

**Meeting Minutes of
National Board of Directors and National Officers
of the National FFA Organization
January 25 – 28, 2002
Alexandria, Virginia**

Friday, January 25, 2002

A special meeting for strategic planning was held at the U. S. Department of Education, Switzer Building, Washington, D.C. Participants included the National FFA Board of Directors, the National FFA Officers, the Chief Operating Officer, Division Directors and David Trickett, Founder and President of the Jefferson Club. The topic of discussion dealt with whether the FFA would be better served by increasing the diversity of experiences of board members. Rob Muller, OVAE Deputy Assistant Secretary shared his thoughts and David Trickett (a consultant who works extensively with non-profit boards) facilitated the session. At the end of the day, the Board determined that the National FFA Organization would be better served with a broadened perspective of thinking and background at the board sessions but did not want to achieve this by removing current slots for supervisors (4); teachers (2), executive secretary (1) and teacher educator (1). In conclusion, the board asked Chairman Case and Secretary Harris to pursue options that might achieve this end, including additional consultants, broaden experiences on task forces, etc.

Saturday, January 26, 2002

A special board session for committee and task force reports was held at the Agricultural Education National Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia from 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Reports included the following: Convention Site Selection, State Relations Pilot Project, Nominating Committee Process, Past National Officer Report, PAS/FFA Post Secondary Update, Delegate Process, FFA Mission Descriptor Paragraph & Defining Tagline, and Awards and CDE. The following Board Members were present:

Board of Directors :

Larry D. Case, Chairperson of the Board and Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Jacquelyn Deeds, U.S. Department of Education Representative, Professor, Agricultural Information Science and Education, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS

Horacio Garza, Jr., U.S. Department of Education Representative; Instructor - Agricultural Education, Sharyland High School, Mission, TX

Tommy Gladden, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Steven J. Gratz, U.S. Department of Education Representative; Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Columbus, OH

Robert Heuvel, State Supervisor, Standards & High School Development Division, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Sacramento, CA

Vicki Lantz, U.S. Department of Education Representative; Instructor – Agricultural Education, Big Spring High School, Newville, PA

Marshall Stewart, State Coordinator for Agricultural Education, Department of Agriculture and Extension Education, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Steve Zimmerman, State Supervisor, State FFA Advisor, North Dakota FFA Association, Bismarck, ND

Officers of the Board of Directors :

Larry D. Case, National FFA Advisor and CEO; Coordinator, Agricultural & Rural Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

C. Coleman Harris, National FFA Executive Secretary; Education Program Specialist, Agriculture, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Marion Fletcher, National FFA Treasurer; Supervisor for Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Little Rock, AR

Board of National FFA Officers :

Dane White, National FFA President, Eureka, CA

Robin Niehaus, National FFA Secretary, Hillsboro, IL

Amber Haugland, National FFA Vice President, Central Region, Ambrose, ND

Elio Chiarelli, Jr., National FFA Vice President, Eastern Region, McDonald, PA

Barrett Keene, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region, Plant City, FL

Abbie Kammerzell, National FFA Vice President, Western Region, Colfax, WA

Consultants to the Board:

David Lawver, Consultant (AAAE), Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

W. Wade Miller, Consultant (AAAE), Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Jack Elliot, Consultant (AAAE), The University of Arizona, Dept. of Agricultural Education, Tucson, AZ

Sarah Osborn Welty, Consultant (NAAE President-Elect), Ag Education Instructor, Walkersville High School, Walkersville, MD

Roger H. Teeple, Consultant (NAAE), Charles D. Owen High School, Black Mountain, NC

Chuck Stranberg, Consultant (NAAE), Teacher Educator, Ridgewater College, Litchfield, MN

Jim Allsup, Consultant (Past President, National FFA Alumni Council), Robstown, TX

Cindy Ettestad, Consultant (President, National FFA Alumni Council), Molalla, OR

Trent McKnight, Consultant (Past National Officer), Throckmorton, TX

Others present for all or portions of the meeting:

Patricia L. Natusch, Administrator/State FFA Executive Secretary, Connecticut FFA Foundation, Coventry, CT

Bernie Staller, Chief Operating Officer, National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation, Indianapolis, IN

Tom Kapostasy, Director, Business Services Division, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, IN

Anna Melodia, Director, Education Division, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, IN

Kent Schescke, Director, Development and Partnerships Division, National FFA Organization, Indianapolis, IN

Mark Leitman, Executive Director, The National Council for Agricultural Education, Alexandria, VA

Jay Jackman, Executive Director, National Association of Agricultural Educators, Alexandria, VA

Committee meetings were held at the Agricultural Education National Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This session included the following meetings: Finance, Policy, Constitution and Bylaws, (both Standing Committees) and a Special Committee – 75th National FFA Anniversary.

