

**ND FFA Association Board of Directors Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 1:00 PM CST**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**Members Present:**

Nikki Fideldy-Doll, State Advisor	David Leier, District 8
Beth Allen, FFA Foundation	Ty MacDonald, FFA President
Jeremy Carkuff, District 1	Jack Stoppeworth, FFA Secretary
Amanda Huettl, District 2	Ian Dukart, FFA Vice President
JoDee Free, District 3	Anna Hauge, FFA Treasurer
Callahan Lemer, District 4	Ryan Slaubaugh, FFA Sentinel
Jeff Bjugstad, District 5	Ireland Watterud, FFA Parliamentarian
Missy Hansen, District 6	
Bill Zingg, District 7	

**Members Not Present:**

Annaliese Rauschenberger, FFA Reporter

**Others Present**

Breanna Mueller, ND FFA Association	Lorie Ruff, ND CTE
Annie Dukart, ND FFA Association	Lila Brendel, ND CTE

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Fideldy-Doll called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Fideldy-Doll Conducted roll call.

**3. Secretary's Minutes 11/15/2023**

The board approved the 11/15/2023 minutes, with the corrected spelling of Zingg's name and another spelling error noted by Huettl. The motion was proposed by Allen and seconded by Zingg. The corrected minutes were accepted, and the motion passed.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Fideldy-Doll reported that as of 3/20/2024, the FFA Association's checking account had \$363,546.39; Edward Jones had \$303,229.22. Allen noted the need to open a new checking account and transfer the funds from the old account to the new one. This was due to a reimbursement check to one of the state officers

being mobile deposited twice. The money was returned by the bank, and a new account was opened for security. Fidely-Doll stated a few chapters were allowed to participate in Winter CDEs because their past-due payments were being processed and one chapter currently has bills past 90 days. Fidely-Doll identified two chapters she is helping fix their affiliation membership and reconcile with National FFA. She is working with them to resolve the issue. Free noted that this aged debt report looks better than it has in years. Fidely-Doll reminded members to reach out to teachers with outstanding bills so they can get cleaned up before State Convention and the influx of new bills that will come with it.

Fidely-Doll reviewed 2023 National Convention expenses. This was already seen, but the office is waiting on a few minor things regarding the North Dakota national officer candidate. As of this report, the association accrued a net loss of \$12,780.66 at the 2023 National FFA Convention. This is standard. Fidely-Doll also pointed out this report is missing Honorary American Degrees, as there were no expenses there for 2023. She also noted that the North Dakota association is looking into renting a suite in Lucas Oil Stadium in the future for State Officers and as a space to honor some ag teachers and bring in dignitaries to showcase the great work North Dakota FFA is doing.

Fidely-Doll reviewed the 2023 District Leadership expense report, State LDE Day expense report, and the draft budget from Winter CDEs. The Association is still waiting on a few things from Winter CDEs to finalize the budget. There was an unexpected expense repair on an overhead door that was broken while being operated by an ND FFA volunteer during Winter CDEs. The estimated cost for that repair is \$350 and is reflected in the updated budget. We will receive a final invoice.

Allen moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Leier seconded it.

Motion passed.

## **5. State Officers Report**

MacDonald provided a detailed report on the State Officers' activities. The officer team concluded 2023 with eight district leadership events, followed by State LDE Day. They commenced 2024 with Checkpoint 2 Training, facilitated by Savanna Stroebel. The officers have been actively attending CDE contests across the state and assisted in running the State Winter CDE contest on March 18. They have

initiated the planning for State Convention. The officer team has achieved its goal of visiting 25% of the ND FFA chapters and has completed 29 chapter visits. In addition to contests, the officers have interacted with over 2,000 students. They have started attending banquets and have spoken at 5 banquets as of the meeting. They have 55 banquets scheduled for the spring. MacDonald reminded the board that chapters can still apply to have an officer attend their banquet through the ND FFA website.

6. **FFA Foundation Report**—Due to technical difficulties, the board moved on to the Standing Committee Reports until Allen could rejoin the call.

