

ND FFA Association Board of Directors Minutes

August 4th, 2024 2:00 pm CST

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

Members Present:

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

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

Others Present

Breanna Mueller, ND FFA Association

a. Call Meeting to Order

Fideldy-Doll called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. CST.

b. Roll Call

Fideldy-Doll conducted role call. All were present.

c. Secretary's Minutes 06.07.2024

It was moved by Hansen, seconded by Zingg, to approve the 06.07.2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed.

d. Treasurer's Report

Fideldy-Doll reported that as of 7.24.2024, the FFA Association currently has \$374,506.04 in checking and \$316,354.69 in Edward Jones. There are three chapters that had bills past 90 days, those chapters are not allowed to participate in FFA events until paid. Fideldy-Doll reviewed the 2023-2024 and 24-to date category reports, as well as the State Convention and State Fair budgets. There are a few items that the association is still waiting on to finalize the State Fair budget, but this is a good indication of the cost.

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

e. State Officer Report

Lovro reported that the officer team has had a fun and busy summer. Since being elected in June, the team has participated in CTSO, Basecamp, and Checkpoint one Training. Those trainings focused on inclusivity, communication skills, and workshop facilitation. The team then headed to the state fair where we stickered a lot of projects, handed out awards, and participated in the parade. About

halfway through the fair, Secretary Teagan Erbele and I traveled with advisor Fidely-Doll to Washington D.C. for the State Officer Summit. We arrived two days late due to travel issues, but we made the most of our time there: learning all about advocacy, starting delegate work for national convention, and connecting with state officers from around the country. We also had the opportunity to meet with Senator John Hoeven and Representative Armstrong. Earlier this week, a few members of the officer team traveled to Rolla for state land Judging. We have spent the last couple days planning for the 101 conference skit and workshops for the Leadership conference in September. Our team has also started working on the Program of Activities. Our officer initiative for the year is Blue Jacket Frequency our goals being: create 70 submissions and 5 behind the scenes videos to be featured on social media. It has been a great start to the year, and we are looking forward to what's next.

f. FFA Foundation Report:

DeMorrett reported that the Foundation were provided with a booth at Big Iron and will have a presence there from September 10th-12th at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo. The Owl Social is on September 13th in Bismarck at First International Bank. The Blue and Gold Gala is November 9th at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. DeMorrett also reminded the board that the Ag in the Classroom grants are open, Blue Jackets and Bright Future Applications are due October 15th. This year the Blue Jackets Bright Futures recipients will be given their jacket via their advisor. Advisors will receive an \$85 gift card for a jacket and a scarf to order from Shop FFA. The Foundation Board is also going through strategic planning and that will be complete in December.

g. Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Written Applications & SAE:** The written apps committee met and discussed the following items: the State Degree Handbook, the State Star Application, Proficiency Awards. There are minor changes that need to be made to the State Degree Handbook to align better to the new application and changes that AET has gone through. The State Star Application is being reviewed to align to the new application and ensure that the checklist on AET matches and is described in the handbook. Lastly, proficiency awards were discussed and how we can increase participation and create higher quality applications. There are changes to proficiencies coming from the National FFA Organization, so the committee wants to be prepared on how this may change what proficiency awards could look like in our state.
- b. **CDE:** Carkuff reported that the CDE committee met and discussed the following events: Food Science, Land Judging Card, and Tractor Driving. The committee recommends that Tony Boehm creates a proposal with changes to the Food Science to review. AET will not be creating customized cards

anymore, therefore, the CDE committee is reviewing how we can align our contest to a card that is already made or align a card to our contest. Lastly, there was discussion on Tractor Driving with some minor grammatical errors on the scorecard, but no major changes to the event.