The meeting of the Board of Directors and National Officers of the National FFA Organization was called to order at 3:30 p.m., by the National FFA president, Dane White.

1. **Call To Order**

President Dane White called the First Session to order.

2. **Reflections**

Elio Chiarelli, Jr. led reflections.

3. **Greetings from ACTE**

Janet Bray, Executive Director of ACTE, offered greetings on behalf of Dianne Mondry, ACTE President. She welcomed the board to the ACTE Headquarters and expressed her willingness to work together on issues facing vocational education and those in the agricultural education arena.

4. **Seating of New Board Members and Consultants**

Chairperson Case introduced the 2001-2002 National Officer Team, Past National President Trent McKnight, David Lawver, Pam Jumper, Chuck Stranberg, Roger Teeple and Patricia Natusch. All were welcomed with a round of applause.

5. **Review of Board Operating Procedures**

Chairperson Case indicated that an orientation had been held for new consultants and trustees on the previous evening and asked if anyone had any questions regarding operating procedures.

6. **Review and Adjustments to the Agenda**

- Addition of the National Officers' Report
- Consultant Report(s)
- Research Committee will meet immediately after today's session.

7. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Moved by Robin Niehaus (Bob Heuvel), seconded by Abbie Kammerzell (Vicki Lantz) **and carried** to approve the October 2001 minutes as presented.

8. **National Officer Report**

Dane White presented the vision and mission developed by the team:

Vision: Our Flame of Excellence is fueled by our family, friends, faith, and agriculture. Our hearts are at the center of everything we do, and we strive to show service, integrity, leadership, growth, and unity through our actions. We also hope to help others find their own flame of excellence.

Mission: "We dedicate our year of service to instilling a passion for excellence in all people by sharing our hearts and leading by example as a role model, advocate, and friend."

Other members of the team updated the board on their activities and training since their election in October. Following the board meeting, the National Officers go to Experience State. Abbie and Barrett travel to South Carolina, Amber and Dane to Pennsylvania, and Robin and Elio to Wisconsin.

MOTION: Moved by Jacque Deeds, seconded by Tommy Gladden **and carried** to accept the National Officer report and wish them well for their trip to Japan.

9. **Consultant Report (s)**

- President-Elect Sarah Osborn Welty reported for NAAE. The 2000-01 NAAE Annual Report and instructional materials for "Saving the Planet with Pesticides and Plastic" are now online. February 6-10, 2002 is the timeframe for the NAAE Board meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana and the NAAE Convention will be held December 10-14, 2002 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Work to oppose School Environment Protection Act (SEPA) continues. Proponents are trying to attach their amendment to the farm bill.

10. Appointment of Nomination Committee for Selection of Governing Committee and Foundation Trustees' Board Representatives

Dr. Case appointed Tommy Gladden, Vicki Lantz and Steve Gratz to serve on the Nominating Committee for the selection of Governing Committee and Foundation Trustees' Board Representatives.

11. Report of National FFA Treasurer

Marion Fletcher reviewed the audit submitted by Olive & Baird, Kurtz & Dobson, LLP and discussed the current financial status of the organization.

Bernie Staller noted some negative trends that are of concern: sales are down thru December; Computer AIM project going over budget; Foundation donations for the AIM project are currently at \$830,000...not \$1.6 million that was projected; and WLC attendance in Washington, DC is questionable following the national tragedy of September 11th; and the stock market is down. He noted that he has held the expenditure for artwork at the FFA Center until the financials are more stable.

MOTION: Moved by Barrett Keene (Marshall Stewart), seconded by Amber Haugland (Steve Zimmerman) **and carried** to accept the report of the National FFA Treasurer. (*Attachment 1*)

12. Program Development and Direction

Bernie Staller summarized the procedure for Program Development and Direction presentations beginning with Tom Kapostasy, Division Director for Information Services and for Business Services.

