate session went really well and served the purpose we wanted.
 - ii. The delegate social went well as well and students took it seriously.
 - iii. The added position with Amanda was great and she would like to help write some outlines.
 - iv. Looking at the rules on how many are slated out of the Screening Committee, giving them more autonomy to select how many are slated.
 - v. Thoughts on moving the delegate business out of session.

- q. **National Convention CDEs/LDEs Declaration:** June 16th is the declaration date for the 1st place teams.
- r. **NDSF Advisor Assignments, FFA Exhibits & Fair Entry:** Advisor assignments are out.
- s. **Land Judging & Range Judging:** Land is on July 31st in Carrington. Range is September 18th in Glen Ullin.
- t. **Election of Officers & Committee Assignments:** Bjugstad is reelected for District 5. Carkuff is reelected for District 1. Free's terms ending but are eligible for another 3 years.

u. Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on August 3rd at 2:00PM CST at the State Capitol in the 15th Floor Conference Room. Please let Mueller know if you will be joining via Microsoft Teams.

- v. **Constitution & Bylaws:** Fideldy-Doll moved to ratify the constitution & bylaws as amended at the 96th ND FFA State Convention, June 2025. Hansen seconded. Motion passed.

w. Announcements

x. Adjourn

Steeke moved to adjourn. Huettl seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.