

ND FFA Association Board of Directors Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023 – 1:00 pm CST
Location: Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Nikki Fideldy–Doll, State Advisor
 Craig Kleven, State Exec. Secretary
 Ben Curdy, Dist. 1
 JoDee Free, Dist. 3
 Molly Zahradka, Dist. 4
 Breanna Pastir, Dist. 5
 Missy Hansen, Dist. 6
 Bill Zingg, Dist. 7
 David Leier, Dist. 8

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

Members Not Present

Lance Van Berkom, Dist. 2

Standing Committees:

Written Applications & SAE	Bill Zingg, Missy Hansen, Craig Kleven, Jakob Van Berkom, Faith Norby
CDE	David Leier, Lance Van Berkom, Breanna Pastir, Craig Kleven, Amy Klain, Wyatt Kersten
Finance	Nikki Fideldy–Doll, Beth Allen, JoDee Free, Regan Jones
Events/Activities	Molly Zahradka, Ben Curdy, Nikki Fideldy–Doll, Hailey Maddock, Katelyn Duchscher
Policy	Nikki Fideldy–Doll, Craig Kleven, David Leier, Amy Klain

1. Call Meeting to Order
 Fideldy–Doll called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. CT.
2. Roll Call
 Fideldy–Doll conducted role call. Lance Van Berkom and Beth Allen were not present during role call.
3. Secretary’s Minutes 11.18.2022
 It was moved by Leier, seconded by Klain to approve the 11.18.22 minutes as presented. Motion passed.
4. Treasurer’s Report
 Fideldy–Doll gave the treasurer’s report. She reported that as of 3.13.23 the FFA checking account had \$324,791.74; Edwards Jones account had \$243,074.60 and there were no chapters past 90 days due with bills.

Fidely-Doll briefly reviewed the budget reports for the 2022 State FFA Convention, 2022 Leadership Conference, District Leadership and State LDE Day.

5. State Officer Report

Klain stated that the State Officer team has been quite busy since the BOD last met. In December, the team split up to travel to District Leadership Conferences across the state. In January, they wrapped up training and helped with State LDE Day. In February, Fidely-Doll and Klain had the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C. for the Microsoft TechSpark event, where they were able to learn more about their programs and impact in North Dakota. National FFA Week was jam-packed with chapter visits, engaging social media posts, and many great conversations with students, advisors, and FFA supporters.

Officers have completed 11 chapters visit thus far, including the Junior High Ag Day event. They have reached over 620 students. From January to March, state officers traveled to 5 Winter CDE contests across the state and rounded out the season at the State event held in Minot. There are 55 total banquets requested, and 11 banquets have been completed thus far. One banquet requested does not have an officer available. Chapters may still request officers by clicking the link on the ND FFA website. The State Officers look forward to the exciting next few months ahead as they prepare for State Convention and wrap up the year.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Written Applications & SAE

No report.

b. CDE

Kleven stated that the CDE Committee did not formally meet. However, he did send out an email on March 9th requesting feedback on various things that came across his desk.

Kleven reviewed the provided a detailed tool list with 335 tools for Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems. He said that this list came directly from the textbook. He recommended it be included in the 9th grade CDE list. Free felt this list needed to be narrowed down. There were too many tools and it is unrealistic for 9th graders to memorize. Members will bring the tool list back to districts to review.

Kleven recommended removing the national grain grading marketing (paper class) proposed in 2024 from the current Agronomy. Nationals also removed equipment management but at this time it will remain in the handbook. Kleven said that the committee will meet later in the spring/summer of the year to consider changes to the agronomy event.

Kleven shared that it was recommended that members be allowed to bring a magnifying lens for the event. They would be required to bring their own. The chapter or state office would not provide.

Kleven said that the Board will need to decide if the AQHA handbook be allowed during horse evaluation judging. This is not allowed at the national level.

c. Finance

Free reviewed the dues proposal handout. The National FFA Organization has a goal to achieve 100% membership by 2027-28. All chapters would be affiliated. National FFA is considering two models. Model 1 would be a simple flat fee per chapter that provides access to National FFA events, activities, educator supports, and resources. The cost would be \$525 per chapter. This does not include registration for events. Model 2 would create middle, small, medium, large, and extra-large school tiers based on the school (not district) enrollment.

North Dakota is considering a flat fee structure prior to the 2027-28 year. All chapters would be affiliated and required to pay the annual flat fee of \$525.