7. **New Business**

a. **Standing Committee Reports**

i. **Written Applications & SAE: State Association POA**

Hansen reported that the Written Applications committee met on January 9, 2024. They discussed the state program of activities and updated it because the old program of activities was set up in a very different system. AET doesn't work well for the program of activities. Fidely-Doll will investigate what needs to be done to improve it. She also mentioned that the POA would be shown during the new business.

Free moved, and Hanson seconded a motion to approve the report as presented.

Motion passed.

6. **FFA Foundation Report**

Allen reported that the net income from the 2023 Blue and Gold Gala was \$28,203.00, which was deposited into the endowment fund. The FFA Foundation received an Alliance Pipeline grant for \$20,000, which will be used during PDC for safety and DE&I. Allen will work with the professional development committees to distribute those dollars.

The FFA Foundation awarded \$15,000 in college scholarships. Allen commended the board members who may have spoken to or encouraged their students to do a better job filling out an application. She reported that this year's applications were much better than the past two years.

Allen reported that the Foundation distributed \$20,000 in SAE scholarships.

Giving Hearts Day raised \$68,583.14, and this week, the winners of the different Giving Hearts Day awards should be announced.

The FFA Foundation has received 48 applications for Washington Leadership Conference scholarships. The applications are being judged now, and the winners should be announced on March 27. Up to \$20,000 in awards will be given out.

Allen announced the foundation is offering a new scholarship opportunity. Roger and Fern Beaver donated \$11,000 for the Eager Beaver Award. Roger is a former agricultural education teacher who knows how hard it is to start that first job. Applicants must hold a degree in Agricultural Education, have committed to teaching in North Dakota, and be entering their first year of teaching.

Allen updated the board on hiring a new Executive Director for the Foundation. There were 37 applicants, 8 of which were solid candidates. Four will be interviewed on March 26 & 27.

The Foundation is currently working on securing sponsors for state FFA convention. The career fair will be held at Churchill Field again on Tuesday afternoon of state convention. The Parent Sponsor Banquet will be held on Wednesday at state convention. The FFA Alumni Auction will be online from June 1-5. A different online platform will be used this year for the auction. Allen also reported that the FFA Foundation store is doing very well.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **ii. CDE Committee**

Leier first reported that the committee had discussed changes to Parliamentary Procedure. The committee recommended that the board deduct one point per second over the allowed time. For every second over the allowed time, one point will be deducted. The committee also recommended implementing a one-minute time limit for the chair.

Leier next reported that the committee recommended making sure a scantron card is available from Judging Card and that it will be available online for people to prep students with.

Leier shared that the committee recommended adding the average of individual exam scores to the overall team score in Conduct of Chapter

meetings. For example, if six students averaged 20 points, 20 points would be added to the team score.

The CDE Committee discussed Chapter of the Day and Officers of the Day. Leier asked the board for feedback from each district. Should they continue with Chapter of the Day as it is? If essential, then are the Chapter of the Day point values appropriate for Conduct of Chapter Meetings? Should Officers of the Day for Parli Pro and Conduct be awarded points towards the Chapter of the Day?

Leier reported no changes to the Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems CDE.

Leier reported that the committee is not changing AgriScience because the state office cannot implement the necessary changes with the staffing changes.

Leier commented that the committee was waiting on Tony's feedback on changes to the Food Science and Technology event.

The committee reported implementing changes proposed by Mitch and Cam to Agriculture Communications CDE.

Leier reported that the committee recommended removing the dog and cat fancy from the list of references in the Small Animal Care Handbook.

Hanson moved to accept the CDE Committee report as presented. MacDonald seconded.

Motion passed.

### **iii. Finance Committee**

Free reported that the finance committee met in January to discuss the fourth option added to the dues packages. The committee feels the new fourth option is the most viable option for most North Dakota chapters. Free encouraged the board to discuss this new option with their districts. The main feedback the committee received was that they wished the association was paying more towards dues. In model 4A, a contribution of \$35,000 from the association and, if approved by the Foundation's board, up to \$10,000 from the Foundation would help cover some of the state dues. This would lower the cost that everyone else would have to pay.

