

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri
October 10-11, 1953

October 10

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the FFA was called to order in Room 941 of the Hotel President, in Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board. Those present included: Mr. L. C. Dalton, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State College, New Mexico; Mr. George H. Hurt, Acting Chief, Agricultural Education, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas; Mr. Cola D. Watson, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Burlington, Vermont; Mr. Harold E. Urton, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Pierre, South Dakota; Mr. E. J. Johnson; Mr. R. E. Naugher; Mr. H. N. Hansucker; Dr. A. W. Tenney, Executive Secretary of the FFA, all of the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and Dr. D. J. Howard, National Treasurer of the FFA, of Richmond, Virginia. In addition to the above members of the Board, the following persons were present: Mr. H. B. Swanson, of the Office of Education; and the Board of Student Officers of the FFA.

The first matter to come before the Board was the review of the case of Harold Paul Heyman, of Route 1, Burns, Kansas, whose application for the American Farmer Degree was rejected at the July meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Directors. Dr. Spanton reported that he had been advised by Mr. Lester Pollom, the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Kansas, that Harold desired to appear before the Board at their October meeting and appeal his case. Dr. Spanton read the correspondence that had taken place between him; Mr. Pollom; Mr. C. M. Miller, the State Director in Kansas; and the candidate, Harold Heyman. The members of the Board again reviewed the application in question, and the reason for its rejection, namely; "It was found that on Page 3 of the candidate's application errors exceeded 5 per cent of the labor income in the summarization of the labor income and amount actually received by the candidate. An error in calculation was also found on Page 8 of the application."

The candidate and Mr. Loren Whipps, Assistant Teacher Trainer, of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, then were admitted to the conference room. Mr. Whipps reported that he feared the State Office was probably to blame for the rejection of Harold's application, due to errors in typing the application. In the discussion which followed, Mr. Whipps was questioned by members of the Board concerning the procedure used in his State in the preparation of American Farmer applications. Mr. Watson asked, in particular, if Harold had transferred the information from his record books on to the application form. Mr. Whipps stated that the candidate computes the data for his record book; then sends the figures in to the State Office where the application is typed. Mr. Urton inquired if the State Office keeps the original figures, as submitted by the candidate, from which the typing was done, and Mr. Whipps gave a negative reply. Mr. Hurt told of the procedure followed in the State of Texas; this being that the candidate transcribes the figures from his record book; sends this material to the State Office; the State staff checks the figures submitted and types the application form. The original figures, however, are filed in the State Office for future reference.

Harold was given an opportunity to make a statement to the Board. He stated that he could add little to what Mr. Whipps had said, but he had his record books with him and would be glad to answer any questions concerning them. He stated that he could not, of course, prove to the Board's satisfaction that he had not made corrections in his records since the time his application was rejected. After some discussion, it was suggested that Harold leave his record books with the Board for further review.

After due consideration and discussion, it was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Hurt and carried, that the Board of Directors accept the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers — namely, that the Board uphold its previous action, with the understanding that notice be given the boy, setting forth in detail the reason for the action, namely, that no further evidence had been submitted to the Board, indicating that an error was not made in his original application.

The next matter presented for the consideration of the Board was a complaint from Elmer Felton, of Phoenix, Arizona, because of the fact that W. E. Smith was to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, instead of himself, by virtue of Mr. Smith signing as advisor of the Phoenix Technical School — a Gold Emblem Chapter winner. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that while Mr. Felton had started the department in 1947 and has done a very good job there, it appears that Mr. Smith, a comparatively new Teacher, has been working with the chapter and signed the Chapter Contest report as Advisor. In view of the fact that this chapter won a Gold Emblem Award, Mr. Smith automatically becomes eligible for the Honorary American Farmer Degree. However, Mr. Felton feels that this honor should rightfully go to him.

Mr. Hurt cited a similar case in the State of Texas, and Mr. Johnson briefly reviewed similar cases which had occurred in the States of Wyoming and California. In both cases in the Pacific Region, the reports were accepted as submitted. Mr. Johnson, therefore, suggested that we accept the signature of Mr. Smith, as Advisor of the Phoenix Technical Chapter. Dr. Spanton pointed out the fact that in accordance with policies previously adopted, and now in effect, the person signing the report as "advisor" is entitled to the Honorary American Farmer Degree, and that each chapter is suppose to have one advisor only. Mr. Hurt stated that he thought perhaps the National Organization might be taking too much authority in this connection. He felt that the State should have the right to say which teacher should receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, but that it should be the person who actually does the work with the chapter. Dr. Tenney stated that he would like to agree with Mr. Hurt; however, he felt that this was a matter which should be decided before the chapter report was submitted to the National Office. Mr. Naugher felt that in the case in question, the initiative probably came from the older teacher. Dr. Spanton reiterated that we have no alternative other than to accept the name appearing on the application.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Urton, seconded by Dr. Tenney, and carried, that the Board of Directors accept the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers, namely, that the name of W. E. Smith

be accepted as Advisor of the Phoenix Technical School, and that he, therefore, be recommended to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree in Arizona.