Tom Kapostasy reviewed the organizational structure and recent personnel changes for the Business Services Division. He spoke about the strategic priority areas results during 2000-2001; several wins including membership online pilot; a monitored discussion forum to members and advisors on the Internet; an improved media kit to local media for national convention coverage and a separate media area in the website; and an enhanced advisor's CD-ROM making it usable in more school environments. Finally, he requested feedback from the board regarding the question of contracting with an overseas firm for the manufacture of the FFA jacket to accommodate peak season needs which the current provider is struggling to meet. After considerable discussion, it was decided that this would be an excellent question to present to the delegates.

Session Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Sunday, January 27, 2002

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. at the Ag Education Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia

Anna Melodia, Division Director for Educational Programs, followed with an update of activities and programs in the Education Division. Her report highlighted the following: management structure revisions and transitions (including National FFA Convention; national officer roles and responsibilities; and collegiate programs now within the Education Division); achievements in the key strategic priority areas; convention, global opportunities and a lively discussion on diversity.

MOTION: Moved by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Jacque Deeds), seconded by Abbie Kammerzell (Steve Zimmerman) **and carried** to seek project funding for Team Ag Ed/Globe initiative to

provide Train-the-Trainer workshops for agriculture teachers to become certified GLOBE soils and hydrology trainers. (*Attachment 2*)

MOTION: **Moved by** Elio Chiarelli, Jr., seconded by Barrett Keene **and failed** for the National FFA to add 10 scholarships, \$100.00 each, to the National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event to provide scholarships to the top 10 individuals in the Dairy Handler's Activity and request special project funding through the National FFA Foundation.

MOTION: **Moved by** Amber Haugland (Steve Gratz) seconded by Barrett Keene (Horacio Garza, Jr.) and carried to refer this motion back to the CDE Committee for further review and to report back to the Board of Director regarding consideration of the National FFA Dairy Handler's activity as a new Career Development Event.

MOTION: **Moved by** Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Steve Zimmerman), seconded by Robin Niehaus (Marshall Stewart) **and carried** to accept Dr. Marty Frick as the new Food Science and Technology Career Development Event Superintendent.

MOTION: **Moved by** Abbie Kammerzell (Tommy Gladden), seconded by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Steve Gratz) **and carried** to accept Dr. Tracy Rutherford as the new Agricultural Communications Career Development Event Superintendent.

MOTION: **Moved by** Elio Chiarelli, Jr., seconded by Robin Niehaus to accept the recommendations of the Delegate Process Review Committee for implementation in 2002.

MOTION: **Moved by** Abbie Kammerzell, seconded by Amber Haugland **and carried** to divide the question for discussion purposes along the lines of accepting the recommendations and secondly, the implementation of the timeline.

MOTION: **Moved by** Elio Chiarelli, Jr., (Steve Gratz), seconded by Robin Niehaus (Marshall Stewart) **and carried** to adopt the recommendations of the Delegate Process Review Committee for implementation in 2002. (*Attachment 3*)

Kent Schescke, Division Director for Development and Partnership, reviewed the economic situations impacting the fundraising ability of staff and the strategies being developed to address those. Four members have been replaced on the Sponsors' Board due to personnel changes at the industry level.

The National FFA Alumni Executive Director's resignation has prompted the consideration of a volunteerism staff position that might augment the staff leadership for FFA Alumni Council and strengthen the volunteerism initiatives in the states.

Cindy Ettestad explained that the National FFA Alumni Council has embraced FFA's volunteerism initiative to mobilize volunteers to support all levels of agricultural education/FFA, especially at the local program level. In December 2001, the Alumni supported a motion for the new Executive Director's position be 30% FFA's responsibility and 70% Alumni's.

MOTION: **Moved by** Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Jacque Deeds), seconded by Amber Haugland (Vicki Lantz) **and carried** to accept the volunteerism and agricultural education memorandum proposals "to mobilize legions of volunteers to support all levels of Ag Ed/FFA with emphasis at the local program level." (*Attachment 4*)

In addition, Ms. Etestad reviewed recent highlights for the National FFA Alumni including: State Leader's Conference held in Jackson, Mississippi; conclusion of the Alumni's 29th annual convention; 2001 Alumni Auction grossed over \$104,000 with the State Basket Contest remaining a huge success; over \$74,000 of support provided for various scholarships, chapter grants and rebates to state alumni associations. Outstanding Achievement Award winners were: Shirley Carte (FL); Linda Story (KY); and Monte Ladner (MS). The Outstanding Affiliate Award was presented to Denmark, Wisconsin.

