

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF STUDENT
OFFICERS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Washington, D. C.
January 28-29, 1954

January 28, 1954

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., in Room 4282, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Building, Washington, D. C., by David Boyne, National President. Those present included: Charles Ritter, Southern Vice President; Walker James, North Atlantic Vice President; John Schultheis, Pacific Vice President; Harlan Rigney, Central Vice President; Hunt Zumwalt, Student Secretary; Dr. W. T. Spanton, National Advisor; and Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary.

The reading of minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with since all those present had received mimeographed copies.

Copies of the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures of the FFA were distributed to all those present. This statement covered a six-month period from July 1, 1953 to December 31, 1953. The statement was reviewed in detail by Dr. Spanton.

A discussion was held concerning the salaries of all FFA employees. Dr. Spanton explained that the FFA employees in the national office are on a par with Government employees, and those at the Supply Service are on a par with business firms.

It was moved by Walker James, seconded by Hunt Zumwalt and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that facts relative to the salary scales for all FFA employees be made available to the Board members and that these be reviewed and action taken at the July meeting relative to possible salary adjustment. This should be reviewed also in line with service the staff has rendered.

Mr. Lano Barron, Editor of The NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER Magazine appeared before the Board and presented a six-month budget on the magazine for the period ended December 31, 1953.

The possibility of changing the dates of the printing of the magazine was discussed since the date of October 5 was too close to the opening of the school year and there was not time to get subscriptions in six weeks previous to this printing date. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the printing dates be changed to September, December, March, and June.

Mr. Barron then reviewed the circulation of the magazine for the period ended December 31, 1953. The total subscriptions received as of that date were 131,857. Since that time 14,118 additional subscriptions have been received.

Mr. Edward Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmer Supply Service was introduced to the Board, after which he reviewed a statement of operating expense for the Supply Service for a six-month period from July 1, 1953 to December 31, 1953.

Dr. Spanton interrupted the report to explain that the quarters at the Camp for the Supply Service and magazine are very crowded. He stated there was a possibility of the magazine getting space at the University of Maryland. The magazine is not conveniently located now, since the staff does not have ready access to a library. It would probably be well for all concerned if it were moved. There has been some correspondence about this and the people at the University seem to be interested. There has been nothing definite on this so far, but indications are that there will be space available at the University.

It was moved by Walker James, seconded by Hunt Zumwalt and carried, that the problem of moving the magazine to the University of Maryland be looked into and, if it appears advisable, to do so.

Mr. Hawkins resumed his report and showed a chart on business at the Supply Service. The official jacket is the major portion of the business -- two-thirds. The companies that manufacture the official jackets at the present time are the Universal Uniform Company, and the Ringer St. Croix Company. Last year Universal manufactured 16,000 jackets and Ringer a little better than 44,000. A map was then shown which gave the number of jackets shipped into each State.

Last summer the Board authorized Mr. Hawkins to get competitive bids on the official jacket. He solicited ten companies and five of these sent in bids. The prices quoted were for jackets completely lettered and ready for shipment.

It was moved by Charles Ritter, seconded by Walker James and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that Mr. Hawkins' recommendations be accepted -- and that the official jackets be manufactured by the companies designated for the prices designated; also, that an additional distribution point be established somewhere in the Southern Region, the exact location to be decided by the Governing Committee and Mr. Hawkins.

It was moved by John Schultheis, seconded by Charles Ritter and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that hydro-vat dye be used in the jackets. It was also decided that the color to be used exclusively in the jacket be "royal blue" by Julliard.

Mr. Hawkins showed a good grade plastic billfold, explaining that some of the chapters thought the leather billfold now on sale was a luxury item. This plastic billfold could be sold for \$1.00 or \$1.25. He suggested this type billfold be stocked and that the other, more expensive, one be reduced in price or else eliminated completely.

It was moved by Walker James, seconded by John Schultheis and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the plastic billfold, together with a plastic pocket secretary be sold by the Supply Service and that the leather billfolds also be sold until they are out of stock.