Dr. Spanton then read a letter from the Bradford Chapter in Starke, Florida, requesting permission for Lester Poucher, a Past National FFA President, to present a basket of citrus fruit to President Eisenhower at the conclusion of his address before the Future Farmers of America in the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. Dr. Spanton also read a Resolution from their County Board of Commissioners, recommending this action. In the discussion which followed, it was the consensus of opinion that this request could not be granted because of security regulations in connection with the President's visit.

With the approval of the Board of Student Officers, it was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Hurt, and carried, that the above request be denied.

The matter of a successor to J. B. Adams, who resigned from the Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation, was next discussed. Dr. Spanton stated that the name of Mr. G. R. Cochran, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Minnesota, had been suggested by a representative group in the Central Region. Dr. Spanton stated that he had contacted the other three members of the Board of Trustees — Mr. Teachey of North Carolina; Mr. Snell of Maine; and Mr. Kirk of Wyoming — and Mr. Cochran was acceptable to each of them. It was, therefore, moved by Mr. Urton, seconded by Mr. Naugher, and carried, that Mr. G. R. Cochran, of Minnesota, be elected to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. J. B. Adams on the Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation.

The remainder of the day was spent in going over the Silver Anniversary Program; working out, in detail, plans for conducting the convention; and assigning specific duties to the individual members of the Boards of Student Officers and Directors for the entire week.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

October 11

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman of the Board, in Room 941, President Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri, all members of the Board being present.

Dr. Spanton read a telegram from Mrs. Elmer Felton which stated her husband, Elmer Felton, should receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree rather than W. E. Smith, who was listed as advisor of the Phoenix Technical Chapter, Phoenix. After some discussion, Dr. Spanton requested that those representing the Pacific Region give their views on Mr. Felton and whether he was deserving of the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Mr. Johnston stated that Mr. Felton had come to Arizona from Ohio because of his wife's health. He went to Yuma where he built the department up to be very outstanding. Mr. Felton in 1947 took a job at the

Phoenix Technical School and started the department there. He has been there ever since. Mr. Johnson could not state, however, just who was advisor of the chapter. He said that when he visited the department they did not discuss who was the advisor. He did state that Mr. Felton is doing a very good job.

Mr. Dalton stated that when a chapter decides who is advisor they determine it and not the Board. After the report has been made up, it should be final. Of course, if Felton was actually advisor, Mr. Dalton said he would be willing to change, but if he hasn't been designated even though he is head of the department he'd vote as yesterday.

It was moved by Dr. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Naugher, and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted -- namely that whoever was the official advisor at the time the report on accomplishments was submitted should receive the degree for 1952-53.

(NOTE: It was later established through long-distance telephone conversation with the State Supervisor in Arizona that Mr. Felton was the official FFA advisor, and consequently he receive the degree.)

Dr. Tenney displayed an electric FFA emblem. He stated that 250 could be ordered at one time. For the first year these would have to be sold for \$15. each. Dr. Tenney also stated he would like to have the privilege of conferring with an artist about improving the coloring of the emblem.

It was moved by Mr. Naugher, seconded by Mr. Watson, and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted -- namely that the electric emblem be placed in the Supply Service stock.

Dr. Tenney then showed two samples of art work for a plaque for the Sentinel Station (Seal of Friendship). He stated these would sell for approximately two dollars.

It was moved by Mr. Hurt, seconded by Mr. Naugher, and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted -- namely that the second pattern of art work on the Sentinel plaque be accepted.

Dr. Tenney, as previously requested by the Board, showed art work on a plaque that could be used as an individual plaque for chapter, state, or national officers. The plaque could be awarded at the end of their term of office.

It was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Hansucker, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted -- namely that the Supply Service be authorized to handle the plaques but they be used by all Future Farmers who want them.

Mr. Urton said that some of the supervisors had asked if it would not be possible to slow down and not develop a complete department store of novelties. He thought that more thought should be given to this matter. Mr. Naugher felt that this plaque was strictly an FFA item whereas some of the others were not. Mr. Hurt stated that if you limited the plaque to officers it would take away the value and importance of the past officer pins, which the boys are coveting very much and which they appreciate. He thought the Boards should weigh carefully any item they want to adopt, and whether there is an actual need for them because they detract from more important things.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Hurt, and carried, that this question be laid on the table for further consideration.

It was moved by Mr. Hurt, seconded by Mr. Watson, and carried, that consideration of this plaque be put on the agenda of the January meetings of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors.

Dr. D. J. Howard, National FFA Treasurer, then gave a brief financial report on the organization.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Dr. Tenney, that the Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegates at the 1953 convention that the National Chapter Contest be changed as follows for 1953-54

1. Each State select a Star State winner in the chapter contest and submit it to the national office for consideration for regional and national honors. Each State winner to be awarded \$100.
2. The regional star winners be selected and awarded \$150 each.
3. That the National Star Chapter be selected and awarded \$250.
4. All chapters participating in the National Chapter Contest and attaining a certain level of accomplishment be awarded a certificate called National Chapter Rating.
5. That the criteria and rating of chapters be sent to the States by January 1, 1954.
6. That the Honorary American Farmer Degree not be given to advisors of winners in the National Chapter Contest but be awarded on the basis of a criteria set up for their accomplishments.