Session Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Monday, January 25, 2001

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m. in Salon D & E of the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

13. Standing Committee Report — Policy, Constitution and Bylaws

Jacque Deeds, Chairperson, presented the report for the Policy, Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Dr. Deeds thanked the Policy Committee for their contributions and offered the following motions:

MOTION: Moved by Robin Niehaus (Vicki Lantz), seconded by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Steve Zimmerman) **and carried** that Division 2 Operations, Section A Governance, Item 7 Strategic Plan of the National FFA Organization, Policy 1 – The National FFA Organization will be guided by a strategic plan that is approved by the National FFA Board of Directors, be added to the Policy Book.

MOTION: Moved by Amber Haugland (Jacque Deeds), seconded by Abbie Kammerzell (Tommy Gladden) and carried to recommend to the National FFA President (reference to Article XIII – Committees) that the National FFA Officers be appointed as the Auditing committee and the Program of Activities Committee.

MOTION: Moved by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Horacio Garza, Jr.), seconded by Amber Haugland (Bob Heuvel) **and carried** to add the Monday following the National FFA Convention to the existing organization-wide holidays scheduled for the employees, entitled "Post Convention Holiday."

MOTION: Moved by Abbie Kammerzell (Jacque Deeds), seconded by Barrett Keene (Marshall Stewart) **and carried** to submit the following proposed constitutional amendment to the delegates of the 75th National FFA Convention....*that a new Article 16 be added to the National FFA Constitution to clarify the parliamentary authority of the organization as follows:*

Article 16 – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the National FFA Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws, any special rules of order the National FFA Organization may adopt, and any statutes applicable to this organization that do not authorize the provisions of this constitution and by laws to take precedence.

Note: Current Article 16 becomes Article 17.

MOTION: Moved by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Tommy Gladden), seconded by Amber Haugland (Vicki Lantz) **and carried** to approve the development of privacy policies and operational procedures for National FFA Organization in all areas of communication. (*Attachment 5*)

Jacque reported that the Policy Committee recommended no action be taken regarding a proposal from California to add an item in the FFA Manual under “Proper Use of the FFA Jacket” that would allow “a current FFA lapel pin or badge be worn on the right jacket collar.”

MOTION: Moved by Robin Niehaus (Bob Heuvel) seconded by Barrett Keene (Marshall Stewart) **and carried** to refer the issue to the delegate process for their consideration at the 75th National FFA Convention and make a recommendation to the Board in January 2003.

14. **Standing Committee Report — Finance**

Tommy Gladden, Chairperson, presented the report for the Finance Committee. Mr. Gladden thanked the committee members.

MOTION: Moved by Barrett Keene (Vicki Lantz), seconded by Abbie Kammerrell (Jacque Deeds) **and carried** to approve the 2000-2001 FFA organization audit as completed and distributed by Olive& Baird, Kurtz & Dobson LLP. (*Attachment 6*)

MOTION: Moved by Amber Haugland (Tommy Gladden), seconded by Robin Niehaus (Bob Heuvel) **and carried** to provide \$87,000 from capital reserves to cover the attached schedule of equipment related requests. (*Attachment 7*)

MOTION: Moved by Abbie Kammerzell (Steve Zimmerman), seconded by Amber Haugland (Horacio Garza, Jr.) **and carried** to allocate \$173,000 from capital reserves as available, or from operating reserves as available, to continue funding of AIM project initiatives.

MOTION: Moved by Robin Niehaus (Tommy Gladden), seconded by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Jacque Deeds) **and carried** to allocate \$415,000 from capital reserves as available, or from operating reserves as available, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the COO that adequate reserves exist to handle all known contingencies, to continue funding of the AIM Project initiatives.

Mr. Gladden expressed appreciation for the work of the members of the Finance Standing Committee, the Treasurer, Comptroller and other national FFA staff.

15. **Special Committee Report — 75th National FFA Anniversary Committee**

Vicki Lantz, Chairperson, presented the report for the 75th Anniversary Committee. The committee members shared the importance of a “take home piece” memento as a commemoration of the diamond anniversary. They also felt that involvement and visibility of past national officers was of major importance.

