

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF STUDENT OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS OF THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Kansas City, Missouri
October 10-11, 1959

October 10

The meeting of the Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America, was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 441, of the Hotel President, Kansas City, Missouri, by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chairman. Board members present, in addition to Dr. Spanton, included:

Board of Directors

George F. Sullards, State Director of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas;
Walter Jacoby, Consultant, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Hartford, Connecticut;
Bob E. Taylor, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Vocational Education, Phoenix, Arizona;
Harold B. Taylor, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Public Instruction, Indianapolis, Indiana;
E. J. Johnson; H. N. Hunsicker; R. E. Naugher; and H.F. Duis, all of the Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Board of Student Officers

Adin Hester, National FFA President, Aurora, Oregon;
Bryan Hafen, National FFA Vice President, Mesquite, Nevada;
Lee Todd, National FFA Vice President, Bells, Tennessee;
Thomas E. Stine, National FFA Vice President, Ozark, Missouri;
Richard Van Auken, National FFA Vice President, Monroe, New Jersey; and
Norman Brown, National FFA Student Secretary, Temperance, Michigan.

Wm. Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, and R. E. Bass, National FFA Treasurer were also present.

Approval of
previous
minutes

It was moved by Tom Stine, seconded by Lee Todd and carried that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with and the minutes be accepted as previously mimeographed and distributed to the States. It was moved by Mr. Sullards, seconded by Harold Taylor and carried that the action of the Board of Student Officers be sustained.

Reports of
regional
representatives

Dr. Spanton called for reports from the four regional representatives on the Board concerning any matters they wished to present from their respective regions. None of the Board members had anything to report since the July meeting.

Granting of
Honorary American
Farmer Degrees--
in absentia

The Chairman reported that four candidates for the Honorary American Farmer Degree would be unable to attend the convention, and asked the Board members to consider action concerning the awarding of their Degrees -- since it has been the policy that persons must be present at the convention to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree. They are:

Mark Humphrey, Board of Directors, National Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa;
Joseph B. Martin, Director, Department of Promotion, Episcopal Diocese of New York, New York, New York;
Tom Downing, Franktown, Virginia (Former Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Virginia - Retired);
John G. Glavin, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, Boston, Massachusetts.

It was stated that Mr. Humphrey has serious illness in his family which will prevent his attendance at the convention.

Mr. Joseph B. Martin served as assistant to Mr. Hugo Riemer, Chairman of the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee for 1958. Mr. Martin is no longer employed by Allied Chemical Corporation and feels that he cannot afford the expense of a trip to Kansas City.

Mr. Downing is now retired from the program of vocational education in agriculture and cannot attend the convention, and Mr. Glavin is unable to make the trip because of illness.

It was agreed that because of the circumstances involved, each of the four persons named above should be granted the Honorary American Farmer Degree in absentia. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The next matter for consideration by the Boards was the possibility of changing the dates of the National FFA Convention. Dr. Spanton gave a brief review of the procedure followed in having the dates for the FFA and NFA Conventions and National Judging Contests placed on the list of activities approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Because of the fact that so many boys attend the National FFA Convention, the National Association of Secondary School Principals have questioned the advisability of having such a convention during the school year. They feel that it should be scheduled for a time when school is not in session. At a recent meeting, held in the NEA Office, in Washington, officials of this organization were quite insistent that this matter be given serious consideration, with a view to changing the dates for the National FFA Convention. One reason for the present arrangement is to enable members of the FFA to attend the American Royal. Dr. Spanton reported that at an early date he expects to further explore this matter with the Kansas City people.

Possibility of
change in FFA
convention
dates

The next matter on the agenda was consideration of a proposed amendment to the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Connecticut Association of FFA, as follows:

Article VI. Procedure for Choosing Candidates for the American Farmer Degree

Section A. A State Association may submit, annually, the applications of ((one)) two candidates for the American Farmer Degree for ((each)) the first 1,000 active members in the association or major fraction thereof, and the application of one candidate for each additional 1,000 active members or major fraction thereof, computed on the basis of national dues received in the office of the National Treasurer by mid-night of June 15, or shown by postmark or other reliable evidence, to have been mailed to the National Treasurer on or before June 1. Each State association in good standing shall be entitled to submit the applications of at least ((one)) two candidates for the American Farmer Degree each year.