The hope is that after district feedback, the finance dues proposal would be adopted at the June Board of Directors meeting. This proposal would be introduced at PDC in August and given to the ND FFA Delegates at the 2024 ND State Convention. The adopted ND FFA dues fees would begin in 2025-26.

Beth Allen joined the call.

Fidelity-Doll said that nationals may be exploring more than two model options. Over fifty percent of ND chapters are affiliated. Membership is over 7,800.

d. Events/Activities

Zahradka said that the committee meet virtually on February 6 to discuss the purchasing of Leadership Conference t-shirts. Reviewed survey results sent to attendees of the conference.

e. Policy

No report.

7. Old Business

a. FFA Camp: Curdy & Van Berkom

Curdy reviewed the previously provided budget breakdown of anticipated costs for this year's camp. Camp is scheduled for August 11- 13, 2023. This is following PDC. Registration is \$150. Garrett Kuhn, Avery Roth and Stetson Urlacher will be the past state officers assisting with camp training and the programming of the camp. A new treasurer position was created to ensure budget and finance issues are presented and tracked in a timely manner. Curdy shared that a survey was sent out to past camp participants to get feedback. Overall, responses were very positive.

b. Other

No additional reports presented.

8. New Business

a. Standing Committee Reports:

i. Written Applications & SAE:

No new business.

ii. CDE

It was moved by Kleven, seconded by Zingg, that the CDE Horse Evaluation - AQHA handbooks not be used during judging. Patterns and scores sheets be provided/posted on the website and allowed to be used during the event.

Horse Evaluation patterns and scoresheets will be made available by the state office for registered members. Motion passed.

It was moved by Kleven, seconded by Leier, that the Agronomy CDE national grain marketing proposed in 2024 be removed from the handbook and that magnifying lenses be an acceptable item to be used at the event; however, they must be provided by the registered member. Motion passed.

iii. Finance

It was moved by Free, seconded by Leier, to adopt the finance dues proposal and timeline as presented. Motion passed.

Board members were encouraged to share the information with their district chapters and get feedback on the proposed models and timeline.

iv. Events/Activities

It was moved by Zahradka, seconded by Curdy, to purchase a percentage of different size shirts for the 2023 FFA Leadership Conference and then reevaluate. Motion passed.

v. Policy

No new policy business.

b. POA Review

Fidely-Doll said that every chapter has submitted an AET POA report. The POA and SAE committees needs to meet to determine what requirements we want moving forward. Fidely-Doll said that she would be reaching out to committee members to solicit meeting dates.

c. State LDE Day Review

Fidely-Doll provided a recap of State LDE Day.

Hansen shared multiple individuals from District 6 had concerns regarding the dates for the District Leadership Conference. It was recommended that board members solicit feedback from their districts on the timeline for District Leadership Conference and bring back to discuss at a future board meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding State LDE Day finals simultaneously in their designated rooms or keeping it at the end of the event and conducting it all on one stage as before. The Board also discussed when to hand out awards – either in the event's designated room or on the big stage at the end. Need to make sure that guests and the public have an opportunity to watch. Fidely-Doll said that having the final events simultaneously may be problematic if a member is in multiple events.

d. State Crop Show Review

Kleven provided a recap of the 2023 Crop Show.

Kleven said that the Crop Show Committee met this morning and will continue to meet monthly. The committee will begin drafting a mission and purpose statement for the Crop at their next meeting.

It was moved by Free, seconded by Leier, to refer the continuation of the State Crop Show to the Events and Activities Committee to discuss and report back at the June BOD meeting. Board members are to solicit feedback from their districts and provide to the committee. Motion passed.

e. State Winter CDEs Review

Fideldy-Doll provided an event recap for Winter CDEs. She thanked all participating members for their help. She said that as a point of clarification that all registered Agricultural Sales chapters with four or more participants will be automatically signed up for the team event. This will be included in next years registration email.

f. American FFA Degrees and American Star Applications

Kleven said that there are 33 applicants that met the qualifications for the American FFA Degree. Two of these 33 applicants are also working on their American Star application. Candidates will receive an email from the National FFA Organization. Kleven shared that the National FFA Organization has recently recognized that ND has improved the quality of the submissions and continues to move forward in the right direction. The Board agreed that the February 15 due date for American FFA Degree submission was still acceptable.