Kent Schescke shared the logos that have been developed for “FFA at 75. One Mission: Student Success” and key messages to support the theme. Several consultants expressed the importance of the visibility of the Student Success theme. (*Attachment 8*)

Marshall Stewart asked about the viability of a publication of **FFA at 75**, similar to the publication of **FFA at 50** and **FFA at 25**. He stated that he would like to see this done.

16. Special Committee Report — Research

- Wade Miller, Chairperson, presented information on behalf of the Research Committee.
- Several Requests For Proposals (RFP's) that focus on teacher recruitment, retention, and mentoring have been developed but not released due to financial constraints. The RFP's are on hold until funds become available.
- The Research Committee will continue to assemble research related to the Ag Ed family for use by FFA staff. This research will come from the Regional AgEd Research Conferences as well as the National AgEd Research Conference (NAERC).
- The Committee will solicit summaries of research pertinent to AgEd teachers in a news release or news story form. These articles will be edited and published on the Web and maybe in News and Views (NAAE Newsletter).
- Funds are available to continue research on the StrengthsFinder Profile. This will be limited to the states that have previously participated. They are: Colorado, Georgia, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina and Ohio.

17. Administrative Items — Bernie Staller

- Cease and desist order was implemented for trademark violation and satisfactorily resolved with Mayesh Wholesale Florist, Inc. of California.
- Art project at FFA Center on hold due to financial strains under the current economy.
- Bernie presented some dream catchers to the board members and shared with everyone his comments to the National FFA staff at the holiday celebration in December...that is the FFA emblem can be seen as a “dream catcher” and that everyone can view it as a symbol for “making a positive difference” in the lives of others.

18. Nominating Committee Report — Tommy Gladden

Tommy Gladden reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Marshall Stewart and Bob Heuvel be nominated to serve on the Governing Committee of the National FFA Organization beginning July 1, 2002.

MOTION: Moved by Abbie Kammerzell (Tommy Gladden), seconded by Elio Chiarelli, Jr. (Steve Zimmerman) and carried to accept the Nominating Committee's report and elect Marshall Stewart and Bob Heuvel to serve on the Governing Committee beginning July 1, 2002.

19. Unfinished Business:

- Marshall Stewart asked if the Chairman needed additional input or work from the Board to bring closure to the USDE issues discussed at the board retreat. The Chairman invited e-mails from individuals if they had ideas to include in a package that will be developed to strengthen the partnership with the new administration leaders at USDE.
- Coleman Harris asked if the Board wanted to take any action regarding research.
- Marshall Stewart noted that the trend in states to legislate testing standards challenges the integral component of FFA in agricultural education by denying the inclusion of membership related questions in final testing. A consensus was expressed that the FFA needs to address this legislative issue and take a position to support the states.
- Elio Chiarelli, Jr. asked if the national officers wanted to take action on the Program of Activities.
- Vicki Lantz asked for clarification from three issues.... nepotism, travel policy, and white pants elimination for the National FFA Chorus which had been attributed to the Board of Directors. These items were deemed operational issues and decided by the FFA administration as operational policy. Related to this, Marshall Stewart requested some

guidelines to delineate the line between policy and operations issues. Tom Kapostasy indicated that a book had been found that might be useful at the next Board retreat.

20. Comments from the retiring board members and consultants:

- Vicki Lantz – encouraged the national officers not to hesitate to ask questions and get additional information. She stressed that the teacher position be maintained on the Board as the organization looks to broaden the experience base of board members. She complimented the commitment and dedication of service she has witnessed from the national officers and the national staff over the last few years. Finally she expressed deep appreciation for the experience.
- Tommy Gladden – expressed both happiness (for not having to read the book Tom recommended) and sadness of not being part of the Board in the years ahead.
- Trent McKnight – expressed appreciation for the mutual respect shown by the board and by the staff. He urged the national officers to stay strong in your belief and convictions and bring them to the board. It is part of the system that makes this organization strong. “Be vocal, and good luck.”

21. Announcements:

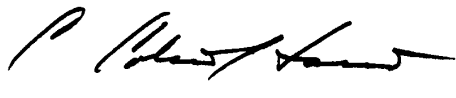
- Dane White reviewed the dates of the next meeting, July 12-16, 2002 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

22. Adjournment

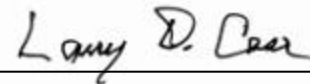
With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

23. Executive Session with Senior Management

No motions in the Executive Session of the Board.



C. Coleman Harris, Secretary



Larry D. Case, Chairperson