(()) deleted
_____ added

This proposed amendment was discussed at length by the members of the Boards.

Rejection of
proposed amend-
ment to Consti-
tution submitted
by Conn. Assn.

It was moved by Norman Brown, seconded by Tom Stine and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the delegate body that the proposed amendment to the National FFA Constitution, submitted by the Connecticut Association of FFA be rejected. It was moved by Mr. Duis, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Mr. George W.
Catts retiring

Dr. Spanton announced the impending retirement of Mr. George W. Catts, Executive Vice President of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Because of his untiring efforts in behalf of the National Organization of Future Farmers of America, a special plaque was prepared and will be presented to Mr. Catts during the convention. Mrs. Catts will receive flowers.

Renewal of
contracts
for FFA jackets
and emblems

Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Future Farmers Supply Service stated that contracts for jackets and jacket emblems had been offered for bids. The Universal Uniform Company and Ringer St. Croix Company agreed, in writing, to hold the present price on jackets -- with the understanding that if costs go up or down, the price of jackets will be regulated accordingly, on a year to year basis. The present emblem manufacturer can also maintain current prices on FFA emblems. It was recommended by Mr. Hawkins that contracts be renewed with the Universal Uniform Company and Ringer St. Croix Company for FFA jackets -- and with the Chicago Embroidery Company for FFA emblems -- at current prices, for a period of three years starting January 1, 1960, and ending December 31, 1962; with the option to pick up the contracts for an additional two years.

It was moved by Lee Todd, seconded by Richard Van Auken and carried that the Board of Student Officers accept the recommendation submitted by Mr. Hawkins concerning the renewal of contracts for FFA jackets and emblems. It was moved by Mr. Jacoby, seconded by Mr. Sullards and carried, that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

New plaque
shown

Mr. Hawkins showed the group one of the new plaques reading, "In appreciation for outstanding service to the Future Farmers of America" which he was authorized to have prepared. The group expressed approval of the plaque which will be limited for sale to State Associations and the national organization. Mr. Hawkins stated that 1,000 plaques are in production and should be available in approximately two to three weeks. Since these plaques will not be shown in the FFA Supply Catalogue, Mr. Hawkins stated that he plans to send a sample, and information concerning their purchase, to each State Association of FFA. A discussion took place as to the policies for awarding these "Distinguished Service" plaques, and whether they should be presented to individuals or companies, or both.

It was moved by Tom Stine, seconded by Richard Van Auken and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the State Associations of FFA should set their own policies for awarding the "Distinguished Service" plaques on the State level, and on the National level these matters should be decided by the Boards of Student Officers and Directors of the FFA. It was moved by Mr. Jacoby, seconded by Bob Taylor and carried that the Board of Directors sustain the action taken by the Board of Student Officers.

Report on FFA
Magazine

Wilson Carnes, Editor of The National FUTURE FARMER gave an optimistic report on the magazine. Members of the Board complimented him on the October-November issue. Mr. Carnes stated that the number of subscribers continues to increase, and that advertising rates have been raised, based on a circulation figure of 275,000. The advertising situation is improving somewhat. Starting with the April-May issue, and for each succeeding issue thereafter, the number of pages of advertising has continued to show an increase, compared with the same periods a year ago. The October-November issue was the largest to date in terms of pages of advertising.

Report on
Official
Calendar

Mr. Carnes also gave a favorable report on the official FFA Calendar. He stated that orders now being received are considerably ahead of the same period a year ago. Mr. Howard Carter, who heads the magazine's calendar department, joined the staff in the middle of the year, but already has accomplished much. The painting for the 1961 calendar cover has been completed, and shows a livestock scene at a fair. It will make a very attractive front page. The 1961 calendar kits will be ready for mailing during the early part of January, 1960.

Mr. Carnes stated that they have been receiving many requests for reproductions of the calendar paintings -- suitable for framing or displaying in a prominent place. He has looked into the matter and found that the Louis F. Dow Company has a process of reproducing pictures of paintings on canvas, using four colors. The finished product looks like an oil painting. They can be furnished in size 16" x 12", with a white border, making the overall dimension 18" x 14", and can be inserted in a tube for mailing. These prints would be suitable for framing. They could be sold by the magazine for approximately \$2.50 each. By handling these prints, the magazine might recover part of the outlay of \$1,500, for each calendar cover. Some individuals might want them, or chapters could use them as gifts for Honorary Chapter Farmers. It was suggested that the pictures might be offered as a bonus to chapters sending in large orders for the official calendar.

