**Minnesota FFA Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 21, 2015**

**9:30 AM**

**Camp Friendship- Annandale, MN**

President PJ Aarsvold

Vice President Morgan Krause

Secretary Mariah Daninger

Treasurer Travis Troendle

Reporter Madison Taylor

Sentinel Sam Johnson

Region I President Emily Vogt

Region II President Mary Sarah Sauber

Region III President Nathan Koehl

Region IV President Janelle Hueners

Region V President Kayla Kutzke

Region VI President Katie Rogers

Region VII President Megan Andrist

Region VIII President Aricka Roberson

Advisor Mr. Joel Larsen

Executive Secretary Ms. Juleah Tolosky

Region I Representative Ms. Rita Olson

Region II Representative Ms. Gretchen Schleper

Region III Representative Mr. John Roberts

Region IV Representative Mr. James Weninger

Region V Representative Ms. Rebekah Haddad

Region VI Representative Ms. Deb Martin

Region VII Representative Mr. Bruce Mathiowetz

Region VIII Representative Mr. Paul Aarsvold

Lavyne Rada- Leadership Development Coordinator

Val Aarsvold- MN FFA Foundation Executive Director

Mr. Jim Burns- MN FFA Alumni

Mr. Rick Bleichner- Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Dennis Bjorklund- CDE Coordinator

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by President Aarsvold.

**Invocation**

Invocation by Vice President Krause.

**Introductions**

Introductions of board members.

**Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Secretary Daninger gave Secretary’s Report for previous board meeting found on pages 7-12. Secretary Daninger moved to approve minutes. Seconded and passed. Representative Roberts moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.

**Correspondence**

Reporter Taylor passed articles from National FFA Convention and a packet from National FFA being sent to all agriculture teachers around the room.

**Review and Additions to Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Troendle moved Ms. Juleah Tolosky is appointed to act as liaison and manager of the check book and bank accounts for Minnesota FFA. Seconded and passed. Representative Olson moved to sustain the motion. Seconded and sustained.

***MN FFA OFFICER UPDATES***

**Regional President Reports**

Regional Presidents shared the reports of their region activities so far. Also found on pages 56-60.

**State Officer Activities**

Treasurer Troendle informed the board with an update of the State Officer Team’s activities. He shared chapter visits are in full swing, three officers attended the Agri Growth Conference where they learned about the main theme of agriculture and millennials. The officers have visited Ralco and Runnings and would be visiting Agribank, Davis Dairy and Mid-States. The team had attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting November 20 and would be attending the Farmer’s Union Annual Meeting November 21.

**National FFA Convention**

Reporter Taylor gave the board an overview of the 88th National FFA Convention for Minnesota. There were eight delegates serving on six committees aimed at improving the National FFA Organization. Mr. Jim Ertl received the National FFA VIP Award. CDE teams and Proficiency winners were announced. Forest Lake FFA won the Agricultural Communications CDE and Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted won the Food Science and Technology CDE. Brett Peterson from the Kerkhoven Murdock Sunburg FFA Chapter won the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency area and Rebekah Aanerud from the Morris Area FFA Chapter won the Agricultural Communications Proficiency area.

The National FFA Officer candidate’s “Letter of Intent” is due April 15. Interview dates are pending. The 2016 National FFA Officer Candidate from Minnesota will be selected before June 1.

***LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT***

**State Greenhand Leadership Conference**

Vice President Krause shared an overview of SGLC. Advisor Larsen gave an overview of the expenses and incomes from camp. Vice President Krause moved to keep the camp fees for SGLC at $185 for 2016. Seconded and passed. Representative Bleichner moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.

**State Leadership Conference for Chapter Leaders**

Vice President Krause shared an overview of SLCCL, including this conference had the highest attendance to date this year. LDC Rada shared a potential new schedule for camp on page 35. Sentinel Johnson moved to set camp dates from July 10-12 and 13-15. Seconded and passed. Representative Weninger moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained. Sentinel Johnson moved to have fees for SLCCL 2016 at $175. Seconded and passed. Representative Schleper moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.

**Washington Leadership Conference**

LDC Rada shared the Minnesota group attending WLC would go June 20-26. Chaperones were discussed. Region President Rogers moved we approve Stephan Funk as the 2016 WLC chaperone. Seconded and passed. Representative Roberts moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.

Scholarships are available from Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota FFA Foundation and Minnesota FFA Alumni for students to apply for. 42 tickets were purchased for the students and two chaperones, so 40 students would have the opportunity to attend. The option for attendees to pay in three checks is available.