A discussion was had regarding creating a spreadsheet to help chapters calculate their dues. Fidely-Doll said she would look into this. It was noted that these affiliation dues are for the 2025-2026 school year.

Watterud moved to accept the report as presented. Allen seconded.

Motion passed.

#### **iv. Activities Committee**

Huettl reported that the Activities Committee met and discussed changes to LDE Day. The NAAE Convention has changed its dates, which now fall during the first week of December when District Leadership meetings have previously been held. Discussions were had about districts setting their own District Leadership Meeting dates, what support the State Office would be able to offer, and how that would affect LDE Day.

Huettl moved that each district select its district leadership day and answer questions sent out by the state via email by April 5, 2024. Leier seconded.

Motion passed.

Huettl asked that an agenda item be added to the activities committee's future agenda to investigate LDE Day dates and find something more consistent, as well as to get feedback from the districts.

#### **b. POA Report**

Fidely-Doll reported that 90 POAs are approved, two are denied, and three are not required because they do not have a current sitting teacher. She noted that there were initially more than two, but the State Office helped the others correct their POAs and become approved. The two denied, Nedrose and New Town, were offered help but did not respond. Their schools have been notified.

#### **c. FFA Camp 2024**

Lemar reported that the FFA Camp Committee met in December and January to discuss camp t-shirts, a promotional video, the camp schedule, a promotional flyer, and the 2024 camp budget. The committee also discussed the camp staff application. It was discussed that changing the bylaws and manual would reflect that camp staff must be past state officers and are considering opening applications to current agricultural education majors. The committee discussed having staff arrive the evening before camp starts

to be better prepared for campers arriving the next day. At the January meeting, the committee elected officers. Goals for the 2024 year are to 1. have enough camp counselors so directors don't have to serve as leaders, 2. have at least three to five new chapters attend the camp this year, 3. reorganize the camp schedule to allow for more leadership, workshops and small group time – this goal has been met and, 4. find two new advisors to serve on the camp planning committee – this goal has also been met.

The committee reviewed the budget and noted a \$35 increase per person compared to last year to cover an added ropes course. There may need to be an increase if staff arrive a day earlier. The committee also decided to order a water bottle for each camper to reduce the cost of buying cases of water and reduce the amount of plastic being used. Wesley Acres Camp is changing its management and staff. A deposit will need to be made when the new staff is in place, but the camp reservation is in place for this year with the new management.

Lemar gave a detailed budget for the 2024 camp. Expenses include Wesley Acres at \$150/camper, and there are 50 campers expected, totaling \$7,750. T-shirts are \$10.75/shirt; they are planning for 60 campers and staff, which is \$645. Supplies expense is \$300. Water bottles are \$3.50/bottle; one bottle per camper totals \$175. Registration through Judging Card is \$50. Total estimated expenses are \$8,920.00. In past years, the ND FFA Foundation donated \$2,500 towards the FFA Camp, and the cost for campers to attend this year will be \$175 per camper.

#### **d. District Leadership**

Fidely-Doll reported that 1,292 students competed across all districts for 2023 District Leadership.

#### **e. State LDE Day**

Fidely-Doll reported that 344 students participated in events at the 2023 State LDE Day.

#### **f. State Winter CDE's Review**

Fidely-Doll reported that 637 students in total competed at State Winter CDEs. 201 in ag sales, 228 in agronomy, and 208 in livestock. After

preregistration, the numbers were only down 25 students compared to last year, and nine chapters were down from last year.

There was a tabulation issue during the event. It was an issue with Judging Card. The scores were all entered correctly. Fideldy-Doll said she would be creating a tabulations checklist to hopefully help catch that type of issue sooner if it happens again. She also reached out to Judging Card for advice. The error caused a few placement changes individually and two chapter placings, so Fideldy-Doll contacted the affected chapters.

Fideldy-Doll noted that the FFA Association will purchase insurance for every state-level event. Insurance is already required for Bismarck Event Center and North Dakota State University events. The State Fair Center has never needed this before, but it is a new requirement from the CTE Agency that insurance be purchased for each state-level event.