Mr. Carnes stated that he would like authorization from the Boards to proceed with the project of reproducing the calendar cover, on a trial basis, starting with the 1960 calendar painting, which is a church scene. The details, as to their sale would be left up to Mr. Carnes and his staff.

Authorization
to reproduce
calendar covers
for sale

It was moved by Bryan Hafen, seconded by Norman Brown and carried that the Board of Student Officers recommend that Mr. Carnes be authorized to proceed with the project of having the 1960 calendar cover reproduced on a trial basis, for sale to individuals and/or chapters requesting prints. It was moved by Bob Taylor, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Report on 1959
National
Leadership Training
Conference

Mr. Gray presented a report on the National Leadership Training Conference which was held in Washington, D. C. during July. In order to evaluate the results of this conference, a survey form was mailed to all the States in August, with the request that the forms be completed and returned by August 20. Thirty-two States responded. The survey indicated that the Conference had served a useful purpose. A discussion was held as to the merits of continuing to hold National Leadership Training Conferences for State FFA Officers. The one just concluded cost the national organization approximately \$17,000. Some of the Board members suggested that perhaps it would be better to hold a Leadership Training Conference or Workshop for Executive Secretaries and State Advisors of the FFA, since these persons would be continuing on the job from year to year, whereas, State Presidents change each year. The problem of demands on the time of the national office staff was also discussed, but now that a pattern has been established, it will be much easier to follow through and conduct similar conferences in the future. No action was taken on this matter.

National
Leadership Train-
ing Conference
recommended
for 1960.

After further discussion, it was moved by Tom Stine, seconded by Norman Brown and carried that the Board of Student Officers recommend that a National Leadership Training Conference be held in 1960, in Washington, D. C., with the details to be worked out by Dr. Spanton and his staff in the national office. It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Harold Taylor and carried to accept the recommendation of the Board of Student Officers.

The next matter for discussion was the question of raising National FFA dues. This was discussed at both the January and July, 1959, meetings, and it was decided, in July, that a letter should be sent to the States, setting forth the reasons for raising dues, and citing examples of ways in which the additional funds would be used. Such a letter was never sent since it was decided that this matter should be discussed with the State Advisors during their meeting in Kansas City.

In the discussion that followed, these suggestions were offered for possible use of additional funds which would accrue to the organization through raising National FFA dues:

1. Develop instructional materials and films for distribution to the States.
2. Reprint the brochure "FFA in Action".
3. Revise and reprint bulletin entitled, "The Future Farmers of America Organization: What It Is - What It Does".
4. Provide additional travel funds for members of the Board of Directors and National FFA Officers.
5. Furnish grants to the States in proportion to the amount of business done with the FFA Supply Service.
6. Conduct National Leadership Training Conference.
7. Provide workshops for Executive Secretaries and State Advisors of the FFA.
8. Provide exchange programs with foreign countries.
9. Provide additional help for Office of Public Relations Director, so that more publicity can be given to the organization and more materials provided to the States.

National FFA
Dues

Members of the Board of Student Officers felt that if the national dues were raised, each member would be sharing equally, whereas, now, the boys who purchase articles from the Supply Service are the ones who are carrying the burden so to speak.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Norman Brown, seconded by Tom Stine and carried to recommend to the delegates that the annual National FFA dues be raised from 10 cents to 25 cents per member, with the provision that they be shown in writing the additional services that could be rendered by the National Organization through increasing the dues. It was moved by Harold Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hunsicker

to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers. The chairman called for discussion on the motion. Harold Taylor stated he did feel that price tags should be placed on each service to determine just what we wish to buy. Mr. Sullards said he does not favor spending money on exchange programs. Mr. Johnson wondered if the States should be canvassed for their reactions as to increasing national dues. It was suggested that this matter be discussed at the next Regional Conferences, setting forth services to be rendered and proposed costs of each. Harold Taylor thought this was not a matter which should be decided at the Regional Conferences. Mr. Jacoby expressed the opinion that the matter should be decided by the Board of Directors. The chairman then called for a vote on the motion to raise the National FFA dues from 10 cents to 25 cents per member, per year. The result: Aye 4 - No 4. The chairman voted "No" and the motion was lost.