**POWER and ROLO**

Executive Secretary Tolosky shared POWER II for the region officers occurred November 20. POWER will occur during the time of Facilitation Bootcamp. ROLO will remain an optional training and many regions have seen value and quality training from ROLO. The sponsorship of POWER is not yet known. Region President Vogt shared her team enjoyed POWER II and learned how they will have the opportunity to prepare the coming year’s team. Region President Roberson shared how ROLO is great for individual learning and POWER/ POWER II is great for the team learning.

**Leadership Development Coordinator Report**

LDC Rada shared H2O had 99 members attend and the H2O in March will contain different content. Region President Hueners gave a report on being a CHS Miracle of Birth Center Barnyard Attendant while Region President Sauber shared about being a Ambassador for Leadership. LDC Rada reported Agricultural Policy Experience applications are due December 1 and the conference will run February 1-2. This may allow more flexibility since there is not a legislative session going on. LDC Rada also shared Region II’s Middle School Conference was a great introduction to our state, and it can be improved for future years.

**Executive Secretary Report**

Executive Secretary Tolosky shared about the transition of Executive Secretary Ertl. Foundation Executive Secretary also shared to respond to Ertl’s Retirement Roast. There will be money raised in a silent and live auction going towards the Agricultural Education Proficiency Award Ertl Endowment Fund.

**National Officer Experience Week**

LDC Rada shared the tentative itinerary on page 53.

***MN FFA PROGRAM MANAGEMENT***

**Membership Report**

Executive Secretary Ertl Tolosky shared the membership report on pages 25-30. The deadline for registration was November 1, but they are still coming in. She also noted CDE participants should be members in order to compete in region contests.

**Career Development Events**

Dennis Bjorklund updated the board on CDE’s. The U of M Winter Invite will be Thursday, December 17. Regions should let him know if materials are needed for regional qualifying competitions. 2016 CDEs changed include: Ag Mechanics, Ag Sales, Crops, Floriculture, Nursery Landscape and Small Animals. State Convention registration closes April 15, 2016. Talent registration is due to Ron Kelsey. Public Speaking and Job Interview materials must be sent in a single pdf by April 1. Market Plan and Ag Issues preregistration due March 1.

**Proficiency Award Applications**

Advisor Larsen stated two areas have been eliminated including Emerging Agriculture and Agricultural Mechanics & Energy Systems. The regions need to reach out to chapter advisors so they know how to complete applications and can have their students complete them.

**State Degree**

Advisor Larsen shared an overview on the Minnesota FFA State Degrees.

**National Chapter Award Applications**

LDC Rada shared this will be the last year with the same application as before. Details for the new application beginning in 2017 will be release in January. Applications are due March 1. There are also recognition opportunities without filling out the entire National Chapter Application through being eligible for Models of Innovation.

**Agri Science Fair**

LDC Rada reported submitting the papers earlier made a positive difference for nationals and there will be major revisions in the future. The U of M Roland Peterson Science Fair will be March 17.

**American Degree Application**

Advisor Larson announced applications for the American FFA Degree are due April 15 and American Star qualifying candidates may begin filling out the star battery.

**Minnesota FFA Media**

Reporter Taylor reminded the board of the blogs posted by officers each week. She also shared the media goals. Foundation Executive Director Aarsvold reported improvements to the website are being looked into including making it more mobile-friendly.

***MN FFA UPCOMING EVENTS***

**National FFA Foundation Scholarships**

Region President Hueners shared there are $2,000,000 in scholarships available.

**MN FFA Alumni Hall of Fame**

Region President Rogers informed the board nominations are due January 5. Mr. Burns mentioned once someone is nominated, they are in the pool for three years. He also encouraged the board to keep nominating people with detailed applications.

**National FFA Week**

Secretary Daninger shared National FFA Week is coming February 20-27 and regions/ chapters can fill out a form to request officers to attend events. Regions should also send pictures from events to the state.

**FFA Day at the Capitol**

Region President Kutzke told the board it will be held March 31.

**Minnesota FFA Ag Literacy Challenge**

President Aarsvold gave an overview of the Ag Literacy Challenge and said the officer team is taking a look at it.

**Minnesota FFA Land of Service Program**

Treasurer Troendle shared an overview of the Land of Service Program. We are looking at hunger service projects especially this year.

**Chapter Models of Innovation**

Reporter Taylor shared an overview of the Chapter Models of Innovation, including the categories of Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development.

**True Friends**

Brooke Jensen from True Friends thanked the board for what Minnesota FFA has done. She also informed the board the Minnesota FFA has given over $5.5 million to Camp Courage since 1953.