Fideldy-Doll shared that 121 members, representing 38 chapters, submitted a State FFA Degree application. Applications are still being reviewed. An official notice will be sent out to the applicant from the state office after all applications have been reviewed.

g. State Proficiency Judging, State Star Finalist Award Tour, National Chapter Applications, Food for America Applications

Fideldy-Doll said that we are going to be hosting state proficiency judging virtually through AET from April 4 through April 18. Just like last year, those judges will receive a link that gives them access to those applications. A minimum of five teachers from every district are needed to judge. Judges are still needed in some districts. She encouraged teachers and undergraduates to sign up. Fideldy-Doll said that we need to meet this timeline so we can get plaques ordered and available by state convention.

Kleven said that so far there is one State Star Award applicant. Deadline is April 1. State Star Tour is set for April 24 – 28.

Free and others asked to review the application. Shared concerns that not all students are English majors and the essay portion can scare some of them away. There are members that should be recognized for what they have done but there are lots of reasons including the essay portion that may defer them from completing. Kleven suggested this get referred to the Written Applications and SAE Committee for further discussion.

Fideldy-Doll said that detailed information on Superior Chapter, National Chapter and Food for America was recently sent out by her via email. There is currently one Superior Chapter application submitted. No National Chapter applications submitted yet. Students must complete the Superior Chapter application to do the National Chapter. Deadline to submit is April 1.

h. State Horse Evaluation CDE

Fideldy-Doll said that an email with information on the ND FFA Horse CDE was recently sent out. Registration closes on May 1st and the event will be held May 9th at the NDSU Equine Center.

Beth Allen left the call.

i. State Convention Officer Books

After discussion, the Board proposed to discontinue officer books due to low participation and that the matter go in front of the POA Delegate Committee at State Convention. This was based on a motion at the November 19, 2021, BOD meeting.

j. NDSF FFA Exhibits FairEntry

Kleven shared that State Fair FairEntry is open to enter exhibits. Reminded members to use their login they used in prior years. Blue books and exhibit tags were handed out at Winter CDE's. Help is needed so please sign up. State fair assignments will be released at a later date.

k. State Honorary Degree Considerations

Fideldy-Doll reviewed the six nominations. Information was included for these nominees in the board materials. She said that the purpose of this degree program is to recognize individuals who have provided exceptional service on the state level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA. Reminded members that these individuals do not know that they have received this nomination. She asked that they refrain from sharing this information. If nomination is approved, they will get a notification from our office with information about state convention and how they will accept the award.

Members were sent a link to a Google Drive to record their vote for the nominees. All nominations were approved.

l. American Honorary Degree Considerations

The FFA Foundation will meet on March 31 to nominate.

m. FFA Board of Directors Leaving the Board & August Election

Fideldy-Doll said that L. Van Berkomp from District 2 is retiring from teaching and his term ends in 2023. Need a replacement. Zahradka from District 4 is leaving teaching and her term ends in 2023. Needs a replacement. Pastir from District 5 is leaving teaching and starts a new position on April 11. Here term ends in 2025. A replacement is needed to serve the remainder of the term. Hansen's term from District 6 ends 2023. This position is eligible for another three-year (school year) term.

Jeff Bjugstad will replace Pastir in District 5. Amanda Huettl will replace L. Van Berkom in District 2.

n. Other

No other new business.

9. FFA Foundation Report

Fideldy-Doll read Allen's report in her absence.

The ND FFA Foundation is in heavy SC preparation mode. The foundation is planning their annual Alumni/Foundation Auction, Career Fair, and Parent Sponsor Banquet.

Several meetings have been held with potential sponsors. There are two new Star Partners, Bollingberg Seeds- Star Partner 5 and Scheresky Seed - Star Partner 2.

We had two Star Partners that didn't pay last year, ADM and Wilbur Ellis. Also, Zacharias has decided to discontinue their Star partner but will support ND FFA in other ways.

Kayla Hart organized the Ag in the Classroom grants and WLC scholarships.

Allen is looking for some ideas for safety items. There will be approximately \$8-10,000. Asked BOD if teachers would rather have a chance at a bigger item, or everybody gets an item?

The spring foundation meeting is on March 31. The Gala will be in Fargo on November 18.

Free said that she preferred one bigger item. Fideldy-Doll said she would share that information with Allen.

10. Next Meeting Date & Location

The BOD will meet on June 9, 2023, in Bismarck at the State Capitol, 15th Floor, CTE Conference Room at 1:00 pm. Committee meetings are to be held prior the meeting day.

11. Announcements

No announcements.

12. Adjourn

It was moved by Free, seconded by Leier, to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 3:33 p.m. CST. Motion passed.