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

October 11, 1959

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. in Room 441 of the Hotel President in Kansas City, Missouri, all members of both Boards being present.

Review of re-
jected application
for the American
Farmer Degree -
Minnesota

The first item for consideration was an appeal, submitted by the Minnesota Association of FFA to reconsider the application of Arlin Kanne, of Ortonville, Minnesota, for the American Farmer Degree. This candidate was not recommended to receive the Degree because of errors in his application and lack of leadership activities. Mr. Kortesmaki, State FFA Executive Secretary in Minnesota, appeared before the Boards on behalf of the candidate to offer further explanations concerning the rejected application.

After careful review of the application and Mr. Kortesmaki's explanations, it was moved by Tom Stine, seconded by Norman Brown and carried, that the appeal of Arlin Kanne's application for the American Farmer Degree be rejected. It was moved by Bob Taylor, seconded by Mr. Naugher and carried to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

Appeal to re-
consider applica-
tions for National
Chapter Award
that were late

Mr. Kortesmaki also asked that the national office reconsider its action in refusing to accept applications from Minnesota, in the National Chapter Contest, which arrived in Washington, D. C. after the deadline date for submitting these applications. He said this was due to lack of clerical help in the State office. Dr. Spanton explained that in order to accept Minnesota's Chapter Contest reports, it would mean doing the same for other States that were late in filing their reports. He expressed regret, but said the national office must observe deadline dates. It was stated that a list showing all deadline dates on materials due in the national office is sent to the States during the early part of January each year.

Policies
relative to
National
Officers

Mr. Gray presented to the group mimeographed copies of a statement entitled "Policies Relative to National Officer Duties, Assignments, Expenses, and Travel". These policies were reviewed at some length, and it was recommended that the present national officers give further thought to the items covered in the statement and offer suggestions for their improvement, and that the matter be given further consideration at the January, 1960 meeting of the Boards.

Review of
award forms

The next matter for consideration was the review of certain award forms. Copies of the revised American Farmer Degree application forms for 1960-1-2 were presented to the group. It was noted that on Pages 2 and 3 of the application form, under Supervised Farming Program, the suggested supervised farming year has been changed to read "January 1, 19__ to December 31, 19__," for each year with the exception of the first year. After considerable discussion, it was decided that a covering letter should be sent with the applications -- giving the candidate the option of reporting differently if his records have not been maintained on the calendar year basis. There should, however, be only one record for each year, and the record should be continuous. Without objection, it was so ordered. Certain other minor changes in the form were discussed which should lead to further clarification of the information required.

It was reported that the present Farm Safety application form has been sent to 12 persons interested in the field of Farm Safety. These persons have been asked to review the form and make suggestions for its betterment. The revision of this form will then be considered at the January meeting of the Board.

Mr. Gray reported that 1,000 copies of a new form covering the program of the National Chapter Award have been sent to the States, to conduct a trial run. If this form proves satisfactory, it will be used next year.

Members of Dr. Spanton's staff are to work on the development of application forms for new awards to be offered by the Foundation. It was brought out that information on "Grasslands" will be included in the form on Soil and Water Management.

Report on
Old Mill

A report was given on the operation of the Old Mill located near Mount Vernon, Virginia, and operated by the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Gray stated that the Rathke's, who take care of the Mill and its surroundings, had recently asked him if there was an established policy concerning vacations of employees there. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that the Mill is closed during the period from November to April. Mr. and Mrs. Rathke occupy the cottage on the Mill grounds during the winter months. They receive no pay for this period but the FFA pays for their utilities.

No paid vacation for Old Mill employees

In view of the above circumstances, it was moved by Tom Stine, seconded by Richard Van Auken and carried, that the Board of Student Officers recommend to the Board of Directors that the Rathke's not be granted a vacation with pay. It was moved by Mr. Jacoby, seconded by Harold Taylor and carried, to sustain the action of the Board of Student Officers.

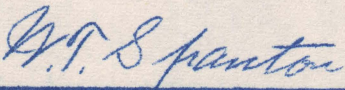
Farm-City Week

It was announced that Farm-City Week will be observed November 20-26. It was urged that all FFA Chapters participate in the projects and activities related thereto.

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned.



Wm. Paul Gray, Secretary



W. T. Spanton, Chairman