**Ag Issues Forum & Market Plan CDEs**

Region President Sauber reported portfolios must be submitted to Dennis Bjorklund by April 1. The top eight teams will compete Tuesday, April 26.

**State Officer Nomination Committee**

LDC Rada stated applications are due February 1. Adult Board Representatives will be from the Foundation and Alumni. State Officer applications are due March 1. Nom com training session will be March 18 at the MN Department of Education. State Officer prep days are March 19 at Ridgewater College and April 2 at the U of M. The nominating committee will meet April 22-24 and 25/26 only if needed. There will be a maximum of 18 candidates and they will be notified by April 8 if they advance to the interviews.

**2016 State FFA Convention**

Sentinel Johnson shared the 2015-2016 theme- “Together We.” Advisor Larsen expects fees to be similar to last year. Sentinel Johnson state band and choir applications would be open from January 30- March 15. Reporter Taylor shared thoughts on moving Tuesday morning session to Mariucci Arena. Some of those thoughts included: we are outgrowing CECC, the opportunity to attend sessions would be provided to many more students, and workshops could be held in buildings arounds stadium village. Concerns of sound in Mariucci and advisors having nowhere to park busses were brought up by Representatives Schleper and Olson, respectively.

Recess was taken for lunch.

Representative Mathiowetz shared he would encourage a recommendation to administration for chapters to have one chaperone for every 10 members. LDC Rada said a service project could occur between sessions in Mariucci. The officers and state staff will meet to discuss this more in-depth. Foundation Executive Secretary Aarsvold is looking into a way of bringing sponsors in before the proficiency awards program in order to get them there, show them appreciation and give them time to interact with students. LDC Rada shared Mariucci has their own technology streaming and we are looking into streaming from CECC. Advisor Larsen shared delegate amendments are due March 24. LDC Rada reported non-registration before workshops had similar attendance to previous years requiring attendance. She added advisors would like a take-back item for students to prove to advisors they went. LDC Rada also included there will be media interns and a live Twitter feed. Each region should nominate one teacher for their Honorary State Degree.

**Minnesota FFA Triple Crown Award**

Advisor Larsen informed the board of what this award would include: one state-qualifying team, one member receiving state degree or qualified for first/second/ third place proficiency, and a leadership component. Sentinel Johnson moved to establish a Triple Crown Award with the criteria outlined. Seconded and passed. Representative Weninger moved to sustain. Seconded and passed.

**Minnesota State Fair**

Advisor Larsen shared there is not a theme for the landscape booth yet. We will be talking with Martin County West about doing the State horse show again. Advisor Larsen encouraged more agricultural mechanics exhibits and shared there is interest in doing leadership exhibits.

**Minnesota FFA Alumni**

Mr. Burns told the board they are looking at the President’s Circle, looking at a two year program to bring in the alumni affiliate basis. The Minnesota FFA Alumni Annual Meeting will be March 5 at Farm America. He added camp scholarships are available and more applicants are encouraged. Registration for camp opens May 1 and the scholarship covers the cost of camp. Executive Secretary Tolosky noted awarding the scholarship in a public setting, like convention, would be beneficial for application numbers and encouraging students to apply/ attend.

**Minnesota FFA Foundation**

Foundation Executive Director Aarsvold introduced the new member to the Foundation team, LuAnn Schloesser. Representative Weninger represents our board at the Foundation Board meetings. There were 398 applications to Blue Jackets, Bright Futures. 195 jackets were awarded. Donna Moenning will help with Minnesota Foundation communications. She encourages each chapter to donate to the Foundation, anything from $5-$500. 100% chapter donation would be great. James Tracy was a farmer near Randolph who willed his farm to the Minnesota FFA Foundation. There will be five $1000 scholarships this year because of his contribution. A different weekend is being looked at for FFA Day with the Saint Paul Saints. The golf tournament will be in July. Texas has an ambassador program to work with sponsors and give them a VIP experience at convention. We are looking at incorporating that.

**Minnesota Foundation for student Organizations (MFSO)**

Executive Secretary Tolosky shared about the relationship of MFSO with FFA. The FFA received an increase in funding during the past legislative session through MFSO. One State Officer has been asked to serve as a student representative on the MFSO board..

**Additions**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Next Meeting**

Vice President Krause moved to have the next board meeting March 19. Seconded and passed. Representative Roberts moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.

**Adjourn**

Vice President Krause moved to adjourn. Seconded and passed. Representative Bleichner moved to sustain. Seconded and sustained.