- c. **Finance:** Free reported that the finance committee discussed the ND FFA Membership Dues Proposal and how our timeline is ahead of the National FFA Organization by two years.
- d. **Events/Activities:** Huettl asked members of the board to ask their districts about District Leadership to gain their feedback as a district. She gave members a list of questions that the committee would like discussed and for each district representative to bring back their feedback to the next meeting.
- e. **Policy:** Fidely-Doll reported that the policy committee reviewed the following items: Board of Directors Policy Manual, General Rules & CDE/LDE Rules, Constitution and Bylaws. The committee reviewed how similar the General Rules and the CDE/LDE rules were and combined the two booklets for the board to review. No changes are being made to the Constitution and Bylaws, but this is an item the committee would like to review because there are many minor errors. Lastly, the committee has action during new business to recommend the board adds the Assistant State Supervisor to the Board of Directors Policy Manual.

h. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

i. New Business

a. Standing Committee Action Items

i. Written Applications & SAE:

- 1. Hansen moved that all proficiency applications to be submitted to the state level. Free seconded, and the motion passed. This removes the rule that districts can only submit two per category.

ii. CDE: None

iii. Finance:

- 1. Free moved that the North Dakota FFA Association moves their timeline to adopt affiliation to 2027-2028. It was seconded by Hansen and the motion passed.

iv. Events/Activities: None

v. Policy:

1. Hansen moved that the Assistant State Supervisor (third state staff position) serves as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. Steeke seconded and the motion passed.
2. Free moved to combine the General Rules handbook and the CDE/LDE Handbook into one document. Zingg seconded and the motion passed.

b. FFA Board Officer Elections & Committee Assignments

Hansen nominated Bjugstad as the Vice President of the Board of Directors, Huettl moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bjugstad, Steeke seconded. Motion passed. Bjugstad is the 2024-2025 Vice President.

Hansen nominated Free as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors, Huettl moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Free, Malkowski seconded and the motion passed. Free is the 2024-2025 Treasurer.

The 2024-2025 Committee Assignments are as follows:

1. Written Application & SAE Committee: Spelhaug, Zingg, Hansen, Lindberg, and Lovro
2. CDE/ LDE Committee: Spelhaug, Carkuff, Lemar, Steeke, Anderson, and Malkowski
3. Events/ Activities Committee: Fideldy-Doll, Bjugstad, Huettl, Urlacher, and Erberle
4. Finance: Fideldy-Doll, DeMorrett, Free, and Palmer
5. Policy: Fideldy-Doll, Spelhaug, Bjugstad, Free, and Lovro

Huettl moved that the CDE Committee in the Board of Directors Policy Handbook be changed to the CDE/LDE Committee. Lemar seconded, and the motion passed.

- c. **NDSF Review:** Spelhaug reported that we had over 17,000 entries this year at the State Fair. He asked for feedback on the fair and how we can improve for next year.

Free moved to create a special committee comprised of the Livestock Superintendents, Fair Managers, and Assistant Fair Managers, and Spelhaug to discuss livestock at the North Dakota State Fair. Bjugstad seconded and the motion passed.

- d. **Land Judging Review:** Land Judging was held in Rolla on August 1st. Land Judging in 2025 will be in Carrington.

- e. **Range Judging:** Range Judging is September 19th in Tioga.

- f. **Leadership Conference:** Leadership Conference is September 28th and 29th in Bismarck. Conference T-shirt will be sponsored by the Alumni again. The service project will be packing Ag Literacy kits that chapters can request to take back to their schools for Ag in the Classroom and the rest will be donated to Gateway to Science.
- g. **CTE Professional Development Conference:** Fideldy-Doll encouraged members to use the app to see the CTE PDC schedule.
- h. **Special Committee for Screening Committee:** Free reported that the committee met and had very constructive conversation about the Screening process for State Officers in North Dakota. David Leier, chair of the committee, put together a document for members to take back to their districts and discuss. The committee is looking for feedback from each district on the big discussion points, then they will take that feedback to their next committee meeting to discuss. The committee asks that all feedback is given to Free by October 1st. This will allow the committee time to review the feedback and discuss potential recommendations to the Board of Directors at the November meeting.
- i. **FFA Camp:** Lemar reported that there are 37 students registered for camp and three state officers will be in attendance as well.

j. Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on November 6th at 10:00AM CST at the State Capitol in the 15th Floor Conference Room. Committee work will need to occur prior to meeting. We will review Program of Activities, then eat lunch in the Capitol Cafeteria, then proceed with the meeting. Please let Mueller know if you will be joining via Microsoft Teams.

k. Announcements

Kimberly Bellah will be at NDAAE Conference to provide National FFA Updates, including Fargo being a host of a Next Gen Conference.

l. Adjourn

It was moved by DeMorrett, seconded by Bjugstad to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 5:42PM CST.