A letter was read in which it was suggested that consideration be given to the FFA making available Christmas Cards, which would be suitable for all FFA groups -- members, chapters, State Associations, etc. The card could be put out in large quantities so the cost could be kept down.

It was moved by Charles Ritter, seconded by Hunt Zumwalt and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that Mr. Hawkins be authorized to investigate the possibility of stocking Christmas Cards at the Supply Service and report on this at the July meeting.

Dr. Tenney showed the wood dye of the Sentinel Plaque. It was moved by John Schultheis, seconded by Hunt Zumwalt and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the wood dye of the Sentinel Plaque be approved.

The next item to come before the Board was the situation of the Box Elder Chapter, at Brigham City, Utah, which had submitted a report on accomplishments in the National Chapter Contest that was never received in this office. It was reported that all records have been checked and there was no evidence found of the material ever reaching this office. Mr. Downs, Assistant State Director of Agricultural Education in Utah, was informed that if he would resubmit the material, it would be rated on a comparative basis with the other reports that had been received from the Pacific Region. This was done and the chapter rated Gold Emblem. This office is not authorized to accept any material after September 1, however, and if this chapter were to be recognized as a Gold Emblem Award winner and the award given, it would have to be passed upon by the Board and also the delegates at the convention.

It was moved by Walker James, seconded by John Schultheis and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that under existing conditions, no favorable action be taken on this matter, since the Box Elder report did not reach the national office before September 1.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

January 29, 1954

The meeting was called to order in Dr. Spanton's office at 9:00 a.m., all members of the Board being present.

The first matter to be taken up by the Board was that of new criteria for awarding the Honorary American Farmer Degree to chapter advisors, as a result of action taken by the delegates at the 1953 National Convention, which included the following recommendation:

"A new criteria for awarding the Honorary American Farmer Degree to chapter advisors is to be established by the National Board of Student Officers and the National Board of Directors of the FFA. The old policy of awarding the Degree to advisors of National Gold Emblem Chapters is to be discontinued."

In line with this recommendation, a suggested Criteria, prepared by a Committee which had been appointed for this purpose, to be used as a basis for selecting teachers of vocational agriculture to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, was presented to the Board. In this report it was suggested that each applicant must have held the Honorary State Farmer Degree, and that a maximum of 25 Honorary American Farmer Degrees be awarded per year to teachers. Considerable discussion followed on the various aspects of this report. There was no objection to the qualification of holding the Honorary State Farmer Degree, but some members of the Board felt that the figure of 25 Degrees per year to teachers was too low, and that more recognition should be given to teachers of vocational agriculture. Dr. Spanton brought out the fact that while a Future Farmer has only 5, 6, or 7 years to strive for the American Farmer Degree, a teacher of vocational agriculture has at least 30 years in which to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Points given in the report for Gold Emblem Chapter winners was discussed. It was pointed out that some criticism has been heard to the effect that there is a possibility that Gold Emblem Chapter Reports are copied when they are on display during the National Convention. In the discussion which followed, Dr. Tenney stated that while this could happen, he believes that back of every Gold Emblem Chapter, there must be a fine teacher of vocational agriculture. Some members of the Board thought the points given for a Gold Emblem Chapter should be increased from 60 to 100, or even 200, and that Silver Emblem Chapters should be included in the Criteria.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Harlan Rigney, seconded by Charles Ritter and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that 100 points be given for the Winner of a Gold Emblem in the National Chapter Contest - and that 40 points be given for the winner of a Silver Emblem in the same contest.

The Board approved the Committee Report on Criteria for Selecting Teachers of Vocational Agriculture To Receive The Honorary American Farmer Degree for 1954, but recommended that it be discussed at the Regional Conferences for further improvement after 1954.