#### **g. American FFA Degrees & American Star Applications**

Fideldy-Doll said that 17 students submitted applications for American Degrees, but 2 of them are being held because they also submitted American Star applications. In 2023, there were 33 American Degree applications, so we are down about 50% this year. All applications have been reviewed and submitted to the national level and are in the queue to be evaluated and approved. The state will work with the two American Degree applicants to submit their apps with their American Star applications.

#### **h. State Proficiency Judging, State Star Finalist Award Tour, National Chapter Applications, Food for America Applications**

Fideldy-Doll reported that 154 State Degrees were submitted. Normally, they have been reviewed by this time, but that has not yet been done. As in the past, the state worked with instructors to give feedback to students and work with them to help them achieve their degrees.

She also reported that 25 potential State Star candidates have been submitted. She reminded the board that the Star Tour is scheduled for April 22-26, 2024. The top four in each area will be chosen, and those students will be involved in the Star Tour.

She also reminded the board that Proficiencies are due April 1. She also noted that National FFA changed the application. There are 19 Proficiency judges



signed up so far, and judging is planned for April 9–23. Fideldy–Doll said she needs five teachers from each district to help spread out the application load in addition to the outside judges, teachers from other states, and other volunteers she has recruited. She asked the board to encourage teachers to sign up to judge Proficiencies.

Fideldy–Doll reminded the board that Food for America applications are due April 15.

#### **i. State Horse Evaluation CDE**

Fideldy–Doll reported that she is working on getting the Judging Card set up and registration details finalized for the State Horse Evaluation CDE. It will be held on May 7 in Fargo at NDSU and run the same way as last year.

#### **j. State Convention**

Fideldy–Doll said the 2024 State FFA Convention will be held June 2–6. Registration is supposed to open on April 1. She will do her best to have it ready to go and information sent out for that deadline. She said there will not be many changes to state convention this year besides the changes made to CDEs during the meeting today. The FFA Foundation store will be at convention.

Free reminded Fideldy–Doll that the board is there to help her and that she should ask for help when she needs it.

#### **k. NDSF FFA Exhibits**

Fideldy–Doll shared the chapters that were at Winter CDE’s received all of their ND State Fair books and tags. They can start tagging now. She said Mueller and herself would be working on entry of exhibits together. She asked the board to have a conversation with the teachers in their district about the State Fair and what they need to do if they are confused or need guidance.

#### **l. State Honorary Degree Considerations**

Fideldy–Doll stated there was one application for an Honorary Degree, details were included in the resource packet. She asked for suggestions or nominations of other people the board may deem appropriate for the honor. With no new nominations made, Stoppleworth made a motion to accept the submitted application, seconded by MacDonald.

Motion failed.

#### **m. American Honorary Degree Considerations**

Fideldy-Doll asked the board for any recommendations or nominations on behalf of the board for the American Honorary Degree.

Jeremy Carkuff left the meeting.

#### **n. FFA Board of Directors Leaving the Board and August Election**

Discussion was held about who will be up for re-election or who will be replaced in August.

#### **o. New Chapters**

Fideldy-Doll reported that the Association will be chartering two new chapters at State Convention this year: Drake-Anamoose and Hankinson. She also noted there are a few schools or new programs who will be chartering next year.

The board also discussed open teaching positions around the state.

#### **p. Other**

Fideldy-Doll shared the draft funding policy that the North Dakota Board of Career & Technical Education is considering and is releasing for public comment. She noted that this draft funding policy would change the way all of the North Dakota agriculture programs are funded and that the NDCTE board is looking for public comment. Fideldy-Doll urged the board to consider the proposed funding policy and share it with the other teachers in their districts. She asked them to submit their comments to the NDCTE subcommittee.

### **8. Next Meeting**

Free moved to hold the next board meeting on June 7. MacDonald seconded.

The next board meeting will be Friday, June 7 in Bismarck at the State Capitol in the CTE Conference room on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Committee work should be completed before the meeting.

Motion passed.

### **9. Announcements**

No Announcements.

## **10. Adjourn**

It was moved by Free, seconded by Hanson, to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by: Annie Dukart**