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Mr. Hansucker stated that this fit in with a national survey made but according to this survey, out of 21 States only one preferred a certificate to a plaque with spur. He also said that there was a lot against the selection of the one best chapter. On the survey most of those who reported favored a change in the chapter contest. Approximately 50% - 60%

avored the plan, which was continuation of the contest with the exception of the final report. Only one State said they didn't care if there was a Chapter Contest or not. Out of three regions (Pacific Region not included) only four States said "no" to the question about ceasing the awarding of the Honorary American Farmer Degree to the chapter advisors.

Mr. Hansucker then read the following:

Suggested Changes and Additions in the National FFA Chapter Contest

For consideration by the 1953 Convention Committee for the Chapter Contest.

That the National Chapter Contest be continued for 1953-54, with the following changes and additions to the rules:

1. That chapters which receive a Gold Emblem rating in 1952-53 be declared ineligible to receive a national award in this contest in 1953-54.
2. That the policy of awarding the degree of Honorary American Farmer to advisors of National Gold Emblem Chapters be discontinued and that other criteria for awarding the degree to chapter advisors be established.
3. That the national office devise a report form for use in connection with the chapter contest that will:
 - a. Simplify the reporting of chapter accomplishments
 - b. Facilitate scoring of accomplishments and selection of award winners
 - c. Eliminate scrapbooks and similar materials from consideration in judging.

Furthermore, it is recommended that a special national committee, comprised of several adults and FFA members selected from States having participants in the 1952-53 National Chapter Contest, study and revise the rules and general plan for this contest and report their recommendations to the chapter contest committee at the 1954 National Convention. It is suggested that the special committee give consideration to the following points.

1. Establishing as Part I of the contest a list of minimum standards for chapter performance.
2. Establishing as Part II a plan for scoring chapter accomplishments in terms of this program of work.
3. Revising the award system that will give recognition to all local chapters which meet the minimum standards.

Mr. Naugher wanted to know if 3 a meant that the Board would have the responsibility of working out a form on which chapters would make reports this coming year. Mr. Hansucker said yes, but not a form, a pattern.

Dr. Tenney said that the reports being received now were entirely too detailed and that something drastic needed to be done to overhaul the contest. He stated that an attempt had been made four or five years ago but there was a great deal of objection to selecting the Star Chapter. He suggested that if there was time the delegates should discuss this and make recommendations. Dr. Tenney also stated that there should be a committee on this that would communicate by correspondence. He asked if it would be possible to have something by January or July. Mr. Hurt said that a step forward was taken when we polled the States for their reaction. He had some letters from supervisors in the Southern Region, and a lot of them wanted a change. They think it can be improved upon. Also, in their minds they feel that a method should be provided by which teachers can be awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree in the FFA organization.

After considerable more discussion, it was moved by Dr. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Urton, and carried, to postpone the action before the house indefinitely.

It was moved by Dr. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Naugher, and carried, that the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers be accepted — namely that a revised form for the National Chapter Contest be completed by the July meetings.

It was moved by Mr. Hurt, seconded by Mr. Dalton, that the Student Officers take under consideration setting a limit of awarding not more than 50 Honorary American Farmer Degrees per year, and that 25 of the 50 be left up to the States for recommendation and consideration by the Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers. Mr. Hurt stated that the States should have the right to present more people for consideration than has been done in the past. The motion was lost.

The following was then read:

Suggestions to the Committee on the National Program of Work

- A. The members of the committee on the National FFA Program of Work should make such changes and additions in the 1952-53 Program of Work as they deem advisable in the limited amount of time available.
- B. In addition the committee should give consideration to making such important recommendations as the following:
 1. That a special national committee, including several FFA members and State Executive Secretaries (or State Advisors) be selected to completely revise the current national Program of Work and to submit it to the Program of Work Committee at the 1954 National FFA Convention for consideration and subsequent presentation to the convention delegates.
 2. That a special committee on revising the national Program of Work be guided by the following specific requests:

- a. Develop a National FFA Program of Work that deals specifically with the activities and objectives to be accomplished by the National FFA Organization and its officers.
- b. Develop as a separate document a list of activities which the National Organization may consider as an important guide to State Associations and local chapters to use in developing their respective Programs of Work.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Dr. Tenney, and carried, to present this report to the Program of Work Committee for consideration.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Hurt, and carried, to postpone consideration of Policies concerning the use of the FFA Emblem until final action was taken by the court.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried, that the Board approve the expense of providing police protection at the national convention.

It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Urton, and carried, that it is the States entire responsibility for having American Farmer applications in top shape in the national FFA office, but that they have the right to change the application until June 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.