The report follows:

(See next page for report)

* Criteria For Selecting Teachers Of Vocational Agriculture
To Receive The
Honorary American Farmer Degree

	<u>Points</u>
1. For each American Farmer	90
2. For each National Officer	90
3. For each year as Winner of Gold Emblem in National Chapter Contest	100
4. For each year as Winner of Silver Emblem in National Chapter Contest	40
5. For each Regional Star Farmer	100
6. For each Winner in Regional FFA Foundation Award - (Farm Electrification, Farm Mechanics, Farm Safety, Dairy Farming, and Soil and Water Management)	60
7. For each Winning Team of Gold Emblem Award in National Judging Contest	40
8. For each American Farmer Established in Farming	90
9. For each Speaker in National Public Speaking Contest	60
10. For each year of office in National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association	40
11. For each State Farmer	10
12. For each State Star Farmer	20
13. For each State Officer	10
14. For each State Winner in National FFA Foundation Award - (Farm Electrification, Farm Mechanics, Farm Safety, Dairy Farming, and Soil and Water Management)	5
15. For each State Farmer Established in Farming	10
16. For each Winner as Gold Emblem or Master Chapter Activity	5
17. For each State Winner in Public Speaking Contest	5
18. For each Team Winning Gold Medal in State Judging Contest	5
19. For each year on State Advisory Council	5
20. For each year of office in State Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association	5
21. For each year of service as Teacher	5

* These Criteria were approved by the National FFA Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors, January 29, 1954. They will be used as a basis for selecting teachers of vocational agriculture to receive the Degree of Honorary American Farmer. The Boards authorized that not more than 25 degrees be awarded per year to teachers. Each applicant must have previously received the Honorary State Farmer Degree.

The question was raised as to the total number of Honorary American Farmer Degrees which should be granted each year. It was thought that perhaps a total of 50 would be appropriate.

After reviewing the numbers of Honorary American Farmer Degrees awarded during the past several years, it was moved by Hunt Zumwalt, seconded by Harlan Rigney and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the maximum number of Honorary American Farmer Degrees to be awarded each year, be set at approximately 50.

A Progress Report on changes in the National FFA Chapter Contest was presented to the Board for consideration, as a result of action taken at the last National Convention, namely:

"That the National Office devise a report form for use in connection with the National Chapter Contest that will:

1. Simplify the reporting of chapter accomplishments.
2. Facilitate scoring of accomplishments and selection of award winners.
3. Eliminate scrapbooks and similar materials from consideration in judging."

Mimeographed copies of a proposed report form which would replace the old National Chapter Contest report form, were given to members of the Board. The Board members reviewed the proposed form and offered certain suggestions. Dr. Tenney stated that he believed the Board should decide on what the chapters should be asked to submit this year.

After further discussion, it was moved by Charles Ritter, seconded by John Schultheis and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the old rules and form in the National Chapter Contest be continued in use for the present, and that the procedures to be followed in completing the revision of the report form be left up to the Governing Committee and the matter be referred to the Board at its July meeting.

The Board members were asked to refer to Page 56 of the Official Manual, the section having to do with the "Ceremony for Initiating Green Hands". It was suggested that this ceremony would be more forceful, worthwhile and impressive if the second word in this heading were changed to "Installing" instead of "Initiating".

After some discussion, it was moved by Hunt Zumwalt, seconded by Walker James and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the second word at the top of Page 56 of the Official Manual be changed from "Initiating" to "Installing".

Mr. Cerra, of the law firm Davies, Richberg, Tydings, Beebe and Landa, gave a brief report on the status of the lawsuit involving the Chapter Supply Company, Danville, Illinois, for the infringement of trademarks belonging to the FFA. He reported that the case is being appealed. A brief has been prepared and the case will be presented for oral argument in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, in Chicago, during the week of February 22. The question was asked: What will our status be if we win this case? -- and what will it be if we lose the case? Mr. Cerra replied that if we win, no manufacturer or sales organization would be able to use the registered trademarks without obtaining authorization to do so from the Board of Directors of the FFA -- but if we lose, it means that any chapter or any State Association of Chapters can authorize any one to produce anything at all and use the FFA emblem.

Dr. Tenney wondered whether we should proceed to have the Federal Charter amended now - clarifying the meaning of the word "use" in Section 16 of the Charter - or wait until the case is heard before the Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Cerra replied that if the case is lost, we should notify the chapters and associations immediately and point out that this whole matter is in their hands, and warn them of the seriousness of what the final outcome could be.

Dr. Spanton brought out the fact that trademarks can only be renewed once, and when the FFA trademarks expire, any one could use them. He thought perhaps we should have this extra insurance (by having the Charter amended) even though we win the case. He pointed out that such an amendment would give permanent protection to the FFA Emblem even when the present trademark registrations expire.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Charles Ritter, seconded by Hunt Zumwalt and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that we proceed with an amendment to the Federal Charter, specifically with reference to a clarification of the word "use" in Section 16 of Public Law 740.

It was moved by Hunt Zumwalt, seconded by John Schultheis and carried, that any action taken to protect the use of the FFA Emblem, by an amendment to the Federal Charter, be fully explained to the States as representing the wishes of the Board of Student Officers of the FFA.

Dr. Tenney read the changes in rules of the National Public Speaking Contest, which were recommended by the Public Speaking Contest Committee and approved by the delegates at the 1953 National FFA Convention, and pointed out that these recommendations are to be reviewed by the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors and a date set for the changes to become effective.

After some discussion of these changes, it was moved by Walker James, seconded by John Schultheis and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that these changes go into effect when the new forms are printed, which would be for the 1955 National Public Speaking Contest.

Dr. Tenney then read a letter from the Schoharie Chapter of FFA, Schoharie, New York, advising that their chapter had voted on having a County Farmer Degree, which would come between the Chapter Farmer and State Farmer Degree. It was the wish of this chapter to have a medal or key for this new Degree, and they have requested permission to use the FFA Emblem on such a medal or key. This matter was discussed, and it was the sense of the group that permission could not be granted for the use of the FFA Emblem on such a medal, since the FFA Constitution would have to be amended before an additional Degree could be added. Dr. Tenney was instructed that the Schoharie Chapter be so advised.

Dr. Tenney announced that the exchange of FFA members with the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain will be continued in 1954. He explained to the Board that it has been the custom in the past to observe rotation by Regions in selecting the persons who would make the trip. Last year the two representatives of the FFA were from Michigan and Vermont, or the Central and North Atlantic Regions; therefore, this year they should come from the Southern and Pacific Regions. It has also been the practice to rotate from State to State within a Region. It is also advisable to select a representative from a State that is willing, in turn, to entertain the representative from Great Britain. The suggestion was made that, since the guests from Great Britain are interested in observing different types of farming, they be permitted to visit two or three States, instead of remaining in one small State.

It was agreed by members of the Board that the Governing Committee should select the representatives from the FFA to travel to Great Britain in the Exchange Program with students from Great Britain.

A letter was read from one of the States in the North Atlantic Region, in which they requested permission for 9th grade students enrolled in "General Agriculture" classes, to be granted membership in the FFA organization.

Considerable discussion followed, and it was moved by Harlan Rigney, seconded by Walker James and carried, that this State's request for 9th grade students enrolled in "General Agriculture" classes to be allowed membership in the FFA organization be denied, since it would require an amendment to the FFA Constitution.

A letter was read from a State in the North Atlantic Region, calling attention to the instructions listed on Page 2 of the application blank for the American Farmer Degree, which states that:

"The candidate must list his farming program for each year, indicating scope, candidate's share of credits, debits, and labor income for each enterprise."

The State in question objected to this policy, since its system of record keeping does not require records by enterprises, but merely records on the total supervised farming program. The contents of this letter were discussed, and it was agreed that all applications submitted for the American Farmer Degree in June should conform to present practice and policies, and that any changes in procedures be discussed further at the next meeting of the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.